

County Hunter News OnLine

May 2026
Volume 22 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. There is CW activity now occasionally on 7188, 14336., 18136, 21336, 28336 . The CW folks are now pioneering 17M operation on 18.0915. (21.0565, 24.9155, and 28.0565). Look around 18136 or for occasional 17M CW runs usually after the run on 20M CW . (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 was sponsored by CQ Magazine, which unfortunately has gone the way of the dinosaurs. However, like other CQ Awards, they are still available. CQ awards require confirmation of all claimed contacts.

Rules and information are here:

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

MARAC sponsors the US Counties Award which can be earned in increments of 500 counties. The rules for this award are at:

<http://marac.org/documents/usa-ca-rules.pdf>

This award requires log data only to earn.

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

1) Sunspots – Still have them by the hundreds. Peak was 270 back two years ago, but still over 100 most days. The tail end of a sunspot cycle slowly drops. In a few years, we'll be back in the doldrums with 20, 30, and 40M the prime bands again. It's time for 6M e-skip season if that's your thing. Possibilities of band-counties there, and many mobile rigs now cover 6M.

2) Titanic Month - April was the month the Titanic sank in 1912. Up until that time, the radio bands, if you could call it that, was a 'wild west' of commercial, private and experimenter radios. Primitive spark gap transmitters and crystal receivers for most

users and folks operated wherever their equipment seemed to work – usually around 400 to 1000 meters. Below what would become the AM broadcast band. The Titanic had a 5 KW rotary spark gap transmitter and a magnetic detector, giving it a range of 250 miles daytime and 1000 miles at night. Most 'experimenters' had 25 watt or less spark gaps and less sensitive crystal detectors. MGY, the Titanic's callsign. Operated on 500 KHz most of the time. Within two years of the sinking, regulations went into effect requiring licensing of all stations, and assigning 'wave bands' to different services. Hams were banished to those useless frequencies below 200 meters. At the time, with the current detector technology, they were near 'useless'.

Hams didn't give up. While range was small, maybe 25 miles for a moderate station, maybe 50 miles for a larger station, hams set about organizing and relaying messages from station to station – thus the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) was born to handle traffic – relayed across sections of the country - station to station at 25 to 50 miles a hop. Later, a decade after, it increased further.

Hams were off the air for WW 1. Everywhere. We were lucky to get them back again, but now they were specific bands.

However, technology had advanced during WW1. Suddenly, tube technology appeared along side spark gap technology. During the war, the VT-1 and VT-2 tubes were developed and made by the thousands. At the same time, in the early 1920s, the AM broadcast band was created. Suddenly, there was a tremendous demand for home receivers with a tube or two.

At the same time, technology had advanced to the 'regen' receiver – which worked fine at those 'wavelengths' below 200m. Hams now had sensitive receivers – a single tube radio, and maybe an audio stage, could allow.

The sinking of the Titanic started a whole raft of band changes. Most people today know about the Titanic – from the popular movie. Most hams have a fuller understanding of what was involved, the technology, and the changes that followed after.

3) State QSO Parties Lots of reports this month. Lots of mobiles went out to make these available for the rest of us. Please look at the effort these folks made as they told their stories on the 3830 contest reflector.

4) Dayton Hamfest Month - the annual gathering of 30,000 plus hams take place at the Greene County Fairgrounds. Usually 30 or more county hunters show up. I'm planning on going, along with KA4RRU and likely dozens from a 300 mile radius of

Dayton. The facilities are good. The flea market is huge. There's lots to eat and lots to see. Who knows, maybe you'll see an ICOM IC-7100-IQ.

5) Looks like Steppr!, Hygain and Cushcraft have found new owners. Great for those who have or wish to buy new antennas!

Louisiana QSO Party

There are 64 parishes in LA. Looks like top scorers worked about 20 of them, but hard to tell as there are separate CW and SSB multipliers. Many times it's the same parish worked on CW and SSB during the contest. But who knows unless someone reports it. If they were separate counties, then maybe 38 were on the air, but more likely not even 30.

There were more than 8 categories to file your score under – from 'wire antennas' to high power/low power/QRP.

Didn't see any mention of mobiles or any filed mobile reports on 3830 scores.

From the 3830 scores page.

K4BAI fixed GA 13 CW 5 ssb 11 CW mults 5 SSB mults

Thanks for all QSOs. Very little activity heard from LA this year. Maybe because it was on Easter weekend? I still need more LA Parishes all time than I need counties in any other state. But, didn't hear any new ones this year. Thanks for all QSOs and Happy Easter to all.

. 73, John, K4BAI.

N8II fixed WV 19 CW 16 SSB 17 CW mults 13 SSB mults

The Jefferson Amateur Radio Club has taken over hosting the LAQP; I wish them luck. And the results/awards will be available soon from 2024/25. The rules say no awards? But the new administrator says downloadable certificates will be available.

15M was wide open to LA from here most of the day; most ops never moved up from

20M. Each mult is new for each band/mode worked, so I don't understand why more ops were not on 15M during the day and 40/80M in the evening. That's the only way to make a large score.

My Q's were nearly double last year, but this QP along with MS is too slow to justify a whole day on the radio. N1MM+ says my op time was only 1:46 hours because of much time listening with nothing new to work.

Thanks for the QSO's and 73, Jeff

Mississippi QSO Party

Mississippi has 82 counties. Looks like about 30 made it on the air this year, with just one mobile reported out and about. There were a fair number of digital QSOs made.

From 3830 scores

K4ZGB mobile reported 357 contacts

no comments

KS4YT fixed MS 690 digital contacts!

Operator(s): KS4YT KV4T

Enjoyed the contest very much, however, activity level was definitely down due to it being Easter weekend.

KA6BIM fixed OR 21 cw 17 ssb 0 14 digi Mults30

id not find any new counties. I hope for some more counties activated next year. Please try and get some rovers going thru the state. Thanks for the qso's dave ka6bim

K4BAI fixed GA 26 cw 12 ssb Mults 19

Band conditions from GA to MS seemed pretty good. Activity from MS seemed down. Worked my last all time MS county from K4ZGB/M. Many thanks Tom for that and other QSOs. In fact, thanks to everyone for the QSOs.

73, John, K4BAi.

AI and the Ham Operator

Technology is changing. What will it bring to ham radio? It's not the first time such a transition has happened.....but it likely will be very significant. Over the years....well....let's go back in the 'wayback' machine...for some 'disruptive' changes in technology.

It's 1910. You're a radio experimenter. You build a simple spark gap transmitter using a buzzer and a crystal detector and work a mile or two with a 100 foot antenna up 50 feet. By 1922, you build your first regen using a tube - a new technology developed in WW1 and regens possible with tubes. Tubes will rule for the next 40 years. A very long time....compared to what comes next. .

Throughout the 1930s, 1940s, 1950s, the state of the art is a good superhet receiver and either CW or AM transmission. Maybe after WW2, you get some surplus VHF gear for 6, 2, 200 and 450 MHz, or get on RTTY with a teletype machine. That's state of the art. You log everything on paper, as required by FCC. Mail QSO cards.

Whoa.....television arrived after WW2. A few channels. Two decades later - it's color TV and well, cable TV and 50 or more channels arrived. Satellite TV with big antenna. Within 15 years....to small dish antennas under 2 feet in diameter.

Then the transistor is invented - and within 20 years, your ham gear has gone from tubes to 'solid state'. The first SBE transceiver (3 tubes) appears. Soon after the Atlas all solid state radios. Then Heathkit. In the 1970s, the Japanese radios appear - TS-520, Yaesu, ICOM.

Everyone has a 'transistor' AM radio for the broadcast band....you can hold in your hand.....

Citizens Band goes crazy. Breaker Breaker Channel 19....Everyone has a radio! .

Come 1970s, and VHF repeaters are everywhere.

Then the next arrival hits....the microprocessor....in microwave ovens, thermostats, and a hundred other places. Before long, your radio has gone from serviceable solid state to a radio with large surface mount devices with 64 pins within 20 years from then.

In the 1980s, the personal computer arrives. Now you can log your contacts on it.

What next? The internet! AOL....you've got Mail?

Soon - Find info on line – maps, county info, etc. Desktops first....then laptops ...The world wide web. No need to buy a \$1000 set of encyclopedias....your set from 10 years ago is now worth....\$20...

Then the cellphone. Bag phones to start....2 or 3 watts in a 10 pound bag. Expensive.....wait ten years and it's down to \$250 for a phone and unlimited talk time. By 2020, there are 5 billion phones in the world. It's gone from analog FM to digital.

But wait....the iPhone appears....now you can surf the web from your cellphone! Take a selfie and send it to your 'bestie'. Or family. Or friends. .

GPS arrives around 1990s.....you can get anywhere without a map....usually....but keep your map handy. The GPS lady will sometimes route you though a lake...or a road that doesn't exist any longer. But 99.99% of the time, you're gong to arrive. Everyone has a Garmin in the car. It seems....or a car nav system.

Soon, you can log online. Keep track of your counties on line. Plan trips on line. Every run state QSO Parties using external GPS dongle, and programs like NO5W's to navigate a specific route set in ahead of time.

You can shop on line. Order your groceries on line. Buy clothes furniture, hobby gear, ham radio, 'on line' without leaving your house. Attend radio club meetings via ZOOM. Even from 1000 miles away. Need some toilet paper? Amazon will get it there tomorrow....maybe even same day!

Then “DSP” appeared – first as external noise reduction devices, then into rigs in the 2000 and on years for signal enhancement – transmit and receive.

You don't even need the GPS lady any longer. Google Maps will get you there on your cellphone! But keep GPS anyway. You don't always have connectivity.

It's 2026. Artificial Intelligence has arrived. Big time. A trillion dollars of investment is underway. Things are being 'automated' left and right. I don't know when it will hit ham radio, and what the impact will be.....but don't be surprised.

If you were in 1950s, telling yourself the world would continue for the next 50 years with better tubesfor decades....and landline phones....and leather shoes you polished and put new heels on for years and years.....well....70 years later, there are thousands of Starlink satellites flying overhead. With a small terminal, you can connect from anywhere in the US...even the remotest boondocks. You can be connected from anywhere, anytime, Or not.....

So.....who knows....maybe the IC-7100-IQ isn't that far off. What direction will AI play in ham radio? Things can move fast....how many of you just rode the changes as they occurred? Bought solid state equipment when it came out..got a cellphone? Got GPS? But predicted it years ahead? Not all that many, I venture. Your home Alexi and Siri are 'connected'....Your PC has ChatGPT and a half dozen other AI engines do dig into the web, create new stories, create artwork. Heck, the top songs on the charts are from an AI singer.....not a real person! When will the next TV series with AI characters arrive? Maybe new Shakespeare*plays. Maybe finish Beethoven unfinished works?

I wasn't the first to buy an iPhone.....nor to buy a color TV.....or sign up for cable TV.....but now....who would even think of a B&W TV, or a voice only phone...or tube equipment in a car with a dynamotor for power? Or reading the County Hunter News sent by US Mail each month?

Where will AI take us? I don't know. Even the 'experts' don't know. Will we live in a world of AI characters, AI shows? AI people? When you operate your radio....will it be to AI contacts? Can an AI character get a ham license?

Then there are robots.....another trend.....I could sure use one to clean the house.....how long will I wait till a decent cleaning robot appears for \$1500? Sweeps the house. Takes out the stash. Vacuumed. Mops the floors. Maybe even mows the grass....trims the trees....rakes the leaves.....cook dinners? Clean clothes....wash to

dishes and pout away? Elon Musk plans to make millions of them. Who knows.....??

The old Chinese saying.....May you live in interesting times.....

Missouri QSO Party

There are 114 counties and one Independent City in MO. Total mults of 115. All were scheduled to be on the air, but not sure 2 or 3 of them made it. This is the way to have a QSO Party. There were mobiles – there were county expeditions. The band was busy and probably 10,000 QSOs were made in 2 days hunting down the counties. Well organized and executed by the event sponsors, clubs, and participating stations.

N0E county expedition 1316 CW

Thanks to the MOQP organizers for doing an excellent job put this QSO Party together.

I was on from 28 counties, starting at the 3-county line of RAY/CWL/CRL. Everything worked fine for the most part. Activity in MOQP 2026 seemed down from 2025. A curious rookie cop came to visit and wasted 20 minutes of my time asking all kinds of questions about the purpose of me being parked on the side of the road with antennas on my car roof top. Apparently, some driver reported me as suspicious, possibly doing nefarious things so, the cop tried to play smart investigator detective and extract as much info as possible to try to determine if I am danger to the world or just someone minding his own business, not bothering anyone. Strange that this police officer has never heard of HAM radio and when I pointed to my HAM radio license plate with my call sign on it, he looked totally perplexed. Finally, after checking with the base, someone calmed him down and told him that I am good. Not one of the blue smartest and brightest. Also, heavy rain and wind slowed me down and I was not able to get to Henry County, unfortunately. Anyway, fun was had and will try to do it again next year. Thanks to all who participated and especially to OM2VL who worked me from all 28 counties.

RIG: IC7300

ANT: Hustler resonators

LOG: N1MM+

73 Dragan N0E (K0AP)

N9PCS county expedition 49 SSB QSO

Drove from Central IL to the Riverview Park in Louisiana MO, overlooking the Mississippi River. Saturday only. Set up as expedition so only had to put up and take down antennas once (40m EFHW and a 17' Wolf River Coils whip). Plus had a picnic table in a pavilion and an electric outlet. Was not a POTA entity but good wx and good fun!

N0A (AK0M) county expedition QRP 148 CW

Portable operation in Perry County.

Rig: IC705 at 5W

Antenna: 135ft EFHWA inverted vee with apex at about 70ft

K0PC mobile 1084 CW QSO

Thanks to everyone that sponsored and promoted this QSO party. The great turnout is a result of your efforts.

After many years as a one-man mobile operation I have accepted the march of time and changed to a one-man rover. For the MOQP I planned 7 two-county stops and 2 single county stops at the end.

After a very rocky, self-induced start, I got N1MM sending the right counties and I was off and running. I think I will enjoy this rover lifestyle, it's much easier than single-op mobile.

Thanks to everyone that came out for the party with special kudos to Rich NØHJZ who had a clean sweep of every band/county I worked, including 10 QSOs on 15M!

73, Pat KØPC

K0U (WI5D) mobile had 575 CW QSO

no comments

K0A mobile - K5CM opr 1275 cw 536 SSB

This was a Saturday only operation. Conditions were good however the SFI was low, and this impacted 10 and 15 meter openings. Normally Pam would have been with me, but she had some other commitments so she operated from home this time.

All Q's are important, but here are some of the most worked:

36 N5KW
35 N8II
30 OM2VL
25 WB9HFK
24 W0H W0W
23 KA6BIM NW0M
22 N0HJZ
21 N0R
19 AA3R
18 K4EJ
15 W0I WB2FUE
14 K8MR N4IQ N5TJ
13 K0R KB0NES KM0A KN6VTC N6MU W0UC
12 KD2KW
11 N0LY N0SS VE3KP
10 AA0AW K2KAR K4RUM K9PW W1AJT WF7T
9 K1ZZI K3ONW K4FT KD8FS N9UNX VE3YT W0MA WA3AER
8 K0MPH K2UA KA0PQW N2NC VE2GT WA1SAY WA5SOG
7 K0AD K2YG K4DR K9CW N7EPD NM2A VE3AQ W0ZQ W4SIG WA1S

I worked 400 unique calls.

73,

Connie K5CM / K0A

N0I (KI5MM) 387 SSB QSO

Went Rover LP/SSB. Worked in 10 counties and 10 POTA parks. Conditions were poor on Sat. Better on Sunday. Good time. 0MA for 100 bonus. 42 extra points for 40 and 80M not included. Thanks to the organizers.

N0R multi op mobile 1637 cw14 SSB

Operator(s): KB5YZY KKØU KTØAA NØMII

Whew, where to start?

First off, hats off to our intrepid driver of CHAOS II, Mark KB5YZY. He kept us all alive, didn't hit the 4 or 5 deer that challenged us on the roads, and made the ride as smooth as can be (although there are some counties that really need help in that dept.)

Day 1, Tony KT0AA manned 40m, Jeff N0MII took 15m and 80m, and I had 20m. Even

though we made several shake down trips to iron out inter station interference, it really came back to bite us on game day. Apologies to the many ops that could not be heard on 20m, even with bandpass filters, a triplexer, good bonding etc. inter station interference on 20m was awful.

40m was plagued by ignition noise, and 15m was interfering as well, so no one had it easy.

So, while it was imperfect conditions, we sallied forth. Tony was busy operating and trying to get routing done on the fly (none of our tools for routing really were cooperating, something we smoothed out on Day 2). Even so, he managed 500+ QSOs on day1.

We stopped for lunch in Monroe City, famous for its three-county line. Not so much for its food.

We cut our plan short, so that we could get home by midnight and sleep in our own beds. 80m played quite well, considering we were using a lowly Hustler resonator and 100W. Jeff pulled out over 200 Qs using that wee beastie!

Day 2 consisted of yours truly wrangling with the routing, but we figured out a method that seemed to work. Mostly. We had to cut that route short in order to not be 8 hours away in the middle of BFE MO (even though it's the rarest of multipliers).

Tony ran 20m, I did my turn on 40m, and Jeff again had 15 and 80m. Rates were

slower than the day before, but we were able to keep an eye on mobiles and snag as many mults as we could. No lunch today, but there is a rumor of a post-contest conflag at a local watering hole . . .

In the end, we had a lot of fun. We still have much work to do to figure out the interstation interference, something the SO1R mobiles don't really have to contend with. We tried to make the most of being able to grab mults at will, and I think that strategy paid off. It's all done but the adjudication at this point.

Hats off to Ward N0AX and Connor KB9LSV who snagged 2000+ Qs this weekend! Quite an achievement for two boys and their radios!

Thanks to all the folks who chased us, from near and far. Thanks to all the MO Ops that stayed home, went to the field, or drove around to activate *every county* in the MOQP. It was very much Type II fun, but still fun.

Thanks again to Mark for driving, and all the crew for playing well together and having fun doing it.

I'm tired, time for an icy cold Stag.

73 for the N0R crew, Jim KK0U

PS, as a late addendum, I really want to thank BEARS, Kyle AA0Z and Sterling N0SSC for revising the rules, getting the word out and revitalizing this great contest! THANKS TO ALL WHO MADE THIS HAPPEN! Today I can say, "can't wait til next year!"

NØU multi op mobile 2009 cw
Operator(s): KD9LSV NØAX

What else to say but thank you for each and every QSO. It was a great effort. For those that want the long synopsis, please enjoy the nice story below.

To Start,

We decided to plan out a route over a couple weeks ago and mostly worked toward the

SE parts of MO. Originally the plan was 36 counties.

N0AX was gracious enough to work on putting together a great operating station in his fantastic 2008 Subaru Forester.

The original plan was to use a Screwdriver for 10-40, but unfortunately the controller was having "murphy problems" on Friday Afternoon. So ultimately, we decide on setting up 2 Hamsticks (1 on the front passenger hood side, and the other on the trunk. The mechanism between the 2 was a simple Coax Switch on by passengers right hand. So with that in mind, the operations were mostly 20/40.

Saturday Morning

As we got on the road, we ended up causing a problem breaking the insulating washer on the front antenna mount. We ended up using a regular washer with electrical tape as the insulator. Once fixed, on our own way to the DEN/PHE to start with a rush of QSOs. Then PHE, GAS with no hiccups. We took a nice stop at a park that was the GAS/OSA. As we head out of OSA to MRE, we started having issues of to our "MacGyver" fix. After patching our work, we worked our way from MRE, to MIL, and to PUL. As we delayed our day, we needing to stop for lunch. We ended up stopping at a local burger place in Crockett that was great. While waiting, we attempted 15M an heard no one, so decided to replace it with the 20M Hamstick. After that, we got to our first of 2 3-corner operations (PUL,LAC,CAM) in Richland. That was great.

Saturday Afternoon/Evening

Nothing abnormal for CAM,HIC,DAL,POL. Then our temp fix broke again prior to GRN so we pulled off for a quick 40M run at DAL/GRN. That turned out to a thing we worked towards as we went further doing maintenance at a county line if possible. After that, then a orderly effort from GRN, WEB, WRT, & TEX. Then we had a great effort right of the 2nd 3-County Operation(TEX,DGL,HWL). We worked our way back to HWY 60. At this time it was getting late and decided in order to get to Poplar Bluff for Sun, we needed to chop off REY from the Saturday run (more to follow on that) and worked SHA, CAR, ORE, RIP with the line operations sprinkled in. We could tell that we needed the APRS spot/cluster on the ORE/RIP operation. Then we headed to our QTH for the night in BTR.

Overall Day 1 we ended up 1376Q, just shy of 100/Hr, we were happy with the operations.

Sunday Morning

As we got a well deserved rest, We ended up doing a replan and decided to put together a schedule together for Sun to Start at BTR/DUN (allow everyone to pick up BTR since 40 was so long on SAT PM) and end in REY instead of WAS as we mentioned above. Losing 1 county that others already were picking up. PEM struggled with some QRM (Power Line) so as went got to the end we found a great spot for PEM/NMD and had a fantastic run on 40M.

Then in NMD, QSO slowed down and N6MU ask for 15. We made the antenna swap quickly and EU showed up loud on 15 (DL, UA, OM, F) then we moved to MIS and very quickly attempted. We operated NMD/MIS on 40 while the 15 got replaced due to the lack of stations to take up 1 of our only 2 antenna spots. MIS became MIS/SCO with a great run on 20M. We bypassed Throed Rolls Central (for the non locals that is Lambert's Cafe in Sikeston) and continued into SCO.

Sunday Afternoon

As SCO became CPG and then PER, we checked the time and determine that the time in STF/STG was going to be shorter than we liked to be. The zig-zag on Route T, going back and forth between STF and STG was a fun operation for those that didn't get us on the line. With those 2 counties behind us only 3 remained (MAD, IRN, & REY). MAD was a partial struggle a majority of the way through, but got better as it went along. As we got to IRN, there was some amazing operations location if we had more time we would have waited at, but the pileups were steady. As we arrived into REY with 13 minutes left it was a short time on 20 (with a fantastic pileup) to then head to 40M until the clocks hit 2000Z.

Results:

Overall we ended up with 2009 QSOs just over the 2k at 100/Hr in 35 fantastic counties. With many people that followed along the way (Hats off to OM2VL, NW0M, W0W, and WB9HFK for following us almost everywhere.) We got to the point that Ward and I started saying "There's {insert your name} as you are hearing the 5nn. It wasn't just the people that follow the train entirely, With 428 uniques, 1 in 5 contacts were unique operators.

Non-US participation was great with 12 non-US/VE entities with multiple QSOs for majority of them.

Note the Score includes 14 multipliers for Operator County count above 50 Q's. (9

Already worked & 12 counties <50 QSOs)

Supporters

To make this amazing effort happen, I have some great people to thank.

- AA0Z, N0SO and the many people that help spread the word about this amazing contest and our activation plans. With them, we were able to help make our activity aware for the many that worked us.
- KC8FDU, KB5YZY, KT0AA and the many others to help make the QP-APRS tracker a success. Many of you were watching it like a hawk and would be ready to pounce when the time is right.
- K0A, N0E, K0PC, the entire N0R team, W0H, K0U, and the many other portable/mobile stations that help drive additional participation.
- Last but not least, N0AX. As Ward, operated the vehicle driving position (over the 750+ mile journey), during sometimes he was a great decoder as the audio was available via the car speakers in addition to Headphones. From his knowledge of minimizing local RFI, to understanding the idea of operating in this adventure multiple times, the vehicle was a fantastic operating position for 19.5 hours of operation.

73 until the next adventure awaits,
Connor KD9LSV

Equipment

RIG IC-7000

Ant: Hamsticks (2 mounts)

OM2VL fixed DX 186 cw 64 SSB Mults108

As I wrote before the QP it was so pity that GA and MO QP are during the same weekend :(I decided first 4 hours make as many as possible MO mobiles, and when GA QP start I will focus only to GA.

BUT ... MO this year had excellent mobile activity. Condx was not good (15/10m was dead) but on 20m usually I work MO mobiles easily.

As I planned at 18Z I start hunting GA stations and when worked AC6ZM, N4N, W4AN, AA5JF worked also MO mobiles. Of course when I worked with GA mobiles I

missed MO ...

After first part 195 QSO and 93 multipliers in my LOG!!!!

After that big numbers (I excepted before the QP some 10 QSO :D) I decided on Sunday fully focused to MO mobiles, but it was too late for SWEEP. I missed only: WOR,GEN,DEK (K0U on Saturday), HEN,BEN,MOR (K0U on Sunday?) and REY (N0U on Sunday - N8II spotted him as N8II and I tought it is a mistake and dont checked the frq, when Jeff corrected the CALL to N0U, he QSY on 40m :(...)

Thanks for the so many QSOs!!!

N0U 40/34
N0E 30/28
K0A 30/12
N0R 25/20
K0PC 16/15
N0M 11/7
W0H 11/4
AB7NK 9/9
K0U 9/9
K7SEN 9/9
N0I 6/6
KE0MHJ 4/4
N0O 4/4
KJ9A 2/2

73, Laci

KA6BIM fixed OR 148 cw 33 SSB Mults89

Lots of fun and activity. They had the whole state pretty well covered. I picked up then last 6 counties I needed for the worked all county award. THANK YOU!! 10 mtrs was dead, and only found 2 stations on 15. 20 and 40 were the most active bands. Contest hours were late enough to actually have propagation between the West Coast and MO. I was able to make over 1/3rd of my Q's on 40. The rovers made the chase even more interesting.

Thanks for the QSO's

Dave ka6bim

DL3DXX fixed DL 38 CW 38 mults

Poor propagation on 15m. Could not hear a single station so decided to skip MO party and just take part in GA party. During night time heard a number of Missouri on 40m and made a few contacts with the deserving.

Thank you for the party. Hope next time with better propagation.

73 Dietmar DL3DXX

N8II fixed WV 227 cw 117 ssb Mults98

I should have prepped more for this QP as it turned out to be a gem! Going in I just planned to operate casually in all 4 QP's, definitely too many on the same weekend. I don't see how I could have put in the time N1MM+ said I did, real time more like 15-1/4 hours with short lapses to work the other QP's. I took a fairly long walking break Saturday afternoon to enjoy the Spring blooms as well as other meal interruptions, etc.

Conditions did favor here to MO on 20M and 40M was often weak to MO but good enough to make a large number of QSO's on both modes many with the mobiles. My 40M score was much better than expected, only 4 Q's less on SSB than in state NW0M. I would often catch mobiles on 2 different bands and did so many times with N0R who was running 3 bands at once. N0E and N0U heard me when I was having trouble hearing them through my low level line noise on 40. Despite their interaction and noise issues N0R and all of the other mobiles seemed to be hearing well. Con, K0A heard me at whisper level on scatter from 2 of his stops for my only 15M QSO's. Many thanks to him and all of the other mobiles for apparently covering all counties; no one came really close to working them all. Congrats to Mitch, NW0M (had a loud signal most always here, even worked easily on 160 CW!) for working 101, Mark, WB9HFK for working 104, and Laci, OM2VL for 108. If I had properly focused and prepared, my mult total would have improved. I spent a lot of time changing contests on N1MM+ and back to snag Q's in other QP's. Conditions were so miserable to GA (mobiles in noise on 40 and skipping over on 20) that I quickly more or less wrote off working all but the easy GA Q's, still making 112 Q's mainly Saturday evening. Over 40 NM Q's were made as well. Sunday it was pretty easy to catch what was new for Q's and counties. 40 stayed weakly open enough to make about 5 new SSB Q's at 16Z before signals really weakened at 17Z for the duration, still scratched out mobile Q's on CW. 20M was excellent from here for most of the time, somewhat weak in the first hour and abandoned but open after 0030Z.

My first 80M CW QSO was with W0I at 2310Z about 35 minutes before my sunset through high noise, way before his sunset! 80M conditions were great, very low static here. P/M stations worked on 75/80 were KE0MHJ, W0H, K0A, and N0R. Thanks to K5CM/K0A and Pat, K0PC, and Dragan K0AP/N0E for making the trip to MO and making many happy with Q's/mults. And also thank to Mark, KI0I/K0I for moving to many different bands/modes from his portable in 2 line locations.

Many thanks to all of the 1x1's, portables, mobiles, and home station ops for keeping the long 18 hours interesting. I will hopefully make more effort next year, a shame 3 other QP's are competing with MO. I was very pleased to work quite a few more Q's than any other out of state score reported so far on 3830scores.

73, Jeff

Nebraska QSO Party

There are 93 counties in NE. There were no mobiles out this year. Activity was low.

The event allowed FT-8 contacts but the scoring was different. Several large NE stations put out hundreds of QSOs, but that was about it for most stations – just a handful of QSOs.

from the 3830 contest reflector:

KA6BIM fixed OR 14 cw 4 ssb digi 5 Mults6 FTn Mults 3

Where were all the Nebraska Stations? I worked about 16% of last years Q's and score was about 5% of last years score. Not for lack of trying! Although band conditions were overall poor, I do not think that was the whole problem. Thanks for those of you who showed up and could hear my signals.

Dave ka6bim

K4BAI - fixed GA 10 CW 1 SSB 10 mults

Not many NE stations heard. Worked all I heard. Still need a number of NE counties all time. Thanks for the QSOs.

73, John, K4BAI

N8II fixed WV 10 CW 8 SSB mults 6

Very low activity. Changing this QP to about 8 hours long would probably boost activity. I was busy with FLQP, but was there before FL started and only made about 4 QSO's then. What a grind for the NE ops!

Thanks and 73, Jeff

Florida QSO Party

There are 67 counties in FL. All of them were on the air for this event as many stations worked all 67. As usual, there were many, many mobiles out and about and many fixed stations on the air. Many stations worked all 67 counties. All were on cw, at least 58 on SSB.

From the 3830 contest reflector:

AD4EB mobile 3623 cw

Another fantastic mobile FQP is in the books, number 6 for us. Everything went off without a hitch, except for the propagation on 15m. The pileups were grand, and Melody enjoyed driving the 947-mile route, thanks in part to the picture-perfect weather.

Last year our claimed score was 4,011 QSOs, but as expected after log checking we fell short of the 4,000 QSO mark. The goal this year was to exceed 4,000 QSOs with enough cushion to achieve 4K after log checking. So, with that in mind, I focused 100 percent on rate, and did not search for multipliers on the 2nd VFO. Unfortunately the 4K goal was not made, but we sure had a blast trying to get

Thanks to everyone that worked us, no matter how many QSOs. I noticed this year in the pileups, that more people were spreading out and not zero beating my run frequency, and also not pouncing on each other. The number of exchanges I had

to resend were minimal compared to previous years. I can't tell you enough how much that is appreciated, it makes the pileups much more fun for everybody, especially me. There were several times in the pileups I thought about how fortunate we mobiles are, to have so many exceptional high speed CW contesters work us in these QSOS parties; it is truly a blessing. If you have any inclinations what so ever of giving mobile contesting a try, please do yourself a favor and just try it.

Melody could not have done a better job driving, navigating, and keeping us on schedule. We never ran into any significant traffic issues, which was amazing. She did a great job parking alongside the county line signs, each time with half our KIA Carnival in each county. We again had a roadside assistance vehicle stop behind us at one of the highway county line signs. He seemed a bit perturbed that we caused him to have to make a special trip from whatever he was doing to check on us (State Police called him thinking we may be having car trouble, which is nice). Melody politely explained to him exactly what we were up to, in her normal very kind voice. Then she asked him if he wanted us to leave immediately, to which he surprisingly responded "you're in America, it's a free country, you can do what you want". We operated for 5 for more minutes, and Melody realized he wasn't leaving until we left. So off we went.

We got off at the next exit and parked at a Casey's so Jim could finish working that pile up. Very shortly after parking there, a police car pulled in alongside of us (oh no) and inquired what we were up to, and wanted to know about the antennas on the roof. He then asked if this was a business for us. Melody explained what it was all about and then invited the police officer to check out the radio set up while Jim continued operating the pileup. He was young, just 21, and was pretty impressed, and very polite and nice. We suggested he find some HAMs in FL to learn more, and thanked him for his service.

We appreciate everyone who took the time to track and work us this year. I hope you were using the new LIVE QSO PARTY APRS TRACKER, which is a game changer in my opinion (<https://mobiletracker.stateqso.com/>). Thanks also to the FCG, the Florida QSO Party Contest Committee, and especially to Dan K1TO and Chris, NX4N for their hard work and encouragement to make the drive to Florida each year.

And last, but definitely not least, thank you Melody for your never-ending

support in this crazy hobby. We can't wait for next year, please put this special date in your calendar now: 1600Z, Apr 24 to 0159Z, Apr 25, 2027.

73 - Jim AD4EB and Melody KI4HVY there. If 15m had been in better shape we probably would have made it.

We ended up with 1,874 QSOs at the end of the day on Saturday, and 2,049 on Sunday. We had 5 hours with over 200/hour rates, and the best 60 mins rate was 287/hour (which included one of the county line stops). The number of unique callsigns this year was 477, 10 percent less than last year.

N2CU mobile 731 CW 34 SSB

My first FQP as an in-state station. Purchased a home in Citrus County this week and got the OK from the XYL to play radio. However, Murphy struck big time. My mobile setup, which has worked flawlessly through many PA, NY, SC and NC QSO parties, decided to drop the COM port. I didn't think about testing anything before the starting bell because it always worked fine. I lost the first six hours juggling hardware and software until it suddenly began communicating. Decided to operate from my driveway just in case it failed again. After a while I drove to nearby Hernando County for some more action. Conditions felt very punk and I didn't make as many QSOs as I expected. Quit early and enjoyed some time with the XYL. I had only planned a Saturday operation, but the XYL told me to go and have some fun on Sunday, so I did. I never expected a competitive score, and it probably isn't with only six hours of operating, but I had fun, and that's what it's all about. Seven counties in all were activated.

FTdx10
Tarheel 75A

73, Tom N2CU

VE7ZO 450 CW 67 (All) counties

Ah springtime, when I don on my orange shirt and the Floridians come out! As expected, they didn't disappoint with much activity from a fine group of CW ops, both at home and mobile. With the XYL out of town, I decided to spend the full 20 hours this

year.

Conditions were OK for this time in the cycle with some decent openings on 15M in addition 20M. 40M was somewhat productive and must have been relatively quiet in FL. Being about as far west in NA without traveling to AK, there is only a short time of coincidental darkness to work the low bands.

Finally got the county sweep courtesy of Jeff KU8E operating W4AN/M at 19:08 Sunday, a little earlier than last year. Seems the panhandle always has the tough multipliers so I'm grateful that W4AN spent his time this year focused in the area.

QSO's by Mobiles:

AD4EB - 47
N4TO - 38
NK4O - 30
AD4ES - 27
K8MR - 24
K4OJ - 23
N4CW - 18
NX4N - 17
K2PS - 17
W4AN - 16
W2FU - 14

Thanks for the Q's,

OJ, Jim

VE3CT (W1AJT opr) 311 CW 67 counties - all

As usual the rovers were stellar. Got my last county from AD3EB with 1/2 hour to go. Main rover Q's were:

AD4EB - 35
AD4ES - 20
N4CW - 20
N4TO - 20
K2PS - 17

Thanks to the above and all of the other rovers and stations - great contest as always.

W2FU County Expedition/Rover 2029 CW QSO

Activated 11 Counties, 10 of them on county lines. Still, lots of driving time.

K4D

62' inverted 'V' - Tuned 300 ohm feeder raised on 33'
fiberglass mast

Jeff

K0VBU Portable F 170 CW

K3 and end fed wire and 20m dipole at 6'. 4 counties DUV HAM MAD JEF
First time as a rover in my 66 years as a ham. Loved it!
Very trying as a rookie at this, but the fun was worth the effort.
Thanks for the Q's!

Now back to our road trip vacation!

73

Bill K0VBU

NR4DL County Expedition 854 cw 192 ssb

Operator(s): K4NMR K5KG W4LT WB2AMN

Station: NR4DL

From the United States Coast Guard Cutter Ingham quayside in Key West.

N4CW mobile 2056 cw 46 ssb

Operator(s): N4CW W4TMO

We're always trying something different; this year we were going to run high power and on county lines while stopped, usually right next to the county line sign, both (Bert & Jim) be operating on different bands. Jim got a new amp for the car, a Mercury Lite, and the mobile antenna is a Tarheel, capable of handling the power! During the county line events, we only ran 100W each to minimize inter-station interference. I used the Tarheel and Jim used separate heliwhips. With conditions being what they were, the extra power didn't seem to matter much, but the experience we had using the amp was invaluable.

As I said band conditions were trying especially with a low-efficiency antenna (like all us mobiles!). However, we did manage to "enable" 31 counties in 17:47 hours and managed 2102 Q's.

We had many "frequent followers", noting KC1XX, N3AM, DL3DXX, OM2VL, VE7ZO, N8II, K5CM, VE5MX, W8PI, W8MJ, W1TO, W1FV, W1FJ, VE3YT, VE3KP, VE3CT, NW0M, NU1O, N9CK, N8CK, N5TJ, N5KW, N4TY, N3RD, KM5G, KA2MGE. K9CW, K9CT, K7SV, K2NV, K1LT, K0RC, AA7V, AA3R, and many others who weren't as frequent but nevertheless fully appreciated! WOW!!!

We did take breaks for dinner, especially to note was a Saturday stop at "Martin's Firepit" for some BBQ --- it was really great! "Fall off the bone" ribs, and the meat fell off the rib when you picked it up...that plus a "Blue Moon" to wash it down was great, not to mention the peach cobbler for dessert! Of course that time spent hurt our score a little, but it added to the quality of the weekend experience!

73, and thanks for dropping by often!!! Bert (N4CW) and Jim (W4TMO)

NK4O mobile 1675 cw54 ssb

Operator(s): N4NMM N4NTT NK4O

Thanks for all the activity chasing Florida! The stress of a 20-hour multi/multi vehicle operation—keeping everything synced and humming while in motion—is a serious grind.

A massive thanks to our driver, Mark N4NTT. Mark was a pro behind the wheel, handling constant map changes on the fly, slowing down precisely for those split-second

county line crossings, and making the quick breaks the ops needed to stay sharp. He says he's already back for next year!

We had a frustrating mystery on SSB. While I was holding things down on the CW station without any issues, it felt like our SSB side was invisible to the world on Saturday/Sunday. I spent an exhaustive amount of time looking over the SSB setup, pulling over several times to check connections, cables, menus, and even swapping out BPFs on the shoulder. It was a relief to read other participant write-ups today and realize the issue was likely just the bands and not a gear failure.

The highlight of the troubleshooting was working N8II. He asked for an SSB contact out of the clear blue while running on CW, and we pulled over specifically for him. Since I was the CW op, I had to scramble to plug in a mic with an adapter just to see if the Q could be made. I can't believe he sat there for 5 minutes waiting for me to finally show up—it's as if he had ESP and knew exactly what I was dealing with in the mobile!

A special thank you to N2ZN for spotting our SSB op on Sunday. That single spot made the world of difference for our young op, helping her Sunday totals exceed all of Saturday's.

Speaking of which, a super thanks to our young SSB op, Victoria N4NMM, who diligently kept calling CQ right up until the very end each day despite the sparse activity. She's a trooper and is already planning her return for next year. (Last year she had over 500 Q's vs 50 this year)

Top Chasers (Total QSOs):

AA7V 39
K3WW 37
N5TJ 33
DL3DXX 32
VE7ZO 30
N9CK 28
K7SV 25
W1FM 22
N5OT 21
PJ4WW 20
K9CT 20

K2PS mobile reported 1733 CW QSO

no comments

NX4N mobile 1800 CW QSO

After a 13 year hiatus, this was the first time I had operated FQP 'solo' full time. It was such a joy to run FQP pileups again - thanks to you who called in! My wife and I take care of her elderly parents so she stayed near them and I did not stray too far away from South Florida. My routes covered all counties from HIL, POL, OSC and IDR southward from coast to coast. All 22 Counties were covered and I decided to maximize my fun by operating more than 85% at County lines. I've never operated a county line before - what would it entail?

It is clear that AD4EB has certainly set a high bar for all Mobiles in FQP and beyond. Jim and Melody have optimized nearly every aspect of their QP outings (great job guys!) and I endeavored to study and copy some of their lessons learned (copying is the highest form of flattery). Here's what I learned:

Operating County lines make sense to me if you are SO No Driver, or if you do have a Driver then at the beginning and end of the routes each day.

Perhaps the biggest pearl of wisdom AD4EB gave me was to download and learn Garmin BaseCamp software (I found <https://www.youtube.com/@EZMotoTim> to be fantastic; about 8 hours).

This is a *wonderful* piece of software for laying out Routes with highly accurate County Lines, gas stops and more that you can flag. The routes can then be uploaded to a Garmin GPS (Jim suggested a Garmin DriveSmart 65MT which I bought used for \$99 on eBay and I couldn't be happier). Folks, this is a difference maker! No more maps, notes, spreadsheets etc flying around the vehicle cabin distracting the driver). The GPS will literally announce the places you flag as you approach them including mileage countdowns.

IT IS IMPORTANT to take it slow and truly learn BaseCamp - it is like driving a Ferrari and you cannot just take what you know from Google Maps and transfer it there. If you do so you will crash and burn and give up - don't do that! BaseCamp is much, much more powerful and worth every minute of its learning curve.

While BaseCamp got me where I needed to go, I really didn't know how each County Line looked so I thought about pre-driving the routes to examine them; that lasted for a few hours before sanity returned and I pulled up Good Earth! This other fine piece of

software can show you each County Line and by and large it gave enough detail to see whether parking at each line was feasible. Best of all- no driving. One exhausting set of routes per year, thank you!

Other Great, Good and Fun observations:

Just before the Saturday break on 40m, W4AN/m called me for my first FQP mobile to mobile QSO. Jeff KU8E was in Jackson and I was in Palm Beach - tnx Jeff! Nice signal buddy.

I was gassing up in very south Dade near Monroe about an hour before FQP started when two different hams came up to introduce themselves and inquire about FQP; nothing like recruiting on the road!

Driving through my beautiful home state of FL is one of the greatest pleasures in FQP. Cows munching their green pastures, hay fields, lakes with water skiers folks fishing and so much more. I've lived in many portions of Florida and it never ceases to both thrill and calm me as I traverse it. In Hardee I was surprised to see many acres of both corn fields and orange groves - nice to see both making a comeback!

What orderly pile ups! You out-of-state operators are really A1 pros, very disciplined and patient while I tried to work each of you as rapidly as possible. Please forgive my occasional 'Lidness'. I have minor hand tremors so I have to slow down when using a paddle, along with typing errors. Hope it was as much fun for you as it was for me.

THE BAD:

GAS ATTACK: Gas prices here on my route ranged from \$3.80-\$4.20 - ouch! My routes covered a total of 830 miles and about \$250 (wah!). This translates to roughly \$35 per operating hour or 14 cents/QSO. Ugh, I hope prices come down by FQP next year.

SOL ATTACK: Ol' Sol certainly played havoc, kinda ruining my plans to cover 3 bands at each stop - 'nuff said.

STOP BUGGIN' ME: Hardee county was at the epicenter of huge clouds of lovebugs, the likes of which I have not seen since 2013. What a mess! It took me about an hour and a half to wash them off from the windshield and front grill. Desoto and Okechobee made major contributions to the body count too.

CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM: Desoto decided to have a competition with Hardee, which clearly won the bug war. So our 'Spanish conquistador' decided that horrible

roads would be their contribution to the NX4N/m pain. The roads of rural Desoto County run through the city of Arcadia via State Road 70, a major highway connecting the east and west coasts of the peninsula. Unfortunately, this major artery is currently a combination CLOG & SLOG due to single-lane road construction through the heart of town; it stretched for miles. And I had to traverse this little bit of driving nightmare twice - ARGHHH!

DUAL COUNTY COVERAGE: I was at a particularly rural county line many miles away from a gas station. Hmm, I'm at the county lines soooo let's just say that I left my mark in two different counties. Unfortunately FQP Rules do not award bonus points for this type of county line operation ;-)

HIGHWIRE ACT: At the DES/HAR county line road I took, there are huge high voltage lines running on *both sides* of the road. I found a small gravel road that ran along the line and I moved about 500ft away from the lines. As I started my run, I listened - no RFI, cool! Then my headphones started occasionally to squeal, picking up noise possibly due to moisture hitting the power lines. It wasn't too bad but I never thought of headphones as a product detector!

THE UGLY:

SARDINE CAN OPERATION: My operating setup was in the 2nd row just behind the drivers seat. It was a FB setup but I had a logistical problem: My first stop at the CLR/MON line represents all the Everglades has to offer - no cell coverage and wicked bus-sized biting flies. There was no way I would get out of a running vehicle there to jump in the back seat to operate, so I devised a kludge 2nd operating seat in the driver spot. Once parked I pulled out a tiny 10" 2nd monitor and a wireless keyboard and mouse sitting on a small lap-tray. No rig access, no paddle and (thanks to my shrinking but not yet gone beer-belly) the steering wheel obscured all the Function keys. Whoever worked me at CLR/MON gets a medal for my rudimentary operating abilities there!

BROKEN-HEARTED: At the DAD/BRO line sat a broken-down 18 Wheeler with a team of 'roadside mechanics' trying to fix it. I squeezed in off the road next to them and quickly learned that as they revved the engine it overpowered all but the loudest signals in my earphones. I had to eventually give up and move on.

SUNDAY MORNING BLUES: As I started powering up the station for a 6:15am departure, my PC showed signs of N1MM+ issues. The contest setup had disappeared (luckily Saturday's logs were intact) but I had to move the screens, change the setups, messages, debug rig/radio interfaces, etc - WAH! Finally at 7:15am I hit the road but

did not get to my first destination until 9am. Oh well...

PILE O' GATOR: It never ceases to amaze me what I see on the Tamiami Trail in the Everglades heading to/from my starting line! This year - and this is 100% true! - on the side of the road I saw a literal pile of alligator remains without a head but with pieces of legs, body and tail remaining. I guess gator heads are a valuable commodity but - YUK!

I'd like to offer special thanks to FCG past president and VP FQP Dan Street K1TO, who has been the foundation of and leader of FQP since 1998 - tnx Dan for all you've done for us including providing such amazing scoring results and analyses! You are the heart and soul of all things FQP.

Thanks also to our FCG president Chris W4WF, who each year creates an outstanding multi-page FQP write up/report using Dan's data/analysis. Chris is a truly gifted leader who motivates all of us to give our best for FQP and FCG - tnx Chris.

Jeff KU8E is our super FB FQP and FCG Webmaster and it's just a pleasure to work with him; sure appreciate it Jeff!

Sincere appreciation to Bob K0RC and Chuck NO5W for their super-duper county tracking tools - these are indispensable for working the sweeps, planning routes and more. Bob/Chuck - you guys are the best! Big thumbs up also to Chip N3IW for developing the FQP spotting website. A huge thank you as well to Rus K2UA and the NYQP team for the cool new FQP APRS tracking system that so many mobiles and expeditions were able to use for the first time - it was great!

Huge kudos to our terrific Fixed and 20 1x1 Spelling Bee partners - you all are the foundation of our way-cool QSO Party - thank you for standing strong on all the bands representing our Sunshine State.

A big salute as well to our talented road warriors, many of whom changed their routes to ensure VFB county coverage - great teamwork folks! They do an amazing job of getting the cobwebs off antennas, rigs, pc's, power plants and performing station(s), vehicle and routing set up just to make the first contact. I sincerely am in awe of your enthusiasm for hitting the road and am proud to call you fellow FQP mobiler/expeditioner. Please come back next year and let's bring some new 'Roadie Recruits' along for the fun!

Finally -

My biggest, loudest applause is for all of you out-of-state operators who are the real heroes. Whether you make a half dozen or several hundred QSO's, your enthusiastic participation and support help make the FQP fun for all. We can throw the party, but it

is you that keeps coming back every year -
Thank you, thank you, thank you!

See you in FQP 2027!

FQP - So Bright You Gotta Wear Shades!
vy 73/OJ,
Chris, NX4N dit dit

W4AN mobile (KU8E opr) 1223 CW QSO

I purposely limited my route to the rarer counties in the FL panhandle. Most of the counties in the Florida peninsula were covered by a bunch of other mobiles and expedition stations, many who operated from county lines. Unfortunately most of the county lines in the FL panhandle are separated by rivers. So it was hard to find a county line to operate from. I think I probably spend a minimum of one hour in each county. I hope this helped everyone get a Florida county sweep.

I found some really good operating locations if in the future I ever want to do an Expedition instead of mobile. The Apalachicola National Forest is southwest of Tallahassee, FL. There are tons of fire roads in that area. No power poles for miles around. It was so quiet you could hear a pin drop. I did LEO and WAK from there. In FRA I found a nice spot right on the Ochlockonee Bay. I pulled my car maybe 5 feet from the water with the antenna facing that way. I'm pretty sure the proximity to salt water makes the mobile antenna work better. My last county (JEF) was done from a fire road in the Aucilla Wildlife Management area south east of Tallahassee. Very similar to the national forest with miles of pine trees and no power lines.

I had a good time despite John not being there with me. See everyone in Daytio to share stories.

Jeff KU8E

K8MR mobile (14 counties) 1787 cw 113 ssb

Another good finish to the Florida snowbird season, though as noted by everyone,

conditions weren't that good. I wonder if it was random solar flares, of just the start of the sunspot cycle decline.

8 1/2 hours parked, 10 hours driving, and 1 1/2 hours not playing radio while driving through St. Pete and Tampa. The Saturday parked time was at four different county lines. Sunday had no lines, but three counties -MTE, HIL, and PIN - by the salt water. Other than that, mostly operating while driving on Sunday.

89 of the SSB QSOs were from MTE and HIL. Fewer than seven from anywhere else. Allowing self-spotting for mobile stations would greatly enhance the SSB QSOs they could pass out.

I record the audio while driving to transcribe later. Which turns a 20 hour contest into a 30 hour contest. But this year I used the audio recording in the IC-7300, which was a vast improvement over the voice recorder I had used in previous years.

Thanks to all who chased us around Florida. I hope to work you in many more contests, including the Ohio QSO Party in August. And I'm looking forward to seeing many of you in Dayton.

73 - Jim K8MR

VE7ZO fixed BC 450 CW QSO All 67 counties worked

Ah springtime, when I don on my orange shirt and the Floridians come out! As expected, they didn't disappoint with much activity from a fine group of CW ops, both at home and mobile. With the XYL out of town, I decided to spend the full 20 hours this year.

Conditions were OK for this time in the cycle with some decent openings on 15M in addition 20M. 40M was somewhat productive and must have been relatively quiet in FL. Being about as far west in NA without traveling to AK, there is only a short time of coincidental darkness to work the low bands.

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NX4N - 17
K2PS - 17
W4AN - 16
W2FU - 14

Thanks for the Q's,

OM2VL fixed DX 418 cw 98 SSB 67 counties worked

Thanks for the QSO's! Unfortunately condx was horrible and very interesting K index almost 3 or 4.

15m was closed, on 20m most of stations on noise level (but some 599++++) I had big problem to break US wall, I missed many mobiles because usually I must call 5-10 or more minutes, and when finished the QSO others are changed his county.

After 22Z excellent 20m opening, I had a nice SSB pile up, with many SSB multipliers. 15m also opened at local night with excellent signals, but at that time not many FL stations. At 20Z on 15m N4ZZ was 599++++ but Bert don't copied me ... :(Despite bad condx I can make SWEEP (MIX, CW, 20m) at 23:50Z Saturday - at 23:50 AD4ES MTE!

1st part I ended with 367 QSO/111 MULTIPLIER.

Sunday worst condx, again a big problem to break the US wall.

MISSED 5+ SSB multis which I called, but no luck)

It was so interesting, because I made 30+ easy QSO's with AB7NK, W4SIG, W0GXQ mobiles in IL,IN,MI ... it seems only FL way not working perfectly this weekend for me.

Most QSOs:

AD4EB 55/41

N4TO 36/26
N4CW 31/20
NX4N 28/21
AD4ES 26/19
K8MR 24/12
W2FU 20/9
K4OJ 18/16
NK4O 18/13
K2PS 13/11
W4AN 11/9
N2CU 7/7

Thanks for the excellent party!

N8II fixed WV 420 cw 263 ssb CW Mults 67 Ph Mults 58

I think my real time on the air was a bit less; for me 18+ hours is excellent BIC. I took a few minutes off a couple of times Sunday including a bush dead branch trim which took about twice the time expected and about 30 minutes for a walk. I ate meals while looking for fresh CW Q's/mults a couple of times. 20M was about perfect between here and FL due to the lower SFI and loss of 15M all day Sunday. I didn't even hear any west coast calling FL on 15 Sunday, made one weak scatter QSO. FL ops should have abandoned 20 for 15 when it opened briefly the first 2 hours. I made only one more Q after 1728Z on scatter Saturday. I had runs on SSB off and on throughout the QP, even a good one in the 19Z hour Sunday. First hour rate was 77/hr with many SSB Q's in 2nd half hour, topped 50/hr 2 more hours. Best Sunday hour was 35 at 13Z.

I don't have the time now to compile detailed stats but the mobiles did a great job of running and trying to control pile ups; not any of the CW mobile ops were less than very good. I had all of the CW mults except St Johns by 2345Z Saturday. I was glad I made it to the radio early finding N4TO for PUT/STJ and the sweep at 1217Z on 40 Sunday (also worked on 20). K4OJ seemed to be having some issues on 20M, not the usual on the air always beacon of past years. The phone mults were tough, 58 this year vs. 63 last year with W4AN help who went CW only this year; we missed you on phone. Thanks to the one man show Jim, K8MR and NK4O for QSY's for a few SSB. Mobiles worked the most often were K4OJ, N4TO, AD4ES, rate machine Jim, AD4EB, Bert, N4CW, K8MR, NK4O and NX4N. Both NX4N and NK4O must have

had some learning together as they both didn't ID often and sent a "dit-dit" to complete a Q. To boot they were only 1 KHz apart on 20, so I may have busted a few Q's. Kudos to Tom, N2CU (also alone, a phone mult, TNX) and Jim, AD4EB for the long drive just to get to FL for the run fest. Unfortunately, I never tracked down a SSB mobile, did get NE2CC once and a couple of calls from POTA ops and casual mobiles. Weirdest happening was twice on SSB an op sent me MAD then changed to a county I already had, but all ended well when KQ4TGY called in.

Thanks especially to the mobiles, many on for the entire 20 hour grind. And thanks to all of the causal ops on 20 SSB who really boosted my score. This is a really fun QP, could do with less intense pile ups on CW, Hi! I sat in line (mostly short line) pretty often even when a mobile was booming in. I failed a few times on 40 to even work a mobile when they were apparently having trouble with noise. Thanks to the organizers for a great QP. The 20 different spelling bee stations boosted activity! My score fell 3K or so short of last year but made the most QSO's ever.

73, Jeff

Mobile Activity in April

At the beginning of the month

K4YT spotted in WV for 2 days of putting out counties

WY0A noted in KS running counties then to IN, IL, into WV, OH, into PA, NY, NJ then back through WV, OH,

N9JF ran some parks in TN, LA, IL

AB7NK/K7SEN headed east from AZ. Noted running counties in OK, into TX, Wound up in WI, running lots there, then to upper peninsula of MI. for the MINIMIZING

KB6UF put out counties in LA,

W0GXQ/ and N0KV starting running in NE.....next appearance spotted in MN, quickly to MI upper peninsula

K3IMC spotted in IN, IL, headed to MI

W4SIG popped up mobile in MI. Ran a couple dozen there.

There was the MI Mini.....

N8OYY noted in WV

Mobiles headed back from the Mini.....

Georgia QSO Party

There are 159 counties in GA. Mobiles were out, but it's hard to cover a state this big without dozens of mobiles.

N9FZ portable 531 CW

This one was fun and hard. Had to pick up my oldest daughter from her concert down in Lowndes county which was nice but had a short operation at Grand Bay WMA (POTA on) b/c I was with the whole family. Operated some once home. Sunday was more effort and went PORTABLE to Dooly, Sumter/Macon, and Peach. Hit a few new-to-me POTA parks in there as well. Fun times. High bands seemed not very good.

AA5JF portable 603 cw 393 SSB

Was in nine counties on Saturday (two locations were county-line operations) and four counties on Sunday. Lots of POTA, including some rare parks, which helped with phone QSOs and multipliers. Have figured out a portable 80M antenna I can set-up in less than 5 minutes, and it was good enough to work OM2VL. Wasted about 15 minutes on 15M on Sunday, and worked two stations (both DX, and both I had worked on 20M a half-hour earlier). Thought I'd break 1000 QSOs, but came up 4 short, although if you count dupes, maybe I did? 40M was awesome the whole weekend, and 20M had especially short skip on Saturday, with OH stations S9. Beat my 2024 score by about 10%.

Got back to my house in Augusta just past 3p on Sunday to watch the other Georgia sporting event of the second weekend of April. Put up a portable antenna in my front yard, and operated from a battery on my front porch. Noticed a lull in radio activity in the final hour of the Masters, but thankfully Rory did not stumble, and there was no play-off, so most of you turned off the TV at 2330Z, and came back to the radio. And I had a fine run in the final 30 minutes.

N4N Rover 1925 cw 293 SSB
Operator(s): K5JR KX4MZ WK4U
Station: K5JR

Another GQP N4N Rover in the books. Thanks to all who chased us. The WX was GREAT! And Rory repeated!! Pics of our Rover setup are on the K5JR QRZ page.

W4AN mobile 1164 cw
Operator(s): K4BAI KU8E

Thanks for all QSOs. KU8E set everything up in my car. Jeff also planned great routes for both days. He had to do some single op (driving and operating while stationary) on Sunday when I had committed to lunch with an old friend from out of town. Apologies for no SSB QSOs. We were not equipped to go to SSB even when requested.

73, John, K4BAI.

AD4EB mobile 1397 cw

It was another beautiful April weekend in Georgia, and Melody and I mixed both of our hobbies together to enjoy it. We visited Gibbs Gardens (in north central GA) on Saturday, and did the contest mostly on Sunday, traveling around the more mountainous northern region of the state.

We activated only 19 counties (66 last year), but managed to accumulate 1,397 QSOs in the 11 hours (127/hr average). Last year we averaged 200/hour on Sunday. Conditions were not nearly as good as last year (sunspots, golf, nice wx?), and it seemed that participation was down considerably. But we had a great weekend, and are now well prepared for the FQP in 2 weeks.

Here are the top 15 ops based on number of QSOs:

W4NZ (30)
DL3DXX (29)
N6DE (29)
N2MF (26)
NM2A (26)
K2UA (25)
N0HJZ (24)
OM2VL (24)
W5TM (24)
AA3R (23)
ND4Y (23)
VE3YT (23)
W4SIG (23)
AA7V (21)
K1ZZI (19)

Congratulations to Ted W4NZ for taking the first spot, which is really surprising because he is so close to the GA border. He must have been closely tracking us, as we worked him quickly after entering many of the counties before the pileups began. And congrats also to Deitmar DL3DXX who moved me to 15m many times, and to Dean N6DE for a good showing from CA.

My phone was actively running APRSdroid, and I hope most of you were following us via the Live QSO Party APRS Tracker application. This tracking application is the coolest and most beneficial thing to come along for mobile contesting since I started doing this 15 years ago.

We appreciate everyone who worked us, especially the new QSO party entrants which there were plenty. There were 297 unique calls, including 160 that were only worked once or twice.

Thanks to the South East Contest Club, the Southeastern DX Club, and especially KU8E, W4GKF, K4BAI, and AA5JF for pulling off another FB GQP.

And thanks to Melody for driving and navigating the 280 mile route expertly as always.

Hope to work you in FL.!

73 – Jim AD4EB and Melody KI4HVY

AC6ZM mobile 1613 cw 78 SSB

First time running the Georgia QSO Party as a SOLP Mixed-Mode Rover w/driver, activating 52 counties with great weather, smooth roads, and a very patient non-ham driver. Logged 1,690 QSOs across 40/20/15m with strong Sunday conditions and lots of friendly chasers. A few antenna issues, watery signals, and zero-beat pileups added spice, but overall it was a fantastic weekend on the road.

Georgia QSO Party 2026 – AC6ZM – Rover

This was my first year entering the GQP as a Single-Op Low Power Mixed-Mode Rover, inspired by the Jedi Master of mobile contesting himself, AD4EB. My non-ham driver handled the roads while I handled the beeps. Weather was perfect, roads were clear, and Georgia didn't throw any surprise construction zones at us. A rare miracle.

Below are my field notes from the mobile trenches:

1. Participation seemed a little lighter than usual, but still plenty of activity to keep the rate moving.
2. Activated 52 counties. Missed a few planned ones after 80m decided to self-destruct on Saturday. Pulled over, stared at the antenna like it owed me money, lost an hour.
5. Worked 41 states and 3 provinces (AB, BC, ON). Missed ND, DC, DE, AL, NM, HI, AK, ID, NV, WY. Basically the states that always ghost you when you need them the most.
6. Band breakdown:
40m – 754 Q
20m – 882 Q

15m – 54 Q

Total – 1690 QSOs (without dupes)

7. Propagation looked good on paper, but signals often sounded watery. Like trying to copy a submarine through a garden hose.

8. My QSY technique was dialed in. Many CW ops didn't even notice I left and came back. Pro tip: if I get asked to QSY, FOLLOW US. Free real estate and fast QSOs await.

9. Self-spotting helped a ton. DL3DXX and N0HJZ were psychic and always showed up before the pileup.

10. APRS tracking (APRS TX app) worked great and helped chasers anticipate county lines. Highly recommended. Learn to use it. Info available from <https://mobiletracker.stateqso.com/>

11. Posted live to the scoreboard via N1MM+. Fun, motivating, and mildly addictive. Wish more mobiles would do it.

12. Too many chasers zero-beat me. Please use XIT +/- 10–60 Hz. It helps everyone.

13. Most ops were polite and slightly off-frequency (perfect). A few sent their calls continuously like they were trying to win a shouting contest (not an effective approach to make it into the log). You know who you are.

14. Sunday conditions were much better. Higher rates and finally some short skip to work TCG and DDCC friends.

Top 20 Operators by QSO Count:

OM2VL 116

DL3DXX 67

N0HJZ 53

W5TM 53

N2MF 46

ND4Y 45

AA7V 39

N7EPD 30

WA2QAU 27
NM2A 25
N6DE 25
W4SIG 24
K2SG 23
KA6BIM 23
VE3TM 20
WO4O 18
WB2PJH 18
K1GU 17
K5TIA 17
VE3AQ 17

Operators who worked me on 3 bands (15/20/40):

OM2VL
DL3DXX
AA7V
N7EPD
N2MF
KA6BIM

Final Thoughts:

Huge respect to AD4EB (Jim) and Melody for inspiring me to take on mobile operating. A huge Thanks to my driver that did a fabulous job. Thanks to all TCG and DDCC members for the QSOs. Thanks to the South East Contest Club, the Southeastern DX Club, and especially Jeff KU8E and John K4BAI for putting on another fantastic GQP. Hopefully TCG brings home some plaques this year.

73 & Semper Fidelis,
Juan – AC6ZM

DL3DXX fixed DX 290 CW CW Mults 131

This was my 20th participation in Georgia QSO party. In the last year it has become a highlight of the year and I wont miss it.
Participation and propagation have changed over the years but the fun is the

same. Some improvement in antennas and station automation at the club station DF0SAX show results.

This year propagation I would call average. 15m was almost not open on Saturday but I was able to listen to OM2VL working stations. Sunday was little better but far away from being good.

The main load was on 20m during the day and on 40m during night time. Unfortunately both nights 20m closed around local midnight.

The party would only be half fun without all the Georgia mobiles and in the last year the increasing number of POTA activating stations. Thanks a lot to all for the miles driven to give out extra points and to the fixed stations for being on air.

The 10m antenna is still damaged from a storm in spring so I did not make any QSO there and also no QSO on 160m. I checked the band few times during night but never heard a station from Georgia.

Thank you for all the QSOs and thank you for a fun weekend.

Now to the organizers to start examination of the results.

Hope to be back next year for the 21th time.

73 Dietmar DL3DXX

OM2VL fixed DX 277 cw 94 SSB CW Mults 127 Ph Mults 68

What a weekend! Thanks for organizing FB QP and FB job of mobiles!!!

As I wrote before the QP it was so pity that GA and MO QP are during the same weekend ☐☐

I decided first 4 hours make as many as possible MO mobiles, and when GA QP start I will focus only to GA. BUT ... MO this year had excellent mobile activity. Condx was not good (15/10m was almost dead) but on 20m usually I work MO mobiles easily. As I planned at 18Z I start hunting GA stations and when worked AC6ZM, N4N, W4AN, AA5JF worked also MO mobiles. Of course when I worked with MO mobiles I missed some GA ...

After first part 200 QSO (195 IN MOQP) and 123 multipliers in my LOG!!!!

Thanks for the so many QSO's ESPECIALLY SSB multipliers!!!

Most QSO's:

AC6ZM 120/50

N4N 81/49

AD4EB 28/19

AA5JF 27/13

W4AN 26/20

N9FZ 6/4

(6): KM4DAY

(5): AA4LR, N4OO

KA6BIM fixed OR 106 cw 19 ssb CW Mults 73 Ph Mults 14

Fun contest, lots of activity and lots of rovers. Sunday afternoon was very busy. 10 mtrs was dead and 15 had a little activity Sunday afternoon, but hardly any GA stations were there. They were already on 40, many hours before that band opens to the West coast. I really appreciate the rovers who rotate thru the bands and keep coming back to 20 meters for the West Coast and DX stations. I was essentially a single band participant due to propagation.

Thanks for the QSO's

Dave Ka6bim

N8II fixed WV 77 cw 35 ssb CW Mults 50 Ph Mults 23

Very disappointing conditions and low activity particularly from home stations this year. W4AN/M was almost never heard here on 40M (didn't notice many spots either). All of the mobiles were in the noise for many daylight hours on 40. 20M was it its best just after the start, very little prop to GA on Sunday. It was really tough trying to work the mobiles from here much of the time. I focused on the MOQP with good success; the MO mobiles were louder than GA on 20 and 40.

Thanks to mobiles AA5JF, AC6ZM, W4AN, and N4N for your efforts. N4N was worked the most but his signal was not very loud.

The plaque awards are plentiful; the activity seems to be on a downward slide.

Thanks and 73, Jeff

New Mexico QSO Party

There are 33 counties in NM. Looks like top scorer worked 20 of them. Two mobiles were out and about as reported on. NM is a large state with many miles to drive to get to the counties – some easy, others often detours off the main routes.

KK6MC mobile 533 cw 142 SSB

I had a good contest, despite mediocre propagation in the morning and static crashes from local thunder storms through most of the day. At times the static crashes rendered 40M difficult to work. Weak stations that I can usually work on 40M were swamped by the thunder storm noise. Sorry to those stations. It rained off and on most of the day, but it more or less stopped when I operated.

I started the contest on the Quay/Harding county line, then worked my way home to the Bernalillo/Sandoval county line, working a total of 5 county lines and a single (Torrance) county for a total of 11 counties activated. NM counties are large and dispersed, so it is hard to optimize a route that doesn't take half the contest driving and still leaves enough time to do a meaningful activation. Ginger was out of town, so I was the driver and operator. In most of NM, the county lines are well marked; even on some of the better county roads, so I had no problems operating on the lines.

After a morning of modest activity on 40M and 20M, activity died in the early afternoon, but picked up later. Lots of familiar calls were worked. These calls appear in the log 8 or more times: N6MU who does a great job with low power and an all band vertical, N8II, W0UC, K9PW, who does a consistently good job with an attic antenna, WB9HFK, N7EPD, KA6BIM, OM2VL, VE3AQ, AA3R, and K9CW. It is comforting to know that people look for you, especially when the rate drops.

I operated mostly CW, but a request by N6MU at my last stop to QSY to 20M phone led to lots of people calling after we were done, so I ended up with a pretty good SSB run at the end of the contest. I guess this is an omen to operate more phone.

I made a couple of excursions to 15M, but it was always pretty much dead. I guess the four different QSO parties kept the chasers hopping on 20M and 40M. 20M was good the whole contest, and 40M was pretty productive when the static crashes died down and I had a nice run there the last half hour of the contest.

For the first time I used the mobile tracker. It seemed to help when I first activated a new county/band. Several times I noticed a substantial increase in callers when the latency of the site and my APRS posting times kicked in I didn't see any other NM mobiles spotted. One minor issue I encountered was that when operating from a county line, it only posted one county. This is not a big deal, and when I think about it, I guess it would be difficult to implement county line operation identification. I think it is a good tool, but it is another thing to detract from operating, allow that was not as bad as I expected. I will utilize it in the future.

I first operated mobile in the NM QSO Party in 2011, and have operated most of them since then. It is a fun time and lasts 12 hours, just the right amount of time to catch 40M openings in the morning and evening.

I hope that you can all operate the 2027 NM QSO Party.

NM5DX mobile 177 CW

An hour and a half on the air; 10 hours driving. 570 miles, 7 counties. Ended up in the White Sands National Park visitor center lot as the sun was setting. Big fun. Great wx. Now I'm down to 3 counties remaining on my clean sweep activation list. Next year! OM2VL always called me a minute or 2 after I fired up in a new location. He got 'em all, even the sunset OTE on 40. Quite a few other EU, too. TNX for all the Qs. I really like roving in this contest, and the west side of NM was gorgeous today.

73, Scott K5TA d/b/a NM5DX/m

KA6BIM fixed OR 23 cw 11 SSB digi 9 Mults20

Fun contest to play in. Thanks for the qso's Dave Ka6bim

OM2VL fixed DX 26 CW 2 SSB Mults 19

Very limited time because of 2 another QP.

Thanks for KK6MC/M (10/10) and NM5DX/M (7/7) for mobile activity from rare NM counties!

73, Laci OM2VL

MICHIGAN MINI

2026 MI Mini Attendees:

N8WTQ Dori – Midland, MI
W8OP Alan – Fairmont, WV
W0GXQ Jerry – Evergreen, CO
AB7NK Mary – Cordes Lakes, AZ
K7SEN Neil – Cordes Lakes, AZ
K8ZZ Ed – Grand Rapids, MN
K8II Steve – Fairmont, WV
K8MW Dick – Lake, MI
W4SIG Kerry – Springdale, UT
N8HAM Jim – South Lyon, MI
KJ8F Sharon – Elida, OH
K3IMC Don – LaGrange, GA
KJ4NIT Jean – LaGrange, GA
KA9JAC Bob – Hortonville, WI
KB9YVT Ann – Hortonville, WI
WA9DLB Tony – Barrington, IL
WA9DLB-XYL Helen – Barrington, IL

K8OOK Mike – Grand Rapids, MI
N8IPG Nancy – Grand Rapids, MI
NN9K Pete – Colona, IL
N9DQS Nancy – Colona, IL
N8RLJ Jaci – Clarkston, MI
NM1G Chuck – North Kingstown, RI
N0KV Barry – Parker, CO

Picture courtesy of N8HAM



MI Mini 2026

MI QSO PARTY

There are 83 counties in MI.

W8HCG mobile 109 cw 24 SSB

Operator(s): K2KAR N4HAI

Station: W8HCG

For this year's MI QSO Party, K2KAR (Karen) and N4HAI (Tom) operated W8HCG/M, our club call from Hilliard, Ohio. We started the day at noon in Hillsdale County and had a decent run on CW but phone was not so good (23 CW, 5 SSB). We drove to Branch County where phone was slightly better (19 CW, 8 SSB). Our third stop in St Joseph County was where we started getting frustrated with band conditions. Our 4th stop in Calhoun County (13 CW, 2 SSB) and 5th stop in Barry County (11 CW, 0 SSB!) were both very noisy and we weren't being heard by many operators. Then, as we started into Eaton County, conditions seemed to improve a little (18 CW, 2 SSB). Our final stop in Jackson County was also a bit noisy, but got a few Qs in the log (5 CW, 7 SSB).

Looking back on the contest, we learned a couple things:

- 1: Stay away from buildings (the Meijer parking lot in Eaton County was very noisy)
- 2: Plan your route and balance how long you stay at a location, even if you have a pileup; we stuck to our schedule
- 3: Be prepared for rain, heat, and cold
- 4: Watch the spotting network to find activity, and post your freq so others can find you

All in all, we enjoyed driving through the Michigan countryside! The big non-operating event was visiting Moo-ville in Nashville, MI. We highly recommend getting ice cream there! On our way to get ice cream, we drove by N8CC's QTH. Wow!

Equipment: K3, Screwdriver, laptop, hamsticks (not used)
Miles Driven: ~125 during contest, ~240 to/from Columbus, OH

N8CC rover 319 CW

Wow, the MN Contingent was out in force!

Bumped into another guy running MIQP and POTA concurrently at my first stop, Eaton County. Pretty cool to meet another enthusiast, and compare setups. Had to dodge a couple of turkey hunters at Barry State Game Area, a father and son tandem. Fortunately there was a good site just a hundred or so yards down the trail. I had to operate outside the vehicle at Barry, at the wrong end of an open 80 acre field. Cold and blustery, and I was underdressed. Cussed the batteries for their longevity :-), but great fun and interesting band conditions. All bands (20-40-80) were long, but 80 opened early and was great fun in spite of the shivers! Finally had to wrap it up for teardown at sunset. Both counties were at POTA parks, so I sorta double-dipped.

Thanks for all the Q's!

Equipment - FT991A, Chelegance loaded dipole, crossed inverted Vees, 33ft push-up masts. Batteries by Bioenno.

: W8RU rover 82 CW 22 SSB

Operator(s): KC8VGG W8RU

Band conditions were poor, particularly for the first few hours. We ran 40m and 20m until about 0000utc, then switched to 80m and 40m. Only made a total of 6 QSOs on 20m. Couldn't get anything going on 40m SSB, either. We were lucky in that our route put us on the backside of the rain front. We were dry, but cold (40deg F). We even ran into some light snow flurries in a couple spots.

Thanks for all for the QSOs and 73! -Ron (W8RU) and Bill (KC8VGG).

N8KR rover 99 CW 6 SSB

Calhoun, Branch and Hillsdale counties. End fed antenna with early cruddy band conditions so changed to resonant dipoles with better results. Used ride share lots for Calhoun and Branch.

W9RWG rover 109 SSB as W9AB Rover

Operated a multi-county rover through SW Michigan. Started in Berrien County at Boyle Lake (US-6633 / US-0144) and had a good early run despite some initial N1MM setup issues that required restarting the log. Also experienced power drop issues at 100W, likely due to voltage sag, and ran most of the day at ~75W for stability.

Moved to Cass County (Crane Pond) where conditions were fair, but continued dealing with antenna/system balance using a Flatlanders mirror end-fed. 40M produced most of the QSOs early, while 20M was very noisy and largely unproductive.

At Branch County (Matteson Lake US-0266 / US-0144), encountered a very high noise floor—likely from storm-related infrastructure damage in the area. Made a few QSOs on SSB, then switched to FT8 to secure the activation before moving on.

Route adjustment was required due to a traffic accident en route to the planned Hillsdale stop. Found an alternate location near the North Country Trail and activated Hillsdale County (Baw Beese Lake US-0280). This was the best stop of the day with good runs on both 40M and 80M, including solid in-state contacts.

Final stop at Thompson Lake (US-0242) produced additional contacts on 40M and 80M. Used the G90 on 80M for its internal tuner, but low power and non-resonant antenna limited effectiveness. Many in-state stations were audible but could not copy my signal.

Big takeaway this year was propagation differences. 40M was unusually long during the day, resulting in fewer in-state and regional QSOs than typical. This significantly impacted rate compared to previous years. 80M would have been the better band, but lack of a resonant, full-power-capable antenna limited performance there.

Overall, a fun and adaptive rover effort with multiple successful activations and some good lessons learned for next year—especially the importance of a dedicated 80M antenna and being ready for changing band conditions.

Thanks to all the chasers and stations who worked the rover!

KA6BIM fixed OR 93 32 CW Mults 39 Ph Mults 17

Band conditions were poor all weekend Thanks for the Qso's Dave ka6bim

OM2VL fixed DX 79 cw 34 SSB CW Mults 38 Ph Mults 26

Very bad condx ...

Worked 44 different counties. Announced was 4 mobiles: but KB8NDH was only on 40m SSB behind 7.200 where European station can't work :(he was in 4 of my missed counties for my 2nd time Worked All Counties Award.

My big thanks to W8HCG/M for his nice activity and to be on the parts of the bands at right time for EU, and give ma also SSB multipliers!

W8HCG/M 12/7

W0IS 4/4

W8RU 2/2

(5): K8DX

(4): K8MQP, W8CSO

73, Laci OM2VL

N8II fixed WV 72 CW 86 SSB CW Mults 31 Ph Mults 40

I was not a huge amount behind Rich, N0HJZ but doubt if I could have made up the difference (mobiles/rovers QRT?). I quit just before 01Z with activity dwindling; the end is much too late at 04Z. My busy week caught up with me, didn't have the energy to hit the radio any more after that. I called CQ on 75M in the 00Z hour with very few takers, did get some 80 CW answers and SSB earlier. 80M was in excellent condition, first QSO's at 2308Z with sunset here about 2355Z. Conditions were very poor on 40 the first 3 hours (disturbed), okay after that until MI started skipping over after dark. My 3 SSB QSO's on 20 were during the same scan through the band at 1813Z; NV8N in the UP was 30 db over S9, but nary a mobile or portable ever heard there and others were missed on 40 during the poor prop first 3 hours and time off. I noticed that the

mobiles/rovers reporting on 3830 all had a low total of QSO's. W0IS/M (20M only, never heard here) should take a 40M antenna along on his next effort, not on 40 where most of the activity was happening. Thanks to the other M/R ops. It was pretty slow here on 40 after 22Z both modes. Since about 2022 MIQP activity seems to be on a decline. I remember making about 350 Q's in the "good old days" around 2019.

Thanks and 73, Jeff

Awards Issued

USA-CA: JE1LES earned level 500. He received #3917

USA-CA: JS3OSI earned level 500. He received #3918

USA-CA: JM1GDA earned level 500. He received #3919

USA-CA: ON4VT earned level 500. He received #3920

USA-CA: W1SSN earned level 500, He received #3921

W1SSN Earned: 1000 #1998

1500 #1636

2000 #1495

2500 #1408

Events for County Hunters

The QSO Party season is winding down, but there are a couple BIG ones coming up early in the month. One in the middle.....

May 2 1300z to 3 0700z

1.8-28

7th Call Area QSO Party CW Ph Dig

(no FT8)

RS(T), 5-letter state/county code or SPC

7qp.org

May 2 1500z to 3 0259

1.8-28

Indiana QSO Party CW Ph

RS(T), IN county or SPC

<http://www.hdxcc.org/>

May 2 1700z to 3 2359z

1.8-28,VHF

Delaware QSO Party CW Ph Dig

RS(T), DE county or SPC

<http://www.fsarc.org/>

May 2 2000z to 2359z

3.5-28

New England QSO Party CW Ph Dig

RS(T), New England county/state or SPC

May 16 1400z to 17 0200z

1.8-28,50,144

Arkansas QSO Party CW Ph Dig

RS(T), AR county or SPC

www.arkqp.com

That's all folks...

