

# County Hunter News

October 2022  
Volume 18 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](http://ch.W6RK.com)

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

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

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

For general information FAQ on County Hunting, check out:

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

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

find information on these awards and the rules at:

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

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

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

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

## Notes from the Editor

### N4CD Rumblings

**1 ) Sunspots** – We got them. We also have many days of 'solar winds' and disturbances but on the whole, it's better than years ago! The upper bands spring to life at times. Digital always seems to work and many state QSO parties now allow digital contesting.

**2 ) COVID Boosters** - A new Omicron specific COVID shot is now available. This one boosts your antibodies and covers the latest variant. New flu shots, high strength for seniors, are now available, too. It's a quadravalent one – covers the 4 types of flu expected this season. Some people came down with COVID and have anti-bodies but you can still get the latest variant. I've got both shots. Covered under Medicare and most insurance plans.

**3 ) Busy QSO Party Season** - Hundreds of counties up for grab in a ton of QSO Parties this month (and the end of August). California coming up the last weekend and we'll report on that next issue.

**4 ) Convention Time** - Dozens of mobiles will be headed to Bozeman MT for the Annual MARAC Convention. Hope to see you there. Gas prices are down to \$3 in TX and under \$4 in most places. Some mobiles are already on the road headed that way!

**5) Propagation** - it's been an up and down month. Many solar flares have wiped out HF for a couple hours including during some state QSO parties. Solar flux is way up along with sunspot numbers. Lots of FT-8 activity on 15 and up – to 6m. Sometimes 15m good in a state QSO party – sometimes not so good. Overall 20M has been 'good' most days and 15 often good. 10M has yet to fire up like the last big cycle.

Local DX'ers reporting all sorts of interesting FT-8 activity from around the world.

## Ohio QSO Party

Good activity with many participating. Contest runs half of day into night – with lots of activity on 40 and 80m, including the mobiles.

From the 3830 reflector:

**K8MR mobile ( K3LA K8MR oper)** 942 CW 32 SSB 27 counties run

A good ride around Ohio, aside from the solar belching that led to poor conditions early on. The 18Z and 21Z hour rates were in the 40's; four of the last five hours were over 100, with "only" 90 in the 01Z hour.

One 15M QSO with OM2VL; the other one and the 10M QSOs were with K1LT as we passed within 5 miles or so from his QTH. Only one SSB QSO from me CQing on my own; the rest were moves or people who found me after KU8E spotted me after moving me to SSB.

QSOs by county in order of appearance (total - mostly but not all CW)

The only technical issue was very bad QRN on 80 meters early on. I finally figured out it was the power supply for the laptop. This is a new one I picked up at Orlando in February. With no 80M in Florida QSO Party in April, this was its first mobile effort on 80. With the computer on battery power, it was fine. But a nice addition: a lighted keyboard which makes the after dark operation much nicer.

Many thanks to driver K3LA, a buddy since our high school days. To finish off the weekend on Sunday we got in a nice but warm 45 mile bike ride out of Xenia.

73 - Jim K8MR

**K8O mobile** 777 CW 6 SSB (K8NZ W8CAR oper)

tnx to all the fine ops that grace us Qs in our mobile quest

**N8KR Rover** 171 CW 231 SSB

VANW-PAUL-DEFI-HENR-FULT - - Fun little venture. Shut down at 8pm

**W8RU Rover** 129 CW

I decided to rove thru Lucas, Fulton, and Williams county on Thursday before the contest. A last minute reshuffling of family cars caused me to have to move and re-install the station, so I hit the road a couple hours late. It was sure nice to be outdoors. 40m was the money band for me. Thanks for the QSOs and 73, Ron (W8RU)

**AA4TI - fixed - FL** 105 CW 42 SSB

Always a favorite party for me. When I was a Buckeye, I usually participated in a multi-multi effort and had a blast. This year, from Florida, there were some challenges, like no 40 meter contacts during the day. However, activity going into the evening was excellent with mobiles staying on the road all the way to the end of the party at midnight. Lots of thanks go out to K8MR who has the best ears in radio. We worked 23 times. K8O was also a great provider with 7 contacts. Most of the regulars were there again this year. I had my best out of state performance in the OHQP.

**W3HKK - fixed - Licking OH** 306 CW 44 SSB

Unable to join the boys at WW8OH (LICK) so worked from the home station. Worst daylight cndx I can recall, with very few stns heard during the 1st hour ( which is usually good for a very high rate)

Took a few naps, frequent breaks, and finally a 2 hr snooze. As sunset neared sigs began to pick up in strength and number. The 8 pm hour was good for an actual rate of 104 Q's, and a decent rate continued thru midnight, despite fairly heavy QRN. CW was a logical option as you can see by the mode QSO totals.

Can only imagine how tough it was for the /m and /r boys. Didn't hear MR until the evening even though I was looking for him.

For the faint of heart, they missed a very nice comeback by 80/40m once the sun set. Signals miraculously popped through the QRN and the contest was ( belatedly) on!

Thanks to MRRC for another terrific contest ( although I thought my antennas had fallen down when I couldn't see any sigs on the bandscope for much of the afternoon.

See you next year.

## Kansas QSO Party

Mobiles were out and running. Lots of 1x1 calls and of course, the annual contest to get the 'right letters' to complete KS words each year. A solar flare or two didn't help and storms were about. Half dozen mobiles, a handful of portables and lots of fixed stations provided opportunity. A few got close to working all but many reported 30-40-50 worked. Two other QP's going on at same time – OH and HI for part/all of the KS QP which runs 2 days.

Looks like top scorer worked 98 of the 105 KS counties.

From the 3830 contest score reflector:

**K5ZZR mobile 31 SSB**

Well not my best effort after my phone ran out of juice along with its alarm. When I finally got up and had breakfast I activated Morton and Stevens counties then came a real frog strangler which chased me back home to Oklahoma, sometimes hydroplaining sideways. Still it was fun and hope to try again next year...

73's Russ

**N0W with N0AC opr - mobile 1287 CW QSO**

Thanks:

1. My non-ham wife for driving. I couldn't do this without her.
2. Those that got on the air and QSOed with me and the other Kansas hams.
3. W0BH and the sponsors for organizing the party. Great job!

As many have mentioned the conditions were not the best especially Sunday but we all dealt with what we were given. So many unanswered CQs. I checked 15m a couple of times but it seemed nil. After getting home I looked at the RBN and none of my 15m CQs were heard. That didn't surprise me. The new mobile truck is so smooth compared to my old 3/4 ton Dodge Ram truck but I am still working out the kinks. RF was getting into rig control and I had some frequency mix ups in the log. I think I have them corrected. All in all things worked fine.

DX worked was DL9USA, LA8OM, and OM2VL.

I activated all the 33 counties that was planned plus a quick detour for about 5 minutes into PRA.

The highlight of the trip was stopping in Tribune for a brief visit at Matt's, KD0EZS, station.

Thanks for your QSO, Bill

**N0F mobile 546 CW 2 SSB (opr ACØRL KBØSQ)**

We worked 22 counties mobile, we were rolling while operating.  
During the pileups I was working 3 QSO's/minute  
Average for the trip was 40/hour

**K5CM mobile** 1540 CW 544 SSB QSO

An M class flare put a sudden stop to propagation Sunday morning. Recovery was fairly quick but many signals were still weak. Thanks to Bob, W0BH for putting all this together.

**K00 mobile** (N5KW with K5CM) 61 CW 493 ssb

**K0I with KI0I opr portable** 1789 cw 412 SSB

Weird band condx this year, the Sunday flare knocked it all down even my cell fone went kaput. I sat on a 4 county spot Saturday and cooked in the bed of my truck under the camper shell HI! A nice wind all day saved my life. Sunday I left the hotel in Garnett in a raging t-storm and drove west 30min to my 3 county setup. As I got to the spot the rain had ended and the sun came out , perfect timing.

I'd had enuff of sitting on a cooler in the back of truck so Sunday i set up radio for sitting in drivers seat of pickup, much better! Saturday I put up a 135' dipole fed with ladder line to a balanced tuner ,it worked FB I thought. Sunday I was lazy and put a big screwdriver antenna made by NO5E on a RCVR hitch mount and I think it was good enuff seeing the band was crap anyway.

I made a lot of QSO and had fun , that's always a good outcome and the goal. And no smoke escaped from the gear! Had some surprises like NL7WK blasting in at 2200z Saturday sounding like a local! And working LA8OM on 20m then NW0M in MO the next QSO , then MA then WA , it was crazy propagation. A big thanks to Bob W0BH again this yr for all the work he puts in for us to enjoy one of the best QP`s in the country!!! I hope you never grow tired of the task and do it many more years! Thanks to all who made the log and for your patience those I needed repeats of. To the mobiles, rovers and portables, special thanks for your efforts and expense put forth. Gas is a bigger factor now than in past years.

This year's gear: Icom 7300 100w powered by 2 huge (100lb each) batteries boosted by N8XJK unit. Dell laptop powered on a big deep cycle marine battery. A few freezes of ptt but no restarts needed this year. Saturday antenna a 130`dipole at 30` fed with ladder line and matched with a mfj 974hb balanced tuner.

Sunday antenna was NO5E built 4" coil screwdriver on a homebrew rcvr hitch mount.

A Begali simplex used for comments and fills (I can't get used to only a keyboard with no paddle to use).

73 all , I hope to play radio in Kansas again next year!

Mark KI0I - alias K0I

**K0S (W0BH mobile) 1021 CW 514 SSB QSO**

The 2022 Kansas QSO Party by W0BH as K0S/m

This was an unusual year for the Kansas QSO Party as years go, marked especially by high gas prices, COVID still around and more medical issues than usual. A number of out-of-state mobiles stayed home this year and I certainly understand. I've limited my mobile participation in other out-of-state parties as well. It also makes me want to thank even more the mobiles, rovers and portables who did participate. I know everyone appreciates having all the counties up for grabs every year, and we couldn't do it without operators getting into the counties with no active hams!

Planning went smoothly as operations and routes came in, most earlier than usual. The early entries helped me realize sooner that this year would be a challenge. 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. My usual goal is to have all the counties covered on Saturday, double or triple-covered during the weekend, and covered by both CW and SSB. That turned out to be difficult this year with lots fewer "relocatable" stations. With just a few days to go, I planned a route to northeast Kansas to add CW to those counties. A flurry of emails later, a number of mobiles and rovers adjusted their routes slightly to fill "holes." We finally had CW coverage of all the counties! We missed Saturday coverage by six northwest counties, SSB coverage by eight mostly southern counties, and double-coverage by ten southern and central counties.

Our KSQP spelling challenge is really popular. I try to make sure all the calls are available so you can find KANSAS, QSOPARTY, SUNFLOWER and YELLOWBRICKROAD to earn antique radio stamps for your certificates. As an example, KANSAS has two A letters and two S letters. So everyone can spell KANSAS, I have to make sure there are at least two SSB ops and two CW ops running those calls. Since there are only three calls for each letter, one station has to be a mixed mode station and at a minimum, one of the others has to be CW and one has to SSB. Other letters like



that are O, L and R in YELLOWBRICKROAD which is why that word can be more difficult to spell.

This year we had 61 1x1 calls including four Medical Challenge calls, down from 69 last year. With several last-minute cancellations, I had no operators to take two of the spelling calls, so Lorna and I also put W0I/m on the air to make sure it was available. County hunters sometimes asked for Lorna personally in order to log a "YL" for one of their awards! Pam/N5KW agreed to take K0O/m with Connie/K5CM/K0A/m, so both calls were available from multiple counties. Perhaps that was confusing at first, but ops quickly figured it out.

## **Saturday**

I usually start out on the three-county line just a few miles from our farm, but the reroute all the way to the northeastern counties required us to drive awhile even before starting. We headed out about about 7:45am and drove 69 miles to a rest area in Saline county, just a few miles from the next county line. It was nice to arrive early for once, but that time went quickly as I solved some phone issues for Lorna. I also tried posting to the KSQP Hub Spotting page and it seemed to crash as soon as I hit "Post." That was a theme throughout the day. I emailed the site webmaster who was aware of the problem and worked throughout the day to try to understand and resolve the issue. It was apparently a network slowdown affecting the hosting company. It never resolved for me on either Saturday or Sunday, although others were able to post at times. The spotting page failure was my biggest disappointment of the party this year since I had heavily promoted the use of the site and wanted to use it myself. Not to be.

Our Saturday route this year took us all the way to Wyandotte and Doniphan counties, the furthest northeast counties in the state. The weather started out sunny, then clouds crept in due to an approaching cold front which we stayed ahead of on the outbound leg. I always appreciate cloudy weather during the KSQP because it keeps the heat down and lets me see the computer screen better. Band conditions and rates were OK but not terrific, which pretty much describes all of Saturday.

Heading east to the Atchison, Doniphan and Brown county line, the rear view mirror showed dark clouds we knew we'd have to go through on the run back across the northern counties. And we surely did. Starting the return trip, it absolutely dumped on us as we left the line. Radar showed it as spotty, but if you're in the spot, watch out!

I use seven Hustler verticals on top of the Astro van, two triples covering 40-10 CW/SSB on triple-mag mounts (guyed), and an 80m CW resonator which I didn't use

this trip due to noise from storms. As Hustler resonators age, the plastic coating can let moisture in and short out the coil. Before the trip, I noticed that my 40m resonator (the high-power version), was showing signs of age, so I bought a new one and tuned it up before the trip. I was able to operate 20m throughout the rain, but when I switched to 40m, SWR showed moisture in my new resonator. When the rain stopped, I swapped it out with the old one and had no more issues. Otherwise, no equipment problems this time around including my radio power problem from the last three outings. I finally found a loose connection in the power booster and that seems to have fixed the issue.

The run across the northern counties on US-36 was smooth and cool behind the front. As we turned south on I-135, Lorna was watching radar again and saw storms near where we lived. We were the only station in Ottawa to my knowledge, but luckily both 20 and 40m were open. We also covered it again the next day, so a number of stations put it in the log. It started to rain again as we got to Saline county. We pulled into Salina under a gas station canopy and finished the last 10 minutes dry before getting gas and taking down the antennas. After that the rain really started to come down. I gave Lorna a break from driving and survived the last 50 miles or so trying to stay on the newly black-topped road in the dark and rain until we finally pulled into our farm driveway. We finished Saturday with 629 miles and 974 Qs in the K0S/m log.

## **Sunday**

Sunday dawned clear and beautiful after the rains, unfortunately none at our farm. The rains stopped about 5 miles west, for us the story of the drought this year. I wondered how wet some of the sand roads on our route would be since we were heading west. Lorna was off to a Kansas native plant event, so family friend, Kendra, volunteered to drive for me while her sister went with Lorna. Kendra is not a ham, but she's heard about Lorna's and my QSO party adventures and seen me on the radio from time to time. She also turned out to be an excellent driver! I decided not to put W0I on the air unless Kendra wanted to give it a try later after she had some time to listen and learn.

We started in McPherson county which was a new one for me, then back north on I-135 through three counties from Saturday. Right away, it was obvious conditions were much improved from Saturday. Lots of calls on 40m, and 20m was already open and busy. Our route covered 13 counties, some "rare" and some needed on Sunday. As we turned west towards the first three-county line, conditions improved even more with most signals really 59 and 59+ on 20m. I remember thinking, "This will really be fun!" To top it off, all three counties were new ones. Kendra turned onto a dirt road which narrowed even more after a mile. Fortunately, it wasn't muddy and we didn't see standing water so we ventured on through cropland and tall sunflowers. After a few miles, the three-county

line appeared and Kendra used the GPS to get situated.

I made my one and only 15m contact with NS2N on CW a few minutes before, but I knew everyone was waiting for me to start out on 20m phone from the line. I put out the CQ on 14237 expecting a big pileup and got absolutely nothing. I mean nothing. I tried again. Zilch. I tuned up and down the band and heard nothing. I went to CW and heard nothing. I went to 40m and heard 59+ static. Power was fine, SWR was fine, the radio was working. Was it the location just a bit down along a creek or perhaps the power lines? Sixteen minutes later after trying up the road a bit on what was still a two-county line, we returned to the three-county line and I heard a faint N6MU come back, followed by VE5KS and N8II. All were practically ESP contacts. We tried CW with the same result. Of course now we know it was a solar flare and that's what I finally concluded. Kendra ate lunch and I started making a few CW contacts before heading down the road.

Rates weren't great after the flare, but they did come back a bit. Kendra drove us through some truly beautiful hill county, one of my favorite parts of the trip. In Osborne county, I worked N4RKK for his last Kansas county. He made really, really sure by duping me several times, which was a good plan given the weak signals. This time I couldn't spot, not because of the spotting page problem, but because there was no cell coverage! We arrived at our last three-county line and I had a nice run. Then I surprised Kendra by suggesting she make a few contacts with WOI. She wrote down exactly what to say, and even though she was nervous, she hardly believed it afterwards when I told her she made 14 contacts! Thanks to those of you who encouraged her along the way including KE6GFI/Sheila, who overheard us and came on to specifically request Kendra!

Time ran out too soon as it does on Sunday with only six hours of operating time and 608 more Qs in the K0S log. Thanks everyone for the fun .. a great way to end the 2022 KSQP!

Stats

We operated 14.8 hours, 910 miles, 1582 K0S/m Qs, 2597 combined Qs, 526 unique calls, 47 dupes, one radio.

States not worked ----- : AK HI ND  
VE worked ----- : QC ON SK AB BC NB  
KS worked (4 counties) - : THO LEA SMN GLY  
DX worked (1 country)--- : OM

Overall rate : 107/hr (K0S)

## AFTERWARDS

Logs are coming into the log repository from the Log Submission page on the KSQP web site. Remember to email me a separate FT8 log since we score FT8 logs separately, and they can be in any format. Also remember to log county line contacts on one line per county.

Another big, BIG THANKS to Bruce/WA7BNM and Trey/N5KO for making log submission available to us again this year. It saves me a tremendous amount of time by letting me return emails instead of collect logs. Bruce is also the one in charge of the 3830 pages we're all using to post our scores and comments. Be sure to post yours!

Another donation came in again this year to find a way to honor our medical heroes during the pandemic. We do so with the Medical Challenge. This year, four 1x1 calls were designated to be "Medical" calls: K0M, N0M, W0M and N0V. The M calls are "M for Medical," and the V call is "V for Victory over COVID." 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, several who work in the medical field, around the bands.

THANKS to the ARRL, all the sponsors, ops, clubs, KS0KS bonus station crew, and support teams (log-checking/AD0DX, web/KB0RWI and stamps/KI5TE) who made this fourteenth 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  
2022 KSQP Coordinator

**W0I mobile** 668 CW 321 SSB QSO

See the K0S/m post for details. We ran this call to put W0I on the air for the KSQP spelling challenge because of a late operator cancellation.

73, Lorna/k0why and Bob/w0bh

**W0L portable in Stafford KS 458 CW 295 SSB**

Wow! Bands were horrible for me. Not sure why. Thunderstorm shut me down the last 4 hours on Saturday. Seems to always storm at this location in Stafford County every year? 10, 15, 80, were completely useless as in just about any contest anymore. The web spotting did not work for me at all. I think I got one good spot in. It kept telling me it was down? I did better this than last but it was a grind for sure. Back to the home qth for recovery and evaluation phase. Thanks everyone for working W0L this weekend. 73

Yaesu FTDX-10

Transworld TW-2010 Antenna 10,15,20

Homebrew 40XK vert for 20 meters

Dipoles for 40,80 at 30 feet.

**N8II- Fixed WV 127 CW 79 SSB 72 counties worked**

It was a recalibration year, and I had a computer failure at 1502Z Saturday after a slow start of about 45 QSO's. Right now, I am not sure those QSO's can be reported, but Bob, W0BH has promised to send me a recovery program. It took an hour to load N1MM+ on my new laptop and barely be ready for OQP at 16Z.

I did make a few KQP QSO's on Saturday after 16Z, but I was working the Ohio QP which went pretty well with lots of mults and several mobiles active. I then planned on being a serious Sunday only competitor as did N6MU. Most of the QSO's on 40, and all on 80 were from Saturday as were about 20 mults not worked again Sunday, but I am not going to try and break it down to Sunday only, the log checking will do that.

Activity both mobile and fixed seemed down from usual at the start Saturday and Sunday as well. We seemed to have 2 solar flares Sunday most most serious of which was from 1615-1645Z which almost closed 20M for at least 15 minutes (mobiles wiped out) and again at 1830Z. The solar flux from Sunday measurement was an incredibly high 253! That value is seldom that high at cycle peaks and was possibly inaccurately measured during the flare. 15M was open some Sunday, but very few ops tried; I was expecting better prop on 15. Several less experienced KS CW ops were really struggling to work people even when they were quite loud. It was a slow day, barely more QSO's than last year as I recall when I had worked KQP all day Saturday and had few Q's left to make with the fixed ops. Signals on 20 most of the day were loud despite the flares especially 1440-1615Z. 40 was pretty useless after the first hour. Bob, W0BH (K0S),

Con/Pam the K5CM/N5KW team (K0A/K0O), and N0W were on all day doing their usual great job of running stations as well as others: N0F, K0I, W0W, and W0I. Drew, W0K had a great QRP signal.

Thanks for the calls (did run a few) and the QSO's. Hopefully, the mobiles will be more plentiful next year along with some 15M action.

**VE5KS fixed – Canada** 188 CW 131 SSB 6 digital 98 counties worked

Conditions on Saturday were ok, Sunday morning it was great (very strong signals) then at 1600Z the solar flare happened. The 20m band was almost completely dead but it slowly recovered. I was surprised that I got a few contacts on 15m. Had a great time. Thanks to all the mobiles out there, you did a great job.

Looking forward to next year.

73

John  
VE5KS

**NS2N - fixed NY** 212 CW 83 SSB 90 counties worked

condx not quite as good as last year: bands were often very "quiet"

thanks for a great party

NS2N

## Mobile Activity in September

KA4RRU was up in MA and CT, into NY headed back to VA

KA3QLF was noted in parks in PA

KN4XP was noted in parks in NC

W1N – was on from Nantucket, MA FT-8 too.

W4SIG was busy putting them out in TN QSO Party

AI5P headed to Granbury, TX and back to CO putting them out. To OK, into NM and up to CO.

Busy AL QSO party with a couple mobiles. No regular county hunters seen out.

N5MLP ran a bunch of counties in TX – over to Brewster and Presidio, Into NM, over to AZ, many in UT, into ID,

N9JF spotted running parks in VT

N8HAM noted in IA, into MN, ND headed west.

K3IMC running counties in GA

End date 9 -21-

## Hawaii QSO Party

The propagation gods didn't smile upon HI this year – solar flares and disturbances didn't help. As usual, no expeditions to Kalawao, but HI has about 15 multipliers to chase in this contest.

From the 3830 contest reflector:

**KH6LC - portable HI 395 CW**

This year we all decided we'd operate the HQP from a portable camping location. Rob, Dave, Ken and myself pooled our resources and drove 25 miles north of Hilo to the beautiful Laupahoehoe Beach Park. We setup camp right at the water's edge with

bathrooms and a shower nearby. We had two stations, laptops, a 40' vertical with 4 elevated radials and a combination 20-15 meter vertical. As you know, conditions were less than stellar and we all took turns CQing with few takers. CQ REPEAT is a wonderful feature. It was a perfect weekend for camping with a warm evening, clear skies and little wind. Seeing our antennas, we had many visitors which gave us the opportunity to chat about ham radio. Many were surprised to learn we were using CW exclusively. A friend came by with food and goodies. Besides operating, we helped search for a lost kitten. In the main building, a family celebrated their spry Grandma's 90th birthday. I had to ask who there was the birthday girl. All total, we worked 40 states, 4 KH6, 4 VEs and 17 DX including EU, SA and JA. Many thanks for your contacts, many of which were a struggle.

Vy 73 and Aloha,  
Lloyd KH6LC, Rob NH6V, Dave KH6AQ, Ken KH6KB

### **AH6KO - Big Island - Hawaii County 1295 CW QSO**

Thanks to everyone that called Hawaii. I am grateful to be able to participate again; always amazed that so many hams will call year after year, right down to the wire at 48 hours. Most everyone knows how the exchange works and makes a smooth contact. Is HQP getting to be a Thing?

We quibble about the event being too long or too short, but we all know that the important thing is to get more Hawaii hams into HF radio and experience this annual DXpedition in your own shack. We are trying; we can do more.

About the M-class flares. A few CW callers disappeared after the first call and were never heard from again. There's some powerful Xrays right there. The rest of us carried on and made eleven Qs, hour after hour, until it mercifully ended. (The flares, that is.)

Lots of Europeans on Friday night (Hawaii time)! Very few JAs; we missed you! Appreciation to WA0FDV for 50th state with less than 2 hours remaining. North Dakota!

I couldn't find my mic so ran CW only; it was fun even so. Thanks to Alan and helpers for running HQP!



73~ Stan AH6KO  
Keaau HI on the Big Island  
100W on 10 and 15m  
900W on 20, 40 and 80m  
Spiderbeam and dipole

**WH7W -- fixed Honolulu 149 CW 110 SSB**

I had to work this weekend--and work I did. Very limited time for radio.

That about says it all.

73/tnx

Mark

**N6RO - multi-op CA 38 CW 18 SSB 1 digital**

This is certainly not a rate contest, but feel compelled to participate year after year. Personally, I do not like FT in a mixed mode contest, but.....

N6WM led off on 20m with our biggest hour of the contest. N6RO took the late hours on 40/80. W6DMW popped in and out throughout the weekend grabbing SSB QS. N6RO and N6WM also chased KS, with much more activity. was fun rolling my chair between two stations. CU next year.

**K6GHA - fixed - CA 23 CW 14 SSB 25 digital**

Conditions were poor, but the Aloha spirit was abundant!

Many thanks to all HiQP stations who activated old locations (KH6TU - LNI), who made the attempt to move when asked (AH6KO), and even those who were friendly in competition (NX6T) and willing to rag chew a bit.

Putting away my Hawaiian Shirt, Shorts, and Flip-Flops for another year and already looking forward to the Pineapple drink later this week to celebrate another HiQP!

**N8II fixed WV 2 CW 2 SSB QSO**

I could go on and on, conditions not the best, but the HI activity was horrible. For the 2nd year in a row AH6KO was the only signal heard on 15M; I worked 5 HI on 10M during the NAQP CW. Where was everyone else on 15? I looked for spots Sunday evening and there was only one HI spotted on 20M, so I didn't bother returning to the shack to make 1 or 2 more Q's. HI ops, either support your QP, or don't expect us to waste our time trying to find you.

73, Jeff

### **KH6AQ - 34 CW (more than half on 15M)**

Just a quick operation while camping at Laupahoehoe. Excellent local weather and highly variable space weather with lots of solar flares. Fun stuff and thanks for the Qs.

FTdx-10 at 100W  
20m ground plane on 20m  
40' ground plane on 15m

### **NH60 - portable in park Honolulu QRP - 35 CW 8 SSB 56 digital**

Park portable - Elecraft KX3 5W, 31-ft EFHW deployed vertically in tree

I wanted to spend much more time than I did on air this weekend, but every one of my outings had problems - I should almost claim a multi-op entry with "Mr. Murphy."

On Friday night, my favorite site that I have used 2-3x/week for 4 months was overrun with a youth football practice. I was unable to set up until 0430, and had a decent hour of operating until 20m closed to the mainland around 0530. I wanted to deploy a longer 71-ft wire to maximize my opportunity on 40/80, but my arborist throw line got stuck in the tree. Pulling on the thinner line broke it - my bag and line were stuck in the tree after dark and I did not have any long rods to try to free it. Friday night session over...

I returned to the same park around 0130z (Saturday afternoon), and found that the line had worked free in the trade wind breezes. A man and his young daughter were playing with it, and I had to explain that it was mine and what it was for. Turned out the man was a Russian-speaking Ukrainian immigrant from Brooklyn visiting Oahu for the summer. I speak some Russian, so we had a nice chat that delayed my setup.

Once I did get going on FT8/FT4 around 0300 for the WW-DIGI overlap segment of the event, a group of rough-looking young men set up at the adjacent bench blasting loud music, smoking pot, and drinking heavily. Since I was working FT modes, it wasn't affecting my listening ability, but it was annoying. I looked over at them a few times to hint that their behavior was bothersome, and I took a photo just in case the situation deteriorated.

The biggest/scariest-looking/most heavily tattooed guy of the group immediately came over to ask why I was taking his picture and wanted me to show it to him. I calmed him down and defused the situation, but it was clear he was very intoxicated and had a criminal record. I was not going to stick around and press my luck on getting beaten up, stabbed, or shot...session #2 over at sunset - 0500z.

Oh, and sometime in that 2 hour span, the back of my shirt developed a large wet spot - turned out to be pigeon excrement - at least it wasn't on my head!

After the run-in with the punks, I was not going to return to my #1 park, and wanted to spend 6 hours on air on Sunday (2200z-0400z). I went instead to the large park between Waikiki and Diamond Head. Parking was impossible (very popular on weekends), and I had to park at a distance and schlep my equipment about a quarter mile.

My first location had a high noise level, and the bands were strangely dead (I had not learned of the R2 flare/blackout). I moved to another bench under a tree about 300 yards away. While walking there, I was hit by an errant tennis ball from the adjacent courts (no harm done - just surprise).

Arriving at my new location, I threw my arborist bag/deployment line into the tree, and the bag stuck firmly in a branch junction. The antenna wire was only halfway off the ground, and I could not get the bag loose to complete the deployment. After a frustrating 45 minutes of trying to free the deployment line, I decided to use the wire as it was - with the bottom part stretched horizontally to form an L instead of my preferred straight up-and-down vertical orientation.

Once I did get going around 0015, the bands were still in terrible shape for me. Nobody was spotting me on RBN at all, which is unusual. I moved to 15 meters and mustered 4 contacts between 0030 and 0130 - one local CW QSO (Mark WH7W - I was literally in his backyard), 1 local FT8 contact (Jackson - KH6DQ), and 2 distant FT8 contacts (N6RO and JA8FND).

Around 0140, I still wasn't having any luck getting spotted on RBN on 20, but the FT8 watering hole was active. I managed some contacts with mostly West Coast stations, but late in the hour signal strengths improved and I was working some Midwest and East Coast.

Around 0300, I took a shot a 20m SSB, which was good for me at that time last year. Wasn't happening for me this year - but had a nice chat on 20 SSB with Dennis N6KI/NX6T, and we tried 15m - I heard him ever so faintly on CW, but the path was unworkable.

If I was going to have any success on 20 CW, it was going to be in the final hour, and I did finally manage to get some RBN spots to initiate a decent run of 17 contacts from 0310-0345 that included a very faint UA9FBC. I have no idea how Andy was able to hear me!

When my run died at 0345, I decided to check 40 again, working Stan AH6KO (great job this year Stan!). I had already worked the other loud CW stations (NX6T and N6RO). I found NX6T and K6GHA chatting on SSB, and called Dennis - he finally heard me just above the noise, and Don also heard me just well enough to complete another band/mode QSO. My 31-foot wire is not good on 40, especially before dark!

That's the story of my portable QRP HQP adventure this year. I managed only 99 contacts, far less than last year. I got only 4 local multipliers, 2 on my home island of Oahu, and 2 on the Big Island. Sorry to completely miss the Maui guys, and none of the Kauai ops could hear me on 20.

But I learned/reinforced 4 good lessons, though:

-It is much better to be crapped on by a bird than beaten up or killed by a drunk street tough.

-Keep a spare arborist bag/line on hand just in case.

-Don't trust 24ga wire for anything but the safest/gentlest deployments.

-Any antenna wire configuration works better than none at all!

Thanks to all who pulled my tiny signal out of the noise this year. Aloha and 72/73, Bob NH6O in Honolulu

**AH7RF - QRP - KOH HI - 16 CW QSO**

QRP / KOH area / KX2 5W / G5RV!

I am a CWOps student, so I'm still new to CW, and inexperienced. I haven't made a whole lot of contacts on CW, but I doubled them with this contest!

AH6KO drafted me into this contest, and gave me really helpful instructions and hints, so thanks very much for that!

I spent a lot of time not hearing anyone, and no one hearing me. It wasn't until Sunday that anyone answered my CQs, and ended in a pileup of 11 contacts at the very end!

It was very exciting, prior to this contest, I hadn't made any CW contacts other than other KH6 stations, so I'm very happy :)

Thanks very much for the QSOs!

Aloha

Heather / AH7RF

## Colorado QSO Party

Held the first weekend (Saturday) in September – Labor Day weekend – there was a fair amount of activity but it was during the CW Open contest with 4 hour periods of activities that filled the CW bands. From the 3830 reflector:

### **W0ZA mobile - 250 CW QSO**

I wasn't sure if I was going to operate this year, but things came together and along with my driver I activated 11 counties. 20 meters was the best band for mobile, 40 meters was good in the morning and evening, but most of the counties I was already out of them, when 40 was opened back up in the evening. Mobile contesting is different, with some of the Colorado roads not the best of shape, and power lines along most back roads. Thanks to all the stations who worked me.

Rig: Icom 7100/ Deep Cycle Battery for rig only  
Antennas: Ham Sticks 20 and 40 meters  
Logging: N1MM

**NN0G - portable CO 52 CW QSO**

More of a POTA outing than a real effort. Got enough to finish out my POTA Kilo to K-4404.

**N6GP - fixed - CA 22 CW 13 SSB QSO**

Great to see a rover active this year. Thank you W0ZA for roving!

Sad to see so much activity on 15 CW by the CWO ops, and not much from COQP. 15 was open!

I still think they should remove the ban spotting assistance in the regular categories. I went Multi Op this year for that reason. More spotting would make it more fun for the CO ops. I spotted CO stations whenever I could.

73,  
Tim

**K0XF - fixed CO 222 CW QSO**

This was my first Colorado QSO Party after moving to Colorado last fall. I was looking forward to putting in a good effort on CW in my home state QSO party, but I was very disappointed for a number of reasons. Absolutely awful on CW to have this contest the same day as the CW Ops Open Contest! There was much more activity in the CW Ops contest, so those stations either did not respond to my CQ for the COQP (if they paid attention to my CQ) or they did not pay attention to my CQ thinking that I was in the CW Ops contest and they called me – they kept asking for a number (no number in COQP) or would get momentarily paralyzed when I sent my COQP exchange and then they would just disappear. So much confusion and wasted time for both of us. Conditions were also very poor, and I found very little Colorado activity. Running low power and wire antennas, it was a struggle to make the contacts that I did. I do not plan to operate this contest in the future.

## **AA4TI - Fixed - FL 17 CW 14 SSB**

Propagation between CO and FL was not great and contacts were a struggle all day. The CWO sessions tend to chase off many of the CO operators from CW as well. It would be nice if the COQP would move to a different date... perhaps run it on Sunday along with the TNQP. Lots of BIC time for minimal results, but I still enjoyed the party

## **Tennessee QSO Party**

I know W4SIG made a run for the TN QP but no input. Lots of fixed stations participated. Only one single op and one multi-op mobile filed a report on the 3830 scores site:

**K1GU single op mobile 218 CW QSO**

The score is right.

**K4YL - Multi OP Mobile 255 CW 10 SSB KX4CH, K4YL ops**

Our route took us through upper east Tennessee, as in the previous two years. The 40-m band was up and down, but 80 m was solid after sunset. Twenty meters was very quiet, but I heard later that calling CQ produced results.

**N8II- fixed - WV 120 CW 191 SSB QSO**

Although W4NZ was very active as a multi-op from K0EJ, and AD4EB as single op plus N4ZZ part time, you were missed as those ever present mobiles running high rates. Jim, AD4EB promises to hit the road next year.

It was a slow burn downward with first hour of 45 QSO's, then 34, then nothing better

than 30 the rest of the party with most of the rest around mid 20's. Thanks to Kerry, W4SIG/M (21 total QSO's) for what turned into many counties on 80M, but not many the first few hours as I missed him more often than I should have. KY4L/M always had a good signal on 40 from east TN (closer to me), and many thanks also to other mobiles K1GU, W4ETA (SSB), W3TB (decent weaker signal here, but not very busy), and WW5X.

Conditions on 40 could not have been much better from here, surprisingly loud signals even mid day, loud enough for SSB runs. By the time conditions peaked on 40 around 21-23Z, there were few TN stations left to work on 40. 80 was a disappointment as usual for QP's this year as ops have the option to still work 40 for mainly stations out west they couldn't reach out west during the day. Conditions on 80 were okay, but seemed to be best around sunset in TN with the noise increasing after that. W4SIG/M was easy to work until about 0120Z, then weaker and it was a struggle to break through the pile ups. Guys don't forget, you can operate (unless a General) below 3800 and avoid all of the groups that take up most of the slots. The ops I worked on 160 were mostly well above the noise, another band that was under utilized with mults/Q's available to easily work if only they had been there.

Many thanks for the calls and QSO's, the TN stations I worked seemed to be enjoying themselves. I have the highest out of state score on 3830scores so far.

73, Jeff

### **K4BAI fixed GA 85 CW 63 SSB QSO**

Thanks for all the QSOs especially the mobiles who did a great job on CW. Didn't hear any mobiles on SSB. Congrats to the four who heard me on 20M on some backscatter or ground wave. 40M also began to go long in the late afternoon, right before we went out for dinner with some friends/relatives. Came back and 40 was sort of short with the skip zone allowing QSOs with north and west TN, but those in South TN were too close. 80M was quite good on both modes. I have no antenna for 160M right now. Congrats to our friends in TN for putting on a fine QSO party. 73, John, K4BAI.



## On the Road with N4CD

The car hadn't gone far other than a few trips to the local park 25 miles away – K/KFF-4423 over in Garland, TX. So it was time for a longer trip.

Jim Sargent runs an auction site in Granbury for on line and in person auctions. Lots of classic radios, and does other auctions from watches to clocks. He was holding a garage sale for the local vintage radio club on his property so it was time for a trip to check out the sale and also see his auction house.

Up at 5:30am and on the road at 6am headed the 88 miles to his QTH. Didn't bother to listen to radio at that time. Wow.....going over there, about 20% of the vehicles on the road are pickups at 7am. Once you get southwest of Ft Worth, it's about 50% of all vehicles on the road are pickup trucks! You're getting out in farm and ranch land.

Spent 2 hours there in Granbury, then headed home running the counties along the way – Hood, Johnston, Parker, Tarrant – with a stop at another state park – Ceder Hill State Park K/KFF-2996. Been there a few times but no one has run it on CW lately. Dallas County. Put 60 in the log, then headed home arriving 12:30 after 200 miles on the road. Bands were OK. Worked IW2NXI and IK4IDF – park hunters but they were weak. Mostly US stations. Made a half dozen on SSB as I hunted other parks – and most by far are on SSB.

Soon the TX QSO Party will occur. I'm likely to head somewhere. Then after that, it will be time to head to North Dakota – and then Bozeman Montana for the annual get together.

## Alabama QSO Party

**K5CM mobile 302 CW QSO**

had no comments

**K4ZGB mobile 403 CW**

Thanks for following me around all day. Big followers were W0PI, WB9HFK, AA4TI, W5TM, KV0I.

I'm still slow on the keyboard especially when correcting errors.

Weather not so great rainy most of the trip.

Generator went on the blink in the afternoon had to switch over to stand-by batteries.

This was my retiring event. No more MOBILE QP events.....getting too hard for an OM.

**WW5X - mobile 262 CW**

no comments

**N5KW mobile - 8 CW (rides along with K5CM**

no comments

**DL3DXX - 28 CW**

Came late into ALQP for just a few hours.

Too late for 15m, not many stations on 20m but just a few contacts thanks to mobiles K5CM, K4ZGB and WW5X. Nobody heard me on 80m so I went sleep.

73 Dietmar

**W3US - fixed - FL 28 CW**

Tough going being so close to AL.

Only 40 & 80 were productive, but there was little action on 80.

**KA6BIM - fixed OR 27 cw**

Poor conditions this weekend with very few AL stations found. Unfortunately many of the AL stations moved to 40 mtrs when 15 and 20 were wide open to the West Coast/ By the time 40 started to open they moved to 80 and the NA sprint contest started and filled up the band.

I did manage to find 1 new county. Thanks for the qso's Dave ka6bim

## On the Road with N4CD II

I looked at the Texas QSO Party planned mobile routes. I was thinking of an 800 mile trip to get two new parks to the west. Well, dang. Between N5NA/M and W5CT/M, nearly all the counties were covered already and some had fixed stations running them. There would be 2 counties not covered although they might show up from other stations. It just wasn't worth the effort to be a duplicate mobile in 16 others. Nearly every county in any direction with 350 miles was covered already by a CW mobile. The only areas not covered were the panhandle and southwest TX and down in the tip of TX to the south. Those were 1000 mile trips to get. Not me – at least not this year.

So the default was just run a few local counties. Saturday morning was a Richardson Radio Club Park on the Air event over at Spring Creek State Forest Preserve. They were planning on two stations and trying to get some newcomers on the air for the event. First, many of them went to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday club breakfast at a local restaurant, then would proceed to the park. I headed out to the park to get there shortly after 1400Z when the Texas QSO Party started. The others would show up after 1500Z. So I ran Dallas County mobile for an hour or so. Then went over to watch the club members set up stations (2 ) and get ready for the club event. Took them a while to put up a sloper 'end fed' and a vertical with radials, set up two radios run off battery power, fire up the computers, etc. They ran SSB and maybe some FT-8. I left a bit later.

All my contacts counted for the park as well as the TQP. Quiet there on CW, S9 noise on SSB!

Headed back home and ran Collin (COLN) county at a local town park 3 miles from home. Caught some IA and NJ stations during the TQP for their QSO parties.

Later that day I headed over 7 miles to Denton (DENT) county for a bit. Lots of WA Salmon run stations so added them into the log, and a few more IA. Busy weekend with QSO Parties. Only got one NH station on cw.

Sunday I headed up to Bonham State Park in Fannin County to the northeast about an hour and 15 min from home – 70 miles or so. Sat there for a while and added in more QSOs from both TQP folks and park chasers. Not an especially rare park as tens of thousands of QSOs made already and folks activate it several times a month. Lots of park activators around Dallas and not many parks!

On the way back, I planned on taking a short detour to Grayson – but there is 20 miles of construction on route 121 with traffic routed on 2 lane south access road (2 way) and no exits for 15 miles. Hmm....guess you need to know how to get on north access road to get to the road going to Grayson somehow. I didn't. There was no turn from the 'main highway' for miles. Darn. Well I was already 10 miles into home county with no easy way to get back there so just skipped it. It would be run by 3 or 4 other mobiles and likely a fixed station or two!

Made 203 QSOs in the TQP this year in 2022. Guess I'm getting 'too old' for these long days of a thousand QSOs and going from 9am to 5 or 6, then doing it again on the next day from 9-3pm.

So I put out two parks – and two other counties and poked along. Will be off soon on a big trip to MT. Thanks for the Qs.

## Texas QSP Party

Lots of activity but only 200 counties on the air out of 254. Panhandle quiet (W0BH mobile were were you?) and south TX and west TX had no mobile activity. Still lots of counties with a dozen mobiles running all over the place. Top scorers out of state reported working 120 TX counties out of 254.

**KD2KW mobile (ops AC5EZ KD2KW) 131 SSB QSO - 7 planned counties**

First time to operate TQP mobile. Lots of FUN. Was great to include many folks that we work on CW. Had issue with FT100 getting CW keying to work so abandoned CW operation. Maybe next year the operation will be all CW. Band conditions were in and out for us. At times we would make only a few contacts every few minutes then there would be several in queue, especially at the three county point.

## **W5CT mobile 2602 CW 25 SSB (ops K5PI W5MJ W9MC) - 37 planned counties**

This was the tenth QSO Party outing of the W5MJ-K5PI team, this time with intrepid driver Mike W9MC. We were saddened by the loss this year of our long time teammate Steve WK5S who kept us out of the ditches and imparted much technical wisdom.

It almost didn't happen this year. Madison had a scheduling conflict, but then things shifted to make it possible. It takes us a number of work sessions to get everything ready to go, and we got a very late start this year. So we decided to set things up as much like last time as possible: two TS-480HX radios, a Tarheel 100A screwdriver, a Texas Bug Catcher, and N1MM. We'd do the same route as last year.

We try to operate both radios throughout the contest as a multi-two. But there are challenges with that. Even with band pass filters, there is still quite a bit of inter-station interference. The 40M signal runs from S5 to S9 into the 20M radio most of the time. We try to sync up our transmissions, but that's never perfect. Sorry for the repeat requests – some Q5 signals just got locally QRMed.

The second big challenge this was power. We had no problems running two radios last year, but this year the vehicle's electrical system couldn't keep up when we were just idling (e.g., at county lines). We dialed the power down from 200 to 100 watts, revved the idle speed up a bit, and that helped some. But when the voltage would sag, the radios would blink off. After a minute, they'd come back on. But unfortunately, it sometimes an additional minute or two for the antenna switch relays to get the voltage they needed.

The final challenge this year (and most) has been RFI. We've always installed the radios at the back of the vehicle. But that means long cable runs for the control heads, RS232, keying, etc. Toroids just couldn't tame the RFI this year, so we ran without RS232 connections and suffered through quite a few Winkey lockups, which required pulling the USB and restarting N1MM. Unfortunately, Madison's laptop liked to assign a new port number with most USB re-insertions, so he juggled port numbers at times. We may move the radios to the seating area to substantially shorten those cable runs. We also hear that disconnecting the rear window defroster can help.

One more set of challenges is inherent in mobile operating. Sometimes you hit a low spot, drive under noisy power lines, or hit a bumpy road that makes it nearly impossible to type! Thanks for your patience as we worked through this.

The good news is that the antennas worked great! We got everything tight at the start, and it held up well. Our 80M bug catcher SWR could have used a tweak, but we decided to live with it during our last hour on Saturday night.

We also stayed on the path with only a few missed turns. Mike relied mostly on paper directions with me providing some cues by watching GPS-connected Microsoft Streets and Trips. This program has worked very well, but is probably due for replacement as it's now almost 10 years since the last update.

Due to our technical problems, Madison was probably off the air on 40M for at least 25% of the time. I probably lost 10-15% of my time. Nonetheless, we achieved another personal best score. We came very close to matching the (K5NA/K5OT/W5ZL) record number of CW QSOs, but we made very few SSB QSOs and fell far short of the record multiplier total of 185 (!).

Thanks to all who followed us, especially DL3DXX and OM2VL who worked us in most of our counties! Thanks also to Chuck NO5W for his great APRS tracking map and for all his other work on the contest. See you next year!

**K5EC mobile 284 CW 191 SSB (4 planned counties)**

no comments

**KI5MM mobile 909 CW**

Had a good time. Driver was Matt KI5CDF which helped greatly. 40 was noisy while running which hurt our mults. 33000 bonuses points from the 33 counties with 5 or more. Saw 900 miles of Texas. Thanks for the calls. Wish we could have heard more.

**N5NA mobile 1210 CW**

This year was a bit more leisurely than in the past. I only operated from a total of 24 counties. I got back home a little after 6 pm on Saturday and around 2:30 pm on Sunday. I reduced my route to try to save a bit on the fuel cost. Diesel is still expensive. Also I had our furry four legged op in the back seat. He did fine but was glad to get home.

I was happy to see 15m open. DX stations were LOUD on 15m. However, Murphy struck after 81 QSOs on 15m. I worked N8II in Upton County and the program crashed. Rebooted, got everything going and worked KA6BIM when it crashed again. I suspect RF found its way into my GPS but I don't understand why it worked great all day on 15m up to that point. Finished up in Crane and Ector on 40 and 20 with no problem. It's been a lot of years since I operated much 15m in the mobile.

Thanks to the following stations for contributing more than half the QSOs:  
WB9CIF(30), KA6BIM(25), DL3DXX(25), WA6KHK(22), K9CW(21), NS2N(21), W5DXS(20), OM2VL(18), N5RGH(18), WA2VYA(17), NA1NA(16), N8II(16), W8PI(16), K5GA(16), N5MI(15), WO4O(14), N5RZ(14), K0DEQ(14), WB9HFK(14), HA8IB(13), W2MN(12), WA8ZBT(11), WB5BKL(11), AC7GG(11), AA4TI(11), W5LXS(11), K4RUM(11), N6AR(10), AF5CC(10), HA9RE(10), KM6HB(10), N5TJ(10), WA2JQK(9), K4AMC(9), W0UY(9), K0ARS(9), K5SBR(8), NS8O(8), N8UM(8), K5KDG(8), W5TM(8), N6TQ(8), W5ACQ(8), WN4AFP(7), K4WW(7), N9OF(7), DL3GA(7), AF5J(7).

Equipment: Elecraft K3, Dell D630 laptop, Scorpion SA-680 antenna, CQ/X by NO5W logging software.

Thanks to my wife, K5AKS, for driving all weekend and not getting lost. And thanks to Magnus for being a really good boy!

73, Alan N5NA

### **K5CM mobile 1680 cw**

Score includes 20k bonus points for 20 counties in Northeast Texas. All Q's are important but some of the most worked:

36 OM2VL 33 NA1NA 29 DL3DXX 26 N8UM WB9CIF 24 KA6BIM N6TQ 21  
K3WJV K9CW 20 W5DXS 19 K3TW VE6RST 18 W5TM 17 WA2VYA 16 K4RUM  
N5TJ W2XYZ 15 HA8IB 14 AC7GG K0XF K4MPE W8KNO 13 N5RZ N6AR N8II  
NS2N W7GF WN4AFP 12 K3YP K5GA W8PI WO4O 11 AA4TI K9NW KY7M N9OF  
NE8P 10 KA0PQW W3US Interesting to see 2 of the 3 leaders were DX.

## **N1LN fixed NC - 131 CW 69 SSB**

Conditions between NC and TX were not always good, especially on 15 meters and at low power. So, my original goal was to work 100 Qs. I did that by about 0030 UTC on Saturday night. As Sunday was a slow day around the house the radio went back on and a new goal of 200 Qs was set.

Thanks to the many mobile stations that were driving around the state and helping add to the county multiplier count. Especially W5CT/everywhere! For a part time effort we had 22 Qs in 15 different counties.

73,  
Bruce N1LN

## **K5IX mobile 184 cw**

Only short time available to rove due to family commitments. The 2:15 Op Time represents time spent on the county lines operating, and not the total time in transit between HUGE South Texas counties. WinKeyer locked up on me early (RFI?) so all QSOs were keyed by hand--hopefully didn't slow me down TOO much. Had to be pretty deliberate about remembering which counties I was in. But actually I had more fun with the paddles than I would've had with the F keys.

Wish I could have made 40m work--disappointed I couldn't work fellow Texans for even more county mults. My mobile setup is improving every year--already eager for 2023!

## **WN4AFP - fixed SC 151 CW 9 SSB 81 counties worked**

The Texans came to the party! Lots of activity in this two day QSO party. Thanks to all the TX stations for being on the air. Special thanks to the following mobiles who answered by call and for making the extra effort to make this contest very interesting. K5PS 18, K5CM 13, N5NA 8, W5CT 37, N4CD 1, WW5X 10, N5KW 1. See y'all next year

73 Dave WN4AFP

## **K5PS mobile 1264 CW**



This was my first mobile operation in the TX QSO Party and my second overall (did mobile in OK QSO Party, again with WB0TEV in 2021).

Victor Paul WB0TEV was driver, navigator, and occasionally fed me beef jerky to quiet my growling stomach. Got to travel many rural backroads and see parts of Texas I'd never seen before.

It took me a couple of hours to figure out a strategy for maximizing QSO rates, and I'm sure there's still room for improvement. Glad I had the chance to hand out QSOs from multiple counties to those who wanted them.

There were only a couple of minor technical issues, with the first being a problem with the N1MM "send report" macro sending the wrong county. Fortunately I realized the problem before making any invalid QSOs, and an edit of the macro resolved it. The second was the radio COM port stopped working during a gas station stop. Victor performed a hard reset on the radio and a couple minutes later we were good to go.

The gear used was straight out of the 1980's. The rig was one of Victor's FT757GXII's and the vehicle was Victor's 1986 Pontiac Parisienne. The antenna was a Hustler vertical on the right rear fender with resonators for 40, 20 and 15 meters. An 80m one was available to swap out with the 40m but we never used it. Logging was done with a laptop interfaced to the radio running N1MM+.

Top Callers were as follows (Counties/QSOs)

DL3DXX is amazing. He only missed us in 5 counties, where admittedly were we in only briefly. In 7 of 30 counties he worked us on 2 different bands. WB9CIF was the most frequent US caller. Its always good to work Laci, OM2VL who always makes a strong showing from Slovakia

DL3DXX 30/37 WB9CIF 25/29  
W5DXS 22/22 OM2VL 18/20  
W8PI 18/18 NA1NA 17/20  
AC7CG 17/17 K5GA 16/16  
N6TQ 16/16 WN4AFP 15/17  
K9CW 15/16 WA2VYA 15/15  
WA6KHK 15/15 NO5W 15/15  
KT3W 14/14 WB5BKL 14/14  
AA4TI 13/14 K9NW 13/14

N6AR 12/13 N5RZ 11/12  
N5TJ 11/11 NS2N 11/11  
N8UM 10/12 W5TM 10/12  
N4IU 10/10 W3US 10/10

In the multiplier department, for US states I missed ND, DE and ID. For VE's only worked AB, BC and ON. DX mults included DL, EA, F, GM, HA, OM, ON, SM, SP and UA. 36 Texas counties were worked.

Had a wonderful time operating mobile in this contest and hope that I'll have the chance to do it again sometime. Thanks to all who called.

73,  
Scott K5PS

**KM4TVY – mobile – SSB** - spotted in Pecos/Terrell area . Planned to run 6 counties

**K5EC mobile** - 294 CW 161 SSB - no comments

**K5ZZR – SSB – mobile** – planned to run 6 counties and spotted.

**WA5DDS mobile SSB** - planned to run 17 counties – spotted out.

**KA6BIM - fixed - OR 231 CW 38 SSB 119 counties worked**

Another fun contest with lots of activity. Found 10 new TX counties this time around plus a few others I still need confirmed. Fun chasing the mobiles as well as hunting down the fixed operators. 15 meters was productive, but didn't hear a peep on 10. Thanks for the qso's Dave KA6BIM

## New Hampshire QSO Party

This is usually a sleeper with not much activity. Most stations show up in the New England QSO Party. Only saw up to 7 contacts reported on the 3830 scores page. You had to hunt to find New Hampshire Counties!

**WN4AFP fixed SC 5 CW QSO**

We've always heard that every contact counts. It's never been as true as it is for this competition. Thanks NH for the Qs. 73 Dave WN4AFP

## Iowa QSO Party

Activity down a bit but lots of possibilities to work a bunch of counties.

**AA4TI = fixed FL 10 CW 4 SSB**

Seemed like fewer IA stations on the air this year.

**K4BAI fixed GA 27 CW 13 SSB**

Enjoyable contest, but wish the Iowa stations would use 80M. Didn't hear a single IA stations on that band, which was quite good in the last few hours of the IAQP. Thanks especially to Bill, N0AC, for his portable operation as WI0WA who gave me a significant number of my CW QSOs. Thanks for all QSOs. 73, John, K4BAI.

**NR0P mobile 308 SSB**

Operated mobile through 11 counties in southwestern IA. The weather was pretty poor and we (wife driving) were operating in and around thunderstorms all day which made for some high noise levels. Sorry for those callers that I just couldn't pull out of the noise. Paul, VA3PC, was diligently following us around on the air most of the day and was a big help finding clear spots to operate. He was also the daily champion of our log with 9 log entries. Thanks Paul. And thanks to everyone for the QSOs. Every mobile operation is a learning experience.

Todd - NR0P

**WI0WA portable (N0AC opr) 679 CW QSO**

Thanks to Story County ARC for sponsoring the QP.

Thanks for all those that got on the air and call me. This wouldn't be any fun without you.

This year's Iowa QP was suppose to be a multiple operator event but the forecast for bad WX changed the plan. W0BNW was going to operate SSB using a temporary antenna and I was going to handle the CW from my mobile station. The rain would make Jim's operation too difficult so we both agreed he would operate from his home station if he so desired.

My XYL packed a picnic lunch and rode along just for the ride. We made 7 stops activating 15 counties. Conditions seemed poor but all the other QSO parties in progress might have caused the lack of Iowa activity. The forecasted bad WX never really got that bad which is good for county line operation.

Those in the log with 10+ QSOs are (in no order):  
AC7GG, DL3GA, K4BAI, K9CW, KA6BIM, OM2VL (21 QSOs!), WN4AFP

DX worked:  
9A, DL, F, HA, OM, SP, UA

When N0HR, NU0Q, or WW0Z, some of my local hams, called in it brought a smile to my face.

I had 5 hours of operating time, the last QSO was at 0042z on 80m. It had just begun to storm and only the loudest stations got through the QRN.

73 and thanks for the QSOs, Bill, N0AC

## New Jersey QSO Party

Looks like about 16 of the counties were on the air – at least that's the multiplier count from out of state stations. Not many filed any comments. Lots of fixed stations in NJ putting out their counties. Not sure if all made it on the air at some time or other. No

mobiles noted. One NJ station worked all but one county (20 out of 21).

**K4BAI - fixed GA 47 CW 11 SSB 15 counties worked**

nice little QSO party to have on a multiple QSO party weekend, but not nearly what it could be if the NJ testers would support it better. Thanks for all QSOs.

73, John, K4BAI

**K2AL - fixed NJ 219 CW 214 SSB QSO**

Thanks for all the contacts.

40 was best band. 80 a bit disappointing this year.

Far exceeded previous best score.

Worked all NJ counties except Gloucester.

## WA Salmon Run

The salmon were out and running. Loads of fixed stations and some mobiles, too. Every county (39) was on the air and some folks worked all of them! Some 'county expeditions' to rarer counties. Not many folks had comments. I know N7WA/m was out but haven't seem much else on mobile activity reports other than K7TQ/m

**K7TQ mobile 660 CW (ops K7TQ, WA0WWW)**

A great Salmon Run this year. For Jay, WA0WWW, and me, it was the highest we've ever scored. 15 m was open for a change and 80 m during the day got us several WA counties. N7IR did a fantastic job of catching us in all 20 of our counties. We got behind schedule on Sunday and faced huge, at to me, pileups in SPO and PEND counties during the last hour. Thanks to all who worked us.

Further story and pictures are at <https://sites.google.com/site/randyk7tq/home/2022-salmon-run>

On September 17 and 18, Jay, WA0WWW, and I put all 20 of the Washington state counties east of the Cascade Crest on the air in the Salmon Run. We started in Whitman county and went clockwise to Douglas county where we spent the night in Grand Coulee, the location of the Grand Coulee Dam. Sunday we finished up the other 20 counties and ended operating from Pend Oreille county.

We were able to make 660 Qs and 74 mults for a total score of 146,520, the highest Jay and I have ever done. For the first time in several years, we made good use of 15 m with 67 Qs and 14 mults. Last time out in 2020, we didn't make any 15 m Qs. The idea of going to 80 m at the top of each hour was successful. During the daylight hours we picked up several WA counties.

Our most frequent customer was N7IR, Gary, in AZ. He made 32 Qs with us and caught us in all 20 of our counties. Others with 10 Qs or more were N7EPD with 19 Qs in 14 counties, K7GS with 16 Qs in 14 counties, OM2VL with 16 Qs in 11 counties, W7G with 15 Qs in 14 counties, K9CW with 13 Qs in 12 counties, W9PL with 13 Qs in 11 counties, W7DM with 11 Qs in 6 counties, K2DFC with 10 Qs in 10 counties, W7FN with 10 Qs in 9 counties, W6TDX with 10 Qs in 8 counties, and N8II with 10 Qs in 7 counties. In total 243 different calls made it into our log.

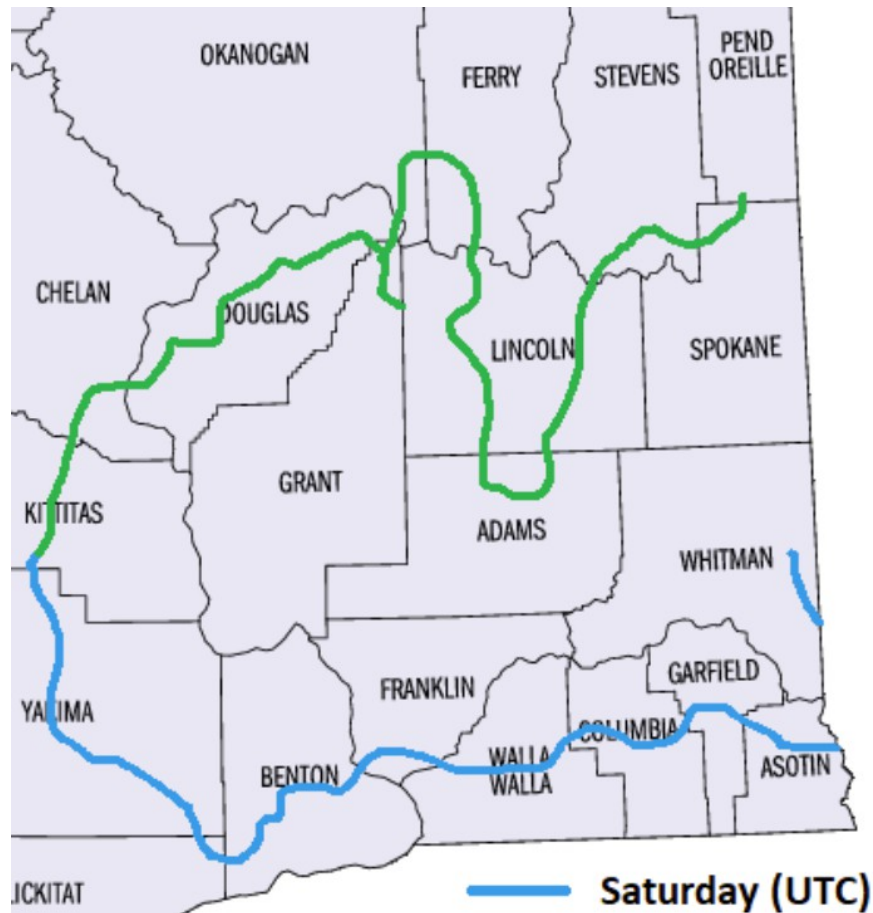
On Sunday a route plan in ADA county didn't work out. Way too much powerline noise, so we had to take a longer route into the next county which made us fall behind our operating plan. We got even further behind and entered our next to last county, SPO, with just over an hour to go. Lots of folks must have needed SPO on CW because the pileup was nearly more than I could handle. We got to our last county, PEND, with only 40 minutes to go compared to our planned one hour to finish up the Party. Seemed like even more folks wanted PEND than SPO. Either folks gave up or I was able to work the pileup down. I sent the first CQ in PEND and 16 minutes later I had 29 Qs in the log with no additional CQs.

You don't get many visitors doing mobile, but this year we got two sets. The first was on Saturday as we were leaving the KLI/BEN county line. We had been operating on the county line, a gravel road leading to a house about a 1/4 mile away. A car pulled up and inquired what we were doing. We told him that folks all over the USA were wanting to talk to folks in all the WA counties. That seemed to satisfy his curiosity. The second set was a couple that had been behind us on the way downhill from the top of the pass in FER county mid-day Sunday. They passed us when we got down in the valley. We

caught up to them as the Keller Ferry approached our side of the Columbia River. On the ferry they asked about the big antenna on my truck. Jay and I had a nice conversation with them about the Salmon Run and ham radio.

The rig was a KX2 and KXPA at 100 Watts to a Scorpion 680 antenna mounted in the middle of the Ford Ranger's bed. We logged using N1MM+.

We had a great time and thank everyone who worked us and those who tried, too



### **WS7L County Expedition - Pacific County 400 CW 120 SSB QSO**

Glad to be back after missing last year. Rates seemed a bit slow considering how good the signals were. Bands were all great except I couldn't even get a skimmer to pick me up on 10. Great skimmer reports on 15 but not many Q's there. The high point was picking up Pend Oreille County for a sweep in the last half hour!

Plus it was a beautiful warm weekend in Ocean Park!

73 & thanks for the Q's  
Carl WS7L

### **N8JRT portable - Skamania**

The Washington State Salmon Run (our QSO party has a cool name) wrapped up this afternoon and I chose to make an expedition to a low activity county for the 2 day event. After a last minute change of location plans, I ended up in Skamania County About equally spaced between 3 volcanoes and on a butte about a mile above sea level...oh, and it was in K-4529 Gifford Pinchot National Forrest.

From Friday night to Sunday evening, I managed about 360 QSO'S including 336 from the contest (most of whom did not know they were hunting a POTA activation) I did mention the park number while working 20m and that presented a new challenge but it was all in all a great learning experience. 10 out of 10, id recommend a POTA expedition into a QSO party to anyone.

Note: contest log submission is way harder than POTA ever was, since I started anyway. See y'all all again soon at the waterfall.

N8JRT

### **KA6BIM - fixed - OR 104 CW 138 SSB 39 counties worked**

Great fun contest with lots of activity. I was amazed at 40 and 80 meter signals mid day on Sunday. Found my last county on CW about 1/2 hour before end of contest, then worked a different station on SSB back to back. Clean Sweep!

### **OM2VL - fixed - DX 130 CW 32 SSB 36 counties worked**

5 QP same time - I am really don't like it ... I decided 100% focus on the WA QP and unfortunately missed so many in TXQP where there was also nice activity ...

15m was excellent, my last QSO was here at 20:45Z! I try some runs on SSB, but only few WA station came back to my call.



Missed only 3 counties (JEFF, LEW, SAN) - all 3 was spotted on 40m SSB when 40m was closed here. Such a pity that they don't move to 20/15m.

Thanks a lot for the QSO's!

Most QSO's:

K7TQ/M 16/12 (QSO/cty)

AG7NR/M 11/7

N7WA/M 6/5

NU7J 5/2

N7QT/M 4/3

K7ANE 2/2

W7DM 2/2

Laci OM2VL

## Awards Issued

USA-PA"N" Award: NF0N Completed all N's on 30 August 2022. He received #27

Roadrunner Award: W4SIG attained 875 last counties on 4 September 2022. He received #18

Roadrunner Award: N5MLP attained 250 Last counties on 13 September 2022. He received #99

## Operating Events for Count Hunters

Oct 1 1600z to 2 2200 1.8-28

**California QSO Party**

CW, Ph  
Serial, CA county or SPC  
[www.cqp.org/Rules.html](http://www.cqp.org/Rules.html)

Oct 8 0300 to 9 2100 1.8-28, V/U  
**Nevada QSO Party**  
CW,Ph,Dg  
RS(T), NV county or ARRL/RAC section  
[nvqso.com](http://nvqso.com)

Oct 8 1500 to 9 0500 1.8-28  
**Arizona QSO Party**  
CW,Ph  
RS(T), AZ county, or SPC  
[www.azqp.org](http://www.azqp.org)

Oct 8 1600 to 9 2200 No WARC  
**Pennsylvania QSO Party**  
CW,Ph  
Serial, PA county, or ARRL/RAC section  
[paqso.org](http://paqso.org)

Oct 8 1800 to 9 1800 1.8-28, 50,144  
**South Dakota QSO Party**  
CW,Ph,Dg RS(T),  
SD county, or SPC  
[www.sdqsoparty.com](http://www.sdqsoparty.com)

Oct 15 1400 to 16 0200 No WARC  
**New York QSO Party**  
CW,Ph,Dg  
RS(T), NY county or SPC  
[www.nyqp.org](http://www.nyqp.org)

Oct 16 1700 to 17 0100  
1.8-28, 50,144  
**Illinois QSO Party**  
CW,Ph,Dg  
RS(T), IL county or SPC  
[w9awe.org/ilqp](http://w9awe.org/ilqp)

One to avoid if SSB county hunter -

Oct 29 0000 to 30 2359

1.8-28 CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB Ph  
RS, CQ Zone

Lots of other contests going on – see <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2022/October%202022%20Corral.pdf>

That's all folks. Early issue – N4CD, Editor, is off to the convention.