

County Hunter News

September 1, 2017

Volume 13 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. The cw folks are now doing 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

N4CD Rumblings

The summer is nearly over for many. Kids started back in school late August here in TX and will all be back soon. The temps up north are cooling a bit, but not much down here this way.

There has been lots of travel by county hunter mobiles with many good trips covering

many of the states - including big trips to AK by N9JF – all districts – and trips all over by Mary, AB7NK and Neil K7SEN – who finished running all of Colorado. Ed, K8ZZ, seems to be always about headed here and there. Bill, NU0Q made a giant trip out west through MT.

We're resuming state QSO parties again with many good ones scheduled for September with nearly a thousand counties to be on the air.

County Hunter News Distribution – since the demise of the last computer and now having 'upgraded' (not by a long shot) Outlook mail that has lost all ability at distribution lists, we'll be busy trying to do some work arounds to get the the CHNews out. It will be up as an announcement on the K3IMC web site as always but individual emails might still take a while to work out to get to the several hundred county hunters each month. (LiveMail supported 'groups' but LiveMail no longer exists – hi hi.)

Kansas QSO Party

Occurring just at the end of last month, here are some of the preliminary results and comments from the 3830 contest reflector:

KB0LF mobile as N0E - reported 106 cw and 4 ssb QSO in 4.5 hours of operation

KD0IRW as K0T - 674 SSB QSO

Second year in the KS QSO Party, first year as a portable (rover). Had a awesome time.

Was pleased with the bands, especially on Saturday. Like most of the Kansas stations, on Sunday the storms kept me from operating for the first 30 mins. Made sure to make stops at Parks on the Air locations, and give the POTA chasers some fun. This helped the score quite a bit, and was surprised at the DX that I was able to work!

Station info:
Yaseu 857d
Telescoping 31' Jackite pole (vertical dipole)
100W

Thanks to Bob W0BH for all the hard work, its was a great time!

K3PA as W0K 562 cw 1409 SSB QSO

Last minute rotator failure and local thunderstorms Sunday put a damper on results but I was still pleased. Fun contest!

K0VXU as K0N - 385 cw 805 ssb QSO

Great fun as a Kansas station. Lots of activity. Lost time Sunday morning while at church. Bands were not too friendly above 14 MHz but made some QSOs. The 15 & 10 meter bands seemed open but no activity. Sunday a thunderstorm passed through making it hard on the ears. Thanks to all who persevered and stayed with me to get the QSOs through the noise. Bands Sunday seemed much better and worked several European stations on 20.

Last minute mults from NL, NS, and NE. Only missed NU, NT, PEI and YT.

Good to see so many KS stations (including all of the 1X1's) participating this year.

Hats off to Bob, W0BH, for heading up the administrative efforts and getting things moving in one direction. Thanks, Bob.

This year I went back to SOHP, all band mixed and certainly did not perform as well as 2015, but I'm not complaining considering the conditions this year.

K3, TH6DXX, Sloping Veas (80 & 40), N1MM+

Thanks to all who provided the QSO's.

73,
Russ - K0N
AKA K0VXU

WX4G - out of state

Amazing number of mobile stations...these Kansas guys did a GREAT JOB of getting rare Counties on...and multiple times!!

Thanks for all the NEW counties...now if I can only get them confirmed...hope you dump your logs into E-QSL!!

73/DX Bob

N6MU - CA - 351 cw 146 ssb qso

1x1s and mobiles everywhere. Conditions not the best Saturday but Sunday was a whole new ballgame. Conditions were great!

Needed 13 counties for the Sweep after Saturday and they were all planned to be on Sunday. I thought my run of Sweeps was going to end at six years in a row but everyone was loud Sunday and it turned out to be fairly easy. K0A gave me the last two(ELK/CHT)but had me worried as he was weak the county before(COW)and couldn't hear me but he was booming in when it counted most! Thanks, Connie.

Great to hear Jerry, K5YAA, back in action. Kudos to all the mobiles for outstanding efforts. I think there were at least 15 of them that I worked roaming the plains and keeping the action non-stop.

Kudos to the many fixed stations, mostly 1x1s, who hung in there as well for added fun.

Bob, W0BH, really knows how to throw a Party! Congrats to all the KS participants. 73...

John, N6MU TS-570 & 5BTV

Seems few of the mobiles reported scores on the 3830 reflector so far. We'll have more

on the KS QP next month hopefully including some good mobile reports!

Book Review of the Month

This month it's a rousing sea tale of a YL wireless ship operator aboard a Norwegian freighter sailing the high seas. Originally written in Norwegian in 1959 by Hild Hendriksen, **Sea Hawk Calling** was translated into English in 1962 and re-released. It's an obscure book but I found a copy on line for \$1.99 and shipping was \$3.99 – serendipity. Amazon rank - #1,927,732 .

The story starts out in a small town in Norway – that sends most of it's sons to sea – sailors or fisherman. Lena has grown up with boyfriend Storm – and they get engaged just before Storm heads out to sea on a ship for a voyage that could take him away for a year or longer. Those freighters sailed from port to port – and maybe once a year or two returned to the home port. While Storm was away, Lena spent a year taking a course to become a ship's wireless operator and gets her certification. Storm is unaware of this till she is suddenly on board another Norwegian freighter sailing the world.

There's loads of stories about her visiting exotic ports around the world – and hoping one day to catch up with her engaged partner. Lena enjoys all the ports from the Philippines to Bombay to Shanghai – and New York City and Panama. They exchange letters – the ships get letters when in ports – which could be a month apart – yet their paths do not cross.

Lena tries to keep in touch by radio – but they are seldom in radio range – and it seems the two ships are always headed in different directions.

Finally, against all odds, both ships wind up sailing to the same port – Karachi – and the two meet – and after a few frantic days – get married – and wind up sailing on their individual ships in different directions the next day.

Good read and a decent 'radio book' with enough detail about life as a wireless operator on board a ship to make it interesting.

On the Road with N4CD I

The key jack on the IC-706 original finally got so flaky you couldn't keep it in place where it would consistently work. Sometimes it worked if you wiggled it right, sometimes not. Time to send it off for repair. However, if you have an IC706 original, ICOM service centers no longer support it. They will repair the newer Mark IIG unit. Same for most of their base station radios older than 7-10 years. After that, ICOM service won't fix it. Their service ends 10 years after the last radio was sold. They claim it is due to lack of parts, but heck, most of the parts are the same between generations – especially the mechanical parts. They did give me an alternate – seems one of their 'retirees' does a thriving business fixing older ICOM radios – if parts are available. That can be a problem these days.

So....if your old ICOM dies, try Malcomm Technical Services at MTS@toledotelcom in Toledo, WA. Also has a web site.

If you are thinking of buying a new radio, MTC in Paris TX was selling new IC-7100s for \$939.00 with a \$200 ICOM rebate – good through the end of September. Saw that at the OK City Hamfest. Not sure what their regular price is, but everyone else on the web is over \$1000. The \$200 rebate is good anywhere you buy one for another month or so. Maybe no sales tax if shipped by mail. Heck, many of the folks are asking \$600 and \$650 for the ICOM IC706 Mark II, and half of them don't have the CW filter. With the IC-7100, you don't need filters and get a brand new radio!

In the mean time, I had access to an IC706 Mark II and put it in the car. Seems to be working OK but the mic gain is 'hot' with the standard mic. Can't really turn it down enough for my liking with the compressor on. I usually 'close talk' the mic.

With the newer radio – decided to take a trip to check it out. There's a new WWFF site, just added a few weeks ago – the Caddo National Grasslands NWR up in Fannin County about 80 miles from the QTH. I could go 'activate' it perhaps – getting the 44 contacts needed and it would be a good check of the radio. So off I went on a Thursday morning up US75 to Route 121 to 82 over to Honey Grove, TX. From there it is 10 miles north to the DuBois unit where you could find a nice spot by a boat launch/day use area to run

the county/park. The downside was that it was in the boonies with no internet! That makes it a challenge to get to 44!



I started off on the CH frequencies – and someone probably spotted me on at least one band – so I got up to 20 or so QSOs after an hour of trying. Conditions weren't great and it was mid-day on a Wednesday which also doesn't help these days. Heard an EA2 but didn't complete that contact- just right at the noise floor. Well, without internet, it's tougher for the WWFF folks. Some will spot you if they hear you. Others aren't 'connected' just like some county hunters. You take what you can get. More than 10 gives you credit but you fall short in the park 'activation' category.



Kraig, KA2LHO was out running FL parks – planning on hitting five or so today.

A bit discouraged, I headed back down to route 82 – there's a gas station/convenience store there to grab some lunch. Did that then headed to the Ladonia Unit of the same park 10 miles south. Wow....it took a few extra miles to get there – and the only thing there is a sign and a driveway that goes in 100 feet to a locked gate. It's 'indented' so you can park and be in the 'park' for your run. First you navigate a mud puddle and some antenna eating low hanging trees – and you can get 80 feet off the road. OK...do that carefully. Get 'in the park' and run it.

Here, the internet comes and goes – mostly goes but on peaks, if you are waiting, the spot will go through if you hit the 'spot' button at the right point! Serendipity. Now can spot and try to catch a few more. After an hour and a few spots (not many worked on 20m SSB, though – a handful) I did just break 44 QSOs. It was a few minutes to 2pm and the CW Open test starts at 1900Z on Wednesday and runs for an hour. Also early and much later in the day – every Wednesday. It's CW denizens on for a weekly 'test' and trying to complete as many Qs as possible for points in a hour. Why not catch a few more? I quickly put another 15 in the log then decide it is time to head on home after 20 minutes. My radio was on 'overload' from the strong signals in the CWT. It helps if you can turn off the noise blanker. Finished with 60Q. You better brush up on your cw speed first though if you jump in on this. Most of those folks zip along at 25+, many at 30 and 35 wpm. For the exchange, it's name and CWO number/state if

not a member.

Headed on home. 180 miles on the car. Radio checked out. Works. Key jack perfect. More trips planned.

National Convention

The 2017 MARAC National Convention will be held in beautiful Colorado Springs, CO on Sept 25, 26, 27 with checkout on 28 Sept. The convention will be held at the 3-star Hotel Elegante Conference and Event Center.

Colorado Springs (I-25, exit 138)

The Hotel's no. is 719-576-5900

Tour the Olympic Training Center and Garden of the Gods, attend a presentation on NPOTA, CW forum, etc. or just visit with other county hunters. So, Come one, come all... meet your fellow hams/county hunters. Hope to see you in Sept 2017!!!

Early check in is on 24 Sep
(Barry, N0KV and Pat, N0DXE will be setting up in the hospitality room after 6 p.m.)

We will have several programs, an organized bus tour plus a buffet banquet.

Bring a gift to the gift exchange, which will take place the evening of the banquet. Gift should be in the \$15 range. We will also draw for the early bird prize and other prizes at the banquet.

Colorado should be beautiful this time of year with the Aspen trees turning a golden yellow. We have the majestic mountains, lots of local attractions in the Pikes Peak area, 4 National Parks, and lots of opportunities to hike, bike, golf, fish, etc

See your issue of the MARAC Newsletter for more detail.

There will be a CW meeting and Larry, W0QE, will conduct an antenna shoot-off – to see how well your antenna system compares against others! Plus the annual MARAC meeting and more.

Hosted by Pat, N0DXE and Barry, N0KV

Depending upon the vote of the MARAC membership, this may be the last convention for 2 years – they may go to every other year. So head on to Colorado for this one!! Don't miss out

AI5P Trip – More

My Route 66 Adventure - Rick, AI5P

I had been thinking about this trip for many years. Finally I decided that it was time to do it and stop talking about it. I had collected a lot of Route 66 books (you'd be surprised how many there are) and videos about Route 66 along with taking the Quarterly Route 66 Magazine for many years. I sat down and planned the route through each state along with making a list of those places I wanted to visit or see. Of course, you can't possibly see everything that might be of interest on such a long trip.

One of the quotes from the books was: Question - "How long should I take to drive Route 66?"

Answer: "Take as much time as you can."

If you just want to drive Route 66 and not experience the people you meet, visit the many interesting sites, or just enjoy the varied scenery, I would NOT recommend the trip to you.

Unfortunately, I knew the radio conditions wouldn't be the greatest but I couldn't do much about that. As it turned out, conditions were pretty dismal - which was a disappointment but the main purpose of the trip was the adventure, not operating the radio.

A few historical notes: Route 66 was born during the 1920s, from an expressed desire to improve the road network, mostly in the West, where it was an archaic hodgepodge of

tracks, trails, lanes and paths established over time by the Indians and Pioneers. Route 66, after long discussions, was designated in 1926. It goes through eight states and is advertised as being 2,448 miles long.

During the Great Depression and the “Dust Bowl” of the 1930s, Route 66 was the primary route for millions seeking their fortunes in California. John Steinbeck’s “The Grapes of Wrath” 1939 book identified Route 66 as the “Mother Road.” During and after WWII, Americans - both military and civilians - traveled from East to West.

Many know the road from their travels as children in the 1950’s, hearing Bobby Troup’s “Get Your Kicks on Route 66” (Sung by Nat King Cole), the 1960s TV show route 66 (yes, little r), or, more recently, the “Cars” movies. In 1956 the Interstate Highway Act replaced many roads, including Route 66. The final town on Route 66 to be bypassed by an Interstate was Williams, AZ, in 1985. It took five interstates to replace Route 66: I-55, I-44, I-40, I-15, and I-10.

I departed Albuquerque on June 12th and drove to Chicago - mostly on the Interstates but with a few side trips to Route 66 sites of interest and to LeClare, IA - home of the “American Pickers.” I had planned it so that I would start at the beginning of Route 66 - now at the corner of Jackson Street and Michigan Avenue in downtown Chicago on a Sunday morning (June 18th - early!). I’m not a fan of big city traffic - which is an understatement after having to deal with Los Angeles traffic on the final leg of the trip.

It would take too many words and photos (I took hundreds) to describe in detail the many sights I saw and people I met. Many of the people experiencing the road are from Europe and as far away as Australia and New Zealand. There are tour buses and many bring or rent their own motorcycles or cars for the trip!

I arrived back home in Albuquerque on June 29th and took a couple of weeks to recover hi. Then on July 12th I set off on the second leg of the trip to Santa Monica. I arrived at the Pier on the morning of July 18th and had officially driven Route 66. Such an amazing adventure!

By the time I got home, I had driven 5,459 miles and had made at least one contact in each of the 58 counties Route 66 goes through. A total of 1,086 contacts were made with 166 unique callsigns. I plan to have a special QSL card printed in the future.

Here are a few photos: I have included the start and finish along with just two from each of the eight states of what I considered among the most interesting from that state. With hundreds to chose from, trying to pick only two photos is doing a disservice to many

places but, for brevity's sake, so be it.

1. Start Point. Corner of Jackson and Michigan Avenue in downtown Chicago. That tall building in the background is the Willis Tower (formerly the Sears Tower), the 108-story, 1450-foot skyscraper.



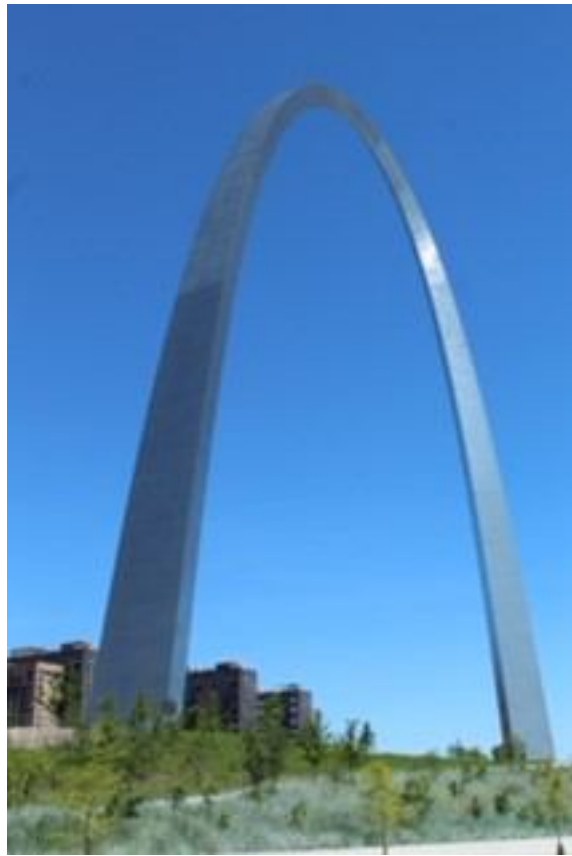
2. Illinois. The Lincoln Memorial and Tomb, Springfield. This is final resting place of the 16th President, his wife and three of their four sons. Constructed of granite, the tomb has a rectangular base surmounted by a 117-foot high obelisk. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1960.



3. Illinois. The Chain of Rocks Bridge over the Mississippi River. Opened in 1929, its most notable feature is a 22-degree bend occurring in the middle of the bridge. It was closed to vehicular traffic in 1970. Today it is open for pedestrian and cycling use and is on the U.S. Register of Historic Places.



4. Missouri. The Gateway Arch is a 630-foot monument in St. Louis. Clad in stainless steel and built in the form of an inverted, weighted catenary arch, it is the world's tallest arch and the tallest man-made monument in the Western Hemisphere. Constructed in 1963-65, it was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1987.



5. Missouri. Meramec Caverns is the collective name for a 4.6-mile cavern system near Stanton. A tourist attraction since 1933, it is reputed to have been used by Jesse James and his gang as a hideout.



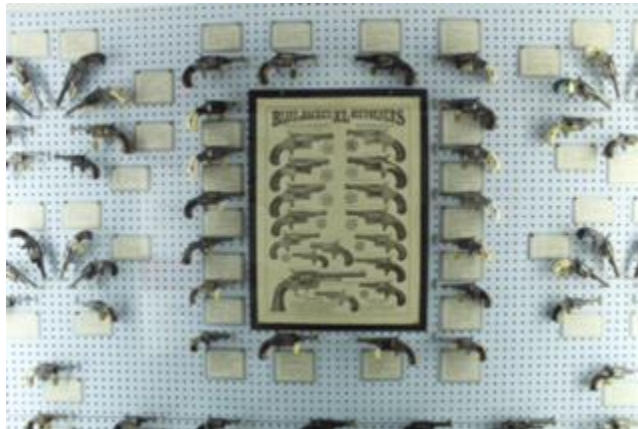
6. Kansas. The Galena Mining and Historical Museum. Displays focus on the mining of lead and zinc in the area from late 1800s to 1970s. It is estimated that over \$1 billion dollars worth of product was mined.



7. Kansas. Route 66 only goes through Kansas for about 13 miles. One of the many interesting bridges on the entire trip is found here. Built in 1923, this is the last of three “Marsh Rainbow Arch” bridges on Route 66.



8. Oklahoma. The J.M. Davis Arms and Historical Museum, Claremore. Housing over 20,000 firearms and related items, it is advertised as “The World’s Largest Privately Owned Gun Collection.”



9. Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, Clinton. Here you can get a good background on the history, myths, signs, photos and music of the iconic road.



10. Texas. Devils Rope Barbed Wire Museum, McLean. Dedicated to the history of barbed wire, fencing tools and ranching heritage. Also has a display on Texas Route 66 history.



11. Texas. The Big Texan Steak House, Amarillo. Home of the famous 72-ounce steak challenge.

In case you're interested: Rules: You have to consume in 1 hour: Shrimp Cocktail, Baked Potato, Salad with Roll and butter plus the 72-ounce (over four pounds!) Steak. If you fail, you pay \$72 - but at least you can take the unconsumed food with you!



12. New Mexico. Blue Swallow Motel, Tucumcari. Serving travelers since 1939, this motel is an iconic example of the classic Route 66 Motel. Recently restored, it's a great place to stay.



13. New Mexico. El Rancho Hotel, Gallup. Home of the movie stars throughout the 1930s and 40s who were filming Westerns in the area. Unique!



14. Arizona. Petrified Forest National Park, near Holbrook. Beautiful scenes of colorful geology, petrified wood, and painted desert vistas.



15. Arizona. Standin' on the Corner Park, Winslow. Commemorating the song "Take it Easy," written by Jackson Browne and Glenn Frey and, most famously, recorded by the Eagles.



16. California. The Harvey House, Barstow. Originally named Casa Del Desierto ("House of the Desert") when it was opened in 1911, this Harvey House was one of a network of restaurant-hotels built and operated by the Fred Harvey Corporation in conjunction with the Santa Fe Railroad. This was one of the "Crown Jewels" along the Santa Fe route.



17. California. Wigwam Motel, Rialto. Built in 1949, this was the final of seven Wigwam Motels constructed. Three remain today. This remodeled classic motel continues to be very popular with Route 66 roadies! Nice place and surprisingly very comfortable.



18. Santa Monica, California, pier. Westward terminus of Route 66.



Mobile Activity in August

Starting at the end of July though 8/28

KC7YE spotted out in WA

Kraig, KA2LHO, out many times during the month in FL running parks and counties. He plans to finish running all FL counties soon.

KB0BA/N0XYL were out and about in IA.

K6YEK was on many days criss-crossing the country during the month

Tony, WA9DLB was up in WI and IA putting them out

W6OUL noted in ID

Jack, WD4OIN spotted in SC on his way south through GA

KA9JAC/KB9YVT were out mobile in WI

Seth, N3MRA was noted out and about

AF5CC spotted in OK counties

AB7NK and K7SEN noted in CA and NV— part of their big trip. Later in UT then CO.

Starting in August -

Bob N8KIE was active putting out IN and KY counties. Down into NC and other states, too. Many counties run – 170.

Jim, N9JF was active many days during the month. Later headed south, then spent many days activating rare eastern KY counties

N4CD headed out the three week trip back east – up through MO to IL then east to NY and back home.

Ray, WB0PYF noted out and about in MO

N4UP busy in KY, AL and other states during the month.

Gene, WB4KZW out mobile again in SC and TN

Ed, K8ZZ, busy in MI, WI and MO and KS many days during the month

Mike, NF0N, was out running NE counties several times during the month

KA1JPR and the scammer club call started in FL and gave out bogus stars all the way to ME and back with sidekick KA1QBC.

Ron, N5MLP, took a nice long trip around TX counties

Various parks were activated and spotted – K2RYD in NY, N9MM, K0ATZ in MO and nearby states, KD0IRW, KA9JAC in WI, WK2S in NJ, W3AAX, etc. They are all in counties – many set up 'portable' which counts for No-Star Award. Some as mobiles. When no mobiles are running – check around the bands for other activities and please spot the parks, SOTAs, for the benefit of others.

Bill, NU0Q headed out through IA and ND – heading west on multi-week trip.

Jack, N7IV, was spotted in ND and MN on another trip.

KZ2P/N2FPM noted out in SC and GA.

K7TM was spotted in ID and MT.

WJ8Y was mobile in OH and other places.

Doug, WA4UNS, spotted out and about in VA and points north.

Terry, WQ7A spotted out in WA and OR.

N5KUC noted running TX counties

WB0TEV noted in OK counties

Bob, KC6AWX was noted up in WA state.

Karl, K4YT, put out counties in VA.

At the end of the reporting period (8/28) we had the KS QSO Party with many county hunter mobiles including K5YAA and NU0Q participating. More on the KS QP next month. Also had the HI QP.

On the Road with N4CD II

The newer radio had been checked out – the IC-706 Mark II – so the trip was set to head to the Chicago area for the ARCI annual Antique Wireless Convention – then on to Lake George NY to visit my sister – then on to Henrietta NY (near Rochester) for the Antique Wireless Association annual convention – then back to home. Lots of parks and counties along the way. And no problems with a flaky, intermittent cw jack that you had to tinker with all the time to get it to work. The radio seemed to accept slightly lower voltage before it dropped out. You'll remember the Malibu likes to sit at 12.4 to 12.6v as you drive along – unless you keep the headlights on, in which case, the voltage happily sits at 13.6 to 13.8vdc! So I keep the headlights on!

On August 2, 2107, I headed out going up through OK – hitting a few parks along the way. Seems I ran a 'wrong park'. There is both a Sequoyah Bay and a Sequoyah State Park in OK. Accidentally headed to the wrong one, but finally got the park numbers straight. The one I got to was in Cherokee County – one of the rarer OK counties so that worked out fine! Hi hi. Still had to wave at a few close to the route parks – no time to get to them and run them. Each one takes a good hour, usually two by the time you get there and back, run the park on 3 cw bands, plus maybe 1 or 2 on SSB. Had to make some miles each day if I was going to get 1000 miles away in 3 days. First night spent in Joplin, MO at a Microtel Motel. Golden Corral for dinner. I like those buffet places – can get salad and loads of veggies and fruit, and there is no waiting for meals to arrive. The Wyndham Group of motels – like Super 8, Microtel, Days Inn, Knights Inn – all have free breakfast. As a 'frequent guest' you also get a few perks – like a 'close in' room not far from the lobby usually.

Next day was up through MO over to the St Louis area – hitting parks along the way.

Thanks to the county hunters (some of them now park hunters), I'd get half way to 44 in short order in most parks. After a few years, most parks will likely be 'activated' with at least 44 cumulative contacts - but now most of the 4300 have not been activated. The WWFF program just started in 2016 in the US. In some of the parks without internet, I did fail to get to 44. Band conditions often get quite miserable from 11-2pm or so local time and if you hit a park without internet, you might only get 10-15 contacts total. That's the way the cookie crumbles. The best deal is to run parks in different counties!

One of the interesting parks in MO is Route 66 State Park – needless to say, it is along a small section of the original highway with a visitor center – up near St Louis. Rick, AI5P, completed an end to end trek along the route this year. I decided to head through St Louis to avoid morning rush hour so continued just over into IL

That night was spent at a Days Inn in Collinsville, IL. Dinner at Ruby Tuesday. They currently run a nice special – all you can eat salad bar, choice of 3 entrees, and a desert for \$13.99. Not bad. Filled up on their great salad bar, then had the chicken entree. (There wasn't a Golden Corral nearby).

Next day would continue the trip to up near Chicago – stopping at a bunch of parks along the way in IL. I was going to run one park off the Interstate – but couldn't find it! The GPS lady took me to this 'nature preserve'. Hmm...where is the 'state park'? Turns out, after investigating later, that the State renamed the State Park into this nature preserve - it was inside it but no longer marked as a State Park! Hmm... I had investigated it along the way, usually going to the state site in each state, going to the parks, getting the street address written down – so if the GPS lady didn't have it in the database, I could hunt it down. Wasted 30-40 minutes on that detour and didn't get to run a park. The state site had not been updated and it had been a year since the name change! Of course, the new name wasn't in the WWFF database.

I arrived at the convention hotel – Hilton Paradise Inn -with a good \$99/night conference rate. Usually several hundred show up for this. Had dinner at the hotel. \$25. In the evening they have a big auction – with several hundred items up for sale. No dogs here – there's a \$25 per item auction entry fee – so you get 'top dollar' items and there are probably 300 of them up for sale. A Pilot Super Wasp, in absolute 'mint' condition, with full set of 10 plug in coils, went for over \$450. Wow. Big Bucks. It's a 1929 short wave set – maybe the first decent radio ever made – and it was a kit – with an RF stage and decent shielding. Battery power. That was the only item out of hundreds I had any interest in. Needless to say, it went home with someone else at that price. Plus you pay a 10% buyer premium running up the price even more! Many of the auction items hit several hundred dollars, some reaching \$600 and \$800 for the rarer

ones. The auction went on for five hours. An early All Star superhet with full set of plug in coils – also mint condition – hit \$400. It was one of the first 'superhets' for shortwave work. Many radios sold for \$200-\$500. Some hit \$800. Too 'rich' for me! I left after the Pilot Super Wasp bidding was done. No need to stick around. I was sort of disappointed that nothing else in my genre showed up - but that's the norm. You hope you find something you already don't have, and it makes the 'hunt' interesting – but few new different things appear – even on Ebay. I still hit several 'antique radio' conventions/flea markets a year hoping for something different. You could buy boxes of tubes, or one or two individual rarer tubes for your collection – some worth hundreds each. Lots of pristine restored sets – and a handful of Victrolas and Edison wax cylinder players, old TV sets from the 40s, a few pieces of ham gear, and lots of misc.

On Saturday there is a big flea market – maybe 70-80 sellers – which starts early – 6-7am and lasts most of the day. Tons of old radios – consoles, wood radios, plastic radios, ham gear – mostly classic boat anchor stuff. Most people show up early.

You can see pics of the flea market and auction items here

http://www.antique-radios.org/2017_aug_index_page.html

I did wind up buying a ratty rusted Knight Kit Ocean Hopper for \$30. No cabinet. Good for parts if nothing else. In good condition they go for \$100 plus. It did have the BC plug in coil in it too, plus the optional power choke. There was a Knight Kit Span Master for sale and it followed me home late in the day for a bargain price. It had been recapped. No other finds to be had – either at the flea market or the auction for me.

The flea market had no new folks coming in by 9am so I decided I could go out and run a nearby park in Will County. Did that and returned a bit later – resumed the search for goodies in the flea market with no success. Did snag the Knight Kit Span Master late in the day. Seller was happy to bargain after all day of trying to sell it. Seems lots of folks had come by, mentioned they or friend used to 'have one of those' and they spun tales from way back. But there are few 'collect' the old Knight Kits these days other than the Ocean Hoppers. There seems to be a cult about them. The Ocean Hoppers were the lowest cost kits – started at under \$10 in the late 50s and were \$11 or \$12 with one plug in coil in the early 60s. Just three tubes in them – a 12AT6 triode detector, a 50C5 audio output tube, and a 35W4 rectifier. You had to use headphones on shortwave. During my novice days, I actually worked someone who was using one of these! The other 'cult item' from the way back days was the Ameco inexpensive transmitter kit – maybe 5-10w out with a simple one tube transmitter – the least expensive 'new' thing you could buy! Folks are still collecting them, there's even a new

'kit' available that's a clone. Strange things happen in collecting and 'nostalgia'.

Dinner that night was at a nearby Mexican Restaurant – Chicken Fajitas at the La Hacienda.

Well, come Sunday and it was time to head to Peotone IL for the Hamfesters Hamfest at the Will County Fairgrounds. Took about an hour to get over there- spent 90 minutes looking around – no goodies at all up for sale in the way of regen shortwave receivers – walked a mile or so wandering around – it's spread out all over the place - then did the 'inside bit' with the vendors - nothing needed but did buy 3 50DC4 tubes. They are nifty tubes – same as a 35W4 rectifier, but with 50v filament. The old radios were designed in the 40s and 50s to run off 110vac – the then 'line voltage'. Now, my line voltage is about 127v most days, and that extra 17 volts makes those radios run hot, and the 35W4 seems to be the first to fail. Sometimes the 50C5 audio output tube dies, as they are being run a good 10% 'over design voltage'. So if you stick a 50DC4 in place of a 35W4, which pulls the same current and has the same pin out, you are less likely to 'pop tubes' due to filament burnout from over voltage! You can also increase the power resistor – usually present – to a higher resistance – to drop more voltage, but heck, that involves finding a new 10w power resistor and soldering. Easier to stick in a new tube! Hihi It's a weird tube, seldom used in radios so I buy them when I can find them. (if you have a bunch of the AC/DC All American Five Radios – the usually use a 35W4 rectifier – so you can substitute with a 50DC4). Those radios were designed for 110vac line voltage. Now the standard is 121 vac and often it is 125-130v.

Chicago is full of toll roads and that extends over in IN with it's toll road. I got tired of paying toll after toll after toll! Ouch. If you live in Chicago, you can get an EZ-Pass but for folks passing through, be prepared to fork out the dollars. Lots of them. We have a few toll roads in TX – more each year it seems – and the locals get a transponder. Here it's electronic toll tags or they send you bills in the mail at 50% increase costs. In Chicago, they actually have toll collectors. Same for the toll roads in IN and the other states like PA and NY.

The 3 tubes were the 'find' at the hamfest. There were places to be and parks to run, so I headed east on Sunday, 8/6 after the visit to the hamfest. I would do about 300 miles a day heading east to reach Lake George in Warren County NY in five days or so.

Time for a break.....

Maryland/DC QSO Party

In early August, the annual Maryland/DC QSO Party was held. There did not seem to be any mobile activity – a shame – and no hint of parks or reports of parks activated for score. Sparse CW operation. Some results from the 3830 contest reflector:

WN4AFP in SC: 5 cw 12 ssb 26 digital 12 mults

I usually give the MDCQP a full-time effort, but I had several non-ham projects that had to be completed on Saturday. I also had family commitments on Sunday too. So I put in several hours and we'll see what happens. Overall, band conditions were very poor from SC to MDC. I usually have a pipeline on 40m and some prop on 20m, but not this year. I made all on 40m except for one on 80m. Every contact made was one that took a few repeats. I only heard a few stations on CW too. Luckily I found W3VPR on 40m CW and Phone. I'll give it a better try next year.

73s Dave WN4AFP

K4VBM (GA) - 20 SSB QSO 10 Mults

Kenwood TS-870 100 watts into my homemade ladder line fed dipole up about 25 feet. Mostly horrible band conditions. Managed to get 6 club stations, got a mobile 5 times, and the rest were standard - all SSB. Was 2 QSOs short of last year (and had 2 digital QSOs last year, so that was the difference), but I remember last year conditions were better. Still, a reasonable outcome, and hopefully a reasonable showing. Thanks for the fun!

KG4USN – Anne Arundel, MD - 21 SSB QSO – 15 mults

Tough going this time

NQ3E in DE - 202 QSO

When things got slow in WAE CW I defected to MD QSO party and ran phone for a

couple stretches. Very nice string of callers, almost all "new to me"! Thanks for the Q's

WR3R/QRP - Montgomery MD 12 cw 42 ssb

Band conditions were average at best. Much QRN much of Saturday, and sunspot havoc both Saturday and Sunday limited contacts. Seemed to be fewer MDC stations active this year...not sure why. Thanks to all the the stations who dug me out of the mud, and even the occasional one who said I had a nice signal, despite running 5 watts to wire antennas.

Rig: FT-1000MP at 5 watts, dipole antennas on 40 and 20 and an inverted V on 80.

WA3EKL club station HP - in state - 2 cw 182 ssb – Anne Arundel, MD

GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL
WE HAD OPERATORS THAT RANGED FROM 9 YO TO 70 YO.
A GREAT CHANCE TO INTRODUCE NEW FOLKS TO CONTESTING.
BEST TO ALL AND SEE YOU IN THE NEXT ONE.

THE WA3EKL CONTEST CREW

On the Road with N4CD II – continued

There were a good selection of new parks to run on the route to NY – and I'd try to do parks in new counties. One maximum in a county. That insures folks will show up. A repeat in a county usually gets less county hunters – hi hi .

You can see the parks by going to www.wwff.co and selecting under 'directory' the wwff maps. Then select WWFF and below hit the select button for 'K - US' . If you run parks, be prepared to upload your logs to the wwff database using an ADIF file. Folks only get credit if you upload the file.

After this trip was over, I used a free-ware program called FLE – Fast Log Entry – available for download on the internet. It makes entering contacts from a paper log into a easy to edit file – much easier than using TQSL to enter contacts – and you can zip along a lot faster, and avoid mistakes. If you need a program to enter contacts into a file that will produce an ADIF file, needed to upload to both LoTW and the WWFF database, you might want to check this out. Bob, KA9JAC, pointed me in that direction and it works well. It's easier to catch typos and double check things. More on that later. I realized as I was zipping long there were going to be a lot of contacts to enter into the log. I don't use Logger – which I guess will export an ADIF file – so I need to use something, and the TSQL program is not the greatest. It works – last year I entered over 36,000 QSOs via TSQL to LoTW.

Made it to the east side of IN at a Ramada in Angola, IN by Sunday evening. Hmmmm.....check the tire pressure each day, and the right rear tire was losing air – down 3-4 lbs. Put air in tire at night. Down 3 lb in the morning. Put more air in tire to continue driving. Not good. Something going on. Will monitor. Rear tire appears to have an air leak of a few pounds every 12 hours. At some point, I'm going to have to get this fixed.

Next day, August 7, I'd start out in Williams County OH and work my way east park by park, county by county. Put air in tire. It seems that Paul, N7JPF, was down to one for the WBOW to finish up all CW. He had a lead for an active ham in the county but it didn't pan out – for Mifflin PA. So the N4CD route was changed at the last moment with a 300 mile detour to head to Mifflin PA for him. I quickly figured I could find a few parks along the route, but had to make some miles to get there. That night was spent in Youngstown, OH, right on the OH/PA border, at a Super 8 Motel.

The nice lady at the Super 8 check in mentioned that Flynn Tire was open till 7pm – it was now about 5pm – and they could probably look at the tire. Serendipity. Headed a few miles over there and yes, they could take a look and see what was going on. I took the antennas off the car. The 40m Hamstick fits inside the car. The big antenna on the back won't, but I took it off and found a nook outside to put it so they wouldn't crunch it when they put it up on a lift. I don't trust them even though they said they could do it with the antenna on the car. Sixty minutes later, they showed me a 2 inch long headless

nail that was in the tire. The puncture was in the main tread so that was easy to patch. Done in 90 minutes. \$25. Nice folks. Found a Perkins Restaurant and had the turkey dinner with dressing and broccoli– senior price. Asked the server what's the difference it the 'regular' vs senior dinners – often the senior one is less meat or something – and he said 'no difference other than the price'! Enjoyed the turkey dinner. No Perkins down this way.

Next day headed to the Mifflin County area. Did a few parks getting there, and wound up with lots of driving to get to State College, PA, at a Super 8. It was another 30 miles to Mifflin so I could head on over there before dark. That county was a LC WBOW for K7REL about 10 years ago it seemed. Been there a few times! You head on up a big hill. Usually no sweat but massive construction there underway now. Slow going up. Last time I was here there was nice large 10 foot wide county sign - “Mifflin County” at the top – and you could park and take a pic of it. Not now! Construction, and all trucks must stop at the top and check brakes before the five mile steep downgrade. There was a line of 20-30 trucks at the side of the road and no way to stop, plus construction barriers everywhere! No way to get a pic. You head on over the hill and it is downhill for five miles to the next exit way down below. Trucks must do 20mph max! Line of trucks in right lane going slow, slow, slow. I start running the county- not a good place to run as you are in a gully most of the way down – but put some in log including N7JPF. At the first exit you can find a quiet spot and sit and put out the county – which I did – they get back on for the climb uphill.

Going uphill slow – trucks struggling to get up hill, only 2 lanes up due to construction – and the 'rest area' at the top – which was great place to run county – was closed. Then over the top, and slow slow trucks going down. Plan on lots of extra time Had success and got the WBOW. Now, I'd need to do a quick run up to NY because I took a 'southern detour'. I'd been on the road for too many days. Time to rest up, but sis said don't arrive before noon Thursday – she had other guests till then. So I could run some parks along the way after all before I got there– hi hi.

Wednesday, August 9, head in the direction to Lake George - northeast. There's one park I head to in PA– wow.....you turn off a main road onto what seems like a lot of miles of gravel road going deeper and deeper into forest and down and down in elevation. You get there and there is no hope of internet or cell coverage. I get my 15 contacts but it's the middle of the day and the bands are miserable. Without self spots, the turn out is usually poor. It was. Fortunately a few county hunters were listening to net frequencies. It's very hard to rouse park hunters during the week by calling CQ POTA. Sometimes someone will hear you and spot you – then you'll get 10-20 contacts – but if conditions are bad, and the spotters not around – it can be very tough. A few watch the

reverse beacon network which shows stations calling CQ. To be recognized, call CQ CQ CQ POTA de N4CD K or similar. Only one word between the CQ and the call sign – otherwise, it will ignore you.

I go back out the gravel road. Some parks are easy – some are tough! The maps and GPS think the park is at the turn off. Nope – all private property for miles and miles to the park site at the dam – way way down after miles of dropping in elevation at 25 mph. Finally made it to near the north PA border and stop in Sayre, PA at a Microtel in Bradford County. Chinese Buffet for dinner – where you can load up on broccoli and green beans – with fruit for desert. Sayre is the largest town in Bradford County but only has 5,000 residents! This neck of the woods is not well populated.

Next day, Thursday, it's a few hundred miles more – and just two more parks to get to sis's house. Whew! It's been a good drive to get here – the county hunter/park way. I posted all the park signs on the Facebook POTA page for those interested. It used to be county line signs – then it went to pictures of National Park signs, and now the pictures I take are of the park entrance signs. You'll see a lot of them on the Facebook POTA page from all the activators around the country.

Finally get to sis's house, unpack the car, and enjoy a good dinner nearby in Hague at the Firehouse restaurant. This is a seasonal area in upstate NY with loads of summer visitors and residents. Many restaurants have large menus in the summer and are full in the evenings. During the winter, many shut down or have limited days of operation and limited menu. In this area, tens of thousands turn into snowbird and head south to avoid the brutal winters in this neck of the woods. In the summer, it's nice to open the windows of the house – 24 hours a day - highs in the high 70s and low 80s, lows in the 50s and 60s in the summer time. A few days in the 80s and rarely a day that reaches 90. That sure beats 100 degrees day after day in Dallas, with lows of 80 to 85 at night, and the a/c running 24/7 for the 4 'hot' months of summer. I'm set to enjoy a week or more of cooler temps.

Well, next day I head further north up to Vermont. There's a small hamfest - and I do mean small - up in St Albans, VT – 50 miles north of Burlington – way up in Franklin County on Saturday. I can run up through 4 counties – Addison, Chittenden, Grand Island and Franklin – put out a bunch of parks – stay overnight up that way, hit the hamfest, and run more parks on the way back home! Sounds like a plan to me - which is what I do, spending the night at a Days Inn in Colchester, VT – Chittenden County. Dinner at an McKee's Grill and Pub in downtown Winooski nearby. Sit out on the terrace and watch the traffic go by on the main street in the 70 degree weather. I'm loving the mild temps. Of course, in winter, this is prime snow mobile, cross country,

and downhill skiing territory with 20 and 30 below temps at times! The snow can stay on the ground for 4 months or more.

For some reason, motels are really high priced up here – must be the 'seasonal' travelers who need to get gouged to pay for things throughout the year. Think \$140 and up type motels for a Days Inn – even senior, AARP, or AAA rates. Higher without the discounts! I burn a few 'points' I've earned and take a freebie stay. With Wyndham rewards, you get a free night for every 15 you spend in their motels – and I've been giving them lots of business.

Next morning I head to the hamfest in the small town of St. Albans. The only 'event' at it is a flea market of about 20 cars at a VFD in St Albans. Arrive at 8 am. No programs on the agenda here. It's the usual stuff – ARRL books, a few HF rigs, a few old VHF rigs, lots of misc, antenna stuff, one guy selling tubes - but no 'goodies' for me. I stay about an hour – then it rains heavily so time to move on. I hit another six parks on the way home including some on the northern part of Grand Isle with less 'island QRN'. The first park I run is Kamp Kill Kare State Park – what a name! Later, I run right into one of the National Wildlife Areas/Reserves – Missiquo NWR. Usually you have to hunt for them as they are off in the 'back woods' or swamps, but is is right off the main road with a big sign and a parking lot 100 feet from the road. Serendipity – other than almost no internet – comes and goes and usually gone. Sometimes if you get your spot ready, watch the signal strength indicator, and hit it when you get a signal for a few seconds, it goes through! At one point along the route, I'm a quarter mile from Canada this far north. At a 'tee' intersection – if you turn right, you enter Canada within 1000 feet – and there is a border station there. If you turn south, you continue down into the US.

The route goes into Clinton County to I-87 then back to Lake George and sis's house via a few more parks, arriving about dinner time. I'll rest up a day before heading west to the Rochester NY area and the Antique Wireless Association Convention.

Next day Sis and I head to Bolton Landing to the Sagamore Hotel – large fancy ritzy resort hotel from way back. If you have lots of bucks, it's a nice high end resort to spend. We grab some lobster rolls for lunch on the veranda, sit back and enjoy the view out over the lake.....just taking it easy. This area is full of history – going back to revolutionary times. The lake was a major transport route – up Lake George, across a small portage to Lake Champlain – all the way to Canada and out to the Atlantic Ocean. The British and Americans fought each other in the Revolutionary War, the French and Indian Wars occurred here, too, , the Civil War all took place around here with a major battle at Saratoga, NY, a bit south A few houses and villages go back 150-200 years

with some to pre 1776. During the 1900 era, steam ships operated up and down the lake – folks in NYC would take summers off, head north and spend a month or two at 'lodges', camps, and hotels here and in the Adirondack region.

If you don't mind \$200 plus a night, the Sagamore is a nice AAA rated 4 Diamond resort – one of several up this way! We just have a 'light lunch' (\$25 each) and head back home. The lobster rolls are really good!

Next day the car heads west to Henrietta, NY – just outside Rochester via a few parks and counties along the way. Events start Wednesday evening and continue for a few days there. I check in to the RIT Convention Center hotel and grab dinner at the local Golden Corral. That evening they have a welcome party for arriving folks – and maybe 150-200 will be there. The big events are the flea market on Thursday – where you can occasionally find some bargains – and the big auction Friday night that has a lot of nicely preserved/restored radios. Prices can be high. There's also a 'book fair' with hundreds of books for sale – on just about anything 'electronic' or history. I didn't find any new 'juvenile fiction' titles. I think I've worked that line of fiction down to the last few – still have a few more to review – one per issue of the CHNews.

I find just a few small things in the Thursday flea market there – no regens or anything exciting – maybe 30 sellers - and after 2 hours with no new sellers showing up, I decide to take the rest of the day and go run some more NY parks. They do have some programs/presentations during the day but nothing of interest to me. So it's up to Wayne County to the northeast – folks always seem to like that one when it is put out – and later back through Monroe to Orleans. I get to the park just before Orleans – no internet – just get a handful of contacts. So rather than continue a large trip to the west to the next park 30 miles away, just hit the county line and put out Orleans for the county hunters, then head back to the hotel for the BBQ and the Collins Collectors presentation. Just got a handful of contacts in Orleans – no way to self spot – way way out from Rochester, and not far from Canada – so the cell systems often have to reduce coverage to not 'spill over' into another country – which means next to or zero cell coverage at the border.

On Saturday, they have the big auction with hundreds of very nice radios for sale.

Come Friday evening – there's the 'display area' where folks compete for prizes for their radios – from the unusual to the 'restored to new' units where folks have stripped down things, refinished chassis and front panels and cabinets, and got them working in good shape. There are also categories for 'wood' and 'plastic radios'. This year one theme was post WW2 military radios. Maybe there are 100 entries in the 12 categories. I

noted a nice kit shortwave regen kit radio from the 1930s – a Fultone V – with plug in coils. It had the ads from the magazines of the day – like Shortwave Craft – with it. I talked to the owner – he runs the antique radio museum in West Virginia we've mentioned before – about the radio. He picked it up 15 years ago at a swapmeet. Nice set and love to add it to the collection – first one of them I've ever seen. He wasn't interested in selling it, dang. I'll keep hunting. Many of these radios wound up in the scrap drives during WW2 – metal chassis, tubes sometimes re-used. When low cost superhets like the Hallicrafters S-38 came out after WW2, no one had interest in the regens any longer!

There was a preview for the auction items to be sold off the next day. I spent an hour looking through several hundred items – and didn't find anything I really had to have. Hit the hay, and tomorrow would start the quick trip back to TX.

In the morning (Saturday) I grabbed a cup of coffee and egg/bacon biscuit at the mini-market nearby and was on the road to home at 6:30am – headed south for 1300 miles of driving. I made it home in two days – no parks run along the way. Did run nearly all the counties as I went through them, but after the first day, it was down the same route across the same interstates all the way back home. There are only so many ways to put on miles quickly. Home by 6pm on the second day after two long days of driving all day. One time zone change which helped a bit with an 'extra hour' to drive – hi hi. 4500 miles of driving in 3 weeks.

Now to do the logs for 57 parks – each with 10 to 70 contacts each and get them uploaded. In a few weeks it will be off to Colorado for the big Nation Convention!

Thanks for traveling along with N4CD.

Fast Log Entry - FLE

FLE is a free-ware /share ware program you can download that makes it easy to take paper logs and create an easy to edit file – and also export an ADIF or Cabrillo file.

You can find it here:

<http://www.df3cb.com/fle/>

I found it simple to use after a short learning curve. If you use it a lot, it would be nice to make a small donation to keep it updated/improved.

HI QSO Party

Comments from the 3830 contest reflector:

KH7XS - HI 727 cw 3940 ssb

Too long a format for a state QSO party. If you want to make it a full 48 hours operating event, let there be a max of 30 or 36 hours operating.

N6RO - CA - 35 cw 22 ssb

Got on in short bursts in second 24 hours, mostly watching Little League WS.
Good activity, but few HI stations.
Short 10m opening Sunday near 23Z.

N6WM - - CA - 33 cw 24 ssb

So how many KH6 stations can you work with a Dipole, a 5btv and a KPA500?

well probably more than this if I was a bit more diligent.

At the NCCC picnic, there was lots of talk about HQP. And when our family was in Hawaii 2 months ago, the KH6 Oahu folks treated us so well that I knew I would throw a few out that direction. Also lots of NCCC ties out there.

So I fired up my flex lab here in Fremont to see just what we could do from sea level with a dipole and a 5btv, in between shuttling kids to soccer and washing cars.

Thanks to all the friendly stations on all the islands out there, and a special

shout out to Alan, Lloyd, Eran, Rob, Kimo and everyone who was on the air..

Special gold star to KH6CJJ who actually answered a CQ directed to KH6.. spin the dial and get a few more in the log! Maybe invite some more NCCC out there to make an event of it and light those Islands up!

Always fun and Hawaii hospitality out in full force.

Mahalo and Aloha

Chris
N6WM

W0RIC - AZ - 27 cw 27 ssb

Fun QSO Party as always!

Mahalo for all the Q's!

K4BAI - GA - 26 cw 9 ssb

Worked everyone I could find in Hawaii except K9FD who was calling stations in the other QSO parties and not sending CQ. Thanks for all QSOs.

73, John, K4BAI

KH6BE

QRP portable operation with my Elecraft KX3 and vertical dipole. I was able to make time for 3 operating sessions - Friday evening, Saturday afternoon, and Sunday afternoon, and worked from 3 different beach parks in the Honolulu area.

For my operating times, 20 meters was the only band that was workable beyond Hawaii. Most of my contacts on 80/40/15 were with locals.

I think the HQP needs to balance the goal of outreach beyond Hawaii with the

equally important goal of promoting communication within the state. Many of the biggest stations with their monster beams pointed to NA/EU never even heard me calling them. There should be a much bigger incentive for HI stations to work each other.

Although our biggest stations treat HQP as a hard-core contest, it really should always be a QSO Party foremost - a chance for operators of all skill levels and station sizes to get on the air and promote amateur radio in Hawaii.

73 and Aloha,
Bob KH6BE

K1GQ

34 CW QSOs (all pounce) in 17 hours = 2 QSOs per hour. Why would I do that over a weekend with exceptional fall-like weather? I have no clue.

Surprising QSOs: AH7U on 80m, KH7XS on 10m.

Four bands with KH6LC, AH7U, AH6KO, KH7XS, 14 different calls worked, 7 of 14 multipliers worked.

35% of QSOs with HIL, 18% with LHN, 15% with WHN and with MAU.

Awards Issued

Per the MARAC home page

USA-CW #149	WB0PYF	5/6/2017
USA-CW #151	W4IHI	10/22/2015
USA-CW #153	N7JPF	8/8/2017
USA-CW #154	AA4GT	8/10/2017
Bingo #371	W1ATV	8/20/2017
USA-PA - K Prefix #31	W4SIG	7/11/2017
USA Single Band 20m #31	W9DC	8/6/2017
Master Platinum #29	NF0N	8/5/2017
USA-CA II #436	WY8I	8/2/2017
USA-CA III #252	KB8OMG	7/11/2017
USA-CA IV #168	AA4GT	8/20/2017
USA-CA VIII #17	W0EAR	7/4/2017
County Challenge Level 1 #48	KD8DEU	6/27/2017
Call Sign Combo 1x3 #21	N5MLP	8/6/2017
Call Sign Combo 1x3 #22	NF0N	8/6/2017

Operating Events for County Hunters

Lots of good QSO Parties coming up!

Sept 2-3

Colorado QSO Party

Sept 2 1300 to Sept 3 00400z

Name, County or SPC

ppraa.org/coqp

Sept 3-4

Tennessee QSO Party

Sept 3 1800 to Sept 5 0300

RST, county or SPC

tnqp.org/rules

Sept 9

Ohio Parks on the Air

1400-2200z

Park Abbreviation or OHIO, or SPC

www.ospota.org/ospota

Sept 16-17

Iowa State QSO Party

Sept 16 1400z to Sept 17 0200Z

RST, County or SPC

www.w0yl.com/IAQP

Sept 16-17

New Jersey QSO Party

Sept 16 1600 to 17th 2000z

RST, county or SPC

k2td-bcrc.org/njqp

Sept 16-17

New Hampshire QSO Party

Sept 16 1600z to 17th 2200z

RST, county or SPC

www.w1wqm.org/nhqso

Sept 16-17

Washington State Salmon Run

Sept 16 1600 to 17th 2359

www.wwdx.org

Sept 23-24

Maine QSO Party

Sept 23 1200 to 24th 1200z

www.qsl.net/ws1sm

Sept 23-24

Texas QSO Party

Sept 23 1400z to 24th 2000z

www.txqp.net

That's all folks! See you next month!