

# County Hunter News

March 2022  
Volume 18 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 Frequencies are 14.0565, 10.124.5, and 7056.5, with activity occasionally on 3556.5 KHz. Also, there is SSB activity now occasionally on 7188 KHz. The CW folks are now pioneering 17M operation on 18.0915. (21.0565, 24.9155, and 28.0565 when sunspots better). Look around 18136 or for occasional 17M SSB runs usually after the run on 20M SSB . (21.336 and 28.336)

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

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

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

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

For general information FAQ on County Hunting, check out:

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

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

find information on these awards and the rules at:

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

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

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

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

## Notes from the Editor

### N4CD Rumblings

**1 ) Sunspots** – We got them. Bands have been good most days and predictions are for even better days in March. Solar flux should be over 100 for much of the month.

**2 ) Weather** – it's still winter. A couple weeks here in TX with ice and no one going far on the roads for a couple days twice this month. Hundreds of accidents on the ice and hospitals have many 'slipped on the ice' victims. Needless to say a lot of mobile activity has been reduced with snow, sub zero weather, winter storms, white outs, etc. up north. However, Spring is just around the corner. Daylight Savings Time starts in March. Here – one week warm, next week 20s with ice storms. Haven't gone far myself.

**3 ) Covid 2022** - Still with us by decreasing in infections after the Omicron surge. Hospitals still receiving loads of patients – with 90+% of them unvaxxed. Those 'free-dumb' loving folks are still croaking at record numbers despite 'free' vaccines and booster shots that are very effective of reducing the severity of the infection if you do get it, and very, very effective at keeping you out of the hospital. You really have to be a total jerk to go around unvaxxed.

Bob N8KIE was unable to get to Kalawao due to both restrictions on travel in HI (tests before and after each airline flight) and lack of rental cars on Molokai. Lots of rental

cars were sold off during 2021 and the reduced travel that happened. Any folks going to HI stayed on the Big Island (Hawaii County) or in Honolulu County at the large resorts. I'd bet the Molokai Mule Ride down the village – about the only touristy thing to do on Molokai, was shut down. Who would want the elderly residents there subjected to Covid? Other than some condos there – why go there? Maybe next winter season things will be back to normal. HI is the only state now with mask mandates everywhere. (as of Feb 25).

4 ) Gas Prices – ouch. Pushing \$5/gal in California and \$6/gal in Los Angeles – and now \$350+ and rising nationwide average. About \$3.38 here in TX but every week it seems to go up 10 or 20c. Ouch! My around town car gets 40+ mpg so that's not a problem but the 2016 Malibu gets in the high 20s. Going to be \$50 to \$70 a day for hundreds of miles a day on trips. Those with less gas mileage are really going to feel it. Imagine driving an RV at 8 mpg or so!

Not only gas prices but lots of other things up. New car prices – out of sight and used car prices are almost equal to new prices. A 2017 Honda will sell for about the price of a new one! Not that you can get one due to supply chain problems. Seniors got a inflation kicker this year but most of it eaten up by increased Medicare/Supplement payments! With the Ukrainian invasion – things likely will get worse before they get better.

## Michigan Mini

There's the planned Mini in Michigan in April. Details on the MARAC web page. You can sign up now. Let's hope this all Covid stuff peaks and is way down on the scale by late April.

The 2022 Michigan Mini will be hosted by Ed, K8ZZ and Doris, N8WTQ held at the West Bay Beach Resort 615 East Front Street • Traverse City, Michigan 49686 Phone: (231) 947-3700 • Fax: (231) 947-0361 Toll Free: (800) 888-8020) It will be held at the West Bay Beach Resort again in 2022 with room rates of: \$97.95 plus tax per night if reserved by March 23th, 2022 .

Date for 2022 MICHIGAN MINI is April 21 – 22 & 23rd..

# Vermont QSO Party

At least one mobile was out – K1IB. Best score indicates 11 counties worked on SSB – 12 on cw. Mults by mode, so no idea if 11 on SSB and 12 on CW is more than 12 counties worked. Most folks had just a handful of counties. There are 14 counties in VT.

Conditions weather wise in VT – not great – some areas got ice storm a few days before the weekend contest.

N4CD - Worked 4 counties here – and heard two other VT stations working MN stations at the time but during my 2 hours on the air , not putting out their county. They were on later.

This QSO party was going on while the MN and BC parties were busy, too.

From 3830 scores page:

## **K1IB mobile – 329 CW QSO**

Operated mobile from county line locations in Windsor, Orange, Caledonia, Essex and Washington counties. On the road, ~180 miles round-trip, from 9 a.m to 6 p.m. Saturday. I spent about an hour at each location. 20 meters was the busy band. 15 meter propagation was better but few stations were listening there. Rig: FT-897 & Hustler mobile antenna.

## **AA4TI - fixed FL - 29 CW 27 SSB QSO - 10 CW mults 9 SSB mults**

Much too long of a time period for a contest with relatively few in state participants. I'm sure the weather also played havoc - I only saw one lone mobile out there braving the wilds. Kudos to K1IB. I did enjoy the Friday night start and would suggest to the organizers to have a format of 4 hours on Friday and 10 hours (coinciding with MNQP) on Saturday.

## **WN4AFP - fixed - SC 24 CW 13 SSB 12 CW 11 SSB mults**

Thanks to all my friends in VT for the Qs.

## Minnesota QSO Party

A good one!! Mobiles out and running. Several people had mid 60s for county count out of the 87 counties in MN.

Mobiles out and about included AC0W, K0PC, W0ZQ, KE0TL, N0SPN, K0LD, K0BBC, W0WX multi-op, W0FZ, W0M/m, N0EO, All 87 counties were planned but it appears some didn't happen. Lots of snow, blowing wind up that way and the contest goes into the evening hours making things challenging for the mobiles. Lots of fixed stations on. Some counties had 3 and 4 stations, others just one, some likely zero.

From the 3830s score page:

### **K0PC Mobile 1038 CW QSO**

My 19th consecutive mobile outing for the MN QSO Party. I was joined this year by Craig, KCØDMF, who drove for me. We had no self induced problems and Murphy stayed away.

Propagation was up and down throughout the day but 40M performed well without going terribly long this year. That gave more opportunities to other MN stations.

The Top-Ten list for 2022:

KE0L - 22  
W0BV - 21  
W5TM - 21  
WB9HFK - 19  
KB9S - 17  
K0GW - 15  
K9CW - 15  
W0DC - 15  
N0UY - 14

K1RO - 13  
K4WW - 13

There were 318 unique calls in the log.  
Thanks to everyone who rode along.

73, Pat KØPC

### **W0ZQ Rover 803 CW 9 SSB QSO**

3 degrees F with very strong south winds during the morning hours caused some drifting and reduced visibility. By the afternoon it was up to 20F, so not so bad for early Feb in MN. This was my 18th consecutive year running the MnQP as a single-op mobile or rover. Thanks for all the Q's and we will be seeing you in the WiQP in a few weeks.

73, Jon W0ZQ/m

### **K0M mobile (KA9VBR KZ9V ops) 381 SSB QSO**

Traveled into Minnesota for our first ever attempt at "mobile". Our Hustler antenna mount collapsed before we even got to Minnesota early Saturday morning. We were 40 minutes late getting started and 2 hours into the contest we had only logged 14 contacts. We spent the rest of the day trying to catch up. We had fun and we learned a lot.

### **KE0TT - Rover - 257 CW QSO**

Elecraft K3/10 running 10 watts in MOW and DOD, 50 watts in OLM from home. 79 QSO's in the final hour was the highlight! Thanks for the Q's, enjoyed the activity. Did not enjoy the +1 F air temp with -20 F wind chill values. Brrrr. Thanks to DL3DXX for the 20M call while running 10 watts to a 66' inv vee up 13' at the apex! C U next time,

73, Dan ke0tt

### **N0HJZ - fixed - MN 460 CW 651 SSB QSO**

The first multi-two from the N0HJZ station. Managed to get everything wired and

networked a few days before the contest. Charlie, NG0C, joined me and I put him through his learning curve with a new rig (for him), new N1MM software and some higher speed CW. He did awesome!

Thanks to everyone that called us! Also, thanks to all the mobiles for going out! We've got ideas for station improvements and will be back next year!

73 Rich N0HJZ

**ND0C multi-op QRP (ND0C and KE0WPA ops) Nobles MN 61 CW 260 SSB QSO**

Multi-op QRP with my dad and me using his name!

**WB0TEV - Texas 196 SSB QSO**

Glad I don't have to rotate my beam in this contest, just aim north and go. An ice storm here in NE Texas coated most things, my antennas included in a 0.2 inch layer of ice. Fortunately I'd pre-aimed the beam before the storm. Between the sun today and perhaps the injected RF, the 40m elements on the PRO-67B aren't as droopy as before.

Fun contest as always.

Many thanks to the hardy souls that go mobile in the MN winter.

Worked 64 of 87 counties.

Victor, WB0TEV

**K1RO - fixed - NH 89 CW 63 CW 61 counties worked**

My antennas are detuned by ice and drooping tree branches from Friday's storm, but I was able to run low power without too much trouble. Fun contest as usual!

## South Carolina QSO Party

Will be reported on next month.

## North Carolina QSO Party

Will be reported on next month- too late for pub date.

## Battle of Gorieta Pass – NM

Two weeks before the great Battle of Shiloh, Union and Confederate troops in the far-off New Mexico Territory fought the key battle of the Civil War's westernmost campaign. At stake was control of the vast, sparsely populated but mineral rich region that is today's Southwest and Intermountain West.

Hundreds of men from TX and south NM on the Confederate side headed to NM. Most of them didn't make it back to TX after the battle without supplies – an 800 mile trek over lots of desolate territory on foot. Hundreds more joined them from the NM territories.

Only 1,300 men were available to the Union side.

One note of significance. Most of the Union troops came from CO (mountain men) and were very familiar with operating and fighting at high altitudes. The Confederates from TX were poorly equipped – mostly farmers from central TX. The Battle was fought in 'winter' cold conditions. The Confederates were winning until they returned to home camp in the evening and discovered all their supplies and horses were destroyed or gone. That was it – with ammo, food, and other supplies, they were forced to retreat.

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from Wiki and other sources:

The Battle of Glorieta Pass (March 26–28, 1862) in the northern New Mexico Territory, was the decisive battle of the New Mexico campaign during the American Civil War. Dubbed the "Gettysburg of the West" by some authors, it was intended as the decisive blow by Confederate forces to break the Union possession of the West along the base of the Rocky Mountains. It was fought at Glorieta Pass in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in what is now northern New Mexico, and was an important event in the history of the New Mexico Territory in the American Civil War.

There was a skirmish on March 26 between advance elements from each army, with the main battle occurring on March 28. Although the Confederates were able to push the Union force back through the pass, they had to retreat when their supply train was destroyed and most of their horses and mules killed or driven off. Eventually the Confederates had to withdraw entirely from the territory back into Confederate Arizona and then Texas. Glorieta Pass thus represented the climax of the campaign.

#### Prior to the Battle

Hoping to expand westward, the Confederate government in 1862 sought to enforce its claim to the Confederate Arizona Territory with support from local secessionists. To cut off Union supplies and reinforcements to the area, Confederate Brig. Gen. Henry H. Sibley had captured Santa Fe and Albuquerque. Sibley next hoped to control the Santa Fe Trail passes through the Sangre de Cristo Mountains to the north. Sibley's Confederates in the area were a few hundred mounted volunteers from Texas commanded by Major Charles L. Pyron. On March 26th, Pyron advanced to Glorieta Pass on the trail and skirmished inconsequentially with Colorado infantry and regular U. S. Cavalry posted in Apache Canyon. Both sides gathered reinforcements the next day.

On March 28th, Confederate reinforcements under Lieut. Col. William Scurry attacked the Federals under Colonel John P. Slough resting and filling canteens near Pigeon's Ranch. The fighting dragged on throughout the day, as the Confederates gradually forced Slough to retreat eastward. When a detachment of Union infantry burned their supply train, the Rebels were forced to retreat. Glorieta Pass is commonly referred to as the "Gettysburg of the West." It was here that Federal forces were finally able to turn back the Confederate invasion of the New Mexico Territory.

The lower portion of the New Mexico Territory had been largely neglected by both the

federal government and the territorial government in Santa Fe. As a result, Confederate sympathy was strong, in hopes of receiving better treatment by the new government. Following secession moves by residents, Confederate forces seized Mesilla and captured the federal troops there, who made a halfhearted attempt to retreat to Santa Fe. In early 1862 the Confederacy established the Confederate Arizona Territory, which included the southern halves of both modern Arizona and New Mexico. The territorial capital was at Mesilla, some 45 miles from El Paso and near today's major city of Las Cruces. The strategic goals were to gain access to the gold and silver mines of California and the Colorado Territory and the seaports in Southern California, and thus evade the Union naval blockade.

In March Sibley sent a Confederate force of 200–300 Texans under the command of Maj. Charles L. Pyron on an advance expedition over the Glorieta Pass, a strategic location on the Santa Fe Trail at the southern tip of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains southeast of Santa Fe. Control of the pass would allow the Confederates to advance onto the High Plains and make an assault on Fort Union, a Union stronghold on the route northward over Raton Pass. Sibley sent six companies under the command of Col. Tom Green to block the eastern end of Glorieta Pass, turning any Union defensive position in the Sangre de Cristos.

With the sounds of battle echoing in the distance, Lt. Col. Manuel Chaves of the 2nd New Mexico Infantry, commander of the New Mexican volunteers, informed Maj. Chivington that his scouts had located the Confederate supply train at Johnson's Ranch. After watching the supply train for an hour, Chivington's force descended the steep slope and attacked, driving off or capturing the small guard with few casualties on either side. They then looted and burned 80 supply wagons and spiked the cannon, either killing or driving off about 500 horses and mules before returning with their prisoners to Kozlowski's Ranch. With no supplies to sustain his advance, Scurry had to retreat to Santa Fe, the first step on the long road back to San Antonio, Texas. Thanks to Chaves' assistance, the Federals had turned a defeat into victory and stopped further Confederate advances in the Southwest. Glorieta Pass was the turning point of the war in the New Mexico Territory.

#### Current situation

In 1987 two Confederate burial sites were discovered at Pigeon's Ranch. One was the solitary grave of Maj. John Samuel Shropshire, the other was a mass grave of 30 Confederates.

In 1993 the congressionally appointed Civil War Sites Advisory Commission issued its

"Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields." The commission was tasked with identifying the nation's historically significant Civil War sites, determining their importance and providing recommendations for their preservation to Congress.

Of the roughly 10,500 actions of the U.S. Civil War, 384 (3.7%) were identified by the commission as principal battles and rated according to their significance and threat of loss. The Battle of Glorieta Pass received the highest rating from the commission, priority I. Class A battlefields are principal strategic operations having a direct impact on the course of the war. With this rating the commission placed Glorieta Pass on the same level as battles such as Gettysburg and Antietam. The priority I rating identified Glorieta Pass as being not only one of the most important, but also one of the most highly endangered battlefields in the country. Only ten other battlefields received the priority I rating. The commission recommended that Congress focus its preservation efforts on priority I, nationally significant battlefields.

Since 1993 portions of the Glorieta Pass Battlefield have become a unit of the National Park Service. The Glorieta Pass unit (Pigeon's Ranch) comprises roughly 20% of the total battlefield. The remaining 80% is in private ownership. Glorieta Pass Battlefield is managed by Pecos National Historical Park and supported by the Glorieta Battlefield Coalition, a non-profit citizens' organization.[42] The Civil War Trust (a division of the American Battlefield Trust) and its partners have acquired and preserved 19 acres of the Glorieta Pass battlefield.

The Glorieta Pass Battlefield is also designated as a National Historic Landmark. It's managed by Pecos National Historic park.

Pecos National Historical Park is located 25 miles east of Santa Fe, New Mexico off of Interstate 25. Between the towering Sangre de Cristo mountains and the flat-topped Glorieta Mesa lies Glorieta Pass, through which a continuously unfolding story of human culture has traveled to and from the Pecos Valley for thousands of years. Pueblo and Plains Indians, Spanish conquerors and missionaries, Mexican and Anglo armies, Santa Fe Trail settlers and adventurers, tourists on the railroad, Route 66 and Interstate 25...the Pecos Valley has long been a backdrop that invites contemplation about where our civilization comes from and where it is going. Thousands of years of this rich history is preserved for visitors at Pecos National Historical Park

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I caught a program on this on the TV during February - decided to investigate it a bit further to see if I'd ever been out that way. Turns out yes.

Way back in 2016, N4CD ran Pecos National Historic Monument as part of NPOTA (ARLL National Parks on the Air) but I don't think I appreciated at all the Battle of Glorieta Pass then - which could have changed the entire aspect of the Civil War had the Confederates been victorious and moved into CO and further west without significant opposition. So if you're in the neighborhood – or running parks and counties – it's not far off major highways. Stop on by.

Over 200 battles took place west of the Mississippi river during the Civil War – it just wasn't all 'easterly'. The western most battle in that war occurred in Arizona territory – Picacho Creek in Gila County. This was also a Union victory that drove Rebels out of Tuscon. However, compared to the tens of thousands of men who clashed in battles back east, these were much smaller but still significant battles that would have changed the tide of the war had they been lost.



N4CD – Pecos National Historic Site

Many outposts, built to 'preserve or protect' the Indian population or the settlers and travelers headed west, where manned during the civil war – all over the west. Many of them are now historic sites you can visit. N4CD – Pecos National Historic Site

## On the Road with N4CD

Not much happened this month other than a few trips over to the local park K-4423 on Wednesdays and some weekends to catch mobiles out in state QSO Parties.

Physical Therapy twice a week (TU-TH) has keep me from longer trips and COVID is still a concern – when traveling. Motels are OK – but eating out can be challenging winding up at the only restaurant in a town that's 'busy'.

Coming up – trip to Houston 3/5 for the Houston Vintage Radio Convention – then the OK QSO Party - weather permitting. Later in April – off to the MI Mini.

## Mobile Activity In February

At the beginning of the month

KE4UP running in AL and MS – winding up in FL for the Orlando Hamfest – later headed north through SC, NC. Several other mobiles headed there, too.

K0FG out in CO – headed to KS then back into CO then more in KS.

Many parks noted on W6RK – in KY, OH, FL, OR, TX, AZ - Hundreds noted on the POTA spotting page. [Parks on the Air | POTA](#)

There was the MN QSO Party with many good mobiles – reported on above

K1YAG busy putting out TX counties then headed through LA to MS, AL and to FL. Returned after hamfest back to TX.

Same weekend as MN was the VT QSO party- many counties on. At least one mobile out.

KB6UF left LA and headed to CA via many counties along the way.

WA9DLB started in FL and headed home to IL

W8OP noted running OH counties then back to PA

WB8III noted out in many counties in PA

KA2LHO out and about in FL putting out counties

N4TY spotted running counties in KY

N8OYY headed to KY for a WBOW – ran a bunch there.

## Awards Issued

USA-PA W Award: WQ7A completed all "W" prefixes on 29 January 2022. He received #15

USA-PA ALL Award: WQ7A completed all prefixes on 29 January 2022. He received #9

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USA-CW II Award: K2MF completed all counties with CW on 7 February 2022. He received #42

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Ran All State Award: WY0A completed all Wisconsin counties on 13 January 2022. He received #36

Ran All State Award: K8ZZ completed all Louisiana counties on 7 January 2022. He

Received #30

## Events for County Hunters

Some good state QSO parties coming up - and some major contests to either participate or avoid. SSB Bands will be full of contesters these weekends. Good time for 30m CW and 17m for mobile ops. CW bands will be OK.

Mar 5 0000z to 6 2359z

**ARRL International DX Contest, SSB Ph**

W/VE: RS, SP; DX: RS, power

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

Mar 12 1500z to 13 2100

**3.5-50 Oklahoma QSO Party CW Ph**

RS(T), OK county or SPC

[k5cm.com/okqp.htm](http://k5cm.com/okqp.htm)

Mar 12 1900z to 13 1900z

**1.8-28 Idaho QSO Party CW Ph**

RS(T), ID county or SPC

[pocatelloarc.org/idahoqsopart](http://pocatelloarc.org/idahoqsopart)

Mar 13 1800z to 14 0100z

**All Wisconsin QSO Party Ph**

WI county or SPC

[www.warac.org/wqp](http://www.warac.org/wqp)

Mar 19 1400z to 20 2359z

**All Virginia QSO Party CW Ph Dig**

Serial, VA county or SPC

[qsl.net/sterling/VA\\_QSO\\_Party](http://qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party)

Mar 26 0000z to 27 2359z

**1.8-28 CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB Ph**

RS, serial [cqwpx.com/rules.htm](http://cqwpx.com/rules.htm)

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Date for 2022 MICHIGAN MINI is April 21 – 22 & 23rd..

If you want the convention rate at the hotel, before it's too late - time to sign up now!