

County Hunter News

March 2020
Volume 16 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. We also cover some park chasing activities these days. Contributions of articles, stories, letters, and pictures to the editor are welcomed, and may be included in future issues at the editor's discretion.

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

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

CW County Hunter 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>

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

1) Sunspots – there we go again – weeks of no sunspots and SFI bouncing around 70. 20M is 'lazy' and tends to be 'long'. 17M pops open to a few places but really long skip most of the time. Most of the park chasing is on 40M back east these days.

Latest sunspot predictions are that the next cycle should start in a few months around June – plus or minus months leading to a peak in 2025 about the same as the last one. Let's hope it is even bigger as the last wasn't all that great.

Mid month, a day or two with a sunspot, but toward the end of February, nothing but days of 'no sunspots' and SFI=70. We're in record territory with days of no sunspots between cycles.

2) New Parks – over 1,000 new parks have been added to the Parks-on-the-Air system and several hundred more to WWFF recently. Over 40 were added in OK, and 20 in TX will appear in POTA – mostly 'wildlife management areas in both systems. A few extra were added in both states to POTA which accepts smaller WMAs under 5,000 acres. I've got lots of new things to run – and parks are in counties!

3) Park Numbers – there are two systems for parks. One is Parks on the Air- POTA – now with about 6,000 active participants – which started up in 2017. The other is

WWFF that started up a decade earlier in Europe, and was brought over here in 2017 as WWFF-KFF. The folks at POTA worked with WWFF for a while, then decided to break away and do it on their own. So you'll see numbers starting KFF for the WWFF system and K for the POTA system. The numbers stay the same up to about 4460, then diverge with different numbers for the same 'park unit'. (with one or two exceptions). So if you see a park listed as KFF-0872, likely it's both KFF and K 0872. Some folks upload to one database. Some, like me, to both. It would be nice if EVERYONE uploaded to both the help the largest number of people.

Michigan Mini

The MI Mini hosted by Ed, K8ZZ, and Doris, N8WTQ, will be held in Traverse City, MI April 25 – 26 & 27th..

<http://michiganmini.superhosts.net/8>

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

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Getting Stared with Parks

I'm a county hunter – turned into combination of both park 'activator' and running counties. These days with not so great propagation, county hunting/mobiling can be pretty slow – with maybe a dozen, or maybe two dozen contacts in rarer counties- depending upon the time of day. If you're going to be out and about, you can join in easily to the Parks program – like half a dozen of the combination county hunters and park activators like K8ZZ, AI5P, NU0Q, KA9JAC, KA4RRU, KA3QLF, and a few others. You'll also run across many former county hunters who are now into park chasing after having done counties for many years.

What does it take to get started? Well, first you've got to figure out where the parks are and what the 'designators' are for the park.

Head to <https://parksontheair.com/>

That's the home page for Parks on the Air (POTA). Select Login from the screen and do a quick 'register'. Takes 2 minutes and you're instantly registered.

Then you can go either of two ways.

If you select 'park map' – it will show you the parks near you. You can expand that out to a few hundred miles to see the parks. Click on the parks and you'll get the designator and name. Usually, you can then follow that up by going to the state web site for state parks or for WMAs to get further details on how to get to them, address for GPS, hours of operation, etc.

You can also use the Park Stats page to show all the 'parks' in a particular state and the designators.

So you want to 'activate' the park. Great – go to the park and spot yourself on ch.w6rk.com and put the park in parenthesis after the county like:

N4CD 14041 Dallas, TX (K-4423)

Then go to the POTA spotter page at:

<https://pota.us/#/> (you can get here off the main menu – 'log in first'....

It's similar to the fields on CH.W6RK.COM. Be sure to use a capital K for the park. It's fussy as in K-4423

That will attract a whole bunch of attention – especially on SSB. However, the folks use phonetics, so you might have to adjust your ears for them. Hi hi .

When you get done, for the folks to get credit, you'll need to upload your logs in ADI format. Most logging programs (I think even Logger can export contacts in this format) will generate an ADI file – one file per park. Simple to do. Or if you want to convert from a paper log to an ADI file, FLE is a great program and simple and quick to use.

Now, instead of maybe 10 or 15 county hunter contacts – or maybe less, you might get 30 or 50 or 70 contacts in the log in 30-45 minutes and be 'hunted'. You might also get a lot of new counties, too! And some new prefixes and call combos! If you work some of the folks operating in parks, they are good for the 'no-star' award too as most are

'portable' and that counts!

Secondly, you'll want to visit WWFF.CO and 'register' there. It will take a bit before your registration is done there. They'll send you a password (none on POTA) to log in. Same ADI file will work for them, too. It's pretty simple and putting out parks along with counties can be a lot of fun. It's nice to have lots of contacts per mile driven these days! You can run them CW or SSB or both. Some are even doing FT-8.

Neil, K7SEN, has worked over 1,500 parks now!

Two Sides of the Issue – Or One?

Ignore the Fake Climate Debate

Extreme views dominate the headlines, but behind the scenes, experts and officials are discussing practical, incremental steps to respond to global warming.

BY TED NORDHAUS

Beyond the headlines and social media, where Greta Thunberg, Donald Trump and the online armies of climate "alarmists" and "deniers" do battle, there is a real climate debate bubbling along in scientific journals, conferences and, occasionally, even in the halls of Congress. It gets a lot less attention than the boisterous and fake debate that dominates our public discourse, but it is much more relevant to how the world might actually address the problem.

In the real climate debate, no one denies the relationship between human emissions of greenhouse gases and a warming climate. **Instead, the disagreement comes down to different views of climate risk in the face of multiple, cascading uncertainties.**

On one side of the debate are optimists, who believe that, with improving technology and greater affluence, our societies will prove quite adaptable to a changing climate. On the other side are pessimists, who are more concerned about the risks associated with rapid, large-scale and poorly understood transformations of the climate system.

But most pessimists do not believe that runaway climate change or a hothouse earth are plausible scenarios, much less that human extinction is imminent. And most optimists recognize a need for policies to address climate change, even if they don't support the radical measures that Ms. Thunberg and others have demanded.

In the fake climate debate, both sides agree that economic growth and reduced emissions vary inversely; it's a zero-sum game. In the real debate, the relationship is much more complicated. Long-term economic growth is associated with both rising per capita energy consumption and slower population growth. For this reason, as the world continues to get richer, higher per capita energy consumption is likely to be offset by a lower population.

A richer world will also likely be more technologically advanced, which means that energy consumption should be less carbon-intensive than it would be in a poorer, less technologically advanced future. In fact, a number of the high-emissions scenarios produced by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change involve futures in which the world is relatively poor and populous and less technologically advanced.

Affluent, developed societies are also much better equipped to respond to climate extremes and natural disasters. That's why natural disasters kill and displace many more people in poor societies than in rich ones. It's not just seawalls and flood channels that make us resilient; it's air conditioning and refrigeration, modern transportation and communications networks, early warning systems, first responders and public health bureaucracies.

New research published in the journal *Global Environmental Change* finds that global economic growth over the last decade has reduced climate mortality by a factor of five, with the greatest benefits documented in the poorest nations. In low-lying Bangladesh, 300,000 people died in Cyclone Bhola in 1970, when 80% of the population lived in extreme poverty. In 2019, with less than 20% of the population living in extreme poverty, Cyclone Fani killed just five people.

So while it is true that poor nations are most vulnerable to a changing climate, it is also true that the fastest way to reduce that vulnerability is through economic development, which requires infrastructure and industrialization. Those activities, in turn, require cement, steel, process heat and chemical inputs, all of which are impossible to produce today without fossil fuels.

For this and other reasons, the world is unlikely to cut emissions fast enough to stabilize

global temperatures at less than 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, the long-standing international target, much less 1.5 degrees, as many activists now demand. But recent forecasts also suggest that many of the worst-case climate scenarios produced in the last decade, which assumed unbounded economic growth and fossil-fuel development, are also very unlikely.

There is still substantial uncertainty about how sensitive global temperatures will be to higher emissions over the long-term. But the best estimates now suggest that the world is on track for 3 degrees of warming by the end of this century, not 4 or 5 degrees as was once feared. That is due in part to slower economic growth in the wake of the global financial crisis, but also to decades of technology policy and energy- modernization efforts.

The energy intensity of the global economy continues to fall. Lower carbon natural gas has displaced coal as the primary source of new fossil energy. The falling cost of wind and solar energy has begun to have an effect on the growth of fossil fuels. Even nuclear energy has made a modest comeback in Asia.

All of this suggests that continuing political, economic and technological modernization, not a radical remaking of society, is the key to both slowing climate change and adapting to it. And while the progress we've made has mostly not been due to climate policies that would cap, regulate or tax emissions, it has required government action.

We have better and cleaner technologies available today because policy- makers in the U.S. and elsewhere set out to develop those technologies, from hydraulic fracturing to solar panels to electric vehicles. Adaptive capacities around the world have also improved dramatically because policy-makers have invested in infrastructure, technology and economic development. And a decades-long commitment to expanded global trade and international development institutions has brought greater economic opportunities to many regions of the world that historically have been left behind.

Acknowledging that we have made progress should not deter continued investment in clean technology and climate adaptation. Rather, it should encourage us to redouble those efforts, especially because uncertainty still looms large in any assessment of climate risk. At the high end of current estimates of climate sensitivity, the world could still experience 4 or 5 degrees of warming in this century, even with significantly lower emissions. Moreover, even if climate change does not threaten social or economic collapse, anyone who has lived through the California wildfires of recent years, or the bushfires that are currently encircling Sydney, Australia, can tell you that this is not a future most people would desire. And even if human societies end up adapting well to

climate change, the planets biodiversity almost certainly will not.

Such conclusions are unlikely to satisfy the noisy participants in the fake climate debate. But the Utopian dreams of those who wish to radically reorganize the world to stop climate change are not a plausible global future. Nor will denying the relationship between carbon emissions and global warming make the real risks of climate change go away. The world will tackle this problem the way that it tackles most other problems, partially and incrementally, by taking up the challenges that are right in front of us - adaptation, economic development, energy modernization, public health and finding practical ways to address them.

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by Mr. Nordhaus is the founder and executive director of the Breakthrough Institute and a co-author of "An Ecomodernist Manifesto."

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de N4CD

When asked how much more in taxes are you willing to pay to 'stop global warming' most folks would not even be willing to spend \$10 a year more! However, due to technological change and increased efficiency, the US continues to reduce the CO2 it emits each year – more than most countries around the world!

People get all bent out of shape about how global warming caused disastrous fires in Australia this year. The truth, it turns out, is that LESS land burned this year in Australia by a significant amount compared to 'normal years'. The difference is this year the fire burns impacted highly populated coastal areas (which hadn't seen a controlled burn in decades to compound the problem). Overall, less land area burned than normal. Is this global warming? The stats don't support it. But the warmists will use it to try to extract 50% more taxes from you for their pet projects, usually controlled by some non-elected UN Committee composed of 'representatives' from 3rd world countries whose main interest is their tyrant leaders more interested in corruption, crooked contracts, and ripping off most of the 'loot' and depositing it in their Swiss bank accounts. Two trillion dollars a year from the 'first world' is their goal. Yeah, right. No way!

State QSO Party Challenge

Here's something for your newsletter... de WN4AFP

StateQSOParty.com

State QSO Party Challenge - News Release -

The StateQSOParty.com Team has announced the 2020 State QSO Party Challenge. This annual program will recognize all radio amateurs' participation in the U.S. State and Canadian Province QSO parties. It will be open to any radio amateur who participates in any of our approved State QSO Party (SQPs) contests. Participants must simply submit their scores to 3830Scores.com to be included in the Challenge.

Participants will be recognized for reaching five levels of achievement – Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum and Diamond. Using the submissions to 3830Scores.com, each radio amateur's cumulative score will be calculated by totaling up his/her number of reported contacts and multiplying by the number of SQPs entered year-to-date. Using the number of SQPs entered as a multiplier is expected to encourage radio amateurs to enter more state/province QSO parties. The use of the number of contacts as a metric is to encourage participants to operate longer in each SQP, increase the effectiveness of their station and improve their contesting skills. To qualify for an award level, the participant must have participated in at least two State QSO Parties. Each State QSO Party entry must have at least two QSOs.

It is also expected that this program will positively benefit all SCPs, especially those that currently have lower participation levels.

The first SQPs in 2020 are the Vermont, Minnesota and British Columbia QSO Parties on the first weekend of February. Therefore, the first monthly report of the State QSO Party Challenge is scheduled to be available in early March 2020. The cumulative year-to-date Challenge scores will be published on the QSOParty.io forum and on the State QSO Party website (www.StateQSOParty.com). The full rules and other details of the Challenge are available on www.StateQSOParty.com).

Special thanks to Bruce Horn, WA7BNM of 3830scores.com for creating the SQP Activity Tracker located at 3830scores.com

If you have any questions regarding the State QSO Party Challenge, please contact Dave Edmonds, WN4AFP at daveedmo@gmail.com

73s Dave

Michigan Mini 2020

The MI Mini hosted by Ed, K8ZZ, and Doris, N8WTQ, will be held in Traverse City, MI April 23 – 26

<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.

K8HQ's Parks on the Air I

Recap of K8HQ's 2 Ohio park activations from Sunday Jan. 26, 2020. It was pretty decent weather for the end of January in the north. I had a blast activating Maumee Bay SP (KFF/K-1976) and Cedar Point NWR (KFF/K-0482). In a total of 3 hours time, I managed to compile 160 total contacts and 7 park-to-park contacts. Here is the breakdown:



K8HQ at Maumee Bay SP OH

Maumee Bay SP.....

83 total contacts

15-60m contacts

6-20m contacts

50-40m contacts

12-80m contacts

6-park-to-park contacts



Cedar Point NWR.....

77 total contacts

4-20m contacts

59-40m contacts

14-80m contacts

1-park-to-park contact

Interesting contact of the day was with John, K7IKC, in Billings Montana, when I was at Cedar Point NWR. He was not familiar with Parks On The Air and I gave him a brief explanation of what we do and directed him our web page for further info. He then mentioned that he was retired from the Parks Service and was so glad to see a ham related event that was near and dear to his heart! Hope to see you out here soon John! Thanks for your contact and story.

A huge thanks to all of you who made it into my logs. Plenty of familiar voices along with some newer voices, really made my day. I appreciate any and all who took the time to give me a holler.

73 Chris K8HQ.

MARAC Convention 2020

MARAC Convention October 25-27, 2020.

Main lodging will be at the Red Lion Inn at Jantzen Beach.

909 N. Hayden Island Drive, Portland, OR.

(503) 283-4466

SUNDAY Oct. 25

Check in available starting at 3 p.m. (early arrivals are possible, depending on room availability)

Hospitality Room open noon to 10 p.m. - gathering in the Hospitality Room at 7 p.m. for early greetings and tall tales

MONDAY Oct. 26

Hospitality Room open 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

MARAC Board Meeting 9 a.m. followed by discussions with Committee Chairs

Forum at 10 a.m. (tentative topics !)

Know Your Mobile by W0GXQ Jerry Mertz

Communications with Space Missions by Capt Wendy Lawrence, USN (ret) Astronaut
(subject to the needs of the Navy)

Web-based Tools for County Hunting by KXxXX

Logger and the Database by KkxKK

Self guided afternoon shopping spree at Ham Radio Outlet

Self guided afternoon tour of Powell's Book Store - a whole city block of books!

RVs --

You may PARK your RV in the Red Lion parking lot, but may not SLEEP there - you must book a room at the Red Lion.

Alternatively, RV hookups are available at:.

Jantzen Beach RV Park

1503 N Hayden Island Dr, Portland, OR

503-289-7926

<http://www.jantzenbeachrv.com/>

Columbia River RV Park

10649 NE 13th Ave, Portland, OR

888-366-7725

<https://www.columbiariverrv.com/>

Grand Prize - Elecraft KX-3 Transceiver

Iowa State Parks on the Air 2020

Iowa State Parks on the Air 2020 Celebrates Centennial of Iowa State Parks

<http://www.w0dbq.org/iaspota>

Iowa State Parks on the Air (IASPOTA-2020) is under way and will continue through year's end. The event is sponsored by the Great River Amateur Radio Club, with the support of Iowa ARRL Section Manager Lelia Garner, WA0UIG, and the Iowa Division of Natural Resources (DNR).

According to Colin Wheatley, W9UPK, Iowa had the first state park system in the nation, and Iowa's first state park, Backbone State Park, was dedicated in 1920. Since then, the state park system has grown to some 70 parks and recreational facilities, including 63 state parks.

Stations logging contacts with five of Iowa's state parks during the year-long celebration can request a certificate by sending a legal-size self-addressed, sealed envelope to IASPOTA-2020 c/o Great River Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 1384, Dubuque, IA 52004.

General Rules and Guidelines:

Awards - Certificates given to Park Activators, Iowa State Park Chasers and Short Wave Listeners as defined by the Program: Five verified contacts by a Chaser and ten verified contacts by a Short Wave Listener

Chaser - An individual or group who participates in IASPOTA-2020 by working an Activator(s) and submitting claims

Activator - An individual or group, such as an amateur radio club, who set(s) up an IASPOTA-2020 event in an Iowa State Park with the sole purpose of making on the air contacts

Mobile - A station operating as a vehicular IASPOTA-2020 station that has a fixed antenna and radio

Portable - An IASPOTA-2020 station operating with an antenna erected for the sole purpose of participating in IASPOTA and working within one of the Iowa State Parks

A state park name and a number that identifies each Iowa state park during the

IASPOTA-2020 celebration year. It is based on the alphabetical list of 63 parks established by the State of Iowa DNR. For example Ambrose State Park in the northwest quadrant of the state would be Ambrose-01.

WIASP-2020 - -Worked Iowa State Parks 2020 Award

The Program is managed via the Internet using a website and emails to keep costs down. The worldwide IASTPOTA2020 website is at TBD

Program start and end dates:

January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

Participants:

Activators (individuals and groups) are asked to register when and where they will be operating during IASPOTA, i.e., operating from which park(s) on which day(s). Requests for certificates will be cross-checked against the registration log and thus the registration is very important.

Activators can work from different parks over the course of the IASPOTA-2020 season and this is encouraged.

Chasers can work as many IASPOTA sites as possible, but must work at least five for a certificate.

Shortwave listeners must log at least ten IASPOTA sites for a certificate.

There are 63 Iowa State parks. Based on the DNR's alphabetical list, each park is identified with a name and a number. For example Ambrose State Park is Ambrose-01. The complete list is attached below.

Rules for Activators:

All Activators must comply with and local rules regarding use of the land. In particular, Activators must ensure they have a valid permit if they are camping overnight and they must have permission from the head DNR ranger to set up antennas, etc. Rangers will be aware of IASTOTA-2020 as part of Iowa State's Centennial Park Celebration and will be cooperative with your efforts.

If using a shelter you must register with the park ranger.

Assure the ranger that you will not be obstructing traffic or that your antennas and guy wires will not be a danger to other visitors of the park. Note it may not be permissible to drive on the grass in areas near shelters or campgrounds without permission from the head park ranger.

As usual it's nice to give ham radio as much visibility as possible, but be considerate and safe.

Unless special permission is given, park only in designated parking places.

Criteria for Valid Operation:

For an IASTOPA-2020 event to be valid, the following criteria must be met:

Mobile operators can be in, or in the vicinity of a motor vehicle but the antenna must be affixed to the vehicle and able to move with it.

All equipment must be transported to the site by the Activator team (group or individual).

All equipment can be operated from a portable power source, such as batteries, solar cells, etc. Operations can use permanently installed power sources, such as at a shelter, or fossil –fuel generators of any kind.

Activators must submit a log of each park activation and the stations worked, including call sign, time (UTC) and frequency.

Iowa state parks are open year around. Therefore they can be activated the entire year, January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

Rules for Chasers:

The Chaser to qualify for a certificate must make contact with at least five IASPOTA-2020 stations. A valid QSO/contact must contain the Iowa State Park Identifier, the time of the contact, the frequency and the call sign of the Activator.

QSO's via terrestrial repeaters will not count.

A Shortwave Listener/Chaser must submit a log of at least ten state parks to qualify for a certificate. The log must contain the State Park Identifier, the time, and the frequency.

List of State Parks and Designations

State Parks	K-/KFF-
Ambrose A Call State Park 01	2276
Backbone State Park 02	2277
Beeds Lake State Park 03	2279
Bellevue State Park 04	2280
Big Creek State Park 05	2281
Bigelow State Park 06	none
Bixby State Park 07	5738 ? POTA only?
Brush Creek Canyon State Park 08	none
Brushy Creek State Park 09	5731 ? POTA only?
Cedar Rock State Park 010	2283
Cold Springs State Park 011	none
Dalton Pond State Fishing Access Area 012*	none
Dolliver Memorial State Park 013	2285
Echo Valley State Park 014	none
Fort Defiance State Park 015	2288
Frank Gotch State Park 016	none
Galland School State Park Preserve 017*	none
Geode State Park 018	2289
Green Valley State Park 019	2291
Gull Point State Park 020	2292
Idlewild State Park 021	none
Lacey-Keosauqua State Park 022	2294
Lake Ahquabi State Park 023	2295
Lake Anita State Park 024	2296
Lake Darling State Park 025	2297
Lake Keomah State Park 026	2298
Lake Macbride State Park 027	2299
Lake Manawa State Park 028	2300
Lake Wapello State Park 029	2302
Lake of Three Fires State Park 030	2301
Ledges State Park 031	2303

Lewis And Clark State Park 032	2304
Maquoketa Caves State Park 033	2305
Margo Frankel Woods State Park 034	none
McIntosh Woods State Park 035	2306
Mill Creek State Park 036	none
Mines of Spain State Park 037	4377
Mini Wakan State Park 038	2307
Nine Eagles State Park 039	2308
Oak Grove State Park 040	none
Palisades-Kepler State Park 041	2310
Pikes Peak State Park 042	2311
Pikes Point State Park 043	2312
Pilot Knob State Park 044	2313
Pine Lake State Park 045	2314
Prairie Rose State Park 046	2315
Preparation Canyon State Park 047	2316
Red Haw State Park 048	2317
Rock Creek State Park 049	2319
Sharon Bluffs State Park 050	none
Springbrook State Park 051	2320
Stone State Park 052	2321
T F Clark State Park 053	none
Twin Lakes State Park 054	2323
Union Grove State Park 055	2324
Viking Lake State Park 056	2325
Walnut Woods State Park 057	2326
Wapsipinicon State Park 058	2327
Waubonsie State Park 059	2328
White Pine Hollow State Park 060	none
Wildcat Den State Park 061	2329
Wilson Island State Park 062	5738 pota only
Woodmans Hollow State Park 063	none

<http://www.w0dbq.org/rules>

*012 and 017 are technically not state parks but are included in the list of sixty-three state parks by the Iowa State DNR.

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note de N4CD – POTA has 88 parks (state parks and WMAs, NWRs, and state forests) in the system for IA including most of the 'state parks' above. For some reason, it doesn't have a few of those listed. I'll put a list of the park to county reference in here. For another reason, undefined, the state QSO party list of parks differs from the official list of state parks. So tread carefully. Here's the state list (just state parks) and their counties.

Park	County
Ambrose A. Call State Park	Kossuth
Backbone State Park	Delaware
Badger Creek State Recreation Area	
Banner Lakes at Summerset State Park	
Beeds Lake State Park	Franklin
Bellevue State Park	Jackson
Big Creek State Park	Polk
Black Hawk State Park	Sac
Brushy Creek State Recreation Area	Webster
Cedar Rock	Buchanan
Clear Lake State Park	Cerro Gordo
Dolliver Memorial State Park	Webster
Elinor Bedell State Park	Dickinson
Elk Rock State Park	Marion
Emerson Bay State Recreation Area	Dickinson
Fairport State Recreation Area	Muscatine
Fort Atkinson State Preserve	Winnebago
Fort Defiance State Park	Emmet
Geode State Park	Henry
George Wyth State Park	Black Hawk
Green Valley State Park	Union
Gull Point State Park	Dickinson
Honey Creek Resort	Appanoose
Honey Creek State Park	Appanoose
Lacey Keosauqua State Park	Van Buren
Lake Ahquabi State Park	Warren
Lake Anita State Park	Cass
Lake Darling State Park	
Lake Keomah State Park	Mahaska

Lake Macbride State Park	Johnson	
Lake Manawa State Park	Pottawattamie	
Lake of Three Fires State Park	Taylor	
Lake Wapello State Park	Davis	
Ledges State Park	Boone	
Lewis and Clark State Park	Monona	
Lower Gar State Recreation Area	Dickinson	
Maquoketa Caves State Park	Jackson	
Marble Beach State Recreation Area	Dickinson	
McIntosh Woods State Park	Cerro Gordo	s
Mines of Spain State Rec Area and E. B. Lyons	Dubuque	
Mini-Wakan State Park	Dickinson	
Nine Eagles State Park	Decatur	
Okamanpedan State Park	Emmet	
Palisades-Kepler State Park	Linn	
Pikes Peak State Park	Clayton	
Pikes Point State Park	Dickinson	
Pilot Knob State Park	Hancock	
Pine Lake State Park	Hardin	
Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area	Linn	
Prairie Rose State Park	Shelby	
Preparation Canyon State Park	Monona	
Red Haw State Park	Lucas	
Rice Lake State Park	Winnebago	
Rock Creek State Park	Jasper	
Shimek State Forest	Van Buren	
Springbrook State Park	Guthrie	
Stephens State Forest	Lucas	
Stone State Park	Woodbury	
Templar State Recreation Area	Dickinson	
Trappers Bay State Park	Dickinson	
Twin Lakes State Park	Calhoun	
Union Grove State Park	Tama	
Viking Lake State Park	Montgomery	
Volga River State Recreation Area	Fayette	
Walnut Woods State Park	Polk	
Wapsipinicon State Park	Jones	
Waubonsie State Park	Fremont	
Wildcat Den State Park	Muscatine	
Wilson Island State Recreation Area	Pottawattamie	

Yellow River State Forest Allamakee

<https://www.iowadnr.gov/Places-to-Go/State-Parks/Iowa-State-Parks>

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de N4CD

Many of the 'state parks' on the air events – if they pick some weekends for activities – are often only 40/80M events as they try to work each other. TX is mostly that way- you only get score points for working other TX parks if you are in TX..... but maybe some of these others will get some 20/30/40m activity. Some are SSB only like OH! Duh!

Not sure how much activity there will be, but maybe you can make some of it yourself. I plan to run a bunch of the parks there..

Maine Special Event – March 2020

The Maine Bicentennial Special Event takes place March 16-22, 2020!

Briefly, the Maine Bicentennial Special Event committee, formed from members of the Wireless Society of Southern Maine, along with KB1ZUN and AB1YO from the PenBay ARC, have organized an amateur radio Special Event that recognizes the Original 9 Counties of the State of Maine.

The Maine 200 Special Event Stations are:

Cumberland: W1C

Hancock: W1H

Kennebec: W1K

Lincoln: W1L

Oxford: W1O

Penobscot: W1P

Somerset: W1S

Washington: W1W

York: W1Y

Jameson Tavern: K1J

Town of Portland: K1P

City of Boston: K1B

We look forward to having you take part in this Special Event for Amateur Radio in Maine!

<http://www.southgatearc.org/news/2020/january/maine-bicentennial-special-event.htm>

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de N4CD

Lots of opportunities for 1x1 calls here. Someday someone will get the 'worked all counties prefix 1x1 award'. Probably 1500 have been on the air already

On the Road with N4CD I

The Houston Vintage Radio Association (HVRA) annual convention was coming up in a few days. It always seems to be the same weekend as the Orlando “Hamcation” hamfest – dang – but it is where I sometimes find a 'goodie' from the wayback days. It's a thousand miles to Orlando and 250 miles to Houston. Maybe they'll get them on different weekends some in the future year. There were some new added 'parks' – actually wildlife management areas (WMAs) added to the WWFF system recently and I could be the first to 'activate' them. There aren't too many TX mobiles going to the far away parks these days – most stick close to the home QTH wherever that is.

The weather was going to be rain and gloom, but that's better than snow which was falling across a lot of the country including west Texas that got 7-10 inches. I was going east/southeast to avoid the weather including snow/ice predicted in Dallas in the next few days.

Tuesday February 4, 2020

I left early – around 6:30am to beat most of the rush hour traffic going right through downtown Dallas. Minimal traffic backup but averaged 30-40 mph in the morning 'rush hour' down US75 down around the 'beltway' to US-175 headed southeast. Once you get 25 miles away from downtown, it's clear sailing at 60-65 and then 70-75 mph double lanes with wide shoulder roads for the next 100 miles.

First up was 150 miles to the southeast – **I.D. Fairchild State Forest – KFF-4419** in

Cherokee County TX. (just about all of these have corresponding K- numbers, too)



From the state site:

“Originally a part of the State Prison System, the land that was called State Forest #3 was transferred in 1926 to the Forestry Department of Texas A&M University (now called Texas A&M Forest Service). The property consists of approximately 2,360 acres in various scattered parcels in the western portion of Cherokee County. The largest main tract is located just a few miles west of Maydelle, Texas, and is bisected by State Highway 84.

The only sawmill ever operated by the State of Texas was located on the site. In the early 1900s citizens of Rusk and Palestine made a strong plea to encourage the State Legislature to extend the State Railroad to Palestine on the basis the line was needed to help timber interests. As a result, the Mewshaw mill was constructed on the site in 1907. It was staffed with convict labor and had a daily production of 35,000 board feet of lumber.

At the time of acquisition from the State Prison System, the forest was already well-

stocked and large scale plantings were not necessary. From 1933 until 1936, a large Civilian Conservation Corps camp was located on the main tract. Enrollees constructed roads, fire breaks, small ponds and bridges on the forest; today, some of these improvements may still be found. Many of the poles used for fire control telephone lines connecting lookout towers throughout East Texas were harvested by the CCC from State Forest #3.

To recognize his support of forestry in Texas, on September 11, 1956 State Forest #3 was dedicated the I.D. Fairchild State Forest, after the late Senator from Lufkin”

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Had a decent run (>45) and headed to the next which was a POTA only park – a trail – which was also park of the NPOTA system back in 2016. **This is K-4568 – the El Camino Real de los Tejas.**

from the Gov't web site:

“During the Spanish colonial period in America, royal roads tied far-flung regions with Mexico City. One such road was El Camino Real de los Tejas, which provided the primary overland route to the Red River Valley, in what is now Louisiana, from Mexico across the Rio Grande. Settlers, missionaries, and soldiers followed various roads and trails along the 2,500 miles of this route to populate the settlements, missions, and presidios of East Texas and Northwest Louisiana.

El Camino Real de los Tejas connected a series of Spanish missions and posts, from Mexico City to Los Adaes, the first capital of the Texas province. It linked a variety of cultural and linguistic groups, and served as an agent for cultural diffusion, biological exchange, and communication. Routes used by Spanish explorers that became the camino real followed established Indian trails and trade routes, and its development had irreversible impacts on the native people of Texas and Louisiana.

Spanish entradas and the establishment of missions and presidios along the camino real routes indicated Spanish claims to the region, part of the larger 17th century power struggle among Spain, France, and England to control North America.

The camino real provided access to armies on the move for more than 150 years, including those of Spain, France, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, and the United States, and helped determine the southern and western boundaries of the United States and Mexico. Thousands of American immigrants into Texas arrived via a section of the

camino real known as the San Antonio Road. Their presence and activities led to revolt against Mexico, and to Texas independence and eventual statehood.”



This trail conveniently runs through the **Mission Tejas State Park** – so I made a quick 20Qs for the 'trail' (no need for more than 10 for POTA) , then ran Mission Tejas State **Park KFF/K-3040** which is in both systems. Houston County.

From the state site:

“French colonists settled on the Texas coast in 1685. In response, the Spaniards built Mission San Francisco de los Tejas in a village of Caddo Indians in 1690. It was the first mission in the province of Texas.

The Caddo blamed a smallpox epidemic that winter on the Spaniards and plotted to overthrow them. When the Spaniards discovered the plot in 1693, they burned the mission and retreated to Mexico. Spanish friars tried to rebuild the mission in 1716. But conflict between France and Spain led them to abandon it a few years later.

In the 1930s, CCC Company 888 worked to create a park and reclaim the land. As part of the project, they built a representation of the original mission. They also constructed picnic areas, a pavilion (since rebuilt), and a small dam and pond.”

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It became a state park in 1957. Had a decent run and moved on.

Next up was **Davy Crockett National Forest – KFF-4415**. Trinity County TX. I'd hit about half the state forests in TX on this trip. Texas has over a million acres of 'forests' – most in private hands – but with large state and national forests that are like Swiss cheese – some large areas but lots of private 'in holdings' making it a challenge to find a location that is 'in' the state forest and not a private holding. The best sites are designated 'trailhead' parking areas, picnic and camping areas, and ranger or district office stations. This forest is in many counties so you need to have a way to determine which county you are in. I use the 'where am I?' app on my tablet. (it doesn't work on the cellphone as it won't show the county). One other app is 'HamFinder' which will show the county.



From the state web site:

“The Davy Crockett National Forest, named for the legendary pioneer, contains more than 160,000 acres of East Texas woodlands, streams, recreation areas, and wildlife habitat. Located in Houston and Trinity Counties, the forest is centrally located within the Neches and Trinity River basins. The Davy Crockett National Forest was proclaimed a National Forest by President Franklin Roosevelt on October 15, 1936.

A wide variety of wildlife exists on the Davy Crockett National Forest. Principal game includes squirrel, deer, quail, dove, turkey, and waterfowl. The red-cockaded woodpecker, an endangered species, lives within carefully managed habitat on the forest.”

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You'll recall Davy Crockett (King of the Wild Frontier!) , from Tennessee, headed to Texas and participated in the fight against Mexico for Texas to become an independent nation separate from Mexico. He fought and died at the Alamo. In the 20th century, he became almost a mythical super pioneer and hero via print, radio music and television coverage. Remember that 'coonskin cap'?

There was time for one more today.

Alabama Creek WMA – KFF- 4869 – only in WWFF system – is a connected area of the state forest but managed separately. Some WMAs are totally by themselves, others seem to be associated with other entities. Trinity County.



From the web:

The Alabama Creek Wildlife Management Area provides an opportunity for intensive wildlife management on 14,500 acres of the forest. In cooperation with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the U.S. Forest Service established this area to develop and maintain population levels of various game species, to provide improved hunting, and to demonstrate the way in which wildlife habitat and ecosystem management are coordinated to the benefit of all resources. Improvements in the Alabama Creek Wildlife Management Area include game stocking, water impoundments, and forage planting.

You've got to take a dirt road to get to a spot (a hunter check in point) to be off the state roads and 'in' the WMA here – road OK for 2 wheeler vehicle.

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That was enough for the day! Whew! No sun – just gloom – but worse weather expected at home that evening so glad to be gone! Just drizzle where I was now in Lufkin TX for the night at the La Quinta Motel. Dinner at the Golden Corral right down the street. 76 degrees outside. It was about to get a lot colder!

Wednesday Feb 5

Today I start in **Bannister WMA – KFF- 4871**. At the moment, it's only in WWFF. Likely it will be added to POTA soon. It's a Wednesday and if you can get yourself up and into a park by 7am Texas time (1300z), you can use the weekly CW-Test (CWT) to rack up a bunch of contacts quickly! It's 20 miles in the dark but I get there in time.



There's the road in and unit '903' is Bannister - and you'll have a cross reference if you pay your \$12 for the wildlife permit and get the great 'hunting guide' to TX with all the detail on the WMAs. Head down the forest road you see in the pic for a mile or so to the 'check in station' where you can park. Decent road in.

This is in San Augustine County. I arrive there at 1300z and proceed to work the CWT stations at 25-35 wpm zipping along doing 'search and pounce'. N8II, K4BAI, AD8J, AD4EB, and other county hunter/state park folks join the fray occasionally. I put in over 45Q in the log in the hour long test, then hit the regular 20/30/40m frequencies for the park chasers. Wind up with 80 QSOs from here. When Daylight Savings Time comes along, you don't have to get to the park until 8am central time! Yeah!

From the state web site:

“The Bannister WMA has 25,695 acres located in San Augustine County. The WMA is located on a peninsula extending into Sam Rayburn Reservoir. It is separated from the lake by private land or national forest service land. Bannister WMA offers a wide range

of recreational activities. Texas Parks and Wildlife acts as an advisor concerning wildlife management. The Area is a designated Eastern Wild Turkey restoration site “

You can run **Angelina State Forest KFF/K-4414** nearby. I do and have a good run with some DX in the log from here. Mornings are best for working DX – a bit after sunrise and the next few hours. Bands are still not great for DX with SFI of about 70 these days.

From the web:

“Angelina National Forest, one of four National Forests in Texas, is located in the heart of east Texas, 153,179-acres in Angelina, Nacogdoches, San Augustine and Jasper counties. The forest lies in the Neches River Basin and 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.”



On the way to the next, you run through a bit of the **Sabine State Forest 4416**. I just do a 'quickie' from here – 10 QSOs. That gets me an 'activation credit' but doesn't satisfy the 2020 WWFF Challenge that takes 44. I've run it before.



“Located in the pineywoods of east Texas, the 160,656-acre Sabine National Forest is the easternmost of the four national forests in Texas and forms part of the boundary

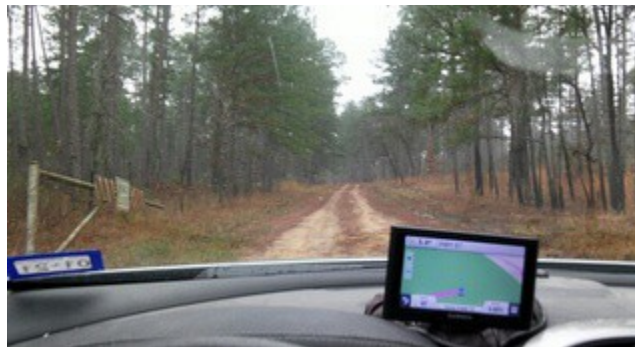
between Texas and Louisiana. The forest is situated on the western slopes of the Sabine River watershed within Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Jasper, and Newton counties.”

Next up is **Moore Plantation WMA – KFF-4887 – not POTA at this time. It's in Sabine County TX. From the web**

“The Moore Plantation Wildlife Management Area has 26,772 acres and is located in Sabine and Jasper Counties in the Pineywoods Ecological Region of southeast Texas. Moore Plantation WMA is managed under a cooperative agreement with the US Forest Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife and the adjacent land owners. “

Several threatened and endangered species are present in the WMA, notably the endangered red cockaded woodpecker.

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Typical road into the WMA's and state/national forests where you can find a spot to run – good dirt road – OK when it's not soaked for 2 wheel drive cars.

Next up was going to be a WMA right next to Martin Dies State Park – Angelina Neches /Dam B. Hmm....supposedly there is a road in where you can run this one. Most of it is 'really wetlands' and swampy around the Angelina River. It's adjacent to Martin Dies State Park. I spent 15 minutes hunting for the road in that is shown on the map. Nope – it was probably a really dirt, 4 wheel drive road off the side of the road that I wasn't going to try – a few logging areas but no obvious road in. That one got away – one of the new WMAs in TX. KFF-4870. Someone who has a good Jeep type vehicle might run this.

Plan B was to run **Martin Dies KFF/K-3037** at the 1900z CWT time. This park is in two counties – Jasper and Tyler. Most of the run was in Tyler, and I moved at the end to Jasper for a few contacts. I think many county hunters didn't see the change of county

with same park and might have missed one or both. With the CWT to start, had 72Qs from here. This is a 700 acre park on the shores of Steinhagen Reservoir.



There was still time today so I could hit one more on the way to the motel an hour away. Next up would be a repeat visit **Village Creek State Park KFF/K-3060** in Hardin County TX. From the web:

“Village Creek State Park is a state park in the Piney Woods of eastern Texas in the Hardin County city of Lumberton. The heavily forested, 1,090 acre park opened in 1994. It is named for Village Creek, a clean, sand-bottomed, free-flowing tributary of the Neches River.

The forested area features cypress swamps including bald cypress, water tupelo, river birch, riverflat hawthorn, and yaupon holly trees. Wildlife includes snapping turtle, white-tailed deer, diamondback water snake, and possum. Fishing includes channel catfish, bass, crappie, and bluegill. “

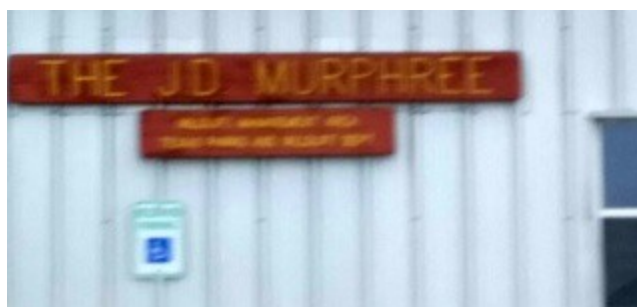


Didn't quite make 44Qs here – too late in the day for 20M to be working well and lots of bad weather back east. Also many park hunters on the road to Orlando FL for the big hamfest there I suspect. Had to leave here and get moving before dark arrived.

Headed on in to the motel another 30 miles away in Beaumont - Super 8. Dinner at a Mexican restaurant nearby – good.

Thursday Feb 6

The first park would be a WWFF only park – J.D. Murphree WMA KFF-4880 in Jefferson County, TX.



The run starts early in the morning and I snag some DX – F1BLL, IW2BNA, SP5ICQ, OK1DOY, EW6FW, G3WPF, HA8DD, OH6RP, DL2ND, ON3YB, etc. Then it's 30 and 40m for the US stations, with a follow up on 20m again at the end for US. Reach 44+ here.

From the web:

“In 1963, the WMA was named in honor of John David Murphree, a Texas Game Warden who was murdered by a duck poacher in Jasper County.

The J. D. Murphree WMA is a 24,498 acre tract of fresh, intermediate and brackish water coastal marsh on the upper coast of Texas. The Area represents the coastal marshes of the Texas Chenier Plain and is managed as wetland habitat with a special emphasis on migratory waterfowl habitat. These wetlands are part of the Texas Chenier Plain, the westernmost geologic delta of the Mississippi River.

Plants typically found in freshwater wetlands include cattails, California bulrush, Jamaican sawgrass, lotus, and arrowheads (*Sagittaria* species). Marshes with a little salt influence support plants such as seashore paspalum, cordgrass banana waterlily and spikerushes. Cordgrass, salt grass, widgeongrass and dwarf spike rush are plants indicative of brackish marshes, where the influence of salt water is higher, while oystergrass is the dominant plant of salt marshes near Sabine Lake.

The Area is a key nesting and brooding area for Mottled Ducks, with an increasing amount of nesting by Fulvous and Black-bellied Whistling ducks, particularly since the late 1980s. Several species of secretive marsh birds, shorebirds, and wading birds nest and raise young within the wildlife management area.

Besides the migratory and nesting waterfowl that make extensive use of the Area, many species of mammals inhabit the wetlands. They include the muskrat, nutria, swamp rabbit, eastern cottontail, raccoon, river otter, coyote, mink, opossum, armadillo, striped skunk, rice rat, white-footed mouse, bobcat, and cotton rat.

The American alligator is the single most important reptile and predator on the Area with a population density likely not exceeded in any other site in Texas. Alligators were commercially harvested in 1984 and have been harvested in subsequent years by special drawn permit public hunts. Pig frogs and other amphibians are not uncommon, especially in the Big Hill and Hillebrandt units.

Freshwater and saltwater fishes common to the Texas coast are found in the Area. Among the freshwater species commonly found are largemouth bass and sunfish, while speckled trout, redfish and flounder are seasonally abundant in tidal waters of the management area.

The area is the center of the small but principle stopover and staging area for much of

the waterfowl of the Central Flyway and provides high quality winter waterfowl habitat. The area supports a large number of gadwall, blue-wing and green-wing teal in the winter. A significant portion of the Central Flyway canvasback population will spend several weeks in winter on the management area putting on weight for the migration north to their breeding grounds.”

You can enter the WMA right behind the HQ building – with paved roads! Hi hi.

About 30 miles away, you can reach **Lower Neches WMA - KFF-4883 – only in the WWFF system at the current time. It's over in Orange County TX.** Followed the map in the Public Hunting Lands book (great book you get when you apply for your \$12 permit to visit the WMAs) but didn't find a sign. Found the 'parking area' on the map so here's the pic – no other 'percy pic' there to take!



While doing the run, a pelican was enjoying himself....



“A wonderful bird is the pelican,
His bill can hold more than his beli-can.
He can take in his beak
Food enough for the week;
But I'm danged if I see how the heli-can.”

Squeaked by with 47 QSOs from here. Some days the bands are not great – or weather (ice,snow) and travel to Orlando are keeping some off the air. Left happy with more than 44Qs.

From the web:

“The Lower Neches WMA has 7,998 acres located near Bridge City in Orange County. The Atakapan Indians, a tribe associated with southeastern US bands, lived in this area for centuries. Studies have suggested their presence covered a large region of southeast Texas. The WMA consists primarily of briny coastal marshland which was a donation from Mrs. Nelda Childers Stark. Stark a financial and industrial pioneer who headed several lumber and petroleum companies and his grandfather Henry J. Lutchter, who was an early east Texas lumber industry tycoon.

The area is known for historic sites and birding opportunities. The boat landing at the end of Lake St. on Sabine Lake dates back to the 1920's when a boat ferry was established to bring commuters across the Neches River to Port Arthur. In 1938 the Port Arthur-Orange Bridge, called the Rainbow Bridge, was built to cross the Neches River on Highway 87/73 between Bridge City and Port Arthur.

The low level coastal plains surrounding the rivers, bayous, and shoreline has an environment attractive to many migratory birds, game and non-game, that stop over during their flight to and from South America on the Central Flyway. Hunting for birds and alligators is permitted during scheduled Special hunts. Observation areas are well thought-out for wildlife viewing for visitors to the area. A spring or late autumn trip, during pleasant weather conditions, is recommended due to the natural humidity of the area. “

You can still see the piers for the old ferry landing along the road in the WMA.

I didn't have to worry about it being too hot – it was 41 degrees outside! And damp! Cold had descended upon just about all of Texas these days. I didn't have to break out the sunglasses most of the trip.

(If/when POTA adds these WMAs to the system, I'll be able to upload the logs and get credit/give credit for these parks run. POTA has no start date.)

Now I headed down along the Gulf of Mexico to **Texas Point NWR – KFF/K-0555**. I'd been there before but there were three parks in a row within 10 miles so I couldn't resist

getting them activated again with a 25 mile detour. Well, 25 miles there and then 25 miles back out.



From the state website:

“Established in 1979 under the authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, Texas Point National Wildlife Refuge protects 8,972 acres of coastal marsh habitat and is managed for its wildlife and habitat. Open to the public, visitors can enjoy wildlife-dependent recreation, including hunting, fishing, crabbing and wildlife watching and photography. Texas Point is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a national network of lands and waters set aside for the benefit of wildlife, habitat and you.

The Karankawas fished and hunted here in 10-12,000 B.C. and the discovery of stone scraping tools, arrows and spear points, along with bones of bison, mastodons, woolly mammoth and saber-toothed tigers, suggest a bountiful hunting and gathering lifestyle. The arrival of the Spanish in the 18th century marked the beginning of the end of the cultures of the Atakapa and Karankawas. For centuries, these people piled discarded shells near bays that gradually became shell mounds where trees took root.

While the mounds memorialize the presence of the first peoples on the Texas Gulf

Coast, today, the small woodlots found growing on the mounds serve as magnets to migrating songbirds looking for a resting perch after a long, exhausting flight over the Gulf of Mexico. The woodlots along with the refuge's marshes, tidal flats and ponds provide important feeding, breeding and nesting habitat utilized by many resident and migratory wildlife species. “

Made it to 44Qs (thanks to park/county chasers) and headed to the next.

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Ten miles to the west along the only road on the barrier island is another NWR- **McFadden KFF/K-0551** still in Jefferson County TX and right along the Gulf of Mexico. It's normally warm down this way, but the cold north wind is blowing strong and it's 41F. Brrr.



from the website:

“The landscape supplies important feeding and resting habitat for migrating and wintering populations of waterfowl, as well as other wildlife. From October to March, thousands of geese feeding and resting in the marsh can be heard, if not actually seen. Ducks on the refuge can number up to one hundred thousand, with more than two dozen species. This includes the mottled duck, a year-round resident and recognized as an important indicator species to coastal marsh health and function. During the spring,

large concentrations of migrating songbirds fly through the upper Texas coast, with peak migration occurring in April. In addition to all of the amazing birds, McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge is home to the largest concentration of American alligators in the State of Texas.

Established in 1980, the refuge was purchased under the authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission. Open to the public, visitors can enjoy wildlife watching, hunting, fishing, wildlife photography, and special wildlife-related events. It is one of the more than 550 refuges that comprise the National Wildlife Refuge System, a national network of lands and waters set aside for the benefit of wildlife and you! “

Alligators...dang.....you won't find me wandering in the swampy lands here! No way! There's a nice parking area and that's where I sit and run the park/county. Another 'success' with 44+Qs.

Last up for a while was **Sea Rim State Park KFF/K-3054** – same county. Norm, N9MM, had been here for a couple days this month already and put out hundreds of QSOs, so I just did a quick 12 QSOs for a 'quickie' activation then bugged out. I had a couple hours to drive to the motel for the night 150 miles to the west. You can get a nice campsite 200 feet from the Gulf if you want. Still cold and not many people about in the chilly weather – which is 'real cold' for south TX!

I backtrack 20 miles and head west. Along the route, you pass by **Anahuac NWR KFF/K-0540** so I might as well put that out as a repeat. I don't have a lot of time. Whip off 37Qs and the bands seem to have gone flat. Chambers County. No 'success here' but you take what the propagation gods offer. Don't have more time to spend. 20M can be decent or not so great these days. In the morning you can often work 6-8 DX stations but they fade away after noon. By 3pm, the 20m band is often open to VE2/VE3/VE9 and the west coast and that's about it.



From the web:

“Established in 1963, the 37,000-acre refuge is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a national network of lands and waters set aside for the benefit of wildlife and you. The management focus of the refuge (and its companion refuges, McFaddin and Texas Point) is to protect and manage the coastal marsh for migrating, wintering and breeding waterfowl, shorebirds and waterbirds, and provide strategic and crucial nesting areas for the neotropical migratory songbirds migrating across the Gulf of Mexico.

The meandering bayous of Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge cut through ancient flood plains, creating vast expanses of coastal marsh and prairie bordering Galveston Bay in southeast Texas. The marshes and prairies are host or home to an abundance of wildlife, from migratory birds, to alligators, to bobcats, and more. “

Ah yes....more alligators! Hi Hi.

I've got to go right through the Houston 'Metroplex' and the tollroads – 30 miles of it (ouch! Not cheap – the tollbooths are every 5 miles it seems but the TX tolltag works – and the money vanishes from the account as you drive along) - and head out to the southeast to get to the Super 8 in Lake Jackson TX (Brazoria County). Tons of traffic and of course, 'construction' forever somewhere along the Sam Houston Tollroad and other major 6 and 8 lane highways. Arrive after 5pm so the next one will have to wait for tomorrow. There's one ATNO nearby that needs to be run.

Friday Feb 7, 2020

The only park today will be **Justin Hurst WMA – KFF-4881**. Not POTA yet.



From the web:

“The Justin Hurst WMA is located west of Freeport near Jones Creek in Brazoria County. The Area has 10,311 acres which were purchased using waterfowl stamp funds from 1985 to 1987. In 1988, an additional 1,627 acres were acquired as mitigation from the Brazos River Harbor District. Justin Hurst WMA is a part of the Central Coast Wetlands Ecosystem Project (CCWEP).

Justin Hurst WMA is located within land deeded to Stephen F. Austin by the Mexican government in 1830. The tract was known as Peach Point Plantation. The plantation was established in 1832 by James F. Perry and his wife, Emily Austin Perry, Stephen F. Austin's sister, who bought the property from Austin for \$300. The land was operated as a slave plantation until 1863 with cotton and sugar cane the primary crops. During the early 20th century the property was used to graze cattle.

The portion of Peach Point Plantation that contained Justin Hurst WMA was donated to Austin College by Mrs. Lucy Harvey. The property was later sold to a consortium of six major petro-chemical corporations. Development plans included construction of an offshore pumping station for oil tankers. However, plans were canceled due to the decline in the oil based economy. The Nature Conservancy eventually acquired the 8,580 acre tract, and it was from them that TPWD purchased the area using waterfowl stamp funds.

The Justin Hurst WMA is representative of the Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes Ecoregion which encompasses approximately 15,000 square miles of Texas. Soils are primarily clays ranging from saline to non-saline. The land is nearly level and poorly drained. Elevation is generally 5 feet or less above mean sea level with a few areas 10 feet or more above sea level. Summers are hot and humid. Rain occurs throughout the

year with 60% falling between April and September. Average annual rainfall is 52 inches”

It was raining the day I was there. This was an ATNO in a new county, so I hit 44Qs. There's still lots of pipelines and pumping stations there as you drive into the WMA.

It's time to head 65 miles northeast to Houston for the Vintage Radio Convention at the Houston Marriott North. I arrive around 11 am and check in.

to be continued...in Part II

Mobile Activity in February

At the beginning of the month, we had the MN QP with lots of activity – and a couple mobiles to chase. A few mobiles showed up in the VT QP. Lots of counties on the air.

Ray, WB0PYF was putting out counties in AL on his way to FL and back.

Kerri, KB3WAV, popped up in parks in FL, GA, SC, NC on her way to and back from the Orlando Hamcation.

N9MM, N4EX/P, KU8T, popped up in parks

KB0BA/N0XYL Lowell and Sandra, took a trip from IA to MO.

Ed, N8OYY, took a trip from WV down to KY to run a bunch there.

AB7NK/K7SEN, Mary/Neil, took a trip to UT and NV checking out improvements to the new setup.

Tony, WA9DLB, was spotted in FL running counties there.

Paul, N7JPF, was running counties in OR

There were a couple days mid month with no county hunter activity and one or two park spots and that was it.

Kerry, W4SIG, took a LONG trip around TX working on his Master Platinum Award -
end date 2 25 2020

On the Trail of Regens

Not a regen but a real, real early interesting item from Ebay this month. Starting price \$1000! Ouch! Rare!



“Here's an early open-mounted wireless receiving set manufactured by inventor and entrepreneur A.C. (Alfred Carlton) Gilbert of New Haven, Connecticut. It uses a single

It uses a tube for a detector, a rheostat to control the tube's filament voltage, and a primitive loose coupler -- in conjunction with a pair of variable condensers -- for tuning. It's a scarce, unusual radio. Designed by radio pioneer C. D. (Clarence) Tuska, who at the time was struggling to get his own fledgling wireless company off the ground. This radio was based on a

Murdock radio circuit that dated back to the early teens. The radio was never marketed by Tuska, only by Gilbert. This was listed as a model 4018 receiver in the 1922 Gilbert

Year Book.

Very few “nice original” examples survived. However, this is a very nice original example in original condition. It has not been restored and is all original as you can see in the photos, with a good original board and components. Has a very unusual Rainbow Gold UX-199 vacuum tube with adapter included. The nicely grained oak board looks great. Radio is almost 100 years old so it has a few dings and wear marks as can be expected, and the finish is weathered but still intact. Wiring on the underside of the board is very nice, looks good & original. Variable loose-coupler tuning slides easily along the rails, and has original green silk sheathing, and the wiring still tightly wrapped around both tuning forms. The knurled Bakelite knob on the end of the variable tuning coil is original. Original A.C. Gilbert tag is still in place on the top side of the board. Overall, a nice and remarkably original example of a radio that seldom turns up and is sought after by both early radio enthusiasts and Gilbert collectors. The receiver measures approximately 15" x 9" x 6". Radio has not been restored or tested.”

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Another real early radio that most 'hams' would drool over to own in 1922 era—expensive in it's time, is the Paragon RA-10 and DA-10. In the early days, you'd have a 'tuner' in one box, and a 'detector' and audio amp in the second box. Often, the long wave tuner would tune from 15 KHz to 500 KHz with a set of plug in coils (Marconi style). This was a 'shortwave radio' capable of reaching all the way up to about 2 MegaHertz! (back then everyone used 'wavelength,no frequency). Coverage up to about 150 meters would cover the 'ham band' at 180 meters!

The DA used a one tube regen detector followed by two audio tubes that would drive headphones or a horn speaker. You'd need a good antenna (100 feet up 30 feet) and a good ground connection to get this to work at 180 meters.



The 1921 Paragon RA-10 regenerative tuner was manufactured in Upper Montclair, NJ by Adams Morgan Co., the first licensee of the Armstrong regeneration patent, which Adams Morgan commercialized in 1916 with the Paragon RA-6 tuner.

Condition is very good throughout, as you can see in the pictures, and the tuner is still working (it was tested with the Paragon DA-2 detector amp I have listed separately on ebay this week). Clean, undamaged panel, original undamaged dials and knobs, clean fumed oak cabinet that retains its original finish, straight original chassis, original paper license on the underside of the base, etc.

If you want to operate the tuner, you'll need a suitable detector or detector amplifier (such as a Paragon DA-2), a regulated power supply or a suitably configured battery array, a good indoor ground connection (very important), a clean (ie, oxidation-free) longwire outdoor antenna (ham radio type -- ideally, about 120 feet long and at least 20 feet off of the ground) and a sensitive pair of 1920's headphones or a working 1920's horn loudspeaker. You'll also need to have had some prior experience tuning an early 20's battery radio.

Here's the matching detector unit:



The Paragon DA-2 detector amplifier was manufactured by Adams Morgan Co. in the early 1920's. The DA is the companion to the Paragon RA-10 regenerative tuner. When used together, the RA-10 and DA-2 comprise a complete receiving set.

Condition is excellent, as you can see in the photographs. The DA has been tested with the Paragon RA-10 that I have listed separately on eBay this week, and it's still working. The second stage transformer has open windings, but the first stage transformer is good, and the DA has sufficient volume to power a 20's horn speaker as well as a pair of vintage headphones.

Original Paragon parts throughout, including both transformers. Cabinet is in excellent condition, and the fumed oak finish is original. Clean panel, with no cracks, no chips, no scratches, etc. The engraved lettering has re-filled.

Comes with a good 1 amp UV-200 detector tube, a good 1 amp UV-201 amplifier tube and a display (open filament) UV-201 amplifier tube. Shipping weight, properly packed, will be about 17 lb.

(When I was in college in the 60s, the ham radio club – W2SZ – had these on display in the club building lobby area – the first radios of the new license station gotten way back in 1921 or so.)

Each of these units sold for \$390 – and with another \$45 shipping charges each. Ouch! Needless to say, I didn't 'win' the bid on these units.

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In the early days of 'shortwave listening' which started seriously about 1925 as international broadcasters appeared, one way to be able to listen was to buy a 'converter' to put ahead of your broadcast set. If you had a nice superhet broadcast set, you could buy one of these to tune the SW bands. Here is a typical one from the way back days that showed up on Ebay

from the Ebay ad:



“Very Rare Silver - Marshall, Inc. Model 739 Short Wave Superhet Converter. This is full A/C operated screen-grid converter with self contained power supply. The converter consists of a tuned detector using a #24 tube in conjunction with a #27 tube in a specially designed oscillator circuit and a #80 rectifier tube.

It has a 4-position wave changing switch that provides tuning in the following bands; 10 - 20 meters, 20 - 40 meters, 40 - 80 meters and 80 to 200 meters.



Top View

This unit is connected to an external antenna and the output from it is connected to the antenna lug of an AM radio.

I'm not sure exactly how old this is, but the schematic is listed in the first volume of Riders, so it is likely mid to late 1920's. I have powered it up using a variable voltage fused power supply. It was steady at about .28 amps, and, amazingly, the dial light came on too. I connected it to an antenna and a radio and as well as my scope and a frequency

meter. I can confirm that the oscillator is working. I can see that the proper frequency on each of the coils is being tuned. This shortwave converter is a very cool very old unit.

The only things that I have done to this unit is to replace the filter capacitors C7 & C8, replace the original #80 tube which failed during my testing and do my best to clean the contacts on switch S4/5 using an electronic cleaner and DeOxit. My capacitor tester indicated that the filter caps were about 2.5 uf and likely leaking. I replaced them with 2.2uf electrolytic caps. It's common to use electrolytic caps in this location on a power supply, they just did not have them in the 1920's."

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Sold for \$78 plus \$20 shipping.....

If you're radio didn't have a BFO (most BC sets did not) you could not tune in CW signals. You could tune in AM modulated hams and international shortwave broadcasts, though. Most people who bought this likely wanted to join the 'shortwave listening craze'.

Solar News I

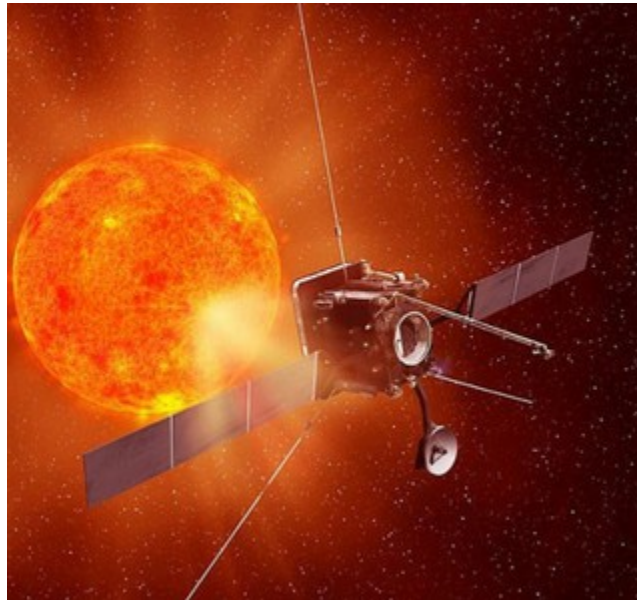
Solar Orbiter - a boxy 4,000-pound (1,800-kilogram) spacecraft with spindly instrument booms and antennas - will swing past Venus in December and again next year, and then past Earth, using the planets' gravity to alter its path. Full science operations will begin in late 2021, with the first close solar encounter in 2022 and more every six months.

At its closest approach, Solar Orbiter will come within 26 million miles (42 million kilometers) of the sun, well within the orbit of Mercury.

Parker Solar Probe, by contrast, has already passed within 11.6 million miles (18.6 million kilometers) of the sun, an all-time record, and is shooting for a slim gap of 4 million miles (6 million kilometers) by 2025. But it's flying nowhere near the poles. That's where Solar Orbiter will shine.

The sun's poles are pockmarked with dark, constantly shifting coronal holes. They're hubs for the sun's magnetic field, flipping polarity every 11 years.

Solar Orbiter's head-on views should finally yield a full 3-D view of the sun, 93 million miles (150 million kilometers) from our home planet.



'With Solar Observatory looking right down at the poles, we'll be able to see these huge coronal hole structures,' said Nicola Fox, director of NASA's heliophysics division. 'That's where all the fast solar wind comes from ... It really is a completely different view.'

To protect the sensitive instruments from the sun's blistering heat, engineers devised a heat shield with an outer black coating made of burned bone charcoal similar to what was used in prehistoric cave paintings. The 10-foot-by-8-foot (3-meter-by-2.4-meter heat shield is just 15 inches (38 centimeters) thick, and made of titanium foil with gaps in between to shed heat. It can withstand temperatures up to nearly 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit (530 degrees Celsius).

Embedded in the heat shield are five peepholes of varying sizes that will stay open just long enough for the science instruments to take measurements in X-ray, ultraviolet, visible and other wavelengths.

The observations will shed light on other stars, providing clues as to the potential habitability of worlds in other solar systems.

Closer to home, the findings will help scientists better predict space weather, which can disrupt communications.”

State QSO Party Calendar 2020

South Carolina 02/29/2020 03/01/2020 Columbia Amateur Radio Club
North Carolina 03/01/2020 03/02/2020 Raleigh Amateur Radio Society
Idaho 03/14/2020 03/15/2020 Idaho QSO Party
Oklahoma 03/14/2020 03/15/2020 Oklahoma DX Association
Wisconsin 03/15/2020 03/16/2020 West Allis Radio Amateur Club
Virginia 03/21/2020 03/22/2020 Virginia QSO Party
Louisiana 04/04/2020 04/05/2020 Louisiana Contest Club
Mississippi 04/04/2020 04/05/2020 ARRL Mississippi Section
Missouri 04/04/2020 04/05/2020 Boeing Employees' Amateur Radio Society – St. Louis
Georgia 04/11/2020 04/12/2020 Georgia QSO Party
New Mexico 04/11/2020 04/12/2020 Valencia County Amateur Radio Association
North Dakota 04/11/2020 04/12/2020 ARRL ND Section Manager
Michigan 04/18/2020 04/19/2020 Michigan QSO Party
Florida 04/25/2020 04/26/2020 Florida QSO Party
Arizona 05/02/2020 05/03/2020
Connecticut 05/02/2020 05/03/2020 New England QSO Party
Delaware 05/02/2020 05/03/2020 First State Amateur Radio Club
Idaho 05/02/2020 05/03/2020 Central Oregon DX Club
Indiana 05/02/2020 05/03/2020 Hoosier DX and Contest Club
Maine 05/02/2020 05/03/2020 New England QSO Party
Massachusetts 05/02/2020 05/03/2020 New England QSO Party
Montana 05/02/2020 05/03/2020 Central Oregon DX Club
Nevada 05/02/2020 05/03/2020 Central Oregon DX Club

New Hampshire 05/02/2020 05/03/2020 New England QSO Party
Oregon 05/02/2020 05/03/2020 Central Oregon DX Club
Rhode Island 05/02/2020 05/03/2020 New England QSO Party
Utah 05/02/2020 05/03/2020 Central Oregon DX Club
Vermont 05/02/2020 05/03/2020 New England QSO Party
Washington 05/02/2020 05/03/2020 Central Oregon DX Club
Wyoming 05/02/2020 05/03/2020 Central Oregon DX Club
Arkansas 05/09/2020 05/10/2020 Amateur Radio Klub of the Arkansas Northwest
Kentucky 06/06/2020 06/07/2020 Paducah Amateur Radio Association
West Virginia 06/20/2020 06/21/2020 West Virginia State Amateur Radio Council
Maryland-DC 08/08/2020 08/09/2020 Anne Arundel Radio Club
Hawaii 08/22/2020 08/24/2020 Hawaii QSO Party
Ohio 08/22/2020 08/23/2020 Ohio QSO Party
Kansas 08/29/2020 08/30/2020 Kansas QSO Party Colorado 09/05/2020 09/06/2020
Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association Nebraska 09/05/2020 09/06/2020 QCWA
Nebraska Chapter 25 Tennessee 09/06/2020 09/07/2020 Tennessee QSO Party
Alabama 09/12/2020 09/13/2020 Alabama QSO Party
Texas 09/12/2020 09/13/2020 Texas QSO Party
Iowa 09/19/2020 09/20/2020 Story County ARC
New Jersey 09/19/2020 09/20/2020 New Jersey QSO Party
Washington 09/19/2020 09/20/2020 Western Washington DX Club
Maine 09/26/2020 09/27/2020 Wireless Society of Southern Maine
California 10/03/2020 10/04/2020 California QSO Party
Nevada 10/09/2020 10/11/2020 Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society
Arizona 10/10/2020 10/11/2020 Arizona QSO Party
Pennsylvania 10/10/2020 10/11/2020 The PA QSO Party Association
South Dakota 10/10/2020 10/11/2020 South Dakota QSO Party
New York 10/17/2020 10/18/2020 Rochester DX Association
Illinois 10/18/2020 10/19/2020 Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club

On the Road with N4CD II

At the Houston Vintage Radio Convention

Things start on Friday afternoon with a 'tubes and paper/advertising' auction just after

lunch. The preview starts early in the morning as folks bring their items in. Thousands of tubes – many 'flats' of old tubes, go by the gavel. Some of the old power tubes, NOS UV-199s brass base or 'tipped', go for high dollars – up to \$100 each. You can buy boxes of tubes for \$10 or \$20 – everything from 4 pins, five pins, six, 8 pins. What commands money are usually 'power tubes' like the octal type 45 output tube used in many console radios in the late 1920s that would put out a couple watts. They wear out from use and new ones can cost you \$50-\$70. Lots of Riders manuals – complete sets of 40 volumes go by – not many takers as most of it is now on DVDs. Maybe 200 lots go by. I bought nothing and just watched for interesting items.

There's time for a last preview of the next auction – which consists of items brought in by folks, plus five estates. The minimum bid is \$10 for items brought in, and 'whatever it takes' for estate items – sometimes down to a few dollars to 'move them out'. The HVRA often winds up with 'collections' of silent keys or the equivalent for 'radio collectors' and sometimes an estate fills and entire moving van. Half the auction was estate items. Some went as low as a buck.

The auction starts at 3:30pm and runs till 9pm. Then you 'check out' your stuff and pay for it and move it out.

There are probably a hundred plastic and wood radios from the 1930s, 40s, and 50s up for bid. Some like fancy Zeniths go for up to \$200, but many go for \$5 to \$10 to \$20. There's everything from boxes of knobs, old parts and pieces, some real junk boxes, resistor cabinets, some military surplus stuff. Maybe 275 lots go by. There's a bunch of ham radio boatanchors but it turns out most of them go up for sale on Saturday as time runs short on Friday afternoon. I bought exactly one thing – a Heathkit CR-1 crystal set for \$30. Way back in the 1960 era, Heath sold a quality designed crystal set with loopstick antenna and decent sensitivity (probably around 2 millivolts - note – not microvolts). With a good outside antenna and ground it worked better than most crystal kit sets of the era. They sell for \$50-\$100 on Ebay. I also wound up buying an AC 'dog house' power supply for a National SW-3 1930 type regen receiver from a collector who wound up with it.

Saturday Feb 8 2020

Today's auction starts at 10:30 and runs till it runs – usually about 5pm. Hundreds of 'lots' go by. Here's some of the ham gear that showed up – maybe 20 items this year. Much of it was nice stuff during the 'baby boomer' early days of radio. I wish I could have had a lot of this stuff when I was a teenager getting my first ham license 55 years ago. It was expensive back then. Now – you can buy it for less than it sold for

originally – often a lot less. Some for \$20/radio.



Johnson Viking Challenger Transmitter \$85
70W AM/120W CW Internal Power Supply
Needed external VFO otherwise xtals



Hallicrafters SX-88 Receiver \$70



National HRO-60 with 10 coil sets \$800



Pair of Swan \$350s \$300



National NC-155 Receiver



Collins 75A3 in nice condition

There were about 20 ham items from the 1940s to 1960s up for sale. Nice boatanchors.

I did buy a nice National SW-3 Regen shortwave receiver, with a homebrew power supply in working condition with one set of coils for \$50. A bargain.

A box with two Silver Marshall 'Around the World 4' 4 tube regen sets from the 1928 era

sold for \$375. No tubes either but they are common tubes. They use plug in coils. Ouch. Fortunately have a nice one in my collection. These were 'decent' shortwave receiving kits for the time – the equivalent of 'Knight Kits' of the 50s/60s but a lot more expensive then for the average wage earner to 'afford'. (mass production of consumer electronics – especially TV sets – drove the price of components to lower levels in the 1950s and 60s. Imagine the tens of millions of resistors and capacitors made to make all those TV sets!) Prices dropped even lower as solid-state took over from vacuum tubes).

Minnesota QSO Party

The MN QSO Party was held- rain, sun, snow, ice – but no blizzards this year. For many, propagation was a challenge resulting in fewer contacts. It's been COLD up that way and there's lots of snow around.

N4CD was out mobile and 20M just wasn't there to most of MN even at mid-day from TX. Usually they are pounding in. For 40M, you could work the louder stations but mobile contacts mid day were tough if you could even hear them at all from a mobile in TX. Yet, thousands of contacts were made and the mobiles were out and running. Lots of activity on 40m then later 80m.

From the 3830 contest reflector:

N0HZJ - mobile - 52 cw 974 ssb

20M was long all day. Lots of strong signals from the coasts. Thanks to everyone that followed me around to all 28 counties!

NU0Q mobile 346 CW 31 SSB

First time as in-state mobile. First time without a driver. Lots of good activity, with runs of 20+ minutes per band/county common. Ran 10 counties total. Thankfully the weather was nice and the roads were all clear. Thanks to all for the QSOs.

K0PC - QRP mobile 296 cw

No comments posted

K0BBC mobile (K0BBC, W0ZF)

Glad we made it to Houston County

K0SIX mobile 131 ssb

Mobile for a few counties: Sherburne, Wright, Stearns

W0ZQ rover 610 cw 65 ssb

Rough band conditions. The experts say that we are at the bottom of the solar cycle and lets hope so! On the other hand the weather was great; 27 to 35 degrees (above 0) and a little sunshine to boot. A nice day to be out and about in MN. Thanks for all the Q's and hope to work you in the WiQP. 73, Jon

KE0TT rover 119 cw

K3/10 running 10 W on 20M, and 50W on 40 and 80M. Condx were tough until about 2030 Z, when 40M suddenly opened to the East, and rates went up. Almost all MN Q's were on 80M, as 40M seemed long most of the time. 15M was silent. I enjoyed the Party, thanks for the fun ! k4bai: thanks for the call, John.

C U next time, 73, Dan ke0tt

K1RO - fixed - NH 140 cw 97 ssb 70 counties worked

Let's just say that propagation was not kind this weekend. I was disappointed to miss quite a few counties this time after missing just one last year. In particular, I just couldn't hear K0PC and N0HJZ a lot of the time, after working them from virtually all of their counties the past two years. There's always next year!

Still, with the good activity and great ops, this contest is always a fun way to spend a winter Saturday. Thanks for all the Qs.

K4AMC - fixed TN 63 cw 12 ssb 6 38 counties

Score way down this year. Poor condx almost no 20 meters. Always enjoy MNQP. Hope cu next year.

N8II -fixed WV 119 cw 84 ssb 62 counties worked

Memorable for the wrong reasons, very low MUF's and very low absorption. From here signals were loud from MN on 20 for only about 90 minutes and a chunk of that was missed between lunch and walking the dog (he will have to wait next time!). I did not expect signals to start weakening on 20 at 19Z. It was frustrating to see mults spotted on 20 which were inaudible here. RTTY/digital and FOC QRM were bad on 40; it was very difficult to find mobiles on 40 CW in my late afternoon. Things did pick up in the last hour, should have tried 75M sooner, seemed to be a lot of MN CQ'ers there. The mult is low compared to other serious efforts due to 20M failure (first loud MN at 1622Z) and fewer mobiles which were harder to find. 40 phone was a pleasant surprise; I was able to run a few there.

Thanks to mobiles N0EO, K0PC (QRP = in noise), W0ZQ (loudest as always), NU0Q, and N0HJZ (missed in about half of counties due to no prop on 20).

I was probably not on for 9 hours, but long enough to hit some frustration points. Had to catch about 10 POTA Q's on 40 and not miss much of anything.

73, Jeff N8II

WN4APF - fixed SC - 57 cw 36 ssb 37 counties

The 1st QP for the 2020 SQP Challenge is complete and we have 46 QPs to go! I hope everyone will enjoy the State QSO Party Challenge!

Good turn-out for the MNQP. I didn't know whether to work 20m or 40m during the afternoon. 20m started going longer early. 80m wasn't great during the evening. I still had a great MNQP.

73s Dave WN4AFP
Team Leader
<http://stateqsoparty.com>

KN4Y - fixed FL 61 cw 38 counties worked

Started 1400z until I got tired and shut down to watch my TV programs. Hoped for more QSO's on 80 meters, not to be. I had the shack nice and warm

On the Road with N4CD III

The convention was over and it was time to hit the road headed north 250 miles to home. Conveniently, a few miles off the I-45 interstate were several parks I could have quick activations in – for POTA credit and the 2020 KFF-Challenge. The weather was warm – 65 degrees F- humid and drizzly in Houston and it would turn to solid rain and 40 degrees as I approached home in a few hours. These parks would all be repeats.

First up was a visit to **W Goodrich Jones State Forest KFF-4422** in Montgomery County TX. A quick 44+ Qs went in the log from here- all CW. Just a few miles off I-45 so it is hard to not stop!



Not far up the road again you can again leave the I-45 and get to the next within a few miles – **Sam Houston National Forest KFF-4417** in Walker County at the Ranger Station. This Forest covers a bunch of counties. A quick 45Qs go in the log (all CW)



Not far up the road you can stop by **Huntsville State Park KFF-3019** – still in Walker County. I start on 20M SSB with 15 Qs, then squeak by with 45Qs with the rest CW QSOs. Same county so it gets to be a bit tough.

Last up for the trip is **Fort Boggy in Leon County – KFF-3009**. I zip off 40 cw QSOs then go hunting for another five or six – random CQ's, DX, SSB special events, etc. Catch a few park-to-park contacts, and a few on 20M SSB to finish up. Made it – success to meet the KFF-Challenge of 2020 of at least 44Qs per park.



I arrive home at 3pm after 250 miles and total of 1105 miles on the trip. Hope you caught something you needed! Now to do all the logging for the park contacts and upload them to the two databases. Thanks for riding along.

Sunspot News

An interesting but long....article appeared last year. One of the main points of the paper was that potential gravitational effects of the location of the planets orbiting around the sun can influence long cycles of solar activity.

Abstract

Recently discovered long-term oscillations of the solar background magnetic field associated with double dynamo waves generated in inner and outer layers of the Sun indicate that the solar activity is heading in the next three decades (2019–2055) to a Modern grand minimum similar to Maunder one. On the other hand, a reconstruction of solar total irradiance suggests that since the Maunder minimum there is an increase in the cycle-averaged total solar irradiance (TSI) by a value of about $1\text{--}1.5\text{ Wm}^{-2}$ closely correlated with an increase of the baseline (average) terrestrial temperature. In order to understand these two opposite trends, we calculated the double dynamo summary curve of magnetic field variations backward one hundred thousand years allowing us to confirm strong oscillations of solar activity in regular (11 year) and recently reported

grand (350–400 year) solar cycles caused by actions of the double solar dynamo. In addition, oscillations of the baseline (zero-line) of magnetic field with a period of 1950 ± 95 years (a super-grand cycle) are discovered by applying a running averaging filter to suppress large-scale oscillations of 11 year cycles. Latest minimum of the baseline oscillations is found to coincide with the grand solar minimum (the Maunder minimum) occurred before the current super-grand cycle start. Since then the baseline magnitude became slowly increasing towards its maximum at 2600 to be followed by its decrease and minimum at ~ 3700 . These oscillations of the baseline solar magnetic field are found associated with a long-term solar inertial motion about the barycenter of the solar system and closely linked to an increase of solar irradiance and terrestrial temperature in the past two centuries. This trend is anticipated to continue in the next six centuries that can lead to a further natural increase of the terrestrial temperature by more than 2.5°C by 2600.

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long article – very technical

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Conclusions

Until recently, solar activity was accepted to be one of the important factors defining the temperature on Earth and other planets. In this paper we reproduced the summary curve of the solar magnetic field associated with solar activity for the one hundred thousand years backward by using the formulas describing the sum of the two principal components found from the full disk solar magnetograms. In the past 3000 years the summary curve shows the solar activity for every 11 years and occurrence of 9 grand solar cycles of 350–400 years, which are caused by the beating effects of two magnetic waves generated by solar dynamo at the inner and outer layers inside the solar interior with close but not equal frequencies.

The resulting summary curve reveals a remarkable resemblance to the sunspot and terrestrial activity reported in the past millennia including the significant grand solar minima: Maunder Minimum (1645–1715), Wolf minimum (1200), Oort minimum (1010–1050), Homer minimum (800–900 BC) combined with the grand solar maxima: the medieval warm period (900–1200), the Roman warm period (400–10BC) etc. It also predicts the upcoming grand solar minimum, similar to Maunder Minimum, which starts in 2020 and will last until 2055.

A reconstruction of solar total irradiance suggests that there is an increase in the cycle-averaged total solar irradiance (TSI) since the Maunder minimum by a value of about $1\text{--}1.5\text{ W m}^{-2}$. This increase is closely correlated with the similar increase of the average terrestrial temperature. Moreover, from the summary curve for the past 100 thousand years we found the similar oscillations of the baseline of magnetic field with a period of 1950 ± 95 years (a super-grand solar cycle) by filtering out the large-scale oscillations in 11 year cycles. The last minimum of a super-grand cycle occurred at the beginning of Maunder minimum. Currently, the baseline magnetic field (and solar irradiance) are increasing to reach its maximum at 2600, after which the baseline magnetic field become decreasing for another 1000 years.

The oscillations of the baseline of solar magnetic field are likely to be caused by the solar inertial motion about the barycentre of the solar system caused by large planets. This, in turn, is closely linked to an increase of solar irradiance caused by the positions of the Sun either closer to aphelion and autumn equinox or perihelion and spring equinox. Therefore, the oscillations of the baseline define the global trend of solar magnetic field and solar irradiance over a period of about 2100 years. In the current millennium since Maunder minimum we have the increase of the baseline magnetic field and solar irradiance for another 580 years. This increase leads to the terrestrial temperature increase as noted by Akasofu²⁶ during the past two hundred years. Based on the growth rate of 0.5 °C per 100 years for the terrestrial temperature since Maunder minimum, one can anticipate that the increase of the solar baseline magnetic field expected to occur up to 2600 because of SIM will lead, in turn, to the increase of the terrestrial baseline temperature since MM by 1.3 °C (in 2100) and, at least, by $2.5\text{--}3.0\text{ °C}$ (in 2600).

Naturally, on top of this increase of the baseline terrestrial temperature, there are imposed much larger temperature oscillations caused by standard solar activity cycles of 11 and 350–400 years and terrestrial causes. The terrestrial temperature is expected to grow during maxima of 11 year solar cycles and to decrease during their minima. Furthermore, the substantial temperature decreases are expected during the two grand minima to occur in 2020–2055 and 2370–24156, whose magnitudes cannot be yet predicted and need further investigation. These oscillations of the estimated terrestrial temperature do not include any human-induced factors, which were outside the scope of the current paper.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-019-45584-3?fbclid=IwAR2udk8jc7VjImHViEE5vcvC6RLRQNVLGr8O0JbzLGvAPVarbuRPwBgRYh8>

On the Road with N4CD IV

Another weekend, and this one a 3 day one with President's Day holiday was coming up with decent weather. I could take a trip up to Oklahoma to put out counties and parks there. The Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) had just been added to the Parks on the Air system, so there was added incentive to be the first to run them. It's a lot easier getting contacts when you can spot on both systems (POTA and WWFF). They were added to WWFF a month ago.

The good news is that the ARRL DX CW contest was raging filling up the band with signals. I could work a few DX stations for contacts – IF I could get through the pileups with my mobile signal. The bad news was that 20m CW band was wall to wall US and DX stations calling CQ contests all the way up to 14.140 and even above at times. Also, you could only work DX stations and only work them one time per band. It would turn out to be a mixed bag of results. Maybe I'd even have to resort to running SSB? Hi hi.

Saturday Feb 15

Love Valley WMA – KFF-4815 K-6358 Love County OK

Left early today headed north up I-35 for a repeat visit to Love Valley WMA just over the border into OK. At exit 1, it's just two miles or so to hit the WMA and then another mile or two to find a parking spot. This WMA lies along the Red River – and much of it is swampy and flooded at times. I arrived at 8:30 am local time – good for DX and operated up around 14138 on cw to escape the giant pile of QRM lower in the band. Still, there are signals all over up there, too! It's hard to pass a park – even though I just ran it two months ago! Didn't stay too long – had a bunch of new ones to get to.

Hickory Creek K-6381 Love County - POTA only

Recently, both systems added new parks in OK. POTA added a few more than WWFF – including a 'historic site' and WMA's smaller than 5,000 acres. This was one of the POTA only parks. I'd only need ten QSOs to activate it. Worked some DX on 20M (contest stations) and then a good pile on regular cw – park chasers and some late county hunters needing Love (and those giving me extra contacts even in the same county – sure helps – thanks).

From the web:

“Hickory Creek WMA covers 7,363 acres of eastern Love County. Post oak-blackjack timber dominates the uplands with bottomland hardwoods occurring in the low-lying areas. Native grasslands comprised of little bluestem and Indian grass dominate the upland openings.”

Other sites put it at 8000 acres – many spots to run it including 'primitive' camp sites (no facilities). Had a good run and moved on – now headed west to the southwest corner of OK.

I ran through Jefferson County – did a quick spot- have to stop to spot – then did it on the run. Without a spot, few county hunters show up. Seems only K3IMC on 30M, W8TZA on 20M, and one or two others sit on net frequencies waiting for a mobile – and with 20 and 40 messed up with contest stations, it made it worse. I'd bet quite a few of the county hunters were chasing DX, too – hi hi. Well, why not? Some 'rare' DX was on with big signals – DX peditions and guest operators get on.

Waurika WMA KFF-4836 K-6379 - Cotton County OK



from the state site:

“Waurika WMA covers 10,580 acres in Cotton and Stephens counties in southern Oklahoma and is located west of Comanche on Hwy. 53. The area mostly encompasses the floodplains of primary creeks feeding Waurika Lake and the adjacent uplands. The bottomlands are primarily American elm, hackberry, burr oak, cottonwood and willow. Uplands are vegetated by typical tall and mid grass species, with sandplum and other shrubs present.”

Started a 1817z and done in an hour. Tried 20m SSB with good results here but didn't forget the CW folks either!

Hackberry Flats WMA Kff-4808 K-6351 in Tillman County OK.



From the state site:

“Hackberry Flat WMA covers 7,120 acres of southwestern Tillman County in Western Oklahoma. Hackberry Flat WMA is a combination of upland and wetland habitats. The 3,700 acre wetland development unit consists of a variety of plants such as millet, sedges, and smartweed, and some agriculture fields. Uplands consist of agriculture fields, native grasses, improved grasses, and forbs, interspersed with mesquite, hackberry, Osage orange, black locust, and sand plum. The average annual precipitation for the area is approximately 27 inches.

Most water in wetland units comes from rainfall runoff. Rainfall amounts in this region greatly fluctuate between years; therefore, the number of wetland units flooded at any given time is highly variable.”

Just south of the corner marker above, you will find a road in to the primitive camping area and a good spot to run this WMA



Pull in at 2024Z and start on 20m SSB with a great run. Switch over to 20M CW high up in the band (around 14.140), then 30M and 40M CW. Had to run at 7085 to escape the QRM on 40M even at mid-day.

There's less than 8.000 people here in the county of 900 square miles.

On the way to the next, you pass by **Great Plains State Park – KFF-2782 and K-2782 in Kiowa County OK.** I've run it before, but heck, why not a 'quickie' for activation credit and maybe give it out to a few new folks. I stop at the Belle Gold Mine area just off the highway.

In this area, back in the wild west days, there was, what is now ghost town – Wildman OK that sprung up. Supposedly, there was 'gold in them hills' (real small hills!) and an unruly bunch of speculators showed up. This was the frontier and the town was essentially lawless. This town had a post office from 1901 to 1904. Now a part of the state park, the Belle Gold Mine was a typical scam operation of the day. A mine, complete with a quarter mine tram to haul ore from the mine to the refining area, several

large buildings, a cooling tower and cyanide processing plant was constructed. Nothing exists today except the cooling tower area – everything else was removed and covered up a century ago to allow farming to cover the area.

It turns out – from the web:

“The Gold Belle Mining and Milling Company was formed around 1900 by Wildman and Williams near the rough mining town of Wildman. The Gold Belle Co. erected a 50 ton cyanide mill to process the gold ore. Today only the cooling tower and concrete foundation remain as evidence of the short-lived gold rush. At the top of the hill is the cooling tower. Below on what is not the steps, there were two large building which housed the mill. The ore was transported to the mill by means of a 1/4 mile overhead tram-way. No ore was ever processed and to get rid of the mine and mill the owners salted the mine. Gold dust was shot into the walls of the mine with a muzzle loading shotgun. Stock was then sold in the mine at the reported price of one dollar per share. It is said that 270,000 shares were sold. “



Rumors of a Spanish gold mine in the area from the 1600s time period still persist and some are still looking for it. No gold was found, nor other valuable minerals and the town was deserted in 1904 as new gold strikes occurred elsewhere and people headed there to 'get rich'.

There's less than 10,000 people now in the entire county of 1,000 square miles and most are in the couple of towns.

Just up the road you find **Mountain Park WMA KFF-4819 K-6362 in Kiowa County OK.**



I try 20m SSB but it's late in the day (2245z) and the band is struggling. I get just 5 QSOs. I switch to 20M cw and catch 2 DX stations. Too late for 20M! Head to 30M and two dozen show up. 40M CW yields another 17. Wow...I'm working DL3DXX, 9A8M, YT4A, OK7PM, EA8PM, ZF1A, 8P5A, SP5XO on 40M CW. I find 3 more on 20m CW to finish off. Hmmmm, need a few more – try 20M CW againTI2, KH6M, KH6CCJ are found to get to the magic 44 number. Barely. Whew – late in the day to be running. You don't have to worry about traffic jams here- you might see two or three cars every few miles on the two lane highways at 65 mph. Sometimes none at all for ten or 20 miles!

I head on in 20M to Altus – the big town in this neck of the woods - to a Days Inn. Not too many towns out this way with motels – at least ones you'd want to stay in without checking them out carefully first. Many teeny towns/motels are pretty well deserted at this time of year, too – no tourists. The state parks and other attractions will get some in the summer time. Otherwise, there isn't much reason to head to this neck of the woods!

As you drive along, you'll find some small towns - that are slowly fading away. Way back when – 100 years ago, there was a farming town center every 20 miles or so. It

took a lot more help to run farms and they were smaller so you had towns with all sorts of stores for supplies, food, etc, and likely a gas station/repair shops. They were set up when farmers could only travel 8-10 miles to get to town by horse drawn wagon.

If there was a rail line, there might be a town every five to 8 miles. Many of the rail lines disappeared and so did the need for towns along it to provide water for the steam powered trains. Highways and trucks filled in – but as farms got larger in area and folks left the area – those little towns are mostly deserted. Many of the counties here have 15% of the population they had 60 years ago.

Later, as better roads went it and folks bought cars, the cars broke down frequently and tires went flat all the time. Now, maybe a few residents remain in these towns with boarded up shops for 200-300 feet on 'main street'. You'll pass through dozens of them as you zip through the counties – in OK and KS and just about every other farming/ranching area. Of course, the 'dust bowl' of the 1930s didn't help either as southwest OK was right in the middle of the disaster. In 1900, one quarter of the US population lived on farms or in small farming towns. Now, it's down to low single digits. A few very small towns are still alive but not many – most are slowly fading away as the 'old folks' who are reluctant to move slowly pass on – or have to head to the retirement home themselves. As the number of kids declined, schools consolidated – and that, too, caused towns to fade away.

It's been a long day. Arrived at 'dark' at the Days Inn in Altus, OK (\$87 with tax). Dinner at the nearby Western Sizzler – buffet - for \$10.

So far the weather has been good. Mid 50s, near 60s for highs and clear. Lows in the high 30s. In this part of Oklahoma, you are in 'tornado alley' which starts in the Texas panhandle. In about two months, spring severe weather season starts – and you get a whole string of tornadoes spawned in 'tornado alley' for the next 5 months. You really need to watch the weather here in spring time as 'killer tornadoes' are common. Nothing serious was going to happen this trip.

Sunday Feb 16, 2020

While it's chilly in the mornings (40F), the sun will be out all day and it will get up to 60F. There's a good steady 20-30 mph wind from the south making driving a bit less fun as you head on down narrow roads at 65 mph. I head on through Harmon County OK – and put it out for the county hunters. The population of the whole county is 2,664 (2018) folks in 600 square miles – about 4 people per square mile – but a lot more cattle than people – and every decade the population goes down. Agriculture is the main

industry. This is the second least populated county in OK – with Cimarron being the least populated way out west in the panhandle. Needless to say, there's a lot of 'nothing' out this way. You can drive for 10 or 20 miles and not see another car.

First to run today – **Sandy Sanders WMA KFF-4831 and K-6374 in Beckham County OK.** It's in both Greer and Beckham but the spots you can easily get to turned out to be in Beckham. Missed Greer for the county hunters. Dang.

From the state site:

“Sandy Sanders WMA covers 29,766 acres of Greer and Beckham counties in southwest Oklahoma. Sandy Sanders WMA is a unique area consisting of rolling to rugged terrain extending north from the Elm Fork of the Red River. Mesquite, redberry juniper and mixed grasses dominate the area. The central third of the area contains dense stands of red berry juniper. Extending outward from the center, vegetation makes a transition to mesquite savanna and mixed grass prairie. The Elm Fork River flows year round; however, vegetation is limited to dense salt cedar. Three live creeks flow across the area. Creek bottoms are vegetated with taller, denser grass and scattered trees, including cottonwood, hackberry and American elm. The average annual precipitation for the area is about 21 inches.”



Started on 40M CW at 1404z – caught a couple DX including 3 JA's in the DX contest, and V31S and V31DJ. Then put two dozen park/county chasers in the log there followed by 3 more DX stations. Switched over to 30M CW for another 15, then back to 20M CW to see if I could find a few EU park chasers. Success with UT5PI, OM1AX, DL5XJ, DL1EJA, DL1EBR and F4HZR in the log, plus half a dozen US/VE park

chasers. Success with 44 plus.

Heading further north (now north of I-40), next up is the **Black Kettle WMA KFF-4796 K-6340 in Roger Mills County, OK.**

From the state site:

“Black Kettle WMA covers 30,710 acres near the town of Cheyenne in Roger Mills County. Located in the mixed grass prairie, it is a mixture of rolling sand hills, red shale hills, and wooded bottoms.

Upland sites are vegetated with mixed grass species including big bluestem, indian grass, little bluestem, side-oats grama, and buffalo grass and brush species like shinnery oak, sagebrush, and sand plum. The red shale hills are dominated by shortgrass, sagebrush, and occasional mesquite trees. The wooded bottoms are dominated by cottonwood, elm, and hackberry trees. The average annual precipitation for the area is about 24 inches. “ As to wildlife: “Bobwhite quail are usually present in good numbers, but are highly sought after. White-tailed deer are present in fair numbers. Rio Grande wild turkeys are usually present in good numbers, but are highly sought after. Dove are usually present in good numbers during peak migrations.”

There's only 3700 people here in the county of 1,100 square miles – the third least populated county in OK. Lots of 'wide open country'. There's one town on the way – Cheyenne – and likely the only reason it's still 'alive' as it is near the Washita National Battlefield Monument which gets visitors all the time. There's two or three small motels in town and one larger one.

Have a decent run and leave happy – 44+....and head further north another 20 miles up into Ellis County OK and **Packsaddle WMA – KFF-4825 K-6368.**

From the state site:

“Packsaddle WMA covers 19,659 acres, and is located in Ellis County 17 miles south of Arnett, Oklahoma on Highway 283. Located in the mixed grass prairie, it is a mixture of rolling sand hills and wooded bottoms with the South Canadian River as its southern boundary. Uplands sites are vegetated with mixed grass species including big bluestem, indian grass, little bluestem, side-oats grama, and buffalo grass and brush species like shinnery oak, sagebrush, and sand plum. Bottomlands are dominated by cottonwood, elm, and hackberry trees. The average annual precipitation for the area is about 25 inches. “ You've got quail, doves and deer in good numbers here , too.



At 1740z, start on 20M SSB for a change. Then 20CW. Almost get to 44 with just those two runs. Add in 30M and 40M and I leave a happy camper. (It helps when they put just one park in each of the counties I want to run! - not many wander through these out of the way places these days).

Ellis County is another of the 'least populated' ones in OK – just 4,000 folks in 1,200 square miles – number five on the least populated scale. Most of these counties are declining in population, year after year, too!

Well, it's time to be thinking about getting back home. I'm too far from home to zip on home from here, so the plan is to head toward OK City about 3 hours to the east and find a motel. Then on Monday, I can run a new WMA nearby there, and head the 4 hours south to the home in TX. I've got to go south first back the way I came – and drive near another park.

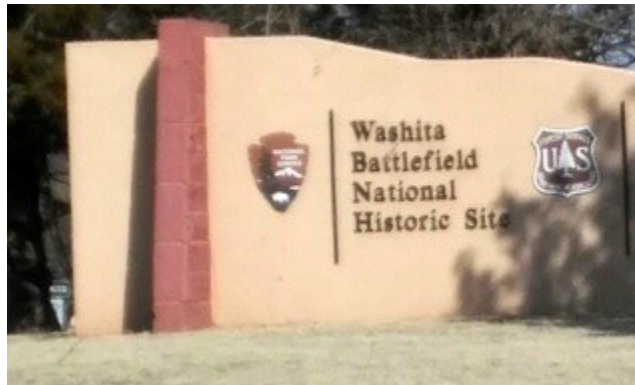
There's still a bit of time for one more repeat park and I head to a nearby old NPOTA site still active in both systems – the **Washita Battlefield Historic Site – KFF-0872/K-0872 back in Roger Mills County, OK**. Two mile detour. Couldn't resist.

There's a lot of history here of the Indian Wars. The US tried to force the Native Americans, aka Indians, onto reservations as the frontier moved west. Many of the 'plains Indians' – used to a roaming lifestyle hunting buffalo – resisted and actively fought back. A winter campaign started to 'pacify' them – the most vulnerable time for

the tribes as supplies typically ran low. Additionally, the buffalo were being slaughtered for hides – by the millions – depriving the Indians of their prime food and supply source.

From the NPS web site:

“As the nation expanded, the world the American Indians knew changed. Although some tribes accepted the changes, others took up armed resistance against the United States, whose government continuously broke its promise to protect American Indian territory. As the Indians fought to protect their land and way of life, the United States armed forces under the command of Lt. Colonel George Armstrong Custer sought to end Indian raids by weakening their arsenal and destroying their morale at the Battle of Washita. Today, the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site protects and interprets the setting along the Washita River where Lt. Colonel George A. Custer led the 7th U.S. Cavalry on a surprise dawn attack against the Southern Cheyenne village of Peace Chief Black Kettle on November 27, 1868. The attack played a significant role in the Indian Wars, a tragic clash of cultures that is part of the American story.”



There's a very nice visitor center/museum here where you can easily spend a few hours if you have the time. I was here during the NPOTA days and put it out in 2016. 200Qs in 2016 and a repeat visit years later in 2019 for another 50.

Since this was a repeat – both for the park and the county, I just did a 'quickie' just working what I could in a short time. Put 20 in the log and left in 20 minutes. Time to be heading east – through the counties along I-40 to OKC. Arrived at the Days Inn in Moore a bit after 4:15pm (\$65 with tax). Gassed up the car, drove over to the Taste of China supper buffet on Western Avenue – excellent – for \$10.42. Awesome buffet! Tomorrow I'd make it home by dinner time.

Monday Feb 16 2020 Presidents Day Holiday

After a nice breakfast at the Days Inn, the first up to run is **Lexington WMA KFF-4814 K-6357 in Cleveland County, OK**. The DX contest is over and the bands are back to normal state of 'not so great' with SFI of 70 and no sunspots. Not one sunspot was to be had and it's been that way for two weeks now.

From the web:

“The Lexington Wildlife Management Area is 9,512 acres located off Highway 77 five miles south and six miles east of Noble, Oklahoma in Cleveland County. Post oak-blackjack, also called cross timbers habitat, and native grasses overlay Lexington WMA. Many common game and nongame species are found on this central Oklahoma area. The primary water sources for Lexington WMA are Big Buckhead and Little Buckhead Creeks on the west end and Pond Creek in the east.”

You've got quail, doves, turkey and rabbit in good numbers here. I have a good run, including a dozen EU chasers on 20M CW. One and only one contact on 17M – CR3EE and then 20 on 20M SSB. Fill in with 20, 30 and 40 cw for an easy 44+Qs. Head out out – time to be getting home.

The weather is delightful. Warm – headed to 75 in TX today but humid. Day started with 53F and 100% humidity. I've kicked on the car a/c as the sun is beating down. Dang....VE5XU has about 6 deg F up there in Saskatchewan about now. Brrrr.....every time I work him, we exchange weather info!

I'm zipping down I-35 toward Dallas – run the counties – and decide to stop by **Lake Murray State Park, OK** for a 'quickie'. It's Park 2790 in both systems – Carter County OK. I've run it a few times before. That quickie turns into almost an hour and 44+ QSOs.....I'm enjoying the weather – windows down – breeze blowing through the car – 74 deg F. I think I ran each pileup till the end on CW and put some SSB contacts in the log, too – 20M. Time to be getting home!

I'm zipping down I-35. I see Exit 1 coming up – that's the exit for **Love Valley WMA in Love County OK** again which I ran on the way north two days ago. The car seems to have a mind of it's own and I take a short detour (all of 3 miles) to get to the WMA. A quick 23 go in the log from here. Don't stick around too long – just run it on 20M CW. I'm sure I'll run it again and again and others will, too. This gets me another POTA 'activation' credit.

Time to get on home.....but wait....as I drive south on I-35 I see signs for another state

park – I'm within a few miles of **KFF/K-3051** in Cooke County TX. Most of the state park areas (there are several around the lake) are in Denton County but there's a bit up north in Cooke. I hit the boat ramp area for a quickie. Turns out to be 45 minutes and 45 contacts.



OK...back to the interstate and really time to be getting home to avoid any rush hour on this Monday. Some have it off – but many don't. Traffic gets heavy as I reach the Metroplex and it's thousands of cars on the six and 8 lane roads all the way to home. It's sure a far cry from rural Harmon County OK where you don't see any car in 20 miles of driving! Reach home just before 4pm. Whew.

To put things in perspective, my home county – Collin TX – has 970,000 people in 890 square miles. Over a thousand times more 'dense' than those rural counties in OKLA.

870 miles of driving happened in 3 days with a dozen parks – the majority of them ATNO WMAs just added to the systems. About 44 new ones were added in OK in WWFF and a few more than that in POTA. It might take a while for me to get to all of them! Before the additions, I'd been to all the OK parks. Now they make it harder for someone starting out to run them all! I've got 20 more to go!

Hope I ran things you needed. More trips planned.

Vermont QSO Party

there were separate CW, SSB and digi multipliers in this contest.....so it's hard to figure out if anyone worked all the counties. Seems like very good activity for a normally smaller QSO Party.

W1NVT multi-op club - 245 cw 1607 ssb - Chittenden VT

Despite the poor conditions, there was a lot of support and activity to make it interesting. CW activity was way up compared to previous years. Conditions on 20 meters was anemic - lackluster EU run on Saturday and not much of anything on Sunday. Band stopped producing early on. Fortunately 40 meters was the savior in this one. CW and FT8 filled in the gaps when the rates dropped. Brand new ops Jeff W3JEF and Dirk K1DXM did their first on-air stint in the early afternoons. Thanks to everyone for their patience as they learned the ropes. It was a long contest, but a fun one!

K1VMT - 536 CW - VT

This was definitely a CW contest for me as Friday Night gave me some hope. as I got 100 Q before 9:30 pm... 300 Q on Saturday and only 136 Q on Sunday. OP time 12 hours. Europe was almost a no show on both days on 20M.. 40 meters was excellent... worked a JA on 40M, JA on 20m greyline. NO VK/ZL or Africa. I worked all states except Hawaii...Got some VT counties... thank you K1IB/M... and others who gave out VT counties. A lot of requests for SSB, but Not In cards this go around. FOC and MN contest didn't cause too much problems... Did not work QC.. Hope you all enjoyed as much as me.

OM2VL - 26 cw 12 SSB

K1VMT, W1NVT, W1JXN did his good job as last years and was QRV on several bands + modes. Thanks for 4,7,7 QSOs. But where are all other stations from VT?? also W1BD bonus station I never heard ...

Thanks also KE1VT for 6 QSO and K1IB/M 6 QSO.

K1VIT/R was only SSB on part of the 40m and 80m band where EU station can't transmit ... no no QSO and missed also this multipliers.

Thanks for all QSO's!

73, Laci OM2VL

K1RO - fixed NH - 27 cw 28 ssb

Nice turnout from the Vermont stations. I've always made a few contacts in this contest but never spent much time at it.

I started off with 100 W to get the 1.5x multiplier, but it quickly became obvious that I would need to turn on the amp. With the long bands and Vermont right next door, most signals were near the noise level except for 160 and 80 meters. There were a number of times I just could not hear stations on 40 and 20.

KA6BIM - fixed - CA 17 cw 23 SSB

Missed a couple of counties, but looks like most of the counties were activated. Thanks to all the VT operators for a nice contest! Dave

N8II - fixed- WV 21 cw 23 SSB

It was nice to see 2 mobiles active K1IB (4 cty) and K1VIT (3 cty); K1VIT's very young sounding daughter was worked in Essex and I spotted her. It was also nice to hear several VT ops active who I did not hear last year. We had only backscatter on 20 for here.

Thanks to the the RANV for sponsoring; Chittenden was the center of the VT universe as usual.

73, Jeff N8II

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K1VIT Rover – no score reported on 3830

Ran Windsor, Grand Isle, Bennington, Windham Counties – lots of time on 40M SSB.

Awards

One of the MARAC Awards you can earn is the Native American Counties Award. You can get this award without confirmations with log data only. If you work all counties – you've already earned this award and can apply for it.

As I was zipping around OK, it seems a good part of the counties in the state are Native American County names. Not surprising, since half the entire state is composed of Indian Reservations that were set up in 'the middle of nowhere' to move all the Native Americans from GA, FL, the Carolinas, KY, OH – westward to make room for settlers.

Here's the list from <http://marac.org/CHDownloads/List%20of%20Counties%20-%20Native%20American.txt> and it gives the reason behind the county name.

COUNTY LISTING FOR NATIVE AMERICAN AWARD

County ID	Etymology
AL Autauga	Named after the village of Atagi; from the Creek word for "Land of Plenty"
AL Cherokee	Named after the Cherokee tribe; from the Chickasaw word for "cave people"
AL Choctaw	Named after the Choctaw tribe; refers to having a flattened head
AL Colbert	Named after the Colbert brothers, George and Levi, who were Chickasaw leaders
AL Conecuh	"Muscogee word meaning either "land of cane" or possibly "polecat's head"
AL Coosa	Named after the town of Coosa; from the Indian word for "rippling"
AL Escambia	Believed to be a Choctaw word meaning "cane-brake" or "reed-brake"
AL Etowah	"Etowah is the Catawba word meaning "pine tree"
AL Mobile	Named after the Maubila or Moila tribe; possibly meaning "to paddle"

AL Talladega From the Cree words ""talwa"" for ""town"", and ""atigi"" for ""border"" - a town located on the boundary between the Creek and Natchez tribes"

AL Tallapoosa From the Choctaw word meaning ""pulverized rock""

AL Tuscaloosa Named after the Black Warrior River, which was Choctaw chief Black Warrior; from the Choctaw words ""tashka"" for ""warrior"" and ""lusa for ""black""

AL Arkansas Named after the Arkansa tribe, called ""ugakhpah"" for ""downstream people""

AR Mississippi From the Algonquin words ""missi"" for ""great"" and ""seepee"" for ""water""

AR Ouachita Named after the Ouachita River, which was Washita Indian tribe, the ""people of the clear sparkling waters""

AZ Apache Named after the Apache tribe, meaning ""enemy""

AZ Cochise Named after Cochise, the Chiricahua Apache leader"

AZ Coconino Named after the Coconino tribe, a Hopi designation for Havasupai and Yavapai tribes; from the Havasupai word for ""Little Water""

AZ Maricopa Named after the Maricopa tribe

AZ Mohave Named after the Mohave tribe one of the Yuma tribes; meaning ""three mountains""

AZ Navajo Named after the Navajo tribe, meaning ""enemies hiding hole""

AZ Pima Named after the Pima Native American people, called in their own language Akimel O'odam (river people)"

AZ Pinal Named after the Pinal Mountains and the Pinal tribe, a band of Coyotero Apaches; means ""deer""

AZ Yavapai Named for Yavapai tribe, meaning ""hill country""

AZ Yuma Named after the Yuma tribe(today called the Quechan), possibly means ""sons of the river""

CA Colusa Named after the Colus tribe that lived on the west side of the Sacramento River

CA Inyo Named after the Inyo tribe; means ""dwelling place of the great spirit""

CA Marin Named after the chief of the Licatiut tribe who took the baptized name of ""El Marino"" or ""The Mariner"" and who ran a ferry in San Francisco bay"

CA Modoc Named after the Modoc tribe; from the word ""moatokni"" for ""southerners""

CA Mono Named after the Monache tribe, a Shoshonean tribe; probably a shortening of ""monache"" for ""fly people""

CA Napa Named after the extinct Napá Native American tribe, all of whom died in a smallpox epidemic in 1838; from the Patwin word for ""house""

CA Shasta Named after the Sasti Shastika Tsadi tribe; refers to a triple peaked mountain

CA Siskiyou Possibly Chinook jargon word for ""bob-tailed horse""

CA Solono Named for Chief Francisco Solano known as Sem Yeto or Sum-Yet-Ho

CA Sonoma Named for Chocuyen chief Tso-Noma; possibly meaning ""valley of the moon""

CA Stanislaus Named for a Christianized chief known as Estanislao, baptized and named for Saint Stanislaus"

CA Tehama Named for City of Tehama; possible roots include ""high water"" in the dialect of the local Tehama tribe"

CA Tuolumne Named for Tuolumne tribe; probably means ""people of the caves"" or ""stone huts""

CA Yolo Named for Yolo, a Patwin tribe; possibly means ""place where rushes grow"" or may be named for chief Yodo or the village of Yodoi"

CA Yuba " Possibly named after the Yu-ba tribe of the Maidu people

CO Arapahoe Named for Arapaho tribe, probably from the Pawnee word ""tirapihu"" for ""trader""

CO Cheyenne Named for Cheyenne tribe, from the Dakota word meaning ""red talkers""

CO Kiowa Named for Kiowa tribe, a corruption of ""ka-i-gwu"" meaning ""principle people""

CO Ouray Named for Ouray, chief of the Uncompahgre Utes, means ""the arrow""

CO Saguache From a Ute word meaning ""blue earth"" or ""water at blue earth""

CO Yuma Named for Yuma tribe, possibly meaning ""sons of the river""

FL Alachua "A word meaning ""sinkhole"" in either the Muskogee or Timucua language or the

Creek word ""luchuwa"" for ""jug"" meaning ""chasm""

FL Indian River Named for Indian River, originally named Rio de Ais after the Ais Indian tribe, who lived along the east coast of Florida"

FL Okaloosa "For the Choctaw words ""oka"" meaning ""water"" and ""lusa"" meaning ""black""

FL Okeechobee From the Hitchiti (a Muskogean tribe) words ""oki"" meaning ""water"" and ""chobi"" meaning ""big"", a reference to Lake Okeechobee"

FL Osceola Named after Ashi Vaholo or Osceola, the leader who led the Second Seminole War; means ""black drink hallower""

FL Sarasota From a Calusa word which means ""point of rocks""

FL Seminole Named after the Seminole tribe; means ""runaway"" or ""separate ones""

FL Suwannee Named for Suwannee River; the river banks were inhabited by the Timucuan people, who named it Sawni, meaning ""Echo River""

FL Wakulla Possibly from a Timucuan word meaning ""spring of water"" or another word meaning ""mystery""

GA Catoosa Named for Catoosa, a Cherokee chief"

GA Chattahoochee Named after the Chattahoochee River which was the Creek Indian word for ""painted rock"" or ""picture rock""

GA Cherokee Named after the Cherokee tribe, from the Chickasaw word for ""cave people""

GA Coweta Named after the Coweta Indians, a group of Creek Indians that lived in and around the city of Coweta; possibly meaning ""falls""

GA Muscogee Named after the Muscogee tribe also known as the Creek tribe

GA Oconee Named for Oconee River; from a Cherokee word for ""the place of springs"" or ""the water eyes of the hills""

GA Seminole Named after the Seminole tribe; means ""runaway"" or ""separate ones""

IA Appanoosa Named for Appanoose, a chief of the Sac and Fox tribes who headed the peace party during the Black Hawk War"

IA Black Hawk Named for Black Hawk, the Sac and Fox chief who led a revolt against resettlement of his tribe in the Black Hawk War"

IA Cherokee Named after the Cherokee tribe; from the Chickasaw word for ""Cave People""

IA Chickashaw Named after the Chickasaw tribe

IA Iowa Named after the Iowa River and the Iowa tribe; means ""sleepy or drowsy ones""

IA Keokuk Named for Kiyokaga, chief of the Sacs and Foxes; means ""he who moves around alert""

IA Mahaska Named for Mahaska, a chief of the Iowa tribe; means ""white cloud""

IA Monona "May be named for an Indian maiden who jumped off a cliff believing her tribesmen had killed her white lover"

IA Muscatine Named after the Mascoutin tribe; possibly meaning ""burning island""

IA Osceola Named after Ashi Vaholo or Osceola, the leader who led the Second Seminole War; means ""black drink hallower""

IA Pocahontas Named for Pocahontas, the daughter of Powhatan; means ""playful""

IA Pottawattamie Named for Potawatomi tribe; from Algonquin word ""Pottawatomink"" meaning ""people of the place of fire""

IA Powershiek Named for Powishika, a Fox and Sacs chief who supported peace in the Black Hawk War; means ""he who shakes something off himself ""

IA Sac Named for Sac or Sauk tribe; means ""outlet""

IA Sioux Named for Sioux tribe; from the Ojibjway word ""nadovessioux"", for ""snakes"" or ""enemies""

IA Tama Probably named for Taomah, the wife of Powesheik, or one of several other chiefs or wives of the same name"

IA Wapello Named for Wapello, a chief of the Fox tribe who fought in the Black Hawk War; means ""he of the morning""

IA Winnebago Named for Winnebago tribe; means ""people of the stinking waters""

IA Winneshiek Named for Winneshiek, a chief of the Winnebago tribe; ""sheik"" means ""leader""

ID Bannock Named after the Bannack tribe; means ""hair in backwards motion"" referring to

the lock of hair worn tossed back over the head"

ID Benewah Named for a chief of the Coeur d'Alene tribe

ID Kootenai Named after the Kutenai tribe; means ""water people""

ID Latah Named for Latah Creek, which is named for a Nez Perce term for ""the place of pine trees and pestle""

ID Minidoka "Either from the Dakota Sioux word for ""a fountain or spring of water"" or the Shoshoni word for ""broad expanse""

ID Nez Perce Named for Nez Perce tribe, from the French words for ""pierced nose""

ID Shoshone Named for Shoshone tribe

ID Teton Named for Teton mountain range, which was Teton tribe; means ""people of the praries""

IL Iroquois Named after the Iroquois Six Nations

IL Kankakee Named after the Kankakee River, which was Kankakee tribe; possibly from the Mohegan word for ""wolf place""

IL Macoupin Named for a Native American word, ""macoupin,"" probably referring to an edible root like a potato"

IL Peoria Named for Peoria tribe, an Illiniwek people who lived there; means ""he who comes carrying a pack on his back""

IL Sangamon Named after the Sangamon River, from a Pottawatomie word meaning ""where there is plenty to eat"" or ""good hunting grounds""

IL Wabash Named for Wabash River, which is from the Miami language, meaning ""shines like white"" or ""white water""

IL Winnebago Named for Winnebago tribe; means ""people of the stinking waters""

IN Delaware Named after the Delaware tribe, who took their name from the proprietors of the state of Delaware, the Lords De La Warr"

IN Elkhart Named for Elkhart tribe or for a chief ""Elk's heart,"" who is usually described as being Shawnee or Potawatomi"

IN Miami Named after the Miami tribe; from the Ottawa word for ""mother""

IN Wabash Named for Wabash River, which is from the Miami language, meaning ""it shines like white""

KS Cherokee Named after the Cherokee tribe; from the Chickasaw word for ""Cave People""

KS Cheyenne Named after the Cheyenne tribe, from the Dakota word meaning ""red talkers""

KS Comanche Named after the Comanche tribe; possibly from the Spanish ""camino ancho"" meaning ""broad trail"" refering to riding spread out, not single file"

KS Kiowa Named after the Kiowa tribe, a corruption of ""ka-i-gwu"" meaning ""principle people""

KS Miami Named after the Miami tribe; from the Ottawa word for ""mother""

KS Nemaha Named for Nemaha River, which was Nemaha tribe; means ""muddy water""

KS Neosho Named for Neosho River, from the Indian word for ""clear cold water""

KS Osage Named for Osage River, which was Osage tribe, a French corruption of ""waz-hazhe"" meaning ""people""

KS Ottawa Named for Ottawa tribe, from the word ""adawa"" meaning ""trader""

KS Pawnee Named for Pawnee tribe, probably from the Sioux word ""pani"" referring to red bird feathers"

KS Pottawatomie Named for Potawatomi tribe; from Algonquin word ""Pottawatomink"" meaning ""people of the place of fire""

KS Republic Named for Republican River, which was Pawnee Republic which once existed near the river"

KS Shawnee Named for Shawnee tribe, a contraction of the word ""shawanog"" for ""southerners""

KS Wabaunsee Named for Wabaunsee, a chief of the Potawatomi tribe; means ""uncertain""

KS Wichita Named for Wichita or Ouachita tribe

KS Wyandotte Named for Wyandotte tribe; possibly meaning ""people who live on the peninsula""

LA Avoyelles Named after the Avoyel Native tribe; means ""flint people""

LA Caddo Named after the Caddo tribe; means ""real chiefs""

LA Calcasieu Named for chief Atakapa, meaning ""crying eagle""

LA Catahoula Named after Catahoula Lake, from the Tensas word ""cata cola"" meaning ""big, clear lake""

LA Natchitoches Named for Natchitoches tribe; means ""paw paw eaters""

LA Ouachita Named for Ouachita tribe; means ""people of the clear sparkling waters""

LA Plaquemines "A word meaning ""persimmons"" created from the Louisiana Creole French and the Mobile tribal language"

LA St. Tammany Named after the legendary Indian Chief Tamanend of the Delaware tribe; means ""friendly""

LA Tangipahoa Named for Tangipahoa tribe; from the Acolapissa words ""tanchapi"" meaning ""cornstalk"" and ""ayua"" meaning ""gather"" - ""corn gatherers""

LA Tensas Named for Tensas or Taensa tribe

MD Allegany From the Lenape word ""oolikhanna"" meaning ""beautiful stream""

MD Wicomico Named for Wicomico River; from the Lenape phrase ""wicko mekee"" meaning ""a place where houses are built"" or ""settlement""

ME Androscoggin Named after the Amasaguntlook tribe; means ""spear fishing""

ME Aroostok From the Algonquian word meaning ""clear river""

ME Kennebec Named after the Kennebec River, which is from the Algonquian word meaning ""long lake""

ME Penobscot Named for Penobscot tribe; means ""rocky place"" or ""river of rocks""

ME Piscataquis "An Abenaki word meaning ""rapid waters"" or ""divided tidal river""

ME Sagadahoc Named for a Native American word meaning mouth of big river

MI Allegan "A shortened version of Allegany, from word ""Oolikhanna"" meaning ""beautiful stream""

MI Cheboygan From an Ojibwe word ""zhaabonigan"" meaning ""sewing needle"" or possibly from ""Chabwegan"" meaning ""a place of ore""

MI Chippewa Named after the Chippewa or Ojibwe tribe; means ""to pucker up"" referring to puckered toe moccasins"

MI Gogebic From the Ojibwe word ""bic"" meaning ""rock""

MI Huron Named for Lake Huron, which was Huron tribe"

MI Iosco "An Indian word meaning ""water of light"" or ""shining water"" used by Henry Schoolcraft to refer to the local Indian men and boys"

MI Kalamazoo Named after the Kalamazoo River, from the Potawatomi word ""negikanamazo"" meaning ""otter tail"" or ""stones like otters""

MI Keweenaw From the Ojibwe word ""gakiwe-wewaning"" meaning ""portage""

MI Manistee Named after the Manistee River, which in turn is from the Ojibwe word ""ministigweyaa"" meaning ""river at whose mouth there are islands""

MI Mecosta Named for Potawatomi chief Mecosta; means ""bear cub""

MI Menominee Named after the Menominee tribe; means ""wild rice eaters""

MI Missaukee Named for Missaukee, an Ottawa leader who signed land-grant treaties in 1831 and 1833"

MI Muskegon Named after the Muskegon River, from the Ojibwe word ""mashkiigoong"" meaning ""in the swamp"" or ""in the marsh""

MI Newaygo Named for a Chippewa leader who signed the Saginaw Treaty of 1819; probably means ""much water""

MI Ogemaw From the Ojibwe word ""ogimaa"" meaning ""chief"" or ""leader""

MI Ontonagon Named for river called Nantounagon on an early French map; from an Indian word for ""lost dish"" or ""fishing place""

MI Osceola Named after Ashi Vaholo or Osceola, the leader who led the Second Seminole War; means ""black drink hallower""

MI Ottawa Named for Ottawa tribe; from the word ""adawe"" which means ""to trade"" or ""trader""

MI Saginaw Named for Sauk or Sac tribe; from the Ojibway word ""sace-nong"" meaning ""Sauk place""

MI Sanilac Named for a Wyandotte chief named Sanilac

MI Shiawassee Named for Shiawassee River, from the Indian word meaning ""river that twists about""

MI Washtenaw From the Chippewa word ""o-wash-ten-nong"" meaning ""river that is far off""

MN Anoka From the Dakota word for ""on both sides of the river""

MN Chippewa Named after the Chippewa River, from the Ojibwe word meaning ""to pucker up"" referring to puckered toe moccasins"

MN Chisago Named after Chisago Lake, the largest lake in the county; from the Indian words ""kichi"" for ""Large"", and ""saga"" for ""fair"" (dropping the first syllables)"

MN Dakota Named after the Dakota tribe; means ""friend"" or ""ally""

MN Isanti Named after the Izatys tribe (now called Santees; means ""knife"" or ""one who makes knives""

MN Kanabec Named after the Snake River, which flows through the area; ""kanabec ""is the Ojibwa word for ""snake""

MN Kandiyohi From the Dakota word meaning ""where the buffalo fish come""

MN Koochiching From the Cree word of uncertain meaning given by Ojibwas to Rainy River, which flows through the county"

MN Mahanomee From the Ojibwa word for ""wild rice""

MN Wabasha Named after a three-generation line of Sioux chiefs named Wabasha

MN Wadena Named after the Wadena Trading Post; from the Ojibway word for little round hill""

MN Waseca From the Dakota word for ""rich in provisions"" or the Sioux word for ""fertile""

MN Watonwan From the Dakota word for ""where fish or fish bait abounds""

MN Winona Named after a Dakota woman, who was a cousin of the last of three chiefs named Wabasha; a diminutive of ""wino"" meaning ""woman""

MN Yellow Medicine From the Dakota name for the river, ""pajutazee""; ""huta"" meaning ""root"" and ""zi"" meaning ""yellow"", for the yellow root of the moonseed plant"

MO Mississippi Named after the Mississippi River, from the Algonquin words ""missi"" for ""great"" and ""seepee"" for ""water""

MO Nodaway Named for Nodaway River; from the Potawatomi word for ""placid""

MO Osage Named for Osage tribe, a French corruption of ""waz-hazhe"" meaning ""people""

MO Pemiscot From the Indian word meaning ""liquid mud""

MS Attala Named for Attala or Atala, a fictional Indian heroine from an early 19th Century novel by François-René de Chateaubriand"

MS Chickasaw Named after the Chickasaw tribe

MS Choctaw Named after the Choctaw tribe; refers to having a flattened head

MS Coahoma Named for Sweet Coahoma, the daughter of the last Choctaw in the area; means ""red panther""

MS Copiah From an Indian word meaning ""calling panther""

MS Issaquena From the Indian word meaning ""deer river""

MS Itawamba Named for Levi Colbert, a Chickasaw leader who was called ""Itte-wamba Mingo,"" meaning ""bench chief""

MS Leflore Named for a Choctaw leader named Greenwood LeFlore

MS Neshoba From the Choctaw word meaning ""grey wolf""

MS Noxubee From the Indian word meaning ""stinking water""

MS Oktibbeha From the Indian word meaning either ""bloody water"" (because of a battle fought on the banks) or possibly ""icy creek""

MS Panola From the Indian word meaning ""cotton""

MS Pontotoc Named for a Chickasaw leader called Pontotoc; means ""weed prairie""

MS Tallahatchie Named for Tallahatchie River, the main tributary of the Yazoo River; means ""river of the rock""

MS Tippah Named for Tippah, wife of Pontotoc, an important Chickasaw leader; means ""cut""

MS Tishomingo Named for a Chickasaw leader; means ""warrior chief""

MS Tunica Named for Tunica tribe; means ""those who are the people""

MS Yalobusha From the Indian word meaning ""tadpole place""

MS Yazoo Named for Yazoo tribe; means ""to blow an instrument""

MT Flathead Named for Salish Indians; a name shared by several tribes, some who flattened their infants' heads, and some who had naturally flat heads"

MT Missoula From a contraction of the Flathead word ""im-i-sul-e-etiku"" meaning ""by or

near the place of fear or ambush"" a reference to Hell Gate Canyon"

NC Alleghany From the Lenape word ""oolikhanna"" meaning ""beautiful stream""

NC Catawba Named after the Catawba tribe

NC Cherokee Named after the Cherokee tribe; from the Chickasaw word for ""cave people""

NC Chowan Named after the Chowan tribe; means ""they of the South""

NC Currituck From the Indian word for ""wild geese"" also spelled ""coratank""

NC Pamlico Named for Pamlico Sound and the Pamlico tribe

NC Pasquotank From the Indian word ""pasketanki"" meaning ""where the current of the stream divides or forks""

NC Perquimans Named for Perquimans tribe

NC Watauga Named for Watauga River and the Watauga tribe; means ""beautiful water""

NC Pembina From the Ojibwa phrase ""anepeminan sipi"" referring to the high-bush cranberries which grew wild in the area"

ND Sioux Named for Sioux tribe; from the Ojibjway word ""nadovessioux"", for ""snakes"" or ""enemies""

NE Cheyenne Named after the Cheyenne tribe, from the Dakota word meaning ""red talkers""

NE Dakota Named after the Dakota tribe; means ""friend"" or ""ally""

NE Keya Paha "Dakota words ""ké-ya pa-há wa-kpá"" meaning ""turtle hill river""

NE Nemaha "An Otoe word meaning ""muddy water"" for a stream that crossed the county and emptied into the Missouri River"

NE Otoe Named for Otoe tribe, from ""whatohtana"" for ""those who make love"" referring to a band who broke off when a marriage proposal was refused by the brides father"

NE Pawnee Named for Pawnee tribe, probably from the Sioux word ""pani"" referring to red bird feathers"

NE Sioux Named for Sioux tribe; from the Ojibjway word ""nadovessioux"", for ""snakes"" or ""enemies""

NH Coos From the word meaning ""crooked"" referring to a bend in the Connecticut River."

NH Merrimack Named after the Merrimack River, from ""merruasquamack"" meaning ""swift water place""

NJ Passaic "For ""passajeek"" meaning ""valley""

NM Otero From the Tiwa word ""tuota"" meaning ""red willow place"" or the word ""tuatah"" meaning ""at the village""

NV Washoe Named for Washoe tribe, originally spelled ""wassou"" or ""wassuu"" meaning ""tall bunchgrass"" or ""eyegrass""

NY Allegany From the Lenape word ""oolikhanna"" meaning ""beautiful stream""

NY Cattaraugus From the Seneca word meaning ""bad smelling banks"" referring to the odor of natural gas which leaked from local rock formations"

NY Cayuga Named after the Cayuga tribe

NY Chautauqua Named for a Seneca word meaning ""where the fish was taken out""

NY Chemung Named for a Delaware tribe village

NY Chenango "An Onondaga word meaning ""large bull-thistle""

NY erie Named after the Erie tribe, known as the ""cat nations;"" from the word meaning ""long tail"" referring to the wildcat"

NY Genesee Named for a Seneca phrase meaning ""good valley"" or ""beautiful valley""

NY Niagara From a word meaning ""bisected bottom lands""

NY Oneida Named for Oneida tribe, meaning ""standing stone people""

NY Onondaga Named for Onondaga tribe, meaning ""on the top of""

NY Ontario From the Iroquois word meaning ""beautiful lake""

NY Oswego From an Iroquois word meaning ""the outpouring"" referring to the mouth of the Oswego River"

NY Otsego From an Indian word meaning ""place of the rock""

NY Saratoga From a corruption of the word ""sah-rah-ka"" or ""sarach-togue"" meaning ""the hill beside the river""

NY Schenectady From a Mohawk phrase meaning ""on the other side of the pine lands""

NY Schoharie From a Mohawk word meaning ""floating driftwood""

NY Seneca Named for Seneca tribe; means ""the great hill people""

NY Tioga Named after the Indian village; means ""at the forks"" describing a meeting place"
 NY Wyoming From a modified Delaware word meaning ""broad bottom lands""
 OH Ashtabula Named after the Ashtabula River, from the Algonquian word for ""river of many fish""
 OH Auglaise Named after the Auglaize River, from an Indian word meaning ""fallen timbers""
 OH Coshocton From the Delaware word ""cush-og-wenk"" meaning ""black bear town"" or ""coshoc-gung"" meaning ""union of waters""
 OH Cuyahoga Named after the Cuyahoga River, from an Indian word meaning ""crooked""
 OH Delaware Named after the Delaware tribe, who took their name from the proprietors of the state of Delaware, the Lords De La Warr"
 OH Erie Named after the Erie tribe, known as the ""cat nations;"" from the word meaning ""long tail"" referring to the wildcat"
 OH Geauga From the Indian word for ""raccoon""
 OH Hocking From the Delaware words ""hockhock"" for ""gourd"" or ""bottle"" and ""ing"" meaning ""place"" referring to the place where the river assumes the shape of a bottle"
 OH Huron Named after the Huron tribe, from the Indian word for ""straight locks, like bristles of a wild boar"" referring to stiff bristled hair worn along the top of the head"
 OH Mahoning Named after the Mahoning River, from the Indian word ""mahoni"" meaning ""a salt lick"" or ""mahonink"" meaning ""at the lick""
 OH Miami Named after the Miami tribe; from the Ottawa word for ""mother""
 OH Muskingum From the Indian word meaning ""by the river's edge"" or ""moose-eye river""
 OH Ottawa Named for Ottawa tribe, from the word ""adawa"" meaning ""trader""
 OH Pickaway Named for Piqua tribe; means ""as he is""
 OH Sandusky From the Iroquois word ""sandoos-tie"" meaning ""cold water""
 OH Sciota From the Wyandot word meaning ""deer""
 OH Seneca Named for Seneca tribe; means ""the great hill people""
 OH Tuscarawas Named for Tuscarawas River, from the Indian word for ""open mouth""
 OH Wyandot Named for Wyandot tribe; possibly meaning ""people who live on the peninsula""
 OK Adair Named after the Adair family of the Cherokee tribe
 OK Atoka Named for Atoka, a Choctaw leader"
 OK Caddo Named after the Caddo tribe; means ""real chiefs""
 OK Cherokee Named after the Cherokee tribe; from the Chickasaw word for ""cave people""
 OK Choctaw Named after the Choctaw tribe; refers to having a flattened head
 OK Creek Named after the Creek tribe
 OK Delaware Named after the Delaware District of the Cherokee Nation
 OK Garvin Named for Samuel Garvin, a Chickasaw leader"
 OK Kiowa Named after the Kiowa tribe, a corruption of ""ka-i-gwu"" meaning ""principle people""
 OK Le Flore Named for a Choctaw leader named Greenwood LeFlore
 OK Mayse Named for Cherokee leader Samuel H. Mayes
 OK McCurtain Named after the Choctaw McCurtain family
 OK McIntosh Named after the Creek McIntosh family
 OK Muskogee Named after the Muskogee tribe
 OK Okfuskee Named for a Creek town located on the Talahoosa River in Alabama
 OK Okmulgee From the Creek word for ""Boiling Water"".
 OK Osage Named for the Osage Indian Reservation, inhabited by the Osage Nation"
 OK Ottawa Named for Ottawa tribe, from the word ""adawa"" meaning ""trader""
 OK Pawnee Named for Skidi Pawnee tribe
 OK Pontotoc Named for a Chickasaw chief; means ""cat tails growing on the prairie""
 OK Pottawatomie Named for Potawatomi tribe; from Algonquin word ""Pottawatomink"" meaning ""people of the place of fire""
 OK Pushmataha Named after the Choctaw chief Apushmatacha; means ""the sapling is ready for him""
 OK Seminole Named after the Seminole tribe; means ""runaway"" or ""separate ones""
 OK Sequoyah Named after the Cherokee leader Sequoyah
 OK Tulsa Named after the Creek town, from the Creek word ""tulwa""

OR Clackamas Named after the Clackamas tribe

OR Clatsop Named after the Clatsop tribe, one of the many Chinook tribes living in Oregon; means ""dried salmon""

OR Coos Named after the Coos tribe, from the word ""cohos"" meaning ""place of pines""

OR Klamath Named after the Klamath or Clamitte tribe, which has had a presence for 10,000 years"

OR Multnomah Named after the Multnomah tribe; from ""nematinomaq"" probably meaning ""downriver""

OR Tillamook Named for Tillamook tribe (originally Killamook); means ""people of the nekelim""

OR Umatilla Named for Umatilla tribe

OR Wallowa From the Nez Perce word for ""tripod of poles used to support fish nets""

OR Wasco Named for Wasco or Wascopam tribe; means ""cup or bowl made of horn""

OR Yamhill Named for Yamhelas, members of the Kalapuya tribe who lived along the Yamhill River"

PA Allegheny Named after the Allegheny River, from the Lenape word ""oolikhanna"" meaning ""beautiful stream""

PA Delaware Named after the Delaware River, which was Delaware tribe, who took their name from the proprietors of the state of Delaware, the Lords De La Warr"

PA Erie Named after the Erie tribe, known as the ""cat nations;"" from the word meaning ""long tail"" referring to the wildcat"

PA Juniata Named after the Juniata River, from an indian word meaning ""people of the standing stone""

PA Lackawanna Named after the Lackawanna River, from an Indian word meaning ""stream that forks""

PA Lehigh Named after the Lehigh River, from the Indian word ""lechauwekink"" meaning ""where there are forks in the stream""

PA Montour Named for Madame Montour, a French-Indian woman involved in Indian affairs as a translator"

PA Susquehanna Named for Susquehanna River, from an Algonquian word meaning ""muddy water""

PA Tioga Named after the Indian village; means ""at the forks"" describing a meeting place"

PA Venango From the Indian word ""onenge"" meaning ""otter""

PA Wyoming From a modified Delaware word meaning ""broad bottom lands"" or ""meadows""

SC Oconee From the Indian word for ""place of the springs"" or ""water eyes of the hills""

SC Saluda Named for Saluda River, which was saluda tribe"

ND Brule Named for a band of Sioux, from the Pawnee word ""sicangu"" meaning ""burned thighs"" translated to ""brule"" which means ""burned"" in French"

SD Minnehaha From an Indian word meaning ""river waterfall""

SD Yankton Named for Yankton tribe, a corruption of the Sioux word ""ihanktonwan"" for ""end village""

TN Obion Named for Obion River, from the Indian word for ""many prongs"" or ""many forks""

TN Sequatchie From the Cherokee word meaning ""opossum, he grins or runs""

TN Unicoi From the Indian word for the southern Appalachian Mountains, probably meaning ""white"" or ""fog-draped""

TX Angelina Named for a Hainai woman who assisted early Spanish missionaries and was named Angelina by them

TX Cherokee Named after the Cherokee tribe; from the Chickasaw word for ""Cave People""

TX Comanche Named after the Comanche tribe; possibly from the Spanish ""camino ancho"" meaning ""broad trail"" refering to riding spread out, not single file"

TX Nacogdoches Named after the Nacogdoches tribe

TX Panola From the Indian word meaning ""cotton""

TX Wichita Named for Wichita or Ouachita tribe

UT Juab From an Indian word meaning ""valley"" or ""thirsty valley""
 UT Piute Named after the Piute tribe, from the word ""pai"" for ""water"" and ""ute"" the tribe's name"
 UT Sanpete "May be named for San Pitch, a Ute leader
 UT Tooele Named for Tuilla, an Indian chief"
 UT Uintah Named for Ute tribe, known as ""Yugwintats"" meaning ""pinelands""
 UT Utah Named for Ute tribe, who were called Utes by the Apaches and Navajos meaning ""hill dwellers"" or ""upper people""
 UT Wasatch From the Ute word meaning ""mountain pass""
 VA Accomack From the Indian word describing the Eastern Shore as ""accawmacke"" meaning ""across the water place""
 VA Alleghany From the indian word ""Oolikhanna"" meaning ""beautiful stream""
 VA Appomattox Named after the Appomattox River, which was Appamatucks tribe"
 VA Nottoway Named after the Nadowa tribe, meaning ""rattlesnake"" in the sense of an untrustworthy enemy"
 VA Powhatan Named for Wahunsunacock, called Powhatan, chief of the Powhatan tribe; means ""falls In a current of water""
 VA Rappahannock Named for Rappahannock River, which was Rappahannock tribe; means ""alternating river"" or ""river affected by tides""
 VA Roanoke Named for Roanoke River, from the Indian word for ""a shell used for money""
 VA Shanandoah Named for Shenandoah River, from an Indian word meaning ""beautiful daughter of the stars""
 WA Asotin From the Nez Perce word meaning ""eel creek""
 WA Chelan From an Indian word meaning ""deep water"" probably referring to Lake Chelan"
 WA Clallam From the Klallam word meaning ""brave people"" or ""strong people""
 WA Cowlitz From a Cowlitz word meaning ""seeker"" in the spiritual sense"
 WA Kitsap Named for Kitsap, a chief of the Suquamish tribe; means ""brave""
 WA Kittitas From the Indian word meaning ""grey gravel bank""
 WA Klickitat Named after the Klickitat tribe of the Yakama Nation; means ""robber""
 WA Okanogan From the Salish word meaning ""rendezvous""
 WA Pend Oreille Named for Pend Oreille tribe, from the French word for ""ear pendant""
 WA Skagit Named for Skagit tribe
 WA Skamania From the Chinookan word for ""swift river""
 WA Snohomish Named for Snohomish tribe; means ""union""
 WA Spokane Named for Spokane tribe; means ""chief of the sun""
 WA Wahkiakum Named after the Chinook chief Wahkiakum
 WA Walla Walla Named for Walla Walla tribe; means ""many waters""
 WA Whatcom Named for chief Whatcom of the Nooksack tribe
 WA Yakima Named for Yakima tribe; means ""black bear""
 WI Calumet From the Indian word for ""Pipe"".
 WI Clark Named after the tribe, means ""To Pucker Up"", referring to puckered toe moccasins."
 WI Iowa Named after the tribe, means ""Sleepy Ones"" or ""Drowsy Ones"".
 WI Kenosha From the Indian word for ""Pickerel"".
 WI Kewaunee From a Chippewa word ""Prairie Hen/Wild Duck"".
 WI Marathon From the Indian word for ""Spirit Land"".
 WI Marinette Named for Marinette Chevalier, a French/Chippewa mixed blood."
 WI Menominee Named after the tribe, means ""Wild Rice Eaters"".
 WI Milwaukee From the Indian word ""milloke"" meaning ""good land"" or ""gathering place by the water""
 WI Oconto From the Indian word for ""Place of the Pickerel"" or ""Red River"".
 WI Oneida Named after the tribe, means ""Standing Stone People"".
 WI Outagamie Named for the Outagamie tribe, from the Ojibway word ""meskwaki"" meaning ""fox""
 WI Ozaukee Named for what the Chippewas called the Sauk Indians, means ""People of the Outlet"".
 WI Sauk Named after the tribe, also called Sac."

WI Shawano From the Chippewa word for ""South"". "
 WI Sheboygan From the Indian word for ""A Noise Underground"". "
 WI Waukesha From the Pottawotami word for ""Fox"". "
 WI Waupaca From the Indian word for ""White Sand Bottom"". "
 WI Waushara From the Indian word for ""Good Land River"". "
 WI Winnebago Named after the tribe, means ""People of Stinking Water"". "
 WV Kenawha "Has been said to mean ""Hurricane"". "
 WV Logan Named for Chief Logan.
 WV Mingo From Algonquin ""Mingwe"" meaning ""Stealthy"" or ""Treacherous"". "
 WV Monongalia From the Indian word ""Monongahela"" for ""Falling in River Bank"". "
 WV Ohio From the Indian word for ""Beautiful River"". "
 WV Pocanontas Named for the daughter of Chief Powhatan.
 WV Wyoming Named after the tribe, means ""Upon the Great Plains"". "
 WY Niobrara Named after the tribe, from the Omaha
 WY Teton Named after ""Tee-Win-Oh"" for ""Three Pinacles"". "
 WY Uinta Named after the tribe, said to mean ""Pineland"". "
 WY Washakie Named for a Shoshoni chief who ruled 60 years, means ""Rawhide Rattle"". "

The MARAC folks might want to add the renamed Shannon-- Now Olgala-Lokota to the list. It's named after a tribe of people that are now a significant part of the Pine Ridge Reservation that is most of the county.

How many Native American counties are in your state?

Awards Issued

None to date of publication

Events for County Hunters

Mar 1 1500z to Mar 2 0059z

3.5-144

North Carolina QSO Party

CW Ph Dig

NC county or SPC

ncqsoparty.org/rule

Mar 14 1500z to Mar 15 2100z
3.5-50

Oklahoma QSO Party

CW PhRS(T),
county or SPC

k5cm.com/okqp.htm

Mar 14 1900z to Mar 15 1900z
1.8-28

Idaho QSO Party

CW Ph
County or SPC

pocatelloarc.org/idahoqsoparty

Mar 15 1800z to Mar 16 0100z
All (no WARC)

Wisconsin QSO Party

CW Ph Dig
County or SPC

warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm

Mar 21 1400z to Mar 22 2359z

Virginia QSO Party

CW Ph Dig
Serial, VA county or SPC

qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party

Mar 28 0000z to Mar 29 2359z
1.8-28

CQ WW WPX Contest,

SSB Ph - RS, serial

www.cqwpix.co

In addition, there are loads of other smaller operating activities you can find at:

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2020/March%202020%20Corral.pdf>

Thanks to ARRL Contest Corral for the above information

Michigan Mini

The MI Mini hosted by Ed, K8ZZ, and Doris, N8WTQ, will be held in Traverse City, MI April 25 – 26 & 27th..

<http://michiganmini.superhosts.net/8>

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

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that's all folks! See you next month!