

County Hunter News

October 2021
Volume 17 Issue 10

Welcome to the On-Line County Hunter News, a monthly publication for those interested in ham radio county hunting, with an orientation toward CW operation. We also cover some park chasing activities these days. Contributions of articles, stories, letters, and pictures to the editor are welcomed, and may be included in future issues at the editor's discretion.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For general information FAQ on County Hunting, check out:

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

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

find information on these awards and the rules at:

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

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

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

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

Notes from the Editor

N4CD Rumblings

1) Sunspots – We got them. Then we didn't. The month is ending with the SFI in the 90s and sunspots over 70. Some days have had 'good' propagation listed for 15 and 17m but most days not. We're on the uptrend to a good solar cycle peak in a few years.

2) State QSO Parties - It's now state QSO party time of the year, interspersed with some DX contests. We report on the ones that happened and will on the upcoming ones. QSO party season ends in Nov as other major contests take over including Sweepstakes and 10m and 160m in between the major holidays. Over 1000 counties have been on the air this fall QSO party season.

3) COVID 2021 - The Delta variant has come with a blast that send hospital ICUs to record levels, sent deaths skyrocketing once again, and put a damper on travel. While over 70% of US folks have been vaccinated, that leaves almost 100 million vax-idiots who have not been. Some counties, like Loving Texas , are at 20% vax rates. You've got to be nuts to go there and spend any time there these days. MS and AL and other rural areas are not great destinations either. Pfizer Booster shots have now been authorized for over 100 million US folks. Those over age 60, and those with medical conditions are eligible. One of those conditions is 'obesity' and a BMI over 25. That's 70% of the US population, folks. Yes, 70% of the US population is overweight or obese with a BMI of 25 or more. At BMI 30, you are obese. (there are dozens of on line

calculators for BMI. Its “calculate BMI by dividing weight in pounds (lb) by height in inches (in) squared and multiplying by a conversion factor of 703. “

Not too many trips this season by the N4CD mobile but some. I eat out here occasionally in Plano TX but often early-bird and out before things get crowded.

Most of my events are 'canceled' but hamfests are occurring around the country. Shelby NC and the big AL happened. Think Orlando is on schedule for early 2022, and Dayton is set to May 2022. Club meetings are half and half. Some canceled, most ZOOM, but some beginning or trying to restart in person deals. In the past, 2/3rds of my travel was going to and from events around the country. Oh, the MI MINI is scheduled again and same for the MARAC Convention in fall 2022. Put them on your 2022 calendar or sign up now.

I'll be waiting for the Moderna booster shots – and getting my annual flu shot here soon. Hope you'll be joining me in staying as safe as possible.

On The Road with N4CD I

A long overdue multi-day trip was planned to hit parks/counties in northern OK, then into KS for the KS QSO Party. It looked like about a five day trip with the first and last parts a sprint just to get 300+ miles north to parks not run and then back home. Everything closer is pretty well 'done'.

Gas prices at this time were about \$3/gal here in TX. Same in KS and a bit less in OK. COVID-19 Delta was raging. Hospital ICUs here were bursting at the seams – even worse in rural areas where they were shipping cases by air to 'somewhere else' that could handle them. The 20-30% unvaxxed idiots were causing the worst peak in history with their 'freedom' baloney. Hopefully my vaccination would keep me out of trouble, but you still might have to deal with 'medical emergencies' and accidents that could put you in the hospital. Well, I'd risk it. There's always that chance of 'breakthrough' infection, too.

So bright and early Thursday at 5:46am I departed Collin County TX and headed up I-35....and more I-35 for hours and hours. I got off the interstate and headed west to Garfield County and Drummond Flats WMA K-7687 and KFF-5563 for the first park. I

ran most of the counties on the way north. Didn't help that a major accident in Denton County brought the interstate to a stop and I spent an hour getting through that mess at about 2 mph! Ouch. Not the best way to start a trip! I arrived at 1645z (11:45am). Whew. There would be lots of driving on the trip between the wide open spaces of OK and KS. It's mostly flat and most of northern OK is sparsely populated other than a couple large cities like Enid. You can drive for 50 miles and see 'nothing' but 'scenery' which is mostly grazing land. Often not even a farm, town, house, or other sign of civilization. Some of this is 'Indian Nation' territory without development of any kind. Half the state of OK is 'native American land'.

Drummond Flats -



from the state web site:

Drummond Flats WMA covers 4,653 acres in western Garfield county in north central Oklahoma. Located immediately west of the town of Drummond, or approximately 8 miles southwest of Enid, Drummond Flats is a historic overflow basin at the confluence of Turkey Creek, Elm Creek, and Salt Creek, and is predominately wetland habitat with some surrounding upland habitat.

The average annual precipitation for the area is about 34 inches.

Game Species of Interest:

Waterfowl: Ducks are usually present in fair to good numbers but will fluctuate with weather changes and water availability. Geese may occasionally be present but are not as abundant.

Sandhill Crane: May be available on occasion during the fall migrations.

Pheasant: Present in moderate to good numbers and will use all parts of the WMA not covered by standing water.

Quail: Present in low numbers in upland areas and un-flooded wetland sites.

Deer: Available in low numbers.

Turkey: Rio Grande wild turkeys may be present in upland areas during the spring and summer, but are not common.

Rabbit: Cottontail rabbits are available in low to fair numbers. Jackrabbits are occasionally present but are but are not common.

Furbearers: Coyote, bobcat and raccoon are available.

Dove: Usually present in fair to good numbers.

Nongame Species of Interest:

Shorebirds: Drummond Flats is an excellent area to view a variety of shorebird species. Spring migration is the best time for viewing.

Wading Birds: Many different species of wading birds can also be observed on Drummond Flats. Wading birds may be observed on the area throughout the year, but are most abundant during the spring migration.

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Miles to the west in Blaine County, you arrive at **Canton WMA – KFF-4799/K-6343** in Blaine County. Helps when parks are in different counties – the county hunters jump on in. If a park is in the same county, only a couple county hunters seem to work me – but I appreciate LOTS of contacts as the minimum for WWFF parks is 44 QSOs – not always easy with current band conditions and time of day. Had a good run in this park.

Canton WMA – Blaine County



Canton WMA covers 14,877 acres in Blaine, Dewey, and Major Counties in northwest Oklahoma, located around Canton Lake (northwest of Canton, Oklahoma, or west of Longdale, Oklahoma). Canton WMA is predominantly floodplain type habitat with some upland sites occurring toward the western end of the area.

Habitat varies on the area from post oak/blackjack cross timbers type habitat on the eastern end to sandsage grassland interspersed with sandplum, eastern red cedar, American elm, and black locust on the west end. Much of the area adjacent to Canton Lake and the North Canadian River is densely vegetated bottomland habitat dominated by eastern cottonwood, black willow, buttonbush, and roughleaf dogwood. The average annual precipitation is about 27 inches.

Game Species of Interest:

Quail: Bobwhite quail are present in fair numbers.

Deer: White-tailed deer are present in good numbers but are highly sought after.

Turkey: Rio Grande wild turkeys are present in good numbers but are highly sought after.

Rabbit: Cottontail rabbits are relatively common on Canton. Jackrabbits are occasionally present, but are not common.

Furbearers: Coyote, bobcat and raccoon are available.

Dove: Dove are present in fair numbers early in dove season.

Waterfowl: Duck hunting is available on Canton lake and several cutoff oxbow lakes on the management area. Goose hunting is occasionally available on WMA ag fields, but readily available on private land crop fields around Canton lake.

Nongame Species of Interest:

Black-tailed Prairie Dog: Present on the Corps of Engineers lake property adjacent to the area. Hunting of prairie dogs is not allowed.

Osprey: Present during spring and fall migration near Canton lake dam.

Bald Eagle: Present around Canton Lake November through March.

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For OK, the Parks on the Air program has added 'state museums'. Next up is the Sod House State Historic Site in Alfalfa County. Only need 10 contacts for credit for a POTA park and that was good here. Barely got 10! The noise level here was S9 plus on CW from the power line in front (bad for miles along the highway getting there) and maybe the building itself creating even more noise. Squeaked by with an 'activation' for POTA.

Sod House Museum K-8647



from the state web:

Sod House Museum seeks to preserve Oklahoma's only remaining sod house and interprets the early-day lifestyles of a pioneer, from the establishment of the Cherokee Outlet in 1893 to 1920. The museum encloses the original sod house which is the key exhibit. Visitors can enjoy the experience of walking through the "soddy" and explore exhibits, artifacts, photographs, and a root cellar. The artifacts and exhibits portray the daily activities of the pioneers. Museum grounds include an additional building

displaying horse-drawn equipment and period farm implements.

The museum offers exhibits, tours, educational programs, and events.

Marshal McCully and the Sod House

At one time, thousands of sod houses dotted the plains of North America. This two-room soddy, built by Marshal McCully in 1894, is the only remaining sod house Oklahoma that was built by a homesteader. McCully took part in the largest of Oklahoma's land runs when the Cherokee Outlet opened for settlement at noon on September 16, 1893. McCully first lived in a one-room dugout, hollowed out of a ravine bank. He built the two-room sod house in August 1894 using blocks of the thick buffalo grass blanketing Oklahoma's prairies.

McCully hitched his team to an fourteen-inch sod plow and split the grass into long rows. Using a flat shovel, he chopped the rows into eighteen-inch sections. He then laid the sod blocks like bricks to form the walls. To make the roof, McCully split poles from the few trees growing in the area and laid them across the top of the walls for rafters. Twelve inches of sod laid on the rafters completed the roof. Unlike many sod houses, McCully plastered the interior walls with alkali clay.

Marshal McCully received the homestead certificate for the land on April 15, 1902, and the patent on December 31, 1903. The McCully family lived in the sod house from 1894 until 1909 when they built a large two-story frame house. They continued to use the soddy for storage until 1963. On December 31, 1963, exactly sixty years after McCully received his patent, the Oklahoma Historical Society acquired the sod house.

Although the soddy remains in its original location, a cover now protects it from the elements. Visitors can walk through the furnished sod house and imagine what life was like for Oklahoma's early settlers.

Farming in Early-Day Oklahoma

A steel beam rod-breaking plow is on display in the museum. This plowed a twelve-inch wide strip of sod four inches thick. The sod strips were then cut into sod blocks. It took one half-acre of sod to build the two-room sod house, a total of ninety-six tons of sod. It has been estimated that in the United States and Canada there were some one million sod buildings in use from 1903–13.

Oklahoma farmers produced a wide variety of crops including corn, cotton, winter wheat, oats, milo, maize, potatoes, sweet potatoes, peanuts, broomcorn, cowpeas, alfalfa,

wild hay, and others. They also produced and sold poultry, eggs, cheese, butter, and garden/orchard products. The main crops by acreage and value, however, were corn, cotton, and winter wheat. An acre was the amount of land tillable by one man behind one ox in one day. Traditional acres were long and narrow due to the difficulty in turning the plow. One acre measures forty rods long and three rods wide.

In the 1890s it would have taken Marshal McCully forty to fifty hours of labor to produce one hundred bushels (five acres) of wheat with a gang plow, seeder, harrow, binder, thresher, wagons, and horses. By 1987, it took only three hours of labor to produce one hundred bushels (three acres) of wheat with a tractor, thirty-five-foot sweep disk, thirty-foot drill, twenty-five-foot self-propelled combine, and trucks. Farming has come a long way.

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I worked at it for 20 minutes to pull through 11 calls. I'm sure a dozen or two were calling but only LOUD signals made it above the extremely high noise. If you head here, it would help to have a very narrow CW filter, DSP, and maybe mag loop antenna to be able to try and null out noise source. Forget SSB from here.

Major County WMA - K-8656 - in Major County

This is one you really need to print off directions or a map from the web before heading there. There are NO signs even when you arrive other than the generic 'wildlife management area' signs around the WMA and at the entrance. Middle of the boondocks.



There's a parking area and a very rutted 4 wheel drive high clearance type road into the rest of the area. Didn't venture in far!

From the state site:

Major County WMA covers 210 acres in Major County in northwest Oklahoma. Located approximately 13 miles south and 2.5 miles west of Waynoka, this WMA occurs in the mixed grass eroded plains habitat type. Habitat consists of mixed grass uplands dissected by deep canyons which support several hardwood tree species including American elm, bur oak, chinquapin oak, Eastern red cedar. Water resources are provided by Main Creek which flows year-round across the WMA. Annual precipitation for the area is approximately 25 inches.

Game Species of Interest:

Quail: Bobwhite quail may be present in low numbers.

Deer: White-tailed deer may be present in low numbers.

Turkey: Rio Grande turkeys may be present in low numbers in the spring.

Rabbit: Cottontail rabbits are present in fair numbers.

Furbearers: Coyote, bobcat and raccoon are available.

Dove: Very limited dove use on Major Co.

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Thursday Night was spent in Woodward OK at the Days Inn. Would you believe \$52 with tax and a free decent breakfast with eggs/sausage? In KS, Wyndham motels would be \$90 and \$100 a night! Ouch.

Before hunkering down for the night, I took a 14 mile trip north to Harper County for a Last County for AG6V. Success even though late on the day on 20M CW!

Back down to town for dinner at the Red Prairie Steak House (former the K-Bobs). 463 miles driven the first day. Long Day. Hot – high 90s pushing 100F!

Friday August 29 2021

There's not a lot in this part of OK but 'grassland' and grazing land. Not much rainfall and things tend to be dry. Not a whole lot of trees – just scrub ones here and there. It's headed to 100F today, too.

First up north of Woodward is **Cimarron Bluff K-8117 /KFF-5561** in Harper County.

Thank goodness for indented gate. Only way to run this.



Cimarron Bluff WMA covers 3,430 acres in northeastern Harper County. Located north of the city of Woodward. It is four miles south of the junction of Highways 34 and US 64 and than one and a half mile east on County Road 15 (it may not be labeled) to the one of the parking areas. Cimarron Bluff WMA is primarily rolling hills with high bluffs overlooking the west side of the Cimarron River. Area is dominated by mixed-grass prairie vegetation with isolated pockets of sand sagebrush, sand plum, and sumac occurring on red clay and gypsum soils. Cottonwood, hackberry, and western soapberry trees exist along the creeks flowing through the property. A limited amount of Cimarron River flood plain exists along the east boundary of the WMA, dominated by salt flats, interspersed with salt cedar.

Game Species of Interest:

Quail: Bobwhite quail are present in moderate numbers.

Deer: White-tailed deer are present in limited numbers, mule deer are rarely seen.

Turkey: Rio Grande turkeys are present in fair numbers.

Pheasant: Pheasants are extremely rare.

Dove: Dove are present in fair numbers.

Rabbit: Rabbits are present in fair numbers.

Waterfowl: Duck and goose opportunities exist on area ponds and along the river.

Furbearers: Coyote, bobcat and raccoon are present.

Nongame Species of Interest:

Lesser Prairie Chicken, Bell's Vireo, Eastern Collard Lizard, Texas Horned Lizard, Western Diamondback and Prairie Rattlesnakes, long-billed curlew, loggerhead shrike, western big-eared bat, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Cassin Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Red Headed Woodpecker, Greater Yellowlegs, Osprey, Snowy Plover, Interior Least Tern, Arkansas River Shiner, and Arkansas Darter.

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Good run with 44 in log.

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To the north, you find **Cimarron Hills WMA – K-8118/KFF-5562** in Woods County OK

from the state web:

Cimarron Hills WMA covers 3,770 acres in western Woods County, located four miles north of the junction of Highways 34 and US 64, and then four miles west on Major road. The area lies north of the city of Woodward, east of Buffalo, and west of Alva. Cimarron Hills WMA is primarily rolling sand hills overlooking the east side of the Cimarron River. Area is dominated by mixed-grass prairie vegetation and sand sagebrush and sand plum on the uplands and vegetated by tall grass prairie species in the river bottom along with cottonwood, hackberry, and western soapberry trees along West Anderson Creek. A limited amount of Cimarron River flood plain exists along the west boundary of the WMA, dominated by salt flats, interspersed with some salt cedar.

Game Species of Interest:

Quail: Bobwhite quail are present in moderate numbers.

Deer: White-tailed deer are present in limited numbers, mule deer are rarely seen.

Turkey: Rio Grande turkeys are present in fair numbers.

Pheasant: Pheasants are extremely rare.

Dove: Dove are present in fair numbers.

Rabbit: Rabbits are present in fair numbers.

Waterfowl: Duck and goose opportunities exist along the river.

Furbearers: Coyote, bobcat and raccoon are present.

Nongame Species of Interest:

Lesser Prairie Chicken, Bell's Vireo, Eastern Collard Lizard, Texas Horned Lizard, Western Diamondback and Prairie Rattlesnakes, loggerhead shrike, western big-eared bat, Cassin Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Red Headed Woodpecker, red-tailed hawk, Snowy Plover, and Interior Least Tern.

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Not so good run – half as many as before despite new county. Bands have been up and down with high A index predicted for today and weekend for the KS QP. Dang. Now 30 miles to the next one backtracking a bit Dang- road construction – 30 minute wait for pilot car for construction zone. I'd hit it again on the way back, too!

Hal and Fern Cooper WMA – K-6346 in Woodward County

from the state web site:

The Hal and Fern Cooper WMA covers 16,080 acres of northwestern Woodward and south central Harper Counties. Located just east of Hwy. 270 (northwest of the city of Woodward), the area is primarily upland rolling sand hills with around 4,500 acres of river bottom.

Mixed grass prairie and sagebrush is found on upland sites, interspersed with sand plum thickets. The river bottom is fairly open and consist of cottonwood, American elm, hackberry and eastern red cedar interspersed with sand plum thickets, salt cedar and mixed grassland. The Beaver River joins Wolf Creek to create the North Canadian river on the area. The average annual precipitation for the area is about 20 inches.

Game Species of Interest:

Pheasant: Present but only in low numbers, most often taken as a bonus by quail hunters.

Quail: Bobwhite quail are usually present in good numbers but are highly sought after.

Deer: White-tailed deer are present in fair numbers, mule deer are rare.

Turkey: Rio Grande wild turkeys are present in good numbers but are highly sought after.

Rabbit: Both cottontails and jackrabbits are present, but cottontails are much more

common.

Furbearers: Coyote, bobcat and raccoon are available.

Dove: Dove are usually present in good numbers but are highly sought after.

Waterfowl: Duck and goose hunting opportunities are very limited.

Nongame Species of Interest:

Lesser Prairie Chicken: Present, but only in very low numbers.

Bald Eagle: Eagles winter at Fort Supply WMA but sightings are rare on Cooper WMA.

Across the road from last is **Fort Supply WMA - KFF-5567 and K-8122**



from the state web site:

Fort Supply WMA covers 5,418 acres of northwestern Woodward County. Located just west of Hwy. 270 (northwest of the city of Woodward), Fort Supply WMA is primarily

river bottom with rolling sand hills located along the east side of the WMA.

Mixed grass prairie and sagebrush predominate on upland sites, which are interspersed with sand plum thickets. The river bottom consist of cottonwood, American elm, hackberry and eastern red cedar interspersed with sand plum thickets, salt cedar, roughleaf dogwood, buttonbush and mixed grassland. Wolf Creek runs through the entire length of the area until reaching Fort Supply Lake. The average annual precipitation for the area is about 20 inches.

Game Species of Interest:

Pheasant: Present but only in low numbers, most often taken as a bonus by quail hunters.

Quail: Bobwhite quail are usually present in good numbers but are highly sought after.

Deer: White-tailed deer are present in fair numbers, mule deer are extremely rare.

Turkey: Rio Grande wild turkeys are present in fair numbers but are highly sought after.

Rabbit: Both cottontails and jackrabbits are present, however jackrabbits are rare.

Furbearers: Coyote, bobcat and raccoon are available.

Dove: Dove hunting opportunity is limited to upland areas.

Waterfowl: Duck and goose hunting opportunities are available on Fort Supply Lake and on sloughs located south of the lake along Wolf Creek.

Nongame Species of Interest:

Bald Eagle: A limited number of eagles winter at Fort Supply Lake.

It's a long way to 'civilization' once you leave this area – 50 miles or more before you find a town with a gas station or store. In Slapout, OK, (population 4) you find 'the' store and gas station for 40 miles around. Grabbed a slice of pizza and bottle of water and zipped on to the next one in the middle of nowhere.

With 100F type temps, not many out fishing or using the 'primitive camping' facilities around the lake – just a place to park near the lake shore. Probably great in spring time and fall. Two latrines, one water well at the lake..

Evan Chambers State Fishing Lake K-8120 in Beaver County



Not much here to brag about. Middle of nowhere off the beaten path, but heck, it's a lake/park and not many out this way! It's an 80 acre lake with 2 miles of shoreline. Built in 1965.

There were 3 more parks 40 miles to the west – didn't have time to run them – so just headed north to the town of Beaver, OK. There you find:

Beaver River WMA - Beaver County KFF-4795 /K-6334



from the state site:

Beaver River WMA covers 17,700 acres of western Beaver County in the Oklahoma panhandle. Located just east of Hwy. 83 (southeast of the town of Turpin), Beaver River WMA is a mixture of upland, flood plain and river bottom. Sagebrush and buffalo grass are predominate on upland sites, which are interspersed with sand plum thickets and rolling sandhills. Bottomlands consist of sand plum thickets, salt cedar and mixed grassland. The Beaver River, which runs intermittently, offers a classic western Oklahoma floodplain comprised of cottonwood, hackberry and American elm. The average annual precipitation for the area is about 19 inches. Approximately 20 windmills and 10 guzzlers have been installed to provide water for wildlife. Management practices include grazing of cattle, strip disking, strip mowing and prescribed burns.

Management efforts focus on producing native wildlife foods such as ragweed and sunflower, although some small agricultural food plots are planted annually throughout the WMA. An additional 400 acres of agricultural plots are planted in an agriculture lease program.”

I head north/northeast to the next in KS.

Lake Meade State Park and State Fishing Lake KFF-2344/K-2344 and K-7433
in Meade County KS

from the state site:

Meade State park rests in the high plains of southwest Kansas, just west of the Red Hills. Meade Lake has 80 acres of water and 440 surrounding acres of campsites and wildlife area. Fishing is allowed in the lake year-round with motorized boating restricted to fishing only and no wake speed. Bluegill, channel cat, and large mouth bass are plentiful and provide excellent opportunities for the angler.

For nature lovers who like to identify various different trees, grasses, flowers and birds, a nature trail offers birding, biking, and hiking opportunities.

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This is a 'two-fer' in the POTA system.

After running it, I headed in to Garden City KS about an hour drive for the night at the AmericInn. \$89. Ouch. Nice motel. 101F outside. Did 310 miles today with some park stops along the way. Dinner at Appleby's next door to the motel – busy on a Friday night. Not many places nearby to eat, though, other than fast food nearby.

Saturday 8 28 2021

Today the KS QP would start at 9am. Had a nice breakfast – they had a 'pancake machine' so had 2 small pancakes, oatmeal, OJ and coffee. You pushed a button on the pancake machine and two pancakes would show up in about 2 minutes. Nifty. Headed out early to get to next early before the contest started.

Concannon State Fishing Lake in Kinney County KS – K-7427



Arrived at 7am (1300z) – two hours before the KS QP started. Had a good run here on 40 and 30m. Caught KH6J on 40M for the HI QP party.

From the web:

“Concannon State Fishing Lake and Wildlife Area is located on the north side of Highway 156, approximately 17 miles northeast of Garden City Kansas. Approximately 410 acres of grassland, 300 acres of cropland, a 50 acre lake, and a 40 acre marsh make

up the property. The area offers a large variety of recreational opportunities to the visitors. Primitive camping is allowed in an area that has ADA restrooms, an ADA courtesy dock, and a boat ramp. The proximity of Concannon to Garden City lends the area well to day use activities such as bird watching, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting and picnicking.

In 2013, 2 water holes were constructed in the west half of the property. This will provide an added resource for wildlife when weather is exceptionally dry and should be excellent for migratory birds.”

My emphasis on this trip was 'connect the parks' and run the counties for the parks. I stop to run counties these days. If I hit a county with no park, I'd stop and make 15-20 minutes max of contacts and get underway. I did catch a few stations while moving in other QP's or DX, but seldom put out any Qs.

The QP started but I waited until I got to the next park to run it at 1515z.

Scott State Fishing Lake/State Park KFF 2352/K-2352 and K-7434.



From the state web:

Located along the Western Vistas Historic Byway about 11 miles north of Scott City, west of US-83 on K-95. Listed by National Geographic as one of the country's 50 must-see state parks and hidden in a canyon in the western Kansas prairie, Scott State Park is a stunning oasis of natural springs, deep wooded canyons, craggy bluffs and early American history. The 1,020-acre park surrounds the 100-acre, spring-fed Scott State Fishing Lake, and a 160-acre wildlife area lies west of the park.

The park is one of the most historic locations in Kansas. More than 26 archaeological sites have been documented in and adjacent to the park. The remains of the northernmost known Native American pueblo – El Cuartelejo, a National Historic Landmark – are located in the park. The Steele home, the dwelling of the original settlers on the area, has been preserved much as it was 100 years ago. About 1 mile south of the park is Battle Canyon, the location of the last Native American battle in Kansas.

The park is an ideal setting for camping, boating, swimming, hiking, hunting, fishing, and wildlife observation. Nature trails accommodate hikers, horseback riders, and naturalists and provide excellent opportunities to observe wildlife in natural habitats. Wild turkey, deer, bobcat and beaver are common in the area. A horse camp area has amenities for equestrian visitors.”

Had a nice run with the QP folks jumping in.

From here it was north to the next

Little Jerusalem Badlands State Park KFF-4713 /K-5717 in Logan County



from the state site:

These badlands are Kansas' most dramatic Niobrara chalk formation. They provide unique and important habitat for many plants and wildlife. Native amphibians, reptiles and birds such as ferruginous hawks and cliff swallows live here. Little Jerusalem is also home to the largest population of Great Plains wild buckwheat. This native plant is found in the chalk bluffs prairie of western Kansas and nowhere else in the world.

Long ago, this area was a great sea. In addition to the present-day wildlife, the remains of swimming and flying reptiles dating back 85 million years have been found here. Ancient giant clams and oysters are common fossils in these badlands.

The chalk outcroppings have had many names. In the late 19th century, they were said to resemble the ruins of many castles, thus "Castle City." Some say that it got the name "Little Jerusalem" or "New Jerusalem" because from a distance it looks like the ancient walled city of Jerusalem. By the time The Nature Conservancy acquired the property, most modern-day locals and geologists knew it by the name of Little Jerusalem.

This park was also once part of the McGuire Ranch. After five generations of family ownership, it is now a park the public can hike and enjoy. Explore the trails to view the rock formations, some of which tower more than 100 feet above the nearby Smoky Hill River. From varying points along the marked trails, and in different light, you'll find the rocks appear dramatically different.

Little Jerusalem is owned by The Nature Conservancy. TNC partnered with the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks to make portions of the area open to the public."

This is a relatively new park - created in 2018 and first opened in 2020 – might not be in your GPS. Pulled in and had a decent run but band conditions were not all that great despite increasing sunspot numbers. The park is 330 acres in size.

Sheridan State Fishing Lake – in Sheridan County – K-7423



from the state web:

Nestled in the rolling prairie and cropland covered hills of western Kansas, Sheridan State Fishing Lake provides a serene getaway for camping, fishing, and picnicking or just simply relaxing.

The area is located 12 miles east of Hoxie, just one mile north of Highway 24. The lake covers 60 acres and is surrounded by 188 acres of timber and native grass wildlife area.

Bluegill, channel catfish, crappie, large mouth bass, and red ear sunfish are just a few of the species awaiting anglers. A floating fishing pier is available and fishing is allowed on the floating pier, which is near one of the two fish attractors.

Paved boat ramps are available to lake users. Motorized boats are allowed at no wake speeds, for fishing only. Recreational boating and jet skiing are not allowed. Always be extra careful when boating on small waters.

The area is open to archery and shotgun hunting only. Waterfowl hunting is not allowed.

There is no charge for camping. Designated sites provide primitive camping near the shoreline with plenty of trees for shade. Picnic tables and fire rings are located at many of the sites. The Department asks that any fires be contained in the provided metal fire rings and to never leave a fire unsupervised. Modern vault toilets are centrally located on both the east and west sides of the lake”

Hmmm....somehow camping, even with shade, when it's 100F outside would not seem to be fun! Hi Hi

Cottonwood Ranch State Historic Site K-9184 (still Sheridan County)



Made a quick 10 Qs from here and skedaddled. 10Q is enough for POTA.

From the state site:

“John Fenton Pratt had no idea when he started building his ranch that it would someday tell the story of his family and his native Yorkshire, England. Take a step into history as you tour the grounds of this relatively unchanged rural ranch. Exterior signs tell the story of the stained glass windows, Yorkshire architecture, and this unique sheep ranch.

Abraham Pratt (1827-1901), came to America as a young man, arriving in California during the Gold Rush of the late 1840s. After less than two years in this country he returned to England, resigned from the British navy, and became a liquor merchant and owner of a bottling works. He was married in 1855, and became the father of two sons and two daughters. Twelve years later, in 1878, Pratt sold his British businesses, returned to the U.S., and bought 160 acres of land along the South Solomon River in extreme eastern Sheridan County, Kansas. Pratt was soon joined by his two sons, John Fenton, and Tom.

In its earliest days the ranch consisted of the stone house and at least one outbuilding of sod, which was used as a stable. A sod-walled corral was constructed near the stable. A small, wood-framed structure, which was used as a bathhouse and toilet, was located near the house in the 1880s and still exists today at the ranch. In the late 1800s a natural

spring northwest of the house was modified to carry water into a storage cistern from which a pipeline was constructed to provide running water in the house.

Fenton, Tom, and Abraham became successful ranchers, raising Merino sheep. Their journals reflect the prosperous nature of the business. In March and April of 1891 Fenton shipped a total of 3,566 pounds of wool to markets in St. Louis and Philadelphia. A month later the Pratts sold 3,399 pounds of wool to Hagey Brothers in St. Louis and received \$522. Fenton's livestock tally for 1892 indicated 1,580 sheep on his ranch.

In 1888 Fenton married Yorkshire native Jennie Elizabeth Place. The couple had two daughters, Hilda, born in 1889, and Elsie, born in 1894. Fenton Pratt sold all of his sheep and most of his land in 1904 and pursued his other business interests in Sheridan and Graham counties. He died in 1937. Hilda never married and remained on the home place with her mother. After the death of Jennie Pratt in 1959, Hilda lived alone at the ranch until 1978. She died in 1980.

In 1982 the state of Kansas purchased approximately 23 acres of the original John Fenton Pratt ranch. Today it is operated as Cottonwood Ranch State Historic Site. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1983, nominated for its association with the settlement of western Kansas and for its architecture.”

Ran into Graham County and put it out. Later, found a park before I exited Graham. Hmm....should have made all the Qs from the park. It's right along the route I was following. Didn't plan on stopping there, but hard to pass by a park!

Nicodemus National Historic Site – Park 0851 in Graham County

This was an NPOTA site in 2016 and N4CD made a visit back then. Now I'd just add in a bunch more Qs for the park chasers quickly.

From the web:

“Formerly enslaved African Americans left Kentucky at the end of the of post-Civil War Reconstruction period to experience freedom in the "Promised Land" of Kansas. Nicodemus represents the involvement of African Americans in the westward expansion and settlement of the Great Plains. It is the oldest and only remaining Black settlement west of the Mississippi River. “

There's a nice visitor center, five remaining buildings from the period you can see. Didn't stick around long. You can run it at the 'rest area' the folks maintain as part of the

historic site/visitor center. Heading east now....

Webster Lake WMA KFF-5449 K-7947 in Rooks County KS



from the state site:

Webster Wildlife Area encompasses 8,018 acres of public hunting surrounding 1,481 surface acres of water. A variety of wildlife habitats are developed and maintained to enhance wildlife. Situated along the shores of Webster Reservoir, the area offers hunting, fishing, limited camping, hiking, and wildlife viewing opportunities. The Reservoir is located 9 miles west of Stockton, just off highway 24

nearby you find the next

Webster State Park - Rooks KS – Park 2354



from the state site:

“Webster State Park is a 880-acre prairie setting of rolling hills and spacious skies. Visitors often see deer, turkeys, quail, pheasants, and many wildflowers. The 3,700 acres of open water offer great fishing in Webster Reservoir.

The reservoir complements the picturesque Chalk Hills. The area's mixed grass prairie, river, lake, marshes, and riparian trees and shrubs teem with wildlife. Located in the central flyway, the lake is a stopping place for many species of waterfowl and shorebirds and offers excellent opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts for hunting, wildlife watching and photography.”

Rooks State Fishing Lake – K-7421 – Rooks County



from the web:

“A small earthen embankment was built in 1937 by the W.P.A. on Boxelder Creek to form Rooks State Fishing Lake. The lake is surrounded by ample shade for fishing, camping, picnicking or just enjoying the scenery at the lake.

The lake periodically goes dry due to irregular inflows.

The entire lake is open year round for fishing, but a portion of the area is closed from Nov. 1 to Mar. 1 to hunting and vehicles to enhance wildlife related opportunities and reduce litter and vandalism that have historically occurred during periods of low use.

A diversity of both game and non-game species can be found, but due to the small size of the area, their numbers are relatively low.

Consequently, hunting opportunities are limited since wildlife is either quickly harvested or driven off the area. Some sporadic good hunts are possible as wildlife moves on and off the area.

Both whitetail and mule deer are present, but populations are low. A few turkeys can also be found on the area long the riparian zone. Upland game birds present on the area include pheasant and quail.

Other wildlife that utilizes the area includes coyotes, badgers, mink, rodents, raptors, song”

It was getting late in the afternoon so I headed on into the Days Inn in Hays KS. Used frequent stay points instead of paying \$101 for the motel. Ouch if you had to pay for it. Pulled in around 5pm – that was enough radio for me for the day although the QP kept going till 9pm.

Dinner was at the Wisky Creek Grill nextdoor – good food. Did 280 miles today and a bunch of parks. It was hot, hot, hot all day.

Later than evening was watching the weather forecast. Not good. Ominous. A cold front was descending upon KS and Hays was expected to have major t-storms at 8am the next morning with heavy rain/wind. Not good. Maybe I'd sleep in. No fun trying to run counties/parks in heavy weather. Shades of last year in the KS QP where I had a morning full of showers in southeast KS. That was no fun with the rain and LOTS Of S9 static from nearby lightning hits. Was it going to be a repeat?

The OH QP would be over tomorrow. It had been a tough day trying to find and keep a frequency. I missed getting an 'assigned' mobile freq so I'd wind up on 14.029.5 or 14.041 area – sometimes with poor results and possible other stations on the same freq and the same time. Less QRM tomorrow. HI QP would still be going but not many of them on the radio! I only heard a few KS stations and only was able to work a couple on Saturday. Heard mobiles S3-S4 but they just kept calling CQ CQ.....must have either had noisy power lines or more likely a noisy mobile set up. (too many do with inverters and PCs).

Sunday August 29 2021 (day 2 of the KS QP)

to be continued in Part II of N4CD on the Road.....

Kansas QSO Party

Loads of mobiles and activity! Every county on the air – sometimes 3 or 4 times by different mobiles and fixed stations – both modes.

W0Q (W0ZQ Op) mobile 1660 CW 22 SSB

On Saturday the weather was hotter than the bands. High temperature was 95 degrees but a stiff south wind helped. As a single-op unassisted I stop to operate and I don't like to burden the car with running the A/C when stopped, so that wind helped. 20m was not in good shape with lots of QSB and weak signals. Between stops and while driving I tried some 20m SSB but conditions were just not good for a mobile. I did try some 80m CW after dark with some success, but the QRN from local storms and Ida made the band difficult. On Sunday, conditions were better with 20m in fair shape. I had rain for the first half of the day and at one stop at POT/SHA I had some type of rain static, or tire static, that wiped me out for 30 minutes. Sorry for those who called, but I just could not hear a thing. At the end of the contest the 20m pile up from BRO/ATC was ferocious but I hope that I was able to work everyone who called. Thanks to Bob, W0BH, and his team for organizing a really fun QP. 73, Jon W0ZQ

N0W mobile (N0AC opr) 1370 CW qso

Thanks to all those that QSOed with me. It would not be fun without you.

Thanks to Bob, W0BH, for all the work running the Kansas QSO Party. There are not enough words to describe my appreciation.

It always amazes me the way the QSO numbers pile up. Those first few QSOs seem so far away at the end of the second day. Saturday it seemed like 40m was going to be the money band but soon 20m took off. I tried 15m early with no results so never looked there again. I also tried 80m late Saturday with the same results.

From some of the comments I should have stayed in HAM longer and tried 20m but by that time I had already configured the antennas for 40/80m. Sunday I ran out of time and did not get to CHY but did manage to add a few counties that were not in the original plan.

A smile came on my face every time Dave, W0FLS, called in. Dave is one of our operators at the Iowa DX and Contest Club station owned by Toni, N0NI.

DX was sparse. The DX worked was DK2OY, DL3DXX, KP2P, OM2VL, and JE7JDL. (I think there was another DL, sorry if I missed mentioning you.)

The most QSOs: K16RRN 34, N6MU 28, K8MFO 27, NW0M 24, W5LXS 24, WB9HFK 22, K7TQ 20, VE3YT 20, K5KG 18, K4XU 15 and many more under 15.

The only equipment failure was the remote for my Cochlear implant. Saturday afternoon it failed and I could not control my implant so was completely deaf in my right ear. Luckily I got it going for Sunday's operation.

Thanks for your QSO, Bill

K0I mobile (KI0I opr) 1197 CW 144 SSB

First I apologize for a sloppy job on the key this weekend. I failed to attend to an issue I've had in the past with this paddle. I got home and Sunday eve I took it all apart and cleaned the moving parts and springs. I think I cured it, the dit side was intermittent, making for a lot of crappy sending. Something I should have done pre contest, I know. After a week of trout fishing with my wife as part of our 37th anniversary, I had to throw together my mobile rig Friday night and finished early Saturday morning before

heading to Kansas. Luckily its only a half hour or so to the State line from home. It's hard enough speeding down the road sending code by hand without a ornery paddle wreaking havoc. Hihi

Anyway, I had a really fun weekend running mobile around southeast Kansas. Kansas has more tax money than my home state of Missouri, that's judging by the number of road projects going on. I ran into at least a half dozen bridge rebuilds with one way traffic and a stop light to control the flow of one way traffic. There was one with a problem that I sat in line for 20min waiting my turn. My sked was off so bad for Saturday. I had to skip a couple counties on the list. Luckily those were covered well by others.

My lil Honda Accord ran well and there were no puffs of smoke from the radio,tuner and amp in the backseat, that's always a plus! I did kill one small bird that hit my windshield ,and nearly rear ended another small car that decided there was space to pull out in front of me as I was doing 65mph, wrong!

Both days the weather was good for me ,no storms on top of me like other parts of the state,that was lucky.

It's so much fun to get out and take part in a top of the class qso party. Bob does a tremendous job of organizing it so we can all have fun! THANK YOU BOB !!!

The Band was better Sunday after a bit of a weak performance on Saturday. Thank you to the guys and gals(which are growing in numbers!)who chase the mobiles county to county, It`s so much more fun with many callers keeping things going.. I put 1003 miles on the odometer for the weekend and many went by unnoticed because of the activity.

The mobile setup was an Icom 7100 and a solid state 500w amp running about 300-350w thru a MFJ998 tuner to a variety of mobile antennas. Any more power and the car throws a fit.! A ball mount held a hustler mast with 15-20-40cw coils. A tri mag mount on opposite side of car on the trunk lid carried a short homemade mast with 80cw and 40ssb coils. I'll post a pic on my QRZ page later. The Begali simplex paddle , winkeyer and radio head were mounted on a ply board that rides on the armrest. A two port coax switch lets me switch the antennas for my needs.

Thanks all for a fun weekend and again to W0BH Bob.
73 til next time

Mark KI0I alias K0I/m

W0C - (opr AB7NK) mobile 737 SSB QSO

To participate mobile in the KSQP has been on my bucket list for years. Propagation wasn't the best on Saturday but it sure picked up on Sunday.

I was fortunate to make contact with the bonus station, KS0KS Saturday afternoon. A few other 1x1 calls made it into my log as well.

We met N5NA early Sat morning before things got underway. That was a treat, we had time to share a few memories of a long-time friend, K5YAA (sk) Jerry was there in spirit, I'm sure. He never missed a good QP if at all possible. Thanks Matt – KD0EZZ, W0Q for the refreshments when going thru Tribune, KS. Neil – K7SEN, my driver and I both signed the "beam"! It's now official we were there.

Being my first participation in the QP, I had many questions from early on. Thanks, WY0A – Butch for your help and I can never thank W0BH – Bob, for the many hours he must have spent getting me squared away. A great QP and I hope to be back again.

Lastly, thanks to my driver and husband, K7SEN who's job was to make sure the equipment was working properly, (FT-857 and Scorpion antenna) and getting us where we needed to be safely. At one point Neil was able to explain to the Hamilton Sheriff's Deputy what the Kansas QSO Party was all about. Phew, he talked his way out of that one!!!

W0V Rover 41 SSB QSO

I had a great time roving for my first KS QSO Party! I hit up four state parks throughout the weekend in four different counties. Unfortunately, I did not make the fifth stop I had planned due to a storm rolling through Sunday afternoon, but it was still an enjoyable time. I also was stuck using a 10W radio due to some equipment issues, so I had to fight to make those Qs. In any case, I had a ton of fun and will definitely be back next year!

W0L (AB0TX ops) portable 489 CW 181 SSB

Operated Portable at Pine Haven Camp Ground in Stafford County (STA). Very nice place to operate. Ran Air conditioner pretty hard. Pretty hot and windy but not a bad spot. Bands weren't too bad. 20 meters was a little strange. I would work Germany, then Colorado on 20 meters? Go figure. Had to shut down pretty early on Sunday due to high wind and lightening and potent thunderstorms that came through the area. Had a good time and got to work Bob (W0BH) with his three 1X1 calls. He drove right by my camp ground as I was talking to him. See everyone next year! AB0TX/W0L

WV0A portable (NR0P Op) 55 SSB QSO

West Baldwin City ARC portable activation with a 7100 and 20m hamstick on a tripod in a field in Brown (BRO) county on Sunday afternoon. Used this event as a portable equipment deployment test for some new gear the club acquired. Very pleased with the effort and results for a 1.5hr operating time.

K0A (K5CM op) mobile 1857 CW 315 SSB

Because of various issues Pam and I could not spend Friday night in KS, so drove up Saturday morning. This put us us a little over an hour late to the start of the party. I have got to say we probably did not miss much as conditions were at best, poor for the first few hours. I first thought there must be something wrong with the antenna, but not the case. I could have fixed the antenna, but I could not fix the propagation hi hi. Sunday turned out much improved with some very nice pile ups and runs. Thanks to the many stations that followed Pam and I around the state, and of course thanks to Bob/W0BH for putting it all together.

73, Connie and Pam

K0S mobile (W0BH Op) 966 CW 809 SSB

The 2021 Kansas QSO Party by W0BH as K0S/m

I'll cover the actual mobile run shortly, but first some comments on the planning leading up to the big weekend. This year the mobiles were back and the new rover category was a new home for several Kansas operators. AB7NK/Mary and K7SEN/Neil joined us for the first time as a mobile entry from Arizona. They were voted SSB Team of the Year by MARAC (county hunters) from 2016 thru 2021, so they brought a wealth of experience to our event. Some familiar mobile ops who weren't able to make it in 2020 were back with us as well: N5NA/Alan from TX, W0ZQ/Jon from MN and NU0Q/Bill from IA. We couldn't put out all 105 counties several times over without all the mobiles, portables, and rovers covering multiple counties, so I'll thank them on behalf of all of you (and me) for the amazing job that they do.

Planning went smoothly as operations and routes came in, most earlier than usual this year. I enjoy creating maps of our CW/SSB coverage, Sat/Sun coverage and rare counties to aid in planning for both Kansas and out-of-Kansas participants. The red counties were disappearing nicely with many turning green. My goal is to have all the counties covered both CW/SSB.

With a day and a half to go, we were set! Or maybe not, as is often the last-minute case. Two mobile routes canceled due to medical issues (fortunately all OK now). I spent a number of hours rerouting other mobiles to cover the maps. Some mobiles let me suggest their routes to optimize the maps and others were willing to change their routes at the last minute, something that makes my life a lot easier and helps you all out as you try to work the most number of counties. That happened again this year as WY0A, NU0Q and AD0DX teamed up to fill the voids. The ARRL also helped out with several last minute 1x1 call updates late Friday afternoon. Amazing service! My last web site update was at 1:20am on Saturday morning, something XYL Lorna commented on the "next" morning!

Our KSQP spelling challenge is really popular. I try to make sure all the calls are on the air so you can find KANSAS, QSOPARTY, SUNFLOWER and YELLOWBRICKROAD.

This year we had 69 1x1 calls including 12 Medical Challenge calls. With the two last-minute cancellations, I had no operators to take those calls, so as I have in the past, Lorna and I put those calls out there to make sure they were available. This year my primary call was K0S. Lorna and I ran W0I as a multi-op and I ran N0Q in between county-line stops. All three calls were definitely on the air from multiple counties. At times, some of you were treated to a

tongue-tied W0BH! Thanks for being patient for that as well as during logging slow-downs to make sure you all got credit.

Saturday

So a bit short on sleep, I woke up to KSQP Saturday (not unusual)! I carry four deep-cycle batteries along, one for the electronics and three for the radio. The batteries were more than five years old. One of them died on the MOQP trip a month ago and got replaced by a new one. Another one died this morning when I hooked it up, so I swapped it with another one which took a few extra minutes.

My Saturday route this year took me around central Kansas to a number of county-line stops as I also filled some missing CW and Sunday-only counties in the north-central part of the state. I live only 3 miles from a 3-county line, so I headed out to the line by myself to give Lorna more time to pack the cooler and finish up around the house. With all the last-minute scrambling, I got started 15 minutes late, put out a few CQs and K8MFO appeared for my first of 3984 total contacts for the weekend!

Although band conditions were OK, rates seemed slow at the beginning. After 45 minutes, I headed back to the farm to pick up Lorna. Our next stop was a 4-county line south of Wichita. I ran N0Q during the hour or so it took to get there and only made 33 contacts. Rates stayed slow at the line, but the four counties made up for it. After ninety minutes, we hopped on the turnpike and headed northeast towards Topeka. Twenty meters got better, the Ohio QSO party started up and it finally felt like we were off.

It's a week ago and I was so busy trying to keep calls and counties straight that I honestly can't remember much about Saturday. I remember beautiful rolling terrain in the Flint Hills and a river park that turned out not to be a park but a parking lot. I remember staying longer at lines than scheduled as the pileups started appearing. The only event I do remember is parking under a shady tree to give a bit more time in a short county. When we left, Lorna pulled forward and I heard lots of noise on top of the van. Oops, low branch. It knocked my VHF mag-mount over. On the road again, everything worked fine until I went to 20m CW. High SWR. Another stop to check the roof again and I saw my 20m CW coil mount almost vertical instead of at the usual 60 degrees. It was easy to bend back in place, so no harm done and we were back in business. We rerouted on the final leg to shorten it a bit, and finished about an hour from home including a gas stop. Tired!

Sunday

Forecasts earlier in the week had a front come through after the party. The forecasts changed and now showed a slowly moving rain-maker setting up in north-central Kansas early Sunday morning and moving south and east. We had planned to run the same route I ran last year, heading north first and then west and south. As we watched the radar, the entire first part of my scheduled Sunday route was covered in reds and yellow. It was moving, but slowly. We decided to reverse the route so we could start on time, then drive through the storms later. As a result, I picked up one new county (Reno) and lost one county (Saline), both of which were well covered by others. We headed west about 40 minutes early and started on time in Reno county.

My log shows N6MU finding me first, on his quest for his 11th Sweep in a row. He told me that he had a chance to get all but Republic county (no Sunday activations), having not heard mobiles that went through there on Saturday. Usually California is in a perfect spot to work Kansas, but John was weak almost every time as were most California stations into my radio, and he said the same about me. His prediction turned out to be true as he posted 104/105 counties this year, but he leaves a ten-year stretch of Kansas Sweeps as a record which will likely never be broken. Well done, John!

As we were almost across Stafford county enroute to my first 3-county line, the first drops of rain started to fall. Conditions were excellent compared to Saturday with both 40m and 20m signals booming in. I was really looking forward to the line. Rain was more continuous as we came to the three miles of sand road leading to the line. In hindsight, we should have just stayed on the pavement, but Lorna thought the sand road looked OK (we live on a sand road, too) so off we went. It turned out to be an inch or so of sand with dirt turning to mud underneath. After some slips and slides in the Astro van (which isn't good in mud), we made it and an amazing pileup ensued.

I was too busy to watch the weather, but Lorna had her phone out checking radar. After about 15 minutes, she told me a much heavier part of the storm was approaching and we'd better leave or get stuck. My pileup was even bigger, so you'll all appreciate my situation, but our wheels had left about 2" ruts in the road on the way in and it had been raining more while we were there. We decided to go back the way we came in since it was a known road with one farmhouse in case we got stuck. After some masterful driving (no 4-wheel drive)

by Lorna, we made it out!

So we pushed on north through the storm. Soon my 20m antennas shorted out due to moisture in the coils, a known problem with Hustler verticals as they age and the plastic coating lets droplets inside. My 40m antennas still worked, so I kept operating and we kept going. It felt like an hour of heavy rain before we got through the front and I needed 20m to continue. The rain was down to occasional sprinkles and the air felt downright cold outside with lots of wind. I had purchased two new Hustler vertical coils for 20m and 40m, so I swapped out the 20m CW coil and got cold in the wind as I spent a while getting the angle right on the triple mount. It's really touchy and initially took me three days to find a setup that let me operate 40-10 with no tuner and six coils. As I recall, 20m was the hardest to tune. It took about 15 minutes and 5 tries to get it right. Once I did, I was getting even more power out of it than before with less SWR, so perhaps it was all for the best in the long run! I loaned Lorna my KSQP sweatshirt and we were off once again.

The rest of the day went quickly, or so it felt. We had more long sand roads to get to lines, but nothing like our first experience. The ELL/RUS/RSL line was great and I almost stayed there too long, but I-70 got us through Russell county to the LCN/ELS line with 19 minutes to go. I had plenty of time to let everyone know when and where, so it was a truly awesome pileup on both SSB and CW! Time ran out too soon to work everyone, but we did make a dent. Thanks everyone for the fun .. a great way to end the 2021 KSQP!

Stats

We operated 15.0 hours, 687 miles, 1800 Qs, 369 unique calls, 23 dupes, one radio.

States not worked ----- : AK HI MS SD

VE worked ----- : QC ON MB SK AB BC

KS worked (6 counties) - : HVY BUT SED SMN GEA STA

DX worked (2 countries)- : OM DL

AFTERWARDS

Logs are piling up in the log repository from the new Log Submission page on

the KSQP web site. Remember to email me a separate FT8 log since we score FT8 logs by themselves. A big, BIG THANKS to Bruce/WA7BNM and Trey/N5KO for making that system available to us this year. It's already saved me a tremendous amount of time. Bruce is also the one in charge of the 3830 pages we're all using to post our scores and comments.

Last year, a request and donation came in to find a way to honor our medical heroes during the pandemic. The "M for Medical Challenge" was born. Besides the three 1x1 M calls from last year, we added nine new calls: "H for Heroes," "V for Victory over COVID" and "Z for Zero Cases." We truly do appreciate the hard work and service performed by the medical and emergency medical professionals in these continued difficult times. We hope you were able to find some of these operators around the bands. One of them was even an MD taking a few hours off between patients!

Special thanks to the FunSpots programmer Dick/K2RFP and host Randy/KB4QQJ for their excellent KSQP spotting page. We have really put it to good use these past years and hope to continue using it in the future.

THANKS to the ARRL, the State QSO Party Challenge crew, all the sponsors, ops, clubs, KS0KS bonus station crew, and support teams (log-checking/AD0DX, web/KB0RWI and stamps/KI5TE) who made this thirteenth Kansas QSO Party so much fun. You are all much appreciated and we couldn't do it without you! Hope to see you all again next year ..

73, Bob/w0bh/k0s/m
2021 KSQP Coordinator

N0Q - mobile - (W0BH Op) 142 CW 432 SSB

I put N0Q on the air at the last minute to cover the call for an operator who canceled at the last minute due to a medical issue. See the K0S post for more details. Thanks for the Qs!

73, Bob/w0bh

N4CD mobile - 498 CW

Like previous year, this was to be a park activation trip combined with doing it during

the KS QSO Party. I run unassisted and stop to run counties/parks these days. There are over 100 state parks, fishing lakes and other 'parks' in KS.

I started out two days early in TX up through OK - west to the panhandle, then up to Garden City KS to start the KSQP on Saturday morning . Every day 100F weather. Hot!

Saturday - I started out in Finney, headed north up to Scott at the Scott State Park/State Fishing Lake, then headed to Little Jerusalem Badlands State Park in Logan County. This is the newest of the KS State Parks. It takes some time to get off the main road to the individual parks/sighing lakes but that was my primary objective. All those contacts from both state QSO folks and park chasers would count. Next up was Sheridan - where I hit Sheridan State Fishing Lake. Made a quick stop at the Cottonwood State Historic site (same county) then ran just the county of Graham.

As I was heading east, the road went past Nicodemus National Historic site so another quick stop there for a few Qs. I zipped over to Rooks with a stop at Webster Lake Wildlife Area for some Qs, then over to nearly Webster State Park (same county). I headed to Rooks State Fishing Lake in Rooks county for the last stop on Saturday and stopped early at 5pm in Hays. Enough hours of operation for this 'senior' county hunter. It was hot with temps up to 101F today with lots of sun. Bands so-so. Lots of QRM with the OH SP going on and not hearing most of KS. Didn't have a 'mobile freq' assigned so wound up here and there. Sometimes worked, sometimes didn't.

Looked at the weather forecast. Not good for where I was. A cold front was descending and the 'red' area of severe t-storms was predicted over Hays in the morning at 8am. The line would extend 150 miles to the east with bad storms all along it. Maybe I'd just sleep in! Sunday I woke up and it was cool. 70F. No rain or storms so headed out early before the QSO party to Fort Hays State Historic Site there for some Qs for the park chasers. Then I headed west. Tons of S9 static crashes on the radio - the storms weren't far off! S9+ static crashes on all bands and they would continue much of the day on Sunday. First up in the QSO Party was Cedar Bluff Wildlife Area in Trego County, followed by nearby Cedar Bluff State Park. Caught only ONE mobile this trip - N0W had 'good ears'. Many others were S3-S4 but just kept calling CQ CQ...and never heard me. I suspect many had high noise floors due to computers/inverters in their car. If you have any noise, it makes mobile to mobile QSOs challenging unless you are on top of them or at the far ends of the state so 40m propagation works. That followed by Goodman State Fishing Lake in Ness, then Hodgeman State Fishing Lake in Hodgeman. Next was Hain State Fishing Lake in Ford County followed by Ford State Fishing Lake in Ford County. Last up was Kiowa State Fishing lake in Kiowa. Ran out of time and wound up in Pratt KS for the night. Never got over 73F the entire day - total clouds, two hours hours of

light rain off and on, one 'car wash' downpour but not bad according to reports elsewhere where the storms hit. Headed home the next day with a few park stops in KS early before zipping the hundreds of miles back to TX. Worked 46 states (no AK, ND, SD, UT) and just 4 Canadian provinces (SK, BC, ON, QC) and DX (OM, DL, KP4). HI was easy because of the HI QP. Did make a few Qs while mobile moving hunting for HI, OH QSO folks and any parks on the air stations as well as KS mobiles. I heard half a dozen. They didn't hear me or had big pileups. Only caught two KS fixed stations at the far east end of KS. Five days on the road, 1730 miles on the car.

N8II- fixed WV- 282 CW 292 SSB 99 counties

Another super turnout from KS hams, especially when compared to MDC the party before. Thanks to W0BH for handing out many Q's as K0S, W0I, and N0Q from his mobile and for organizing such a great party! I had propagation challenges and QRN from nearby storms which reached levels near the highest of the entire summer from 1930-2200Z forcing a shut down right around dinner time at 21Z which worked out pretty well.

40 was ugly from here even without the noise! Right from the start, it was difficult to break pile ups and really tough by 16Z. It was a waste of time with 100W to try calling weak mobiles who had pile ups calling for the most part. Others were buried in the QRN Saturday; it was quiet Sunday except local crud on CW end at times. I easily missed 2-3 counties that I heard but could not work on 40, plus some others that were active but totally unreadable here and some spent little or no time on 20. Both days signals dropped out from high absorption during the early to mid afternoon on 40.

20 was in excellent shape for the most part opening early (wide open 14Z Sunday) and never completely closing until past 01Z (weak signals starting about 2330Z), but there was some wicked blanketing absorption when intense sporadic E came into play around 1845Z Saturday. I heard a MO to KS QSO on 20. SSB activity plummeted Sunday 1630-1900Z, no fun for KS stations who had worked out the band; they should have moved to 15 Saturday when it was open.

15 M was closed Sunday to KS. Saturday conditions were excellent at times, but activity stayed pretty low. I could have easily made over 100 Q's on 15 with more activity. My first KS Q's were at 1712Z with K0S/W0I and by 1842Z the band was wide open with last QSO at 2050Z. 10 was marginal with the stations who moved there.

The mobiles make the 18 hour QP duration very doable without running out of Q's and of course provide many mults. Congrats and many thank again to Butch K0O/WY0A

who I think hit all of his 39 scheduled counties in a solo operations.

20 was no problem with Butch except for after 24Z, but 40 was rougher this year; his 40M mobile signal was better than some fixed stations. I heard him in 3 counties (barely in one) Sunday where he could not copy me, but I am guessing the QRN from Ida or other storms was bad in KS. Most all other times he pulled out my weak whispers. He gave me the most counties. Bob, K0S/W0I/N0Q provided the most QSO's with one tri-county line good for 9 SSB Q's at once.

Thanks to Mary W0C/AB7NK for some rare ones (perhaps Hamilton the rarest of all) and for letting me grab an extra Q with her driver Neal, K7SEN; they drove over all the way from from central AZ to take part. Special thanks also to Mark K0I/KI0I for many QSY's from 20 CW to SSB, and a few up to 15 for 45 total Q's and many mults as well!

The multitude of others are all appreciated Alan N0R/N5NA, Bob N4CD, Jon W0O/W0ZQ from MN!, Bill N0U/NU0Q, Bill N0W/N0AC (missed him a lot), Con (driver N5KW) K0A/K5CM, RJ N0I/WY7AA from WY, Ron N0E/AD0DX, Tanner K0T/KD0IRW, and Charles N0K/K0HNC. Quite a large group, thanks for the many miles!

My QSO total was about 45 higher than last year (running 200W then) which was not normal for mobiles due to the pandemic and mults one better. I need to tune the CW bands for mobiles more, even when things are busy as not all ops are spotted. At least I had missed so many on Saturday that 12 mults were added Sunday vs. zero last year. The op time is really somewhat less than 16 hours.

I squeezed in a few HI Q's and about 58 OH Q's during the KQP.

Saturday, I was not really operating at my best. Thanks for the great turnout and all of the QSO's. Congrats to Axel, KI6RRN for what I'm guessing is a new SOHP record, impressive well over 700 Q's!

73, Jeff

N6MU - fixed CA - 264 CW 123 SSB 104 counties (missed one)

What a Party!! 1x1s everywhere. No sweep this year. Missed REP Saturday.

Mobiles from all over love to come to this Party. Top mobile with at least 5 Qs for me was K0O with 36 followed by K0S/W0I(35), N0W(28), N0E/N0R(26), K0I/W0O(24),

K0A(23), N0U(18), N0K(16), W0C(15), N0Q(8) and N4CD(5).

Thanks to the myriad of fixed stations who joined the fun as well.

Special kudos to Bob, W0BH, for all his efforts in making this one of the best year after year! 73...

John, N6MU

NS2N - fixed - NY 185 CW 116 SSB 91 counties

plenty of activity. So many 1X1 calls, you forget who's who after a while. Great effort by the KsQP team and all the mobiles.

K8MFO - fixed - OH 248 CW 89 counties

W0BH and organizers really know how to throw a party! The supporting cast of super mobiles and fixed stations makes for a lively time.

I did only 9 hours on the first day. That was more fun than I deserved! I was looking for 20 counties for USA-CA and wound up with 69 extras!

Thanks to all for a super event.

73

Don K8MFO

Ohio QSO Party

There were a couple mobiles out in OH...looks like some worked 55 of the OH counties according to the 3830 scores reporting. This event happens the same weekend (one day only) as the KS QP and HI QP. Much of the activity was on 40M.

K8MR mobile 888 CW 5 SSB

A good contest, though not up to the 2020 standard. The usual K8MR/M minivan (2007 Sienna) has dead A/C, so given the heat we instead took the "FQP Mobile", a 2015 Prius V with three HamSticks. This is quite a bit noisier, especially if pushing the gasoline engine, i.e. going up hills, etc., of which there are many in eastern Ohio. So I sensed that we were often alligators. Plus the noise made SSB especially tough, so very little effort there. But it was cooler and it only took 11 1/2 gallons of gas for the 530 miles trip :-)

With the SFI at 90, I had hoped for some action on 15M, but heard only one signal there, a loud K1ESE in Maine. So after a few hours we installed the 80M HamStick in its place for the duration. It was good to have some short in-state skip on 40M, and some short stuff to the east coast on 20, but more distant signals were not good. Even OM2VL was never loud enough on CW to make our usual QSY to SSB worthwhile.

We skipped planned operation from UNIO and MADI, but made it back home by 12:15 am.

Thanks to all who followed us around Ohio!

73 - Jim K8MR

AE8M mobile 116 CW 145 SSB

K3 AT 100W, hamsticks on 40 & 20, Hustlers on 80 & 75. For some reason 20M was very noisy, almost useless. But 40M was very good, for both in-state and out-of-state.

K8O - mobile (W8CAR,K8NZ ops) 728 CW 36 SSB

TNX for all the Qs! Lots of fun

73 Dan W8CAR Ron K8NZ

WW8OH rover 187 SSB QSO

Operated as a Rover this year and activated 4 of our 5 counties. Ran out of daylight and the heat was a little toooooo much for the operator, the XYL and the rig. Conditions were not the best so the Q rate was disappointing. Thanks to all for the contacts. Hope to get more in the log next year.

73 - Alan - WW8OH/N8CJ

On the Road with N4CD II

Continued from Part I - KS QSO Party

Sunday August 29 2021

Wow – it's 70 degrees out and cloudy. The storms missed me – went just to the east in a line extending 150 miles or so along the front. It's not going to hit the 90s or 100F today! Hurrah!

Headed out early to hit one park before the contest started

Fort Hays – State Historic Site

from the state website:

Fort Hays was an important U.S. Army post that was active from 1865 until 1889. Originally designated Fort Fletcher (after Governor Thomas C. Fletcher of Missouri), it was located five miles south of present-day Walker and became operational on October 11, 1865. Troops stationed at Fort Fletcher were to protect the stage and freight wagons on the Butterfield Overland Dispatch (BOD) traveling along the Smoky Hill Trail to Denver. Despite the presence of the soldiers, Southern Cheyenne and Southern Arapaho Indians continued to confront traffic along the trail. David Butterfield, owner of the BOD, went bankrupt and the line was abandoned. Since the Smoky Hill Trail was no longer in use, Fort Fletcher was closed May 5, 1866.

On October 11, 1866, Fort Fletcher was reopened approximately one-fourth mile north of its previous location, at the confluence of Big Creek and the North Fork of Big Creek. The Union Pacific Railway, Eastern Division, was being constructed westward roughly paralleling the Smoky Hill Trail and construction workers needed the protection of the U.S. Army. In November 1866 Fort Fletcher was renamed Fort Hays in honor of Brigadier General Alexander Hays, who was killed during the Civil War. As the railroad approached Fort Hays, it became apparent that it would pass approximately five miles to the north of the post.

The army wanted the fort to be used as a supply depot for other forts in the area and therefore needed it to be located close to the railroad line. In the spring of 1867 a flood nearly wiped out Fort Hays killing nine soldiers and civilians. Two weeks later, on June 23, the new Fort Hays 15 miles west of the previous location and near the railroad right-of-way was occupied. With the arrival of the railway a few months later, the goal of a large supply depot to service forts to the south and west was realized.

In addition to its supply role, Fort Hays was a base for troops defending the railroad and white settlements in the area. Nearly six hundred troops were stationed here in the early years. Some of the famous figures associated with the fort included Wild Bill Hickok, Buffalo Bill Cody, General Nelson Miles, General Philip Sheridan, and Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer. It was also the home of several well-known Indian wars regiments such as the Seventh U.S. Cavalry, the Fifth U.S. Infantry, and the Tenth U.S. Cavalry, whose black troopers were better known as Buffalo Soldiers. After 25 years of service, Fort Hays was abandoned on November 8, 1889.

Today four original buildings survive: the blockhouse (completed as the post headquarters in 1867), guardhouse, and two officers' quarters. After its closing in 1889 the land and buildings of Fort Hays were turned over to the Department of the Interior, which later transferred them to the state of Kansas in 1900. When Frontier Historical Park was opened at the site in 1929, only the blockhouse and guardhouse remained of the original fort buildings. The two officers' quarters had been sold at auction in 1902 and moved into town at the time the other buildings were being sold for scrap. The officers' quarters were relocated in 1964 and 1987. The visitor center was built in 1967. Today it operates as Fort Hays State Historic Site.

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Had a quick run there and headed to the next for the start of the QP. There's a tremendous amount of static from the nearby storms. S9 crashes on CW.

To the west you find **Cedar Bluff WMA KFF-5421/K-7919 – Trego County**

I arrive at 1334z before the QP and put it out.

From the state web:

“Cedar Bluff Wildlife Area varies in size with the fluctuating reservoir. The Smoky Hill River, which originates in Eastern Colorado, intermittently flows into the reservoir. At full pool the reservoir is 6,800 surface acres and the surrounding Wildlife Area encompasses approximately 7,000 acres. The reservoir is currently only 3,000 surface acres and the surrounding Wildlife Area is 11,000 acres. The area lies in the mixed grass prairie and chalk bluff region. Cedar Bluff derives its name from a 1/2 mile of 100 foot chalk bluffs located on the SW portion of the property.

You can see and photograph a diversity of wildlife species. In winter, bald and golden eagles visit. Deer, turkey, and pheasant roam freely. Waterfowl stop on their migrations, and a small Canada goose flock make the area home. The Bluff Overlook is also a scenic place to visit.”

I finished up before the QSO Party started, and moved to the next one close by a few minutes later

Cedar Bluff State Park - Park 2330 Trego County



from the state web:

“ Cedar Bluff State Park is divided into two, unique areas along the shorelines of Cedar Bluff Reservoir. The Bluffton Area, on the north shore, provides nearly 350 acres for visitors.

Flowercabin - It is the most developed area and provides a variety of facilities to meet the outdoor enthusiasts needs. They include: two boat ramp facilities, 96 utility campsites, two community shelters, a reservable group utility campground, two large shower houses and dump stations; five modern rental cabins and numerous undesignated primitive campsites and picnic areas. While visiting enjoy some of the opportunities including sand volleyball, horseshoes, shore side basketball, bicycling on our BMX track or swimming on our beach. Fishing can be fantastic in the Bluffton area also. Nearly all of the shoreline is accessible and there's a covered, handicap accessible fishing dock as well.

The Page Creek Area, on the south shore of the reservoir, is nearly 500 acres in size. It is not quite as developed but provides some of the finest primitive camping in the state with its large shade trees and sandy shorelines. The Page Creek Area contains 36 utility campsites, a community shelter, two dump stations, two boat ramp facilities, two shower houses and two vault toilets; one designated primitive campground and numerous undesignated campsites. This area is a favorite for boaters, jet skiers and for those who seek a little more solitude when relaxing outdoors.”

Since the QP started, I had an excellent run quickly with both QP folks and park chasers going into the log. Caught one KS mobile after and out of the park after 25 minutes.

Now I headed down through Ness County and made a few contacts on the run with KS stations by tuning around. My effort focused mainly on getting to the next park. Lots and lots and lots of static on the radio. Horrendous static crashes. I'm headed south now toward Dodge City KS a hundred miles away.

BTW, entrance fees to KS state parks are \$5 a park for day use – or \$25 for an annual pass. Since I'd be hitting 5+ state parks, I sprung for the annual pass. You could probably run all the SP by parking at the 'self pay' station area and running the county. Often I didn't venture much further into the park. There's usually enough parking there to sit for an hour.

Goodman State Fishing Lake -K-7429 in Ness County KS



Wind blowing 30-40 mph here!

from the state web:

“Goodman State Fishing Lake and Wildlife Area is located 5 miles south and 2.5 miles east of Ness City, KS. The area contains a 40 acre lake and 225 acre upland wildlife area.”

Most of the lakes in KS are stocked each year with lots of fish to be caught. Had an excellent run with the QP/county hunters/ park chasers.

From here, I headed south again. Weather – 71F – no sun. I'm really enjoying it! I've been roasting too long this summer ! Horrendous static on the radio – 20M not great, 40M static crashes take out a lot of calls so repeats needed to get completed QSOs.

Hodgeman State Fishing Lake – K-7431 – Hodgeman County

from the state web:

Hodgeman State Fishing Lake and Wildlife Area is a 501 acre public hunting and fishing area. The property is located in Hodgeman County two miles south and three miles east

of Jetmore, Kansas. Approximately 366 acres of the area is native grass with timber along the drainage and lake edge, 48 acres of cropland, and intermittent lake covers approximately 87 acres when full. In 2005 money was allocated to the area to help seal the property due to a fault line in the northwest part of the lake. A heavy plastic liner was placed at the bottom of the lake, along the dam and outlet structure. The liner covers approximately 4 acres of the lake bottom.

Although the drainage has an excellent history of supplying water to the lake, the lake has a history of losing this water within a year or two after filling. Numerous studies have been carried out in an attempt to identify the leak. Results have been less than decisive. It is believed that the lake bottom may be porous enough to allow widespread loss. In the future, a sealing process may be developed that could be used. When water is available, all attempts are made to stock the area with channel catfish, large mouth bass, bluegill, and redear sunfish. If possible, catchable size fish are stocked to supply immediate opportunities.

Alert: 10/5/18 The Hazardous blue green algae bloom at Hodgeman continues. This past week the microcystin levels were the highest of the year. Limit your contact with the water and wash hands thoroughly if you do. **DO NOT LET YOUR PETS NEAR THE WATER!**”

Don't know if still problem in 2021 but with the heat, likely yes. Needless to say, I didn't venture near the water. Had good run with park chasers and QP folks. No QRM from OH QP either. High static levels, though. Headed south on 283.

Next up – Hain State Fishing Lake in Ford County KS – K-7430

from the state web:

“Hain is located in Ford County approximately 5 miles north and 8 miles east of Dodge City and is 2 1/4 miles east of US HWY 283. The area consists of 20 acres of uplands and 35 surface acres of shallow lake. Due to its shallow depth, Hain supplies excellent wetland habitat. However, the lake may go dry during drought periods. Waterfowl hunting is the primary use of the area. Due to the general lack of water in the area, the lake is stocked when conditions allow to supply basic fishing opportunity. The area is closed to vehicle traffic during waterfowl seasons. Walk-in traffic is welcome for both fishing and hunting during this time. Parking lots are supplied at both entrances when the gates are closed. When gates are open, vehicles must stay on established trails. Camping is allowed on the area, but there are few facilities and no restroom is available. Boats are allowed on the lake, but no ramp is available.”

Another good run, they a short distance to **Ford State Fishing Lake – Ford County K-7428 - same county as one before.**



from the web:

“Ford State Fishing Lake and Wildlife Area is located in Ford County, approximately 3 miles north and 5 miles east of Dodge City. The property consists of 260 acres of uplands, 10 acres of wetlands, and a 45 acre lake. The uplands and wetlands are made up of heavily timbered riparian areas along the creek, native grass on the side slopes, and old crop fields on the flatter upland terrain. An old 4-H camp is located on the east side and is presently maintained as a Boy Scout area.”

Now I head east toward Wichita KS. Got enough in the log here from park chasers. Don't know if I'll get that far to Wichita today. No motel reserved today. The QP ends at 3pm here and there's a bunch of parks in between here and there. Only 72F outside. I'm not setting speed records or number of counties run – just plodding along from park to park mostly in different counties.

Kiowa State Fishing Lake – 7432 – Kiowa County



from the web:

“Kiowa State Fishing Lake is located in the northwest corner of Greensburg in Kiowa County. The 21 acre lake is located in the middle of 43 acres of land. To maintain the water level, it is necessary to pump ground water into the lake from a well located on the property.”

Had a decent run and continued east. The KS QP would end soon at 3pm. Made it to Pratt County just after it ended. Decided to start looking for a motel ahead. Not much along this route but a few towns and then a long stretch to Wichita. Pulled up the Wyndham site but no motels along the route till I got to Wichita 100 miles ahead.

Decided to stop a bit after 4pm today. Been a busy weekend and I was getting a bit pooped out. Temps all day never got over 73F. Had a few showers and one downpour (Free car wash) along the route but just sprinkles here and there while others to the east and northeast had major t-storms an gusty winds to deal with. Horrible day for lightning crashes all day on the radio.

As I was driving through Pratt – saw a few motel advertisement signs. Headed to central part. My gosh, there's a Holiday Inn Express and Hilton here(\$95) . Comfort Inn - \$80+. No Days Inn or Super 8 though. I find what looks like what used to be one of them – the Kansas Inn. Exterior doors – which I like. I'm not up to hauling my

suitcase and radio through big lobbies of the Hilton or similar 300-400 feet to the room. I'd rather have it 20 feet! Hi hi. Sign out front said newly remodeled. Across the street was an Oyo place. Likely another Wyndham property now something else. Oyo is Japanese run motel chain. Kansas Inn was \$57 but no breakfast included 'due to COVID'. Nice room.

It was a Sunday and only a few places open in town for dinner. Wound up at the Dragon's Den – a Chinese buffet small place. Opened at 5pm for dinner and I was there. Limited buffet but enjoyed what they had. Cash only - \$8.12. Can't complain. Turns out Pratt Community College is here. (1200 students) and it's the county seat – but doesn't explain how a Hilton, Holiday Inn Express, and other \$\$\$ motels show up here!

Monday August 30 2021

Wandered over to the McD next door for a Big Breakfast with Hotcakes. Filled me up. One cup decaf and I was set. \$10. No breakfast at this motel these days. 70F in the morning but the forecast was back up to a sizzling 100F later today. It's 75 miles to Wichita and then hours and hours to home.

Made a few Qs from Pratt, then east.

First up today – **Byron Walker WMA – KFF-5420/K-7918 in Kingman KS.**



From the state web:

“The diverse habitat on Byron Walker Wildlife Area includes riparian woodlands, native prairie, wetlands and marshes, and cropland which makes the area a great destination for hunting a variety of game species. Most of the prairie habitat is mixed grass prairie that has been enhanced with brush plantings, disked strips, and food plots. The wetlands are managed for waterfowl using moist soil management and millet plantings. Area woodlands are fairly diverse with some walnut and oaks mixed in. A substantial amount of management is directed toward maintaining and improving these habitats each year.

Quail are the primary upland game species on the area, and numbers are typically good. The western 2/3 of the area is probably best due to the quality native prairie habitat found there. If you watch for weed strips, plum thickets and recently burned prairie, the dogs will probably tell you good things. Pheasants can be found on the area, but numbers are generally low because of the lack of suitable habitat. They too can be found in the prairie habitats, but look where croplands are available or near wetland habitat for them.

White-tailed deer hunting is very popular on Byron Walker. Numbers are generally good and can be found in every habitat on the area. Choosing areas where you think pressure may be light can help minimize interactions with other hunters and increase your success. Think about pinch points and travel lanes back off of the food as public land deer are more wary than those found on private land. Bowhunters can improve their shooting skills at the archery range located adjacent to the area headquarters.

Turkey hunting is excellent on the area with spring flocks of several hundred possible. The area is best early in the season as hunting pressure frequently forces birds off the area or makes them extremely wary by mid to late season. The Rio turkeys are not bound to the timber. They are frequently out in the prairie and often use the burned grasslands extensively. Do tread lightly and they will stay longer on the area.

Waterfowl hunting offers some exciting opportunities on the area. ”

Put Qs in the log, then headed across the road to **Kingman State Fishing Lake K-7416.**



From the web:

“Kingman State Fishing Lake offers excellent fishing for large mouth bass, bluegill, redear, northern pike, and channel catfish. Special length limits and creel limits are posted at the lake entrance. The area also has numerous ponds that hold fish. These are indicated on the area map and can provide excellent fishing for large mouth bass, channel catfish, and bluegill. Take a kid to one of the ponds and you're guaranteed a good day. Picnic tables, fire rings, toilets, and a group shelter are available for visitors. Two boat launching facilities are located on the east side of the lake.

Camping:

Camping on State Fishing Lakes in Kansas is generally only primitive. No designated sites are available and no hookups are provided. At Kingman State Fishing Lake, camping is all primitive on a first-come first-served basis. There is no fee and picnic tables, fire rings, and primitive toilets are available. Campers should realize that State Fishing Lakes differ greatly from State Parks where full-service sites are provided and fees are collected. There is no dump station at Kingman State Fishing Lake and trash is a carry in/carry out requirement. Generators are allowed, however, quiet hours are from 11:00p.m. to 6:00a.m. and generators are not to be run during those time constraints. Office hours are generally 8:00 a.m. to 4:30p.m. though the Manager(only full-time staff) is frequently working on the area and not available.

ANS ALERT! Zebra mussels have been found in Cheney, Marion, and El Dorado

reservoirs. If you have visited these reservoirs, be sure you have cleaned or dried your boat and other equipment as indicated on signs posted at both boat ramps before launching at Kingman State Fishing Lake. Do not transport bait or bait water from those reservoirs to Kingman.”

Just a few more parks in KS then time to head home! Been on the road for 4 full days already.

Cheney State Park 2331 in Kingman County (still)



Pull in at 1430z and have a decent run. Many probably sleeping in due to busy weekend of QSO parties – hi hi.

From the web:

“Located just 17 miles West of Wichita and 20 miles South of Hutchinson, Cheney State park offers a unique recreational getaway. The State Park is located on the South end of the Lake on both the East and West Shores. Since its completion in 1964, the park has grown to include 223 electrical sites with water, 22 boat launching lanes on 7 boat ramps, 10 restroom/shower houses, 2 modern restrooms and 6 vault toilets, as well as 4 trailer dump stations. For the camper, there is a mix of primitive and utility camping. These areas range from the waters edge, to grassy, tree covered areas along a quite

spring fed creek.

The park has 4 designated swimming areas as well as several picnic/dayuse areas. There are 8 modern cabins on the West shore of the lake for those who would rather not "rough it." Located in windy central Kansas, the lake offers excellent sailing. In fact, National Sailing regattas take place at Cheney. It's breath taking to see more than 100 multicolored sailboats on the lake at one time. The Ninnescah Sailing Center on the West shore is "headquarters" for sailing at Cheney. On the East Shore, a full service marina carries supplies for the boater and fisherman with rental docks. Fishing is excellent for Channel catfish and white bass, and good for crappie, striped bass, wipers, and walleye. Hotspots include walleye along the dam in late March, white bass spawning run upriver in May, and channel catfish at the feeders in June and July. “

Just barely entered the park and ran it. Didn't stick around long. It's time to be home-ward bound. One more to go!

Cheney WMA KFF-5422 K-7290 in Sedgwick County KS

“ The Wildlife Area consists of 5,439 terrestrial acres and 4,109 aquatic acres. The terrestrial acres consist of approximately 1,700 acres of cropland and 3,740 acres of prairie grasslands and riparian woodlands. The area also includes 2 miles of the North Fork of the Ninnescah River, 2 managed ponds, 1 strip pond, and several small streams that flow into the Reservoir. 22 miles of access roads traverse the Area. “

Whipped off a quick 13 Qs then skedaddled on toward home. Picked up some chow at a Casey's store before hitting the Interstates toward home. Town to OKLA...and all the way south on I-35 through OK hour after hour after hour.

At exit one – the bottom of OK – got off for a 'quickie' at Love Valley WMA. Ran some of the counties on the way. W0GXQ/K8ZZ were still busy putting them out.

Love Valley K-358/KFF-4815 in Love County OK

Got 8 contacts by 'running the county'. Loads of county hunters around but not too many calling me. Waiting for the GXQ/ZZ bunch. Worked K8ZZ on 30M and then caught GXQ on 20M for QSO #10. Needed 10 for an 'activation', got 10. Out in a bit over 12 minutes. Never spotted myself on Parks page site. From here it's 1.5 to 2 hours to home if I beat rush hour.

Finally arrive home. Whew. Five days of driving, running counties and parks, and 4

nights on the road. I need to slow down and take it easy. Seems I always rush home – hi hi- Over 1000 Qs. 1735 miles.

Hawaii QSO Party

AH6KO - fixed - HI 1071 CW

CW again this year. I hope there was also lots of fun activity on SSB and FT-8 -- this thing needs all of us. Thanks to Alan KH6TU and his helpers for organizing, and especially to all of the ops worldwide that hung around the bands waiting to pounce on the Hawaii stations. I worked 745 unique CW stations -- what a great show of expertise and CW character. Great to work so many CW friends!

The bands were pretty good to horrible. With the K index at 3 and 4 for much of the event, there were still some propagation treats -- EU opening on Saturday evening, and a couple of fun but short 10 meter windows. 15 was quite reliable.

Stay well, 73, CW forever~ Stan AH6KO
Keaau HI on the Big Island
100W + triband Spiderbeam + 40/80 dipole

N4CD/mobile – Caught 4 HI stations – 3 on 20m and 1 on 40M. Didn't hunt too much for them and never went to 15m where you can normally work them FB. Incidental to the KS QP operation. Heard KAU but pileup too big to break. Lots of strange multipliers in this contest but worked what I could hear or get through to.

Colorado QSO Party

This is held each year the first weekend in September. This year it occurred during periods of the CW Open contest which buried many CO CW stations for the 4 hours each session ran. No mobile out but one rover. From the scores – maybe 22 CW

counties on the air, 25 or so SSB counties on the air.

From the 3830 reflector:

WY7AA portable rover 394 SSB

A lot of driving for a pretty minor score. But it was a nice drive.

K7ZOO/0 153 CW 239 SSB

I set up on BLM land about 5 miles east of Alamosa, CO -- next to a cattle watering tank. A small herd of 11 cattle stopped by daily to say howdy. Equipment used: newly-acquired Yaesu FTDX10 (love it!!); 1/4 wave elevated vertical on 20m w/ 4 radials; non-resonant 135 ft dipole, flat top at 30 ft elevation. Tried 15m a handful to times and was surprised it was completely dead. Leveraged the CWOps Open and worked a bunch of those guys -- they were mostly cooperative and gave me their state upon request (they are a zippy bunch -- seemed like they average around 30 wpm). Looking forward to next year and a new county! de K7ZOO

K5TIA - fixed - TX 25 CW 10 mults

Few Colorado CW stations this year. One Rover operator.

Thank you Colorado

K4BAI - fixed - GA 28 CW 10 SSB 13 CW counties 10 SSB counties

Enjoyable, slow paced contest after (and between sessions of) CWOpen. Colorado activity low for the number of active hams and testers in CO. Thanks for all QSOs. No activity heard on 15M. 73, John, K4BAI.

Ohio State Parks on the Air

Ohio State Parks on the Air 2021 is in the books, and I am beat from activating Salt Fork State Park K-1989 in central Ohio for both OSPOTA and POTA. Salt Fork is huge as far as our SP's go, with tons of activities available. The whole place snakes around a spiny lake with plenty of elevation changes. It's a beautiful Ohio park with lot's to see and do.

I arrived Friday at dusk at the campground so I could be ready to go for the start of the Ohio event in the morning. I had just enough time before dark to sling an antenna up and improvise my tent on a concrete pad to get a level spot. I made a campfire steak dinner and ran a good bit of digital work to keep things quiet before turning in.

After a chilly night and a good breakfast, I was back on the air at 10am with the goal to start the morning on 80M and try to scoop up as many other OH parks as possible. Conditions were great on 80 and allowed a lot of in-state contacts. As the day moved on, 40M and 20M were packed with POTA activity and contests. I was pleased to find 40M was giving some nice short skip and got another band with a few OH activators. After 1PM I had to pack up and move from camp to a public picnic area to resetup. The last 5 hours or so was a blur of constant operating, fighting to find open bandwidth and coping with the inability to self-spot. But in the end I had several highlights; making P2P contacts with both K8MRD and KB9VBR of Youtube fame, and a beautiful opening to England to snag an SSB P2P with M0TTQ. I finished the day at 6PM sharp after a dash of last minute contacts, again on 80M, and saddled up for home.

Some Stats:

Total Contacts: 165 (125 counting toward OSPOTA)

Total POTA P2Ps: 66

Unique Ohio State Parks Contacted: 32

Radio: RS-918 SDR based QRP transceiver running 10 watts

Antenna: Home built shorty-80 EFHW

Hours Operating: about 6

Batteries Dead: 2

Cigars Smoked: 3

Fun Had: Tons

Big thanks to the OSPOTA team for organizing this annual event, and to all the POTA activators and hunters out there whole found time on the radio today. Now off to bed.

-Dave, KD8ODF.

Alabama QSO Party

A fair number of fixed stations but apparently only two mobiles out. Same weekend as other contests. Top scorer seemed to have worked 17 of the 67 counties. Some years it's been a lot better.

from the 3830 contest reflector:

K4ZGB mobile 350 CW QSO

Thanks for following me around.

N4GLE mobile 51 SSB

Had a late start due to having to work the morning of, made it to my 3rd stop on the rover route and receiver completely died in the radio. Would have been able to continue had this not happened. Called it quits in Colbert County and went to the house.

North American QSO Party – SSB

N8II – fixed – WV - 604 SSB qso

Truly very poor conditions, for sure! All 15/10 M Q's were locals in MD,DC, and VA (no WV) except NX6T on 15 in first hours. Skip on 20 was long and spotty. It was a long time until I worked my first AZ on 20 and he was quite weak. Later, ND7K was only S7! Finally in the 23Z hour some more AZ called in, but absolutely zilch from CA at that time. It was worth looking towards FL and the Gulf Coast at times on 20; with my main yagi west, very few FL ops could hear me. 40 was predictably very long even at 20Z, nothing heard from PA,NJ,DE, or even NY. Considering the hurricane off the coast, 40 and 75M were not overly noisy. The static crashes on 160 were literally 20 db louder than on 75M! Not a bad score with the hand we were all dealt. Come on cycle 25!

Thanks for the Q's and 73, Jeff

Texas QSO Party

Loads of activity – with maybe 175 of the 254 counties on the air. Not as good as some years when there are 230 or so on the air.

AD4EB mobile 2787 CW QSOs

Fantastic Contest!!! This was our 4th TXQP and it gets better every year. Previous number of QSOs were 2,071, 2,070, and 2,746 (in 2010,2019, and 2020). I never thought we could beat last year's score, but we managed to with 2,787 QSOs. Propagation was excellent and so was the participation. Even managed work a JA station, thanks Toshi JO7WXN for your patience.

Everything worked fine, including our old Montana van now with 280K on it. Melody did a great job, as always, driving and navigating the 803 miles. Only traffic issue was getting around Dallas/Fort Worth, we had to take a detour which cost about 15 minutes to the route. For the most part she kept us right on schedule.

Multipliers were way up this year, worked many more Texas counties than in the past. Seems like more people were using our APRS tracking map, as the pileups happened faster as we entered each county. We would not have been even close to beating last year's score if it were not for the higher rates maintained this year when operating at the county lines (2 or 3 counties at the same time). The highest hour rate was 277, which occurred during the last hour of the contest (thanks in part to operating at RAND+POTT at the very end). I did not feel that having the other QSO parties (IA,WA,NJ,NH) this same weekend had much affect on us. We were able to swap our corresponding states and counties without too much problem.

The highlight of our journey occurred at the end of the day on Saturday. Our final stop was where 3 counties intersect (PARK+WISE+TARR), and I was making hay on 80m. Then I switched to 40m for the last 10 minutes and there was so much interference no QSOs could be made. I could not figure out why, then Melody spotted another mobile across the street. It was the W5CT/M team! When the contest ended, we had a very nice visit with K5PI, W5MJ and WK5S. It gave us all a chuckle, since if we had looked at

our posted planned routes we would have known ahead of time. What a great bunch of fine operators and gentlemen.

OM2VL and DL3DXX were neck and neck thru the contest. Worked OM2VL for 3 QSOs on 80m.

Thanks to the TQP committee and NO5W who is always a big help to the mobile operations. And thank you Melody for all you do to make this possible, you are the best!

73 – Jim – AD4EB and Melody – KI4HVY

W5CT Multi-Op Mobile 2100 CW 44 SSB (ops K5PI W5MJ WK5S)

After missing two years, the W5CT team of Madison W5MJ, Robert K5PI, and Steve WK5S hit the road again! Madison was facing some major repairs on the 2014 Chevy Traverse we had all tricked out, so he traded it in on a new one. It's a great new ride, but we had to reinstall everything – and re-engineer a number of things.

We used our previous combination of a Tarheel 100A screwdriver, a Texas Bugcatcher, and two TS-480HX radios. The Tarheel was a champ as always. The Bugcatcher was a great performer, but needed a few tighten/tweak stops during the weekend.

We had a 2X6 antenna switch installed and working, but it failed as we did our final check before hitting the road. This unfortunately meant hard wiring each radio through a bandpass filter to a particular antenna. We had planned to swap 20/40 from time to time and try 15M, but that would have required a stop every time, so we just settled in with Madison on 40 and me on 20. We'd planned to make an appearance on 80 Saturday night, but the Bugcatcher wouldn't cooperate. We discovered later that the whip at the top had loosened and slid down, losing our tuning point.

We really like doing our multi-two, but it means accepting a fair bit of inter-station interference. The 40M radio was several S-units into the 20M radio, so only the loudest stations could be heard over it. But by watching N1MM's Network Status window, we could sync up our transmissions pretty well. And with an occasional QRX hand signal, we could pull out some of the weaker ones on 20.

We'd pretty well licked our RFI problems in the old vehicle, but this year's installation work left a limited amount of time for RFI testing. The 40M radio in the back seat had the worst of it, but the 20M rig in the front seat had some too. A few times the 40M

transmissions would actually key the 20M rig! We found that the worst RFI times usually meant that it was time to check and tighten antennas. That would get us QRV X 2 pretty soon.

Thanks all for your patience in working us. We faced a couple other challenges you might not think about. We would occasionally hit spots of high local noise (e.g., power lines). And then there's the challenges of trying to type while bouncing down a bumpy road! I decided to forego paddles this year, and that worked out pretty well, I think. Madison uses his a bit more, but said it wasn't easy with the bumps and all.

Steve was once again a trooper for us behind the wheel. He spent a good deal of time studying the route, so he had a good dead reckoning sense. His paper directions and some help from Microsoft Streets and Trips kept us on the route and on time. We did get a late start Sunday morning, so we started the contest in Dallas county. We've learned to leave a bit of slack in the schedule for unexpected circumstances, so we got back on schedule and covered all our counties.

We had a nice surprise on final county line stop on Saturday night. We've found a three-county corner west of Fort Worth that we've used several times. With the 80M antenna offline, I was banging away on 40 CW solo and suddenly heard a very loud nearby signal pumping my AGC. Huh? I dialed up and heard the same exchange I was sending "TARR/PARK/WISE". Huh?! My first thought was that maybe something had fallen on back seat keyboard and was causing that rig to transmit. Next I heard "CQ AD4EB". Ha! There was a van parked on the other side of the road, and it was Jim and Melody finishing their route in the same spot. All us mobile types look at each other's routes, but neither of us had put together that we were ending in the same place. We had a nice eyeball QSO and congratulated Jim on some great numbers.

This was our best QSO total to date by almost 200 Qs. On the ROCK/COLN/HUNT county line, we actually saw the momentary rate meter hit 1000! We think the new third-weekend slot is great. There are several other QSO Parties but no conflicts with CQWW RTTY, WAE, or the CW Sprint as in the past. Thanks to all the stations who jumped into the fray, and thanks to NO5W for putting together a great APRS tracking page for the mobile stations. Thanks especially to the stations below who gave use more than 20 QSOs each. Y'all come see us, and we'll buy you a BBQ dinner! 73 and see you next year!

AA4TI (28)
DL3DXX (28)
K1RO (21)

K3TW (23)
K5ZE (30)
K8MFO (30)
K8QKY (28)
KA6BIM (25)
N5RZ (26)
N6MU (37)
N8II (29)
NT6X (38)
OM2VL (22)
W5TM (31)
W6TED (23)
WA6KHK (23)
WB9CIF (38)

KM4TYV Rover 74 SSB

My first solo rover, I slapped a Hustler Antenna on a mag mount on top of my little Honda Fit. I got a lot of stares going down the road. Parked on the county line and sat for two hours while the temps in the car got up to 96.8! Lots of fun, will try it again.

WB0TEV mobile 640 SSB qso

My plans had been to just do 21 counties on Saturday only, but the urge to tack on a few more hit me so I went back out for a bit on Sunday to activate 4 more counties and run the score up some more. It was the most mileage the olde grey lady, my 1986 Pontiac Parisienne, had gotten since last years foray.

Rig was an equally old Yaesu FT-757GXII. Antenna was a 40/20m Hustler combo mounted on the right rear fender.

Saturday I started at the opening bell and got back home and went QRT for the day at 2344Z. I took about a 90 minute break in there to stop and visit my daughter and her family near Kilgore.

Counties activated on Saturday were: HUNT DELT FANN LAMA HOPK FRAN RRIV TITU MORR BOWI CASS MARI UPSH CAMP GREG HRSN RUSK SMIT WOOD VZAN and RAIN.

Sunday I was QRV from HUNT FANN COLN GRSN ROCK and KAUF. 25 counties in all with 40 and 20m QSOS from each.

Mults: Worked 42 TX counties, 41 states, 3 VE provinces and 1 DX (OM)

A very special thanks again to Andy KK7AC from AZ who worked me 30 times. It seems he could hear me on both 20 and 40 from most counties although it was marginal at times.

Laci OM2VL managed to catch me in 15 counties (all 20m). Other frequent callers included WA6KHK(16) N8OYY(14) and K9RS (11). On 40m in state ops K5WAF(12) and N5SJS(10) kept me busy. On a side note I was able to give Bill K5WAF Red River county, one of only 9 he had outstanding to have worked them all.

Thanks again to mapamagician NO5W and the Texas DX Society for organizing and promoting the best QSO party on the planet.

73, Victor WB0TEV

NA5TR mobile 75 SSB QSO

My first Ham activity since 2016. I knocked off lots of rust and learned some new things in the process. Shot myself in the foot fairly thoroughly, including being totally solo. Drive, stop, operate, drive, etc. Poor planning, preparation, execution, and QSO discipline. Other than those small points, it all went well. But I had a blast! It was good to be operating again. I plan to be back next year.

Claiming 8 Counties with at least 5 QSOs for 8,000 points bonus, total 13,700.

K5CM Mobile 1561 CW 192 SSB

Got of to a late start. Mr Murphy continued to chase after Pam and I all day Saturday with various problems. Sunday was better.

Thanks and 73,
Connie / K5CM

KI5MM Mobile 479 SSB qso

Thanks for those who chased us. Thanks to the XYL for logging. Not enough time to cover all the counties planned but covered 27 for bonus points. Pulling a fifth wheel and working contest is not ideal but a good start to a vacation.

K5TR- fixed TX 1215 CW qso

Had a fun time this weekend. Was able to put in pretty much the full time with a few short breaks to stretch, etc. Activity was pretty good, and glad to see the contest finally on a good weekend after all these years.

Ran one slice of the FLEX6600 on 40M full time with a Tokyo HP Amp at about 900W to catch the mobiles. For several hours mid-day both days, the guys from about 50-200 miles radius would disappear, so missed a number of mobiles when they were in the central TX counties. Couldn't even hear some of the big fixed stations in that radius during those times. Luckily, there were times when I could actually work some of the mobiles on 20M when their pileups subsided.

15M had some really loud signals from both coasts Sunday morning, just not too many folks on that band. CQ'ed a number of times on 10M to no avail. Worked OM2VL on 4 bands (80M-15M) - that was cool. Also had several others on 4 bands. 80M was pretty quiet and signals were good.

The mobiles kept me hopping - thanks to them for making their various treks. A list of mobiles and number of counties I worked them in:

AD4EB 40
N5NA 25
W5CT 24
K5CM 18
K5DX 16
WW5X 16
K5EC 5
N4CD 4

Good for 13,500 bonus points included in score

Other stats:

45 states - missed AK NM ND and UT

5 VE Provinces VE1 2 3 5 7

28 DX entities: 9A CT DL F G GM HA HB0 HI I KP2 KP4 LA LY OH OK OM ON
OX OZ PA SM SP SV TF TI UA3 XE

127 Texas Counties

325 QSO's with 105 different Texas stations

Rig: FLEX 6600.

40M amp = Tokyo HP @ 900W. 80M 20M and 15M amp = SPE 2K-FA

C19XR tribander @ 100' 20M E/W dipole at 50' 40M 4 square

80M inverted Vee @ 70'

N1MM+ Logging Software

73, Gator

WA2VYA - fixed TX 479 CW 510 SSB

Saturday: Was able to run some rate. Best was the last hour, including 29 QSOs in the last 10 minutes on 40m SSB. Saturday was great fun. I was on pace to break 1000 QSOs after Saturday's session.

Sunday: a lot of time was spent on 40m chasing Texas counties, including mobiles, to push up the multiplier count, because it was too low after running much of Saturday. This helped the score, but the rate wasn't great. The bottom fell out during the last hour and a half.

Multipliers: 132 Texas Counties; 47 states (+ non-mult Texas). No AK or HI.

Canadians: Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan;

DX: Puerto Rico, Hungary and Slovak Republic (OM2VL = 3 QSOs).

Thanks to everyone, especially the mobiles, for all of the QSOs and cu next time.

73, Frank WA2VYA

QTH is in Cedar Creek, BASTROP County, Texas

AC6ZM -- fixed - TN 152 CW 10 SSB 162 counties worked

It was fun chasing the mobiles especially Jim (AD4EB) and Melody (KI4HVY) from TCG. I was in & out most of the weekend. Missed out on 80 meters due to antenna being down for maintenance. Decided to operate SO MIXED but didn't find many SSB stations on both days. Catch y'all next year.

N4CD mobile 366 CW QSO

Just ran a half dozen local counties around the home QTH this year.

On the Road with N4CD II

This year I only ran a half dozen counties in the TX QSO Party. On Saturday headed up to the FANN/COLN/GRSN area and sat there for quite a while putting them out. Then slid down to HUNT TX for a bunch, then home to COLN to run it in the evening catching some of those salmon out west on 20M in the WA Salmon Run. Temps were in the high 90s both days.

Sunday I went over to my favorite park which is in Dallas TX to run from there for 90 minutes or so. A bit lazy this year with 366 QSOs in the log. Didn't get motivated to go on long trip this year.

Caught a couple in the IA QSO Party, about 20 in the Salmon run, and never heard any NH or NJ QSO Party folks although worked half a dozen NH and NJ in the TQP.

Iowa QSO Party

Looks like at least 45 counties were on the air. Top scorer worked 45. Two mobiles out and about. Most worked under 28 counties and many in the teens. There are 99 counties in IA.

WI0WA mobile 764 CW 113 SSB

Earlier I asked Jim, W0BNW, if he wanted to drive while I operated the QSO party. He agreed and then also agreed to do some SSB operating. Jim ran SSB and Bill operated CW.

We made it to all our scheduled counties plus added GUT and ADR. We had planned a four county line towards the end if there was time but both of us being tired decided against the extra time and miles. With so many QSO parties going on this weekend I think it thins things out so we were not as busy as I had expected.

The rules don't count DX as multipliers which I believe is wrong. There is no incentive to listen for DX but I usually will call QRZ DX and give them a chance. It pays off as we worked OM2VL, DL9USA, DK2OY, JO7WXN, DL3DXX, SP5SA, CR6BWW, and HA9RE.

Those worked 10 or more times were: OM2VL-21 (what an amazing signal Laci puts out), K9RS-18, KA6BIM-15, and K5WAF, N8II, WB9HFK, AA4TI with 10 QSOs each. We also worked K3CRM/MM which is the first maritime mobile I have worked from the mobile.

Thanks to Jim, W0BNW, for doing most of the driving. Thanks to all those that QSOed with us. Thanks to the Story County ARC for sponsoring the QSO party.

Jim and Bill

AC0W mobile 308 CW 177 SSB

Thanks for the Q's and following me around. I see I still have some work to do on the mobile. Ignition noise greatly reduced on 20 and have made progress on 40, but

improvement is still needed there. Weak stations get complete covered on the hills. Then it is always fun to run parallel to noisy power lines. So if I was asking for several repeats you were competing against the noise I was dealing with.

I see N1MM does the multipliers incorrectly by the rules. During the test I couldn't understand why some things were marked as mults but I now see how N1MM was doing it.

Cut the party short as mainly did this to fill in time on trip to see daughter and grand kids.

73
Bill
AC0W

K4BAI - Fixed - GA 8 CW 3 SSB

Worked everyone I heard in Iowa. Thanks for the QSOs, especially the mobiles WI0WA and AC0W. 73, John, K4BAI.

New Hampshire QSO Party

Not too much activity as usual. Top score worked 6 of the 10 NH counties.

AA4TI - fixed - FL 9 CW 4 SSB 4 Counties worked

Always a challenge finding NH ops with all the other activity.

K4BAI - 7 CW 4 SSB 4 counties

Worked every NH station I heard. Not too many. 73, John, K4BAI

Washington Salmon Run

Looks like up to 39 (KA6BIM in OR – sweep!) counties in WA were worked from out of state with many reporting 22-26 counties snagged. There are 39 counties in WA. One or more in state ops worked all the counties! Mostly on 80M SSB. Didn't see any mobiles out this year – some routes blocked due to forest fires or dangers of one – rural areas closed. There were 4 other QSO parties and one DX event going on at the same time. Activity shifted to 40 and 80m in the evening but used during day for in state QSOs. There were many elusive counties only on SSB and mostly 40 during the day and 80m in evening – those stations trying to work other WA stations.

K7IDX County Expedition Lincoln WA 156 SSB QSO

Tried something different...to activate a usually low activity county in E. Wa....this was extra challenging with all the public lands closed except some federal opportunities. Decided upon Lincoln with a lot of BLM property. Found a ideal spot at 2285' a high spot with no power lines or structures. (was extremely quiet) My location was Telford Recreation Area BLM My objective was to work all counties 75 ssb. As soon as did so went QRT as with 2 others in the county the need on 75 appeared fulfilled.

Used TS-570 transceiver inverted v at 20 feet 100ah lithium battery and 500 watts solar...all logging/dupe sheet on paper

If it hadn't been for W7DRN and om N7ZUF to make a drive to Columbia and Garfield counties most likely little or no "all" counties worked. "THANKS" Nita for your efforts.

It was also noted nearly all station gave their county by name rather than by a bunch of letters...much much easier and logical to understand on fone.

K4BAI - fixed - GA 86 CW 20 SSB 26 counties worked

This is usually one of my favorite state QSO parties. But, band conditions from GA to WA seemed pretty dismal this weekend except on 15M and there wasn't a lot of activity there, particularly on SSB. Went to bed too early to have many QSOs on 80 and had none on 160M. No signals heard on 10M all week end. Thanks for all QSOs. 73, John, K4BAI. P.S. May I respectfully request that the suggested 160M CW frequency be moved down below 1830 kHz? Outside major 160M single band contests, 1850 kHz is primarily used for Phone QSOs.

W7M - County Expedition - Mason WA 91 CW 165 SSB

It was a rainy weekend in Mason County, but we had a blast. We were able to work all counties. Already making plans for next year.

WN6K - fixed - CA - 111 CW 157 SSB 32 counties worked

Not as good as some of my earlier ventures. This is a good contest for a station that has a broken rotor and a SteppIR that only needs to be used on two bands.

Sunday afternoon, I read almost a complete Patterson book (Revenge)

A small Multi WA Station re-called: "...we know we are in the log but is it as slow down your way as it is up here?...."

I replied, "... not quite, I have been having 3 per hour runs until you woke me up...."

There were four or five QSO Parties going on but most of the callers could not (even on SSB) copy my "CQ WA CQ WA" so I added two more but they still called

Now to finish and see y'all next time.

WN6K. Paul

N8II - fixed - WV 68 CW 82 SSB 31 counties

I was having fun in the 18Z hour on 20 Saturday with a steady run of TX, IA, and WA callers. Sunday, as usual was more or less the pits. The contest period is way too long to be totally endured from here. 15 was marginally open to WA Saturday; Sunday was

much better with almost no SSB activity (my 3 QSO's were moves from CW), and limited CW activity. From 1715 or earlier until 1820Z Sunday, signals were quite loud from K7GS in SPO out to K7RL in ISL, many over S9. 2 days later, the band was wide open at 2250Z in ISL with a wire loop barefoot op over S9. We just missed really good conditions by 2 days. The SFI of 73 hurt propagation on higher bands. Very few mobiles/rovers were heard here.

Thanks for the QSO's.

73, Jeff

NJ QSO Party

Looks like at least 15 counties on the air for the taking if you were looking for them and close enough for 40 and 80m. There are 21 counties in NJ. Top score worked 15.

KA2YRA Rover - 77 SSB

Operated as ROVER. LP (100 watts), from 2 POTA sites, Thomas Edison National Historic Park (ESSE) and Liberty State Park (HUDS), on 20 meter SSB. Actually most of the time enjoying the locations! One digital contact from 3rd site, Ramapo Mountain State Park (BERG).

Thanks again for a great contest!

Best 73.

Steve KA2YRA

AB2E - fixed NJ 152 CW 41 SSB

It's been a number of years since I participated in the NJ QSO Party, and this is the first time with the new sponsors. Activity was busy at times, seemed to get off to a slow start early afternoon, but then had picked up early evening when I was able to get back on. Disappointed in the number of active counties I heard in NJ. The sponsors should plan more operation and cover all the counties (there's only 21). A rover would be nice(I did

not hear anyone).

73 Darrell AB2E

AA4TI - fixed - FL 22 CW 23 SSB 15 counties worked

Much better QSO Party this year versus last year. More operators were on and propagation to NJ from Florida was good. It was a very busy day with five state QSO Parties running at the same time. Managed to work 15 counties out of 21.

N8II - fixed - WV - 19 CW 10 SSB 13 Counties

All 20M QSO's were backscatter beaming W/SW, not bad for 100W. 40 was not open until about 2320Z (after sunset) and signals were fairly strong about 0005Z. 80M activity was fairly poor, no propagation issues to deal with there.

Thanks for the QSO's and 73, Jeff

Awards Issued

Roadrunner Award:

W0GXQ has attained 1375 Last Counties on 20 July 2021. He Receives #3

K7SEN Attained 325 last counties on 1 September 2021. He received #70

N9JF Attained 500 Last Counties on 9 September 2021. He received #42

AB7NK Attained 1075 last counties on 3 September 2021, She received #10

K8ZZ Attained 1100 last counties on 31 August 2021. He received #8

KB6UF attained 1825 Last Counties on 13 September 2021. He received #2

Ran All State: AB7NK Completed Iowa on 2 September 2021. She was awarded #36

Ran All State: K7SEN completed Iowa on 2 September 2021. He was awarded #37

Events for County Hunters

Time for future planning. Big events for county hunters:

MI Mini April 21 22 23rd, 2022 Traverse City MI

Registration/reservations are open now!

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

National Convention Bozeman, MT Oct 2 to 6, 2022.

Info at: <http://ag6v.com/MARAC/>

Frequent updates to so check every now and then for program events. You can reserve your hotel NOW. Must do by Aug 1 2022 .

Oct 2 1600z to 3 2200 1.8-28
California QSO Party CW Ph
Serial CA county or SPC

www.cqp.org/Rules.htm

Oct 9 0300z to 10 2100z 1.8-UHF
Nevada QSO Party CW Ph
RS(T), NV county or ARRL section
nvqso.com/contest-rules

Oct 9 1500z to 10 0500z 1.8-144
Arizona QSO Party CW Ph Dig
RS(T), AZ county or SPC
www.azqp.org

Oct 9 1600z to 10 2200z 1.8-UHF
Pennsylvania QSO Party CW Ph
Serial, PA county or ARRL section
paqso.org

Oct 9 1800z to 10 1800z 1.8-144
South Dakota QSO Party CW Ph Dig
RS(T), SD county or SPC
www.sdqsoparty.com

Oct 16 1400z to 17 0200z All
New York QSO Party CW Ph Dig
RS(T), NY county or SPC
www.nyqp.org

Oct 17 1700z to 18 0100z 1.8-144
Illinois QSO Party Ph
RS(T), IL county or SPC
www.w9awe.org/ilqp

That's all folks!

