County Hunter News OnLine

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Volume 22 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.

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CW County Hunter Frequencies are 14.0565, 10.124.5, and 7056.5, with activity occasionally on 3556.5 KHz. There is CW activity now occasionally on 7188, 14336., 18136, 21336, 28336 . The CW folks are now pioneering 17M operation on 18.0915. (21.0565, 24.9155, and 28.0565). Look around 18136 or for occasional 17M CW runs usually after the run on 20M CW . (21.336 and 28.336)

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

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

The USACA award was sponsored by CQ Magazine, which unfortunately has gone the way of the dinosaurs. However, like other CQ Awards, they are still available. CQ awards require confirmation of all claimed contacts.

Rules and information are here:

http://countyhunter.com/cq.htm

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

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

This award requires log data only to earn.

For general information FAQ on County Hunting, check out:

http://countyhunter.com/whatis.htm

MARAC sponsors an award program for many other county hunting awards. You can find information on these awards and the rules at:

http://marac.org/awards.pdf

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

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

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

Notes from the Editor

1) Sunspots – Still have them by the hundreds at times but often under 100 now. Peak was 270 back two years ago.. Now, we are seeing a definite fall off in the number of sunspots, with under 50 common. We are on the downslope of the sunspot cycle headed to zero sunspots in a few years. The upper bands have been quiet other than E-skip and digital. Still, lots of 20M activity, but get your 30M resonators or auto-tuners working. You might need them in a year or two as 20M will be open less hours a day. On 9 30 2026, the sunspot count was only 27.

Along with being still near the peak of sunspot activity, we also tend to get lots of solar

flares, CME's, etc, that can affect propagation. Some days are good. Some days are very good. Some days are rotten propagation where you struggle to hear the mobiles. It is quite common to have lots of flare activity on the downslope as the sun decides to change into the next solar cycle but resisting changing from the old one. The polarity of the sun flips every 11 years for sunspot activity.

2) **Gremlins** - One manage to sneak in last issue. Hopefully we beat all of them out of this issue.

3) State QSO Parties – lots and lots of activity in September. Lots of reports. Hope you can find time to read them all as folks put in the effort to put out the counties.

Kansas QSO Party – More

K0S (opr W0BH) 1234 cw 409 ssb

The 2026 Kansas QSO Party by W0BH as K0S/m

Organizing the Kansas QSO Party is like, to use a cliche, herding cats. But very helpful cats! Ops come from all over the state and outside of Kansas to put all 105 of our Kansas counties on the map, something we've done now for at least 16 years in a row. In 2011, John/n6mu got the first Kansas Sweep, and he did it again for ten years in a row. With three Sweeps last year (N6MU, N8II and the first DX Sweep by OM2VL), the challenge for me was to make a Sweep possible again. Thanks to 14 mobiles and rovers, 16 portable and expedition stations, and 45 listed fixed stations, it was! All counties were covered by at least two different operations except Greeley, where Matt/KD0EZS held down the fort from a good fixed station.

Another fun challenge was to see if we could get all 75 of the zero-land 1x1 calls on the air. We are already known for our very popular Spelling Challenge, where operators try to spell KANSAS, QSOPARTY, SUNFLOWER and YELLOWBRICKROAD using the last letter of the 1x1 call. That takes up 57 calls (19 letters). Since K0X, N0X and W0X are not allowable calls, the remaining 18 calls (6 letters) are available for our 1x1 Challenge. The 75 zero-land 1x1 calls have never all been active for one event. We know that because W0J had never been requested until we did this year for the 2026 Kansas QSO Party. Jesse/KA1VRY/W0J came in from Indiana to operate POTA and the

KSQP at the same time. If you worked him, you're part of ham radio history! Once logs are in and if all 75 calls were on-the-air, we'll claim that first as well.

Another first this year was the Live KSQP APRS Tracker web site put together by Rus/K2UA. With just a cell phone, the site allows mobiles and rovers to track on a Kansas map complete with correct KSQP abbreviations. Stations can also post their current frequency which many did. Before the party, I tested it out around my area and it worked great. I noticed at county lines only one county showed, but there is a comment section where the operator can post the entire line. Of course the excellent KSQP Hub Spotting Site by Chip/N3IW that we all use gets that information out there as well. The combination of the two sites is a real game-changer, and it was obvious ops were using it.

This year we activated all 105 counties on CW and all but three were scheduled to be active on Saturday. I generally wait until the last week to plan my route as I try to fill in the most needed counties. I have three maps on the KSQP web site with the goal of turning the maps green. I emailed several mobiles and rovers to change their routes slightly to improve coverage and they did (helpful cats!). XYL Lorna and I decided to head all the way to southwest Kansas this year to double up on some rare counties and put out SSB whenever possible. As we got closer, the temperature forecasts were for 100+ both days, but no storms. I got the Astro van with the Hustler verticals and the IC7000 ready to go, and made sure the air conditioning blew cold.

Saturday

Saturday started out relatively cool, sunny and windy as Lorna got us on I-35 heading northwest from Hesston. In order to cover our counties, I wanted to be at the RIC/MCP line at the start. We got off a few minutes late, so I opened from MCP, then stopped at the line for a few minutes of CW before moving on. MCP wasn't in my original plan, but I wanted to give the CW gang a head start and did. Band conditions were good at the start, but they got worse as the morning went on. I had to really work to pull out the calls on 40 and 20. 15 never opened for me, and DX (except for OM2VL) was few and far between.

Southwest Kansas is really out there. We hardly saw any cars, and no one came to check out what were were doing at the different county line stops. Our first stop was memorable only because we opened the doors of the van to let some air blow through, and in came the flies. Hog farms and cattle feeding facilities kept that supply of flies going and they rode with us the rest of the trip. Lorna was wearing shorts and had to put on DEET to keep them from biting. The far southwestern three-county MTE/STE/STN

line came with a 105 degree temperature, but our A/C kept working! We were actually quite worried about the heat. I had two fans blowing on my radio plus the radio fan. The van idled with A/C on and didn't overheat, but just outside it was a furnace. I know more than one op went temporarily QRT due to radios or batteries overheating.

I also took some time at the wheel to give Lorna a break from driving. When you go to a three or four-county line, there is usually one county that you either come in or go out on, so most everyone has already worked you. That's where lots of my dupes come from. I had lunch or volunteered to drive for Lorna in some of those counties. Fighting the wind and heat take a toll and she appreciated it. The last five new counties we drove straight through, and we arrived in Dodge City in FOR county pretty much on schedule. We ended the day with 1935 combined contacts in the log by putting out both K0S and W0E for the Spelling Challenge. It's easy to give both calls on SSB, but it takes more time on CW. When the pileups were deep, I didn't even try.

Sunday

It's really fun to hear how ops trying for the Sweep are doing. Overnight, I got emails from N6MU, N8II, N0HJZ and N5RZ, all who were close to a Sweep. After looking over their lists, it looked like all their needed counties would be on except for ELS, SAL, LCN, WAL and GLY on CW. Likely due to band condition, they had missed some of these counties on Saturday. After looking over reroute options, it looked like all the mobiles and rovers were committed (including me). In other words, if we rerouted, someone else would miss a needed county for the Sweep.

I gave Aaron/N0QD/N0L a call. He was part-time and planning to activate some southern counties on Sunday which had already been covered on CW. Aaron has gone along with me on QSO parties in the past, and he's been practicing CW for the last two years. He volunteered to go to the ELS/SAL/LCN line and see if he could help out. He did in a big way, but not without problems, and not without the "new-CW-op fear factor" which which he describes nicely in his 3830 post. Thanks, Aaron!

CW operators also needed GLY county in far western Kansas. I had expected that K0Q would cover that since Matt/KD0EZS usually has a CW operator over while he's doing his usual great job running SSB. When I called him, I found out that wasn't the case, but he made a call and Jim/AC0E came over Sunday afternoon and put out GLY on CW. That left Gator/N5RZ missing WAL county on CW for the CW Sweep. I had no solution for that. I did mention to Gator that he could still Sweep by working GLY on SSB and still remain CW-only, but in true contester style, he chose not to do that! Next year. Of course all the Sweeps are claimed Sweeps at this point until log-checking confirms

them, but lots of ops got close with quite a few 90s and even 100s showing up on 3830. Really well done, all!

Sunday started off good and just got better. As we rolled through KIO county, I got a call from VA3UEE operating aeronautical mobile. As I worked him, he told me he was testing out the onboard HF equipment. I asked him where he was and he said "over ND at the moment." A new multiplier for me!

I knew ops were waiting for Edwards and Hodgeman counties. Bill/NU0Q/N0U was heading west through some of the needed counties while I was heading east, and he got to a number of them first. After a huge run in EDW, I had some time and tried 15m. Big signals and we were off again. I know everyone needed HOG, so I said I would start out on 15m from HOG/EDW/FOR. While still in EDW on 15m getting ready for HOG, Jeff/N8II mentioned that HOG would give him the sweep, but I didn't catch that until he told me later. The pileup was huge and soon N8II broke through. I wish I had time to work SSB there, but I wanted to make sure I got to STA, so we continued on after a great run.

We did make it to STA, skipped PRA, and made it to REN with 3 minutes to go. I posted the timeframe on the Spotting Hub and made 12 contacts out of the CW pileup. A great finish to a fun Sunday. When we arrived home about 4:30pm, our thermometer once again said 105, coincidentally the number of Kansas counties!

In last year's writeup, I finished with this. It's still appropriate today. "If you get close to a Sweep next time, let me know and perhaps we can reroute for you, too. It's a real team effort and one of the most enjoyable parts of working with you all. Congratulations from all of us here in Kansas!"

AFTERWARDS

Logs are coming into the log repository from the Log Submission page on the KSQP web site. Remember to email me a separate FT4/8 log since we score FT4/8 logs separately. They can be in any format and only need to include grid square. Also remember to log county line contacts on one line per county.

Thanks to Chip/N3IW for hosting the QSO Party Hub Spotting Site. Chip makes free spotting available to all QSO parties. That is also Rus/K2UA's plan for the Live APRS Tracker site. It worked great, Rus! All of us, in Kansas and out, appreciate the new tools, and I'm sure both played a big part in the high county counts this year.

Thanks to Bruce/WA7BNM and Trey/N5KO for making log submission available to us once again. It saves 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, especially your comments!

THANKS to the sponsors including the ARRL, operators, clubs and KS0KS bonus station crew. Thanks Ron/AD0DX, for your great log-checking software. Thanks Kent/KB0RWI, who has stepped down as webmaster but helped transition the web site to a new hosting service. And thanks to Lorna/k0why, who flawlessly navigated the counties for me once again. I'm the one who made the wrong turn.

Finally on a sad note, Bruce/KI5TE, my Oklahoma "stamp guy" who kept us supplied with all of the stamps we use for the 1x1 Spelling Challenge certificates, went SK last February. He had just sent me a new shipment when I got the news from his wife. Bruce was great to work with and really enjoyed helping us combine his two favorite hobbies. RIP.

This was the eighteenth running of the Kansas QSO Party. The Kansas QSO Party is always the last full weekend in August. Mark your calendars for August 28-29, 2027. We hope to see you all again ..

73, Bob/w0bh K0S/m
2026 KSQP Coordinator

NØZ 1662 CW 870 ssb
Operator(s): KE5CW
Class: Cnty Exped LP

The Lake Area Amateur Radio Klub (K5LRK) out of the Dallas-Fort Worth area is heading north this weekend for the 2026 Kansas QSO Party. We have six 1x1 special event calls on the air from the county lines in south-central Kansas, so there are a lot of multipliers available from one small patch of ground.

Here is the lineup:

CALL OPERATOR COUNTIES MODES

N0Z	Tom, KE5CW	Sedgwick / Reno / Kingman	CW + SSB
W0G	Randall, K5CCW	Reno / Kingman	CW + SSB
K0O	Ken, KD2KW	Reno / Kingman	CW + SSB
N0G	Steve, W5JK	Reno / Kingman	CW only
K0J	Colin, N5GG	Reno / Kingman	CW only
K0M	Dale, K5MAY	Reno / Kingman	SSB only

Note: Each operator reported separately. Over 5000 QSO made from this county line!

N0U operator NU0Q

Put out 1278 cw QSO no additional comments

N0Q multi op mobile 1100 CW QSO
Operator(s): K7TQ WAØWWW

Another great KSQP put on by Bob, W0BH. Jay and I travel from our homes in WA and ID for this QP and it is well worth the effort.

This year we stayed in the northern few rows of counties. Although we tried 15 m several times, it never had enough activity to keep us there long. 40 m was a good place to be almost regardless of the time of day. No one was able to work us in all 25 of our counties. Gator, N5RZ, came the closest with 23 of our counties. Only one DX Q this year and it was with Laci, OM2VL.

Full story and a few pictures are at https://sites.google.com/site/randyk7tq/home/2026-kansas-qso-party

We made 1,100 Qs with 50 mults for a claimed score of 165,000. As we did last year, we started on the Cheyenne/Sherman county line where in 30 minutes we collected 48 Qs. From there which is the northwest corner of KS, we stayed in the northern portion of the state. We ended Saturday on the Washington/Clay county line. Starting late in the afternoon, we choose to reduce our power to five Watts because our auxilary battery was running low. Even with a mere 5 W, we were able to collect 15 Qs in Republic and 54 Qs on the Washington/Clay county line in a combined 45 minutes as the Saturday portion of the party came to a close. We got the battery charged up overnight and were

back up to a decent power level on Sunday. We operated for 15.25 hours of the possible 18.

Our most frequent customer was N5RZ, Gator, in TX who got us in 23 of our 25 counties. He was also our most frequent customer last year. Next up was N8II, Jeff, in WV, with 22 counties followed by OM2VL, Laci, with 20 counties. Others with 15 or more counties were N5TJ, N6MU, and AA5JF with 19; N4OX and NE8P with 18; N7IR with 17; K9CW with 16: and VE7ZO and W8PI with 15 counties. A total of 27 folks worked us 10 or more times and 334 folks make it into our log.

The band breakdown was 815 Qs on 20, 277 on 40, and 8 on 15 m. We tried 15 m several times, but did not have much luck there. 40 m usually resulted in a nice pileup almost regardless of the time of day and 20 m was just too good to stay away from.

The mobile was a 2002 Ford Ranger with a KX2 and KXPA amp at 75 W or at 5 W when the auxiliary AGM battery ran low on Saturday evening. The antenna was a Scorpion 680 mounted in the center of the truck's bed. Logging was done with a 14" screen HP running N1MM+.

Jay and I thank everyone who worked us and those who tried, but didn't make it into our log.

WØE 653 CW 407 ssb
Operator(s): KØWHY WØBH

see N0S report - other call put out

K0I High Power Portable 2019 CW 177 SSB

WOW! What a weekend ! The heat was on ! The bands weren't that great but the will of the contesters prevailed. Saturday got slow in mid afternoon,and I started to doubt my choice to sit in one place in the heat. Later towards evening it started to pickup and there was no more time to ponder choices.

I started out running HIPOWER at about 3-400w but midday Saturday there was a T-R relay failure,so it goes.THe rest of the contest period was done at 70-100w.
70w trying to conserve batteries charge (2 150AH batteries parallel) so as to last til the

end. 100w closer to finish line.

Saturday I had more DUPE callers on the first day than I`ve ever experienced,making me wonder what was going on. Might it be mis-spots leading to errant ID of the run station ? This may need attention in the future.

Bob (W0BH) has once again assembled a great QSO Party ,one of the in the U.S. Great work Bob!!!

All that said ,THANK YOU everyone that took part in the party,and to the ops that made many repeats to seal the deals.
73 ,
Mark KI0I-K0I/p

Rig Breakdown- Icom-7300 with N1MM+ control , 500W amp(RIP), TRI MAGNET mount on roof of pickup ,10,15 and 20m KW Hustler coils on a solid 5` mast(no driving with that),a Tarheel 100HP Screwdriver on a homemade hitch mount ,sporting a HEAVY 4` mast topped with a tri-lobed large capacity hat (no travel with that thing either). A quiet Honda generator and a couple bottles of LP gas(not much used after amp quit). And hours of map and satellite view searching for op locations.
The folks in rural Kansas are so congenial and will help however they can.

K0L Portable 266 CW 127 SSB
Operator(s): KFØKOS WØSx

The temperatures above 100F and gusty winds posed challenges for both setting up the station and operating. The setup took about twice as long as normal for the three antennas and while operating the batteries lasted about ½ as long as they should. The heat also caused the radios to overheat and stop working until they cooled down. So, we changed batteries often and radios as necessary. We had acceptable conditions during the weekend. We look forward to next year with a better logging and rig control protocol. Overall,a very fun event albeit tiring.

W0C rover 604 SSB
KI5MM operator

I operated for the second time in KS as Rover. W0C call was used. Saturday started off on the wrong foot. First I loaded my Sunday may in GPS. Then computer issues started. Fried 2 of them. Third one worked. Glad I had backups. Bands were tough to start but had callers on 20 most of the weekend and 40 was good most of the time for a few QSO's. Sunday I had 15 open for a bit but nothing on 10 M. I ended up covering 14 counties and only 1 official POTA park.
Thanks to all the many chasers that followed me around for this one. No detailed list yet. The new APRS tracker was fun.

Big thanks to Bob for putting on a great contest.

73 Lee
KI5MM

W9V rover 242 cw 17 SSB
N0LMQ operator

Operated as a rover in three counties Saturday and three counties Sunday. Three counties per day doesn't seem like it, but it was too ambitious for me as I spent much of my weekend driving between counties and not as much operating time as I would have liked. I operated with a full sized 20 meter vertical and 7 radial wires each of which was up to 30 feet in length. The vertical had a small loading coil for 40 meters. Much of my setup time was spent on the antenna. I got to see Pomona Lake State park, the Ottawa city park, Hillsdale Lake State park, South Park in Lawrence, the Perry/Lecompton boat ramp on the Kaw, and the Basehor city park though, each of which was very nice in its own way. Depending upon how finicky my antenna was behaving at the time I was delivering between 15 and 35 watts from my FT 891 to the antenna.

W0J rover 330 SSB QSO
KA1VRY operator

A modest score for my first KSQP, but the real achievement was in the Parks on the Air references that I was able to activate. Before making the trip for the contest, I had 65 parks left to activate in Kansas. Following the contest trip, I have 13 left to go. During the time for the contest, I activated 17 parks across 11 different counties...

Day 1: Finney (x2), Ford (x2), Hodgeman, Pawnee (x2*), Barton (x3*), Stafford, Ellis

(I activated the Santa Fe Trail at Fort Larned NHS in Pawnee County AND at Pawnee Rock SHS in Barton County)
Day 2: Graham, Rooks (x3), Phillips, Norton

Driving took up a TON of my time this go-around. I expect to be on the air more next year, now that I have activated most Kansas parks at least once. I also discovered my new favorite state parks in Kansas on this trip: Meade SP (Meade County) and Lake Scott SP (Scott County). Highly recommend if anyone is looking for a good spot to camp and do a fixed station. I am also putting together some POTA documentation, for anyone who would like to try doing both.
KA1VRY operator

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N6MU fixed CA CLEAN SWEEP 279 CW QSO 105 counties

My goal every year for the KQP is a CW Sweep. Bob, W0BH, provides an incredible amount of data on the website to help plan. The "2026 Counties" file does most of the work for you. It shows who will be on which days and using which modes for every county. For an example I found N0Q was the only CW activity for 8 of the 105 counties Saturday only. I better not miss any of them or my Sweep was in peril. Bob does a great job getting all counties covered every year so all 105 would be on with CW activation. Armed with a great plan things were going well Saturday until about 19Z. The one thing Bob can't help with is propagation. First, the usually dependable 15 meters was dead both days. Second, 20 meters took a dive for an hour or so and I missed N0Q in 2 of those 8 counties. I couldn't hear him at all. There goes my Sweep! I carried on and at the break I still needed 22 counties. Using Bob's wonderful data I found all but the two missed counties were scheduled to be on Sunday. I normally touch base with Bob at the break and he said let him see what he could do about my dilemma. I woke up Sunday morning to the news that N0L(N0QD) had volunteered to reroute to a three county line that included the two I missed. Propagation cooperated and all the counties were on as scheduled. Result? SWEEP!

I hope others will try for the Sweep. I'm just running low power to a vertical. If I can do it... Don't get me wrong. It's not easy but what a feeling of accomplishment when you achieve it. Thanks to all the stations there that made it possible and to Bob for another outstanding Party! 73...

John, N6MU TS-570 & 5BTV

OM2VL fixed DX Clean Sweep 105 counties 278 cw 115 ssb

Condx was not good, especially on Saturday. K index was 3-5, 15m dead and 20m also not as usually. It was clear for me that impossible the SWEEP this year... (what a mistake :))

The only band for me till 22:20Z when the band closed was 20m. It was hard to break the USA wall many times and many spotted stations I didn't heard especially on SSB. Many thanks to mobiles who were QRV also on 20m.
At 22:20 I QSY on 40m and during the last hour I logged some QSO also on 80m.
After the first day I had in my LOG 248 QSO and 91 multipliers. Last year 468 QSO!

I checked my missed counties (CLK, EDW, GLY, MTN, OSB, PAW, RIC, ROO, SEW, STA, STE, WAB, WAL, WIL) all of them was announced also on Sunday, but 6 of them was as 1st county during the route ... It seemed impossible mission to break the USA pileup 6x during 20-30 minutes. Fortunately the condx was a little bit better than on Saturday, and I worked all of them.

At 14:00Z N0R/SEW but I think the hardest QSO was W0C/WAL on SSB. Fortunately I got Lee at my first call at 1403Z. Followed by: W0O/WAB, N0S/OSB, K0Q/GLY, K0A/WIL, N0Q/ROO, K0S/CLK, N0U/STA, N0U/EDW, N0U/PAW, N0R/MTN, N0U/RIC and at 18:41Z SWEEP with N0R/STE - thanks a lot Alan!!!
I worked K0W from all of his counties and usually 1 or 2 calls - thanks Dragan!
Most QSOs with K0A - thanks Connie!

On Sunday opened also 15m, but usually there were very weak signals and many didn't copy me. Only 27 QSO this year, in 2025 200+ ....

I worked 65 1x1 stations + KS0KS (missed: K0B,H,Z - N0J,V - W0H,M,N,U,Y)

Thanks a lot for the QSO's - FB job from ALL mobiles!

K0A 36/18
K0W 33/24
K0S 26/18
W0E 26/17
N0R 23/23
W0O 23/19
N0Q 18/17

N0U 14/13
W0W 13/12
W0C 13/10
W0B 13/9
N0T 10/10
N0Z 9/3
N0S 5/3
K0T 4/4
K0D 3/3

(5): N0A

Thanks Bob for organizing again excellent QP!

73, Laci OM2VL

N8II fixed WV clean sweep! 405 CW 299 SSB

It was quite a weekend with great Kansas activity! Amazing that I made more QSO's with KS than FL which gets great mobile support. The amount of operation on county lines with quite a few quads active really adds up. Many thanks to all of the ops who traveled far to make it fun for everyone. K7TQ and friend from ID and John, W0ZQ from MN definitely have long drives. Congrats to John for a very impressive rover total of 2374 Q's for 349K all with an old radio and Hamstick antennas! And congrats to Con, K5CM with XYL N5KW for mobile scores of 3165 Q's/460K and 402/101K. Con reported 79 Q's with me and 56 with N0HJZ. I found Con on 15 CW; then he asked for QSY to SSB then up to 10M which was amazingly open thanks to Es! That alone was worth 16 Q's. The odds of an Es opening in late August during the 2 days I would guess to be less than 5%. Then there was the LAARK invasion of 5 TX ops all on the REN/KIN line with one op also in SED. Mark, KI0I/K0I did his usual great job of moving around the bands/modes portable from a 4 cty. line on Saturday to a 3 line Sunday making 2197 Q's. We connected Sunday on 10/15 for 12 QSO's. Mark, N0T and Dragan, K0W were QSO machines! Dragan can hear incredibly well which was worth several Q's for me.

Things sounded about as good as possible at the opening bell with decent signals on 40 and 20 already wide open. I worked 67 QSO's in the first hour. However, 40 faded fast by 1445Z and was nearly dead from here to KS by 16Z until about 1930Z.
15M open mainly to western KS only good enough for 23 Q's mainly with ops on

county lines. The 19Z hour was good for 53 Q's almost all on 20. By 20Z 20M was fading and by 21Z I knew conditions were disturbed as activity and signal levels were way down. The 22Z hour was good for 50 Q's, 28 on 40 and 22 mainly western KS on 20M. Around 00Z conditions started to improve with much better signals on 40 and 80M starting to open well before the KS sunset. My first 80M Q was 0018Z a half hour past my sunset. By 01Z signals on 80 were very good with low QRN. The first 2 hours Sunday were good for around 40 Q's each thanks to good mobile/rover activity. It seemed most of the 20M pile ups on the M/R's were bigger than ever and it took a long time to work them down. The 18Z hour was the best Sunday thanks to the Es opening with 51 Q's.

After I knew 15/10 were wide open Sunday (some signals weak on 10), from 1740-1940Z I spent most of my time on 10/15M chasing spots and moving ops from 20/15M to 15/10M. I got a few SSB answers on 15M also. Many more QSO's could have been made if more KS ops had tried 15/10M. Thanks to the ops who moved up especially those on lines.

At the end of Saturday I had 480 Q's and 94 counties. The QSO total may have been a personal best. I figured I would probably fall short of a sweep. But Bob, W0BH being the helpful enthusiastic guy that he is checked my needs and told me all of them would be on Sunday with reliable ops. I worked 3 of them in the first 3 minutes. The last 5 worked were STA, EDW, DEC, HAM, and Hodgeman provided by Bob himself on 15 CW at 1749Z. Bob gave me about 5 of the needed ones Sunday. Heartfelt congrats to Rich, N0HJZ for first MN and probably first Midwest sweep ever; Laci, OM2VL probably a repeat from last year overcoming SSB band restrictions on 40 and a lot of distance, and John, N6MU with his ground mounted vertical (and many sweeps!).

My score this year was about my 2nd highest ever. The highest was thanks to a lot of Q's with W0BH/K0WHY. This year was best for the rest of the KS ops.

Bob, W0BH/K0S deserves a huge amount of credit for organizing, participating, and adjudicating the Kansas QP! Thank you so much. And thanks to all of the ops who made the 2026 KQP and the other KQP's so special. In state activity and mobiles/rovers/portables breed out state activity and make it so much better than most over QP's. Thanks so much for all of the QSO's and activating all of the counties (all at least twice?) that would have been missed otherwise.

73, Jeff

Colorado QSO Party

This year the CO QSO Party was very active! Several mobiles, dozens and dozens of counties on the air. Portables in parks on C/L, too. There are 65 counties in CO.

From the 3830 contest reflector:

KA6BIM fixed OR 113 cw 63 SSB CW Mults 38 Ph Mults 31

The only daytime band was 20 mtrs. 10, 15 & 6 were dead here. 40 was usable the first hour and then towards the end of the contest. Bounced between 40 & 80 the last hour. The rovers were fun to chase. No new counties worked. One rover had indicated he was going to be in 2 of the 3 I needed but he was a no show. It was a fun contest. Thanks for the QSO's Dave ka6bim

OM2VL fixed DX 93 cw 51 SSB CW Mults 34 Ph Mults 29

COQP this year was on the very "bad" weekend. 2nd weekend in Sept, is WAE SSB contest - one of my favourite contests and usually I took part in every year. The plan was same also this year, it mean just 2-3 QSO for State QSO Party Challenge ...

For some reason I cant took part in WAE and I can fully focused to Colorado stations. It was announced also 2 mobiles with 6 needed counties for my various Awards.
The most important county was Gilpin - my last missed county from CO for my Only 20m Award (now I need only 4 to reach all 3.077)

Unfortunately it seems something happened with W0ML/M (all 6 needed counties was on his route), because I don't seen any spot and no any QSO.

Fortunately 20m was very good. At the start with some very low signals, but was open so long. I checked also 15m, SSB part was full of USA stations, but on CW not many from CO. 10m never opened here.
On 40m mostly weak signals, BUT!!!!!

I made a big mistake .... (never before happened). I thought that QP would end at 04 local time, but it was 04Z (2 hour later) so I stopped at 02Z and went home. I just recognized it During these 2 hours I Missed sure some multipliers and some or many QSO, it would be a very nice score ....

Thanks for the QSOs!

73, Laci

N8II fixed WV 34 cw 33 SSB CW Mults 21 Ph Mults 21

My operating was not very well in sync with CO activity; apparently, it was improved with the new admin team from Grand Mesa Contesters. I agree with the new start time, 8 AM MDT is plenty early enough. I operated the first 55 minutes and didn't have much to show for it. I guess the portables and mobiles were a little slow to get started on 20M. After a visit from my friend was over, I then operated an hour from 1847-1947Z, then off for US Open tennis and dinner until 2309Z. The afternoon hour showed pretty good activity. 15M was poor enough that K0A could not here me. By 23Z it seemed most ops must had already gone to 40M. I had very poor results then CQ'ing on 20M SSB or finding any CO ops S&P. 40M was open well enough at that time to work portables and only got better as the sunset moved into CO. At 02Z 80M was in excellent shape but very few CO ops found. I even managed to work K0A/M there on CW.

Thanks for the QSO's and glad to see the improved activity and one visitor K5CM/K0A/M with XYL N5KW who I missed working.

73, Jeff

K0RV portable 280 CW 360 SSB

This was a portable operation at Rifle Gap State Park in Garfield County, Colorado. Members of the Ski Country Amateur Radio Club simultaneously operated both POTA (US 1237)and the Colorado QSO party. A total of 17 people participated in calling and logging.

K0IM portable 630 cw 534 SSB

I wanted to activate portable from some of the rarer counties, so I found a 3-county spot in the eastern plains at the convergence of Logan, Washington and Yuma counties and received permission from the landowner, a wheat farmer. It was remote — even though it was on a county road, I only saw three vehicles pass the entire time, and I think each time it was the landowner! He stopped by to see what the heck I was doing. Super friendly guy.

The location turned out to be on somewhat of a rise. Because the land was sloping away from me for quite a distance on a 180 degree span, I think it made for a nice spot for the antennas: the Aerial-51 (a reconfigured OCFD) on a 35 foot mast, and a screwdriver antenna on the back of my van.

I ran for almost the entire time. I did CW dueling CQs on 20 and 40 for the first few hours, but there was little activity on 40 meters until later. When things would get slow on CW, I would switch to phone. I chased W0ZA based on spots but could never hear him.

I worked one DX station, OM2Vl. It sounds like he worked many of us! I ended up working about 42 states.

In the early evening, when things got slow, I considered shutting down the station. But then I worked Amanda at WE0FUN and heard the pileup she had, so I started running again and was glad I did, because I had a good steady rate for the next 1–2 hours.

Activating three counties presented a challenge on CW that I didn't expect: the long exchange "LOG/WAS/YUM" seemed to confuse some people. I assume it was especially people who were just expecting me to send "CO". Several times I would respond to strong stations, I'd give my exchange, and then nothing — they didn't respond even after I called them again. So I assume they thought my keyer was on the fritz and they just spun the dial!

I was disappointed to get zero VHF contacts. I tried both 6m and 2m for about an hour, but no luck, which I guess makes sense because of my remote location. I also had hoped to work more counties.

One thing that probably limited my Qs was that I couldn't self-spot from N1MM (because the node didn't allow it), and I had connectivity problems when trying to get spots in N1MM. So I had to rely on the spots page on the COQP website, and do several

self-spots on dxheat.com.

In the end I had about 385 QSOs, multiplied by 3 for the three counties, and 111 multipliers.

It was a ton of fun and I'm looking forward to next year.

WT0RJ portable 76 cw 55 SSB

Wasn't able to get out early or stay out late, so missed a lot of 40m Colorado contacts. POTA activations from US-0225 (Jefferson County) and US-4406
(Boulder/Gilpin County line).

WY7AA probable JCA/LAR 220 SSB

1000 bonus points for 2 counties.

W0ZA mobile 305 CW

Activated 14 counties, Douglas, Elbert, Arapahoe, Adams, Washington, Lincoln, Crowley, Otero, Bent, Prowers, Kiowa, Cheyenne, Kit Carson, and Bonus County Yuma. Total miles 640, total hours 15. Propagation on 40 was dismal Saturday, 20 meters fairly deceit and 15 meters was totally dead all day. Developed a power supply problem and had to resort to operating at 50 watts instead of 100. Self-spotting was a life saver, barely made 15 qso's for the minimum requirement for county activation in a few counties. Either conditions changed or operators took a break. Thanks to my driver for going the distance with me and putting up with Colorado's lousy roads. Thanks for all the stations finding and working me, especially N6MU and OM2VL.

Rigs: Icom 7100 and Icom 706
Antennas: Ham Sticks Single Band 15, 20, 40 meters
Power Supplies: Deep Cycle Batteries and 120vac Inverter as back-up
Logging: N1MM

K0A (K5CM) 514 CW 188 SSB

Pam (W0B/N5KW) and I (K0A/K5CM) operated single-op separately sharing the one radio. She will do her own write up under W0B. Our First time to operate the COQP in-state, so a little learning curve to know our way around the state. At least it was cooler than Oklahoma has been the last several weeks.
All Q's are important but here is a list of the most worked:

26 KA6BIM
25 WB9HFK
21 W0B W0UC
20 OM2VL
17 N6MU
14 N8II
13 K2KAR
10 WA5DTK
9 K9CW NE8P WA2JQK WA6KHK WA9LEY
8 AA3R
7 N7EPD NV4T WA5SOG WB8ASI
6 K4BAI K4XU K9PW ND0C VE3YT

73, Connie / K5CM

W0B (N5KW) mobile 188 CW 219 SSB

This was my first time to be in Colorado so that was a pleasure to see that the entire state isn't snow and mountains! Connie warned me that conditions are always better further east for QSO parties. I told him we will create our own conditions and pile ups. I don't know why I dispute anything radio wise he ever tells me....Maybe i just like eating crow. It was a fun drive, a long Saturday, and a different route back to Northeastern OK on Sunday seeing places we'd never been. As to the contest, it rates up there with one of the most expensive per QSO ever.hi hi Total of 1111 Q's between us, 1200 miles at the most expensive gas prices ever and a couple of nights of hotels. It was still fun to do something different.
Thanks to everyone for following us around. Whether you worked me 18 times, or once....you are all appreciated when we are sitting on the county lines. See you in the next pile up (Texas next weekend).

Some of the most worked:
18 KA6BIM WB9HFK

15 W0UC
14 OM2VL
13 N6MU
7 K2KAR K9CW
6 K6ACW VA6RCN WA5SOG
5 K9JK W4NZ WA6KHK WA9LEY
4 K2MN K8MV N5VBP N7EPD ND0C NE8P

73, Pam W0B/N5KW

K0GUZ portable Elkhead Park 51 CW 2 SSB

Glad to see the rebirth of this classic QSO party. We did a county line between Routt and Moffat Counties at the Elkhead Reservoir State Park which is also POTA US-1218. I'm not confident I entered everything properly in N1MM.

Mobile Activity in September

At the beginning of the month

N8HAM was in IA for over a dozen counties. For many days Went into SD. Lots more counties. Then to WY and MT. To UT.

KB6UF was in LA. Later took trip to run dozen in AR. Then into OK

N8OYY busy in WV

W0GXQ was in NE along with N0KV. Then into SD for many there. Into WY

K3IMC popped up in CO.

NA8W spotted in CO and UT.

NF0N spotted in NE headed west

NU0Q popped up in WY headed weest

W4SIG put out UT counties on way to Ogden Ut

W4SIG and K8ZZ ran counties in NV. Zipped all over. Then into CA.

Mobiles headed home from convention

W0GXQ and N0KV to CO

N8HAM via CO,

NA8W via WY m CO

AB7NK/.K7SEN were in MT. To ID. Then into OR.

NU0Q via WY back to IA.

Iowa QSO Party

KA6BIM fixed OR 49 cw 37 ssb Mults56

Lots of activity this year with multiple rovers and portable stations. Special thanks to Rich, N0HJZ operating as K0I who went out of his way (literally) and modified his route to give me Calhoun county, the last one I needed for Iowa. It was a challenging weekend with 4 different State QSO Parties going on.

Thanks for the QSO's Dave Ka6bim

OM2VL fixed DX 52 CW 21 SSB 51 mults

I was very busy with TX mobiles, but when was spotted K0I, W0ZQ, K0PC, WI0WA I QSY and missed only few from his counties. Thanks for the QSOs!
K0I 23/22
K0PC 18/14
WI0WA 11/8
W0ZQ 11/7

73, laci

N8II fixed WV 50 CW 42 SSB Mults51

Welcome to the MN mobile IA QSO Party. Those hungry for glory for the fun of it ops did a great job of putting out IA counties some quite rare. I had to attend my granddaughter's 2nd birthday party leaving the shack at 1438Z until next QSO at 1709Z about 2-1/2 prime hours off the air or face the wrath of XYL and others. The party was nice but could have been smaller, very good food! So, considering that handicap, I was very pleased with the result. There were great conditions between here and IA on 20, good on 40, and very good but almost no one there on 80 that saved the day.

There were some IA portables, K0IM and K0KDS come to mind. Also worked W0IS/M from MN a few times. Pat,K0PC, Jon,W0ZQ, and Rich K0I/N0HJZ operating mobile did a great job. It looks like Rich had some driving help from his XYL which helped when he was facing some flooding I think, and a reroute to give KA6BIM his last county. Rich had persistent QRM from an N6 working TXQP, you know who you are, pretty rude. I worked John in rare Cerro Gordo on 15/20/40/80M! The nearest bathroom/food had to be a long way away. The 15M Q was on scatter to the S/SW, my only 15M QSO; I looked for others.

Thanks much for all of the QSO's and counties.

73, Jeff

W0ZQ mobile 479 cw 341 SSB

Two detours due to flooded roads. Dreary day in usually beautiful Iowa. Radio conditions were not much better either.

Suggestion for the rules committee; loose the flaky county line rule to make it more

appealing (and safer) to rovers, how about a rover class, and how about making all Qs the same value.

Thanks to the Story Cty ARC for sponsoring, I hope to be back next year. 73, Jon

K0PC mobile 784 CW QSO

Rover operation from my native state. Always good to travel familiar roads again. Conditions started poorly but picked up later, especially on 40M. 15M never produced much. Headed home before 80M came into play.
Thanks to everyone who followed me around all day.
73, Pat K0PC

K0I mobile 893 SSB QSO
N0HJ opr

Poor conditions on the bands made for a slow day. It was great to hear old friends calling in though!

Top QSO Counts:
AA3R - 33
KA6BIM - 26
N8II - 25
OM2VL - 23
WA1SAY - 23
N6MU - 21
WN4AFP - 17
KN6VTC - 17

Iowa needs to change their scoring system. There is no way for a Phone Op to compete when CW QSO's are worth twice as many points.

Despite the low QSO counts, it was a fun day and great to hear everyone. Thanks to everyone who called in!

Rich N0HJZ

WI0WA mobile 500 CW QSO

Rain, rain, rain! We just got back from our Colorado summer where you couldn't buy rain and here in Iowa we can't shut it off.

The QSO party plans just didn't work this year. I had planned on doing a POTA style operation with my QRP rigs outside. The forecast said I better operate from the mobile shack low power, which we did. At our 1st stop we had a late start because of rain. Then after starting the rain was so intense it was hard to copy stations below the rain static which was usually >S9. My best 40m antenna was effected by the rain and wouldn't work requiring re-tuning my 15/20m antenna for 40m. The 40m antenna never did recover. The QRN at our next stops improved.

The last county, Polk, was operating from the driveway at home after dinner. I wrapped it up at 500 QSOs.

Thanks for your QSO, Bill N0AC

KE0TT rover 101 CW

Ten Tec Eagle running 80 watts to two hamsticks on top of a Honda Pilot. Rainy day with flood warnings, but no travel problems, and traffic was nearly none, so a good day to drive to IA and back to MN. Thanks for the Q's and the Fun! 73, Dan ke0tt

N0GJW portable 81 cw 124 SSB

The Iowa QSO Party is usually a little lower on my contest calendar, as it tends to fall on one of the last good-weather weekends of the year here in Iowa. This year, however, I decided to do something a little different and went portable. This was a VERY casual operation.

The logger shows about 7.5 hours of operating time, although plenty of time was spent stopping to check on the antenna. The weather certainly didn't make things easy. Saturday brought extremely strong winds and rain, which made keeping everything up and running a challenge.

Thanks to everyone who worked me, especially those who found me on both modes. A special thanks to AK0Z, N3QE, and WB0VZK for helping make this operation possible.

And an even bigger thanks to the XYL, who willingly put on a raincoat and walked around a waterlogged field to help me get the dipole in the air.

See you in the next one.

73,
Gawain, N0GJW

AM Radio in Cars

Recently, the House of Representatives passed a bill which would require car makers to install AM radios in any vehicle with a 'radio' . It will now go to the Senate for action but don't expect much to happen

Big interest groups are anxious to preserve the market for AM....much of which is now sports talk shows, ethnic and minority programming, Spanish stations, talk shows, etc.

There are over 1000 AM stations.....hundred of thousands in adverting...

While some of the biggies simulcast on FM as well, most do not. EV's are a real problem. .

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This bill requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to issue a rule requiring AM radio capabilities to be standard in all new passenger vehicles. (AM radio is often used to deliver emergency alerts and news and entertainment programming; some newer vehicles do not include AM equipment.)

Specifically, this bill applies to passenger vehicles (1) manufactured in the United States for sale in the United States, imported into the United States, or shipped in interstate commerce; and (2) manufactured after the rule's effective date. The rule must require all such vehicles to have devices that can receive signals and play content transmitted by

AM stations or digital audio AM stations installed as standard equipment and made easily accessible to drivers.

Prior to the rule's effective date, manufacturers that do not include devices that can access AM radio as standard equipment (1) must inform purchasers of this fact through clear and conspicuous labeling, and (2) may not charge an additional or separate fee for AM radio access.

DOT may assess civil penalties for any violation of the rule. The Department of Justice may also bring a civil action to enjoin a violation.

DOT's authority to issue the rule expires 10 years after the bill's enactment.

Further, the Government Accountability Office must study and report on the dissemination of emergency alerts to the public, including by conducting an assessment of AM broadcast stations relative to other Integrated Public Alert and Warning System communication technologies.

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It was introduced to the Senate and has gone nowhere to date.

While most county hunters don't listen to AM, having cars that are RF proof at AM means RF noise on HF likely very low too!

Pictures from National Convention

Courtesy of N8HAM - Thanks





YL s



CW Operators

Texas QSP Party

There are 254 counties in TX. Looks like about 140 were on the air for the QSO Party.

AD4EB mobile 3033 CW QSO

42 Counties Driven

Another TQP is now over, our 8th time as a mobile, and it was a good one. Our goal was to try and beat our current record score from 2023 (1,076,742), and we just missed it by a hair. One more multiplier is all it would have taken. Band conditions seemed really good for us in upper Texas, and the weather and traffic

was perfect for Melody. It would have been better if 10m had opened up, and shorter skip on 15m, but 20 certainly kept me busy enough.

Our average rate was around 168/hour (154 on Sat, 196 on Sun). Here are the top 21 stations that worked us:

OM2VL (67) - Congrats Laci!
DL3DXX (65) - FB Dietmar, so close
KV8Q (54) - Way to go Tom, how do you do it?
KU8E (45)
AA3R (44)
N5RZ (44)
NE8P (43)
K4ZGB (41)
K9CW (41)
WA6KHK (39)
WA2QAU (38)
AA5JF (37)
DL5AXX (36)
KA6BIM (36)
VE7SK (36)
W2RQ (36)
N8II (35)
VE3YT (35)
K0AP (34)
N5JJ (34)
N5XZ (34)

OM2VL Laci and DL3DXX Dietmar were neck and neck throughout the contest. One would ask me to move up to 15m, and the other DX stations would follow (like DL5AXX Ulf). Hats off to Tom KV8Q, who was the top NA station using his attic antennas.

Melody did her usual fine job of driving, navigating, and keeping us right on schedule. We had to take one major detour due to construction on Hwy 59 in Harrison County which got us a little behind. Traffic was better than usual, especially around Dallas/Fort Worth.

Thanks to everyone that worked us, the TQP committee, and to Chuck NO5W for all his help with the contest. And thank you Melody for the driving us all over

Texas (728 miles), we all appreciate you.

73 – Jim – AD4EB and Melody – KI4HVY

N5NA mobile 1257 CW

Thanks to everyone who gave me a call!

I had a few minor Murphy visits this year. It started when the doorknob came off in my hand when I closed the back door leaving the house Saturday morning. Next visit was when we turned to go south on FM604 and there was a big light up sign that said "road closed". Not believing signs we went on thinking we could slip by but a bridge was being repaired. So had to find a detour.

Sunday morning we were set to head out when my wife asked if I'd fed the dog. Nope. Couldn't let Magnus go hungry so had to unload him and give him something to eat, which put us a little behind schedule. Then when I got to Ward county CQ/X didn't detect the county so I had to switch to manual mode. (CQ/X automatically detects the county, updates the CW macro with the county, and shows the distance & time to the next county.) I had the same problem with Crockett county. I later found a couple of polygon files which are used for county detection were corrupted.

The last visit was at the Crocket-Crane county line. I did a county line operation there. My original plan was to enter as Mixed mode and make a few SSB QSOs from the county line after the CW QSOs. Unfortunately I couldn't get any mic audio into my K3 with the Heil Pro 7 I brought along. I knew I should have tested that before the QSO party!

A special thanks to my wife, K5AKS, for driving all weekend and to Magnus for being a good boy in the back seat.

Equipment: Elecraft K3, Dell Latitude 5420 Rugged running CQ/X de NO5W, Scorpion SA-680 antenna, Ford F250 Superduty antenna support.

73, Alan N5NA

Thanks to the following stations for contributing more than half the QSOs: OM2VL(34), DL3DXX(32), K9CW(30), W5LXS(26), N5RZ(25), KA6BIM(23), WB5BKL(22),

WA6KHK(21), K0AP(21), W8PI(20), AA5JF(18), N5MI(18), WB2PJH(18), WA2QAU(18), AD4EB(17), N8II(16), N5JJ(16), WB9HFK(16), AA3R(16), F4EUG(16), K8MFO(15), N5XZ(14), NX5M(14), W0UC(14), W5TM(14), WA5DTK(14), KK5MR(13), K3TW(12), W0VX(12), HA8IB(12), K5WA(12), K2SG(11), HA9RE(11), WA8ZBT(11), NE8P(10), KG5IEE(10), N7IR(10), AJ4F(9)

K5T oper N5GG 1237 CW QSO

Thank you all for a great TXQP.
Saturday was a COUNTYLINE operation at PPIN/STEP from a campside on POTA Palo Pinto Mountains SP US-3047.
Sunday just a lazy home operation in DENT.
Had a lot of fun.
Rig: FT-710 @ 100W
Antenna: Dipoles at 33ft.
Outside temps @100F... burning the extra calories :-)
73 de K5T - Op N5GG Colin

K5CM mobile 1454 CW 341 SSB

Conditions in general were OK considering the SSN is on the decline. I think more Q's could have been had on 15 meters if more station would have checked the band. Pam (N5KW) and I both operate Single-op sharing the one K3. We had about 2600 total Q's. As always every Q is important, but here are some of the most worked:

41 OM2VL
34 W0UC
32 KA6BIM
26 K2KAR N8II
23 AA3R
22 DL3DXX K8MV NE8P
21 KV8Q
20 AA5JF K3TW
16 N5RZ WA2QAU
15 K8MFO WB9HFK
14 N7EPD N7IR
13 K0AP N5XZ NX5M WB5BKL WN4AFP WO4O
11 KU8E ND0C W8PI WA5SOG WA8ZBT WB2PJH
10 AA0AW K0TRL K4BAI N5VBP N6AR VE3KP W0VX

9 K0TC K9CW KE4Q N6TQ N8DNA W2RQ W5LXS WA2JQK WA6KHK
8 K2TNO KN6VTC N0TT N5JJ W9QL

The Chowtaw Casino on the OK/TX line helped pay for our gas and motel. Pam and I made a pit-stop there on the way back home. While waiting for me she put a $20 in a machine and immediately hit $316. Needless to say quickly cashed out.
73,

Connie / K5CM

KT3X mobile 995 CW 75 SSB QSO

Main mobile rig went out Friday night, but I had tossed a spare in the car - no PC rig control though. WinKeyer failed Saturday morning, leaving me with manual keying. I contemplated heading home, but decided to give it a run anyway. Nice rove of south Texas with a few Border Patrol checkpoints along the way. Bands were better than predicted and it seemed there was plenty of activity all weekend.

N5KW XYL -(rides with K5CM) 995 CW 75 SSB

All said and done I'm glad to be back home. Now to rest up and get ready for the final run of QSO parties. Connie never ceases to amaze me how he can run pileups, navigate, operate through my lead foot driving, nurse me through a major migraine sat night and be ready to roll first thing Sunday morning! That was probably easier on him than fixing all my goof ups with the logging!

I always enjoy the three and four county lines and watching the q's pile up. those one and two counties are WORK hihi Its always fun being chased and working all our followers and keeping up with everyones adventures. As much as you enjoy us activating the states.....we REALLY appreciate you being out there to work us and all the kind comments. See you all in the next party from the home qth.
Pam N5KW

K5K oper K5CCW 336 CW 280 SSB

Enjoyed the event. Glad to help put on a good contest for Texas and glad to

work with my local club Lake Area Amateur Radio Klub. Shout out to all my friends and mentors, KD2KW, N5GG, W5JK, K5PTB, KE5CW, and of course KC4EEL (Bentley) long time friend and original QSO Party friend who did an amazing job this year and did the planning by getting a place on the county line. Enjoyed it. Looking forward to next year!!

N5NU mobile 493 cw 72 SSB

Early in the week, I made a rough plan to do the TQP and do a "mobile" operation. I mapped out the counties, planned stops, and made a rough schedule for myself. I stuck to it about 75%.

WALKER - Started off at home with my EFHW along the side of the house. Started on 40. Lots of TX mults picked up right off the bat that I never heard again. 58 QSOs.

TRINITY - Went down a dirt road about a mile to a secluded cemetery and set up my 20m vertical in the grass outside the fence. Started on 20 and went to 40. On 40, I had a 17' "stinger" at the top of the whip and a single counterpoise. It wasn't very loud. It was so bad that I ditched it for the rest of the trip. 50 QSOs.

HOUSTON - Stopped at a church garage sale and picked up some lunch on the way. Went to see my buddy Justin, who works at Mission Tejas State Park and sat up there. Bands kinda took a dive for a bit but came back. Very strange. 99 QSOs

CHEROKEE - Went to the Caddo Mounds State Historic Site and operated. Bands had completely rebounded. I had ZERO service to spot myself, but obviously someone did! Some of the best rate of the day. 94 QSOs.

RUSK - I added this one, as I was ahead of schedule. Scary moment -- nearly electrocuted myself, as I didn't look above where I was extending the whip. I was unknowingly under some power lines. Thank God I was about 4 below them. I had to take a moment and thank the Lord for sparing me. I was flustered and ready to leave. Only 27 QSOs.

NACOGDOCHES - I have 7 acres with an EFHW set up and a table in the barn. Went to 15m to try it out, then went to 40m. Caught it just right where I was working local and across the US simultaneously. After the pile dipped, went to 20m and worked there until close to dark. 160 QSOs

ANGELINA - The location I had scouted had "No loitering" signs posted everywhere. My backup had extremely hard ground, so I couldn't get the vertical set up. Honestly, I was tired, so I drove myself to Texas Burger, which was on the way home. 0 QSOs

Sunday morning, I had to drive to speak at church. I turned down lunch afterwards to try to get back on the air.

MONTGOMERY - Not a rare county, as I'd already worked it, but that's where the church was. Pileups noticeably down, and I cut it short to get moving toward home. 21 QSOs

LIBERTY - I didn't know that small piece of this county was on the way home until I saw the sign. I pulled into a small pull-off and put the vertical up. Not a ton of action, and I wanted to get moving. 16 QSOs

SAN JACINTO - In the parking lot of a trailhead in the Sam Houston National Forest. Intense pileup until the very end. 40 QSOs.

All of the CW was with my Vibroplex brass racer and the rig's internal memory keyer. At some point, I needed to adjust my keyer and didn't have the tool, so my CW sounded awful toward the end.

I thoroughly enjoyed it. There was no driver, just me. And I had to get out and set up the antenna at each location except for my home and the land out in Nacogdoches County. I'll work on getting the log submitted and QSOs uploaded to LOTW etc.

73, Jason N5NU

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DL3DXX fixed DX 280 cw Mults123

What a party again! 15m fair but not super good, 10m never opened.
20m difficult during daytime and closed around 20z. 40m as expected.
80m heard N5JJ but he could not hear me. 160m never tried.
Mobiles, rovers, park and fixed stations kept me busy :-)

OM2VL fixed DX 281 CW 89 SSB Mults 141

As usually, FB QSO Party! I missed some station when I worked my friends (N0HJZ, W0ZQ, KE0TT, K0PC, WI0WA)in IA QP. I made also 62 QSO in WA QP.

20m was good, 15m was also open, but many times weak stations. 10m never opened.

Most QSOs: (including dupes)
AD4EB 80/41
KT3X 43/24
K5CM 41/14
N5NA 34/24
N5KW 17/11
N5NU 11/9
K5EC 6/6
K5T 5/3
N5T 5/2

(5): NX5M
(4): W5JK

For my only 20m Award I need only Kimble county. (Kenedy got from KT3X-thanks a lot!)

Thanks for the QSOs!

73, Laci OM2VL

KA6BIM fixed OR 221 CW 67 SSB Mults125

Great fun and lots of activity. A handful of rovers kept me hopping as they toured the state. I worked 6 of the 16 Texas counties that I still need. I still need several at the top of the Panhandle by Oklahoma/New Mexico, in the far Western Corner by New Mexico and some along the Southern border. Although there were many TX operators on the air, I still only worked half of the 254 Texas counties. Special thanks to the rovers and portable stations who covered many of the sparse remote counties that we do not normally hear on the air: AD4EB, KT3X, N5NA, N5NU, K5EC, K5CM & N5KW.

Thanks everyone for the QSO's Dave Ka6bim

N8II fixed WV 177 CW 96 SSB Mults 113

It looks like I have the bragging rights for best LP score, but only TX stations get awarded for LP or QRP operation which seems unfair. Not only did I have the distraction of the IA, WA, and NH QP's but granddaughter's birthday party put me off for 2-1/2 hours Saturday starting 1440Z. I think I will minimize my WA SR activity next year because prop will be worse and activity is down. It seemed that TX activity on CW from the mobiles was pretty decent but 15M did not cooperate and 20M was weak to TX a bit Saturday and a lot Sunday. Phone activity seemed better than 2025. Establishing a mobile window would help decrease QRM and make them a bit easier to find. Several times I missed working a TX mobile because the pile up was big and the mobile was weak. At the end KT3X was found on a 3 county line all mults for me with 3 minutes to go, and the unruly pile up only allowed him to make a few QSO's, no luck for me. Otherwise he was easy to work. 40M was nearly completely closed or nearly so (no mobiles heard) from just after 14Z until 21Z. 15 was only open to S and W TX with poor activity. The low bands and even 20M 22Z and later were very noisy with storm QRN. I was able to run some stations on 20 SSB both days; Saturday I had almost continuous callers for 20-25 minutes between TX, IA, and WA, not fun to switch logs!

Many thanks to all of the mobiles who drove around the state. Alan, N5NA was good for 15 different counties and seemed to disappear for quite a while Sunday, perhaps some problem. K5CM was good for many Q's but only 12 different counties and XYL, N5KW for 6. I worked KT3X in 17 counties. Jim, AD4EB kept on the move strangely heading away from home Sunday ending up in the panhandle. Thanks for 30 different counties and a few more Q's! Other mobiles worked were N5NU, K5EC, and K5T.

After poor condx with KS, Laci, OM2VL had excellent conditions to TX far outpacing KA6BIM in the HP mixed race. N6MU reported he was booming into SOCAL all weekend on his ground mounted trap vertical. N5RZ was seldom loud here but made a lot of Q's running LP CW. And thanks to the LAARK guys for going out again on county lines.

The unruly constant calling pile up behavior on CW mobiles is getting worse slowing everyone down. Thanks to all for the QSO's, my highest score in a while for the TXQP. We all need to adjust to the decline of the solar cycle, no sunspots on Sunday for I think the first time since way before the cycle peak.

73, Jeff

Washington Salmon Run

Washington has 39 counties. Looks like top scorers had just over 30, most a lot less. Happened during busy weekend with TX QSO Party and others. No mobiles reported and fewer 'county expeditions' this year. Gas at $5-6 and diesel at $8 might have limited some.

From 3830 reflector:

N8II fixed WV 43 CW 63 SSB Mults27

Not a lot positive to say about the SR this year. Conditions were as expected down from previous 3 years, the reality of a declining solar cycle, no sunspots Sunday! But there were several very loud signals on 20M and 15M for hours. As you can see by the breakdown, 15M was very poorly attended by WA ops. My fairly long operating time is distorted as much effort was put into working IA and TX at the same time. I did work 58 stations Saturday, one good 20M SSB run. Sunday, I had much more time, but the WA activity was way down from past several years. I called CQ on both 20 and 15 SSB, very few answers. I did get calls from Ferry and a mobile not really competing in Grays Harbor. Without any known mobiles worked other than him, the multiplier total really suffered. I struggled through high QRM on 20 SSB to work K7A in PEND.

Some serious consideration should be given to shortening the operating period, just not enough activity on Sunday to sustain interest. I quit early at 2225Z rather than scraping up a few more Q's and not enjoying myself with the struggle.

Thanks for the QSO's and 73, Jeff

KA6BIM fixed OR 56 cw 123 SSB Mults35

I missed several late night hours on Saturday, which cost me many low band contacts. I was surprised at how many 20 meter contacts I worked on Back Scatter in the afternoon. I missed the Sweep by 4 counties this year. I expected more activity on CW, but maybe I just spent too much time on SSB. To me the Salmon run is more of an activity than a hard core contest. Nice to take some time and visit with some of the stations. Thanks for the QSO's

Dave Ka6bim

NJ QSO Party

There are 21 counties in NJ. Looks like top scorer worked 15 of them. No mobiles but a few portables (in parks)

from 3830 contest reflector:

N2Y rover 294 CW 354 SSB
Operator(s): KI2D NK2Y

US-1631 - Stephens State Park - Warren County
US-1608 - Allamuchy Mountain State Park - Sussex County
US-1620 - Hopatcong State Park - Morris County
US-4998 - Ramapo Mountain State Forest - Passaic

Yaesu FTDX-10 & Icom 7300 on a Sotabeams linked dipole on 40 & 80, and a Little Tarheel whip vertical on 20 & 40.

Excellent way to spend a Saturday!

OM2VL fixed DX 41 cw 3 SSB 0 Mults 14

no comments

Maine QSO Party

Hard to find a ME station other than a handful ….. most wait for the New England QSO Party to get on. No mobile. You can count other contacts as well, but most folks sat this one out or made just a few QSO. Scores tell nothing of ME stations worked....

New Hampshire QSO Party

Not much activity for this one. No mobiles. Most stations in NH wait for the New England QSO Party. Some got 7 or 8 mults but nearly all stations reporting only made a few QSO to claim credit for State QSO Party standings. Most reporting had no comments other than little activity.

from 3830 reflector:

KA6BIM fixed OR 12 cw 3 SSB Mults7

I managed to work the few NH stations that I found. Propagation was not great, and there was a lot of activity from other contests that made the NH stations harder to find. Thanks for the QSO's

Dave Ka6bim

Awards Issued

YL Mobile Award:

N1API completed level 3000. He received #12MBR>

ROADRUNNER AWARD:

N0KV Completed 1125 He received #12
N0KV Completed 1150 He received #10
N0KV Completed 1175 He received #11

W0GXQ Completed 1875 He received #4

N8HAM Completed 300 He received #84

K8ZZ Completed 1975 He received #3

AB7NK Completed 1775 She received #5
AB7NK Completed 1800 She received #5

K7SEN Completed 550 He received #38

WY7ML Completed 75 She received #287

W4SIG Completed 1600 He received #6

RAN ALL STATE AWARD:

N8HAM Completed all South Dakota He received #40
N8HAM Completed all Wyoming He received #33

SINGLE BAND AWARD:

K8ZZ Attained level 1000 on 10 meters He received #10

K8ZZ attained level 1000 on 12 meters He received #8
K8ZZ Attained level 1000 on 160 meters He received #4
K8ZZ Attained level 2000 on 17 meters He received #8
K8ZZ Attained level 1000 on 6 meters He received #5

WB4EVH Attained Level 2000 on 20 Meters: He received #3

USA-PA "K"

K8ZZ Completed USA-PA "K" He received #42

USCA All SSB

K0DEQ Completed all SSB He received #36

All SSB II

K8ZZ Completed All SSB II He received #8

Ran All State

K8ZZ Completed all New Mexico He received #39

WY7ML ran all Wyoming for the third time, She received #1

N0KV ran all Wyoming for the second time. He received #7

Nth Time Award:

K3IMC completed all counties for the 4th time. He received #179

5th Time Award: N3RM completed all counties for his 5th time. He received #127

Events for County Hunters

From 3830 state QSO party page. ARRL contest corral still not updated for October as of 9 30 2026.

California + California QSO Party 1600Z, Oct 3 to 2200Z, Oct 4, 2026

Arizona + Arizona QSO Party 1500Z, Oct 10 to 0500Z, Oct 11, 2026

Pennsylvania + Pennsylvania QSO Party 1600Z, Oct 10 to 0400Z, Oct 11, 2026 and 1300Z-2200Z, Oct 11, 2026

South Dakota + South Dakota QSO Party 1800Z, Oct 10 to 1800Z, Oct 11, 2026

New York + New York QSO Party 1400Z, Oct 17 to 0200Z, Oct 18, 2026

Illinois + Illinois QSO Party 1700Z, Oct 18 to 0100Z, Oct 19, 2026

That's all folks.