

County Hunter News

September 1, 2016

Volume 12, Issue 9

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.

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 Nets run on 14.0565, 10.122.5, and 7056.5, with activity occasionally on 3556.5 KHz. Also, there is SSB activity now is on 'friendly net' 7188 KHz and 14.324. The cw folks are now pioneering 17M operation on 18.0915. (21.0565, 24.9155, and 28.0565 when sunspots better). Look around 18136 or for occasional 17M SSB runs usually after the run on 20M SSB. (21.336 and 28.336)

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

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

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

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

For general information FAQ on County Hunting, check out:

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

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

find information on these awards and the rules at:

http://countyhunter.com/marac_information_package.htm

The CW net procedure is written up at:

<http://www.wd3p.net/ch/netproc/netproc.htm>

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

Want county lines on your Garmin GPS?

<http://pages.suddenlink.net/w4ydy/hamlinks.html#County>

Download the file to a flash card that fits in your GPS unit, turn it on, and the county lines should appear!

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

Notes from the Editor

1) The Annual Convention was held in Germantown, TN. Over 100 participated this year. It was great!

2) Propagation – continues to slide. There are fewer and fewer contacts made on 17M, and not much joy on 10m these days for domestic contacts. We are headed down in the sunspot cycle. 30M has been good at times. Probably a good time now to dust off those 30M resonators and home antennas.

3) The Dayton Hamvention announced that Hara Arena was closing and the new location would be the Greene County Fair Grounds. This looks like an even better location than Hara.

4) The MARAC Award Chairman is in 'transition'. Hold off on applying for awards until the new Chairman is up and running.

5) National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) continues to be a major activity on the bands as more and more join in on the fun!

On the Road with N4CD I

On the way to the convention

The big trip east started on a Sunday heading to the Memphis, TN area for the County Hunter National Convention up the same boring interstate I-30 and I-40. However, with the National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) still going strong, I could take a few short detours on the way to Memphis and still get there by evening. I could run some parks along the way – Hot Springs National Park NP30 and the Little Rock Central High School Historic Site HS-45. Both are about 2 hour detours by the time you get there, run the park, then get back on the route. Monday was also a work day, so I'd have to leave extra early to beat the Dallas rush hour traffic. Got early start. On road 6 15 am.

I wound up at a different spot in Hot Springs Park – tried the West Mountain Overlook. That's not as good as the Monument Tower site - while it is high up, it's near the town and a lot of QRN. The other site I ran before is a lot better but it takes another 20 minutes to wind your way up to the top of the hill at 15 mph or so. 70 QSOs went in the log from the park – ran 40M SSB as lots of mobiles were headed to TN for the convention – and just a few on the air from home. Garland County – not on the interstate. This was a 'repeat activation'. I'd been there before. You'll recall you need at least 10 contacts for an 'activation' credit. No problem. With all the mobiles on the road, it was easy to get 10 and 20 and 30 or more just from county hunters! Everyone was out mobile including teams. Everyone was headed to Germantown TN for the big get together! First did 40m SSB for county hunters on way to convention then CW run 20

and 40. Got 74Q. I aim for 100 but no time to stick around. Had to move on. On repeat activations, I'll settle for less than 100.

Next up was the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site in downtown Little Rock. It's always noisy as it's surrounded by power lines. However, you can work most of the stations calling with some effort. This is where the first high school was 'integrated' by seven brave students back in the 1950s. Made 49Qs – nearly all CW and moved on. I'd been there at least once or twice before. High noise for SSB operation. The time was middle of the day – and the middle of the day band slump.

Then it was on to the hotel in Germantown, TN.

Time for a quick break.....

On the Trail of Regens

Something 'new' finally showed up on Ebay. After months of scouring every flea market from Dayton OH to all the local ones, nothing had shown up. Then suddenly there are several interesting items up for sale with one 'new' one never even seen before. Well, it's a grey-panel early Ocean Hopper. I've seen them with black front panels.





So it will be added to the collection of Knight Kits – including some seldom seen ones. It's a 12J5 detector and 117P7 audio amp and rectifier.

N4CD is still on the hunt for regen receivers.

On the Road with N4CD II

At the convention

Monday Aug 1

The convention was held at a great hotel. Nice rooms, good parking, and good hospitality room. Joyce, WB9NUL, was keeping things going in the hospitality room.

Kerry, W4SIG, convention host, was everywhere making sure everything was going right.

I arrived on Monday afternoon and the lot was full of cars with antennas. More than 100 people showed up for this event. A few other folks staying at the hotel wondered if they'd been invaded by strange people from another planet with giant antennas on their cars.

Monday night was meet and greet at the meeting room. There were a few new faces there not seen often or at all at conventions.

I hit the hay after a few hours of yakking. Tomorrow would be a big tour day.

Tuesday August 2

Many people signed up for the guided tours today – first to Graceland, the mansion/estate where Elvis lived. It's a giant tourist attraction/tourist trap. Lots to see and if you are into Elvis, you could spend a day there. There are likely thousands of people a day touring the place.

We had a charter bus to take us from the convention hotel to the Graceland Complex.



Hopping on the Tour Bus



Graceland

You could see all the living areas, the hallway with all his gold records and awards, another large room with many of the costumes he wore. There was his car museum and lots more to see there.

At noon time we were back on the bus for a 'box lunch' then off to tour the music sites in Memphis, including a visit to Sun Records, where Elvis did his first recording.



Our host on the afternoon tour

By late afternoon we headed back to the hotel for the BBQ dinner.

Some stayed behind and participated in the music jam



Scottie, N4AAT, Gene, K5GE, Mitch W4RKV, Jaci N8RLJ, with Bonnie looking on.

Tuesday night was more yak and yak sessions. Folks were working on a jig-saw puzzle on one table.



Working on the Jig-Saw Puzzle

Wednesday Aug 3

Today we'd have the normal meetings – CW Meeting – Digital Meeting – Logger Updates. Later we'd have the formal MARAC board meeting. No other activities were planned for the day.

In the afternoon, I headed back into Memphis to get a quick activation at Riverside Park there. That's on the 'water route' for the Cherokee Trail of Tears national trail – TR12. It's not the least bit 'rare' but I'd get credit for another activation. Make a few dozen contacts and left. My car just can't seem to sit still for long! I'd never be the number 1 mobile for the NPOTA activations, but I could try to keep in second place!

Later we'd have the 'banquet' over at the Germantown County Club (nice) with an excellent dinner. First the usual pictures just before the dinner.



The entire group



CW Group

Let's see...who won the 'big prizes'? Karl, K4YT won the Kenwood TS-840 per-registration prize.



Karl, K4YT

Paul, N7JPF, won the Grand Prize in the Drawing – another TS-840S.



Paul, N7JPF

There were loads of prizes at the prize drawing – everyone went home with something.

Then it was back to the hospitality room. Most folks would be leaving the next morning heading home or on county hunting trips.

Here's who showed up in TN:

MARAC 48th Convention Attendees

Kerry Long (W4SIG) – Collierville TN
Amy Long – Collierville TN

Walt Ordway (K1DFO) – Rancho Palos Verdes CA

Chuck Secrest (NM1G) - North Kingstown RI
Sandy Secrest - North Kingstown RI

Al Kaiser (N2API) – Meriden CT

Barry Mitchell (N0KV) – Parker CO
Pat Mitchell (N0DXE) – Parker CO

Randy Hatt (AA8R) – Grant MI
Pattie Hatt (W8TAX) – Grant MI

Joyce Boothe (WB9NUL) – Santa Rosa TX
Barry Boothe (W9UCW) – Santa Rosa TX

Robert Voss (N4CD) – Plano TX

Phil Yasson (AB7RW) – Vancouver WA
Barbara Yasson (AC7UH) – Vancouver WA

Lowell Tennyson (KB0BA) – Blue Grass IA
Sandra Tennyson (N0XYL) – Blue Grass IA

Neil Vince (K7SEN) – Cordes Lakes AZ
Mary Vince (AB7NK) – Cordes Lakes AZ

Terry Dummler (WQ7A) - Yelm WA
Boni Dummler – Yelm WA

Ray Myers (WB0PYF) – St Louis MO
Debbie Myers – St. Louis MO

Brian Bird (NX0X) – Duluth MN
Shari Bird (KB0MHH) – Duluth MN
Cliff Bird (AC0B) – Saginaw MN
Kathy Bird – Saginaw MN

Jerry Mertz (W0GXQ) – Park Rapids MN

Darl Deeds (NA8W) – Findlay OH

Pam Deeds (KA8JQP) – Findlay OH

Ron Clift (N5MLP) – Magnolia TX
Evelyn Clift – Magnolia TX

Mike Nickolaus (NF0N) – South Sioux City NE

Ed Eklin (K8ZZ) –Topeka KS
Rev Kate – Topeka KS

Fred Groce (K0FG) – Sunrise Beach MO
Vee Jay Groce – Sunrise Beach MO

Jack Jacobs (WD4OIN) – Wilmington NC
Anita Jacobs (KG4IIL) – Wilmington NC

Robert Fuss (W4OWY) – Murrayville GA

Janie Kemp – Murrayville GA

Bill Claypool (NU0Q) – Ankeny IA
Karen Claypool – Ankeny IA

Carol R. Miller (AB2LS) – The Villages FL

Warren – The Villages FL

Jack Hubby (K0MAF) – Windsor MO
Linda Hubby – Windsor MO

Mitch Clemons (W4RKV) – Munford TN

Doug Hall (WA4UNS) – Sugar Grove NC

Bill Grew (WG9A) –Batavia IL
Sandy Grew – Batavia IL

Don Guy (W9GUY) – Walton In

Hollis Thigpen (KC3X) – Snow Hill NC

Karl Renz (K4YT) – Great Falls VA

“Joe” Lindley (WB0CQO) – Murray IA

David Hyatt (KU4YM) – Summerville SC

Ellen Hyatt – Summerville SC

Pete Beedlow (NN9K) – Colona IL
Nancy Beedlow – N9DQS – Colona IL

Paul Nelson (N7JPF) – The Dalles OR

James Curtis (N8HAM) – South Lyon, MI

Troy Warren (K5OH) – Lawton OK
Flo (K5FLO) – Lawton OK

Scottie Scott (N4AAT) – Lexington SC

Melda Scott – Lexington SC

Robert Woody (N8KIE) – Clarkston MI
Jaclyn (Jaci) Woody – Clarkston MI

John Almon (WA4JA) – Columbia TN

Don Flynn (K3IMC) – LaGrange GA
Jean Flynn (KJ4NIJ) – LaGrange GA

Larry Courtney (W7FEN)- Box Elder SD
Rita Carter – Box Elder SD

Norm Beavers (W3DYA) – Tyler TX
Karen Beavers – Tyler TX

Gene Barnes (K5GE) – Seguin TX
Mary Ida Barnes – Seguin TX

John Lord (K0PFV) – Omaha NE
Marian Lord (WA0VDO) – Omaha NE

Randy Cameron (AJ5ZX) – San Angelo TX
Janet (KC5QCB) – San Angelo TX

Jim Bussone (K4PBX) – Donaldsonville GA
Sharon Bussone (KA2TED) – Donaldsonville GA

Ron Jones (KB6UF) – Kentwood LA

George Lee (K5JF) – Longview TX

Roy Glasscock (Silver) (N9QS) – Collinsville IL

Ray Crampton (AB4YZ) – Troutville VA

Diane Crampton (KG4HOA) – Troutville VA

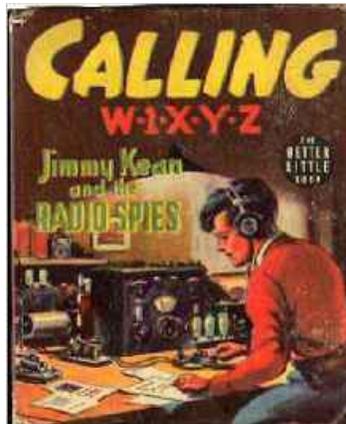
You can view pictures taken by NF0N at

<https://goo.gl/photos/2p3JEXYqkW52CBVe7>

Continued in Part III

Book Report of the Month

You've missed the book report? Early juvenile fiction books from the first half of the century (the 20th century)? Well, I found a small book (3x 4.5 inches – 290 pages) at the AWA meet in Rochester. Read in in a few hours. It's Calling W1XYZ – Jimmy Kean and the Radio Spies by Thorp McCluskey 1939.



Published in 1939 as WW2 is building in Europe, it's about espionage in America. It's a cross between a comic and adventure story – with drawings of each step of the way. This story begins at the dinner table of a wealthy banker Mattison who young Jimmy has befriended. Mattison has a superb ham radio station. It seems he suspects someone is using his station when he is not there to send messages to another station. Mattison

wants Jimmy to track down the location of the other station.

Through twists and turns, Jimmy triangulates the location of the station that is in communication with Mattison's station. They go to the location and investigate but find there is nothing there on a rural stretch of shoreline in Long Island. The shoreline is barren of any trace of civilization, housing, buildings, boat docks, boats, or anything!

They relay their concerns and suspicions to the FBI, now super alert to 'suspicious radio and activity'. There are spies and saboteurs about. They are pretty sure now who is involved now and in what devious manner but they don't have any proof other than suspicions.

It seems that Mattison's butler is not what he seems to be, and is in cahoots with another spy at a nearby military plant working on a new bomb. The inside guy plans to steal blueprints and microfilm of all the relevant material and is about to depart on a sub to Germany.

Soon the transmissions resume and Mattison goes to investigate by himself at the out of the way location. Jimmy fortunately lets the FBI know and goes to investigate himself. Both are caught by armed German sailors off a submarine anchored in the cove who are there picking up both Mattison's butler and the spy in the military plant carrying the blueprints. Jimmy and Mattison are taken on board and are forced to stand on the deck. They are told they'll wind up in the middle of the ocean when the sub submerges.....but the sub is quickly cornered by a Coast Guard vessel. The rest of the Germans take the sub down hastily....., but the spies, plans and microfilm sink to the bottom of the sound as the sub submerges.....and all ends well. The sub is 'allowed' to escape to avoid an 'international incident'. The Germans have failed in their mission.

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Spent \$10 on the book and it will be up for sale at the next hamfest/wireless club auction.

On the Road with N4CD III

After the Convention

August 5

I had a big trip planned back east – first to visit my sister in the Lake George NY area (Warren County) and then to the Rochester NY area for the annual Antique Wireless Association convention. Along the way there would be dozens of national parks and sites to visit – many that I drove by in the past, and some I never heard of before this NPOTA thing started on January 1. Of course, all the route was in 'counties' as well as parks, so there would be something for everyone as I did the 'park thing'.

When you head back east, there are many parks going back to Revolutionary War times – and even before – French and Indian Wars – the colonial era from Jamestown and the Mayflower settlers, etc. It's a bit different than out west. You've got Civil War sites all over the place, too. This would be a history tour in the northeast part of the country.

There was nothing 'new' in the way of parks in TN, but that didn't stop me from a repeat of the Natchez Trace Parkway – just five miles or so off I-40. Of course, once I got there it took 40 minutes to run it. PK04 – Parkway #4 in the park system. Then back to the interstate and up to KY for a repeat activation of Mammoth Cave National Park NP39. Five miles off the interstate at Cave City, KY, Edmonson County. Easy to run but of course it takes some time. I didn't make it to PA as planned but stopped short that night in Cabell County WV – at a Super 8 Motel. Dinner at the Bob Evans close by. Tomorrow I'd get into new territory in PA.

August 6

The next morning it took a couple hours but I was headed to PA through WV. First up Friendship Hall. NS 30. Rainy. No one around. Nice parking lot. Easy to run mobile. Picnic tables for portable operation. 185Q – Great run. This is a 660 acre park. One strange factoid – there don't seem to be too many 'mobiles' running the parks. Most 'set up' portable and that often involves getting a permit or 'permission' from the park people. PA was supposed to be 'difficult' with lots of 'no' when people asked for permission. The western PA parks only had a few 'activations' and supposedly the rangers at the parks were not ham friendly. Didn't ask, drove in, parked, operated and

had no hassles in PA.

From the NPS website:

“Albert Gallatin is best remembered for his thirteen year tenure as Secretary of the Treasury during the Jefferson and Madison administrations. In that time he reduced the national debt, purchased the Louisiana Territory and funded the Lewis & Clark exploration. Gallatin's accomplishments and contributions are highlighted at Friendship Hill, his restored country estate “



There are a few spots to run this mobile – but only one to set up portable.

OK...seen enough old houses so skipped out on that – ran the park and headed for the next one.

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Then to **Fort Necessity BF05**. Mid day slump on bands. Picnic area “No good”. Often that is a good place to get lost away from the visitor center and rangers. Heavy forest and in RF black hole for the entire picnic area. . Visitor center produces S9 noise. likely from the big solar system power inverters. Finally found the Washington Tavern and the parking lot quiet and not many there. Only 29 Q. Bands were not cooperating.

From the NPS website:

After the skirmish with Jumonville's forces, Washington feared "we might be attacked

by considerable forces." He undertook to fortify his position at the Great Meadows. During the last two days of May and the first three days of June, he built a circular palisaded fort, which he called Fort Necessity. The rest of the Virginia regiment arrived at the Great Meadows on June 9, along with supplies and nine small cannon called swivel guns. Washington's command now totaled 293 officers and men. He was reinforced several days later by about 100 men of Capt. James Mackay's Independent Company of regular British troops from South Carolina. Washington's attempts to retain his Indian allies were not successful.

.....The next day, they strengthened Fort Necessity by improving the trenches outside the stockade. On the morning of July 3, a force of about 600 French and 100 Indians approached the fort. After the French took up positions in the woods, Washington withdrew his men to the entrenchments. Rain fell throughout the day, flooding the marshy ground. Both sides suffered casualties, but the British losses were greater than French and Indian losses.

The fighting continued sporadically until about 8 pm. Then Capt. Louis Coulon de Villiers, commander of the French force and brother of Jumonville, requested a truce to discuss the surrender of Washington's command.

Near midnight, after several hours of negotiation, the terms were reduced to writing. Washington and Mackay signed the multi-part document. The British were allowed to withdraw with the honors of war, retaining their baggage and weapons, but having to surrender their swivel guns. Washington surrendered his command to the French.

The British troops left Fort Necessity for Wills Creek on the morning of July 4. From there they marched back to Virginia. The French burned Fort Necessity and afterwards returned to Fort Duquesne.”

When you visit, you can see a reconstructed fort. The Washington Tavern is original.

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Flight 93

You remember 9-11? September 11 and the World Trade Center? You probably remember what you were doing when you heard the news. I was listening to the ham radio when net control said 'turn on the TV'. I remember that day well when 4 airliners were hijacked. Two of them plowed into the World Trade Center towers – and brought them down to the ground. One was crashed into the Pentagon. The other was intended to hit the US Capitol building.

On the fourth plane that was hijacked, brave folks fought the hi-jackers to prevent them

from heading to Washington DC. Unfortunately, they could not regain control of the plane which crashed in a rural spot in Pennsylvania. This was Flight 93.

Now there a national Memorial for Flight 93 at the scene of the crash.

I arrived late in the afternoon. Visitor center was closed, but there were a gazillion people there. Big lots. Several. One over by monument huge. Weekend too. Parked away from most, ran county and park. No problem mobile. Other people have had problems requesting permission to 'set up portable'. It's a sensitive site. Just show respect. NM07. Did 105Q including few in NA QSO party. No good spots for portable other than maybe admin area of course they want nothing distracting so no tents, pavilions, big antennas, etc. Just like other memorial sites such as OKLA city and the ones in Washington DC. (WW1, WW2, Korea, Vietnam, etc).

It was late in the day and time to head to a motel. Lots more coming up!

Sunday Aug 7

Today it would be a couple of PA parks on the agenda.

Johnstown Flood Memorial

First up was Johnstown Flood. My great grandpa was there and survived, so this was 'personal' for N4CD. Great grandpa moved to NYC after. NM14.

From the NPS website:

“The South Fork dam failed on Friday, May 31, 1889 and unleashed 20,000,000 tons of water that devastated Johnstown, PA. The flood killed 2,209 people but it brought the nation and the world together to aid the "Johnstown sufferers."

A hunting and fishing club of executives of the town had constructed an unsafe dam to make a lake for fishing. During a heavy rain period, the dam failed.



Johnstown Club House

You can run this 'park' at several locations. I tried the 'club house' trying to stay under the 'radar' since I had been warned that PA parks are not especially 'ham friendly'. . Fairly quiet spot but not perfect.. Then moved over to the visitor center. Good RF location. It was Sunday morning and not many people there. Did 250Q. Good run. . 40 car lot and only 10 cars there on Sunday morning. Not hassled. Hit the visitor center to see what had gone on. There have been several special programs on TV about his disaster.

Allegheny Portage

Back in the 1700s and early 1800s, transportation followed rivers – and then the early canals constructed between river systems. The mountains of PA provided a big challenge to get goods from east to west.

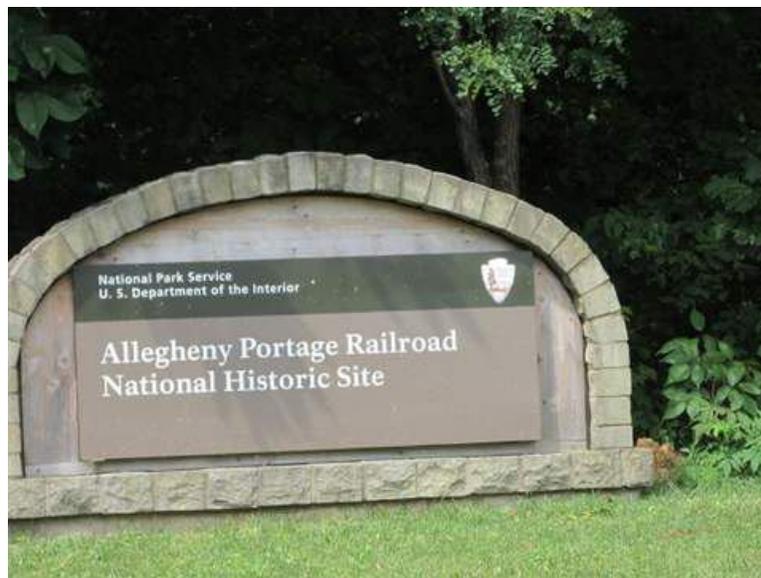
From Wiki:

“The Allegheny Portage Railroad was the first railroad constructed through the Allegheny Mountains in central Pennsylvania, United States; it operated from 1834 to

1854 as the first transportation infrastructure through the gaps of the Allegheny that connected the mid-west to the eastern seaboard across the barrier range of the Allegheny Front. It was a series of 10 inclines connecting to a branch of the Pennsylvania Canal at either end, approximately 36 miles (58 km) long overall, and had five inclines on either side of the drainage divide running athwart the ridge line from Blair Gap through along the kinked saddle at the summit into Cresson, PA. The Portage Railroad utilized cleverly designed wheeled barges to ride a narrow-gauge rail track with steam-powered stationary engines lifting the vehicles. Along with the rest of the Main Works, it cut transport time from Philadelphia to the Ohio River from weeks to just 3–5 days. The roadbed of the railroad did not incline monotonically upwards, but rose in relatively long, saw-toothed stretches of slightly-sloped flat terrain suitable to animal powered towing, alternating with steep Cable railway inclined planes using static steam engine powered windlasses, similar to mechanisms of modern ski lifts.”

Considered a technological marvel in its day, it played a critical role in opening the interior of the United States beyond the Appalachian Mountains to settlement and commerce. It included the first railroad tunnel in the United States, the Staple Bend Tunnel, and its inauguration was marked with great fanfare.

Today, the remains of the railroad are preserved within the Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site operated by the National Park Service. “



Nice parking lot mostly empty. 15 cars in 50 or 60 car and 10 motor home space parking lot. Lots of room. Noise on 40 SSB. Other bands OK. 180Q quickly into the log.

These parks had not been activated that often. Well, it took a couple hours to do 180Q.

There were two more I could squeeze in this day with luck.

Eisenhower Home and Farm -

This is the home and farm of Dwight Eisenhower. Normally, you have to ride a shuttle bus from the Gettysburg Battlefield Visitor Center to visit this park. However, one enterprising park activator worked with the park people and discovered there was a small segment of the Eisenhower farm you could access along a main road – you'd have to park under a power line/cable TV line to do it. Well, not a problem for a county hunter. We'd see how bad it would be. Had the GPS coordinates and the print out from Google Maps on the location. Found it quickly. Whew, the cable TV/Telco lines (3 fat ones) were probably not even 15 feet up. Took off the 40M SSB antenna which sticks up over 12 feet just to be sure and parked under the lines. Worked out well. This site had not been run too often – not too easy to 'stay under the radar' if you set up portable here.

Did 155Q. Not noisy except 40 SSB noise all over PA. Put hamstick back but not many 40 SSB.

Gettysburg Battlefield

Back to the Civil War days – and this is pivotal battlefield that likely was the turning point for the South to lose the war. Tens of thousands died here in a short battle between the Union and Confederate Armies.

It was late in the day, and this park had been well activated. 60 Q. Too late in day . tired. Super 8 Motel. Dinner at Perkins at 8pm today. BBQ Chicken Ranch Salad. Long day.

August 8

Hopewell Furnace

Yesterday I did the Civil War at Gettysburg. Today was off to Hopewell Furnace NS37 going back to 1770s and early 1800s or so. Revolutionary pre history up to after the War of 1812. Good site to run and ham friendly rangers. This park has been very well run. I ran CW and bit of SSB for 85Q. No need to keep at it.



The rangers wanted to know 'how many contacts' I made. They're keeping up!

From the NPS site:

“Hopewell Furnace showcases an early American industrial landscape from natural resource extraction to enlightened conservation. Operating from 1771-1883, Hopewell and other "iron plantations" laid the foundation for the transformation of the United States into an industrial giant. The park's 848 acres and historic structures illustrate the business, technology and lifestyle of our growing nation. “

Back then, the iron industry needed to be self supporting. There were loggers to cut down forests to provide the wood for charcoal and heat. There were dozens involved in farming to feed the 100 plus people there. You had all sorts of craftsmen and iron workers and transportation folks. It was a self contained eco-system. Very interesting.

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Valley Forge

Back to the Revolutionary War days.....

Valley Forge is where Washington spent the winter getting the Continental Army ready to fight. Only through heroic efforts did Washington get his army housed and fed, and

then trained to take on the British and win the war.



Valley Forge HP - Pennsylvania

HP46 and 105Q. Mid day slump. Had an eyeball with fellow top activator Peter, K0BAK. He dropped by to say hello!

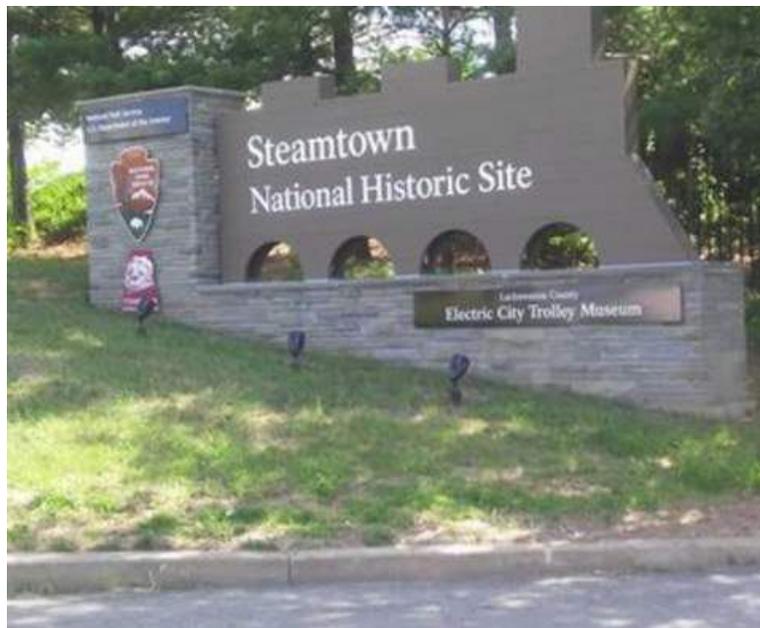


N4CD and Peter K0BAK

Steamtown – Scranton PA

It took a couple hours to to get to Steamtown NS67 in Scranton PA. This 40 acre park in the downtown area is dedicated to 'the steam engine'. There are steam locomotives and other train cars, a 'round house' and turntable, a museum and more. Several days a week you can take a train excursion ride. I got there a bit before 4pm and the park closes at 5pm. Bands not good. Had one hour before park closed and 75Q. Interesting place. There is a fair amount of QRN as it is right downtown in industrial area.

Note the interesting sign at the entrance:



Steamtown

This had been another long day with a couple good 'activations' and lots of miles on the car. Stopped at a Days Inn in Scranton.

August 9

The route is taking me, slowly, to Warren County NY – but with lots of zigs and zags along the way to hit as many parks as possible. I don't really like 'rivers' but there are quite of few of them. To count, you've got to be within 100 feet of the water for “Wild

Rivers” and RV's. It can be a challenge at times to find a spot since much of the land is privately owned. Why not? Lots of folks want 'water front' property. Some are easy, some are deep in canyons, and some are downright difficult.

Lower Delaware River WR03

This took a while to find a spot to run – miles of driving along the river hunting for a spot. Finally found a spot and put out 60+ contacts. Was noisy so no SSB or 40M there.

Delaware Water Gap Recreation Area RC07

The 'recreation areas' are easy to run – usually big with campgrounds and picnic areas. You just have to be within the park – not even close to the river. Easy. I ran it at the Park HQ parking lot – turned out to be convenient, high up, and low noise. 75Q. Been run a lot.



Delaware Water Gap

WR10- Upper Delaware River

That was 2 out of 3 of the Delaware River – next up....the 'upper' part of the Delaware

River. It took an hour to get to the spot I chose to run it – Narrowsburg PA – Pike county. Good access spot and 20 feet from the water. Sometimes a plan comes together!



Upper Delaware River WR10

Headed over to NY for the evening – ran out of time. So many parks, so little time. If you spent 2 hours at each park, plus the time between them, you can only do so many in a day- and 3 is a good number to plan on. That night was spent in Kingston NY at the Super 8. Dinner at the Family Pizza/Chicken place. Had chicken.

August 10

The propagation banner says "good" on 20m but from where I was, it wasn't good at all with A index = 15 and K index =3 or 4 and Aurora at 3. Yuck! Some days you take whatever you can get.

Welcome to Hyde Park NY – the play ground of the ultra rich.

Vanderbilt Mansion NS74

Today would be a record day I think with 5 park activations planned. So I got an early start and headed to Vanderbilt Mansion NS74. 70Q. Folks slept in. Good parking lot. Started to rain so not many headed that way. Very few were there at 8 am. Lot mostly

empty then but then again it's a big lot. Should be easy to run for others. This is a huge place. 200 acres have been preserved by the park service. You can take a tour of the mansion (extra charge). I skipped it. Seen enough mansions – in fact, think I saw this one way back when.



Vanderbilt Mansion

Eleanor Roosevelt – Val Kill NS-14

Then I headed a few miles east to Eleanor Roosevelt. NS14. Skies opened up and it poured for a solid hour plus. Downpour. Frog strangler. Small lot maybe 12 or 15 cars. There is overflow parking on grass. With the downpour the lot is half empty. No one coming in, and I guess the other folks stranded somewhere waiting for the deluge to stop and couldn't leave. 75Q. Should not be problem for others to run as the overflow lot is big. Some of these sites might be crowded on a nice clear weekend. My 40M antenna didn't like the rain so headed low in the 40m cw band to run it. (7027). These sites are 'not rare' with many activations having taken place.



Val-Kill – Home of Eleanor Roosevelt

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt Home NW-36

Then 2 miles away is President FDR home NS36. Big lot for 150 cars but full up. Found spot and did 110Q. Good spots to run so far. Quiet other than the shuttle that generates S9 noise when it comes by. Skipped the tour of the home – but it seems to be a popular destination! One of the most crowded sites I've visited the entire time this year.

Thomas Cole AA23

This is an 'Associated Area' not run by the park service, but by others, but still considered one of the NPOTA units for park chasers and activators.

So who was Thomas Cole?

“In 1825, America was still a new nation, just forming its own unique identity and traditions. Thomas Cole invented a new style of art, one that Americans could call their own. His landscape paintings launched the art movement known as the Hudson River School.

His groundbreaking achievements took place here in Catskill, New York -- in the "peaceful shades" of his beloved home, Cedar Grove. “

This is an 'associated area' – often a foundation run or state run facility that works with the Park Service.

They will charge you \$12 to see the place if you want the tour, but you can park free. Lot maybe holds dozen cars. Only half full. Noise on 20 SSB about \$5 otherwise OK for cw. 85Q. Tough on 20 SSB.

Had to move on...the schedule was aggressive today.

- - ----

Martin Van Buren NS-50

Then off to Martin Van Buren Home NS50. He was eighth President. Good lot. Quiet. 95Q. Got there late in day - 4pm. Ranger told me I had just missed the 'last tour' of the house. Didn't cry a bit. Seen enough 'historic houses' – hi hi. Ranger said OK to sit in lot for as long as I wanted – but conditions weren't too great – gone in 90 minutes.



Martin Van Buren

So that was 5 parks in one day. Whew! N4CD record. Only drove 100 miles today, too! In TX, it's over 100 miles from my house to the nearest park! This was fun being able to hit five in a day.

The rain had gotten to my antenna. It wasn't working like it should and some folks mentioned I had a 'chirp' on the signal.

- - - - -

Found the Blue Spruce Motel in Valatie, NY five miles north. Ranger at the park said it was the only motel within 20 miles. Not bad. Dinner at the Diner 2 miles south. OK.

Disassembled antenna and changed mag mounts. Seemed to help. The problem is that the steel connector at the bottom of the mast corrodes with the aluminum mast – and you get a high resistance connection.

August 11

I was finally getting close to my destination - Warren County NY – my sister's house. One more park to go! This part of NY has all sorts of historic places from the French and Indian Wars, the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Civil War, and more. You can visit French forts, British Forts, American Forts.....and dozens of other interesting sites. Only a few are 'national park' related though.

Saratoga Historic Site HP42

A significant Revolutionary War battle took place here. I operated in the visitor lot. Enough open spots. Friendly HAM ranger came by and said hi. Mentioned the best place to run was on tour road just past stop 2. Maybe 100 feet. There is crossing dirt road that used to be entrance long time ago. His local club set up FD there. Place to pull off and high spot. Didn't have time to check. 120Q from the parking lot which was good. Band better today.



Saratoga Park HP42

Then it was on to Lake George for a few days of break. Would I sit still for a few days?

Stay tuned...

Continued in a bit!

US Counties QSO Party Results

US Counties Awards - by Norm, W3DYA

2016 MARAC USA QSO PARTY AWARDS LIST

MOBILE PLAQUES

W9MSE JEFF BECHNER 1ST PLACE US MOBILE 204,000 POINTS

W4SIG KERRY LONG 2ND PLACE US MOBILE 200,720 POINTS

U. S. FIXED PLAQUES

WA2VYA FRANK WIDMANN 1ST PLACE US FIXED 897,120 POINTS

N6MU JOHN DESLOGE 2ND PLACE US FIXED 433,784 POINTS

DX PLAQUE AWARDS

DL3DXX DIETMAR KASPER 1ST PLACE DX 149,050 POINTS

DL5ME MARIO BORSTEL 2ND PLACE DX 26,038 POINTS

MOBILE CERTIFICATES

W9MSE JEFF BECHNER 1ST PLACE WISCONSIN 204,000 POINTS

W4SIG KERRY LONG 1ST PLACE TENNESSEE 20,720 POINTS

KN4Y ED PALAGYI 1ST PLACE GEORGIA 81,270 POINTS

WB0PYF RAY MYERS 1ST PLACE MISSOURI 69,185 POINTS

KN4Y ED PALAGYI 1ST PLACE FLORIDA 34,743 POINTS

W8UE TED MARLIN 1ST PLACE MICHIGAN 31,065 POINTS

K7TM BOB HALLOCK 1ST PLACE IDAHO 27,666 POINTS

NF0N MIKE NICKOLAUS 1ST PLACE SOUTH DAKOTA 21,420 POINTS

K4GZB TOM HARDISON 1ST PLACE ALABAMA 11,067 POINTS

WB0PYF RAY MYERS 1ST PLACE KANSAS 5,600 POINTS
K7TM BOB HALLOCK 1ST PLACE UTAH 4,389 POINTS
K8TE BILL MADER 1ST PLACE COLORADO 3,692 POINTS
NF0N MIKE NICKOLAUS 1ST PLACE NEBRASKA 966 POINTS
K7TM BOB HALLOCK 1ST PLACE MONTANA 525 POINTS
WB0PYF RAY MYERS 1ST PLACE OKLAHOMA 184 POINTS

U. S. FIXED CERTIFICATES

WA2VYA FRANK WIDMANN 1ST PLACE TEXAS 897,120 POINTS
N6MU JOHN DESLOGE 1ST PLACE CALIFORNIA 433,784 POINTS
W0GXQ JERRY MERTZ 2ST PLACE MINNESOTA 361,760 POINTS
K2DSW BOB PANEK 1ST PLACE IOWA 279,720 POINTS
N8II JEFF HARTLEY 1ST PLACE WEST VIRGINIA 172,928 POINTS
N4VA LARRY VOGT 1ST PLACE VIRGINIA 155,306 POINTS
AA8R RANDY HATT 1ST PLACE MICHIGAN 131,836 POINTS
WQ7A TERRY DUMMLER 1ST PLACE WASHINGTON 131,100 POINTS
N8CIJ DICK OBRECHT 1ST PLACE OHIO 80,665 POINTS
W2CVW ED ERICKSON 1ST PLACE NEW JERSEY 35,640 POINTS
K4BAI JOHN LANEY 1ST PLACE GEORGIA 28,471 POINTS
NA2X BOB ROSSI 1ST PLACE NEW YORK 13,680 POINTS
K9GDF DICK REGENT 1ST PLACE WISCONSIN 9,789 POINTS
K3WJV BILL STRAVINSKY 1ST PLACE PENNSYLVANIA 8,526 POINTS
K1BV TED MELINOSKY 1ST PLACE CONNECTICUT 7,844 POINTS
W7GF MIKE STEENE 1ST PLACE OREGON 2,535 POINTS
N7WY BOB RENNARD 1ST PLACE WYOMING 1,125 POINTS
W9MSE JEFF BECHNER 1ST PLACE WISCONSIN 1,079 POINTS

DX FIXED CERTIFICATES

VA7ST BUD MORTENSON 1ST PLACE CANADA 3,749 POINTS

On the Road with N4CD IV

At Lake George, Warren County New York

Once you get NPOTA fever, it doesn't quit. The weather was going to be good for one day before heavy rains were scheduled to descend upon this part of the country. So.....it was either today, or never. I was only spending a few days up that way. So....

August 12

Folks also needed VT counties, so why not! I could get two parks with less than 250 miles of driving roundtrip. One in VT, one in NH. There aren't a whole lot of parks here. A 'Wild River', the Appalachian Scenic Trail, 2 parks.....likely, you, like me, never heard of these places before.

Marsh-Billings Ruckerfeller

The N4CD mobile was off to Vermont to run HP26, Marsh Billings Ruckerfeller site near Woodstock VT. This facility is dedicated to showing and preserving the rural lifestyle of early Vermonters. . Good site to run mobile. Ample parking in the 'farm' parking lot. 100Q from Windsor County. (Did manage to snag one more picture for the County Sign Database – Orange, VT with a short detour of less than 10 miles – ran the county and then headed on to the next park.) Of course, speed limits in most of VT are 50 mph and the roads are NOT straight other than the few interstates. It takes a while to get anywhere from anywhere.

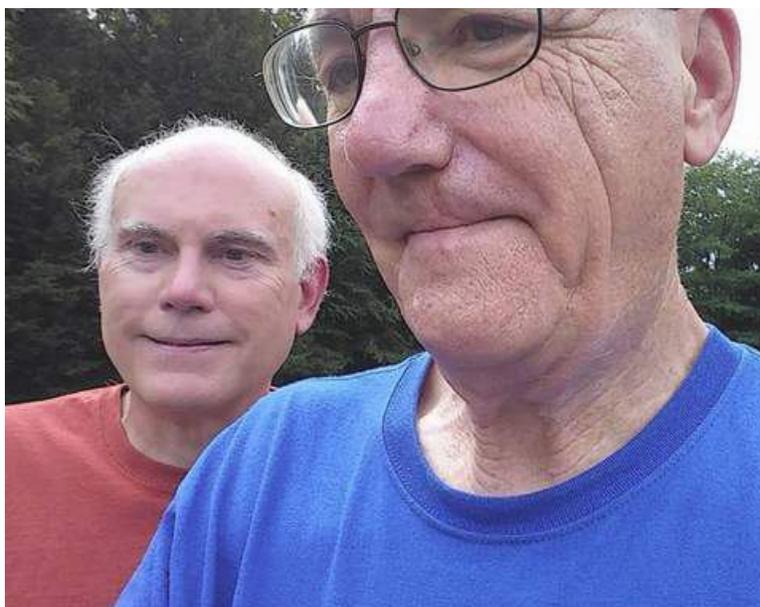


HP26

Saint Gaudens – NS26 – New Hampshire

Then off to Saint Gaudens. NS26 in Cornish NH. He was famous sculptor and paint artist. You can see 100 of his paintings here plus many sculptures. I've never heard of him, but then again I didn't major in Art in college.

Good places to run mobile or portable in the RV and overflow lot including picnic tables. K1RO stopped by for eyeball. 75Qs in the log. Both of these parks had been activated many times, sometimes by clubs that stayed all day and ran up the totals. I just usually aimed for my 100+ but didn't get too concerned if I fell a bit short on these type ones.



Mark, K1RO, and N4CD

I don't have this selfie thing down well. N4CD and K1RO. Mark is a big contester, and has worked 423 different park units – one of the top ten chasers.

Then headed back to sisters house in NY. Time to chill for a bit.

August 13

Still had NPOTA FEVER so despite the gloom and rain went 130 miles up to Missiquoi River in Vermont. This is an 80 mile long river and the far half is designated wild and scenic. Rain not bad on way up. Ran counties for the county hunters (Addison, Chittenden, Franklin). Got to WR26, the Missiquoi and Trout Wild River, in Franklin County and fired up on CH frequencies. The CH contacts were half of the total of 75 contacts. The Work All Europe, WAE, was going on, and there was lots of QRM lower in the bands on CW. SSB wasn't working well either – it was a weekend and I couldn't find a clear frequency and keep it. Oh well, anything more than 9 contacts is an official activation, and did that 7 times over. A bit disappointing but that's the way things work out from far north New England.

I then decided to circle round the long way back through Grand Island VT and Clinton NY back to Warren County NY. It turned out to be a long day, but did a bunch of counties instead of parks. I'd rest up a day before heading to the Rochester area. More rain was coming.

Continued in the next Part

County Sign Database Project

I'm guilty. I passed through a few counties on the needs list and didn't get pictures of the county line signs. How about you? I did snag one in VT. I've been so busy with the parks, getting from A to B to C, not paying too much attention to getting other counties with short detours most of the time.....that I've been neglecting helping to finish the project.

I did get one on this trip – Orange VT/Windor VT. Both needed!



Sent it in to K4EXT who is doing the updates.

Check the needs page...it's getting down there to where folks should be making special trips to get them!

<http://www.charchive.com/cntyneed.asp>

Maybe some folks took some pictures on their way to/from the convention that are 'needed' counties?

On the Road with N4CD V

The annual Antique Wireless Association convention would be underway in two days. I elected to leave a day early and hit a few new park units on the way there. There were three left in NY state up this way (a whole bunch in the NYC area – but that's a whole different ballgame).

August 15 Monday

The N4CD mobile headed from sister's house to Rome NY (Oneida County) where Fort Stanwix is. There no parking for mobile operation at this site – no visitor lot.. This has to be run portable and it is well run by others. One activator used to come twice a month and put it out.

From Wiki:

“Fort Stanwix was built to guard a portage between the main waterway southeastward to the Atlantic seacoast, down the Mohawk and Hudson rivers, and an important interior waterway northwestward to Lake Ontario, down Wood Creek and Oneida Lake to Oswego.

In 1768, Fort Stanwix was the site of an important treaty conference between the British and the Iroquois, arranged by William Johnson. By the time of this treaty, the fort had become dilapidated and inactive. The purpose of the conference was to renegotiate the boundary line between Indian lands and white settlements set forth in the Proclamation of 1763. The British government hoped a new boundary line might bring an end to the rampant frontier violence, which had become costly and troublesome. Indians hoped a new, permanent line might hold back white colonial expansion.

The final treaty was signed on November 5 and extended the earlier proclamation which

happened much further west. The Iroquois had effectively ceded Kentucky to the whites. However, the Indians who actually used the Kentucky lands, primarily Shawnee, Delaware, and Cherokee, had no role in the negotiations. Rather than secure peace, the Fort Stanwix treaty helped set the stage for the next round of hostilities.

Fort Stanwix was abandoned in 1768 and allowed to go to ruin.

The fort was reoccupied by Colonial troops under the command of Colonel Elias Dayton on July 12, 1776. They began reconstruction and renamed it Fort Schuyler, although many continued to call it Fort Stanwix. Colonel Peter Gansevoort took over command of the fort on May 3, 1777.

On August 3, 1777 the fort was besieged by The King's 8th Regiment, Loyalists, and Indians, under the command of Brigadier General Barry St. Leger, as part of a three-pronged campaign to divide the American colonies. Gansevoort refused the terms of surrender offered by the British, and the siege commenced.

The Battle of Oriskany was fought a few miles away when an American relief column, led by General Nicholas Herkimer, was ambushed by Tories and their Indian allies. While many of the besiegers were attending to that battle, the defenders of the fort sallied forth and attacked the enemy camp, looting and destroying enemy stores. Demoralized and reduced in strength, the British withdrew when they heard reports of the approach of yet another relief column, led by General Benedict Arnold. The British forces withdrew through Canada and joined Burgoyne's campaign at Fort Ticonderoga.

The British failure to capture the fort and proceed down the Mohawk Valley was a severe setback and helped lead to the defeat of General John Burgoyne at the Battle of Saratoga.

The fort burned to the ground on May 13, 1781 and was not rebuilt.”

In the 1970s, the park service rebuilt the fort.

I used my new Elecraft KX2 for first time for a park run. It's a real nifty 10W output radio that goes from 80-10m, cw , SSB, and digital – and weighs 2 lbs including an internal LiON battery that will run it for hours. Oh, built in antenna tuner, too!

I ran 10w to Alex Loop up five feet or so. The staff here is very accommodating for ham radio. Ranger Kelly Rowan will point out where you can set up – multiple spots – or right next to your car if you want. Or under shade trees. You can attach antenna wires to trees. The only 'no-no' is any stakes in the ground since this is an 'archaeological site'. This was easy to set up portable less 50 feet from car even under a shade tree you wanted. I spent hour and did 53Q. QRP is though, though. Thanks fort

the Q. Had problem with KX2 paddle after a while sprawled on the ground. Need to practice more. Reported on the number of QSOs to Ranger Kelly. Then it was off to western NY for the next one.



KX2 with attached paddles



N4CD Portable – Alex Loop at Ft Stanwix

This is also a 'two-fer' – Ft Stanwix and the North County Scenic Trail. Since I would be portable, it would count for the two-fer. The 'scenic trails' must be run portable! The North Country trail comes right down along where I set up. Serendipity!

Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural NS69

You've got some strange 'National Parks' and historic sites, and this is one of them. When Roosevelt was elected, he decided, against tradition, to hold his inaugural in Buffalo NY and a prominent friend's house. This site, in downtown Buffalo, is where he took office.

Strangely, this park unit had only been activated once – but by a club that did 700 QSO's a few months before. No one else had tried or succeeded in 'activating' it since. I didn't know what I'd run into. Some park units are extremely anti-ham oriented, or their first response is “NO RADIO' from here. Others couldn't care less.

I found the site, and pulled into the lot. One of the concerns about places like this is first – is there a parking lot for the visitor center? – and two – is it considered 'park property'? In some cases, like the Channel Islands visitor center in California, it's a rented office and the 'parking lot' is run by the town, not the park service. You can't run that one mobile there. The web site is often ambiguous on small sites like this, or say 'on street parking' is available.

No problem here. The lot had the park service sign at the entrance, and another sign that left no doubt!



Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural



I sat for 2 hours and did 160Q. Then I went inside to see what was up and get my passport book stamp. Didn't need to take the 'tour' of the house – I was 'too late' anyway. Didn't cry one bit. I've seen enough 'historic houses'! Some might appreciate the specific furnishings but things like this do nothing for me. I mentioned to the Ranger that I was going to do some NPOTA radio contacts and he went to pick up the phone to 'speak to the person'. I quickly told him to not worry about it. No sense stirring up a hornets nest. I'd already made all my contacts. N4CD operates in 'stealth mode'. Pull in, park, operate.....then visit the visitor center! There were only 2 other cars in the 20 car parking lot so not an issue of taking up valuable space. The location is fairly noisy as it is in downtown Buffalo. I had a good run since I was only the second to ever 'activate' this park! If you want to run portable, you need to 'ask permission' and apparently that is not always quickly forthcoming. Once you want to 'erect an antenna' it can get sticky at some parks. Others are ham friendly and will tell you where you can set up, no hassles.

Note – some of these parks seem to have an agreement with a local club for activations. And that's all they 'plan' on having activate the sites. I'd find that is true in the OH parks even more so. Since I don't have to set up portable, I can fly under the radar in nearly all cases. (the only hassle in 200 park units was at Hubbell Trading Post and even there it turned out I didn't need an SUP or anything else to be able to operate 'self contained mobile'). Of course, a few sites(3) have required an SUP or special arrangement but those were very special cases.

Stayed at a Super 8 in Williamsville NY near the Buffalo Airport. Dinner at a Brew Pub 500 feet away. It had been a long day and it was raining.

August 17 – Tuesday

There was still time to squeeze in one more park so I backtracked a bit to Seneca Falls NY. This was a 'ambiguous site' as far as parking was concerned – it mentioned a visitor lot and 'parking on the street'. I didn't know what I would find, and the park was 'closed' on Mondays and Tuesdays! That can be both good and bad – sometimes the only lot is locked shut and you are 'out of luck'. Other times, there is no lock or gate, or there are alternative sites (some – a few - parks are multiple buildings/sites).

Women's Rights HP48

Web page mentions visitor center parking lot. Mainly for 'handicapped parking' but the visitor center was closed. Tried it. Lot holds maybe 10 cars with 3 of them gov't ones there already. Noisy QRN central. S7 noise. Worked 50 but tough to do so. . Decided to check out other locations mentioned on web site. Web said nothing about NPS parking for them. Went to the Cady Stanton house on Washington Ave. Nice Lot for 10 cars. (for Handicap parking normally – but the place was closed and only 2 cars in lot). Pulled in and sat another hour. Quiet. Added in 50 more Q. I suspect during open days, most folks park on the street – which doesn't count for NPOTA. Coming on a 'closed day' seems to be the best thing here – but you won't get to see the visitor center or inside of the two other house sites. I didn't cry a tear about that.

“Women's Rights National Historical Park, a unit of the National Park Service, commemorates the first Women's Rights Convention held in Seneca Falls in 1848. The site includes the Wesleyan Chapel, where the convention was held, and the homes of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Mary Ann M'Clintock, two of the five planners of the convention.”



N4CD at the Cady Stanton House Lot

Next up I visited Antique Wireless Association Museum in Bloomfield NY. Very good.

It's now double the size from 3 years ago when I was there last. You can see everything from several working spark gap transmitters, to a complete telegraph office, to a couple hundred KW output Voice of America transmitter, to a Titanic radio room with authentic period Marconi equipment, and hundreds of radios and TV sets. It's definitely worth a visit. Open Saturdays during most of the year. Check ahead.

At the museum, they have the actual telegraph key used to send the warning for the Johnstown Flood! I just was there at the historic site. Nice tie in



For you key collectors, you'll note this is a 'camel back' key.

Tuesday was 'museum day' and I spent a few hours there before heading back to West Marietta and a Days Inn (much cheaper than the RIT Center where the AWA event was held. Dinner at the Golden Corral.

Wednesday – August 17

The convention would be starting with a 'pizza party' at 7pm that would go on for hours. Well, I'm a county hunter, and could take a few hours and run some nearby counties for the folks so headed out for a few hour trip. Orleans and Wyoming went in the log. Then back to the RIT Conference Center (a couple hundred rooms for guests) and great meeting rooms for the AWA main event.

Enjoyed the pizza party. Had a few too many slices and yakked a bit. Music for dancing, too.

Thursday August 18

The flea market opened at 6am while it was still dark. N4CD was out there scouring for treasures. I found a few but didn't have enough cash to windup with all of them. I did get a nice "Lewis key" at a great price....and a set of regen receiver "Octocoil" brand coils in original box.



Lewis Key – circa 1870s-1880s

I missed out getting an early bug. Oh well....carry plenty of cash in flea markets! They don't take credit cards!

The 'Book-Fair' opened. I eventually found two books from the way back era – one is reviewed this issue and the other will be reviewed when I get around to having time to read it. Between uploads to LoTW, answering QSL cards, writing the newsletter and getting on the radio every now and then, getting the car maintained/fixed, and 'stuff' around the house like laundry, cleaning, etc, paying bills....well, you know how it is. Time just seems to get away.....and there are more parks to run!

There were presentations on various radio subjects....a Collins collector dinner in the evening. Friday was much the same with a awards banquet in the evening. No new goodies showed up in the flea market. After the banquet there was an auction preview for the next day. A lot of very nice radios from a collector (over 100) were up for sale including many many pre 1920 receivers (Federal, Grebe, etc), likely going for hundreds

each. I just didn't need any more radios....even though these were in spectacular condition. I decided to skip the auction and head on to more parks! There was one item I'd bid on if I stuck around – a Heathkit K-2 'all wave receiver' in super nice condition. I've got two of them, so didn't need a third, although it was much better than the ones I have. Probably went for \$200 or more.

Saturday morning I'd be on the road early.

Continued in a bit.

Maryland DC QSO Party

Yes, there was a MDC QSO Party – but mobile activity was very sparse. Much of the QSOs were on 40m as folks tried to work each other. Slim pickings for those far from MDC area.

From the 3830 reflector:

WN4AFP - fixed SC - 19 cw 40 ssb QSO

Comments:

Completed another MDCQP! 20m was solid during the day and 40m was good day and night. Overall conditions weren't too good. Not much activity on CW this year. CW on 20m was pretty tough with the WAE competing for space. Thanks to all the stations who moved to different modes for me. I worked many club stations including W3VPR, K3CCR, WG3J and K3TBD.

73s Dave WN4AFP

K3OQ at Station: W3RFC – fixed MD - 25 CW QSO

W8KNO 5 cw 25 ssb

KS4X/QRP 32 ssb

KG4USN - fixed MDC 365 SSB
Operator(s): K000 KG4USN WA3EKL
Station: WA3EKL

Comments:

MUCH FUN WAS HAD BY ALL.

WE DID NOT REALIZE WE WERE A CLUB STATION UNTIL IT WAS ALL OVER.

BUT I GUESS THAT IS THE FUN OF IT ALL.

GAVE THE STATION A GOOD RUN SO THAT WE COULD PREPARE FOR THE
UPCOMING CONTEST
SEASON.

MANY THANKS TO OUR HOSTS AT WA3EKL.

LOOK TO SEE ALL IN THE NEXT ONE.

W3LL - fixed MD - 1098 SSB QSO

Comments:

With my SteppIR MonstIR on the ground and with an Off Center Fed Dipole in the air at 50 feet I thought it may work out better to forego the Worked All Europe Contest and put my time to better use in the Maryland QSO PARTY.

Noon Saturday started with search and pounce but getting nowhere with not many ops working the party calling CQ. So I went to lunch and came back with a game

plan of running exclusively. This usually doesn't work well with only a dipole but the 1500 watts behind it made all the difference.

The N1MM+ short term rate meter hit over 200/hr on quite a few occasions. It got so that I couldn't take my butt out of the chair to get anything. The calls just kept coming.

This turned into a superb contest with a score over twice my 2011 score.

Let's thank the sponsor for hosting a superb QSO party.

73,

Bud W3LL

K3MAW – fixed MD – 9 cw 97 ssb

Mobile Activity Report

The month started with DOZENS of mobiles on the way to TN. Some, like AB7NK/K7SEN, and K5GE, had been on the road for a week or more heading out real early.

Mobiles on the way to the convention included: W0GXQ, KB0BA/N0XYL, NF0N, NU0Q, K3IMC, K4YT, WA4UNS, AB7RW, NX0X/KB0MHH, KC3X, K0MAF, AJ5XZ, KC5QCB, N9QS, K0FG, N4CD, N8KIE, KA2LHO, K8ZZ, N5MLP, W4SIG, AA8R/W8TAX, N0KV/N0DXE, WY0A, W7FEN,

Some folks took a few weeks to return home, giving folks many counties with their detours.

Other mobile activity during the month included

N4JT active in NC and TN putting them out on five modes or more.

NM2L in GA

K6YEK in various states

W4SIG in TN, MS,

N9JF up in Maine

Barry and Pat, N0KV/N0DXE, spent time putting out MS and AR counties for the folks.

K7DM was out in MT running counties there.

Larry, W7FEN, headed to MS and other states before heading home out west.

K7TM put out MT counties.

KA4RRU was spotted in MD and PA

NU0Q was busy in the NE putting out dozens. Over to UT, too.

N7JPF put out counties in WA and OR

KA3QLF was spotted in Dare NC (NPOTA SS04 and NS-23)

K0FG made a trip to IA through many MO counties

N9QS ran counties in IL and MO

N2JNE was up in MI...then headed back across to home.

KZ2P was spotted mobile in SC.

N4AAT was spotted out and about in SC and TN

KJ8W/KJ8V were noted on the air in MI

N4UP noted out and about in NC and VA

NF0N noted out in KS

KB0BA/N0XYL out and about in IA/IL

Toward the end of the month we had the OH and KS QSO Parties. Several county hunter mobiles took part including W8UE in OH and NU0Q in KS. Full reports on these next issue plus HI QSO Party.

end date 8/28/16

On the Road with N4CD VI

Saturday 8/20

The time had come to head on home. I'd been on the road for nearly 3 weeks. However, there were three new parks to hit in Ohio and then it would be a bee-line back to TX with minimal detours. Zipped on through NY early and into OH to the Cleveland area.

First up – was James Garfield NS-39 in Mentor OH. This was the home of President Garfield and the first 'Presidential Library. Garfield had a large family and acquired the home in 1876. He added 11 more rooms. He was President from March 11 1881 to Sept 19 – when he was assassinated and died.



James Garfield NS-39

If you are a history buff, this is supposedly the best 19th century Presidential home, with 80% of the furnishings original to the Garfield family.

I pulled in early at 9:30 before the place opened for tours at 10am and sat in the lot (mostly empty) for nearly an hour. Reno, WT8C, one of the BIG chasers – with over 400 parks worked to his credit and one of the 'top dogs', stopped by a bit later. He lives close by. As the place opened at 10 am, one of the rangers stopped by and said 'you need a permit' to do that. Really? To sit in my car and operate? Reno and his local club have a 'blanket permit' to activate the park. Apparently others aren't so welcome. He and the ranger had a discussion. She went off to find the supervisor and discuss with him. Parking lot still nearly empty but a few cars entering. It was a weekend day so likely to be busy later on.



N4CD and Reno WT8C

I'm not too good at this 'selfie' business.....gotta work on it!

Not a problem. I kept piling up contacts while she was off doing something. Later she came by and said 'it's OK as long as you are finished by 10:30'. The place was filling up with some visitors now. I headed on out with 70Qs in the log. It was still a bit early for most of the west part of the country. Did get my passport stamp before I left. This park had been activated many times. No sweat – and it will be run many more times.

Next up was **Cuyahoga Valley National Park NP14** - one you can run in many places. It's 51 square miles and follows the Cuyahoga River from Cleveland to Akron. Found a nice spot, sat and ran it. No hassles. No rangers nearby either. Hi hi. Not rare and run often. Put 80Q in the log and headed to the next one. Part of this park is crawling with weekend tourists – mobbed along the river and Erie and Ohio towpath. There is biking paths, waterfalls, and river activities here. However, there are lots of spots away from the action to run it on the radio.

One more to go and that was **First Ladies** not far away in Canton, OH.

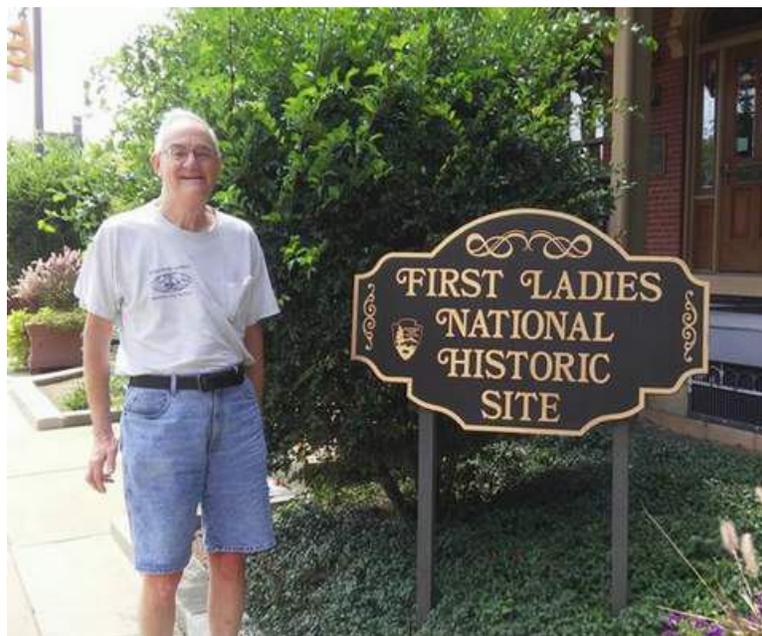
From Wiki:

“First Ladies National Historic Site is a United States National Historic Site located in Canton, Ohio. Mary Regula, wife of a Senator, created a board to raise funds and for a historian to assemble a comprehensive bibliography on American First Ladies. From these inspirations came a National First Ladies’ Library, established in 1996 and First Ladies National Historic Site. The site was established in 2000 to commemorate all the

United States First Ladies and consists of two buildings: the Ida Saxton McKinley Historic Home and the Education & Research Center.

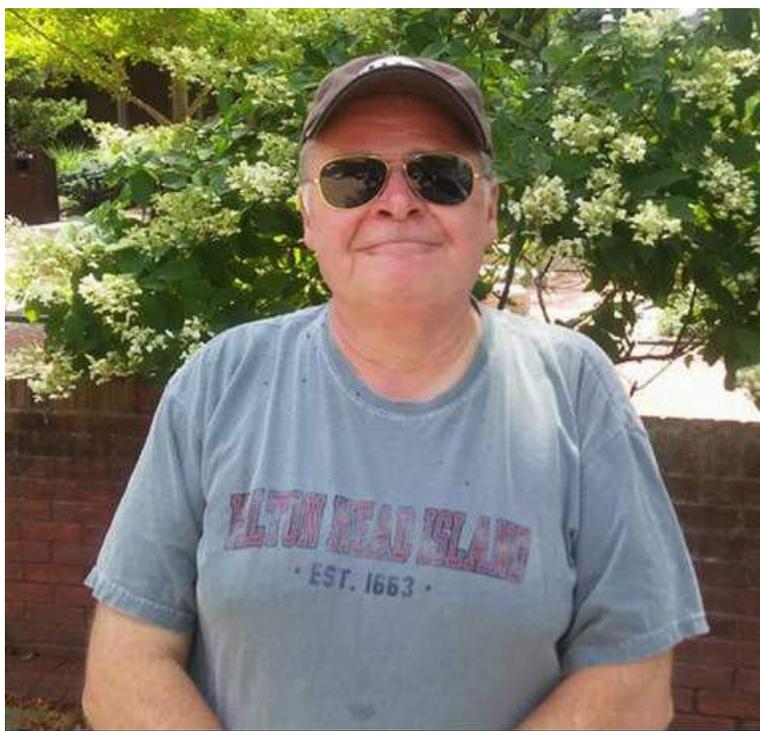
The Ida Saxton McKinley Historic Home preserves the 1841 home of Ida McKinley, the wife of U.S. President William McKinley. Costumed docents provide tours, and exhibits focus on President and Mrs. McKinley, photos of First Ladies, and Victorian decorations.”

The site is operated by the National First Ladies' Library in a partnership agreement with the National Park Service and managed by Cuyahoga Valley National Park.



N4CD at First Ladies NS-16

To get into the parking lot, you've got to use the intercom to get the 'access' code. Did that and didn't mention ham radio. Sat in lot for an hour. During that time, N8PW, Bill, dropped on by. He's activated a dozen parks(QRP) and chases them as well. He lives two blocks from this site. The lot was more than half empty, but if you want to tour the house, call ahead – they only take so many a day. I skipped the tour – seen enough 'historic houses' in the past 7 months and 40 years! Hi hi.



N8PW at First Ladies

This park too has been well 'activated'. There's a tab off the ARRL NPOTA page for stats that will tell you how many activations and QSOs have occurred from each park unit. This had 25 activations and 1500 QSOs to date – not 'rare' at all. Cuyahoga Valley NP has had over 70 activations and 2500 plus Qs. The 'east' is generally well run! Some of the tougher ones to run – bad locations – only have a few hundred QSOs– or ones hard to get to. Things like building sites and Memorials in DC are down in the under 200 count and some are still zero. There's room for enterprising people to get them on the air. Out west, places like Timpanagos Cave and Oregon Caves have barely 300 QSOs – they are in deep canyons.

Did 40Q at Mid-day slump time for propagation and headed out. Time to get on home. I put the pedal to the metal and zipped across OH running the counties as I went through them. It turned out I could head for Xenia OH – not far from Dayton then take the shortest route down the interstates to home. I've stayed at a motel there – the Country Inn - (adequate but old and tired facility – one of the 3 motels in town). It's close to another NP unit that is easy to run – Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers - MN18. I've run this before, but could get in another 'activation' late in the afternoon. Did – and put 40Q in the log – and maybe a few folks got a 'new one'. Stayed in Xenia – dinner at a nearby Chinese restaurant.

The Dayton Hamvention will now be held in this area – at the Greene County Fair Grounds and it promises to be an even better location than Hara Arena. Hara finally went belly up after years of barely keeping the doors open.

Here's a short video of the facility -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXX118G0QA0>

Looks like it should be a good – and 600 volunteers from the Dayton Amateur Radio Association are working on it.

Sunday 8/21

Leaving Xenia, my GPS routed me down to Cincinnati on Interstate 71. In the Cincinnati area, I saw a sign off the highway for the Howard Taft site. I'd run that before....but what the heck – a short detour – a short run – and I'd get credit for another activation. With maybe a 2-3 mile detour off the interstate early on a Sunday morning, I didn't know what I'd find. Last time I ran this site was in the main parking lot, but it had gates and likely no way to park 'on park property'. I knew there was a 'lot around the corner' but didn't know if it, either was going to be gated or not. I took a chance, and lucked out. Nice lot, no gates – and a bit quieter RF wise than the main lot that only held 7 or 8 cars. This one held 50 or 50 easily. No one around either so sat and ran it with no hassles. Did a quick run of 30 – real early – 1144Z – or 7:44 local eastern daylight saving time. Most of the country was asleep! Run was mostly county hunters and a few park chasers up and about.



William Howard Taft NS-78

My car tends to get pulled off course a bit for close by National Park units. Emily, KB3VVE, wondered where I got the car option for NPOTA Auto-Pilot! Hi hi. Well, by the time I took the detour, ran the park, and got back on the interstate it was about an hour detour. Not too bad. From the Dayton area, it was 1000 miles back to TX and that was normally a 1 1/2 day trip with no detours. I'd have to watch my time so as not to take 3 days.

The fastest way home takes me right by Mammoth Cave PP-39 in Edmonson County KY– and with a short 5 mile each way detour, I can hit that one too. Did – 90Qs went in the log and back on course in 2 hours. These parks can take a while to run! Oh well, I'd still get home within 2 days if I kept driving and driving. I was headed to a motel in Hazen, AR – Prairie County - a stop for the night.

Well, as I approached Memphis and the big river there, my NPOTA Auto-Pilot tugged at the wheel and reminded me I could do a quickie activation of the Trail of Tears at Riverside Park area – just a short detour off the interstate. Hmm...OK....in 'rare' Shelby County TN, run to death by 100 county hunters 3 weeks before – hihi. Could I quickly get 10 QSOs for activation credit? Fortunately enough county hunters were around and worked me. Got 11, then bugged out quickly. Not the least bit rare and over 4000 QSOs made from TR12 – Cherokee Trail of Tears and with no one needing Shelby County either! I added to the number of activations. Got a 'goodie point' on the activation score list.

Stopped in Hazen AR at a Super 8 Motel there. Nice. Dinner at the Mexican restaurant nearby. Not many other choices.

Monday – August 22

Little Rock Central School

The short way home would be about six hours – but my NPOTA Auto-Pilot was still on and as I headed toward Little Rock (Pulaski County) it tugged at the wheel, and I took a detour to Little Rock Central High School – about a 45 minute detour road wise.....plus of course, activation time. NS-45. This is a noisy site – just ran cw. Arrived 7:30 am. The visitor lot is surrounded by power lines on 3 sides. I did 35Q and that was enough – half county hunters and half park hunters. I'd run this on the way up too. However, anything more than 10 QSOs gets me a point for 'activations' and you never know if someone will need it – newcomers are joining the fun all the time. (Thanks for the Qs from the county hunters – If you hear someone in a park/county, give them a contact even if you don't need it – they've got to get to at least 10 contacts to get credit – and you can work them multiple bands).

It was early in the morning before the place got going – it gets fairly busy during the week and the school year with bus loads of school kids coming by. I'd be gone before they opened. A friendly ranger, putting up the flag, waved – a good sign. Left after a quick run before visitors arrived. Got to get home.....

Hot Springs National Park

Well, the NPOTA Auto-Pilot yanked the wheel again - this time to Hot Springs National Park NP30. This was a 2 hour detour or so. I ran it 3 weeks ago on the way up, but a few folks commented on the NPOTA Facebook page that they still needed it. OK...I'd take a detour to get it for them. This is a large park. The first time I ran it was up at Monument Tower – a great site but it takes 20 minutes up and back on a twisty 15 mph road once you get through 'downtown' congestion in the historic district. On the way up to TN three weeks ago, I ran it at West Mountain overlook – nice view – but quite a bit of QRN making it tough on SSB and for weak ones on CW. So I'd look for other spots.

As I headed in – I saw a sign for the Gulch picnic area and campground. Parked in the picnic area – but signals were weak – made a few QSO then decided this wasn't the place. It was blocked by a huge hill to the northwest. Campground even worse as you descend into the 'gulch'. Forget about operating from there!

Might as well be on top of the hill! And that's where I went - up to Monument Tower.

Nice high parking lot, not crowded. Did 100+Q.

OK...there weren't any other parks on the way home now that could be run mobile. There was just one off the route in Hope (Hempstead County) but it could only be run portable – there was no parking lot. Well, I had the portable set up in the car – but it would take 2 hours to set up, run it, break down – if the folks there would let me do it without advance notice. I needed gas anyway so stopped at a gas station in Hope – pit stop – then drove the 1 mile over to the Clinton Boyhood Home. My car has a bad case of NPOTA deviation. Looked at the site, then looked at the sky. Local radio said 50% chance of thunderstorms and the sky was dark to the south and west. I figured I'd probably get rained on, so just looked at it, waved goodbye, and figured there was nasty weather coming and I still had 200 miles to go to get home. Folks need this one, so I'll have to plan something else soon.

Sure enough, not much later the skies opened and there was downpour and heavy rain for the next 50 miles. Down to 40 mph on the interstate..... made it home by dinner time. Unpacked most of car.....drove the 1/2 mile to the Boston Chicken and had dinner....then chilled for a bit. 5161 miles of driving ...whew.....let's see....TX, AR, TN, KY, OH, WV, PA, NJ, NY, VT, NH,32 new parks and 10 repeat activations.

It took two days to enter 3500 park contacts into Logbook of the World.....

Thanks for riding along with N4CD. More trips planned. More parks..more counties!

Awards Issued

USACA #1257

Fred, WA1ZIC

July 29, 2016

Note: The MARAC Awards Chairman Position is in transition. All awards from MARAC are on hold pending the transfer.

Events for County Hunters

From the ARRL Contest Corral, courtesy of ARRL, Inc, Newington CT 06111

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2016/September%202016%20Corral.pdf>

Sept 3 1300z to Sept 4 0400z

Colorado QSO Party

Name, county or SPC

ppraa.org/coqp

Sept 4 1800z to Sept 5 0300z

Tennessee QSO Party

RS(T), county or SPC

tnqp.org/rules

Sept 17 1600z to 18th 2000z

New Jersey QSO Party

RS(T), county or SPC

www.k2td-bcrc.org/njqp

Sept 17 1600z to 18 2200z

New Hampshire QSO Party

RS(T), county or SPC

www.w1wqm.org/nhqso

Sept 17 1600z to 18 2359z

Washington State Salmon Run

RS(T), county or SPC

www.wwdx.org

Sept 24 1200z to 25 1200z

Maine QSO Party

RS(T), county or SPC

www.qsl.net/ws1sm

Sept 24 1400z to Sept 25 2000z

Texas QSO Party

RS(T), county or SPC

www.txqp.net

That's all folks. See you next month
8/28/2016