

County Hunter News

November 2020
Volume 16 Issue1

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.

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

You can see live spots of county hunter activity at ch.W6RK.com

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

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

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

For general information FAQ on County Hunting, check out:

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

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

find information on these awards and the rules at:

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

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

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

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

Notes from the Editor

N4CD Rumblings

1) Sunspots – Wow! The sun has 'come alive' in October with sunspots on most days. Conditions on 20M are a bit better. In some of the QSO Parties, folks recorded a few dozen 15m QSOs but 17m and 15m still are not great. We seem to finally have gotten out of the long, long lull between sunspot cycles. Now, depending upon your source, we are headed for most likely a repeat type cycle of the last. However, some forecasts are pessimistic while others are optimistic as to where we will wind up in a few years.

Most days had sunspot numbers in the teens or occasionally up to the 20s. You'll recall the minimum sunspot number is 11. One group (10) and one sunspot (1). To get to sunspot number 13, it's one group with 3 sunspots in it. Over 20 is usually 2 groups (20) plus at least one sunspot per group – or 22 and up.

A few of the state QSO parties had 15m activity but not many. Most reports on the 3830 contest reflector showed zero QSOs on 15 and little time spent there. Tens of thousands were made on 40 and 20, and quite a few on 80/75M. Even a few on 160M.

2) Hamcation 2021 – The second biggest hamfest in the country has been canceled for early 2021. In October, the Orlando area Hamcation has been officially postponed till

2022. Just another one waiting for massive improvements in the infection rate for COVID-19.

3) QSO Party Reports – Several good ones this month with full reports. Hope you were able to participate in most of them this year. Come November, things wind down quickly with half the weekends devoted to ARRL Sweepstakes, one Holiday weekend – and the end of QSO Party season for 2021. Zero QSO parties in November. Get set for ARRL Sweepstakes , the 160M contest, the 10M contest and other events coming up for the rest of the year.

4) The bad news - COVID-19 is on the rampage again. Rural areas are being hit hard – with their limited hospital capacity – and of course, cities are not in great shape. With kids back to school in many places, and more indoor activities, plus a burn out from half a year of pandemic isolation, the virus is spreading all over – including many midwest states. It's not really safe for seniors to be traveling about – and there aren't too many attractions and events going on either. Here in TX, it's really bad along the border to the south, and places like the panhandle with limited medical facilities are strained to the breaking point. Oklahoma is also up against the wall. Same in NE and KS and SD. We're on the third 'spike' which might be the worst of all so far. I'm hoping for a successful vaccine arriving this year but that won't do much until 100 million get it!

5) Winter Weather – it's 'fall'. Up in the upper midwest, it's already snowing. Out in MT, there have been 12 inch plus storms already and the forecast mid month are for possible snows in KS. Likely mobile activity will be cut back and same for park activations. Hard to justify 'camping trips' in colder weather – but some enjoy it. Meanwhile, down south – lots of activity continues and hurricane season is mostly over for the year. Down in the teens in a lot of the midwest, snow in CO, and chilly in north TX. For the upper part of the US, winter has hit, but often warm spells in between.

About the time you read this likely, we'll be switching back to 'regular time' from 'daylight saving time' on Oct 31/Nov 1 – the weekend. That seems to trigger the 'winter feeling'. Pumpkins and 'trick or treating' next weekend, Thanksgiving next month, and holiday shopping coming up.

Maine QSO Party

There was a Maine QSO Party that took place. It's impossible to know how many ME counties were on the air since the rules allowed anyone to work anyone else worldwide and country wide for QSO points. People made hundreds of contacts and no idea if they even worked a single Maine station.

From the 3830 contest reflector:

W0BH - Fixed - KS -

Well, that was interesting! Remind me to read the rules more carefully next time. My first surprise was finding out I could work anyone (as I was rubbing the sleep out of my eyes). My second surprise was that it was mults by mode (which I found out after the fact :-)

Anyway, a good time was had by all and I did manage to work some ME stations: 15 contacts in 8 counties.

Thanks for the fun!

73, Bob, w0bh

WN4AFP - fixed - SC

Thank you Maine operators for the many Maine mults and the six counties.

3.3 GHz band – Gone Forever

FCC deletes 3.4 GHz Amateur Satellite Service Allocation

The AMSAT News Service (ANS) reports that at its open meeting on September 30, the

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted a Report and Order that sunsets Amateur use of the 3.3-3.5 GHz band

This spectrum includes the 3.40-3.41 GHz Amateur-Satellite Service allocation. AMSAT had previously filed comments opposing the FCC's proposal to delete this spectrum.

The adopted FCC Report and Order can be found at <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-facilitate-5g-345-355-ghz-band-0>

Note de N4CD – just a bit of satellite activity and some activity in VHF contests on the coasts. It was also used in many locations for ARDEN with hundreds of links. Now – gone forever. One more ham band 'stolen' away for commercial interests. (still shared with the military though).

California QSO Party

Usually this contest is filled with 'county expeditions'. I suspect this year the multi-op county expeditions were scaled back a bit. Often 10 and 15 member club groups go in RV's to a site and have a field day like weekend. There were many smaller groups out instead.

I noted at least half a dozen remote stations, including K5CM and others operating /6 at remote stations in CA. Probably dozens of folks let others use their stations for a bit or for the whole contest. Lots of activity with, as usual, one or two mobiles. K6AQL/m was on both days hitting some of the less active counties on cw. One mobile was on SSB.

This year there was an additional challenge beyond COVID social distancing. Wildfires prevented access to many favored spots used before – necessitating alternate plans and locations. Forest locations and camping areas were off limits in many counties. Heavy smoke made SSB operating outdoors even more challenging in some counties.

There were lots of 1x1 calls on for the CQP – and many opportunities for Natural Bingo Counties. Some of the county hunter folks like WA6KHK and K6YK from CA were active.

This is a popular contest and loads of contacts were made with some CA stations having over 1000Qs on CW and about that on SSB. There were only a few CA stations that ventured to 15M this year. Band conditions weren't super great with SFI around the 70 level at the bottom of the cycle.

Stations outside CA made up to several hundred (300+) CW and (350+) on SSB QSOs – including working the same station on multiple modes/bands. Likely all CA counties were on the air but a few were 'elusive'.

From Facebook posts:

N6G/AG6GP County Expedition - Siskiyou

Thanks for all the support this weekend for CQP in the Siskiyou Mtns. I did better than ever and had a blast. Many challenges with juggling power sources, cold and wind, darkness, etc. but stuck to it finishing with over 400 qs. 73! K6G/AG7GP



W6LEN portable - Los Angeles

6 hours operating time, 152 Q's, 20, 40 and 80 meters, CW only single op unassisted, low power. This old man has learned his lesson. Need to find a better logging method. If I had done paper logging I would have been faster. BUT.... I did have fun. Orange County is not rare. Amy, AG7GP is going great up in Siskiyou County which is pretty rare and sought after. My eyes got heavy when the sun went down.

The ONLY thing that really bugged me during this contest were the stations that responded to my calls at speeds that were over twice the speed that I was sending. I had my speed set for 18 WPM (I like that speed) and was continually called at speeds of 35 - 45 WPM. Other than that, It is a fun contest and I am planning to do it again next year,

but not from Orange County. I'll take my portable set up and hopefully set up at a park so I will hand out WWFF as well as California QP exchanges. I got my feet wet and now I want more.

de w6len / jess

from the 3830 contest reflector:

K6M - County Expedition - Modoc 993 cw 470 ssb

This was our 22nd expedition to the Timber Mountain Fire Lookout in the Modoc National Forest. One might imagine that we'd have this gig down to a science. Well, we are 22 years older and the place has changed. It has been fire-proofed: all the brush, grass and weeds are gone. And one of our favorite trees removed as it was interfering with the lookout's 360° view. We had a crew of five: one deaf groupie 82, one newbie 71, our cook and IT guru 41, one new contesteer 71, and old contesteer me 73.

The primary HF antenna is a TA33 on a 45 ft crank-up trailer tower. The secondary is an old (1965) TA33jr that is on its last legs. It failed. The LF antenna is an 80m OCF between an existing 60ft repeater tower and a 40ft military mast running due N-S. But the lookout was still manned and his fifth wheel trailer was parked where the mast goes. So the OCF ran to the top of the trailer tower in a NE-SW direction. The end of the OCF was 20 feet from the beam. We also use a 40m wire GP which gives us two antennas on HF and 40m. Most of the crew folds at 9PM so 80m is done on one rig only.

We usually have a trailer for each of the two operating positions but one had to cancel at the last moment so we used a large tent. That also cost us our #2 contest op. Note: Windy mountain makes for bad VOX in a tent. Both positions used K3S/KPA500 radios which have proven very stout in this and FD operations. But this time we had "HI RF" warnings on the second station in the tent located on the only flat space and under the beam. There was mucho rf in the shack using the OCF - serious RF burns on the paddle base. I put a 12" coax bead choke on the OCF feedline and it got very hot, boil spit hot!

Long story short, we made just 87 QSOs from the tent and 1384 from the trailer. I made 87% of the total. This hardly qualifies as a Multi-multi op. We never found a VE8/VY1. The last two mults were AB and ND ~03Z Saturday night - both from the tent! The score was one percent better than last year. That should be enough to allow quite a few county sweeps. See you all next year.

73,
Dick K4XU

W6IA County Expedition - SONO - 141 cw 27 ssb

Special thanks to Buz, AC6AC, for equipment and logistical support. We missed IA, HI, MR and NT for the sweep. Hawaii? Seriously, from W6? Not sure what happened on that count. To all of the ops outside of California THANK YOU for a great contest. You really turned out and were patient when asked for repeats. The 80 meter phone run around the rally window at 0300 on Sunday was a real highlight. Great work by the NCCC team who put this all together.

73, Mark W6IA

W6O - County Expedition - IMPE - 1360 cw 792 ssb (ops AE7DW K6LL N7TY W6RW)

It was appropriate for a bunch of Arizona Outlaws to be assigned the call W6O as part of the SEQUOIA part of the California QSO Party this year. We were W6Outlaws! We had a crew of good operators and experienced some huge pileups and great QSO Rate for most of the contest except for the 0600Z to 1200Z shift when the East Coasters were sleeping.

We operated out of an apartment in Felicity, California which several Geographical Societies have proclaimed to be the Official Center of the World. I would like to thank our hosts Jacques-Andres and Felicia Istel for the great hospitality. If you want a good read, look up Jacques-Andres Istel on Wikipedia. It is truly an amazing story.

We had a great time!

N6YEU - County Expedition - MEND - N6YEU, KG6N ops - 963 cw 348 ssb

Another fun CQP as a County Expedition. Brought a friend along to enjoy the excitement as multi single. Conditions were decent and surprised on a good 15 meter opening on Sunday. Smoke from California fires was bad at times but coastal winds helped clear the air. It was nice to work all the mults this year and at least 2 of each! Last

2 were MT and MR. Used a Force 12 C-3 tribander at 35 feet with trapped dipole for 40/80 hung as a vee off portable tower. Also used a Butternut HF-2V on 40-80. Coleman 10x10 tent was our shack. Power provided by Honda EU-2000 generator. Thanks for great weekend!

73 de Fred/N6YEU and Frank/KG6N

Note de N4CD – they worked 81 stations on 15m. Most other CA stations didn't bother to go to 15m.

K6T - County Expedition GLEN/TEHA 67 cw 93 SSB (ops K6TLR W1RH)

This was a county line operation at a remote location in the Black Butte recreation area. Overnight camping was not allowed due to fire and Covid issues. We were given permission (specifically because there were only two of us) to set up on the county line at a very remote part of the recreation area. The ranger even measured the distance from our operating location to the county line - 247 feet on the Tehama side. Other side was private property.

We only operated for four hours due to technical issues but also due to the horrible ash and smoke. I actually had to blow the ash out of the amplifier when I returned to the home QTH. Between the smoke, ash, near 100 degree temperature and some K3 issues along with high SWR on 40, this was not a lot of fun. The good news was that all signals on 20 were very strong and there was zero noise.

K3/P3 / ALS-1300 / A3S w/40 meter element.

I've had it with the fires, smoke, ash, and high heat. Ready to move back to W1RH

W6ML - County Expedition - MONO - 1037 cw 154 ssb (W6KC op)

Fortunately, the smoke from the California fires let up on the Wednesday before CQP so I could launch my wire antennas in the mostly clear blue skies in Mammoth Lakes, Mono County. This year again I used dipoles for 40, 20 and 15 plus an inverted V for 80. They were all squeezed in at about 60ft between my two favorite pine trees.

In spite of a couple of Murphy visits (RFI in my logging PC and tripping the master circuit breaker causing a power outage during a nice CQP run) I achieved one of my

goals in making 1,000 CW QSOs. I have never made 1,000 CW QSOs in any contest so it was good to finally tick off a new milestone.

The good participation helped offset missing 10M and most of 15M during the weekend. I missed NT and ND for the sweep, but was happy to achieve good results with a full-time effort minus about two hours for Murphy. And many thanks to the NCCC for sponsoring another great CQP! And also thanks to Hank, W6SX (we are about one-half mile apart in Mammoth) for helping me with my antenna planning and sharing the bands during CQP.

K3s, KAT500, AL80B, wire antennas

73, Jim W6ML (W6KC)

N6AN - County Expedition QRP - INYO - 309 cw 9 ssb

My thanks to Kurt, W6PH, for the use of his Inyo county cabin grounds for my last minute Covid-19 physical distancing county expedition. Operating with Mt. Whitney in view was a wonderful bonus!

The station was a KX3 @5 watts powered by a 27T AGM battery which used to live in a TV ENG truck. 80' of wire was stretched between a 30' Spiderbeam pole and a 20' fishing pole for 80 meters. For 40, 20 and 15 meters a 59' wire was supported by two 20' fishing poles. Both antennas were end fed via a double banana to BNC connector and tuned with the KX3 tuner.

I set up on an outdoor table with a beach umbrella for shade. It was in the 90s and windy both days, low 60s Saturday night. Mults never heard were KY, IA, ND, MR, AB, NT. A VE2 answered somebody's CQ, a VA7 was in a rag chew and W1XX was CQing on 20 SSB Sunday afternoon, but couldn't hear me. Working the single letter CA stations for the SEQUOIA award was accomplished on 80. 40 was too long Saturday night and I was inaudible to CA stations on 20 and 15.

It was fun to activate Inyo county on CW. Except for CQs all sending was done with the bolt-on KXPD3 paddle. Logging was with pen and paper, transcription pending. Thanks to the NCCC organizers for pulling off the CQP in this most unusual of years, and thanks for the QSOs.

73,
David N6AN

W6UX - Mobile - 231 cw 14 ssb (not exactly 'mobile' but what the heck)

Operating RV portable from Pleasant Grove, CA between visiting with family and the usual other RV camping stuff. 20m and 40m seemed to be working the best with the KX3 and KXPA100 to inverted "L", 40m end-fed up 25 feet. At some points I was using everything this little radio had to offer with 50hz CW filter and NR. Lot's of familiar calls and some even took a minute to say GM or GL; thank you for the Q's and 73. Logging with N3FJP software.

Most fun I've had in CQP. Roving between counties mobile is far superior to sitting at a fixed base operation. Started planning to do it next with more power! Really tough finding a clear frequency as a low power mobile. Had to do a lot of search and pounce. Preselected the locations that had zero RFI. It was amazing what we could hear with no power line or man made noise.

W6E - County Expedition - KERN - 917 cw 723 ssb

I partnered with Scott N6MI for what is my first CQP participation.

We had planned on operating at 8,000 ft in the Los Padres NF but understandably (wildfires) it was closed and we opted for Dante's Purgatory in the form of the Mojave Desert during a heatwave with the temps hovering around 100F.

Scott has a well decked out ex TV van with a 60ft mast supporting a Force 12 C3S full sized 10/15/20 tri-bander plus wire 40/80m coupled to an FTDX101D and Acom 600s.

I used the ultra portable and compact G3TXQ Hexbeam (from MW0JZE) for 10/15/20 upon a SpiderBeam 33ft mast about 50 ft from the Jeep along with an OCF supported at the back of my Jeep. I used my Elecraft K3s/KPA500/KAT500 combo but ran into lots of 80m issues partly digital hash from my new Honda 2200i generator and closeness of the OCF to the operating position drove the K3s nuts (and me).

Expeditions of any kind are a unique operating undertaking far removed from using a permanent QTH and I am thankful that CQP recognizes this and gives us a a separate

category (hint hint CQ and ARRL contest organizers!!!).

I'm thrilled that a Jeep full of parts came together as a coherent and functioning station. Heat aside, no showers for 3 days the desert is a beautiful place unless you piss off the ants who seem to bite.

Life can be fun if you want it to be and part of the joy here was partnering with Scott who undertook a 100% of the CW duty while I did 100% phone. This first time and random pairing seemed to work.

In addition, I love to reflect on an event and see how to do better next time. Much new worked this time but clearly a better 80m solution, an awning for the Jeep and possibly using a FLex 6600 and the KPA500 to allow an easier passenger seat experience.

Check out Scott's website at n6mi.org and mine at www.nomadic.blog

Paul W6PNG

W6T - County Expedition - Trinity 239 SSB (K6KS opr)

This was my first time as an Expedition station and also my first time operating from Trinity County. I had a lot of fun. Maybe, we'll try it again next year.

K6VVA/P County Expedition - SBEN 105 cw 1 ssb

Another short SBEN County Expedition again this year, with horrible air contamination and 93 Degree temperature when finishing 'Lap Station' QRV in the passenger seat of my parked Tahoe outside a rural restaurant QTH.

Thank God for the Awesome Monster Breakfast Burrito and Amazing BBQ Tri-Trip sandwiches there :^)

73,

Rick - K 6 V V A

Some Tube History

From an article in the Houston Vintage Radio Society Grid Leak

by Bill Wernzer

In my previous Trouble Shooter articles I dealt with the evolution of the triode output power audio amplifier tubes such as the 71A, 45, and 50. The push was on to develop ever more powerful audio amplifiers especially with the advent of “talkies” (sound motion pictures). The need for more powerful tubes was evident and research was going full speed to develop not only more powerful tubes, but more efficient tubes as well.

Tetrode (four element) tubes were becoming common place in the late 1920s as their increased amplification, using a positively charged screen grid between the control grid and plate, was well established. However, a problem was encountered with early tetrode vacuum tubes in that they were not suitable for audio power amplification. The problem stemmed from secondary electrons bouncing back from the tube plate and being attracted to the positive tube screen.

This was not a problem with tetrode tubes used as RF amplifiers such as the #24A etc.

Now the effort was to somehow deflect these spurious electrons away from hitting the screen. Thus, the pentode (a five element tube) was developed in 1926 by two Dutch researchers, Holst and Tellegen, working for Phillips. Due to a snafu in issuing a patent for this invention, no patent was actually issued, so anyone in Holland could manufacture them.

To safeguard this invention however, Phillips did acquire patents in eighteen other countries. In 1927, the Phillips B443 tube came into production and was followed by Mullard in the U.K. producing additional pentodes in 1928. The American market was a couple of years behind the Europeans, so it was not until June 1931 that RCA produced their first power pentode, the Radiotron 247, that became commonly known as the #47 . This tube became a landmark as a powerful output tube in home radios and was soon followed by the smaller 6.3 volt filament #38, which was

used in early automobile radios.

During the early years of the depression, the 2.5 Volt 47 was commonly used in compact, less expensive radios of that era including the cathedral style table top radios. One thing that made the 47 outstanding was its tapped filament whereby B- voltage was supplied to the suppressor grid via grounded transformer filament connection. Now it was possible to deflect secondary electrons away from the screen grid by a negatively charged suppressor grid between it and the plate

Another power five pin output tube of that era is the five pin, 2.5 filament volt #46, power tetrode output tube . Though not as popular as the 47, it was used in some of the higher quality console radios where a pair was wired in push pull arrangement.

For output comparison as class A1 amplifiers, the 46 was rated at 1.25 watts vs. the 47 at 2.7 watts. The #38 came in close with 2.5 watts and was contained in a much smaller glass envelope. I was unable to find information on the #46 regarding secondary electron emissions, but examining the schematic of an RCA model RE 81, I found two 46s wired in push pull with the grids of each tube connected in parallel, now a triode arrangement!

So technology begot technology, triode to tetrode, to pentode, on and on it progressed. The 1930's saw a revolution in vacuum tube technology like never before. Following the development of the #38 power pentode, came the 41, 42, 6F6, 6V6, 6L6 and so many more power pentodes that are still being manufactured and used today. The 6550, KT 88, 6BQ5, 50EH5, and a number of others are modern offshoots of the power pentodes that originated in the 1930s. – an interesting history indeed!

Arizona QSO Party

Likely all the AZ counties were on the air for the 2020 AZ QSO Party. Participation was good with this being the year of the State QSO Party Challenge plus many folks 'stranded' at home due to COVID-19. Lots of stations on the air and three other QSO parties this weekend kept the airwaves humming. Despite a interlude with the solar flux above 70, not much happening on 15M. Almost no activity noted there. There did not seem to be any mobiles out – none reported on the 3830 contest reflector.

There are 15 counties in AZ, and the rules give multipliers per band so no idea if anyone

worked them all, or if all the counties were on the air at all. (reports had '20' cw multipliers – usually meaning some of the same counties on different bands counted as a multiplier.

From the 3830 reflector (and Facebook)

K7A - County Expedition - 938 cw qso

The Arizona QSO Party was a lot of fun! We (NS6W #2271 and NE7EE #2616 operated as K7A “Expedition Style” across two county lines (Coconino and Gila), completely portable, running on battery power, with EFHW dipole strung between two very tall pine trees. The weather was great! Thank you all for the QSOs!!!

NS6W and NE7EE operated expedition style and activated Coconino & Gila Counties at the same time, cross-county. We believe we have been requested repeats of the county report at least 25 percent of the time as many operators were not accustomed to receiving a county line report.





NS6W

N7G County Expedition - AZGLA - 191 cw 89 ssb

Operator(s): AG7GB N7NWL

Had no comments

K7ZOO County Expedition 240 cw 80 ssb

This was a good contest! I operated from just east of the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge at N33° 19.766' W114° 39.623'. My setup includes: 100w Renogy solar panel; 2 ea 35 amp-hr SLAB's; TenTec Eagle @ 100w, LDG autotuner; Balun Designs 4:1 balun; 100 ft 450-ohm ladder line (supported at 2 ft by a combination of rebar stakes and PVC pipe; 135 doublet in inverted V config, apex at 28 ft. Perfect weather, light wind. Many good experiences on the air, but one of the best was working Ken KG6T running the University of Arizona station K7UAZ -- Ken's gotten to be a formidable CW op!! 20m and 40m worked well, and 80m CW provided a good number of points. I used a much better 4:1 balun this year, upgrading from a relatively inexpensive LDG 4:1 balun to a Balun Designs 4:1 balun. With this change I was able to achieve a usable SWR on 160m, and even make a few QSO's. (I recall literally burning up an LDG 4:1 balun on this band in about 20 minutes during NPOTA at Joshua Tree NP - LDG was kind enough

to replace the balun). Thanks for a fun weekend; see you next year! -Curt / K7ZOO

W7A - - bonus station 450 cw 1085 ssb

W7A was the 2020 Arizona QSO Party Bonus and Special Event Station. Thanks to Bryce KR0CKT for handling SSB at W7SA.

Thanks to everyone who participated, especially the AZ Expeditions. We hope everyone had great ham radio fun in the AZQP.

73, Bill K6WSC
Arizona QSO Party Chairman

Nevada QSO Party

Activity was limited. Most NV stations show up in the 7QP earlier in the year and this is a limited participation event. No mobiles out and a few county expeditions out. Most reported from 1 to 8 QSOs with many just a small handful of QSOs. Some 15m contacts but most of them were moved up to 15m from 20m by request.

From the 3830 reflector:

K7IDX - county expedition - Lincoln NV 286 ssb

DISAPPOINTMENT !!

Well since i was in Nevada i thought I would try and work all the counties. Activity was dismal (NV) really dismal, thought I could get the counties on 75...well almost NO activity....what is wrong NEVADA ?? Oh well....certainly not like Washington's "Salmon Run"

N8II - fixed WV - 7cw 10 ssb

The activity level was very low, signals on 40, 20, and 15 were loud at times. Even with this dismally low total, a few Q's were run QSO's looking for SD/AZ/NV on 20 phone at same time.

73, Jeff N8II

On the Trail of Regens

An interesting item showed up on Ebay from the UK. Yep, there's an Ebay.UK where a few, but not many, interesting things show up – radio wise. The UK is a lot smaller country than the US although radio wise, they were at the forefront of developing the radio arts in many areas. (Marconi did most of his experiments there). During WW2, the UK was the leader in RADAR and SONAR.

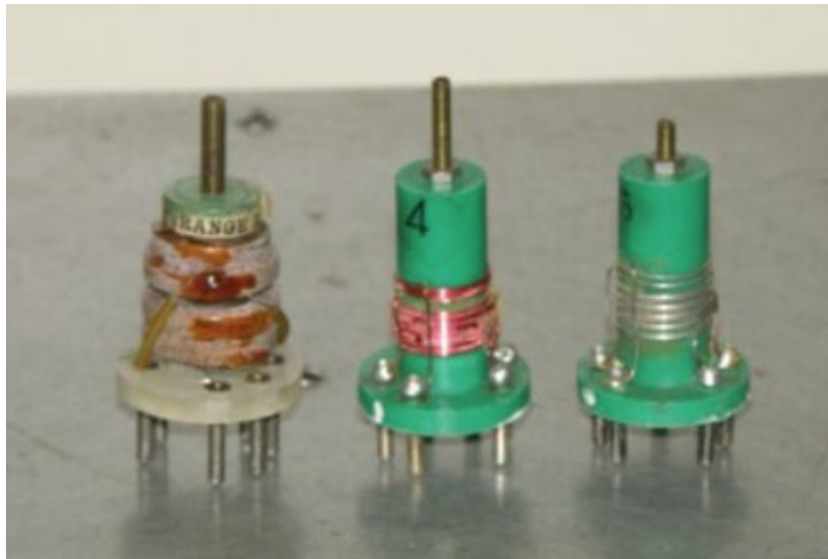
Getting back to radio, a Codar Model 45 regen receiver from the 1960/70 era showed up for sale. Codar produced a line of receivers and QRP type transmitters for the UK hams.



Looks somewhat similar to a Knight Kit – these were kit radios. This one used ECC81(12AT7) , EL84(6BQ6) and EZ80(6V4) valves. The 12AT7 (dual triode) was used in the Knight Kit Space Spanner radio. The single triode 12AT6 was used in the Knight Kit Ocean Hopper. The EL84 is a pentode power amp.



Likely the radio ran off 220v – the common house voltage in the UK. No provision made for 110V ac operation as almost none of these were exported to other countries.



These plug into an 8 pin octal socket. Later transistorized radio kits used 9 pin novar plug in (9 pin miniature tubes like the 35W4).

Sold for over \$200. Would have loved to have it, but shipping would have been another \$100 and the seller wouldn't ship to the USA. Plus it ran only on 220vac. Well, maybe I'll find one at Dayton one of these years. Ya never know what shows up there!

South Dakota QSO Party

There are 66 counties in SD. Maybe half were on the air.

W0ZQ mobile 384 cw 339 ssb qso

Operating in the SDQP completes my 2020 goal of operating mobile from the five Upper Midwest states of ND, SD, MN, WI and IA all in one year. With the COVID thing going on, I'm not comfortable overnighting, and its a 4 hour drive over and then back again to eastern SD from Mpls, but, the weather was GREAT, gas was under \$2/gallon, and the trees are changing color, so what the heck. The trip resulted in 6 hours of SDQP operation such that I could get back home at a reasonable hour (for us old timers). I was able to find three spots in SD to do a two-county line operation which was lots of fun. 20m was in great shape, probably the best I've seen it for a bit. Phones

not my favorite mode but I had a great run from the Hamlin/Deuel line ... the cows across the fence from me watched (and listened) with great interest. Thanks for all the Q's.

73, Jon

N0HJZ mobile 133 cw 2166 ssb

THANK YOU to everyone who followed me around. The pile-ups were incredible and everyone was loud and fast! This was some of the most fun I've ever had mobile! I'm glad that I was able to give out some new counties to people. Thanks again!

K1RO 21 cw 63 ssb 40 mults

Special thanks to mobiles N0HJZ, K0BBC and W0ZQ for many needed counties. Score includes 100 bonus points for QSO with W0OJY

OM2VL - DX 16 cw 33 ssb 34 mults

I don't like more QSO Parties on same weekend especially 4 different as on the last weekend. Usually I focus on PA QP and AZ QP and make some QSO in SD QP.

This year my primary interest was SD because my friend Rich N0HJZ was mobile in SD and made his trip across to my last 5 needed counties. Sometimes it was hard job to break big USA wall, but we made QSO from all counties from where I found Rich, including from my 5 missed counties. Thank you very much!!! You did amazing job again!

W0ZQ/M I made QSO from his all counties, thanks Jon!

73, Laci OM2VL

K4BAI - fixed - GA 11 cw 33 ssb 28 mults

Most QSOs ever in a SD QSO Party. Good job by the sponsors. Thanks for all QSO especially N0HJZ, K0BBC, and W0ZQ mobiles. The score may be slightly understated since N1MM+ didn't accept as a multiplier LINColn and gave me no points and no mult

for that one. 73, John, K4BAI

N8II -fixed - WV - 14 cw 32 ssb 31 counties

Not much SD activity other than the mobiles/rovers. I was too busy to chase W0ZQ and N0HJZ more often than not. Activity was very sparse on Sunday when I had a bit more time. About two too many QP's on same weekend. Thanks to N0HJZ/M for the majority of QSO's just the right distance for a loud signal on 20M until about 23Z.

73, Jeff N8II

Pennsylvania QSO Party

K8MR mobile - 1018 cw 11 ssb (K8MR, AF8A ops)

We got to our starting point in Crawford, and when I hit the key no RF came out of the K3. Found that it would make RF on SSB, and make RF sending CW in SSB mode. After a few minutes beating the radio, etc., we decided to swap it out for the backup IC-746. I did not bring a C-IV interface for that, so all the band changes had to be made manually. I spent a good bit of time after the contest cleaning up the log for all the ones we missed in real time. I briefly fired up the K3 after we got home and it's now making RF. ???

Once we got going, 40 meters was in great shape. I was working lots of people around PA and had a great rate. But unfortunately after 90 minutes or so 40 went back to its usual self of nothing within 400 miles or so, and it was still too early for 80 to be worth much. Hence some low rates in places like Forest and Clarion counties.

One Saturday highlight: driving through Cochranton in CRA, CQing away as we drove down the main street through town, we heard a very loud alarm go off in one of the buildings. Not sure which one, but we did not stop to find out and offer to loan them some Mix 31 ferrite snap-ons.

We stayed overnight in INN and Sunday rode the Ghost Town Trail, along with K3LA, W3NO, and two friends of W3NO. It's a beautiful trail, and with the fall leaves changing

colors it was a great bike ride. Due to forecasts of rain later in the day, we cut the ride to 40 miles, but we never did get wet or have any especially threatening skies.

Checking emails on Sunday we saw that LAW was still missing in action. It is right on our route back to Cleveland, so we made a special point to spend some extra time there, parked at a rest area on I-79. I saw that another guy in LAW had finally shown up on 75 SSB shortly before we got there, so I did not have to face the challenge of people hearing me with a super puny SSB signal.

I'm of the opinion that PAQP is not the most mobile friendly contest, but nevertheless the combo radio/bike effort made for a very enjoyable weekend.

73 - Jim K8MR

N2CU mobile 574 cw 136 ssb

Lots of fun! Thank you to all who followed me from county to county. Most notable (# QSOs) NS2N 27 (hometown hero), K1RO 20 (great score, Mark), OM2VL 19 (a champion), AA3B (thanks for all you do), WA3HAE 10 (Mr. QSO party). I activated 11 counties in a drive, then park to operate mode. I took it more casual this year and didn't hurry from locations. Quit a little early on both days, not by choice. I had a nice run in POT near the end so thought I would try it in MCK. When I found a spot to operate, it had horrible QRN. Only a few made it through. Moved to another, quieter spot but my screwdriver jammed in the down position. I couldn't free it up so left 30-40 QSOs on the table. One station worked gave me 3 different locations during the party, only one was a section. The rest of them were states that had multiple sections. When asked for the section, he didn't know. Turns out he was using remote stations. I'll let the committee figure out that scoring. Thank you to the bonus stations that sought me out. I did 99.9% running, so I wouldn't have gotten them otherwise.

Looking forward to next year's PQP and please don't forget the NYQP next Saturday where I will be mobile again.

73, Tom N2CU

K0BAK rover 49 cw 515 ssb QSO

Thanks again to all who worked me when I activated 6 parks on Sunday (Oct. 11) while

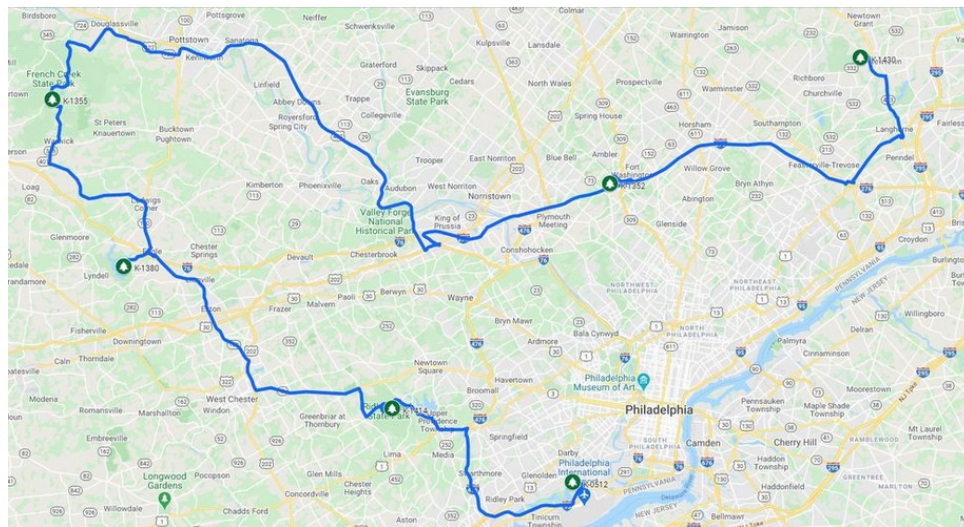
I was roving in the Pennsylvania QSO Party. I appreciate you having to abide an unusual exchange (serial number and ARRL section). Each park was in a different PA county around Philadelphia. I also roved

Overall QSO Party:

First contact to super activator K Lynn Wright KB3WAV (& N3G & W5E)

514 miles driven

13 PA counties activated



K8RYU rover 314 cw 372 SSB

Overslept on Sunday morning and had antenna problems Sunday afternoon. Conditions and activity on Saturday seemed quite good, Sunday not so much so.

Sure some beautiful fall scenes in SW Pennsylvania...hope to make the trip again next year.

de K8RYU

N3VZ multi-op portable (ops KC3WX KQ3F N3VZ)

Portable setup at Flint Hill and Wimmer roads near Coopersburg, PA. Same setup used

for Field day.

Ops: Stepansky brothers KC3WX/KQ3F/N3VZ

Rigs: Icom 7610/7300 Low Power

Antennas: Dipoles for 160/80/40 for TX/RX. Cushcraft A3S for 20/15/10

We truly enjoy this event and had a blast! Can't thank the organizers/mobiles/rovers enough for their hard work and participation.

73,

Steve

KC3WX

NB3I - rover - two counties - 226 cw 79 ssb

no comments

KN3A - rover 144 cw 59 ssb

First time Rover since we decided as a club to socially distance this year. Had fun doing solo from ADA, YOR, DAU and LAN. The spot in DAU was near Three Mile Island and I could almost see it from my picnic table. Only got 34 sections this weekend, but worked many out of state on 20 and 40 meters including a couple of DX.

Used my ICOM 7300 for the rove

Bioenno 20A battery

Wolf River Coil 80-10 vertical, and 40 meter Inverted V when able to use it.

50 Watts

N1MM+ Logger

1 tank of gas

NY3B - portable MCK 542 cw 392 ssb

no comments

KA3QLF/N3KAE – rover

Thank you anyone and everyone who chased or made contact with KA3QLF last weekend. All logs are submitted from KA3QLF, from the 7 park rove, during the PA Qso Party. For those who may have made contact but are unsure which park, below is a cross reference:

UNI (Union County, PA) K-1421 Shikellamy State Park
NUM (Northumberland) K-1385 Milton State Park
LYC Lycoming County K-1424 Susquehanna State Park
PIK Pike County K-5466 Delaware State Forest
MOE Monroe County K-1427 Tobyhanna State Park
WAY Wayne County K-1357 Gouldsboro State Park
LUZ Luzerne County K-5473 Pinchot State Forest



Summary by numbers DE N3KAE
Ops: N3KAE, N3XLS, KA3QLF

1 Truck
2 Days
3 Hams
4th consecutive year Rover
6 Total visits by DCNR, Police, and/or Murphy
7 POTA parks activated
9 PA Counties activated
361 Miles driven
700ish Total QSOs

Sincere thanks to all those who Hunted AND Spotted us.

AA3K - portable - CENTRE - 226 ssb

Light effort as I had other obligations. Was not expecting 40m to not work well for PA this time around. Only had a 20/40 linked dipole but the tuner made it work on 80m.

NX3F portable high power SOM/WES - 762 cw 558 ssb

Thanks to all the rovers for their efforts! Also, the Skyview group did a great job with the bonus stations.

Conditions were just terrible in my opinion.

K1RO- fixed NH 200cw 370 ssb 67 counties

Normally I can't put in a full effort in this contest due to a long-standing commitment to an annual fundraising activity for my snowmobile club on Columbus Day weekend. COVID-19 canceled it this year, so I thought I would give PAQP a good effort despite the nearly perfect weekend weather. This is a very long QSO Party, and it was hard to keep grinding away on Sunday, but there was just enough activity to keep me in the

chair.

Conditions were interesting. Both days, by mid-afternoon 40 meters went too long to work eastern PA stations. 80 meters had summer-like S-9+10 dB static on Saturday because of the passing weather front and storms to the west and north of me. Lots of strong PA stations, fortunately. I was happy to be able to work a few of the big stations on 20 meters as well.

Thanks to the PA home stations, portables, and mobiles for a fun weekend. Like everyone else, I hoping for FUL and LAW to show up Sunday and get on a band where I could hear them (40 meters in my case). Thanks to AB3AH for going to FUL, and K8MR/K3LA for going through LAW on the way hom

OM2VL DX - 180 cw 171 ssb

My 7th PA QP in row.

Usually the main interest is PA QP, but this year my friend Rich N0HJZ announced me his mobile activity in SD QP. He planned his route across my last 5 missed counties. Many times I was so busy on 14.245 or 14.252 try break the BIG USA wall and missed many PA stations including Jim K8MR/M from his many counties (also from my 3 not worked ELK, PER, MIF)

First night the low band conditions was not good as last year. 40m very noisy, on 80m this time missed my 2 el Yagi, I had dipole, but worked most of the station who I heard. Totally 41 less QSO on 160/80m than last year.

2nd day fortunately 15m opened and stations was so loud. Between 13:35 - 16:07Z I made 45 QSO. Thanks to stations who come on my frq and called me.

My missed counties: BRA, ELK, GRE, MIF, PER.

Most QSO's:

MOBILE: K8MR/M 20/13, N2CU/M 19/9, KA3QLF/M 5/5, K0BAK/M 2/2

PORTABLE: N3XF 8/2, AB3AH 4/2

RESIDENT: (9) AA3B, (8) K3CT, K3WW, N3VZ, (7) K3WJV, N3RS, (6) WA3HAE, (5) 8x, (4) 4x ...

Thanks a lot for the many QSOs and big thanks to Bud AA3B for organizing that nice

QP.

CU in 2021, 73, Laci OM2VL

N8II – fixed – WV

It is pretty difficult to compete in the PA QSO Party with almost no direct skip F2 propagation on 40M; only K3WJV was briefly loud here on 40 CW. That said if you had only one band 80/75 would be the best choice. Even in mid day, I could work most of PA pretty easily; by 2030Z and later, signals were loud for the most part. I can see a mountain Franklin County from my QTH, pretty close!

The QSO's/runs came pretty easy on 75M. I never could run many on 80 CW until late Sunday when a few called, and the same guys seemed to hang out on 80 CW. At times K8MR/M was not readable here on 80/75. I needed about 10 counties when I started Sunday AM. The last 4 were CLE, BRA, LAW, and MTR all on 75M between 1907 and 2026Z (I took a 45 minute break during that time, too). I never worked Jefferson (ironic since I live in Jefferson Co, WV), did hear one working someone else. It was amazing to work 3 stations in Lawrence within 4 QSO's (N3WH, K8MR/M, and was called by K3LA!) after everyone was buzzing about needing that county.

The 40-15M Q's except for that one on 40 were either locals or on backscatter, some tough work on both ends of the QSO. Thanks to the mobiles & rovers for some good efforts, but I did not hear all of them for some long stretches. K8MR, N2CU, K0BAK, and K8RYU all added nicely to my the score. K8RYU/JUN was my first Q, and I don't think I worked Juniata again. And thanks to all who stopped by for a QSO, quite a few with serial numbers less than 10. I also worked about 80-85 QSO's in the other QSO parties during the PAQP, a tough juggling act which cost some Q's. But I think I pushed 75M about as hard as I could.

73, Jeff N8II

New York QSO Party

Some reported high 30s and up to 40 counties worked in NY. A couple mobiles/rovers

out.

K0BAK/rover - 459 ssb qso

Yesterday, I activated the five boroughs/counties of New York City in the New York QSO Party. Turned out to be a great POTA day too. I operated in the sprawling, multi-location Gateway Nat'l Rec Area K-0680 in the last three boroughs (Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island). Bagged 3 parks when I wasn't in the park, and then 16 park-to-parks when I was.

388 contacts in K-0680 total, including a Late Shift session, out of 459 contacts total in the contest. Thanks to all chasers who contacted me, helping me in the contest ... while the NYQP testers inadvertently helped me get more POTA contacts

Expensive trip too. PA Tpke, NJ Tpke, and six (!) tolled bridge crossings.

K2UA mobile - 1054 CW QSO (ops K2UA N2MG)

Mike, N2MG, and I did this contest for the first time last year. I had never operated HF mobile before that, and had never done a state QSO party other than the first Armadillo Run in 1983, which was a blast--I guess that planted the seed. So last year Mike and I picked a route that included six counties and operated mixed-mode, to have a good time on the radio and test the waters of my mobile station. We made 222 QSOs in about 5 hours of operation and had a great time, but also found many issues to be sorted out before another mobile HF contest--mainly in the bonding and noise-reduction areas. We also discovered that operating SSB from a mobile station is no more fun than it is from a good home station--which is to say, not fun at all. :-)

This year, we decided about a week before the contest to go out again this year. We planned a route of eleven counties, for a full-time effort of about one hour per county. The route we chose started about an hour from home for each of us, and is basically a clockwise loop of 250 road miles. In most counties, we were not driving for more than 20-30 minutes, so we picked a lot of scenic hilltops on back roads where we could safely pull off the road somewhere and shut off the engine to work people noise-free. I had knocked down a lot of the noise in the Pilot--nothing more than S3 from in-car sources on any band--but it was always better to work the weak ones with the engine shut off.

We had great weather, and great conditions. I was delighted to see how quiet and open the bands were.

We started off in Cayuga County and operated there for about an hour before continuing north into Oswego, then east through Oneida County along the north shore of Oneida lake, then turned south along the eastern shore and traveled through Madison County, then west into Onondaga County. From there we drove south to Cortland, then west to Tompkins, through Ithaca, and then into Schuyler, through Watkins Glen. Then we turned north along the western shore of Seneca Lake for a spectacular sunset, and climbed into Yates County to the north. After an hour there, we continued north into Ontario County, now well after dark. Then we headed east through Geneva into Seneca County and finally back into Cayuga County, where we got in another hour on the air at the end of the contest.

We had too many highlights to list, and very few lowlights. It's hard to name any, really. Radio-wise, I think we were just as excited to find the regular chasers in there in every new county, waiting and calling us, as they were to find us. It was impressive to see how dedicated some of those operators are and we cheered them each time we worked. From Europe, Laci, OM2VL, was our top DX chaser with 17 QSOs through the course of the contest, including three QSOs on 80. OT6M was also a regular, with nine QSOs. Stateside, AA4TI was like clockwork and called in 18 times. K5OT and K3WJV were just behind that at 17. Many other ops worked us more than ten times, and it was always a thrill to hear them call in and see our QSO counts with them climb! It was quote cool to give some new counties to those chasing the USA-CA awards also, including Rusty, W6OAT, who got three new ones from us of the nine NYS counties he needed going into the event.

It was an unexpected thrill to be called three times by JA stations. I've never worked a JA from the car before--and they were loud around 21-22Z. Definitely a high point of the contest!

For me, the biggest revelation was 80 meters. I was stunned by the activity and the number of callers there! We had back-to-back 121-QSO hours in the last two hours of the contest, mostly on 80, and even made 100 QSOs on 80 in a single county (Seneca). W6OAT shared that he worked us in Seneca County from his Washington State QTH on 80 before his sunset--that was pretty cool. We made our first QSO on 80 at 2348Z, which it seems was a couple of hours too late, based on how hot it was when we arrived. We'll definitely go to 80 earlier next year!

The TS-480HX does a fantastic job. It has a great ergonomics for mobile operation, a good receiver with a 500-Hz CW filter, and a 200-W transmitter. The transmitter does fold back, however, with even a small mismatch (even 1.5:1). I'd say we averaged 150

W output. On 80 we were getting the full 200 W because the Tarheel 200A gives a great match there in my setup.

That said, 80 meters is the one band where I think we would have benefited from more power--it was really difficult to control the chaos on 80 with five or six stations calling at any given time (all on exactly the same frequency--move the dial a little, guys!). We'd go back to someone and they couldn't hear us answer--happened dozens of times. Mike handled this well by sending the other station's call at the beginning and end of the exchange. It hurt our rates a bit, but not as much as the many repeats necessary for doing it the usual way. I am unlikely to add an amplifier to get more than 200 W out, but that was the one situation where I wished we'd had it.

This contest is exciting and it's always great to get out of the shack to operate. Maybe that's why I've favored the 10 GHz and Up Contest and this one so much over in-shack operations recent years. Thanks so much to all the regulars and chasers who give us all a great even to look forward to every year! We'll be back next year for more fun!

I love good contest stats, so here are some that give an idea of what our mobile experience was like:

QSO Breakdown by County Activated

Location	3.5	7	14	21	All	
Cayuga		60	26	27		113
Cortland		60	40		100	
Madison			67	29		96
Oneida			39	34	1	74
Onondaga		34	37		71	
Ontario		55	50			105
Oswego			72	10		82
Schuyler		69	25		94	
Seneca		100	22			122
Tompkins		69	55		124	
Yates		54	19		73	
Total	215	562	276	1	1054	

N2CU mobile 514 cw 160 ssb

That was fun! Great activity, due in no doubt to Covid-19 and the SQP Challenge. I activated 8 counties, one more than planned, while working only 35 myself. I didn't go

looking for them, which may have been a mistake, but when you are mobile you generally wait in line to work a station. Thank you to all those who searched me out and spotted me. That really helps us mobiles get a run going. Special thanks to those stalwarts who gave me 10 or more QSOs: OM2VL (20), K1RO (11) and NS2N (10). There were a bunch between 7-9 QSOs and lots of onesie, twosies. All are appreciated! I worked 47 States and Provinces, and 11 DXCC. Was pleasantly surprised when JO7WXN called in on 20m CW when in Allegany county. Two weeks in a row doing mobile contesting was great. Not having a home station anymore means having to wait until next year to go mobile again. Unless of course I travel to some other states... Hmmm.

73, Tom N2CU

NS2N - fixed - NY - 408 cw 60 ssb - 90 mults

thanks for all the contacts gang ... nice to see so many old friends

Paul NS2N

On the Trail of Regens II

An interesting video showed up on YouTube. It's a 'shoot out' between a Collins R-390 vs a two tube 1929 style regen about 30 minutes long. Which came out ahead?

Titled: Regen Nut - takes two minutes to load so if you get an error message – just wait for it to load.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOPn9i49aOY&fbclid=IwAR0lqx0r1l8DWV0IhdyhVN__0iflqJ9fC9fw_8mDiM6_SzaKABD8LsqLc3s

Mobile Activity in October

Starting at the beginning of OCT:

W0GXQ and K8ZZ were out on their long trip to the PNW. Now in OR. This trip was planned to go to the National – which wasn't – but the trip occurred anyway. Next down through NV into UT to CO to GXQ's home near Denver. Not long after, Ed, K8ZZ, headed back home in KS.

W8OP was mobile in WV

N9AC was in FL and heading north through GA. Then back to FL. Not long after, he winds up in TX. Then through LA, MS, AL back to FL.

The CA QSO Party started and filled up the bands with CA counties.

N8MD was mobile in IL counties

Then there was a weekend of four QSO parties going on at the same time. A few county hunters participated. . Didn't see too many county hunters out mobile but many were chasing.

Once again, N9AC was back in TX in the western counties. Then over to NM and AZ.

Jim, N9JF, was putting out counties in IL. Also ran as N9G in the Earth Week WWFF special parks on the air event.

Kerry, W4SIG, made a big trip through lots of eastern KY into VA, dozens in eastern NC and tons of counties in GA. Then into SC and more NC. Back around through MS.

Bill, K0DEQ, headed out – putting out counties in MO, IL, IA

Then we had the IL and PA QSO Parties filling up the bands. KA3QLF was mobile in the PA QP

K8ZZ headed out on another trip in KS, then was spotted on couple day trip to central TX.

WY0A took a trip from TX to MS running counties.

K4ZGB put out counties in AL.

N0KV/N0DXE put out some counties in CO.

End date 10/25

Illinois QSO Party

AD4EB mobile 1240 cw qso

This was the 6th time we went mobile in the ILQP, and ended up with our highest number of contacts and total score. Melody drove the same route as last year, covering 23 counties, and stayed on schedule just about the entire time. Only incident was lightly brushing a tree with the very top of the 40m hustler coil while transmitting, which we thought would not cause a problem, but it would no longer resonate on 40m. Luckily we had a spare coil and it did not take long to get back to business.

Participation was much higher than previous years and the pileups were really large, especially toward the end of the contest. Best rate for 1 hour was 205. Conditions seemed good to me, especially on 80m.

The top worked stations include:

K1RO (30), DL3DXX (27), OM2VL (23), WN4AFP (23)

Congratulations to these stations, and thanks to everyone who took the time to work us in the contest. A total of 253 unique callsigns were logged (209 last year), and there were quite a few new callers.

Thanks to those that helped put together this excellent QSO Party. And as always, a special thanks to Melody for driving and navigating me around Illinois and making this all possible.

73 - Jim (AD4EB) and Melody (KI4HVY)

K9CT - fixed - IL 564 cw 422 ssb

Thanks to the organizers and all the mobiles!

K9WX, K0PC, AD4EB, N9JF, ND9E, K7JOE, KJ9C and N0AC were out and about! Propagation made the early going tough trying to contact them. They had so many callers and I knew I was weak. Only when they got to 80m were they loud. I was hoping for more counties but only got 69.

Good activity and a fun time.

73, Craig K9CT

OM2VL - fixed - DX 120 cw - 30 ssb- 84 counties

Thank you very much to all mobiles that were QRV at the beginning also on 20m! I was so busy with mobiles + resident stations on CW so I can't run SSB on this band. Signals was mostly strong, but many time I can't break the USA wall and sometimes I can't made QSO even nobody called him.

Band was open fortunately long - my last QSO with KJ9C at 21:12Z. On SSB at 19:42Z I called very strong KD0NEO but unfortunately he didn't hear me.

On 40m the situation was same as on 20m - so many stations on CW and nice pileup also on SSB! The activity was very good!

I heard but don't work 6 other counties

Unfortunately my last not confirmed county from IL - Hardin - not in my LOG :(I worked with KM9O from Hardin in 2014/2016/2017/2018 and sent several directs, but still no QSL. Is any station in IL who can help me with this QSL?

Some statistics:

- I never worked before in ILQP over 200 QSO, never worked 84 multipliers!
Thanks to everybody who make it possible!

- Most QSOs with:

MOBILE:

AD4EB/M 23/21

K0PC/M 16/14

N9C/M 12/10

K9WX/M 12/8

KJ9C/M 11/6

N9JF/M 7/6.

PORTABLE:

K9IR/P 8/4

W9AUI/P 8/4

K9BGL/P 6/3.

RESIDENT:

6 QSO: K9PG

3 QSO: K9CT, K9NR, K9ZA/9, KF9D, KG9N, W9ZV.

Thank you very much for the nice QSO Party!!!
It was the last QP in State QSO Party Challenge. So pity that only 1 category all together
even In State or Out of State or so far DX

73, Laci OM2VL

WA9LEY - mobile - 156 cw

Ran Will and Cook from the mobile. 72 Q's from Will and 84 Q's from Cook. All CW sent with a paddle and internal keyer in the FT891. My CW got very sloppy toward the end. My Vibroplex paddle hasn't seen this much action in years. Even some of the adjustment screws came loose. I'm usually a search and pounce operator so it was fun to generate some good runs. I need to get the macros set up in this radio for the future. FT891 to ATAS120A antenna. Also used a Wolf River Coil with a 102" whip on a mag mount. Powered by a Bioenno battery that held its charge the whole day.

KJ9C rover - 400 cw 39 ssb

K3, hamsticks and magmounts that don't hold well on a roof with ridges. RFI into laptop and into transmission, lost my AWD. At least the weather was good

N9C mobile (N0AC Op) 1013 cw qso

I ran a shorter route this year. The driver is my wife, Donna, and she doesn't like to drive at night so I designed the route to put us back at our motel before sunset. After dropping her off I went back out to run a county line on 80m. We got lost a couple of times but overall things went well and had no failures.

Thanks to my wife that puts up with my hobby, my operation would not happen without her. Thanks to all those that got on the air. It wouldn't be fun without you. Thanks for the contest sponsors for putting together a nice QSO party.

Congratulations to AD4EB for a fine score.

Thanks for your QSO, Bill

DL3DXX – fixed – DX – 205 cw 71 counties

As many others I cannot travel because of Covid 19 so I use my holidays to help building up the new club house of DR1A guys. Was able to run the QSO party from their big contest station however 160m is not working right now, but 80/40/20 are OK.

The first hour ended with 51 CW QSOs but the following hour 20m closed after 5 QSOs. That Mean I missed all the following counties of the mobiles before 40m opened. After an hour or so the band came back a little bit but never to full strength. Lucky south when I read the comments of OM2VL...40m conds were quite OK and also 80m but the inter-US-QSOs on 80m made it extreme difficult to break the pileups even with the big gun station DR1A. The last hour IL signals on 80m became very loud and it was a bit easier to work them. A pity that the party ended at 01:00 UT as there were just a number more to work. Many thanks for a great party to organizers, participants and last

not least the portable and mobile stations

On the Road with N4CD

Sadly, the road didn't go anywhere this month other than a half dozen trips 25 miles to the local park 4423 for the weekly CWT on Wednesdays and a few weekends to chase QSO party people. With several county hunter folks now deceased due to COVID, and several more having week long episodes in the hospital with COVID, it's not worth long trips for this 'senior' county hunter. The stats show that in the 70-80 age bracket, one in 20 will die from COVID. One in 10 will need hospitalization – which could be many weeks in the ICU and maybe months to mostly recover after. Most of the new parks are in more rural areas – and those folks are less likely to be concerned about COVID from what I can see – but rural areas are being hit hard now.

In El Paso, TX, it's so bad the mayor is telling folks to “please, just stay home”. They also implemented a curfew at night. In Utah, they have resorted to rationing health care. If you're old and sick, you might not get anywhere the same level of treatment as someone younger with 'more years of quality adjusted life' in front of them. That often happens in socialist countries where the elderly are just shuffled off to die when things get bad, or in places like NYC where they sent COVID patients back to nursing homes rather than to the emergency hospitals set up and near empty hospital ships (the ships in the harbor especially moved there for just such an emergency by the Trump administration). That killed off several tens of thousands of NYC folks in that screw up.

At the end of October, we are seeing record setting cases of COVID – all time. People are 'fatigued' by restrictions and letting their guard down. For me, I'm hunkered down in TX. Two days a week shopping early at the Walmart – with usually 3 to 6 other cars in the lot and of course, barren isles of shoppers other than a few shelf stockers here and there. Rarely see another shopper. Eat out once or twice a week, at times when there are less than 3 or 4 other customers in the place (sometimes just me for a while), and that's about it. The midwest, like OK, KS, AR, and NE, are now hot spots. Of course, all the events for the next 4 months are canceled so there is even less reason to travel and I wouldn't attend an indoor hamfest - no way – even if there was one.

My sister usually hosts the family for Thanksgiving with a dozen or more present. She's really hunkered down, even more than me, getting food delivered to her door and rarely venturing out to anyplace. Keeping track of kids/grandkids with rare spaced out

visits in the park from 10 feet or more – and FaceTime visits on the web. She did get a flu shot for the first time in 20 years this year. Of course, I got my senior Flumax (senior) quadrivalent shot a month ago. Hope you did, too. You don't want to wind up in a hospital with 'flu' this year. (and 60,000 die from flu each year!).

All I can say is I hope the vaccine(s) get here quickly. It will take months, though, to immunize enough to quash the rampant rate of infection even after vaccine deployment starts. First responders and health care workers first. Seniors with 'pre existing conditions' likely second. Then everyone else.

One of the folks on the Parks on the Air site noted that N4CD has just over 95,000 uploaded contacts for POTA and was wondering when I'd get to 100,000. Likely would have been there by now without COVID stopping most travel, and now just add 50 or 100 qos a week with the trips to the local park. Might be another six months? Or a year?

Winter has hit across the midwest. Lots of snow in CO and further north in the Rockies. Down to the 30s here in TX in the next few days and a lot colder further north with teens in CO, ID, MT, ND, etc. I'd head south but here in TX for a few remaining never run parks, but that's like traveling into an inferno – bad news for much of south TX healthwise. Even FL is doing really rotten, healthwise and likely to get worse as more snowbirds hit the road and wind up crowding FL a bit more. Oh well.....we just gotta get through this mess.

The election will be over soon. Daytime TV here is full of attack ads telling me who not to vote for.....even though 68% of Texans have voted already including me. Can't watch it or the news – 80% garbage ads. The election madness will be over shortly and back to normal, whatever that is in this time of year and pandemic.

Awards Issued

Single Band 40M #3	K8ZZ, Ed	9/27/2020.
5 Star Award #81	AB7RW, Phil	8/20/2018

RAS Nevada #33	W4SIG, Kerry	21 July 2020
RAS Idaho #34	W4SIG, Kerry	27 July 2020
County Challenge Level 17 #2	K8ZZ, Ed	24 September 2020
Cliff Corne Level 250 #482?	Mary, AB7NK	She received NR482
Cliff Corne Level 250 #48	Neil, K7SEN	28 August 2020.
RAS OH #35	Alan, W8OP	1 October 2020.
RAS AK #25	Bob, N8KIE	1 May 2009.
RAS CA #28	K4YT, Karl	1 June 2013
RAS WV #27	K4YT, Karl	16 September 2013
RAS UTAH #27	K4YT, Karl	29 April 2016
RAS Nevada #34	K4YT, Karl	2 June 2013
Roadrunner 1250 Last Counties #6	W0GXQ, Jerry	10/2/2020
Roadrunner 875 Last Counties #17	K8ZZ, Ed	10/2/2020.
5 Star #81	Phil, AB7RW	8/20/2018.
RAS OR #27	Ed, K8ZZ	10/1/2020.
RAS OR #28	Jerry, W0GXQ	10/1/202
RAS HI #4	Bob, KC6AWX	11/14/2018
Roadrunner 650 LC #28	Kerry, W4SIG	
Roadrunner 675 LC #26	Kerry, W4SIG	
Roadrunner 1300 LC #5	Jerry, W0GXQ	

RAS Nevada #5	Ron, KB6UF	5/30/1991.
RAS NY #18	Ron, KB6UF	6/6/2006.
RAS Ohio #34	Ron, KB6UF	6/7/2012.
RAS OK #29	Ron, KB6UF	11/29/1999
RAS OR #29	Ron, KB6UF	1/7/1995

Operating Events for County Hunters

No QSO Parties but opportunities for counties in the ARRL SS. Also 'band counties' in the 160 and 10m contests possible. Not much happening on 10m but who knows what it will be in a month?

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	2100Z, Nov 7 to 0300Z, Nov 9
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	2100Z, Nov 21 to 0300Z, Nov 23
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Nov 28 to 2400Z, Nov 29
ARRL 160-Meter Contest	2200Z, Dec 4 to 1600Z, Dec 6
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	0000Z, Dec 12 to 2400Z, Dec 13

There are many smaller events

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

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There's always a bunch of special event stations on each month. For example, here's one:

NRA Birthday

The Yavapai Amateur Radio Club (YARC) of Prescott, AZ, is planning to operate a special event station November 17, 2020, in celebration of the NRA's 149th birthday. The special event station will operate from Gunsite Academy's 2,000-acre campus in Paulden, AZ, north of Prescott. The special event call sign will be K7GST. Operations will be conducted on the following frequencies: 7.040, 7.250, 14.040, 14.250 and 21.335 MHz. The hours of operation will be from 1500 to 2400 UTC, except that CW operation will only be from 1900 to 2400 UTC due to station availability issues. KL7R will again be operating a satellite station.

All amateur stations, especially those operated by NRA members and Gunsite alumni, are urged to participate. A special certificate will be awarded to those stations making contact during the event. QSL with a 9 x 12 SASE to:

YARC
P.O. Box 11994
Prescott, AZ 86304

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You can see a list in QST each month of planned special event stations. Some are in rare counties.

That's all this month. 73 de N4CD