

County Hunter News

March 2019
Volume 15 Issue 3

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, 10.124.5, 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

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

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

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

For general information FAQ on County Hunting, check out:

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

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

find information on these awards and the rules at:

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

The CW net procedure is written up at:

<http://www.wd3p.net/ch/netproc/netproc.htm>

There is a lot more information at www.countyhunter.com . Please check it out.

Back issues of the County Hunter News are available at www.CHNewsonline.com

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

Notes from the Editor

N4CD Rumblings

Winter is still here. Large storms pound the mid section and also impact coast to coast. Ski areas in California are cut off due to 'too much snowfall' on the roads. Blizzards hit the plains and feet of snow hit the snowbelt states. February is definitely winter weather for nearly all but the southwest and FL.

Propagation? Most of February has been sunspot free! Not a one showing up and 20M is listed as 'poor' or 'fair' most days. A few days 'good'. Even 40M at times is 'poor' during the day. Luckily there is 30M for the CW hunters.

Feb 21 propagation banner at 2pm central time:

Solar-Terrestrial Data - click to add to web site						
21 Feb 2019 2008 GMT	Condition	K-In	A-In	Calculated Conditions		
SFI:70 SN: 0	Quiet	0-2	0-7	Band	Day	Night
A-Index:3	Unsettled	3	8-15	80n-40n:	Poor	Fair
K-Index:3 / PIntry	Active	4	16-29	30n-20n:	Fair	Fair
X-Ray: <A1.0	Minor storm	5	30-49	17n-15n:	Poor	Poor
304A: ch @ SEM	Major storm	6	50-99	12n-10n:	Poor	Poor
	Severe storm	7-9	>100	Sig Noise Lvl:	S2-S3	
SFI>180 A<8 K<3=E-W open SFI>180 A<8 K>3=N-S open SFI>250 A>30 K>3=Aurora						
http://www.north.com - Copyright Paul L. Herrman 2010						

Much of February the SFI has been 68-70 with occasional blip to 71-72. .

Parks on the Air program is rocketing along. Unfortunately, most of the operations are QRP with not so great antennas making it a real challenge to work many of them. There are exceptions with good stations setting up 100W rigs and dipoles/inverted vees in the trees.

Most likely, FT-8 is getting a workout with the not so great conditions.

So on with the news -

Michigan Mini

The MI Mini hosted by Ed, K8ZZ, and Joe, W8TVT, will be held in Traverse City, MI

April 25 – 26 & 27th..

<http://michiganmini.superhosts.net/>

Time to sign up now if you already haven't done it. Last few years attendance has been near 100 folks.

US Ham Population Grows

The US Amateur Radio population once again grew by about 1%, based upon 2017 and 2018 year-end FCC database statistics provided by Joe Speroni, AH0A. The 755,430 total licensees represent nearly 7,300 more license holders than those that were in the database at the end of 2017. Nearly 51% of the Amateur Radio population in the US -- 384,145 -- hold a Technician license. Generals are second with 175,949, and Amateur Extras number 147,369. Advanced and Novice licensee populations continue to decline, with 39,607 Advanced and 8,360 Novices, as the FCC no longer issues Advanced or Novice licenses. A more significant statistic is 31,576 new FCC licenses last year, although that's 620 fewer than came aboard in 2017.

"New amateur licenses granted by FCC are down 2% over last year," noted ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, "but this is the fifth year in a row the total has been greater than 31,000. I predict that the number of new licensees will be more than 30,000 at the end of this year as well, and I'm optimistic this trend will continue."

Upgrades also are down slightly, compared to last year -- 9,456 in 2018 versus 9,576 in 2017, she added. "For the fifth year in a row, we have conducted more than 7,000 Amateur Radio exam sessions in a year -- an important milestone for the ARRL VEC," Somma recounted. "Our program continues to provide outstanding service to the ARRL, its members, and the entire Amateur Radio community."

ARRL VEC filed a total 30,393 license application forms last year, compared to 31,014 in 2017. That includes new, upgrade, modification, renewal, and club station filings. At 7,035 in 2018, the number of exam sessions conducted by ARRL VEC marginally trailed the 7,075 held in 2017. ARRL VEC served 34,493 exam applicants in 2018, compared to 35,352 in 2017. Exam elements administered by ARRL decreased from 47,152 last year to 45,817 this year, Somma said. Nearly 1,800 new Volunteer Examiners (VEs) have been added to the ARRL VEC program.

Source: ARRL Weekly Newsletter Feb 14, 2019

On the Road with N4CD I

It was time for a good road trip over to Louisiana – then back to TX in Houston for the Houston Vintage Radio Society annual conference – then home. I packed the suitcase for a nine day trip through a bunch of southeast TX counties and a half dozen LA parishes. The weather was going to be a bit rainy at times, but that often occurs down by the Gulf of Mexico. I'd already hit many parks/parishes in LA on a recent trip so this would focus on the southern part of the state for a few days. There were many never run entities down there – so it would be good hunting. The needs page showed some needs for those parishes, too.

Saturday Feb 2 2019

I head out bright and early on a Saturday morning at 6:38 am – before sunrise headed on down through the Dallas-Ft Worth Metroplex. Traffic is light without 'rush hour' traffic of the daily commute for the 3+ million local folks. The Minnesota QSO party is underway a bit later and I catch some mobiles up north – N0UR, W0ZQ, N0PUI, K0PC, NE9U, N0IJ, N0EO, K0TG, KE0TT. I skip working the fixed stations – might need them for Qs later on this afternoon when I get to the first park. It's hours of driving down to the Woodville, TX area in Tyler County. I put out the counties on the way down.

At 1630, I hit a corner of the Angelina State Forest, KFF 4414 and stop to make a 'quickie' run for POTA. Since I've run this before, I get no credit in the WWFF system for another 'activation', but do in POTA.

You'll recall there are two parallel systems. WWFF goes back a decade and started in EU. It was brought over here in 2017 as WWFF-KFF. For that, you need 44Q to get credit for an activation, and only get credit once - once you've reached the 44Q threshold. For POTA (Parks on the Air), which was fashioned more like the ARRL NPOTA program, you only need 10 QSOs for an activation credit, and also it tracks how many 'activation's you've made on the 'leader board'. So if you run the same park over and over again, with just 10 or 15Qs, you get another notch in the standings.

I didn't need many Qs and had had a good run here previously, so a dozen go quickly in the log with MN QSO Party stations, two VT QSO Party stations, one BC QSO Party station, and 2 county hunters.

From the web:

Welcome to the Angelina National Forest, one of four National Forests in Texas. Located in the heart of east Texas, the 153,179-acre Angelina National Forest is located in Angelina, Nacogdoches, San Augustine and Jasper counties. The forest lies on the north and south shores of Sam Rayburn Reservoir, a 114,500-acre lake on the Angelina River formed by the construction of Sam Rayburn Dam in the early 1960's.

The Angelina National Forest lies in the upper Gulf Coastal general plain province and the terrain is gently rolling. Longleaf pine is the predominant cover type in the southern portion, while loblolly and shortleaf pine are the dominant types in the rest of the forest.

Summers in the Angelina National Forest are hot and humid and winters generally are short and mild. Average mid-summer temperatures in the forest range from the mid-80's to the mid-90's, with an average mid-winter temperature a mild 52 degrees. Rarely do temperatures in the forest drop to less than 10 degrees or rise above 110 degrees. The average annual rainfall is 46 inches.

In 1934, the Texas Legislature approved a resolution to urge federal purchase of land to create National Forests in Texas. In 1935, acquisition began on the Davy Crockett, Sam Houston, Angelina and Sabine National Forests.”

https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/texas/about-forest/districts/?cid=fswdev3_008439

There are over 60 million acres of forest lands in TX. Before oil was discovered in the early 1900s, lumber was the largest industry in TX and many folks got wealthy owning, cutting down, and selling 'lumber'.

From the web:

“According to an ongoing timber survey in Texas by the Texas Forest Service in cooperation with the Southern Research Station of the USDA Forest Service, Texas is number two. Texas ranks second only to the state of Alaska in forest land.

The inventory involves surveying trees well beyond what is traditionally considered the heart of Texas forests, the Piney Woods of East Texas, indicating that there are roughly 60 million acres of forest land in Texas.

Data from the Texas Forest Service Survey

East Texas (12 million acres):

- Pine – 5.3 million (43 percent)
- Hardwood – 5.4 million (44 percent)
- Mixed – 1.5 million (13 percent)

The Rest of Texas (48 million acres):

- Juniper/Pine – 9.3 million (19 percent)
- Mesquite – 17 million (35 percent)
- Oaks/various hardwoods – 21.8 million (46 percent)

<http://woodape.org/index.php/news/news/207-2>

If you are heading to east TX to run counties, you'll be seeing lots of trees! Mile after mile after mile of trees! Four major state forests, plus many private in-holdings, other privately owned and managed tree-lands, etc, all over east TX and the Gulf coast. However, if you are going to run the state forests- you need to plan ahead since there can be 20 miles of road through the forest and maybe no access point along that road! The state web maps usually point out the campgrounds, picnic areas, ranger stations, trail heads, etc, with parking 'in the park'.

Well, next up is the E.O. Siecke forest, KFF 4418 in Newton County. Wiki notes: “the E.O. Siecke State Forest is a Texas state forest near Kirbyville, Texas. Managed by the Texas A&M Forest Service, the 1,722-acre forest reserve was the first in the state, and is managed for wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation and research into sustainable forestry and forest health practices.” there's a couple mile 'nature trail' there but the bugs will likely eat you alive (mosquitoes).

Not much to see there – some recent tornado damage, and much of the land is recovering from major clear cutting decades ago. Had a good run getting my 44+ Qs, including more mobiles from the MN QP, two 'park to park' contacts with other park activators,

I can get in one more today and head on over to Masterson State Forest KFF-4421, arriving at 2024z. While most of this park is closed to the public other than by reservation, you can hit a small portion of it by the entrance gate – which I did. I had a good run getting to 44 and a few more.....but I was thinking about repositioning the car for slightly better antenna aiming (my car is somewhat directional). Oops.....I backed up into a ditch with an overhang. One wheel went over the edge. I'm STUCK! No way to

go forward (can't get the wheel back onto ground) and it's a 3 foot drop going back.
Dang!

Well, that's what Triple A is forand do have cell coverage so put in a call. I'm somewhat in the boonies here in Jasper County. Tow truck has to come from 25 miles away – a good hour to two away says the friendly AAA operator. OK....I'm not going anywhere. Try to make a few more QSOs. Catch K1VMT in Lamoille Vt, another couple MN QSO Party folks, two park to parks are added. The tow truck arrives in about an hour. 20 minutes later I'm out of the ditch and ready to get underway! That's not the best way to end the first day of a trip. I'll be more careful of where I'm backing up from now on. Often you wind up on dirt/gravel roads accessing forests/WMAs/NWRs, etc. Sometimes finding a spot on the one lane road to turn around is difficult. It would be helpful to have a Jeep or 4 wheel drive SUV or pickup for these type activations! And good rear view camera.

I headed to the burg of Kountz, TX (Hardin County – pop 2, 100) and a Super 8 there. I was going to stay in Woodville, but somewhere between January 1 and 25th, the Super 8 seemed to literally vanish in Woodville! NO longer there, no longer on the website. Another disappearing small town case of not enough business. I'd be staying 2 nights here in Kountz. Not much in this tiny town – a few joints to eat on during the week, but NOT on Sundays. This was Saturday and Mama Jack's had a buffet going – so I headed there. Decent for the area. Day 1 had had a few unplanned 'adventures'. 336 miles logged.

Sunday Feb 3

First up today was a 'quickie' at Big Thicket National Preserve - KFF-0689 which spans a half dozen plus one counties. I was aiming for the DX window early in the mornings for EU park chasers. 1332Z (7:30am local time) – Hardin County. Made a run on 40m SSB first with two park to parks, then to 20m cw and a dozen EU park chasers (DK2OY, DL1EBR, F2Yt, DL1eJA, F4GYG, IW2BNA, DL2ND, OE6GND, Ut5PI, UR7Et, DL5EBG, IW2NXI, DL8NDG) plus some US folks. KN4Y was on 40m in Leon FL. This was a repeat for me.

This 'park' was run many times for NPOTA in 2016 – not so many times since and not all the NPOTA operators uploaded logs to WWFF/KFF or to POTA so it wasn't common these despite being a major tourist attraction. In 2017, some uploaded same logs to WWFF and POTA sites to get credit there.

“Big Thicket National Preserve protects 113,121.96 acres of land and water spread over

7 counties in southeast Texas. While public roads connect the units of the preserve, few roads lead into it; the best way to explore and experience this area is by foot or by boat. Approximately 40 miles of hiking trails and countless miles of creeks, bayous, and the Neches River wind through the Big Thicket. Most visitors come to walk, birdwatch, canoe, and kayak.”

<https://www.nps.gov/bith/index.htm>

Naturally there are many places you can run it at – including the visitor center between Kountz and Woodville TX.

Next up was J.O.Kirby State Forest KFF-4420 in Tyler County TX.

“The 600 acre John Kirby State Forest land was donated in 1929 by John Henry Kirby, a pioneer lumberman. . Activities include hiking, picnicking, hunting, birding and wildlife viewing. a small picnic area, the 6.6 mile Longleaf Nature Trail, and the John Henry Kirby Monument. The land was originally clear cut for lumber in the early 1900s, then the CCC men went in and 'reforested' the land in the 1930s (the make-work program in the depression). “

Then it was a good haul over to Davis Hill State Park KFF-3496 in Liberty County TX. This park is under SLOW development. It's been stalled for 30 years (lack of funding) and there are no facilities there. You can get there with a bit of effort. I tried from the west looking for Davis Hill road – never found it. Circled around to the east (more miles by far) and found the road it- not labeled Davis Hill Road but a county road number. The road ends – sign” end of state maintenance” and you are in an area that the Google Maps and state map show is the 'state park'. Take the undeveloped rutted road ¼ mile to the southwest and run it. I note that Davis Hill Rd goes east 500 feet and enters a swamp and disappears.....no way through despite map showing it connecting to main highway 10 miles east.

Had a good run from Liberty County TX. One other park activator had been there (AE5X) with two dozen Qs.

Then back about an hour drive to the Super 8 in Kountz for the night. No sit down restaurants open Sunday after 2pm in this small town. You had a choice of DQ, Subway, Sonic, Burger King and that was it. I had a nice Subway chopped chicken breast salad and ordered a half sandwich for later as a snack while I watched the SuperBowl game. . It was still mid afternoon. The Super Bowl would start in half an hour – so like a hundred million others, I headed for a TV set in the motel room to watch

the game/ads. I figured not too many county hunters or park chasers would be around when it started.

Monday Feb 4

Today I'd head to Louisiana to run parishes and parks there for a couple days. In the morning I headed over to the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge, KFF-0316 in Cameron Parish, LA. This would be a new one for most – only 8 QSOs had been made here by WA5KBH, George. Had an excellent run putting over 75Qs in the log. From the web:

“The refuge is located in Cameron Parish, Louisiana and occupies the marshes between Calcasieu and Sabine lakes in southwest Louisiana, encompassing 125,790 acres which consist of 40,403 acres of open water and 85,387 acres of marsh grassland. This area contains a diversity of habitat including freshwater impoundments, wooded ridges and levees, canals, ponds, lakes, and bayous. Some of the largest wetland management efforts in Louisiana occur at Sabine. The refuge is managed to provide habitat for migratory waterfowl and other birds and to preserve and enhance coastal marshes for wildlife and fish.”

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Not to far further east is Cameron Prairie NWR – KFF-0304 still in Cameron Parish LA.



From the web:

“Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge was established to preserve and protect wintering waterfowl and their habitat. It was the first refuge established under the auspices of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The refuge is located approximately 25 miles southeast of Lake Charles, Louisiana, and contains 9,621 acres that include fresh marsh, coastal prairie, and old rice fields (currently moist soil units). Located at the convergence of two major flyways, the refuge has an important role in management for migratory birds.

Refuge visitation has grown in recent years to approximately 100,000 visits annually. The visitor center, exhibits, and auto-tour route are the primary attractions for the visiting public. “

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The temps were moderate – getting up to 65 to 75 degrees during this part of the trip! Up north – well, snow storms, blizzards and worse. Other than the usual short daily showers from being so close to the humid Gulf, the weather was decent so far. But things can change. And will!

Next up was to be Lacassine NWR another 20-30 miles to the east – but....the road to it was closed and there was a near 50 mile detour to get to it. Well, too late in the day for that so I headed to the city of Lake Charles and a state park there – Sam Houston Jones SP – KFF-2375 in Calcasieu Parish.

From Wiki:

“Sam Houston Jones State Park is a park near the city of Lake Charles, Calcasieu Parish, in southwestern Louisiana (USA) located at the confluence of the Houston and Calcasieu Rivers and Indian Bayou. It consists of 1,087 acres of woodlands, lakes and rivers. Prominent in the park are many bald cypress trees. The area hosts an abundance of wildlife, including deer, squirrels, bobcats, rabbits, alligators, otters, nutria rats, raccoons, foxes, and diverse birdlife. Ducks and geese are usually found swimming in the ponds.

Originally named for Sam Houston, the Texas folk hero who traveled extensively in the western reaches of Louisiana, its current name is in honor of former Louisiana governor

Sam Houston Jones, who was instrumental in setting aside this tract of land for the public to enjoy.

The site is located in the Central Migratory Flyway and just north of the most productive birding region in Louisiana. In the spring and fall, migratory patterns bring nearly 200 bird species within 30 miles (50 km) of the park site.”



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OK....alligators! I sat in the boat ramp parking area (my favorite spot in state parks – big lot, few power lines, nearly deserted this time of year) for a good run. George, WA5KBH, who lives 2 miles away, stops by for an eyeball a bit later. We have a dinner meet set up for this evening. He said if you ever make it to Lake Charles, LA, I'll buy you a seafood dinner. I was going to take him up on it. After the park run, we headed over to his QTH for short visit. Then I headed to the Days Inn off I-10 (\$55/night). Traffic is a big mess there with construction on the 'I-210 bypass' with sections down to one lane – resulting in mile long backups at creep and crawl speeds. Fortunately, with directions from him, I missed most of that by taking an alternate route. I checked in and soon after wandered by foot over to Steamboat Bill's Seafood emporium, rated #1 seafood place in Lake Charles.



There George, WA5KBH and wife, fellow park hunters/activators KI5EE, and WB5OZA joined in for a hour get together and delicious dinner. Fresh seafood! Soft shell crabs, fresh caught shrimp, crawdads, you name it. A veritable feast on the menu! Headed back to the motel – a five minute walk.

Tuesday Feb 5

Next up was a bit east/north in Allen Parish, LA – West Bay WMA KFF-4089. So far, all of these parks have corresponding “K” numbers, ie, K-4089, in the POTA system.



From the state site:

“The terrain on this WMA is generally flat. About one-third of the area can be considered a baygall habitat and is poorly drained. The remaining area has fairly good drainage. Mill Creek is the only major flowing stream. The forest cover is composed of pine plantations with scattered hardwoods along streambeds. The most common hardwood species are water, white, red, willow, and cow oak; blackgum; beech; and hickory. Important overstory species include flowering dogwood, redbay, sweetleaf, and sweetgum. The understory varies with the timber type. In the baygall areas, some of the more common and valuable species are yaupon, rattan, arrowwood, smilax, and deciduous holly. The understory in the pine plantations is primarily blackberry, dewberry, huckleberry, smilax, and numerous annual legumes and grasses.”

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Had a good run and moved on to the next.

Clear Creek Wildlife Management Area – KFF-4055 - in Allen Vernon Parish, LA was up to be put out. For most of these, there is a 'check in station' around the park at the various roads in. If you are going to spend time in the NWR/WMA, you are required to fill out a 'self clearing' form – so I guess they need to come looking for you if you go in, leave your car, and don't return within a few days/week. No problem. I usually just hit the park entrance and the self clearing station – and park there for the run



From the LA state site:

“Clear Creek WMA is managed as a loblolly/slash pine plantation on a 30-year rotation. The area has gently sloping hills interspersed with small creek bottoms with occasional hardwood flats. The upland overstory is composed of longleaf, slash, loblolly, and shortleaf pine along with red, blackjack, and post oak. Plant growth on the hills is sparse and mainly includes wax myrtle, yaupon holly, dogwood, and huckleberry. Creek bottoms have an overstory of water, willow, and white oak; beech; sweetgum; and magnolia. The creek bottom understory varies from sparse to dense; understory species include red and white bay, red maple, blackgum, gallberry, sweet leaf, honeysuckle, greenbriar, blackberry, dewberry, rattan, and huckleberry. The area’s soils are generally low in fertility with acidic characteristics commonly found in upland pine habitats.’

Another god run followed. Unlike the state parks with hundreds of previous QSOs, most of the WMA/NWRs were lightly activated – if at all! Fun for all as lots try to work you.

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Well, over now to South Toledo Bend State Park. The nice thing about LA state parks is you get in free if over 62. They don't check ID's so I guess I have enough grey hair and not all that much of it these days so they don't ask – hi hi. This park is in Sabine Parish LA. So far my work at one park per county/Parish is working out, but the states usually

don't get excited about locating a park/NWR in each and every county in the state for us county hunters – hi hi.



From the state site:

“Pleasantly located on several small bluffs that extend over and into the Toledo Bend Reservoir, South Toledo Bend State Park offers a scenic, waterfront view from many vantage points. While the reservoir is nationally recognized as a destination for bass fishing tournaments, visitors to the park can also enjoy other outdoor recreational activities such as hiking, cycling, birding, camping and enjoying the many forms of wildlife in the area.

The area also is a common nesting ground for the bald eagle, which feeds from the plentiful supply of freshwater fish – including largemouth bass, catfish, bream and white perch – found in the Reservoir. “

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As usual, I head to the boat ramp parking area and am not disappointed. Good run from here

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Peason Ridge National Wildlife Refuge – KFF- 4072 is over in Vernon Parish, LA. (ran it earlier).



From the LA state site:

“The terrain on Peason Ridge WMA consists of gentle to high rolling hills interspersed with creeks. Longleaf pine is dominant on some of the hills while a mixture of loblolly and longleaf pine and red, blackjack, and post oak is found on other ridges. Some portions of the area support mixed pine stands of longleaf, loblolly, and shortleaf. Groves of sandjack oak are also present. Large areas with little or no timber are common. The understory of these upland areas is very sparse and contains wax myrtle, yaupon, sweetgum, dogwood, huckleberry, sumac, and seedlings of the overstory. The overstory on the creek bottoms includes water oak, beech, magnolia, sweetgum, red maple, and ash. Understory species include dogwood, buttonbush, French mulberry, wild azalea, hazel alder, hawthorn, red and white bay, black gum, viburnum, and seedlings of the overstory.”

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This WMA is half owned by the Department of Defense that conducts life ammo training sessions here and at nearby Fort Polk. Like many of the WMA/NWRs, the place may only be open during hunting season – fortunately it was 'small game' hunting season up till the end of Feb so I was OK.

From the Web:

Self-clearing permit required daily for all activities. All or portions of the area may be closed daily due to military activities. Information on open areas and special ATV regulations can be accessed at the following website: www.jrtc-polk.army.mil/hunt2/hunt/default.htm. **Hunters are cautioned not to pick up any foreign material or objects while hunting on the WMA.** Also, it is mandatory for hunters to check the open area maps, located at check stations, daily for sudden closures.”

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The west gate was wide open – I went in 500 feet to the 'check in station' area - which has a big parking lot (unpaved) and sat right there. I wasn't going to be hunting for any un-exploded ordinance! Here's a typical 'check in station' – not sure where I took this – maybe later at Alexander Forest or maybe here.



At the lower right is a box with forms to fill out and deposit – tracking who is going hunting on the property. If you intend to spend any time here, bring a bright orange hunting vest – often required for being 'off the road' and out of vehicle. For most of the fall/winter/spring there is some form of hunting season. If you take a hike, wear orange!

At this location, there are multiple big warning signs about the dangers of un-exploded stuff which may be laying about. Yuck. Needless to say, I didn't wander far..

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After a decent run, I headed on into the Days Inn in Leesburg, LA. Had dinner at the Buffet City Chinese Buffet. Good.

Wednesday Feb 6

Hey, it's Wednesday and time for the weekly CWT at 1300. Oh, I've got to get up extra early and be on the road by 6:30am to get to Walnut Hill NWR, KFF-4088, Still in Vernon County. With the 1300z CWT, I could usually get 30+ in the early session which starts at 7am local time in the Central Time zone. Not much is going on other than 40m at this time, but I do catch V4/W3UL out in the Caribbean on Nevis Island on 20M.. Hope he's on LoTW as I need another 30 mobile DX countries for the ARRL Mobile DX award. Nearly all the contacts are on 40m. At 1355z near the end, I catch a few east coast stations – then run the bands after 1400z for the park chasers and county hunters – 20/30/40m CW. Success. (And I see Dan, KM9X is now chasing parks – recently got a certificate for reaching a certain level).



Someone did a great job of installing the sign right behind a part of the fence so you can't read part of it – hi hi! He had only one job to do and didn't do it well! This is a small WMA

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OK...now over to Alexander State Forest WMA in Rapides Parish LA – KFF-4042 - .
From the State website:

“Alexander State Forest WMA is managed as a commercial forest with an emphasis on experimental forestry techniques. Much of the timber is managed as pine plantations. The forest overstory is predominantly loblolly pine with scattered stands of longleaf and

slash pines. However, creek drainages have been maintained in hardwoods. In addition, red oak, blackgum, sweetgum, hackberry, beech, and water and willow oaks are widely scattered over the forest.

This WMA also includes Indian Creek Lake, a 2,600-acre reservoir, along with a 300-acre recreation and camping area.”



Had a good run and then headed to the next.

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Elbow Slough NWR KFF-4057 - still in Rapides – was up next. Had a decent run. Another WMA – after a while they look just like the past one you have run.

Well, I can get in another park or two today. March Bayou KFF-4068 – in Evangeline Parish – a new one. Bands were cooperative and had a good run in the early afternoon.

Chicot State Park – KFF-2359 – still in Evangeline Parish



from the state Web site:

“The park covers over 6,400 acres of rolling hills and water in South Central Louisiana. The cool, clear waters of Lake Chicot have yielded record freshwater catches of largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill and red-ear sunfish.

An extensive hiking/backpacking trail completely encircles Lake Chicot and includes several primitive campsites along the way. The hiking trails allow visitors to experience and enjoy the park's natural landscape, its bottomland hardwood forest and the lake itself. For visitors who enjoy a quicker pace, much of the trail is geared toward mountain bikers, and all cyclists are welcome to ride the roadways throughout the park”

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Had a good run. Head on in to Opelousas, LA and a Days Inn there. Had dinner at the Peking Buffet which had seafood night including soft shell crabs, frog legs (looked like small chicken legs and were good), and the rest of the seafood category and of course, Chinese food. Good. \$17.

Thursday Feb 7

First up is Thistlewaite NWR KFF-4086 in St Landry Parish.



Good run with some DX going in the log early in the morning on 20cw.

I head on down through Lafayette Parish and put it out.

I'm getting to the end of the first part of the trip. Not too many more parks to go. Next up is Cypremont Point State Park way down in St Mary's Parish LA,. Right on the Gulf of Mexico at the bottom on LA. Palm trees!



It's 'tropical down there' – nice and warm - 70F. Have a good run with many Qs. You can spend an hour and half or two when conditions are good.

- ----

Not far away is another state park – well, a bunch of driving to get to Palmetto Island State Park KFF-2372 in Vermilion Parish, LA. Often in LA, you have to head the long way since roads don't cross bayous and it's up and around to get back to east or west from where you are.



From the state web site:

“Located on the Vermilion River, Palmetto Island State Park offers a real south Louisiana outdoors experience. A boat launch provides access to the river for fishing and boating, while the interior lagoons allow canoers and kayakers an up-close look at the native plant and animal life.

Overnight guests can stay in one of six vacation cabins, each sleeping up to 8 people comfortably. The cabins, nestled among the trees and foliage, are outfitted with a full kitchen and bathroom, fireplaces for those chilly winter evenings and a screened-in porch for listening to the crickets and frogs sing out their evening melodies. 96 campsites are available for RV camping (20 sites include an extra tent camping pad), for those who like to get a little closer to nature.”

Skipped the 'nature bit'....stayed in the boat ramp parking area – and had a decent run. Alan, W8OP, was out running in OH.

Left the park – headed on through Jefferson Davis LA putting it out on the way to Lacassine NWR KFF-0311 which I missed on the second day when route 14 was closed. Came at it from the east this time and reached it. Cameron Parish for those still needing it. Fred, K0FG was putting out counties in NM and TX on his way back to MO.

Got there later in the day and struggled a bit to get things going. Barely had a trace of internet and it was gone most of the time. The weather was changing. The wind was blowing 30-40 mph, the rain was starting and the temperatures getting set to plummet. A big weather front was on the way. I worked at it to get to 50 QSOs then departed the park without further delay. The route now was a few hour drive once I reach the interstate an hour later to get to the Super 8 in Beaumont TX arriving at 6pm. Sunset. Hmm.....not the best planning but you never can tell how long park runs and navigating takes on the back roads. It's 56F here howling wind, headed for 30F tonight. Super 8 - Jefferson County TX. Dinner at a Golden Corral buffet 2 miles away.

Friday – Feb 8

Time to head to Houston for the convention via a few stops at 'repeat' parks along the way.

Off the interstate 10 , you can hit Anahuac NWR, KFF-0540 in Chambers County TX. Got there at 9am local time and had great run. Today would see 4 mobiles running on cw! Wow...something that doesn't happen often. K0FG was continuing his trip across TX, OK back to MO. W8OP was headed to MI. John, K4BAI, was on his way to the Orlando Hamcation, and of course, N4CD was busy. I've run this before but not many have wandered here.

Just south of I-10 near Houston, you can get to two parks a few miles from each other, if that. First up was the San Jacinto Memorial – a big tower you can ride up, museum – and nice parking lot to activate KFF-3511 in Harris County TX. At 570 feet tall, it's taller than the Washington Monument in DC!



“The San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site includes the location of the Battle of

San Jacinto. It is located off the Houston Ship Channel in unincorporated Harris County, Texas near the city of Houston. The site was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1960.

A prominent feature of the park is the San Jacinto Monument. Visitors can take an elevator to the monument's observation deck for a view of Houston, the Houston Ship Channel and USS Texas.



At the base of the monument is the San Jacinto Museum of History. In addition to the Battle of San Jacinto, the museum's exhibits focus on the history of Texan culture, including Mayan, Spanish and Mexican influences, the history of the Texas Revolution and the Republic of Texas, and important figures in Texas history.

The date of 21 April is significant in that it was the date of the decisive 1836 Battle of San Jacinto that ended the Texas Revolution and led to the creation of the Republic of Texas, which joined the US as a state in 1845.

Drilling for oil and underground water have led to severe land subsidence and erosion along the Bay Area shoreline, especially in the Baytown-Pasadena area. Since the beginning of the 20th century approximately 100 acres of the battleground have become submerged under the bay.”

Source: Wiki

—

Last and final stop on the trip was at the Battleship Texas not far away, KFF-3495 – Harris County. Made a short run here to get activation credit and that was it. Time to get to the convention hotel, get checked in, and start looking at the upcoming auction goodies to be auctioned off.



The Battleship Texas is the only battleship that fought in both WW1 and WW2 (and survived both). The Houston Club works with the association and part of the annual revenues are donated to the BB Texas each year. There's a working ham radio station on board that gets activated several times a year.

Just ran off 12Q on 20m then headed on to north Houston.

Continued later.....

Minnesota QSO Party

N0HJZ Single Op Mobile 43 cw 932 ssb QSO

A big THANK YOU to everyone that followed me around on Saturday! I ended up activating 28 counties and drove almost 600 miles! While I'm disappointed I didn't make 1,000 Q's, I think I did as well as I could. Had a station throwing a carrier on me for part of the afternoon and a YV5 who decided to settle in a half kc from me without listening. The fun of mobiling!

Here are the stations who made the log the most often:

WA1SAY - 26, K1RO - 25, K7SEN - 25, K2RYD - 21, N5HA - 18, W7GKF - 18
AJ4LN - 17, WA5DSS - 17, AJ5ZX - 15. KI7AAY - 15

73

Rich N0HJZ

NE9U and KK9K mobile 801 cw qso

Exciting Ride!

Couple bad Murphies.....

First one is our logging program decided to not invoke our county line change macros that save us 2-3 minutes per county switch.....probably cost us an hour of operating time and 80-90 qso's..... and we weren't even using N1MM or Windows 10!!!

Second Murphy....I noticed all day long cars kept occasionally flashing their headlights at us. Then around 4:30 when it got dark, everyone did. Ron had some wood in back of his truck and we thought his headlights were just pointed too high. At end of contest, when we got out of truck.....both his headlights were burned out! No headlights and we are two hours from home and no open garage to fix the problem.

Long story short, we spent the night in North Branch, Minnesota.

All in all not too bad....found a restaurant next door that had a full rack of ribs for \$13.99 and Porter beer on tap....

Made it home in daylight Sunday morning.

Anyway, made it to 28 of our 29 planned counties....ran out of time to get to Pine.

Thought the bands were in pretty good shape...just not many CW ops chasing us. very slow at times...a big hoot on 80 last 90 minutes.

Thanks to all who did follow us.

K1RO in log 30 times! W0BV 24 AD8J 21 K2SSS and NS2N 20

73

Scott NE9U

Ron KK9K

N0IJ Mobile 710 cw qso

About 650 miles drive around north/north central Minnesota in 23 counties. Big thanks to Randy, AA0ME, who did a super job driving for the first time after my life long friend, W0TVD becoming a SK during 2018. Discovered that my Screwdriver antenna would no longer fully tune up to 20, had to add a remote, read inconvenient, tuner which kind of worked! Had some good going, but the mid day conditions were awful for us leading to 3 terrible rate hours. Finished with three prox 100Q hours so that helped. Much appreciated a great bunch that followed us around with multiple contacts in the log. W0BV/24, K1RO/22, WX4MT W5TM/20, K0HNC K2SSS/17, NS2N/16, AD8J K4AMC K9CS/15. Special tip of the hat to in-state-N0UY who made 16 only because of his tenacity and skills--very difficult path most of the time. Hope to be back next year with a better 20 meter signal! Good to hear many old friends including WB2ABD who is now NS2N!

John, N0IJ

K0PC mobile 745 cw

A reasonably successful outing for the MN QSO Party in 2019. The polar vortex lifted just in time to let me set up the car in 17F temps (instead of -17F). All the roads were in good shape and no mechanical issues came up. My only problem was during the last hour of the contest. A heavy fog set in and my screwdriver refused to tune on 80M in the fog. I thought the antenna was icing but I stopped and it was just wet but still wouldn't tune. So I lost some time and rate on 80M at the end.

Thanks to the big hitters who followed along all day. Especially Mark, K1RO who had an amazing 35 QSOs.

35 - K1RO, 26 - W0BV, 23 - K2SSS, 22 - K0HNC, 20 - N6MU, W5TM
17 - NS2N, 16 - K4AMC, WX4MT, 15 - WB9HFK

Thanks to everybody who participated and the Minnesota Wireless Association for sponsoring the event.

73, Pat K0PC/M

W0ZQ Rover 483 cw qso

The Polar Vortex took a break with temps starting out at 9 (above!) and ending up around 34, very nice winter wx for a drive around MN. Since 2005 I have now operated the MnQP from 66 of 87 counties, just 21 more to go. As others have commented on, propagation was challenging. When 20m was good, it was pretty good, but it opened late and closed early. Not unexpected, 40m was the money band with 80m exploding in the last hour. At each of my 10 stops throughout the day I called CQ on 80, 40, and 20m. W0BV wins the "most worked" award with 15 Q's followed by K1RO (12), N6MU (11), and K2SSS K4AMC W5TM WX4MT (10). Only DX worked was OM2VL (1) and HC1DW (2). Thanks everyone for the Q's. Weather permitting, hope to see you in the WiQP. 73, Jon

KE0TT Rover 270 CW QSO

k3

Homebrew Vertical whip

K1RO - fixed NH - 202 cw 115 ssb

Well that was interesting. I got off to a much slower start than last year because 20 meters stayed closed for the first hour and was marginal the second hour. I saw a number of 80 meter spots at the start, but it was too late to hear anyone. The first two hours netted 31 QSOs less than last year when 20 and 40 were in good shape and active the first couple hours.

However, I was able to work the mobiles on 40 CW throughout the day, with some QRM from the RTTY contest. Activity was surprisingly steady. Every hour was between 31 and 35 QSOs for the first 8 hours, and the last two hours were 24 and 29. 20 meters

closed earlier than last year, and once again I couldn't work much on 80 before the last 45 minutes, but then signals on 80 picked up well enough to get several new counties. In the end I worked a few more contacts and multipliers than last year.

The mobile/rover activity in this QSO party is simply amazing, especially considering that it's Minnesota in January. I worked 17 different mobile/rover stations, and they accounted for 224 of my QSOs! Tops were K0PC - 34, NE9U - 30, N0HJZ - 25, N0IJ - 21 and KC0DMF - 19.

So close to the sweep..... missed TOD. From the APRS map, it looked like NU0W spent a lot of time there, but I did not hear them once during the contest. I believe N0IJ was there too, but that's one of the few counties in their itinerary that I missed.

Thanks to the Minnesota stations and to the organizers for putting on a fun, first-class event!

KN4Y - fixed FL 57 cw QSO

Enjoyed the QSO party, worked some mobiles, drank coffee, what else can one ask for?

At the HVRA Convention

The Houston Vintage Radio Association Convention is held each year in February at the Marriott North at Greenspoint in Houston. Unfortunately it's the same weekend every year it seems as the Orlando Hamcation Hamfest. Between SuperBowl and other major contests/Valentine's weekend, it's hard to schedule other than this one weekend in February it seems. I had to pick one and picked the closer one. Maybe next year I'll head to Orlando, who knows?

Friday Feb 8 -

Things start in the late afternoon with the 'Papers, Tube, and Advertising ' auction – everything from tube caddies and boxes full of tubes, to single more valuable tubes like the '45' 5 watt audio output tubes used in the top end consoles with 10 or 20 watts of audio power, to boxes of magazines like Popular Radio from the 1920s, TV age, and

similar. Right after – sort of run together, is the auction for 'low value' items such as plastic table radios, common wood radios from the 1920s and 30s, parts and pieces from audio transformers, capacitors, parts cabinets, boxes of 78 rpm records, 33 1/3 LP records, cassette tapes, 8 track tapes, etc. The next day, higher value (\$10 min bid, reserve price possible) started at 11:30 and ran for five hours. Here's a sampling of some of the more interesting items over the following two days.

Hundreds of table radios, consoles (floor models), a few TV sets, half a dozen ham items including a Hallicrafters S-38E, SX-99, Howard, Hammurland HQ-129X, Knight T-60 transmitter, and more tubes, parts and pieces were sold. You never know what would show up.



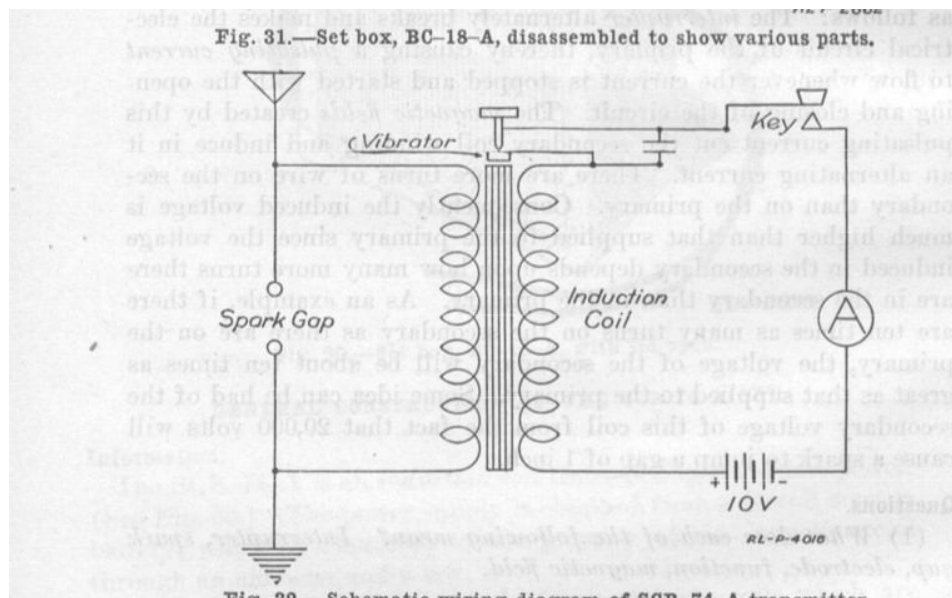
Early 1900s Victrola



SCR-74 Spark Gap Transmitter

This was a display item in the 'contest area' where folks compete for ribbons for first and second place. It's a SCR-74 Portable Spark Transmitter from about 1915 or so. It runs on a couple of wet cells totaling 10v or so, and probably puts out a couple watts of power.

The set runs on 10v battery – you have a key, interruptor (like a buzzer), induction transformer, ammeter, spark gap...and that's it. Not much to it.



The gap is set to about 1/8th inch. When the top cover is down, you see it through a glass window, and the key button protrudes. You don't want to get your fingers into this circuitry as you'll get quite a bite. Your transmit frequency is what the antenna likes to resonate at.....plus a whole lot of harmonics and broadbanded noise. It was used for short distances between regiments and regimental HQ.



Above is an Edison wax cylinder player in 'mint condition' and working. It sold for over \$800 at the auction.



Radiola with rare AG-814 Loop Antenna

circa mid 1920s.

Imagine having one of these prominently displayed in your living room in 1926! Very expensive at the time. It was a battery powered 8 tube superhet design and came out in 1925. Sold up till 1930 when the depression hit. It weighs about 85 lbs. You could buy from other suppliers a/c power units that could provide the voltages necessary to run it. Most of the fragile loop antennas didn't survive even if the consoles did. This is one of the first 'superhet' designs and it took 8 tubes to do it. (The pentagrid converter tube didn't arrive until 1933 and was used in just about every other consumer superhet after that – the 6A7 RCA tube was the first. (five grids). That tube would be an efficient local oscillator and mixer – with gain - for the 'front end' of the receiver.) Before that, you had a one tube as a local oscillator and another tube as a mixer. More filament power to run off batteries!



Wood Battery Set – TRF 5 tube mid 20s

The most popular set in the 1920s era after the initial 3 year boom was the five tube TRF set – tuned radio frequency stages – followed by one stage of audio amplification that would drive a 'horn speaker'. One of the problems with TRF sets of this era was coupling between stages. You'll note the coils in this set are tilted at about 65 degrees – the magic angle that minimizes coupling between stages. These radios used the ubiquitous '201A' tubes for most stages – with maybe a higher power tube for the audio amplifier output. It ran off batteries – 6v wet cell for the filaments, and 22.5, 45v, and if you could afford it, 90v for the audio output. Everything was built on a wood chassis/and or the front panel.

People spent a lot of time trying to minimize the coupling between stages – otherwise the sets would oscillate and not perform well. You had 1, 2 and 3 dial sets – with schemes to gang tune all three tuned stages. The detector was usually a 'grid leak' detector with some gain.

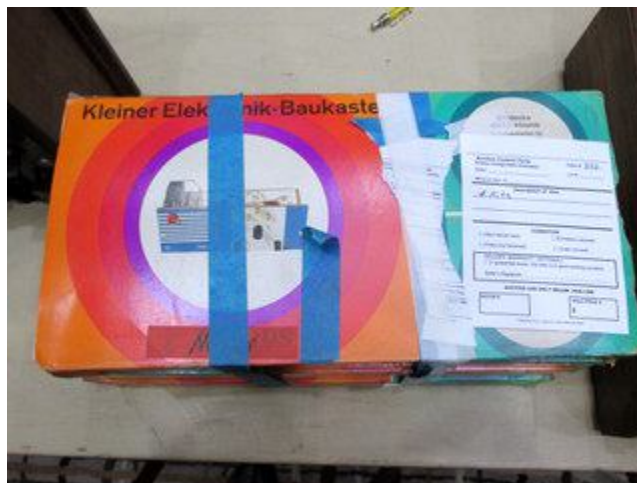


Here's an Erla radio with 'toroid' coils. No ferrites back then – so just air wound toroid coils which Erla hoped would reduce coupling between stages. They used a metal subchassis for the tubes – unusual until later production typically.

You never know what will show up at this auction



1950s Erector Set – did you have one?



Norelco Project Electronics Kits – 3 in series

Like the Radio Shack experimenter series you could build simple circuits with 2 transistors in the early transistor era.



Radio Shack Model I Computer

This came complete with TV monitor (black and white), keyboard, expansion interface, two floppy disc drives, cables and the original manuals. I paid about \$2000 for all of this back in 1981 or so when it first came out – my first 'computer'. Sold for under \$100 at the auction. It's a museum type piece. Yeah, you could add in up to 32K of memory. That's “K”. The floppies held about 140K if I remember right. There wasn't much software for it – but it did come with a simple BASIC program built in. The inexpensive 'word processor' was Electric Pencil – upper case only – and you probably got an Epson MX-80 dot printer as part of your system. The next computer I got a few years later was an IBM XT PC clone with 10 meg hard drive – and by the time I got what I wanted, it was about \$2,000 for the system back then. Then AT and on and on. Pascal? Anyone remember that? The new darling programming language that came and went in a flash. Along with 2+ dozen computer makers from KayPro to Gateway, North Star, Commodore, Timex/Sinclair, and a few dozen others you've never heard of before.

Now you buy 1,000 times the computer for \$300 at Best Buy, and name brand for \$600-\$800 with a terabyte hard drive and CD/DVD drive. Didn't need the original Model I. What would I do with it? If I had all the computers I've owned along the way, it would take a dedicated small room to display them all. No thanks!

K8ZZ Takes a Trip I

Ed. K8ZZ, left on January 26 and headed out for a week long trip. First up was Kaw River State Park, KFF-2341 in Shawnee County. That's an 'urban state park' of only 76 acres near Topeka KS. Next he hit KFF-2347 Perry State Park in Jefferson County KS – 20 miles northeast of Topeka KS.

Soon he zips over the Buchanan County MO and Lewis and Clark State Park KFF-170 there. This park has a lake and the Lewis and Clark expedition – that explored the west, went by here. Close by in Platte County is West Bend State Park KFF-1796. Nice state parks but a bit chilly in the winter time! Next up was the Thomas Hart Benton House in the Kansas City area in Jackson County – KFF-3365 – a 'state historic site. He was a famous artist/sculptor. Maybe you stopped by when you were at the National?

That was followed by the Harry S Truman House in Jackson MO. Birthplace house of the President.

Last up was KFF-2332 Clinton State Park in Douglas KS ending the two circle trip. Ed was getting set for bigger trips.

Volunteer Monitoring Program

Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, will oversee the development and implementation phases of ARRL's new Volunteer Monitors (VM) program, which will replace the Official Observers (OO) program. Hollingsworth, who once handled Amateur Radio enforcement for the FCC, has stepped down as ARRL Atlantic Division Vice Director to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest. The development phase of the program is already under way.

"I am grateful for the Atlantic Division ARRL members supporting me, but I think I can better serve the Atlantic Division and all ARRL divisions by working in the Volunteer Monitors program," Hollingsworth said in his resignation letter. A new Atlantic Division

Vice Director will be appointed.

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, said that Hollingsworth was the ideal person to lead ARRL's efforts in the development and implementation of this joint program with the FCC.

"I support Riley's decision to concentrate his efforts on this very valuable project on behalf of the ARRL," Roderick said.

Approved by the ARRL Board of Directors last July, the Volunteer Monitors will work in cooperation with the FCC. Volunteers trained and vetted by ARRL will monitor the amateur bands for possible instances of misconduct or to recognize exemplary on-air operation. Cases of flagrant violations or noncompliance will be directed to the FCC for action, in accordance with FCC guidelines. The program, which aims to re-energize Amateur Radio enforcement efforts, was proposed by the FCC following the closure of several FCC regional offices and reductions in field staff.

Hollingsworth has identified three phases to the program -- development, solicitation and training, and implementation. The development phase will include drafting a mission statement, clearly defining ARRL's and the FCC's requirements and needs as part of the program, drafting a Volunteer Manager job description, and developing a training manual for volunteers.

The solicitation and training phase will involve identifying the geographical locations where volunteer monitors will be most needed, soliciting applications, and screening applicants. Current Official Observers will be invited to apply for appointment as Volunteer Monitors (VMs). The ARRL Board has expressed its appreciation to the OOs for their dedicated volunteer service over the years.

Implementation will involve having the volunteers provide field reports, and ARRL staff offering guidance to volunteers to ensure that the information gathered meets FCC requirements. Continuing education will be provided to the volunteers as part of the program.

Hollingsworth has committed to ensure training adequacy for new VMs, to review the quality and utility of Volunteer Monitor submissions to the FCC for enforcement action, and to advocate for rapid disposition of cases appropriately submitted to the FCC. ARRL officials estimate that it will take 9 - 12 months before the first Volunteer Monitors begin filing reports."

Source: ARRL Weekly Newsletter Feb 14, 2019

Mobile Activity in February

At the beginning of the month:

Ed, N8OYY, was putting out counties in WV on multiple trips during the month.

Fred, K0FG was out in AZ headed east through NM into TX, OK and finally MO (home).

Ed, KN4Y, was putting them out in FL

Hollis, KC3X put out a few in NC. Later in the month he would take a major trip down to GA to run dozens of counties there.

Ray, WB0PYF, was down in AL headed to FL.

John, K4BAI, put out GA counties

Alan, W8OP, was in OH headed home

Ed, K8ZZ, popped up in AZ (more detail report later)

KB9AIT, Gary, and N9OAT headed down to Orlando Hamcation. Popped up in AL and ran counties down to the hamfest.

Jim, N8HAM, spotted in GA on his way to the 'fest' and ran a lot of counties afterwards all over the state.

In the ARRL CW DX contest, several of the AK and HI counties were easy to work. Spotted on W6RK, too.

Team AB4WL and KF4INA ran a few in AL

--

On SSB during the month were N8OYY and N8HAM. More action on CW with KN4Y, K4BAI, KC3X, K8ZZ and N4CD.

Sunspots I

It is thought that the current sunspot cycle – cycle 24 – will approximately span the years 2008 to 2019. In other words, we haven't reached the lowest ebb of the cycle yet, and no one knows exactly when it will come, but solar physicists think we're probably close. This cycle has been an odd one, with fewer dark sunspots visible on the sun's surface than expected. Now, with the next cycle due to start, we're beginning to see projections for what will happen when the sun revs up again and begins producing more sunspots. Will the next sunspot cycle be more “normal” or will we again see a decreased number of spots?

On December 6, 2018, the Center of Excellence in Space Sciences India (CESSI) reported that two of its scientists have made a prediction for the upcoming sunspot cycle. Solar physicist Dibyendu Nandi and his Ph.D. student Prantika Bhowmik devised a new prediction technique, which simulates conditions both in the sun's interior, where sunspots are created, and on the solar surface, where sunspots are destroyed.

Earlier predictions (like this one) have suggested the coming sunspot cycle 25 will be weaker than the current cycle 24. But, based on their model, Nandi and Bhowmik believe cycle 25 might be similar to or even stronger than 24. They expect the next cycle to start rising about a year from now and to peak in 2024. Their work was published December 6, 2018, in the peer-reviewed journal Nature Communications.

Why should we care?

Indeed, many people do care about solar activity, due to the sun-Earth connection. High activity on the sun can negatively affect some earthly technologies, for example, electric grids and orbiting satellites. So – as Nandi and Bhowmik point out – an accurate prediction of a coming solar cycle might help space scientists plan satellite launches and estimate satellite mission lifetimes.

Another sun-Earth issue has particularly grabbed the public's imagination: a little-understood, possible link between activity on the sun and Earth's climate. Keep reading, to learn more.

A statement from CESSI explained the climate question:

The current sunspot cycle, dubbed as solar cycle 24, is just ending, and it has been one of the weakest cycles in a century. In fact, over the last several decades, successive sunspot cycles have significantly weakened in strength, and some earlier studies based on simplistic statistical approaches have claimed a significant weakening of the sun's activity is imminent, resulting in a loss of sunspot cycles.

The last such episode, known as the Maunder minimum, occurred between 1645 and 1715 and coincided with the Little Ice Age, a period of long winters and global cooling.

Was there a causative link between reduced sunspot numbers and the Little Ice Age? In other words, did weakened activity on the sun cause the Little Ice Age? If so, could a series of weak solar cycles cause another global cooling in the years ahead? If that happened, the cooling would be laid on top of the ongoing trend of global warming, which virtually all climate scientists agree is caused by human activities.

For scientists, there are two big problems with the idea of a sun-caused cooling (or a sun-caused warming, for that matter). First, no known physical mechanism has yet been found, explaining exactly how a change in solar activity affects Earth's climate.

Second, scientists are aware of only one episode of decreased sunspots during a time of global cooling. The coincidence of the Maunder Minimum and Little Ice Age is suggestive, yes. But, for scientists, it doesn't prove anything.

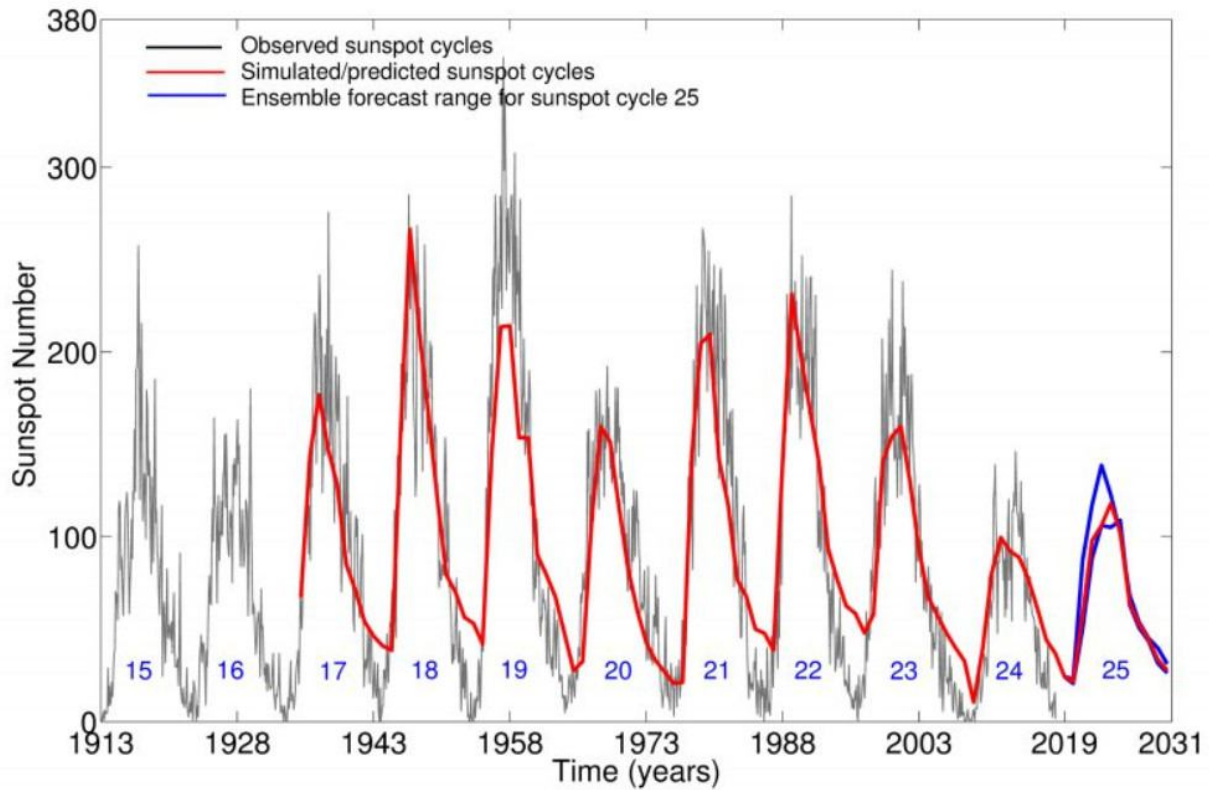
Still, the coincidence exists, and the idea is intriguing. And so it's tempting to ask if a significantly weak sunspot cycle 25 – in the coming decade – would temporarily alleviate ongoing global warming. Scientists have, in fact, been asking this question.

According to Bhowmik and Nandi, all that sort of speculation may be moot. The sun might come roaring back into something like more "normal" activity in the decade ahead; it might begin producing many more sunspots. Please note that I'm putting "normal" in quotes because no one knows what "normal" really is, for the sun.

Bhowmik and Nandi sounded confident when they said:

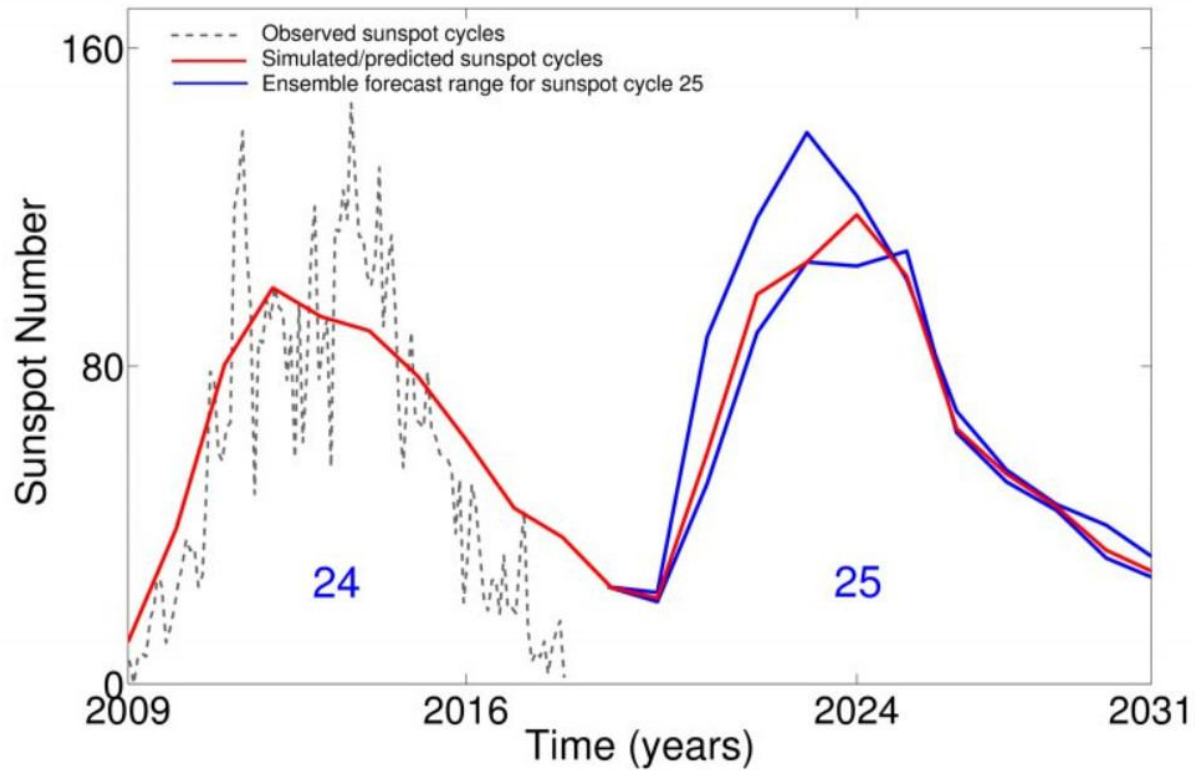
[We] find no evidence of an impending disappearance of sunspot cycles and thus conclude that speculations of an imminent sun-induced cooling of global climate is very unlikely.

Are they right? Will their model prove to be predictive for solar cycle 25? Time will tell.



Bhowmik and Nandi successfully reproduced a century of sunspot observations with their model. The red curve represents the simulated (starting from the beginning of solar cycle 17) and predicted (cycle 25) solar activity. Image via CESSI.

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Bottom line: Solar cycle 24 was weak, with fewer sunspots at its peak than expected. Many have predicted an even-weaker solar cycle 25 for the coming decade. But two scientists from India have a new predictive model, based on computer simulations, suggesting otherwise.

<https://earthsky.org/space/solar-cycle-24-25-sunspot-predictions>

For a lot more IN DEPTH hairy scientific article full of equations, visit

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-018-07690-0>

And I mean PhD level equations and theoretical discussion that is not for the faint hearted.

Vermont QSO Party

K1IB - Windsor VT

Self-spotting (permitted in this QSO Party) was the only way to stir up any interest in responding to my CQs. Worked lots of guys who were very weak, hard to dig 'em out of the noise. Perhaps they are QRPers in need of a Vermont QSL?

KN4Y - fixed FL 5 CW QSO

Listened and when a Vermont station on CW was heard, jumped and logged the station. But sadly not many were heard.

W4UT - fixed - TN 12 cw 11 phone 2 digital QSO

Thanks for the Qs

W7KAM - fixed - 22 ssb QSO (13 on 40, 9 on 20M) 8 multipliers

US Navy Looks at Ham Radio

“US Navy Explores Amateur Radio as a Training Adjunct

The US Navy's Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division (NAWCWD) has adopted Amateur Radio training as a possible new approach to basic RF and electronics instruction. More than 20 NAWCWD employees took part in a week-long class in Point Mugu, California, in December. The class, which culminated in an examination session for the Technician licensed, offered NAWCWD employees a novel approach to teaching

radio propagation, said Brian Hill, KF4CAM, the lead for electromagnetic maneuver warfare experimentation in the NAWCWD Avionics, Sensors and E*Warfare Department. Hill, who got his license while he was still in high school, is also the department's "innovation ambassador."

"I looked at the breakdown of current new hires and saw that many had degrees in computer science and thought that their classwork might not have covered things like RF propagation," Hill said. Rather than have employees sit through hours of PowerPoint briefings, Hill thought that a licensing course might be a more dynamic, hands-on approach to convey the basics -- and cover areas such as directional antennas, signal propagation, and modulation that are necessary for their work.

Initially, Hill had 10 class slots funded, but then Target Design Engineering Branch Head Ian Mann, KI6YVO, got wind of the class, saw its potential, and helped get funding to expand participation. Mann, a General-class licensee and a ham for nearly 10 years, said he's been able to apply knowledge learned in the class to his NAWCWD work.

Target Systems Division Head Milton Gabaldon, also saw merit in the approach. He sat in on the classes, took the exam, and he's now KM6YPA. For him, it's about connecting the dots.

Some of the 23 students who recently passed Amateur Radio exams at the NAWCWD hold their Certificates of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE).

"It's about introducing people to electronics, to start understanding what RF is all about ...so when we talk about it in the test and evaluation world, [students] know what we're talking about," Gabaldon said. "They get a better view than 'I just do software.' Now they see 'My software controls this piece, which sends out RF jamming signals that protect the warfighter.' That's the most important takeaway."

In all, 23 employees who took the Technician exam passed, and several also successfully tested at for General and Amateur Extra licenses. Hill hopes to offer more hands-on classes in the future, and he's planning a Fox Hunt for the near future, as additional hands-on training. “

Source: ARRL Weekly Newsletter Feb 14, 2019

K8ZZ Takes a Trip II

Suddenly, Ed, K8ZZ, appears out in Yavapai County AZ on Feb 9, 2019 at KFF-4433, Aqua Fria National Monument. From the state web site:

“The 71,000-acre Agua Fria National Monument is approximately 40 miles north of central Phoenix. The monument encompasses two mesas and the canyon of the Agua Fria River. Elevations range from 2,150 feet above sea level along the Agua Fria Canyon to about 4,600 feet in the northern hills. The diversity of vegetative communities, topographic features, and a dormant volcano decorates the landscape with a big rocky, basaltic plateau. This expansive mosaic of semi-desert area, cut by ribbons of valuable riparian forest, offers one of the most significant systems of prehistoric sites in the American Southwest.

In addition to the rich record of human history, the monument contains outstanding biological resources. The area is the home to coyotes, bobcats, antelope, mule deer, javelina, a variety of small mammals and songbirds. Eagles and other raptors may also be seen. Native fish such as the longfin dace, the Gila mountain sucker, the Gila chub, and the speckled dace, exist in the Agua Fria River and its tributaries.”

Guess I'll have to check it out soon.

He then zipped west through LaPaz AZ into a few counties in CA where gas is not cheap. \$4.39/gal



Then back through Clark, NV, and into Mohave AZ for KFF-1056 – Cattail Cove State Park on Lake Havasu.

Then it was back into La Paz, AZ for River Island State Park, KFF-3390. It's on the Colorado River. Nearby is Buckskin Mountain State Park – KFF-1054 also on the river and he ran it for the county hunters and park chasers.

Over in Maricopa County is the Sonoran Desert National Monument - KFF- 4435. from the web site:

“The Sonoran Desert National Monument contains magnificent examples of untrammelled Sonoran Desert landscape. This National Monument is the most biologically diverse of the North American deserts, and the monument captures a significant portion of that diversity. The most striking aspect of the plant community within the monument is the extensive saguaro cactus forest. The monument contains three distinct mountain ranges, the Maricopa, Sand Tank and Table Top Mountains, as well as the Booth and White Hills, all separated by wide valleys. The monument also contains three Congressionally designated wilderness areas and many significant archaeological and historic sites, and remnants of several important historic trails.”

Next up was the Casa Grande Ruins in Pinal AZ – one of the NPOTA sites you had to reserve ahead of time for 'radio operating time - KFF-0911. So far he did a good job of one park per county!

He hit Pichaco Peak State Park in the same county – KFF-1065 then on to Pima County with park KFF-4434 Ironwood Forest National Monument 25 miles NW of Tuscon. From the fed website:

“This Ironwood Forest National Monument is made up of 129,000-acres and contains a significant system of cultural and historical sites covering a 5,000 year period. Possessing one of the richest stands of ironwood in the Sonoran Desert, the monument also encompasses several desert mountain ranges including the Silver Bell, Waterman, and Sawtooth, with desert valleys in between. Elevation ranges from 1,800 to 4,261 feet. Three areas within the monument, the Los Robles Archeological District, the Mission of Santa Ana del Chiquiburitac and the Cocoraque Butte Archeological District are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The monument is a travel corridor for illegal

immigrants traveling from Mexico. All suspected illegal activities should be reported to BLM or local law enforcement authorities. Visitors should stay safe by avoiding contact with persons exhibiting suspicious behavior or engaged in dangerous activities. Drive with caution and look for fast-moving vehicles and pedestrians on back roads. Some roads are rugged: high clearance or four-wheel-drive vehicles are recommended in those areas.”

Next Ed headed down to Santa Cruz County for 3 parks – KFF-0760 Tumacacori National Historic Park, KFF-4429 – Coronado State Forest, and KFF- 1064 Patagonia Lake State Park. Tumacacori protects the ruins of 3 Spanish missions – 360 acres total in 3 parcels.

KFF-1059 Kartchner Caverns State Park in Cochise County has 2.4 miles of passages. You can take 0.5 mile tours through AZ largest cave.

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Over to Graham County AZ and KFF-1057 – Roger Lake State Park to run all the bands. Next up KFF-1097 – the Gila Cliff Dwellings in Grant County NM – which takes a bit of doing to get there! Popular in the NPOTA days. . It between counties with parks, Ed ran the counties. Now a state park – Leasville Dam – in Dona Ana County NM.



With a southern swing, Ed picks up the Chamizal Memorial KFF-0770. Back in the NPOTA days, you had to get special permission to run this, and I think the entire year, they just allowed one 'mobile' to operate – no 'setting up' (N4CD) with a special use permit that took 2 months to get. Now, likely you can zip in, run it mobile, and no one will be concerned. Best case – just go to the back area that is sparsely used – hi hi – right in downtown El Paso in, of course, El Paso County way way out west in TX. There's a tall wall just south of Chamizal across a 4 lane highway – 30-40 feet high – the 'border fence' that keeps the murder, crime, and drugs out of El Paso. Before they built that part of the wall, El Paso was just as bad as the Mexican town on the other side. It's still a hotbed of murder, crime, gang warfare over drugs, MS-13 and worse.

There's a state park in El Paso and Ed hit the Hueco Tanks state park KFF-3018 a bit east, then headed up into New Mexico again, Eddy County, to get to Carlsbad Caverns National Park – KFF-0012. Ed hit the Living Desert State Park KFF-2703 still in Eddy, then on to Brantley Lake State Park KFF-2688 – same County.



A bit further on is Bottomless Lake State Park – KFF-2687 in Chaves County. Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge KFF-0457 is in the same county and Ed ran it.



In DeBaca is KFF-2717 – Summer Lake State Park. Add in a few miles and you get to Dallam County TX – and the Rita Blanca National Grasslands KFF-4582. They extend into OK – Cimarron County OK and you can run them again as KFF-4583 – a different park unit – but due to the way parks are tracked in WWFF, they have to be separate entities per state.

If you head on into CO next, you can hit the Comanche Grasslands – KFF-4547 in Baca County CO.

Well, now you can head east and run the Cimarron Grasslands in Morton KS as KFF-4562. Lots of what used to millions of acres preserved in the 3 states. Ed's back in the home state – but the weather isn't going to be great.



Somewhere along here the 'ice storm' hits and Ed is momentarily grounded at the Holiday Inn in Garden City – Finney County. Stops a bit early.

Next up KFF-0818 in Pawnee – Ft Larned Historic site in Pawnee KS.

Ed heads east to KFF-2342 Kanopolis State Park in Ellsworth KS....then KFF-2346 – Mushroom Rock State Park – same county.....

Arrives home after 3 weeks and 4,000 miles of driving.....

Next Generation Wireless

This is the 5G rollout – that promises to deliver near gigabit speeds for downloads. Movies downloaded in seconds. Enough capacity for tens of thousands of autonomous cars and yet to be invented future applications

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“A turf war between federal regulators and local jurisdictions is brewing over the installation of hundreds of thousands of cellphone towers to upgrade to 5G. The fifth generation of wireless internet would require more than 400,000 “small-cell” antennas to be placed fairly close together, a situation that officials in Portland, Oregon, have called an eyesore.

What’s more, the Federal Communications Commission in September drastically cut how much municipalities can charge wireless carriers to install and maintain the antennas. The FCC also shortened the time frame for cities to approve installation permits. More than 80 cities and counties have filed lawsuits challenging the new FCC rules, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit in San Francisco is expected to render a decision in the lead case in April.

The technology promises to deliver more data faster to mobile devices with fewer delays and interruptions. And FCC officials have framed 5G’s years-long rollout as akin to a technological arms race with China, ordering expedited installation permits. The new rule allows municipalities 60 days to approve attaching small cells to existing structures and 90 days for raising new towers or poles. But the bigger blow to cities is the agency limiting fees for installation to \$100 per unit and maintenance to \$270 per unit per year. Previously, jurisdictions had charged companies thousands of dollars per unit.

Cities and counties say they want the technological upgrade, but they cite the FCC’s order as unconstitutional and illegal.

In an email to The Washington Times, Tom Cochran, executive director of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, accused the agency of reinterpreting “federal law as part of its efforts to ‘nationalize’ city and other local public property in its quest to grant special and unlawful rights to private enterprises that seek to occupy local rights-of-ways and

public property for small cell deployment.” “Instead of working with local governments to win the global race to 5G, the FCC is forcing cities to race to the courthouse to defend the most basic of local government rights — the authority to manage and seek fair compensation from private users that seek to employ public assets, owned and paid for by local taxpayers, for their personal profit without any obligation to serve all of the community whose assets are occupied,” Mr. Cochran said.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National League of Cities and the National Conference of State Legislatures have joined a growing list of jurisdictions, including six of the country’s 10 largest cities — New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, Dallas and San Jose, California — in opposing the FCC order.

“We are not alone in our pursuit of 5G. The U.S. is in the lead, thanks to our private sector as well as the work of the FCC, this administration and Congress. But China, South Korea and many other countries are eager to claim this mantle.” FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr also has raised concerns about the speed of the 5G rollout across America.

“Being first matters,” Mr. Carr said in a statement in September. “It determines whether capital will flow here, whether innovators will start their new businesses here, and whether the economy that benefits is the one here.”

‘\$2 billion in red tape’

AT&T, Verizon, T-Mobile and Sprint have lauded the FCC’s moves, calling them needed to justify their massive investments in 5G infrastructure. According to the industry trade group CTIA, wireless providers eventually will invest as much as \$275 billion in upgrading networks to 5G across the U.S. In addition, a recent study by the consulting firm Accenture estimates that small-cell technology will create “more than 20,000 jobs and attract \$2 billion in capital investment, resulting in nearly \$4 billion in economic growth over the next few years.”

The Accenture study also estimates that the 5G upgrade will require 769,000 small-cell antennas to be erected across the country from 2018 to 2026. At the end of 2017, about 320,000 4G cell sites were in service — meaning about 449,000 new antennas will be raised in the upgrade. The 5G network will require more antennas that are placed closer together than its 4G predecessor to allow for uninterrupted, high-speed communications between mobile devices. The small-cell antennas, which can be as large as a refrigerator, must be dispersed roughly one site per city block. Many can be affixed to streetlights or utility poles.

Telecommunications experts say that 5G's data-dense technology will allow more users to access high-speed wireless networks at the same time, provide mobile devices with more information and create opportunities to expand the use of virtual and augmented reality. It could help self-driving cars "talk" to each other and traffic monitors, allow doctors to conduct medical procedures on patients thousands of miles away, and help businesses automate their workspaces. The FCC's reduction in cities' antenna fees has cut "\$2 billion in red tape" for America's largest wireless providers, the agency's Mr. Carr said.

Ted Wheeler, mayor of Portland, Oregon, was the first to legally challenge the new rules. Portland, which charges as much as \$3,000 in annual fees on cell towers, is angry not only over lost potential revenue but also because he says the small cells will be eyesores, especially in historic neighborhoods. Other cities have voiced similar concerns.

At least 20 states already have addressed streamlining processes for small-cell rights-of-way and permitting, according to NCSL, with more states aiming to tackle the issue this year.

Meanwhile, the 5G rollout is underway in many cities.

Mike Lynch, director of Boston's broadband and cable, recently said 80 percent of small-cell applications the city receives are decided upon in 10 days or less.

That turnaround time is within the FCC's new rules and means Boston has "given the industry what they wanted" — speed and certainty to build the 5G network, Mr. Lynch said.

Source: Washington Post

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Cities were licking their chops hoping to rake in a thousand a site and a thousand a year for rental space.. The FCC put the ax to their dreams of billions in new revenues cutting it back tremendously.

Sunspots II

Solar Mystery Starts to Unravel as NASA Detects 'Tadpole' Jets Coming From Sun's Surface

By Hannah Osborne

One of the biggest mysteries of the Sun is why its upper atmosphere—also known as the corona—is over 200 times hotter than its surface. For some unknown reason, this region that extends millions of miles into space is superheated—while the surface temperature hovers around 5,500 degree Celsius, the corona can reach two million degrees Celsius.

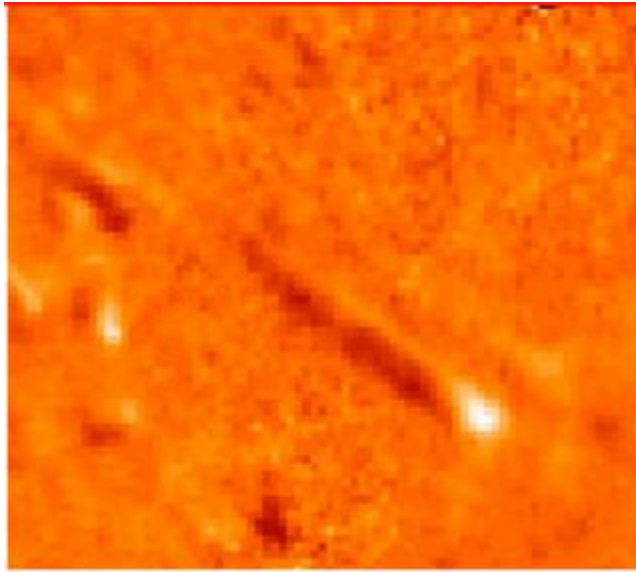
In a study published in *Nature Astronomy*, scientists with NASA are now edging closer to understanding this weird phenomenon.

While analyzing data taken by one of the space agency's solar observation satellites, researchers discovered jets emerging from sunspots and shooting up to 3,000 miles into the inner corona. The jets had bulky heads and slim tails, so they looked like tadpoles swimming through the layers of the Sun.

Sunspots are regions that temporarily appear on the surface of the Sun. They are much cooler than the surrounding areas and are highly magnetized.

Previously, there were two main hypotheses about what was heating the Sun's corona. The first relates to nanoflares, where explosions caused by the reconnection of magnetic lines release energy into the atmosphere, heating it in the process. The second involves electromagnetic waves, with charged particles being pushed into the Sun's atmosphere. The tadpole discovery adds a third possibility to the mix.

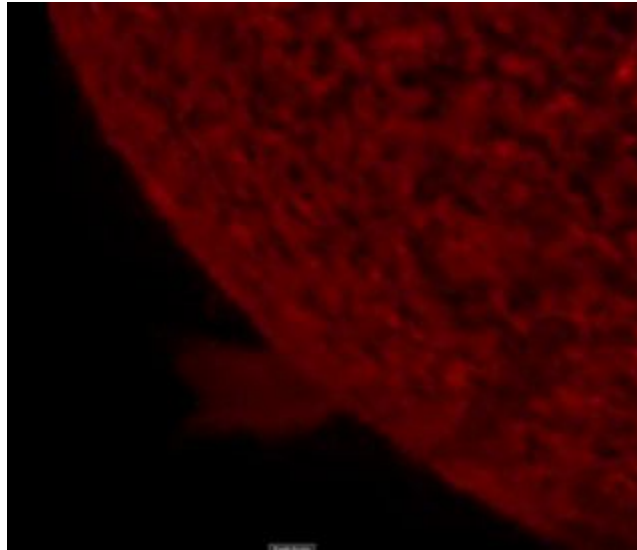
Scientists found the tadpoles were made up entirely of plasma—the fourth state of matter, consisting of electrically conducting material made up of charged particles. The tadpoles (also known as 'pseudo shocks') may help heat up the Sun's corona at specific times in its 11 year cycle—specifically during the solar maximum, when there is increased activity on the Sun's surface.



The pseudo-shocks are thought to occur when magnetic field lines become tangled and produce explosions. This often happens around sunspots, but may well take place in other magnetized regions of space.

Computer simulations showed that the tadpoles could carry enough energy to heat the inner corona.

"We were looking for waves and plasma ejecta, but instead, we noticed these dynamical pseudo-shocks, like disconnected plasma jets, that are not like real shocks but highly energetic to fulfill Sun's radiative losses," lead author Abhishek Srivastava, from Indian Institute of Technology, said in a statement.



The Sun is currently coming to the end of its latest cycle—known as sunspot cycle 24—and will enter the next one at some point this year. As the new cycle begins, sunspot activity will begin to increase before reaching a peak, known as the solar maximum—currently expected to be around 2024.

Previously, scientists suggested that sunspot cycle 25 could be weaker than the current cycle, potentially meaning a period of global cooling could ensue. However, this has largely been ruled out, with a team of scientists in India recently predicting that the next solar cycle could be even stronger than the current one.

In their paper published in *Nature Astronomy*, the authors said: "We conclude that near-Earth and inter-planetary space environmental conditions and solar radiative forcing of climate over sunspot cycle 25 (i.e., the next decade) will likely be similar or marginally more extreme relative to what has been observed during the past decade over the current solar cycle."

More readings and lots of hairy equations at:

https://www.nature.com/articles/s41550-018-0590-1.epdf?referrer_access_token=YQF_tmtGOcqeGxn4dRIDV9RgN0jAjWel9jnR3ZoTv0MwODt3TUnIdawrO5OYTOK_PbpcXkpXMIPFUCXb3iKJ6XgU0SklefOjvuxiZtAob-pyWnjQ8chawUOACnimzRaN6WiJ3DgVZM2iXQDHHgoU3o0fzVgxFgyYxDBysLftTocL2eEr-y

After the Convention – Headed Home

All good things come to an end. No regen goodies found this year – maybe once every five years something interesting shows up – but you never know. I bought a few odds and ends but nothing rare or exotic to get excited about at all.

Sunday Feb 10

From here in Houston it's a 4.5 hour shot straight up I-45 at 75 to 80 mph – if you don't stop. However, there's a couple parks right off the interstate and my car tends to stop at parks for quick activations on repeat sites. No different today – I could squeeze in a couple and still get home by dinner time. Speed limit for most of the way was 75 mph and traffic moves at least that fast most of the time.

First up William Goodrich Jones State Forest – just a few miles west of I-45 and 20 miles along the route in Montgomery County TX. KFF-4422. Pulled in at 1335 (7:30am). Zipped off a couple dozen Qs then headed back to the interstate a few miles.



Next up was in Walker County at Sam Houston State Forest KFF-4417. Just a few miles off the interstate. Whipped off two dozen Qs and headed to the next still in Walker County. Just over 2 in the log. It's been run a lot and Norm, N9NM lives there now – actually in the forest. He can't run it legally from his house, but can portable or mobile in his backyard! The forest is in multiple counties – Big!

A bit further north is Huntsville KFF-3019 still in Walker County. 20Qs from here.

Zip up the interstate to Leon County and you have Ft Boggy State Park KFF-3009 in Leon County. 3 dozen in the log. Verizon internet there but no AT&T.

That's it.....drive the rest of the way home.....arrive by late afternoon after 1750 mile trip over to LA and back.

Thanks for riding along. Lots of contacts made, a few new 'self credit' counties, a few new Double Diamond counties, many given out and a few "LC" for LA.

Michigan Mini

The MI Mini hosted by Ed, K8ZZ, and Joe, W8TVT, will be held in Traverse City, MI

April 25 – 26 & 27th..

<http://michiganmini.superhosts.net/>

Time to sign up now if you already haven't done it. Last few years attendance has been near 100 folks.

Book Review of the Month

The American Communicator – by Gerald J Chouinard, K5YAA

This is an autobiography of K5YAA, Jerry, written 2 years ago or so – in two Volumes. Here's a review of Vol I as described on the cover:

The American Communicator is the true story of a dream's years in business as a designer, developer and manufacturer of mobile radio-telephone and data systems ignited by his past-time of amateur radio, and adventure that took him around the world.

The journey begins on a dusty dirt road on the outskirts of Dallas County Texas. Speaks of years of hard work, beginning at age eight and ignores those who told him he would never amount to anything without an education. The story spans his early years, his flights as a radioman on the Early Warning Barrier above the North Atlantic during the Cold War, his walks through the streets of Manhattan and the Ozark mountains in business for two decades. Afterwards he become one of the highest paid data engineers for a major airline. At fifty-seven years old he retired to dedicate the balance of his life to his past-time of Amateur Radio.

This dreamer's life was influenced by a simple science class demonstration showing how a Short Wave Radio can 'hear' the news from places like Moscow, Johannesburg, Bangkok, Tokyo and Melbourne, Australia. Amateur Radio eventually

becomes the catalyst and foundation for a lifetime of work, excitement and adventure.

Take a journey now with this dare to dream dreamer. Sit with him under this Granddad's cedar tree at three years old and rake leaves with him in the fall of his life.”

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It's chock full of details and makes a thorough history of his life. Jerry has been a big contester, going out in state parties from OK to TX to GA.

Awards Issued

At press time, no awards have been issued.

Upcoming Events for County Hunters

Mar 2 0000z to Mar 3 2359z
ARRL International DX Contest, SSBPh
W/VE: RS, SP. Non-W/VE: RS,
powerwww.arrl.org/arrl-dx

Mar 9 1500z to Mar 10 2100z
Oklahoma QSO Party CW Ph DigRS(T),
county or SPC
k5cm.com/okqp.htm

Mar 9 1900z to Mar 10 1900z

Idaho QSO Party CW Ph DigRS(T),
county or SPC
idahoarrl.info/qsoparty

Mar 10 1800z to Mar 11 0100z
Wisconsin QSO Party CW Ph DigWI
county or SPC
warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm

Mar 16 1400z to Mar 17 0200z
Louisiana QSO Party CW Ph DigRS(T),
parish or SPC
laqp.louisianacontestclub.org

Mar 16 1400z to Mar 17 2359z
Virginia QSO Party CW Ph Dig
Serial, county or SPC
qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party

Mar 30 0000z to Mar 31 2359z
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSBPhRS,
serial number
www.cqwp.com

Thanks all folks !