

County Hunter News

May 2022
Volume 18 Issue 5

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

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 – We got them. Conditions good most days on 17m and up but skip tends to be long. If you're in the center of the country – well, hard to work counties on 15m and up! Otherwise, lots of 'fair days' on 80 and 40m. Some days with radio blackouts as CMEs hit earth. Lots of solar activity! Sunspot numbers increasing.

2) Gas prices. Ouch. Thanks to Joe Biden. On the trip north, was paying just under \$4/gal most places. A bit more in IL.

KA2LHO Trip Report

From his Facebook page:

Just got home from a 3 day Florida panhandle ham radio trip. We operated from all counties in the panhandle and several just east of the panhandle. We also operated from Gulf Shores, AL where we stayed the first night and from six Florida State Parks that were new to us-note Perdido Key State Park is nice!!

Here is my normal data report from this type of trip.

1,010 Miles-about the same as driving north to the Pittsburgh, PA area
209 contacts via voice and Morse Code.

Radio contacts in these states:

AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MD, MI, MO, MS, NC, NE, NH,
NM, NY, OH, OK, PA, SD, TN, TX, WA, WI, WV

Radio contacts in these countries outside the US including a reconnection with a friend
in Belgium with whom I had not been in touch for about a year.

Azores, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal.

I also reconnected with radio friends across the country. It was good to be on the air with
everyone. These are tiring trips but fun as well and we get to learn about and see this
gorgeous state of ours.

An unexpected event found me stepping back into medic mode assisting with a diabetic
situation on a fishing boat docked in Apalachicola (our second night stay). I guided the
crew with steps to take and updated the local first responders then stepped away as they
took over care.

Update on FCC License Fees

From ARRL Weekly Newsletter dated 4/1/2022

New FCC Application Fee Will Not Apply to Amateur Radio License Upgrades

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) staff has clarified in response to an
ARRL request that the new \$35 application fee will not apply to most license
modifications, including those to upgrade amateur radio licensee's operator class and
changes to club station trustees. The FCC staff explained that the new fees will apply
only to applications for a new license, renewal, rule waiver, or a new vanity call sign. As
previously announced, the new fees take effect on April 19, 2022.

"We are pleased that the FCC will not charge licensees the FCC application fee for
license upgrade applications," said ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC)
Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. "While applicants for a new license will need to pay
the \$35 FCC application fee, there will be no FCC charge for future upgrades and
administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address. Most current

licensees, therefore, will not be charged the new FCC application fee until they renew their license or apply for a new vanity call sign."

ARRL previously reported that the new \$35 application fee for amateur radio licenses will become effective on April 19, 2022.

The 8 Meter Band Experiments

UK Amateurs Exploring 40 MHz

John Desmond, EI7GL, reports that Ofcom -- the communications regulator in the United Kingdom -- has granted temporary Innovation and Research licenses to several UK amateurs to transmit in the 40 MHz band.

On his blog, John stated that Roger Laphorn, G3XBM, in the east of England will be operating beginning on April 2 with a license that is valid for 1 year. In a statement, Roger said, "After a very long wait, Ofcom has approved my 8-meter permit. It permits me to use 40 to 42 MHz with digital modes (including CW) at 5 W ERP maximum. I expect to erect a wire dipole that will be directed towards Europe. I expect to be mostly on FT8 around 40.676 MHz with a precise frequency done in liaison with others. My hope is all 8-meter FT8 stations can be monitored with one USB dial setting but spaced out. Five watts should certainly cover Europe when sporadic E is in play. I will try some local CW crossband QSOs but hope to be on FT8 24/7." [Thanks to Southgate ARC News]

8 Meter Band in USA

8-Meter Experimental Station on the Air from the US
07/29/2021

WL2XUP is an FCC Part 5 Experimental station operated by Lin Holcomb, NI4Y, in Georgia. It's licensed to operate with up to 400 W effective radiated power (ERP)

between 40.660 MHz to 40.700 MHz.

John Desmond, EI7GL, reports that as of mid-July, WL2XUP was intermittently transmitting on Weak-Signal Propagation Reporter (WSPR) on 40.662 MHz (1500 Hz) for 2 minutes out of every 10, with an output power of 20 W ERP into an omnidirectional antenna. For FT8 check-ins and tests, an ERP of 100 W may be used. The band is affected by several propagation modes, including tropospheric ducting, sporadic E, transequatorial propagation (TEP), and F2 propagation. As Desmond notes, the 40 MHz band will open a lot earlier than 50 MHz and could be a useful resource for stations monitoring the transatlantic path.

A 2019 Petition for Rulemaking (RM-11843) asked the FCC to create a new 8-meter amateur radio allocation on a secondary basis. The Petition suggests the new band could be centered on an industrial-scientific-medical (ISM) segment somewhere between 40.51 and 40.70 MHz. The spectrum between 40 and 41 MHz is currently allocated to the federal government and, as such, within the purview of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

ARRL member Michelle Bradley, KU3N, of Maryland, filed the petition on behalf of REC Networks, which she founded and described in the Petition as “a leading advocate for a citizen’s access to spectrum,” including amateur radio spectrum.

COVID and BRAIN DAMAGE

NEW ORLEANS, La. — COVID-19 started as a serious threat to the lungs, but it’s become just as synonymous with brain issues throughout the pandemic. Now, a new study is revealing exactly how the virus damages the central nervous system. Researchers at Tulane University say even a mild COVID infection can leave lingering damage in a patient’s brain.

Previous studies have documented several cognitive issues like headaches, confusion, and “brain fog” during a COVID patient’s infection and in the months following — as a symptom of long COVID. Until now, however, scientists haven’t fully understood how the illness targets the brain.

The new study found severe brain inflammation and injury resulting from reduced blood flow or oxygen traveling to the brain. This included neuron damage and cell death. The team also discovered microhemorrhages (small bleeds) in the brains of nonhuman primates who died after a coronavirus infection.

To the research team's surprise, even primates who did not suffer from severe respiratory disease showed the same damage in the brain.

“Because the subjects didn't experience significant respiratory symptoms, no one expected them to have the severity of disease that we found in the brain,” says lead investigator Tracy Fischer in a university release. “But the findings were distinct and profound, and undeniably a result of the infection.”

COVID brain damage may lead to a more severe infection

Fischer has been studying brains for decades. After Tulane's National Primate Research Center launched a COVID pilot program in early 2020, the study author started examining the brain tissue of several animals infected with coronavirus.

Fischer's initial findings were so shocking that she spent the next year refining the results to make sure COVID-19 was truly responsible for this severe brain damage. Concerningly, these new findings are in line with those coming from human autopsies during the pandemic.

Study authors say this suggests that nonhuman primates can serve as a reliable model as scientists continue to explore how COVID-19 damages the human body.

The team also notes that neurological problems are some of the first symptoms people experience during a COVID infection. These symptoms also impact patients of all ages, whether they have pre-existing conditions or not.

As for how brain damage from COVID may impact a patient's chances of survival, researchers say the brain plays a major role in controlling a person's respiratory system — a main target of COVID.

“Neuropathological complications may contribute to worsening disease among infected patients. For example, damage to the brainstem, which modulates the respiratory cycle by regulating inspiratory and expiratory muscle activity, may contribute to worsening respiratory distress and failure in patients with COVID-19,” the researchers write in the journal *Nature Communications*.

Source: <https://www.studyfinds.org/covid-lingering-brain-damage/>

Note de N4CD – second booster shots are available for those over age 50. Got mine. Unfortunately, the effectiveness of the second booster seems to be good for boosted antibodies for 3 months. It's now estimated that 60% of the US population has caught COVID.

Missouri QSO Party

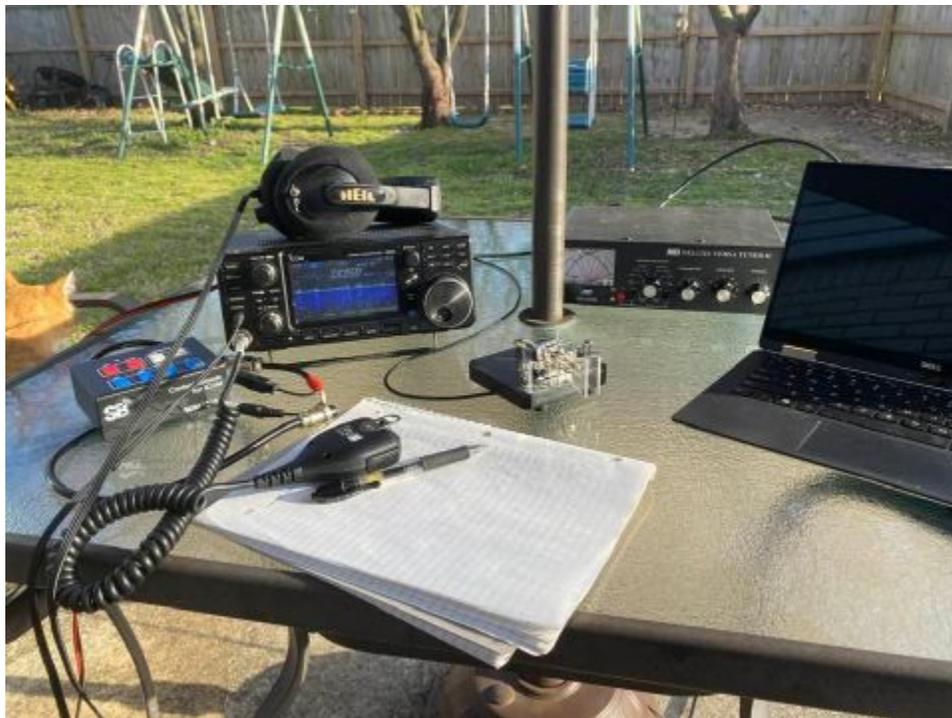
W0D – portable Bollinger

Here's a photo of me, WB0TUA, operating W0D in Bollinger County at the Castor River State Conservation Area. All the contacts I made today count as POTA too. I'll have a bigger write up tomorrow but wanted to get a few photos out while the contest was underway. 73 de Derek



N0W – Dunklin MO

A little cool and breezy to be on the patio in Dunklin county today but when 40M got better, I forgot all about the weather! N0W (W0PF)



K0I County Expedition 1020 CW 576 SSB CAS/HEN MO

LOTS of pc issues , unable to network til Sunday morn. Many freeze ups and restarts. Saturday morn we all know stunk ,the later part of day got better. Sunday was a lil better but limited 15m action and 10m no go. It was our first try at a multi-multi and we learned alot , by mistakes and underthought. We had the best time when things were working right , hihi.

Station:

Two IC7300 100w , LDG autotuners, 2 Laptops using n1mm+ ,
a 5band hygain vert with 8 radials 35` , ta33 driven element on a pushup mast at 25` , 80-
40 dipole in trees near 40` high, carolina window in more trees at about 40` also.
Thanks to all for the qso`s and repeats when asked.

73

Mark KI0I

Glenn K0YB

W0I County Expedition - LAW MO - - N0MII Op 252 CW
no Comments

NR0P Multi OP mobile 153 SSB (no comments)

N0LD/R 84 SSB qso

Nick, KB0YHT and Randy, N0LD, joined forces to operate in the MO QSO Party as a mobile entry. We activated 24 counties, we were unable to make contacts in McDonald and Dade counties due to the vagaries of propagation and a number of minor solar flares over the weekend. 20 and 40m were the only bands with any propagation for us. (FT-100 with KW-D710. HF Screwdriver was a Diamond SD330.)

OM2VL - fixed - DX - 95 CW 47 SSB 36 counties worked



OM2VL – Laci

KA6BIM- fixed - OR 84 CW 37 SSB 33 counties worked

Poor conditions on Saturday better towards end on Sunday. much lighter activity than last year.

With 3 QSO parties on at the same time 2 of them planned the same frequencies and the 3rd did not list any suggested frequencies. I am usually pretty positive with my comments, but I am sorry to say that is poor planning. The 3 organizers need to get together and coordinate things. At least they had the same exchange. Now we need to get N1MM to develop a multi QP module for this weekend similar to New England QP and 7th area QP

That aside, It was fun to run in to old friends and meet new ones. Thanks for the qso's.
Dave ka6bim

K4BAI - fixed - GA 63 CW 32 SSB 30 counties

Activity generally seemed down, and, in particular, the mobiles or rovers. Worked only

one of them and that one in only one or two counties. Worked K0I who must have been portable on a county line. Otherwise home stations. Don't know about N9JF worked in only one county. Band conditions during the day Saturday and on Sunday afternoon were worse than awful. Thanks for the MO stations who persevered and gave out a lot of QSOs. Please look for me and KU8E and W4AN/M next weekend in the GA QSO Party and in the FL QSO Party on the weekend of April 30/May 1. 73, John, K4BAI.

WN4AFP - fixed - SC 50 CW 14 SSB 20 counties

Band conditions were tough between SC and MO. There was a few hours this morning in which I couldn't work MO on any band! That's not a good experience. I tried to use the MOQP spotter page, but it was difficult to view using my computer. I'd recommend using the N3IW spotter page. I managed a decent score even with the rough conditions. 73s Dave WN4AFP

Parks on the Air – Misc

K7CAR Out of K-0676 NV, to a new spot at K-9265-K-4575. Mormon Mountains. Uploads are coming. Had 3 F-18s, rip thru about 100 ft. off the ground and cut the pass to the N. of me. That was cool to see. I got off a couple quick pics. 20-40-80 dipoles went up today. Been in the upper 80's-low 90's the past couple days, so going a little slow. I might get up my 10 yagi tomorrow and call it good. Short timing in the desert waiting on Amazon orders before I head farther N. to cooler temps. Lots a wildflowers/cactus getting ready to bloom after the rain 4 days ago. Hoping to reach another 10K, going to have to push it. Thanks to all the regulars that work me every day/night. Here's a few pics from my new location. Not too bad with a 1,000 ft. drop to the NE-SW. My West shot is blocked by a 4,000 ft. rock.....Sorry Roly Runciman might be tough to ZL? K7CAR K-9265 NV



Note de N4CD – he sets up BIG wire antennas and camps a few days at each location.

Mississippi QSO Party

Didn't note any mobiles out this year in MS.

W5YD Multi - Op 432 CW 516 SSB

I hosted W5YD at my station for a multi-op. Unfortunately because of upcoming exams some members were not able to operate. Colby KG5XR operated SSB and I did CW and WSJTX.

The contest started out pretty slow because of a solar flare, but conditions got better in the afternoon and evening...nice to have sunspots!

I'm not sure FT8/FT4 really works well in a state qso party. I mostly stayed on FT4 rather than FT8 to maximize rate. The RSGB FT4 event provided a lot of qsos.

73 Tor N4OGW

WQ5L - fixed 327 CW 680 SSB

Fantastic conditions after a slow start courtesy of a solar flare. Saw the 1K Q mark in range and got there just in time. Glad to work a lot of the LAQP and MOQP folks as well.

On the down side if there were any mobiles in either MS or LA I didn't find them. N0LD/R called in from six different MO counties during my long 20 SSB run, FB.

And, I'm glad this and SSB Sprint didn't overlap this year! 73 -- Ray WQ5L

KA6BIM - fixed - CA 16 CW 12 SSB 9 data 20 counties

Poor conditions, not many MS stations found. With 3 QSO parties on at the same time 2 of them planned the same frequencies and the 3rd did not list any suggested frequencies. I am usually pretty positive with my comments, but I am sorry to say that is poor planning. The 3 organizers need to get together and coordinate things. At least they had the same exchange. Now we need to get N1MM to develop a multi QP module for this weekend similar to New England QP and 7th area QP
Thanks for the qso's. Dave ka6bim

Louisiana QSO Party

Didn't note any mobiles out this year in LA. Fixed stations – and lots of digital activity.

KZ5D - fixed - LA 366 CW 117 digital

This is always a fun, low key contest. Thanks to all for the QSOs. My only wish was that conditions would have been better. With a K of 5 at most of the time I was operating, I had to ask for lots of repeats.

NO5W 125 CW 54 digital

Spent most of the day helping new contesting recruits at the Jefferson ARC. Thanks for the Qs.

73/Chuck/NO5W

KA6BIM - fixed - OR 12 CW 12 SSB 12 digital 9 parishes worked

Poor conditions, not many parishes found on the air. No rovers heard. Did get 2 new counties though. Hope for better next year. Thanks for the qso's
Dave ka6bim

WN4AFP - fixed - SC 15 CW 13 SSB 14 digital 11 parishes

Gotta love some of these parrish names... especially YALO! Decent activity in the midst of poor bands conditions. Usually good prop from SC to LA on 3 bands. It was good to work an old friend, W4LVH. I enjoyed this QP, especially those unique sounding phone ops.

AI5P Trip Report

On March 18, 2022, the Amache Relocation Site, also known as the Granada Relocation Center, was given National Historic Site (NHS) status by an executive order signed by President Biden. The Parks on the Air Program designation of K-9683 was assigned after its NHS designation.



This site was one of ten incarceration sites established by the War Relocation Authority during World War II to unjustly incarcerate Japanese-Americans who were forcibly removed from their communities on the West Coast under the provisions of Executive Order 9066 signed by President Roosevelt on February 19, 1942.

During its operation from August 27, 1942, until October 15, 1945, over 10,000 people of Japanese ancestry, most of them American citizens, passed through Amache. At its peak population in 1943, it housed 7,310 people, making it the tenth largest city in Colorado at the time.



Watch Tower

Although the original buildings associated with the incarceration site were removed or demolished after closure, Amache represents one of the most intact examples of a World War II incarceration site. The original building foundations and the historic road network are still visible on the landscape today. The site also includes a historic cemetery, a monument and several reconstructed structures from the camp-era.

I traveled to the site on March 29, 2022, and activated K-9683. A total of 88 contacts were made - 67 on SSB and 21 on CW.



Barracks – Reconstructed

Driving around the site, you can visit a number of markers explaining the history of Amache. There are two replica barracks as well as a Military Police watch tower. To me the most interesting monument was the "Honor Roll" of internees who served in the Armed Forces during the war. There are 31 Killed in Action (KIA) annotations - including that of Kiyoshi Muranaga, a member of the famed 442d Regimental Combat Team, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions near Suvereto, Italy, on June 26, 1944.

Although in a remote part of Prowers County in Southeast Colorado, it has easy access and I encourage you to visit this little-known part of American History.

I traveled to the site on March 29, 2022, and activated K-9683. A total of 88 contacts were made - 67 on SSB and 21 on CW.

Rick, AI5P

Nebraska QSO Party

Four QSO Parties the same weekend! (plus TX state parks on the air)

Looks like top scorers worked 27 counties. Most folks a whole lot less. Conditions not that great with high K index of 3 and A over 20 at times. Solar flares/CMEs.

N0AC mobile 977 CW qso

Thanks to:

1. My wife for driving. The operation wouldn't happen without her.
2. All those that got on the air to work the Nebraska QSO Party.
3. The sponsors for supporting the QP

Day 1 was full of problems. At the beginning county both of my screwdriver antennas had very high SWR. Resetting all the coax connectors brought them alive. After a 15 minute late start we are off the races but not with the usual pile ups. Contacts came at a

slow pace and only had 45 in the log the first hour. I kept losing com port rig control getting an error that the comport was in use by another program. Then the Dell laptop charging dropped out. To top this all off I got the windows "Blue screen of death" several times shutting the whole operation down. It appeared RF was getting into the computer and charger. About 1800z things started to pick up and the pileups were as expected. Finally at 2015z, 315pm local, after another windows reboot I lost N1MM+ logger. We were done for the day and headed back to our motel.

Hoping for the best I replaced what appeared to be a bad 90 degree adaptor, changed out the rig USB cable and was able to rebuild N1MM+. Luckily my log was intact and Day 1 QSOs were okay. We were on for Day 2.

A much better start to Day 2 but still poor propagation which improved as the day progressed. I never lost rig control today but the PC charging is still an issue. It will probably need some RF protection. I had planned a short day so we could be home by dinner and we crossed the Missouri River at 1851z, 151pm local.

The stats:

Most QSO greater than 15:

KA6BIM, 25
W8CAG, 23
N8II, 21
W3LL, 19
W7GF, 19
K9RS, 17
AC7GG, 16

DX:

DL3GA
DL9USA
G3XPO
HA8IB
HB9BZA
LA8OM
LY5W
M4T
OM2VL

SM5SA
SP6JOE

Worked all states except: ND, NM, HI, AK, WY
Worked VEs: AB, BC, NB, ON, QC

Missed counties due to PC issues: MERR, PLAT, COLF, DODG, DGLS but was able to get about 10 minutes in Douglas on the way out of Nebraska. Lost 5 hours of prime operating time due to technical issues.

Thanks for all your QSOs, Bill N0AC

NR0P mobile 315 SSB qso

Thanks to everyone that worked our Nebraska mobile operation. My wife N0NLC, the navigator, and I are just getting started doing HF mobile and the State QSO Parties are great experience.

73,
NR0P and N0NLC

N2CU - fixed - NJ - 15 CW 6 SSB 14 counties

Had fun juggling four QSO parties!

K3/100, hamsticks on RAV4 roof, N1MM+

73, Tom N2CU/m

KV0I - fixed - NE - 437 CW 782 SSB

ICOM 7610, SB-220 Linear Amplifier, Modified Hustler 4BTV Vertical with 36 Radials

New Mexico QSO Party

Top scorers worked 26 mults in NM

KK6MC Mobile 562 CW qso

Score includes the bonus county activation points; 11 counties at 5,000 per county. Yes, that is more than a third of my score.

This was a good contest with lots of activity. I have been working this contest since its modern reincarnation and remember the days of worrying whether or not I could eek out the 15 required QSOs per county to get the bonus points. Those days are over, and while not at the OK QSO Party level of activity, there was nearly always someone to work, and QSOs were put in the log at a steady rate.

NM Counties are large, so one has to balance operating time with travel time. I spent more time traveling than I did operating. Virginia often comes with me and drives, but she had a prior commitment. When she drives that helps immensely, but puts me in a different category.

It was very windy, but warm; typical of NM this time of year. I had no equipment problems. Gas was generally lower than it has been, but still high. Most of the spots I operated from had low noise, which is a joy, but the TOR/GUA county line had high, S3, noise on 40M. They are building a new power substation on the SMI/SFE county line, which may make that bad in the future. But there were several sites I could operate from that had no power lines visible and it is very nice to only experience natural noise sources on HF.

I ran 100W to my home-brew QSO Party Special mobile antenna, 11 feet in length, which puts the top a little over 12 ft from the pavement, all on/in a Subaru Outback. It seems to get out well.

Thanks to the stations who followed me around from county to county, especially: N6MU, K9RS, W7GF, WB9HFK, and W1AJT.

K5TQ mobile 623 CW qso

Activity and conditions weren't as good as hoped. Despite that, we made a few more Qs than last year. But mults were way down, probably because we spent a lot less time on 40 meters and missed almost all of the NM counties.

We activated 12 counties driving around in the NE quadrant of New Mexico, almost never stopping on a county line (which meant that the driver almost never got to operate). Keep moving, there's a lot of space to cover.

Station: K2/100 and TS590sg. Hamsticks.

-Gary (K5TQ) and Bruce (AA5B)

K9DX/5 remote - in Dona Ana County 147 CW qso

Station W7DXX op remote from Illinois
County dona ana

N6MU - fixed - CA - 45 CW 36 SSB 26 mults

no comments

Georgia QSO Party

Mobiles were out and running. Folks were portable in GA parks! Lots of activity. Bands did not cooperate as well as could be with high K, A index from CME. there are 158 counties in GA. At least one worked 118 counties

W4AN Rover 1504 CW qso

As usual, Jeff, KU8E, did a great job of planning our GQP route and temporarily installing a HF rig and antennas in my 2019 Toyota Avalon. We had Hustler mobile antennas for 80, 40, 20 and 15. Conditions did not justify stopping to try 15M. During the day, we could switch from 40 to 20 and back with just one switching motion and a computer entry. At night we intended to have the same

deal on 40 and 80. We first went to 80M and the band seemed weak, but the SWR was great. We made only 4 QSOs and couldn't get a loud GA fixed station to hear us. The next time we tried 80, I worked W4NZ, but noticed that the SWR seemed to be infinite. Nothing we did would correct that, so that ended our night on 80M. Jeff thinks he has diagnosed the problem, but we won't be able to use 80M in the next outing for the Florida QSO Party, which does not include that band.

Other problems were minor and we lost only a few minutes and had to reboot the laptop a few times. Seems prudent to replace the battery, which is not holding a charge and only charges up to about 25%. After about 3 hours of operating on Sunday, Jeff dropped me at the Atlanta air port for a business trip. The rest of the afternoon, he went from county to county operating at a fixed location in each. The time shown above does not include deduction for any off-times less than 30 minutes, but the actual operating time is probably more like 16 1/2 hours. Thanks for all QSOs. I think we missed HI, AK, RI, UT, NV, SD and ND. We worked VE1, 2, 3, 7, and 9. Several DX QSOs were made in Europe Here is my memory of those DX stations we worked that I can remember in order of the most QSOs first: OM2VL, DL3DXX, DL3GA, SP5SA, LA8OI, DK2OY, NP2X.

Thanks for all QSOs and hope to work you all in the Florida QSO Party again as W4AN. The dates are April 30 and May 1. 73, John, K4BAI.

AD4XT portable 756 CW QSO

Portable operations in Upson, Talbot, Taylor and Marion county.

N4N Rover 1864 CW 172 SSB

Another GQP in the books for the N4N GQP Rover team. We thank all of you who gave us a Q (and possibly a mult)!! We really appreciate those of you that contacted us in/on more than one county, band and/or mode. Hopefully we can get more Q's on 15m next year.

The buggy, an '02 Yukon with 277k miles on it, carried us through 31 counties on Saturday and 27 on Sunday. Over 1000 miles driven. For the GQP weekend, the Yukon is transformed into a Multi 2 contest station, utilizing a pair of Flex 6000 series radios, Dunestar bandpass filters and a pair of Hi-Q mobile antennas (only 5 feet apart) plus a baby Tarheel. Hopefully some of you followed our tracks via N4N-5 on aprs.

Friday evening before the event, we had a catastrophic failure in one of the Hi-Q antennas. Fortunately, we were able to borrow one from an NFARL member to get back to expected antenna compliment. Saturday morning we awoke to finding the whip on the other Hi-Q antenna had failed. An on hand spare was quickly installed, and off we went for our starting point.

Both of GPS's loaded with the SAT & SUN routes on them decided that they thought the routes generated by Google maps should be "optimized", thinking that was "helpful". It's a wonder that both didn't get tossed out the window and left in a ditch. They did still have the county boundary map on them, so they weren't completely useless, but darn close to it. The navigation was now handled by an iPhone and iPad. The route on one and county boundaries on the other. That's just the way it was going to be as the computer that might be able to change it was busy making Q's. Do we need a 3rd computer next year?? After a few pinch/zoom sequences, the iOS devices had to have their respective maps re-enabled. It seems that Apple doesn't care for Google maps, either, ha. And we had a GA state map marked with the route. The MacGyver approach got us through the weekend.

- 2 Flex radios (6500 & 6300)
- 2 Dunestar D600 filters
- 2 Hi-Q 5-80 HF antennas
- 1 Baby Tarheel HF antenna
- 2 Flex Knobs
- 2 RadioSport headsets
- 2 Astron power supplies
- 2 UPS battery backup units
- 2 Begali paddles
- 2 Dell laptops
- 3 Garmin GPS's
- 2 iPads
- 6 cellphones
- 2 hotspots
- 4 Adult males
- 4 Overnight bags for said males
- 1 bag of tools
- 1 12v jump box (one never knows)
- 1 Honda genny
- 1 Georgia state map, paper, with route and counties highlighted

1 jar of QSO Fuel (container of Costco animal crackers)

2022 N4N GQP Rover Team
K5JR N5ZZ WK4U KX4MZ
See ya next year!!

K4TCG Rover 1195 CW 142 SSB qso (Ops AC6ZM, KV4XY)

First full time effort in a state QSO party as a Rover M/S. The first day started out slow but quickly picked up. 20 meters was inconsistent most of the time but we did manage to work some mults on SSB. 20 meters was very long so we worked everyone on the west coast that could be heard. 40 meters turned out to be the work horse band. The last 2.5 hours was truly a Hornets nest with the pileups.

Thanks to Jim AD4EB for his mentoring on route planning and system configuration, and Ted W4NZ for his advice on optimizing antenna performance. All the bonding and testing paid off in the end. A big thank you to my partner in crime Sam KV4XY for getting us around the state without an incident. Hats off to all the GAQP organizers and the folks that chased us. Special thanks to Laci OM2VL as we decided to dedicate this Rover run to his dad OM3TCG (sk).

Catch you next year, 73, AC6ZM

KY4ID portable 418 CW

Today was quite the adventure! We arrived at our shelter 2 hours early to setup. Got everything hooked up and went to raise the antenna. Where we planned to put it wouldn't work. No big deal, just put it on the other side of the shelter. That would have been fine if it didn't require taking the whole station back down to reorient it to the new antenna location. We got everything setup a second time, then decided we didn't like that location at all. So everything went back in the car and we went to a different shelter. The new location was worth it. It was on a small peninsula in the Savannah River. Very scenic... Got everything setup and ready to go about 15 mins before the action started.

It was very cold starting out and the fingers went numb for 1-2 hours. That, plus a bad connection in my paddle cable, added to the fun.

Then right in the middle of a pileup, the game warden paid a visit to my son who was fishing. My son had the foresight to buy a license, but it was an SC license and we were on the GA side. Luckily (and unbeknownst to me) the two states have a reciprocity agreement for the Savannah River. Crisis averted.

I stopped at LINC (Elijah Clark State Park) around 1:50p, then we executed a fire drill/mad dash to COLU and Mistletoe State Park. The spot there was magnificent.

Operated a total of about 8.5 hours. Conditions were better than I expected them to be this morning, and the action was strong all day. Thanks for everyone who turned out and thanks for all of the Qs. This was my first experience running outside of the SST or ARRL CW, so thank you all for your patience as well.

I built my portable antenna to allow for operation on 160m, and I was able to squeeze in 1 QSO there which was one of the highlights of the day.

Thanks again!

Michael Burton
KY4ID

KT4Q portable 655 SSB qso

Operated Mixed mode with an additional 28 CW contacts but am submitting my score as Portable SSB only.

Very interesting QSO Party. I operated as a Portable with ambitions for working from 5 different Counties. Started out setting up on the Towns/White County line. Great spot for the GaQP and for working POTA at the same time. Figured doing both at same time would lend to increased action and stronger pileups which it did. First problem was the generator I brought with me, which I tested before I left the house, would not start. A few sputters but would not stay running. I pulled until the pull rope busted. Retied it with now a shorter rope. Pulled and pulled and broke again. I have an electric start that the gel battery quit working years ago. Ran a piece of coax from truck battery to positive terminal and another coax from negative terminal to ground nut in truck bed. Now I had electric start, but it cranked and cranked, sputtered and would die. After an hour of working on it, I pulled the throttle butterfly full and cranked and finally it ran but with full choke. After an hour or so the generator started to run rough and I took off

choke and it ran great. I guess bad gas or clogged carb.

Finally started to make calls at 3:30. Ran until almost 8:00 pm when it started to get dark and I wanted to break down while I had some light. Split the 4 1/2 hours almost in half with Towns County and White County identifiers. Another let down was what I thought was a true POTA 4-fer (4 parks identifiers at the same time), I later determined that I was just outside two of them by just a few hundred feet. I could have had a 3-fer but that would have taken me off the County line. Setting up twice and with generator issues that would have been more challenged with setting up separately in both counties. Finally the delay with generator problems cancelled out my plans to go to Habersham and Stephens to activate those Counties.

Day two was set up at our cabin in Rabun County. Threw up a G5RV in a tree and operated most of Sunday.

A majority of my contacts were on 40M. Worked 20M both days to get Western Mults, but my activity would more than doubled on 40M so that is where I put most my attention. I went to 10m, 15m and 80m several times but there was no SSB activity so I moved back to where I was getting activity. I assume the solar storm may of had something to do with it as I expected 20M to be very strong but it really wasn't.

I look forward to next year where I WILL be better prepared and will look to activate Stephens County which I don't think was activated at all this year.
Thanks to all that worked me and followed my from County to County.

Rig: Yaesu FTdx5000 (150w)
Ants: Cushcraft R7 vertical up 8' (Saturday)
G5RV up 40' (Sunday)
S/W: WriteLog v12.63

KC8YRK - rover 318 SSB

Saturday Counties: Forsyth and Dawson
Sunday Counties: Banks and Hall

DL3DXX - fixed - DL 270 CW qso

Well, this was my 16th entry in GQP and so far I always won the DX CW category.

Thank you so much for all the plaques! I got all, with the exception of 2008.
Thank you also for having a DX CW plaque category because there is no chance to win against Laci OM2VL who fortunately always starts Mixed.
Propagation has been poor with high solar disturbances. Several C flares hit the earth over the weekend. It did not influence Georgia propagation too much, but the other QSO parties in New Mexico, North Dakota and Nebraska were affected a lot.
I simply did not hear much from NM, and NE and only made 2 QSOs with ND.
The good thing of it was that I was able to concentrate on working Georgia.
Last year, 15m did not work - not a single contact. This year, 15m provided better signals as 20m. Sorry that not all Georgia stations found it out.
Special thank goes to K4TCG for several quick QSYs to 15m.
It was amazing to follow the routes of K4TCG, N4N, W4AN and AA4TI through their Georgia counties. I missed a few counties when it was presented mostly in phone where I do not operate. For over 40 years I am a CW man and will not change :-)
I took part in GQPs when 20m stayed open all night long. Not this year. 20m closed around 22z but the time gap between 20m and 40m was short, however in the early 40m hours it was hard to break through the US pileup.
Fortunately, 40m stayed open all Saturday night long up to sunrise what is about the end of QSO party part 1.
80m signals were weaker compared to other years, so the number of mobiles worked has decreased. 40 and 80m are still my problem bands without directional tx antennas.
On Sunday I watched 10m a lot hoping for an opening but only heard K4EA and K4PI deep in the noise not loud enough for a QSO. 160m I never tried.
Thank you for an enjoyable QSO party! Thanks to all Georgia stations, especially the mobiles who made long trips, and to the organizers for offering such a good activity every year.
I worked two Georgia stations up in the bands who did not participate in Georgia party, but I was able to convince them for the GQP to give me the county, so we may have a few GA stations more next year :-)

CUAGN in 2023

K9CT - fixed - IL 239 CW - 100 counties worked

Thanks to N4N, W4AN and K4TCG for all the counties!

WC4Y - portable in GA 300 SSB qso

DeKalb on Saturday - Rockdale on Sunday

North Dakota QSO Party

Not a good one this year. Several fixed stations were on.

ND - Top scorer reported 6 counties worked and 12 QSOs. Maybe same stations n cw/SSB or other bands. Most had just 1 or 2 QSOs reported.

N6AR - fixed - FL 5 CW 7 SSB 6 counties

Mobile Activity in April

This has been the month of high activity with many on long trips to and from the MI Mini. Before that, others were running parts of states working on getting to all 3077 counties. Ed, K8ZZ, has about 60 to go as of the Mini and Ron KB6UF has about 350. W4SIG closing in. Many county hunters were on the air on the way to the Mini including W0GXQ, N4CD, K8ZZ, AB7NK/K7SEN, NU0Q, KB6UF, WB8III/W8OP,

At the beginning of the month:

K8ZZ was on the road in IA, MO, MN,

N6PDB was mobile on digital modes in AZ, UT, ID, OR. WA6OCV on occasionally, too.

N5MLP was in east TX putting them out.

WB8III was active in WV putting them out. Zipping all over.

K1YAG active in west TX, CO. (needs to put the comma between county and state for spots to go through correct)

N8MD was in MN.

AB7NK/K7SEN hit the road to the MINI – NM, OK, KS, NE, IA, MN

WS9V noted in IL, MO

K0FG noted in AZ, NM, OK,

N4CD hit the road up through OK, KS, NE, IA, IL, IN, MI

K5GE first spotted in IA then up to SD on the way to MI. Over to IN and into MI

K8ZZ joined up with W0GXQ in ND and they put them out. Usually W0GXQ on 40/20m CW and K8ZZ on 30m cw. Then into SD

N4TY spotted running counties in AR

Then it snowed up north – and was chilly.....couple inches of snow – more at the very top of the northern states. 2 inches near Chicago but not sticking on roads.

W4SIG hit the road – first spotted in IL, WI over into the upper part of MI and to the Mini.

NF0N hit the road – spotted in IA, IL, WI on the way to MI

N8OYY left home in WV – ran through IN, into MI for counties

After the Mini, W4SIG headed to OH and KY then back to TN.

AB7NK/K7SEN went through IL, MO into KS on the way home to AZ.

K5GE was over in NY.

K8ZZ was over in NY, PA and was still going.

W0GXQ went back through MN

N4CD made a beeline home – ran a few counties along the way

end date 4/28

Don't you just hate it when.....

Ed, K8ZZ, was zipping along on an errand at the mini picking up supplies at the Sam's Club for the hospitality suite. On the way back, a car pulled out right in front of him and Ed had to brake hard, move to the right, and accidentally hit a curb. The shock from braking and hitting the curb caused the screwdriver antenna to break clean off at the base. Not repairable on the road. No antenna. Out of the radio business. Hmmm...

Luckily, Neil, K7SEN had a spare mag mount and a hamstick or two vertical so Ed could get back on the road and continue his trip to get to all 3077 US counties. Serendipity.

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Ron, KB6UF, suffered a screwdriver controller family. Zipped home and vowed to run the rest of the counties planned later.

On the Road with N4CD I

The MI Mini, probably the last in Traverse City, MI, was about to happen. Quite a few folks were expected to show up. As usual, it looked like typical 'winter' type weather. Well, 'winter' for us southerners. Spring for the northern types, with temps about 40F for a high, 30s at night. So I packed by bags with warm clothes, long pants, flannel shirts, ski jacket, gloves, hat, and left the shorts and tee-shirt behind. It already had been in the 80s in TX. Who knows, it might even snow up that way – it's been known to happen. It's 1,196 miles according to Mapquest to get to Traverse City, MI. I'd take six days to get there the county hunter/park way with over 1,500 miles.

So.....

April 14 Thursday- headed north up I-35 from my house leaving early in the morning

to beat rush hour traffic here in the Dallas-Ft Worth area. On the road at 6:30am. Temp 55F.

Cherokee Strip Museum – k-8641 Noble County OK



from the web: “Located on five acres of land about an hour north of Oklahoma City, the Cherokee Strip Museum provides an opportunity to explore the remarkable events and people who made up the history of the Cherokee Outlet. “

The museum complex sits on about five acres and includes four buildings: the museum, a blacksmith shop, a large implement building, and an original one-room schoolhouse. The exhibits are designed to portray life from the opening of the Cherokee Strip in 1893 to the 1930s. The museum features exhibits, a gallery featuring works by local and regional artists, a large gift shop, and a hands-on farmyard exhibit for children.”

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Easy to run. Nice parking lot. Had a good run of park chasers there.

Next up is Eldorado State Wildlife Area KFF-5427 and K-7925

from the web: “El Dorado Reservoir, located northeast of the city of El Dorado, features 8,000 surface acres of water, an average depth of 19 feet and nearly 98 miles of shoreline. Completed in 1981, El Dorado Reservoir was constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for flood control, water supply, and recreational purposes.

The USACE has since granted the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) the role of managing the area’s fisheries and wildlife resources.

El Dorado Wildlife Area is comprised of approximately 4,000 acres of public hunting land around El Dorado Reservoir. Comprised of several diverse habitats, including native prairie, annual grasses and forbs, agricultural crops, and woodlands, El Dorado Wildlife Area is home to many different species. Prominent populations include quail, dove, rabbit, squirrel, turkey, deer and waterfowl. The wildlife area is also an occasional host to prairie chickens and pheasants.”

Had a short run. Bands were not cooperating. A CME headed earthward spiked the A and K numbers. 17, 15 and 10m good – but skip 3000 plus miles and not many to talk to there!

There's also an El Dorado State Park but I'd run that so I skipped it. Gotta make tracks today.

Red Rocks State Historic Site – K-9183 in Lyon County KS

from the web: “The Red Rocks State Historic Site preserves the William Allen White House, also known as Red Rocks, which was the home of Progressive journalist William Allen White from 1899 until his death in 1944. The house was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1976. The property, designated a state historic site in 2001, is operated by the Kansas Historical Society.

The landscaped property includes the house of William Allen White, the house of his mother Mary, and a small visitors center. The main house is a 2+1/2-story structure, its first floor finished in red sandstone, and the upper levels framed in wood with a Tudor Revival stucco-and-half-timbered appearance. The Mother's House is a 2+1/2-story brick and limestone structure, with Classical Revival styling on what is basically an American Foursquare plan.

Construction of the main house was begun in 1887 by Judge Almerin Gillette, but was not completed due to financial difficulties. The stone for the exterior was sourced from the Garden of the Gods area in Colorado. William Allen White and his wife Sallie purchased the unfinished shell in 1899 and finished the interior.

William Allen White became a prominent national figure due to his writing for the Emporia Gazette (which he owned and edited), and for his role in organizing the progressive elements of the Republican Party in the first three decades of the 20th century. He helped organize the Bull Moose Party candidacy of Theodore Roosevelt in 1912, and was an influential voice representing small-town America.”

Had a decent run later in the day – mostly 40 m cw.

Afterwards headed in to the Super 8 in Emporia KS. Dinner at the Chinese Wok (buffet) nearby. I put on a440 miles on the way to the Mini the first day. Three park.

Day 2 – Friday April 15, 2022

Zipped up to the Topeka area fast using the KS Tollroad again.

Kaw River State Park in Shawnee County , KS - K/KFF-2341

This is the only free state park in KS!

From the web: “Forested trails and access to the Kansas (Kaw) River sets Kaw River State Park apart from other state parks. Hiking and mountain-biking trails wind through an extensive oak-hickory forest on steep slopes with good views. The park property presently consists of 76 acres of land on the south bank of the Kansas River in west Topeka, and it is adjacent to MacLennan Park and Cedar Crest (the Kansas Governor’s residence) to the east.

Trail usage includes walking, hiking, running, and mountain-biking. There is a wide range of trail types of various skill levels, and are designed and constructed for erosion protection, sustainability, and access.

The Kansas River is accessible from a boat ramp and parking area. This river access is available for canoes, kayaks, and other small craft. Some of the more remote areas of the park provide interesting natural features and views. Deer, turkey, and numerous other wildlife species are common in the surrounding forest. Eagles and various species of

waterfowl are common visitors on the river through winter.”

Pulled in early at 1300z and had a short run – mostly 40M CW and a few on 20M. Conditions very poor on the radio plus early in the day. Lucky to get 18 QSO.

Headed north

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Nebo State Fishing Lake, in Jackson County KS K-7394

“The lake impounds approximately 40 acres and is characterized by gradual sloping shoreline, with a shallow west end. There are 25 acres of land adjoining the lake, all are open to hunting including the lake. The very small wildlife area includes the riparian zone around the lake and small patch of native grass.

Primitive camping is allowed at the lake but vehicle access is limited. A restroom is available on site. No water is provided at this area.

All 75 acres of the area are open to hunting. The land provides opportunities for upland game , rabbits and squirrels. The lake provides good opportunities for waterfowl hunting. Primitive camping is allowed at the lake but vehicle access is limited. Fishing piers, fish feeder, boat ramp and a restroom are available on site. No water is provided at this area.

Channel cat are the most popular fish, but good numbers of largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill sunfish can be found. Brushpiles have been placed in the lake for fish habitat. All but a few of these brushpiles are accessible to shoreline anglers. Special creel limits and length limits are in place to ensure quality fishing. “

34 Qs in the log from here.

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Now into Nebraska for parks there.

Verdon Lake State Recreation Area in Richardson County NE K-5678



“Verdon State Recreation Area offers a 45-acre lake and 30 acres of land. The area offers primitive camping and picnicking, though the highlight is angling opportunities in the spring-fed lake.”

19 QSOs in the log. Mostly county hunters.

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Arbor Lodge in Otoe NE K/KFF-2610



“Arbor Lodge State Historical Park is the original home of the Morton family. It was here in 1872 that the idea for the first Arbor Day began — as a way to encourage people everywhere to plant trees so desperately needed. On the first Arbor Day, nearly 1 million trees were planted in Nebraska.

The highlight of this 72-acre park is the historic mansion, with its 52 rooms and countless historic artifacts belonging to the Morton Family. The park also includes an arboretum, Italian terraced garden, log cabin, carriage house, walking trails, more than 200 varieties of lilacs, and a charming whispering bench. The mansion is open for tours and special events under the direction of the Arbor Day Foundation.”

24 QSOs in the log. Would have liked to get 44 for WWFF but not to be. Bands pretty miserable.

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Nearby is Riverview Marina SRA K-9364 in the same county, NE



“Riverview Marina State Recreation Area is a 47-acre site adjacent to the Missouri River that offers electrical and primitive campsites with a shower house. The area offers camping, fishing and picnicking.”

21 QSOs in the log. Couldn't raise anyone on 30M.

Now east into Iowa for **Waubensee State Park KFF/K-2328 in Bulter County IA**



from the web: “As a site on the Lewis and Clark Historic Trail, Waubonsie State Park in southwest Iowa is known for its exceptional vistas of Iowa’s unique Loess Hills and the Nebraska plains. Its extensive trail system offers something for the avid mountain biker, equestrians looking for a relaxing ride, or anyone eager to hike amongst the tranquil surroundings of the park’s ridgetop prairies and shaded woodland valleys. With nearly 2,000 acres of recreational opportunity and quiet beauty, Waubonsie State Park is an Iowa gem waiting to be explored. “

“It is named for Chief Wabaunsee of Potawatomi tribe.

Waubonsie State Park is located in the unique Loess Hills, a landform found only along the Missouri River in Iowa and Missouri. As glaciers melted 14,000 to 28,000 years ago, the Missouri River became a major channel for huge volumes of water and sediment during the summer. In winter, the volume of the meltwater was reduced, leaving the deposited sediments exposed to the wind. These sediments of silt, clay and very fine sand particles called "loess," were then carried by strong westerly winds and deposited when these winds encountered the steep slopes of the east valley wall.

There are several distinctive features of loess hills topography. Because of the fine texture of the soil, deep, steep-sided and very narrow ridge tops have been eroded in the

hills. Small, step-like terraces called "cat steps" resulting from repeated slipping of the soil can be seen on many west-facing slopes. Since the soil drains rapidly, nearly vertical cuts can be made in the soil without erosion. The unique topography of the park resembles the "badlands" of the west and harbors plants like the yucca which are normally found in more arid climates.”

This is also a two-fer with the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Radio conditions were HORRIBLE. Got 12 QSOs here. CME clobbered Earth with high K index spiking K=5. Ugggh!

IF you're going to run WMAs like this, be sure to have a map of the area, spots to park in the WMA. Use the state site map – which is good but doesn't tell you how to get there – only the very local area. You need to do a Google Maps search to find out how to get there from where you start. Often the directions on the state web site are “Located 3 miles north of XYZ town” True, but there are little streets/roads you got to use to get there most of the time and is sort of north, but not true north of the town. Probably not in your GPS (like most state parks). Nor Google maps will get you there the majority of times. Sometimes. Sometimes not. You might not have web connectivity, either!

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Forney Lake K-9307 Fremont County IA

from the web: “Sitting 30 miles south of Council Bluffs is a been-here-forever, old school kind of place that has been attracting duck hunters from across southwest Iowa for more than 100 years. Forney Lake Wildlife Area, acquired by the State of Iowa from the Forney family in 1943, has become a 1,317-acre public land mix of natural wetlands and Loess Hills bluffs, bisected by Bluff Road, in northwest Fremont County.

On this early June morning at the gravel boat ramp on the south side of the wetland, the calm water surface comes alive from the entry splash of nervous bullfrogs. Looking to the northwest, a lone pelican is cruising through the middle of the marsh. The calls of sora rails hidden in the emergent vegetation can be heard.

Forney Lake’s 570-acre marsh is home to mink, muskrats, raccoons, beaver, yellow headed blackbirds, Wilson’s phalarope, American avocets, a variety of ducks and geese and more. It frequently hosts 50,000 plus snow geese on their trip north in the spring. It’s visited by groups of white-faced ibis. A pair of bald eagles have established a nest

overlooking Little Forney.

The east side of the area is a rugged mix of prairie and timber encompassing the west edge of the Loess Hills and adjoins Fremont County's 90-acre Forney Lake tract that supports populations of six-lined race runners, northern prairie skinks, graham's crayfish snake, plains spadefoot toad, bobcats, deer and a few turkeys. Regal fritillary and wild indigo duskywing butterflies are here too."

Barely squeaked by at 12 QSOs even though in a new county. Rotten conditions.

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Saint Mary WMA K-9309 Mills County IA

"The St. Mary's Island site is located along the left descending bank of the Missouri River and places about 2.9 miles of Missouri River frontage into public ownership.

This site lies 1.6 miles from the southeast end of the runway at Offutt Air Force Base, which in turn, limits the amount of waterfowl management that can be implemented at this site due to the risk associated with attracting waterfowl to the flight path of the air base.

General management plans will focus on terrestrial measures that will include regeneration of bottomland forest to provide woodland habitat and restore a habitat corridor along the river, and wildlife food plots to increase wildlife nutrition and attract wildlife for viewing."

16 QSOs here. Getting late and I'm getting tired.

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Headed into the AmericInn in Council Bluffs, IA. Dinner at the Village Creek Inn nearby. Long day and tired out! Nice motel chain and part of Wyndham organization along with Super 8s, Days Inn, Baymont, etc.

Gas is near \$4 everywhere. It's taking \$50 a day in gas.

Saturday April 16 2022

30F in the morning. Cold! It's a weekend so more park chasers on the air!

Lake Manawa State Park K/KFF-2300 Pottawatomie County IA

Up early in the morning! Just a bit after sunrise at the park.



Lake Manawa is one of western Iowa's premier spots for boating, hiking or just relaxing outdoors. More than 1,500 acres surround the lake. It continues to be a major outdoor recreation center for thousands of visitors. "Manawa" is a Native American term meaning peace and comfort, making it the perfect spot to read a book, have a picnic or enjoy the outdoors during your visit.

The park's 1,529 acres encompass a beautiful 660-acre natural lake. Lake Manawa was formed during a flood in 1881 when a portion of the river channel was cut off by the meandering of the great Missouri River.

Good catches of crappies, bluegills and catfish may be had throughout the year. Excellent populations of good size bass and walleye can be expected.

Gifford State Forest K-4657 Pottawattomie County IA



The Gifford State Forest is a 40-acre timber located in Section 21 of Lewis Township in Pottawattamie County. Since the area is within the Council Bluffs city limits, it is closed to hunting.

The area was donated to the state by Dr. Gifford in 1944 as a blue heron rookery. Later the property was transferred to the Forestry Bureau after biologists determined that, because of changes in surrounding land use, herons no longer used the area.

Cottonwood is the primary tree species found in the area. American Elm, Green Ash, Silver Maple, Boxelder, Mulberry, European Black Alder and Honey Locust also grow there. The area is an excellent wildlife refuge because it is the only forested area in the immediate vicinity.

Used the portable setup here as there is no road access into it. Only 20cw. 10 QSO.
Cold! Over to NE where I could run 4 parks in the Omaha area easily.

Heron Haven K/KFF-4010 Douglas County NE



Heron Haven is a spring-fed wetland sanctuary. The sanctuary features one of the last oxbow wetlands of the Big Papillion Creek, within Omaha's city limits.

Heron Haven is an important educational and research asset to the Omaha community. Biology and ecology students from local schools and universities use the wetland to conduct ecological studies and surveys of native plants and aquatic animals.

Heron Haven also has a spacious Education Center where lectures and short courses on conservation, birding, photography, and natural history are offered. The Education Center also houses a small nature museum and a reference library containing books, periodicals, and videos.

Standing Bear Lake State Park K-5657 Douglas County NE



Standing Bear Lake, NE, located in northwest Omaha, is named for the Ponca leader Chief Standing Bear. The day use only facility offers picnicking, no-wake boating, hiking and bicycling trails, nature study opportunities and fishing. The lake has a surface area of 135 acres and is surrounded by 396 acres of parkland.

Standing Bear Lake park opened in 1977, and includes fishing and boating, trails, and picnic areas. Also known as Dam Site 16, the lake was originally built as a dam for flood control on Papillion Creek in the Lower Papio Valley. Recently the Nebraska State Game and Parks Commission added trout fishing to the lake.

The park is named after Chief Standing Bear, who with his people, was told to leave his homeland along the Niobrara River in northeast Nebraska for Indian Territory in Oklahoma. After finding no supplies in Oklahoma and many of his people dying, including his own son, Standing Bear led 30 members of the Ponca Tribe back to Nebraska. He had to fight for the right to be recognized as a human being and his basic humanity, saying, "I am a man. The same God made us both.

Flanagan Lake K-5656 in Douglas County NE

Flanagan Lake, Omaha's latest flood control reservoir in the Papillion Creek Watershed. The reservoir provides flood protection for Omaha citizens and 730 acres of recreational benefits, such as a 220-acre lake, five-mile hiking/biking trail, and park and green space. Flanagan Lake officially opened to the public on June 27, 2018.

Lake Zorinsky K-5658 Douglas County

"Zorinsky Lake has more than 255 acres offering two modern playgrounds, baseball diamonds, soccer fields, a football field, hiking and bicycling trails, and a universally accessible fishing dock. Zorinsky Lake Park is home to one of the few native tall grass prairies remaining in eastern Nebraska - Bauermeister Prairie. "

Made a dozen+ contacts and skedaddled back to heading east on the interstate!

Prairie Rose State Park K/KFF-2315 in Shelby IA

"Prairie Rose State Park is a 422-acre park nestled in the scenic hills of southwest Iowa. The park is named after the small town, Village of Prairie Rose, which was once located near the park's current location. The lake is the focal point of the park, and visitors enjoy a variety of recreational opportunities from hiking to boating, along with ice fishing in the winter. "

44 plus QSO here. Good. Put some VE3s in log for their contest.

Lake Anita State Park K/KFF-2296 in Cass County IA



“Lake Anita State Park is one of Iowa’s newer parks, constructed in the 1960s as a popular outdoor recreation destination in southwest Iowa. The centerpiece of the 1,062-acre park is a beautiful 171-acre artificial lake offering expansive fishing and boating opportunities. “

50 QSOs here. Good run. Got my 44+ here. Been hard to do so far! Good to have county hunters seek me out for the county.

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After this run headed on in to the AmericInn in Stuart IA. Dinner at the Village Inn – turkey dinner.

Sunday April 17 – Easter Sunday - 35F outside with 80% chance of precip today.

Beaver Lake WMA in Dallas County IA - K-9314

There's a 34 acre lake with fishing. The WMA is 300 acres total.

Badger Creek WMA – IA Madison County K-5729



“Badger Creek State Recreation Area is a popular outdoor destination for hunters and anglers just a few miles southwest of the Des Moines metro area. More than 700 acres can be accessed for hunting, bird watching and other nature activities.

Boat on the 276-acre lake. Access the lake from two boat ramps; one on the east and one on the west side of the lake. There are no motor restrictions, but all boats must operate at a "no wake" speed.

Hunt on more than 700 acres of public hunting land. Badger Creek is a popular area for waterfowl and small game hunting.

Fish in Badger Creek Lake along the shore and from several fishing jetties. The lake offers excellent fishing opportunities for bass, crappie, bluegill and catfish.

Bird watch for a variety of species throughout the year, including migratory birds and other wildlife.”

Colfax WMA K-9294 in Jasper County IA

COLFAX WILDLIFE AREA covers an area that is 1.87 square miles. Of this 3.27 square miles(174.80 percent) is public lands.

Hanging Rock Ridge WMA – same county IA K-9297



“Hanging Rock is a 465 acre park located at the southwest corner of Redfield. The park features a 255 acre wildlife refuge and 210 acres are designated as public hunting land. Because of its proximity to the wildlife refuge”

From here, I zipped across the rest of IA on the interstate to the central part of IL to stop

for the night in Oglesby IL at the Days Inn. Put out a half a dozen counties along the way. Time to get to MI and not any new parks along the I-80 corridor! I've run them all before on various trips!

Monday April 18, 2022

Had to clean 2 inches of snow off the car this morning. Fortunately roads clear and snow didn't stick there. Cold! Headed east past the traffic mess of Chicago, the IL tollroad and over into Indiana.

Dunes Prairie WMA – Porter County IN K/KFF-4196

Located adjacent to Indiana Dunes State Park:

“This preserve contains a significant prairie remnant that has been monitored by botanists for decades. It also contains a tributary of Dunes Creek, as well as a black oak savanna, swamp forest, and graminoid dune. Periodic prescribed burns keep these natural communities in a healthy condition. This preserve contains outstanding prairie and wildflower displays”

Reynolds Creek Game Bird Habitat Area in Porter County K/KFF-4223

from the state site: “The property is primarily large grasslands scattered with wetlands which supports a high diversity of birds along the Lake Michigan migration corridor.

The grasslands and fallow fields are the best place to observe grassland songbirds. Because of the county roads that intersect Reynolds Creek GBH and the scattered parking lots, this site is easy to bird without walking too far into the property. Most of the area does not have mowed trails, but look for increased access in the upcoming 50 acre pollinator planting that is being established on the north end of the property. Reynolds Creek GBH is an excellent site to visit for grassland birds. Nesting species include Bobolink, Sedge Wren, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow’s Sparrow, Dickcissel, Eastern and Western Meadowlark and Brewer’s Blackbird. In migration, the site has hosted grassland species such as American Bittern, Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Shrike, Clay-colored Sparrow, LeConte’s Sparrow, and Smith’s Longspur. Springtime brings shallowly flooded fields that play host to migrating ducks and shorebirds such as Black-bellied Plover, Dunlin, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Short and Long-billed Dowitcher, and Wilson’s Phalarope. Check the permanent wetland areas for marsh birds including

Sandhill Crane, Virginia Rail, Sora, and Common Gallinule. Raptors are a highlight at this site, which famously hosted a rare White-tailed Kite in May 2018 during the Indiana Dunes Birding Festival.

Snowy Owl and Short-eared Owl are found here annually, along with Northern Harrier, Rough-legged Hawk, Bald Eagle, American Kestrel and Merlin. Southern Units include wooded sections that are good for migratory songbirds in spring and fall.”



Van Buren Trail State Park K/KFF-1550 in Van Buren County MI



from the state site: “ The Van Buren Trail State Park is a 14-mile, linear, multi-use trail that links the cities of Hartford and South Haven. The trail runs through open farmland, blueberry fields, dense brush, and wooded areas. The surface of the trail creates a nice, challenging ride that is more suitable for mountain bikes.” “ This multi-use trail has a dirt and gravel surface. “

This is one of several state park 'trails' in MI, usually following old abandoned railway tracks or similar. I skipped them the last time in MI so I'd catch them this time. There are usually several access points and parking lots along the trail.

Fuller Woods State Game Area k-6678 still in Van Buren County MI

Some of this game areas are a bit challenging to find. This has a short driveway – maybe 100 feet steeply uphill (dirt) where maybe 2 pickup trucks can park. Pulled in enough to be off the road and not much further. Surrounded by dense trees that doesn't help the propagation. Only needed 10Qs here and got twice that. Be sure you write

down very detailed directions to get to these. I drove by the driveway a few times looking for a 'parking lot' which doesn't exist.

From the web: “The Fuller Woods State Game Area (FWSGA) was originally acquired by the Department of Natural Resources (then Department of Conservation) in 1930 and increased in size through land acquisition in 1949. Originally, it was part of the State Forest system but management was transferred to the Wildlife Division in 2006. In all, FWSGA encompasses 85 acres of primarily wooded habitat managed primarily for wild turkeys and white-tailed deer.”

At this point, I stopped for the night in Grand Haven at the Baymont Inn. Dinner at the Big Boy nearby - salmon – good.

Tuesday April 19, 2022

No breakfast at motel! Just coffee and a mini-muffin snack deal. Went to the Big Boy for a substantial breakfast. \$5.82. Need energy to run the counties/parks!

Kil-Haven Trail State Park K1511 still in Van Buren County MI



This is another 'linear' state park with multiple access points and well as end points.

From the web: “The Kal-Haven Trail is a rail trail in the USA that originally ran 33.5 miles between South Haven, Michigan, to a point just west of the city of Kalamazoo, Michigan.

The Kal-Haven Trail runs along the former route of the Kalamazoo and South Haven Railroad. It traverses wooded areas, farmland and small towns. It is primarily used by hikers and bicyclists in the summer, and by snowmobilers in the winter. The trail is surfaced with crushed limestone.

In 1870 the Kalamazoo-South Haven Railroad was built to transport mostly lumber. The railroad operated between Kalamazoo and South Haven for just over 100 years spanning from 1870-1973 when the line was abandoned”

I'm headed north along the western shore of MI. No snow on the ground this year. I run

a county that has no park here and there.

Grand Haven State Park 1511 in Ottawa County MI.

Some of the MI parks are still 'closed' but some have an open lot for parking if you look. Luckily they aren't collecting entrance fees until May 1 so you get in 'free'. Of course, many are on the beach – it's 40F - so you can spend a few minutes gazing at Lake Michigan and maybe walk your dog.....but forget swimming! They're real busy in the summer months.

Had a short run. Band flakey. Sometimes you'd get 50 Qs, and an hour later be straining to get 12 at a different park.

“This is a 48-acre park with the beautiful sandy shore of Lake Michigan along the west side and the Grand River along the north side. The park consists entirely of beach sand and provides scenic views of Lake Michigan and the Grand Haven pier and lighthouse. Great Lakes beach safety.

Many accessible features available including a playground, metal detecting area, and fishing pier. Some campsites with 50 amp service.”

Grand Haven State Game Area – K-6689 same county

from the web: “The majority of land on the game area was purchased with federal Pittman-Robertson Funds, but also acquired through State Fish and Game funds, special legislative funds, and recreation bond monies. The GHSGA is located in the Southwest Region (SWR) of the Lower Peninsula in northern Ottawa County . Over time, the GHSGA has been expanded to include 1,139 acres and is managed to provide quality habitat for mallards, wood ducks, marsh birds such as the American bittern, and for recreational opportunities associated with these species”

Had a short run of 14 here – as it was same county. Quick run on 20m for the park chasers.

Duck Lake State Park – K/KFF- 1496 in Muskegon County MI



from the web: “This beautiful day-use park, featuring a towering sand dune, stretches from the northern shore of Duck Lake to Lake Michigan. The terrain is a mixture of open brush land to mature hardwood forest, with some pockets of open meadows mixed in.

Fishing, hiking, swimming, metal detecting and picnicking, are just some of the activities available in this spacious 728-acre park, located in Muskegon County. Great Lakes beach safety.”

Hart-Montague Trail SP - K/KFF-1511 in Ottawa County MI



from the web: “The name tells the tale of the William Field Memorial Hart-Montague Trail State Park. Rolling for 22 paved miles through the farms, orchards, and forests of western Michigan between Hart and Montague, the trail may never have come into existence if not for the late William Field.

As a fruit grower from Shelby and an Oceana County commissioner in the early 1980s, Mr. Field couldn’t raise interest among his fellow commissioners to turn the recently

dismantled railroad into a recreational trail. Fearing a lost opportunity, he bought the corridor in 1982 and donated it to the state. Seven years later, the trail's northern half opened as the state's first paved rail-trail, followed in 1991 by the second half. The state legislature honored his efforts by naming the trail for him in 2014. In 2016, the state completed a yearlong face-lift for the trail, which included asphalt resurfacing and widening to 10 feet.

The Chicago and Michigan Lake Shore Railroad originally built that rail bed in 1872 as a segment of its route from New Buffalo to Pentwater. It later came under control of the Chicago and West Michigan Railway, the Pere Marquette Railroad (depots still stand in Hart and Shelby), and the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway. CSX Transportation removed the tracks between Hart and Montague in 1982.”

Run of 27Qs here.

Charles Mears State Park KFF/K-1520 – Oceana County MI



from the web: “Charles Mears State Park is located in the quaint village of Pentwater along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Paved campsite lots are surrounded by fine sand, with a swimming beach adjacent to the harbor pier. Shore fishing is very popular at Pentwater Lake in the fall. Fishing from piers adjacent to the park is also a popular year-

round activity. During the winter, Pentwater Lake provides excellent ice fishing. There is an interpretive trail about one mile in length for hiking. It winds around to the tip of Old Baldy, a wooded and sand-blown dune that provides an excellent view of Lake Michigan's shoreline, and the town of Pentwater and the boat harbor. Snowmobiles are not allowed on the hiking/cross-country trails, but the activity is supported in the park. It also has a metal detecting area. “

Most of this park was closed but it had a separate lot along the shore open at this time. Friendly ranger advised me how to get there- quarter mile away and still part of the park. They were working frantically to get it ready for opening soon.

Pentwater State Game Lands – K-6753 same county

from the web: “The Pentwater State Game Area (PSGA) is comprised of 2,540 acres just south of the Village of Pentwater, in Oceana County.

The Pentwater River Marsh is the centerpiece feature of this game area and is comprised of approximately 500 acres of stream and emergent wetlands at the mouth of the Pentwater River where it empties into Pentwater Lake. Pentwater Lake then empties into Lake Michigan through a short channel bordered in part by the Charles Mears State Park. The channel was excavated in the 1850s to allow ships into Pentwater Lake.

The majority of the land for the PSGA was acquired between 1958 and 1963. The Pentwater SGA today is comprised of 2,540 acres. Wetland dependent wildlife such as waterfowl were a priority when the game area was first created. The transfer of 2,000 acres of state forest land to game area, which is mostly upland forested habitat, has shifted the importance of the game area to include popular current uses such as hunting for white-tailed deer, grouse, turkey and small game such as squirrel and rabbit. Waterfowl hunting is limited on the marsh and lake due to high density housing on private riparian lands, but hunting does occur for wood duck, mallards and Canada geese. Fishing for salmon and rainbow trout is popular in the late summer and fall while perch fishing is popular on Pentwater Lake during the winter.

Access to the game area is good, as multiple public roads exist on the perimeter and bisect portions of the game area. Also, a number of primitive trails are located on the game and are used by motor vehicles”

I spent the night at the Days Inn. In the 'quaint village' of Pentwater, only one place was open for dinner. The Antlers Bar and Grill. Had a nice Quesadilla. On the menu were Mexican, burgers, more burgers, fries, salads, etc. Can't miss the place – it's the only place with 12 cars parked nearby on the street at 5:30pm.

Almost to Traverse City – one more day on the road to get there.

April 20, 2022 Wednesday.

Decent breakfast at the motel, then headed out. I'd make it to Traverse City today – a day early. Left a spare day in case of problems along the way – weather, snow, traffic, detours, etc. Too many days of sitting in car! My back doesn't agree with long road trips these days!

Manistee State Game Lands K-6721 Manistee County

from the web: “Explore one of Michigan’s finest wetlands – the Manistee Marsh at the Manistee River State Game Area in Manistee.

The Manistee River State Game Area off of M-55 encompasses nearly 4,000 acres of wetland, forest and grassland habitats. The Manistee Marsh, on the west end of the game area, includes the eastern shore of Manistee Lake and is bordered by the Manistee River.

The marshland and adjacent forestland makes great habitat for wood ducks. Wood ducks nest in tree cavities and dine on acorns, seeds, berries and insects on the forest floor in addition to aquatic plant and insect foods.

Plenty of other wetland species call Manistee Marsh home. The marshlands provide important habitat for nesting and migrating ducks, geese, herons, terns and other wetland birds. The marshes are also home to muskrats, mink, frogs, turtles, snakes and many other wetland critters.

Work is under way to remove invasive species, including phragmites, in the marsh. Phragmites australis, also known as common reed, is a perennial wetland grass that can grow to 15 feet in height. Invasive phragmites creates tall, dense stands that degrade wetlands and coastal areas by crowding out native plants and animals, blocking shoreline views, and reducing access for swimming, fishing and hunting. The dry plant material from phragmites also can create fire hazards.

The Manistee Marsh restoration project is funded by a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

grant. This work will improve plant diversity in the marsh, and reducing the phragmites cover will allow managers to create what's called a "hemi-marsh" – a 50/50 mix of vegetation and open water that is very attractive to waterfowl.

These wetlands are open to hiking, canoeing, kayaking, wildlife photography, fishing and birding. Bring a lunch and make a day of exploring the wetlands of Manistee Marsh.

Michigan's state game and wildlife areas are free to wildlife watchers. “

Had an excellent run here. It was Wednesday and the CWT from 1300-1400z filled in a lot of QSOs quickly. 61 in the log. The CWT also runs 1900-2000 today, too.

Betsie River State Game Lands K-6625 Benzie County

New county! Bands cooperating up to 17M. Didn't try anything higher.

From the state web:

“The Betsie River State Game Area (BRSGA) was dedicated in the early 1950s. The BRSGA was managed primarily as a waterfowl area and was a location for the reintroduction of Canada geese in the 1950s through the 1970s. Aquatic furbearers have been an important resource found in the BRSGA, and deer hunting has been a popular activity. The Betsie River runs through the length of the BRSGA.

The majority of the BRSGA was purchased with federal Pittman-Robertson (P-R) Funds, but some land was acquired through land swaps and recreation bond monies. P-R funds are a source of federal aid generated from taxes on sporting arms and ammunition and are apportioned to states for wildlife population and habitat management, and wildlife-based recreation. Multiple-use of areas supported by P-R funding is encouraged, provided it does not interfere with the primary purpose of wildlife management and habitat restoration.

The BRSGA is in the Northern Lower Peninsula Region in Benzie County.

Long-term, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife Division wants the area to continue to contribute to sustainable populations of important wildlife, such as white-tail deer, waterfowl, and least bittern, to provide valuable hunting and trapping recreation, and to work with the villages of Frankfort and Elberta to enhance the quality of life for the area residents”

Had a good run of 60+ here.

One more 'new' park to go to get to Traverse City, finally!

Platte River State Fish Hatchery K-6827 Grand Traverse County



This facility was established in 1928 and was converted to the state's main salmon hatchery in 1972. Platte River rears Atlantic, Chinook and coho salmon and is the main egg-take location for coho in the Upper Great Lakes. Walleye fry are also hatched here.

The hatchery complex includes interpretative facilities and trails, lower weir harvest facility and the upper weir egg-take station. The best times to see returning adult salmon in the Platte River are from mid-September to late October at the lower weir (located off Lake Michigan Road 2 miles northwest of M-22) and late September to mid-October at the upper weir located at the hatchery. The public is welcome to watch the egg take operations. Egg take operations generally happen the third week of October, but please call ahead to find out when egg takes will be conducted for sure.

The hatchery grounds are open to the public at no charge from dawn to dusk. The

hatchery is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day.

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Done! I'm at Traverse City. Rather than stay at the convention hotel (at \$99 plus tax) a night, I stay at the Days Inn a few miles east. It used to be a Super 8, then went to being a Boarders Inn, and now a Days Inn. Right next door is a Bob Evans restaurant for dinner! Been there many times on the trips to the Mini.

I check in....but wait...there's still time. There's hours of daylight left.

off to **Petobego State Game Lands K-6757 in Grand Traverse County**

25 miles northeast of Traverse City just before the Antrim county line, you find this.

From the web: “The Petobego State Game Area (PSGA) is located in the Northern Lower Peninsula Region (NLP) along the Grand Traverse-Antrim County border. Development of the PSGA began in 1948 when the Conservation Commission of the Michigan Department of Conservation approved the purchase of land containing the Petobego Marsh and land surrounding Petobego Pond and Tobeco Creek where it connects the marsh to the pond. Development of this area was designed to restore and enhance feeding and nesting habitat for waterfowl, and breeding habitat for muskrats and other furbearers.

The Petobego Marsh was originally a lake that was drained during the late 1890's to extract marl from the lakebed. The marl operations did not prove profitable, and later a low stone and earthen dam was constructed across the outlet creek to partially reflood the area. Some years later it was operated as a private muskrat marsh, but this again proved unprofitable and the venture failed. The old dam was insufficient and it washed out prior to purchase of the land by the State. Funding for a new dam equipped with a stop-log spillway was approved in 1950, and completed in 1951. Land within the PSGA was acquired using Pittman-Robertson (P-R) Act funds, tax reversion of private land, and recent purchases via the Natural Resource Trust Fund. The total area of PSGA is 672 acres. The PSGA is managed to provide quality habitat for waterfowl, white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, and aquatic furbearers, and for recreational opportunities associated with these and other species.

Pittman-Robertson funds are a source of federal aid generated from taxes on sporting

arms and ammunition and are apportioned to states for the purpose of wildlife population and habitat management, and wildlife-based recreation. Multiple use of areas supported by P-R funding is encouraged, provided it does not interfere with the primary purpose of wildlife management and habitat restoration.

In the future (50-100 years from now) we want the area to continue to contribute to sustainable populations of ruffed grouse, woodcock, and waterfowl, to provide valuable hunting recreation, and serve as a stronghold for Great Lakes coastal marshes and the wildlife they sustain.

52Q in the log – it's afternoon CWT. Easy to rack up some QSOs from this. Work a bunch of CH first, though.

OK...now I'm done for the day, right? Nope, stop by Traverse City State Park for a handful of Qs. Good for an 'activation'. I'd run this a few times again. It's just a few miles from the hotel. A few quick Qs today.

Now I'm done. Dinner at the Bob Evans restaurant – turkey dinner. Yum!

Thursday April 21 2022

The Mini starts today – hospitality room open in afternoon/evening. Breakfast at the motel. Rest up. Then decided to go east a bit to one more! The rooms won't be ready till afternoon typically.

Skegemog State Wildlife Area K-6783 in Kalkaska County MI

from the web:

“Skegemog Lake Wildlife Area (SLWA), encompassing much of the southern end of Skegemog Lake, offers a wealth of non-motorized outdoor recreation opportunities within a uniquely diverse property teeming with plant and animal life. Visitors can access this property from four parking areas and walk over five miles of trails that wind through this vast and diverse property. The wildlife area is comprised of approximately 3,300 acres of northern peatland, conifer and hardwood swamp, upland forest and open grassland and includes over seven miles of shoreline on Skegemog Lake and the Torch River.

These landscapes provide important habitat for multiple fish species and several state and federally threatened bird species, including bald eagle, common loon, merlin, and caspian tern. Two reptiles of special concern are found here (the wood turtle and spotted turtle) along with the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake, Michigan's only rattlesnake and a State of Michigan species of Special Concern. Lands with these qualities are increasingly rare and important, making the SLWA an invaluable resource for preserving the natural heritage of Northern Michigan.

The establishment of the Skegemog Lake Wildlife Area (SLWA) was the culmination of a major grassroots campaign launched by local residents in 1972 under the name of the Skegemog Lake Wildlife Area Project, with help from the Michigan chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC). TNC established a stewardship endowment fund, which was transferred to Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC) along with management responsibilities. Currently, GTRLC works with the Skegemog Lake Wildlife Committee citizen group and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to manage the property, with final authority for all management activities resting with the MDNR.”

Put 36 Qs in the log and headed back to town to check in at the Mini – with a short stop at Traverse City State Park again.

Room was ready. So was I – to rest a bit. Dinner at the Cracker Barrel. Hospitality suite opened in the evening and lots of meet and greet.

The hotel was now the Austin Delamar. Rooms redone. The Holiday Inn/West Bay hadn't been updated in decades. Now it's all fancy. In the summer, you'll pay \$289/room here. Nice rooms, mini-bar, refrig, desk, ironing board, iron, big TV. Lots of pillows.

Out in the parking lot is a 4 bay Tesla charger. Didn't see a single Tesla around but I imagine if you can afford \$289/night plus tax, you might be driving a Tesla car.

Didn't eat at the hotel restaurant but the food was reported as good but pricey. You've got Denny's and other places for breakfast and there were goodies in the hospitality suite to snack on. Coffee machines in the room.

Dorris, N8WTQ, plans to have a Michigan Mini again but it may not be in Traverse City. Ed, K8ZZ will assist with paperwork/contracts.

We had the usual dinner – very good this year – and prize table. Enough to go around.

At the Mini



(Thanks to N8HAM for the pic)

scheduled to attend:

W8WKD Sharon, Kalamazoo, MI
W0NAC Matt, Parker, CO
N0LXJ, Sharon, Parker, CO
W9OP Mark, Neenah, WI
W9PIP Joan, Neenah, WI
K3IMC Don, LaGrange, GA
KJ4NIT Jean, LaGrange, GA
W4SIG Kerry, Collierville, TN
N8KIE Bob, Clarkston, MI
N8RLJ Jaci, Clarkston, MI
K4PBX Jim, Donalsonville, GA
KA2TED Sharon, Donalsonville, GA
W0ULU Fred and Kaye, Cottage Grove, MN
N8CIJ Dick and Carol, Ashland, OH
K0PFV John, Omaha, NE
WA0VDO Marion, Omaha, NE

K5GE Gene and Mary Ida, Seguin, TX
N4CD Bob, Plano, TX
WA9DLB Tony and Helen, Barrington, IL
KA8JPQ Pam, Finley, OH
NA8W Darl, Finley, OH
K8EMS Mike and Sherry, Gladstone, MI
NN9K Pete, Colona, IL
N9DQS Nancy, Colona, IL
KA9JAC Bob, Hortonville, WI
KA9YVT Ann, Hortonville, WI
N8HAM Jim, South Lyon, MI
K8AO Duane and Judy, Gladstone, MI
KD9ZP Gene, Fond du Lac, WI
K9FDL Dottie, Fond du Lac, WI
NM1G Chuck, North Kingstown, RI
N2JNE Charlie, Saugerties, NY
WB0CQO Joe, Murray, IA
W8TZA Bill, Kalamazoo, MI

Short Trip

One day during the Mini when not much was going on, headed an hour south to Harrietta Fish Hatchery in Wexford County. Not much going on there compared to previous fish hatchery. You get the impression they don't get many visitors. Not a good spot for mobile operation as the only parking lot is right up against the building to the south – and most folks are located SE, south, and SW of there! Got my 10 QSOs but not much more. Again, conditions not the greatest.



Headed back to hotel.

New Faces at the Mini



WB8III



WB8III mobile from WV

On the way home

I left just before daylight Sunday morning headed south – down to Grand Haven and then along the interstates around to Chicago and then south on interstates to head toward Memphis. Either route home was 18 hours and 30 minutes with no delay. It started raining in Indiana and rained 90% of the way home. Rain, downpours at times, more rain and wipers going most of the way home. First night made it to Miner/Sikeston MO about 150 miles north of Memphis. Gained an hour but tired of driving in rain. Dinner at Lamberts – big giant place – home of 'throwed rolls'. Had a 'country ham' dinner. It will fill you up. Next day got up in the rain – light rain down to Memphis and across to Little Rock and then I-30 to Dallas. Occasional 'car wash' downpours. Lots of \$\$\$ into the gas tank at average price of just under \$4/gal. Car getting 28 mph on the way home. Very windy at times with 30-40 mph wind blowing north. Home at 4pm after stop at Costco (\$3.65/gal), Asian Buffet for dinner. Whew!

Not one park on the way home. With the rain, just ran counties here and there, listened for other mobiles headed home.

Now to do logs, write the newsletter and get them finished!

Next trip to Dayton in mid May.

Thanks to all the mobiles for the counties – got some new ones.

Awards Issued

USA-CW Award: W8TZA completed all CW on 3/24/2022. He received #164

Call Combo 1X3 Award: KE3VV completed 1X3 combo on 3/20/2022. He received #24

USA-CA II Award: W4YDY completed CW II on 30 March 2022. He is assigned #43

Roadrunner Awards:

K8ZZ #8 for 1225 Last Counties

K8ZZ #7 for 1250 Last Counties

AB7NK #9 for 1125 Last Counties

W0GXQ #3 for 1450 Last Counties

KB6UF #2 for 1875 Last Counties

Events for County Hunters

May 7th weekend:

7 1300 to 8 0700 1.8-28 7th Call Area QSO Party CW Ph Dig RS(T) 7th-area state/county or SPC 7qp.org

7 1500 to 8 0300 1.8-28 Indiana QSO Party Ph CW RS(T) IN county or SPC www.hdxcc.org/inqp/rules.html

7 1700 to 8 2359 1.8-VHF Delaware QSO Party CW Ph Dig RS(T) DE county or SPC www.fsarc.org/qsoparty/rules.htm

7 2000 to 8 2359 3.5-28 New England QSO Party CW Ph Dig RS(T) New England county/state or SPC neqp.org/rules

May 21 weekend

21 1400 to 22 0200 1.8-144 Arkansas QSO Party CW Ph Dig RS(T) AR county or SPC www.arkqp.com

That's all folks. That's enough!

