

County Hunter News

August 2018
Volume 14 Issue 8

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 pioneering 17M operation on 18.0915. (21.0565, 24.9155, and 28.0565 when sunspots better). Look around 18136 or for occasional 17M SSB runs usually after the run on 20M SSB. (21.336 and 28.336)

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

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

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

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

For general information FAQ on County Hunting, check out:

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

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

find information on these awards and the rules at:

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

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

I see that more and more of the state QSO parties now allow and have an entry category for 'digital'. I suspect FT-8 will be quite active in the upcoming parties during the sunspot minimum. It's tough to work HI stations, too, other than the big contest stations without a big station at your end, too. Several QSO Parties this month starting the season with some good ones in KS, OH and others in HI, MD.

We're in the sunspot doldrums. When I first got into county hunting back around 1993-1995, conditions weren't great either. Back then we had a few 18 wheel truckers that kept things going with KK7X, Dennis, and Bob, KC1NA zipping all over the country. WB4FFV was in the midwest, and several other folks were on for work reasons or frequent family travel so you'd have some activity almost every day. When conditions got better, often you'd have days with five or ten mobiles out – and on weekends, a 'list full' of stations waiting their turns to run. Well, those days are over. Most trucking companies won't let you install a ham radio these days (liability issues) and the truck electronics are serious QRN generators wiping out any ham radio equipment anyway.

Fortunately, there's still an active group working on getting to all 3077 counties and putting them out here and there. The WWFF Parks program has stimulated another group active around the country in various counties, and at any given time a half dozen mobiles are active each month doing something – a trip to family, or a short run for some counties folks desperately need. A few others head out on week or weeks long travel. It's certainly not like 'peak propagation time' and many of the 'senior members' are not active mobilers any longer. It's harder and harder to recruit new folks to the county hunting ranks. However, if you check the mobile activity report each month, there are still a hundred counties run a month, if not more. Soon, we'll be back in QSO Party Time with hundreds of counties on for a weekend! Maybe you'll be out mobile? Several county hunters get out – including Ed, KN4Y, Norm, W3DYA, Jerry, K5YAA, and occasionally N4CD. At times KA3QLF, KS5A, and others run in their state QP's. Others get on from home to put out their home county.

So, while bemoaning the lack of sunspots, it's still fun – participating in the various state QSO Parties, things like the North American QP, the VHF contest, chasing special event stations – and you can work a lot of the counties. KS is coming up with many active mobiles. TX will be in September with likely over 230 counties on the air! HI will be on with many loud stations. So watch the weekend activities schedule, watch the planned trips and short notice trips, work the parks if you hear them, and make the best of 'rotten conditions'. It's going to be years till propagation is better.

On the Road with N4CD I

The road didn't go to far on July 4 – just over to the nearby town park in the morning to check out the rebuilt antenna system. I've been having some problems with the Lakeview Mag mount – redid a bunch of things so needed to check it out. This was a Wednesday and I caught the early morning 8am session (1300z) of the weekly CWT not far from home. Put 45Q in the log and called it a day after an hour in my 'home' county. Caught a few of the First Colonies stations on the air - K2A in NY and K2E in Delaware. The idea there is to work a special event station in each of the original 13 colonies, plus the British station GB13COL during the Independence Day week. Came back home.

After a few hours, decided to head on over to the POTA park – Spring Creek Preserve – 25 miles away for the 1900z session. Picked up K2J in NC , K2L in SC and K2D in CT while there. Had a decent run there with one park to park QSO with WK2S in his park. I've run this many times. It was pushing 100 degrees – luckily I found a bit of partial shade under a tree to help a bit. It's hot, hot, hot summer in TX now.

The new antenna setup seemed to be OK. Nothing loosened up which had been the problem.

Book Report of the Month

The book this month is titled **SOTA Explained** – a beginners guide to hilltop radio- by Jamie Daviess, MM0JMI – and published by the Radio Society of Great Britain. First printing in 2017 so it's a current one. I picked it up at the Dayton/Xenia Hamvention.

The book starts out by explaining how SOTA (Summits on the Air) works – the activators and chasers (well over 3000 at the current time) – and what the requirements for activating a summit are and how to do it. In a nutshell, an acceptable 'Summit' is one that has a 150M (or in the US 500 foot) prominence above the local terrain – from the top it must be 'downhill' all around the compass heading. This is easy for high peaks

like Pike's Peak CO and Mount McKinley (now Denali) but can be more difficult for 'ridges' where you have multiple peaks – and only some qualify because of saddles and undulating ridges where the summit is not 500 feet above terrain in all 360 degrees.

It goes on to explain the websites the SOTA Folks use including SOTAwatch for current activity and the SOTA main page that lists 'qualified' summits.

If you are into hiking and QRP, this is a great activity - you cannot run a Summit from your vehicle, even you can drive to the top of the mountain – like Pikes Peak. Nor can you use any part of the vehicle, including power or antenna for a SOTA operation.

There are chapters on VHF and HF operation – over the UK – with the shorter distances between towns/cities – there's a fair amount of VHF work – FM/CW and SSB, as well as HF. Over in the US, it's primarily a HF or satellite type operation. (No repeaters other than satellites allowed). Also many pages on antennas you can use from summits from kites to inverted vees, loops, etc.

To receive credit for an activation, you must work at least five people from the summit and upload your log. (You need to register with the site to do this). You get points for the 'difficulty' of reaching the summit as well, and even bonus points if you activate peaks in CO in the winter time or put them out in AZ in the middle of the summer. A simple easy five minute walk up summit might be one or two points. Do an 8 hour mountain climbing hike in the winter in CO and it might be 6 or 8 or 9 points. A few activators (a very few) have accumulated 1,000 points for the Mountain Goat Trophy.

Now for county hunters, the summits are labeled with the SOTA system number for the peak or summit but I haven't found a cross reference list that gives the county. You have to dig it out yourself with a state map after you decipher were XXX mountain is. If you are running parks, or just need a contact for a county to get credit as you zip through, you can work the SOTA station and log it.

The Perils of County Hunting

W8OP:" A very strong gust of cross wind took the mag mount and Hustlers off the roof

of the truck in Gallatin Co., MT. Trashed everything but the 20m resonator. All part of CHing. Sorry, no more counties. Will order parts when we get home in 3 weeks. Thank goodness nothing hit the two motorcycles we were towing. Tomorrow we start a 14 day 2,500 mi. trip on the bikes."

N9JF:"The trip from IL to WA has been fraught with issues. None fatal (to persons or pets). Left home on Sunday, got 70 miles and the transmission went out on the van. Towed to repair, got ride home, started Monday with alternate vehicle. Melba insisted we should have the radio (that's what YL's are for, right?). Got power and antennas for the Buick, stopped at repair place and took everything out of the van except the spare tire. So far, so good. However, I have an issue with the power plug on the radio (I think). It just randomly loses power and sometimes comes back by itself (?) and sometimes with manipulation. If I disappear (sorry, K2HVN, N2IGW, NF0N and others) that's what happened. Also, a quick braking caused the paddles to fly off the seat and come apart. Repair was accomplished but not without ungentlemanly commentary. The tall mast works a lot better than the short one, but only one resonator at a time and not very convenient to stop and swap on Interstate. We are in Adams WA tonight and will continue to try to run some counties. Thanks for the calls! de N9JF and KB9CES (and Ringo the RF Duck)"

Mobile Activity in July

At the beginning of the month

K8ZZ was mobile in KS on several occasions

W0FP was in KS headed west

KB3WAV/KC3RW were in a MD and DE Parks. Later in month they would head west to IA and MN parks/counties.

N1QY was mobile in MA

N9JF was out in WA. Ran a lighthouse and several parks. Then headed east through MT, ND, SD, MN, IA to home in IL. Later in month spotted in MO. Then in WI.

AE7KI was on in KY

WQ7A out and about in WA in many counties

AB7NK/K7SEN ran a bunch of AZ counties

WA4UNS ran in MD and DE

N0CIC put out counties in MN

AB4WL/KF4INA put out counties in FL and AL

NF0N was active in NE counties

W7FEN active in WA counties

N4UP made a nice trip up through WV to OH for many counties

KB0BA/N0XYL headed out on a long trip to ND

K4YT was seen in NJ counties

WA3QNT put out counties in PA

AI5P spotted in CO

W0GXQ noted out and about in CO and WY

WY0A headed to AL running counties on the way

K2MF spotted in NYC area counties including NY, NY and other boroughs.

End date 7/27

More on Dayton Hamvention

from ARRL Newsletter of 6/29/2018

Hamvention® marked another successful year in 2018, General Chair Ron Cramer, KD8ENJ, told ARRL this week. At 28,417 visitors, Hamvention recorded its third-largest attendance ever in its second year at its still-new location in Xenia, Ohio.

“We had a slight decline in attendance, but we think people were waiting to hear about the upgrades we made, and some upgrades did not happen until the very last moment,” Cramer allowed. “Many were worried about the mud.”

The drop in attendance amounted to some 900 fewer visitors from Hamvention 2017. Hamvention attendance peaked in 1993 at 33,669, before the 1996 change in date from April to May while it was still being held at Hara Arena. Attendance in 2016 for the show’s final year at Hara was 25,364.

Cramer said other events in the Xenia-Dayton area cramped lodging availability, but Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) organizers were “very pleased with the results and comments everyone has made this year.”

Hamvention’s 2018 theme was “Amateur Radio...Serving the Community,” and the event highlighted emergency communication forums — many put on by ARRL — plus a big display of emergency communication vehicles.

This was a year of “fine tuning the event” through critique sessions with committee chairs and evaluating comments, compliments, and criticisms from first-year Xenia attendees and vendors, Cramer said.

“From all the information we have received back already this year, from guests and vendors, we believe we have been successful and are working hard to prepare for Hamvention 2019,” Cramer offered. “We expect new additions to the show and finer tuning to make sure our guests keep coming back.”

Improvements this year at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center included the

use of frame tents for some activities. “These were much more stable in the wind and rain — a very big improvement,” Cramer said. “We installed asphalt millings in the Flea Market area to create roads and eliminate the mud we had last year. We will be widening and adding more asphalt millings to the roads this year.” In addition, he said, Hamvention on-site parking eliminated some of the muddier areas and halted the use of tractor-driven people movers, which were creating ruts. “We were not immune to rain, but it took less of a toll,” Cramer added.

Cramer also touted more on-site food options, expanding the variety and number of food vendors and cutting wait times. More seating was added.

Other improvements Cramer cited included:

- More forums and a new forum room.

- Improved parking access by moving the bus drop-off location closer to the main entrance gate.

- More off-site parking with better signage to provide easier access.

- A new Product Showcase to highlight new products.

Central State University opened its dorms for the event, offering inexpensive lodging that included breakfast and dinner.

“There was a shortage of rooms this year with the grand opening of the Memphis Belle Exhibit at the Museum of the Air Force,” Cramer explained, “but the Greene County and Dayton Convention Visitors Bureaus kept tabs on rooms and helped direct those who called.”

Cramer expressed his appreciation to Greene County, Xenia Township, and the City of Xenia, as well as to the nearly 800 volunteers for their assistance. “The Greene County Fair Board has been exceptional in making this our new home,” Cramer said. “We thank all who attended this year’s show and hope to see you again next year.”

ARRL Field Day Report - Early

from the ARRL Weekly Newsletter of 6/29

With typical propagation no better than fair to pretty good, most ARRL Field Day participants nonetheless enjoyed the 2018 running of Amateur Radio's most popular operating event -- most as part of club or group operations and some as individuals.

Among them was an ARRL Headquarters team that included several newer operators as well as some veterans, who operated Maxim Memorial Station W1AW in Class 3F. ARRL Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, said most contacts were on the HF bands, with a handful of VHF/UHF FM and SSB satellite contacts via SO-50 or FO-29.

More than 1,600 clubs and groups registered their locations on the ARRL Field Day Locator website.

"Conditions were so-so on 15 and 10, but 6 meters opened for a while, and 20 and below were hopping!" Carcia enthused. "We were doing well on 80 meters well before sunset." He said the team's contact count would have been higher with more operators and longer operating periods. W1AW's 791 contacts yielded 1,010 points.

On the west coast, the West Valley Amateur Radio Association returned to Mora Hill above Los Altos, using K6EI (and W6ZZZ for the GOTA station). "This year we were 14A, QRP, battery, and solar-panel powered," reported Bill Frantz, AE6JV. The club ran three CW stations, three SSB stations, and two digital stations on HF, plus VHF and UHF stations. Frantz said the GOTA station was quite popular, logging 50% more contacts than in 2017. "Since we are next to a popular trail in the San Antonio Open Space Preserve, we get a lot of bicycle visitors," he added. "Some know about ham radio and others have never heard of it. Everyone had a good time and went home tired."

In Idaho, "conditions didn't seem to be the best," observed Mark Earls, K7MEE, who participated in the K7BNR 6A Field Day operation. "But we all had fun, and that's what matters. We got to try out our new-to-us mesh network."

Tom Morehouse, K4AEN, and Rob Neece, KK4R, planned to renew "an old tradition" and take Field Day out on the Lafayette River in Virginia's Tidewater region in

Morehouse's boat, Miss Adventure. The vessel had other plans, however, blowing an exhaust manifold and keeping the Field Day operation moored at the dock.

After not taking part in ARRL Field Day for 10 years, Mark Chouinard, K5YAC, in Oklahoma, celebrated the recent licensing of his son Tyler, W5EAA, by assembling four stations and five operators. "We worked several stations on 10, 15, and 20, but 40 and 80 were pretty noisy with storms out to the west," Chouinard reported in his Soapbox remarks. "No records broken, but a lot of fun."

A few operators braved the bands with low-power operating (QRP). Those included Len Popyack, WF2V, of New York, who used solar-charged batteries to power his Elecraft KX2 in his barn. "Phone is tough with 5 W, but CW was excellent," he reported. He logged 195 contacts, nearly all on CW. Another QRP'er was Dale Mecomber, N2DM, running just 2 W to a trap dipole for 40 and 20 meters. He said 40 was the better band from his location in central New York.

For Kevin Ryan, KM6KCP, and Tom Rees, KB7XL, their Class 1B operation in Nevada was a bit of a 50th reunion -- their first joint ARRL Field Day operation since getting their Novice licenses in high school. They managed 122 contacts, including two on satellite, Rees said in the pair's Soapbox remarks.

QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, was among those to receive a Field Day message transmitted in MFSK64 via a 100 kW HF broadcast transmitter in Nauen, Germany. The special transmission came during the weekly "Giant Jukebox" broadcast of The Mighty KBC on 9,925 kHz. "Field Day is ham radio's open house," the message said. "Every June, more than 40,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill, and service to our communities and our nation." Additional reception reports are invited.

ARRL Field Day contacts count for the International Grid Chase 2018 (IGC) activity, but Field Day stations must upload logs to Logbook of The World (LoTW), making sure that the TQSL Station Location includes the grid square of the operation. Field Day 2018 entries must be submitted (or postmarked) by Tuesday, July 24, 2018. Late entries cannot be accepted. Participants can earn a 50 bonus points for using the web applet form to submit their logs.

Sunspots and Propagation

Tad Cook, K7RA Seattle, reports: A single small sunspot appeared on July 21, then disappeared. Before that, no sunspots had appeared since June 26. The daily sunspot number on July 21 was 11 -- the minimum non-zero sunspot number. Because there were no sunspots over the previous week, average daily sunspot numbers increased from 0 to 1.6, while average daily solar flux declined from 71.8 to 68.4.

The average daily planetary A index changed from 6.4 to 8.1, and the average daily mid-latitude A index (measured in Virginia) increased from 6.1 to 8.

Predicted solar flux is much lower than recently expected. Expected flux values (based on the September 25 prediction) are 66 on July 26 - August 1; 68 on August 2-10; 70 on August 11-18; 68 on August 19 - September 6, and 70 on September 7-8.

Sunspot numbers for July 19 - 25 were 0, 0, 11, 0, 0, 0, and 0, with a mean of 1.6. The 10.7-centimeter flux was 70.5, 70.5, 70, 68.2, 67, 66.9, and 65.8, with a mean of 68.4.

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Courtesy of ARRL Weekly Newsletter

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The sunspot that came and went in a day – was one that most people ignored. Most sunspots last 10 days. This one barely survived a day. Don't get your hopes up. The sun has been barren of sunspots for months and will likely have near zero for another 12-18 months. The longer the period of no sunspots – the lower the next peak is likely to be.

There have been many periods of 80-150 years without sunspot activity over the past 6000 years. Scientists have been able to recreate approximations to solar activity using C14 and Be isotopes – like carbon dating – in the ice cores from Greenland and Antarctica – for those 6000 years. It wasn't long ago – 1800s, when the ‘Maunder Minimum’ hit without sunspot activity for 120 years. During that time, we had the Little Ice age. The canals in the Netherlands froze solid and people were ice skating on them year after year. They haven't frozen since the late 1800s when sunspot activity resumed.

Is there a correlation of sunspots and weather? We've just gone through 80 years of high solar activity – exceptionally high. As sunspots die out, will the climate shift toward the cooler area again? The 'progressive' climate hypsters don't want to 'study it' and those

that do are often denied funding by 'big government' all set to impose massive carbon taxes on ordinary citizens to fund their giant spending/subsidy programs.

On the Road with N4CD II

Time for a road trip! South TX was calling with a combined Texas City Hamfest and an HVRA “Mega Auction” the same day. Despite the hot humid summer conditions of south TX, I loaded up the car for a 3 day trip and headed out early, real early, on Friday morning – July 6. While it was the Fourth of July weekend Friday, with some folks off from work, there would still be a lot of traffic getting sought through the Dallas-Ft Worth Metroplex, and I'd have to head first to downtown Dallas then out on I-45 toward Houston. I was on the road at 6 am – and so were thousands of others - gong somewhere. Fortunately there were no major backups and traffic moved 60 mph all the way through. By 8 am you can count on a two hour trip to just downtown 25 miles away on many days. After you clear downtown, it's a clear shot down I-45.

There aren't many county hunters on at 6 or 7am, especially with the band conditions the way they are – with low sunspot numbers and flux. It was a while before I worked anyone on any band. After 200 miles I turned off the interstate and headed to Grimes County and the first park to be run on the trip – the historic site - Fanthorp Inn KFF-3500. Somehow I'd managed to miss this and the other nearby site on my trips around TX.

From the TX web page:

“Nestled amid the rolling hills of Grimes County in Anderson, Texas, about 20 miles northeast of Washington on the Brazos, **Fanthorp Inn** stands as a wonderfully preserved example of a 19th century stagecoach inn.

The 18-room inn had humble beginnings in 1834 as the simple dogtrot log cabin home of English immigrant Henry Fanthorp and his bride Rachel Kennard. By 1835 Fanthorp had become postmaster for the area. Over time, the Fanthorp home evolved into a well-known country inn with a clapboard exterior and an expansive addition in 1850.

Notable guests include Sam Houston, Zachary Taylor, Kenneth Anderson and Generals Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant, Stonewall Jackson and Jefferson Davis. Fanthorp Inn functioned as a country hotel and tavern until shortly after Henry and Rachel died of yellow fever in 1867, at which time it was converted back into a family home for their daughter Mary and her family.

Purchased by Texas Parks and Wildlife in 1977, the Inn underwent extensive archaeological, architectural and historical investigations. Restored to its 1850s glory, Fanthorp Inn once again reigns supreme, opening its doors to the public for guided tours, school programs, adult group tours, and special events.”



I arrived at 1430Z and had a great run with over 110 QSOs in less than two hours. Probably many folks were off from work for the 'holiday' so many 'passer by' types showed up on 20M SSB. The A index was 5, the K index was 1. Grid square EM20 for those counting. This year I'm uploading the parks to Logbook of the World with the Grid designator since some are doing the ARRL Grid Challenge.

After a good run there, it was off to **nearby historic site Washington on the Brazos**. This is where it all started as far as TX history goes. KFF-3512 in Washington County.

From the web:

Located on 293 acres of lush park land, the picturesque Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site gives visitors unique insights into the lives and times of the 59 delegates who met on that very spot on March 2, 1836 to make a formal declaration of independence from Mexico. From 1836 to 1846, the Republic of Texas proudly but

precariously existed as a separate and unique nation. Washington on the Brazos is, indeed, “Where Texas Became Texas.”

Founded when Texas was still a part of Mexico, the settlement was the site of the Convention of 1836 and the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence. The name "Washington-on-the-Brazos" was used to distinguish the settlement from "Washington-on-the-Potomac"—i.e., Washington, D.C.

Founded largely by immigrants from the southern United States, Washington-on-the-Brazos is known as "the birthplace of Texas" because it was here that, on March 1, 1836, Texas delegates met to formally announce Texas' intention to separate from Mexico and to draft the constitution of the new Republic of Texas. They organized an interim government to serve until a government could be elected and inaugurated.

They adopted their constitution on March 16. The delegates worked until March 17, when they had to flee with the residents of Washington, to escape the advancing Mexican Army. The townspeople returned after the Mexican Army was defeated at San Jacinto on April 21. Town leaders lobbied for Washington’s designation as the permanent capital of the Republic of Texas, but leaders of the Republic favored Waterloo, which later was renamed Austin.

Washington County was established by the legislature of the Republic of Texas in 1836 and organized in 1837, when Washington-on-the-Brazos was designated as the county seat. Although the county seat moved to Brenham in 1844, the town continued to thrive as a center for the cotton trade until the mid-1850s, as it was located on the Brazos River to use for shipping out the crop. The construction of railroads bypassed the town and pulled off its business. The strife of the Civil War took another toll on the town, and by the turn of the 20th century it was virtually abandoned.

The State of Texas purchased 50 acres of the old town site in 1916 and built a replica of the building where the delegates met. The state acquired more of the site in 1976 and 1996.

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You can take a 1.5 mile walk around the original village – a few things reconstructed – and visit the museums there.

I put 70Q in the log. The A index had shot up to 17 and K was 2, so conditions had deteriorated quickly in a few hours, but still a very successful run with all the folks off

for the extra days during the holiday. One of the QSOs was with Carter, K4ARO – who I knew from the 'way back' days when I lived in VA. He's now moved on to TN, near Sevierville – and is getting set to run a few parks around there. We exchanged a few emails after the QSO in the next week. More fun!

After the park/county run, I headed on down to Texas City – and put out the counties along the way. A few hours later I arrived after fighting the traffic on the outskirts of Houston (Horrible even at 3pm in the afternoon) at the Super 8 in La Marque TX – which is about 15 miles away from Galveston and 15 miles away from the Gulf of Mexico in several directions. It was 'steamy hot' tropical type weather – and it rained every couple of hours for a few minutes as a moisture laden cloud passed overhead. Near 100% humidity and over 90F. Whew! Thank goodness for a/c.

I'd never been to this hamfest before so it would be an adventure on Saturday.

Motels down this way aren't cheap. Go another 15 miles to Galveston itself and you are looking at \$200/night and up in the prime summer season. I had searched a bit hunting for a decent price motel near the hamfest – and had to pay up for a 'weekend' in the 'summer season'. Not \$200, though! Super 8 Motel. Dinner nearby at a Mexican food place. Not much else nearby, either without a five or 10 mile drive.

Slept OK.....

Saturday July 6

The hamfest is held at the Doyle Convention Center in TX City – which is about 50 miles south of Houston down I-45. Things start early in TX so after a quick breakfast at the motel I headed over to the hamfest site. Found it after a bit – big complex there – and wandered on in. Didn't see anything I had to have but folks were still setting up

Just off the side of the hamfest – connected – is another large room where the Houston Vintage Radio Association – HVRA – holds an annual summer 'Mega Auction' with several hundred lots for sale. This is a lot of the stuff from several estates of club members – and those auctions of the estates have been going on for 2 years now as the collections – tons of stuff – were still being sold off. Most of the valuable radios shows up at the main convention auction – and this is a lot of miscellaneous stuff – tools, test equipment, 'projects', and parts, more parts, and even more parts. There were a few ham items, and other folks brought some items to be auctioned off. Overall there would be 350 'lots' of stuff up for bid. The boxes kept coming in off the big truck HVRA has – stuff is kept in storage lockers until sold – but the auction doesn't start until 11 am.

So...I made the rounds of the hamfest. Oh, there was a nice 'regen type' radio for sale. Was it a true regen? It was a hybrid solid state project – for 40M. The front end was a tune-able down-converter from 40M to a fixed IF of 3.1 MHz with a regenerative detector. The down-converter consisted of a VFO and a double balanced mixer. There were no ‘IF amps’ as such – just a simple set with a half dozen transistors. Well, it followed me home for a very reasonable price. Many amateurs back in the day tried this technique. It's hard to get good performance from a regen as you go up in frequency – you are essentially building a 'VFO' that requires good mechanical design and becomes more sensitive to disturbances (vibration, tuning speed) as the frequency goes up. Regens are not very good above 20M, and indeed many superhets were not good above 20M, so folks put in down converters giving them double conversion receivers. Later, as technology improved, the better superhet receivers went to double, and some even triple conversion (multiple IF frequencies) for the best performance, sensitivity, overload protection, and selectivity.



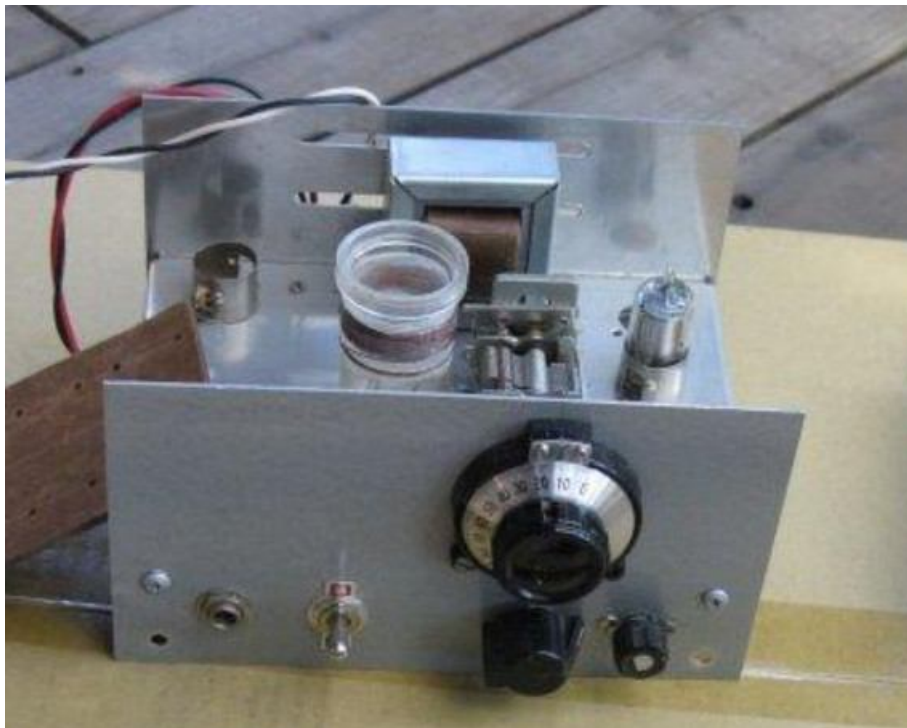
Hybrid regen – found at TX City Hamfest

It's a fairly small hamfest – and some of the same stuff was there after not being sold at the Hamcom hamfest in Plano a month ago. Some sellers visit all the hamfests trying to sell radio stuff and misc. Maybe there are 70 tables – not worth the trip just for the hamfest – it's over 300 miles each way to get there and back.

At 11 am the HVRA auction starts – and goes for nearly six hours as tons of stuff is auctioned off – everything from Geiger Counters, to SWL receivers, A Drake KW amp (sold for \$350), Drake matching antenna tuner (\$200), Collins Speaker (\$80), Heathkit Speaker \$50, all sorts of test equipment from signal tracers to decade boxes to oscilloscopes, voltmeters, meters, boxes of coils, hi-fi stuff. A Heathkit tube 100w amp

sold for nearly \$500. Turntables, 1949 TV set, A few dozen table radios, half a dozen console radios (Philco sold for \$380), a Johnson mobile VFO, Hammurlund SWL receiver (\$400). Lots of stuff sold for \$5...or less – boxes of parts and stuff – just to 'get rid of it'.

There was one box that had a regen receiver in it – along with a 1943 ARRL Handbook transmitter uncompleted 'project' using a single 6L6 in a 20w cw transmitter – about 80% done but not finished. Had the schematic inside of what he was building. Simple cathode keyed single tube with the output tuned to twice the crystal frequency. VXO to tweak the TX frequency and Pi-network output. Needed 500v supply – not included. That's not much use unless 'someone' (not me) wants to finish it up. The receiver seemed complete but no information on it and was missing a tube. Looked nicely built. It followed me home as the only item I really bid on. I've really got enough junk! After 50+ years of hamming, there isn't a whole lot I need and I'd rather be out mobile running counties and parks than sitting home at the workbench trying to get someone else's project to work – and even when it works finally – what are you going to do with a 20w cw transmitter?



HVRA Regen Receiver

I watched hundreds of items go by – bid on a few but not seriously. There was a nice Johnson Adventurer transmitter from the 1950s....sold for \$35. Johnson mobile VFO for use with the Johnson mobile rigs of the 1950s – sold for \$5. One Bunnel telegraphy relay in fine shape sold for \$30. It was a long day waiting for things to finally end and when you could check out and claim your item. Out of there at 5pm or so with the one box I bought.

On the way home, I stopped at the Baytown Seafood Restaurant there in Texas City – had a nice Red Snapper baked fish and veggies – delicious. The place has all sorts of cajun food if you are a fan of hot spicy cajun food! Headed on home after to the motel for the second night.

Sunday July 8

There would be increasing levels of traffic as the day went on since it was the Fourth of July holiday weekend, plus the normal 'beach traffic', and general Sunday traffic on the interstate as folks head home after a weekend away – so I headed out at 7am for the 5 hour drive to home – about 300 miles with no detours right up the interstate I-45 to Dallas, then 8 lane US-75 to the home town. Ran the counties as I went through them – not many around till later in the day.

After clearing the 'construction zone' in Houston – seems to be permanent as it never seems to change year after year for 15 miles of two lane narrow cattle chutes – with heavy traffic even on Sunday morning – it was a clear shot up I-45 at 70 to 75 mph speed limit and traffic moving 75 to 80 most of the way to Dallas. Later there would be major bottlenecks as reported on the evening news.

When I reached Huntsville – I took a 0.3 mile detour to run Huntsville State Park KFF-3019 again in Walker County. There's a picnic area within 2 minutes of the interstate highway. Put 38Q in the log. Since I had run this before, I didn't need the 44+ today. The other ones I ran on the trip were new to me. Bands were just so-so from Grid EM20. Finished up then got back on the interstate and finished the trip home after more hours of driving and putting out the counties. Jim, N9JF/m was up in SD headed toward home, and we worked each other a few times. Terry, WQ7A, was out in WA – Ferry county and others. KC3X, Hollis, ran a few in NC. Never heard them in TX .

Overall 657 miles this trip. Had fun and came home with two 'goodies' and possible leads for more!

Logger

How Logger started:

“The MARAC Logger program is designed to replace the once very popular Kwiklog series of logging programs. Gene, KD9ZP, took on the project and has completely rewritten the program using Microsoft Visual Basic and MS Access databases. This effort has produced a very stable and accurate logging program for use by MARAC members to track their county contacts for MARAC awards.

There is a team of volunteers who help Gene with enhancements to the program. There are always improvements that can be added to the program. As Gene has the time, they are considered and added. “

Willis, KJ4JC, was the guru behind Kwiklog and it got to the point where it was 'old' and hard to maintain and not easy to add in the new awards being created. A total rewrite was needed.

State of the Logger Program

Logger is now getting 'aged'. Likely in the time that Logger has been around, you've gone through a computer or two. Or 3 or 4. Went from Windows 3.1 to Windows 97, Maybe Windows 2000, XP, Win 7, Win 10, then on to later versions....time and time again. I've sure been through a few – about every 7 years. What ran on Win 3.1 won't run on Win 10, and half the stuff that ran on XP won't run on later versions. There's no support for XP or Win 7 any longer.

It's like a 40 year old custom car with a million miles on it that was a custom made job with a Wankel rotary engine and a DeLorian transmission. No one remembers what was done to it back then. It's had major upgrades and changes and full of weird parts. Let's see...a Cadillac Emissions control system with a BMW catalytic converter.... Now, it's rusting out, you can't find parts. Bondo and duct tape can only do so much to keep it going. You get the idea. It went from 2 seats to 4 seats. Then six.

The programs you ran probably changed a whole lot in that timeframe. Golly, I remember my first 'word processor' was Electric Pencil on a Radio Shack TRS-80. Upper case only and an Epson MX-80 dot matrix printer. Then along came the PC and all sorts of programs – that evolved over time.

Were you working in the 1980s early? Most offices with a dozen people or more had a word processing system – stand alone. Probably a Wang – and only the secretary had the training to be able to use it....so you'd write out your report or other document and she would type it into the system. Along came the PC and put a lot of them out of business – both the word processing/typing system folks and the secretaries.

Programming languages – came and went. The old classics of FORTRAN and COBOL are still around but few other than super computer users still use a specialized version of FORTRAN for vector computing and super computer use.....and likely some government antiquated systems still run COBOL. It was BASIC and PASCAL for a while. Then along came C and C++.....still around...along with Java and a half dozen other things. Later, Visual Basic.....databases. Now, the latest programming language is Python.

Worse for users, people like MS won't even let you buy a program these days. They want to 'rent it' to you, year by year if you want MS Office or other programs and it isn't cheap. I use the community supported Open Office (no charge but I donate a bit) to write the newsletter and it does all that MS Office does. Operations are moving to 'cloud computing' to where you back to where you were in the 1960s and 1970s with nothing on your PC, which acts more like a terminal, to access programs and data stored 'in the cloud'.

At my company way , it did a deal with IBM to use Lotus Notes – which was a package with word processing and 'collaboration' features. That lasted two years before everyone revolted at the rigidity of the program, and we all moved back to easy to use packages like MS Office which came along, or Word Perfect. Lotus Notes disappeared along with Word Perfect.

Well.....Logger and the Logger crew are showing their age. It's taken a lot of work each time technology changes and operating systems change to 'fix things'. Update it to new operating systems and their requirements. From black and white screens, to color to low resolution graphics to higher resolution graphics. From limited memory to scads of memory. Half a dozen upgrades from Win 3.1, 3.5, XP, Win 7, Win 10.....from tracking a dozen awards to over 100 now.

MARAC Awards started out simple. They were for mobile operation. After a while, other folks, such as the B&B Shop and Mobile QSO Buro and individuals, offered Second Time, YL Mobile, Five Star, Big Rig, Native American Counties, Bingo, Master Gold, etc. During a power grab by MARAC leadership, MARAC wound up taking all of them over from the other entities - who then faded away. Now, there are 100 different awards issued by MARAC. It's not simple to track them all, present all the information in useful form.

As well, Logger prints and tracks MRCs/confirmations, sends files to the award custodian when you have completed an award, etc. Lots going on inside the program. Your program needs to be able to update the database when new awards are issued so you can track the different awards that depend on this.

BTW, the Awards Program used by the Awards Manager is equally challenging to maintain. It takes a lot of manual input and output to process the awards monthly – hours and hours and hours.

Suggestions were made 10 years ago to rewrite parts/all of Logger to modern programming languages and techniques.....right now, there's bandaid after bandaid holding it together, fix after fix, and the Logger crew – what remains – is getting up in years. How long things will hold together is a good question. What would county hunting be without Logger? Think about it. Seriously.

As you've likely noted, some awards are not tracked by Logger including Double Diamond. Heck, Master Platinum, with its tracking of contacts, and number of contacts per band(s) and tracking 'transmitted counties' and all the other 'tracking' of this and that was a real challenge to add in.....and then Mobile Diamond.....and then Five Mode Digital where you now had to track digital modes per county..... the challenges of holding it all together, while the world moves on to more current programming, is getting to be a significant problem.

For years, Gene, KD9ZP, has kept it all together with help from WQ7A. It's now so complicated, folks don't remember how some things were done in the coding, the database, etc. Senioritis sets in. Some of the folks who worked on it, helped fix it, knew how it worked, are now SK. Several attempts to get a major rewrite underway fizzled.

What happens if one day it just stops working? And no one knows how to fix it? Or if MS comes up with a Win 10 update/fix that kills Logger for some reason and no one is around to try and figure out the problem?

So....this is going to be a hot topic at the National Convention. You'll note that there has been a large change in people running the organization. The Logger program problem is serious. This is a looming, impending problem with no easy resolution in sight.

You are planning to come to the National Convention in October? I'm sure it is going to be a hot topic.

On the Road with N4CD III

A four day trip to AR to get to cooler climates was planned. Along the way, I'd hit some needed AR counties and give out 8 or 10 new parks, some of them 'all time new ones' (ATNOs).

Tuesday 7/24

Early Tuesday morning, with the temps up at 84 already, I headed out at 6:40am to beat most of the morning rush hour as I skirted the Metroplex to head out the George Bush Tollway to Interstate 30 to Texarkana. Things went well with little serious traffic and I could run the counties – Rockwall, Hunt, Hopkins, Franklin, Titus, Morris, Bowie. Once you get 75 miles east of Dallas, there is a lot of truck traffic on the road. How much? Just for the heck of it, in Bowie county – a long one - I counted for 10 miles. For each truck – there were 4 cars on the road. See a truck, see 4 cars before after it before you saw the next truck. Miles and miles and miles – same thing – 4 cars, truck, 4 cars, truck, 2 trucks – 8 cars. Someone is moving a whole lot of goods by trucks these days on the interstates. Most of the trucks were doing 70 mph and the speed limit on I-30 was 75 mph.

After reaching Texarkana, it was north onto smaller roads – highway 71 headed north up through Little River County. Ran the county. The first park on the list was Pond Creek NWR in Sevier County - and fortuitously there's a several mile stretch of it right along highway 71 – and there's a turn off onto 'River Access Road' where you actually get off the road 'right of way' and into the NWR with a nice sign indicating so. It's just over the river that is the border between Little River and Sevier County.

For many things like the NWR and National Forests, you have to find a forest road or NWR road to be 'in the park' as the 'main highway' doesn't count. The main highways usually have their own 200-300 foot wide right of way that is state or federal property not associated with the park unit.

Found the river road – there are many other spots you can run this – if you print off the NWR map from the website – but this saved 10-20-30 miles of driving and it worked nicely. Less than ¼ mile off the main highway and this was an ATNO. Over 50Q went in the log over the course of an hour.

I started on 20m SSB. Randy, AJ5ZX, was pounding in – unusual as he is only 300-400 miles away. A dozen went in the log on 20m SSB with another 29Q on 20M CW. I went to 17m CW and was amazed that 11Q were logged, including a Park to Park (P2P) with Kerri, KB3WAV. Eight contacts on 30m cw followed, but no takers on 40m cw.

A digital pest sat near the 30m net frequency most of the day and messed up county runs – WA4SZE/6 was spewing out hours of digital crap hour after hour on 10.122.3 or so..... the ID happened about every 10 minutes on cw.

I tuned the bands for other activity but not much going on on a Tuesday.

Next up – Cassatot River State Park Natural Area. If you print off the map and do some comparison, you'll find you can run this in either Howard or Polk County AR. There are two east/west roads with access to the river, each at one point. The southern road is in Howard – the northern road is in Pike. Unless you have a kayak or canoe, or walk, you can't get between the river access points by vehicle along the river.



Pulled into the park area, fired up the rig on 20cw for 31Q. Nice conditions for a SFI of only 67 and zero sunspots. Can't complain too much but signal levels not all that good. Switched to SSB and added in 15 more, Just a handful on 17M. Went to 17m cw and K7TM was out mobile in Walla Walla, WA, worked him and I went to SSB. Worked N8KIE then K7TM came on SSB- didn't hear me this mode - and 'took over' the frequency. Went back to 17cw and added in 6 more, then 7 on 30m and 5 on 40m cw. Success again activating this ATNO. Over 44 total. Some directions were good, others like to AZ were weak.

Back on the road again headed north to the town of Mena - where the motel for the day is located - the Lime Tree Inn.....\$53 plus tax - up to \$63 - for the night - and checked in. No breakfast is included, though. Then headed west on highway 88 a few miles and you see the sign for the Ouachita National Forest Visitor center. It's all along the Taliameña Trail that is this highway for the next 20 miles. Found a spot 'in the park' to run and proceeded to run the park - KFF-4424 - that only had 36 previous contacts so it itself was not activated yet - takes 44 total from any number of operations.



Started on 20M SSB – and was busy putting contacts in the log – and then – the radio died. Hmm.....S meter sat at 40 over S9, no audio, no TX. What's going on? Turned off radio, turned it back on. Checked all the controls to be sure I hadn't done something like turn the RF gain all the way down. Nope. Played around with it for 20 minutes. Nope. Dead. Decided to do a CPU reset on the radio that wipes everything clean including memories and installs 'factory default' settings like mic gain, cw speed, etc. You do that on this model radio by holding down the 'up down' buttons in, then hitting power on. Did that fix it? Nope. Still dead and everything cleaned out and back to factory norm. Just died. It will be off to the ICOM doctor out in OR soon. I do have a spare radio thanks to Norm, W3DYA, so it will be put into service. I just might start carrying a spare radio now.

In 500,000 miles of driving and likely over 500,000 QSOs in over 20 years of county hunting, I've never had a radio die. Never. Put miles on a Kenwood TS-50 till it was replaced by a IC706. Sold the TS-50 naturally a long time ago – was good starter radio but had no internal keyer and other features like VHF coverage. Did have a key jack loosen up on the 706, but that wasn't a 'failure' on the road that was catastrophic, just a pain, and it got fixed.

So.....the trip ended with just 10Q in the national forest. Kaput. Not even close to 44, but I'll send in my log and the park will now be 'activated' since there were 36Q previously.

There's a teeny hamfest in Mena in September, but it hardly worth a 4-5 hour drive each way for just the hamfest – but – I could resume the trip. I had to cancel out motels for the next 2 nights.

After the radio failure, I just headed back to the motel in early afternoon. It was 10 degrees cooler than my home QTH so that was nice! 95 degrees.

The motel restaurant has a buffet dinner (Ok but not great) every night, and a bigger one on weekends. Fried chicken, chicken fried steak, taco stuff, mashed potatoes, small salad bar, green beans and pinto beans, sliced beets, some small desert cake.....for \$10.

Wednesday 7/25

Woke up at 6am all set to go – but the only place to go at this point was home. It was 70 degrees – 10 degrees cooler than my home town and it felt great. Plus the humidity was less. At the motel they have a breakfast buffet – rubber pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, cereal.....for \$9.

The best breakfasts I remember were at the Mini in Harlengen TX hosted by Joyce WB9NUL and Barry W9UCW. You'd have made to order omelets, hot and cold cereal, pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon, coffee, juice, all sorts of fruit – all included in the room rate which was reasonable. Oh well, that's another good memory but now past history..

Might as well load up the stomach here for the trip back home – and did. Then loaded up the car and headed home – no radio – no counties to run – no parks. Dang.

Down 71 in Polk County and across highway 4 west into OK, then down 259 in Pushmataha to 70 to 31 which takes you into Red River County TX, Lamar, Fannin, and finally Collin TX my home county. 4.5 hours of driving – no ham radio – just driving along. Home by noon time and near 98 deg already and headed a bit higher no doubt in the afternoon.

I guess I've been lucky. Have had some antenna issues on the road that required fixing.....and had a microphone or two go flakey and they had to be replaced (have a spare one in the car) but never this. What can you say? Stuff happens.

Logs for parks will be uploaded to WWFF database and to LoTW for the grids. (I don't do eQSLs and likely never will).

See you next trip.

FCC Fines Ham \$18,000

The FCC has issued a Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL) proposing to fine Jerry W. Materne, KC5CSG, of Lake Charles, Louisiana, \$18,000 "for apparently causing intentional interference and for apparently failing to provide station identification on amateur radio frequencies," the FCC said.

"Mr. Materne was previously warned regarding this behavior in writing by the Enforcement Bureau and, given his history as a repeat offender, these apparent violations warrant a significant penalty," the FCC said in the NAL, released on July 25. In 2017, the FCC received numerous complaints alleging that Materne, a General-class licensee, was causing interference to the South West Louisiana Amateur Repeater Club W5BII repeater, preventing other amateur licensees from using it. In March 2017, the repeater trustee banned Materne from using the repeater.

Responding to some of the complaints, the Enforcement Bureau issued a Letter of Inquiry (LOI), advising Materne of the allegations and directing him to address them. Materne denied causing interference, but admitted to operating simplex on the repeater's output frequency. In June 2017, the FCC received an additional complaint alleging that Materne had repeatedly interfered with an attempted emergency net that was called up as Tropical Storm Cindy was about to make landfall. The complaint maintained that Materne "repeatedly transmitted on the repeater's input frequency, hindering the local emergency net's ability to coordinate weather warnings and alerts on behalf of the National Weather Service," the FCC said in the NAL.

Local amateurs were able to track the interfering signal to Materne's residence and confirmed their findings to the FCC, prompting a Warning Letter advising Materne of the complaint and pointing out that his behavior "as described in the complaint would be a violation of Section 97.101(d) of the Commission's rules." Materne responded to the Warning Letter to argue that it was legal to transmit on the repeater's output frequency, further stating that "he was tired of this trash harassing me," the FCC said. In the wake of further complaints, FCC agents visited Lake Charles, tracked

transmissions on 146.130 MHz to Materne's residence, and monitored them for up to 7 hours. The agent reported hearing Materne "playing music on 146.130 MHz and warning other amateur operators that the local Amateur Radio club would not be able to conduct their net later that day."

That evening, the agent watched as Materne drove to a location near the W5BII repeater, where, the agent said, Materne "began transmitting an amateur digital radio signal from a hand-held radio in his vehicle," disrupting the net and failing to identify. Subsequently, the agent, accompanied by a deputy from the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office, approached Materne's vehicle and confirmed that he possessed a radio capable of operating on 146.130 MHz. "Audio recordings captured by the agent demonstrate that the intentional interference ceased as the agent and the Sheriff's deputy approached Mr. Materne's vehicle," the FCC said in the NAL.

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News item courtesy ARRL Weekly Newsletter

Too bad they never got the 'twin twin's known for county hunter jamming in the past....the evidence piled up on them.

FT-8 Changes

WSJT-X co-developer Joe Taylor, K1JT, has announced that major changes are coming to the FT8 and MSK144 digital protocols when WSJT-X version 2.0 arrives in a few months. Taylor said version 2.0 should be ready by January.

"Much of the necessary programming is finished," Taylor said in a post to the Packrats reflector. "Many of the new features have been tested on the air, and we find them to work well."

Taylor was quick to point out that the new capabilities are not yet publicly available, not even in beta form. He said that he, Steve Franke, K9AN, and Bill Somerville, G4WJS, have been developing "enhanced versions of the MSK144 and FT8 protocols that extend the message payload to 77 bits."

"Don't rush to download something," he cautioned. "There is more testing and code optimization to do." He said current plans call for a beta-testing period "probably starting in mid-to-late September," with a full release "possible a couple of months later."

Taylor ticked off a few possibilities WSJT-X version 2.0 will bring to the table:

- ARRL Field Day operation with standard Field Day exchanges.
- ARRL RTTY Roundup operation with standard contest exchanges.
- North American VHF contest operation with full support of grid exchanges and rover (/R) call signs.
- European VHF contest operation with the exchange of six-digit grids, QSO serial numbers, and portable (/P) call signs.
- Better and more user-friendly support for compound and nonstandard call signs.
- A special "telemetry" message format for exchanging arbitrary information up to 71 bits.
- Support for the existing "FT8 DXpedition Mode," with a more powerful DXpedition Mode possible too.

"All of these features work seamlessly and automatically," Taylor said. "No 'contest mode' checkboxes are needed. In most situations, decoding sensitivity will be slightly better than at present for FT8; for MSK144 it will sometimes be about 0.5 dB worse. Occupied bandwidths will be the same as they are now, and false-decode rates will be significantly lower."

Taylor said WSJT-X version 2.0 will be available in time for users to digest the new documentation and to practice using the software before actually using it on the air, but he offered one important caveat. "The new protocols cannot be backward compatible with the existing ones," he said in his post. "We will probably provide some temporary 'bilingual' capability for FT8, but not for MSK144. It will be essential for users to upgrade to version 2.0 in order to use the new features and communicate with others who have made the upgrade."

Taylor promised "plenty of advance notice" about the transition period and a must-upgrade-by date.

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Story courtesy ARRL Newsletter.

Trip Report - AI5P

Trip recap: conditions much

Better for me this trip. 1st stop: Carson National Forest (KFF-4475). Established in 1908, it encompasses about 1.39 million acres in northern New Mexico. 48 contacts into the log.



Next stop Chama, NM, one terminus of the fantastic Cumbres and Toltec Railroad. Check out their website. Have ridden it a couple time



Then over to the Rio Grande National Forest (KFF-4405). Also Established in 1908, it covers 1.86 million acres in southwestern CO. 73 contacts. It sure helped to be at 10,000 ft ASL!



Lastly, Great Sand Dunes Nat Park (KFF-0033). These are The tallest sand dunes in North America, covering about 30 sq miles with dunes reaching up to 750 feet.

Established as a National Monument in 1932, it became a Nat Park in 2004.
54 contacts.

Now in Denver for a few days. Return trip activations TBD.
Thanks for the spots and contacts!

73 Rick AI5P

Awards Issued

USACA # 1266	AC0CU, Patty Jo	July 24, 2108
Presidents Award #56	WB0PYF, Ray	20April2015
Native American Award #58	WB0PYF, Ray	6October2015
5 Star Award #79	Ed, K8ZZ	8July2018
5 Band Award #2	Ed, K8ZZ	8July2018
Master Platinum #30	Ed, K8ZZ	8July2018
USA-CW #157	WA3QNT, Bob	6/16/18
County Challenge #10	K2MF, Barry	
- - - - -		
Ran All Alabama #23	N5MLP, Ron	6/21/2018

Ran All South Carolina #34	N5MLP, Ron	6/18/18
Ran All Maine #34	K4YT, Karl	September2015
Ran All NH #35	K4YT, Karl	2September2015.
Ran All New Jersey #28	K4YT, Karl	1May2018
Ran All Nevada #33	K4YT, Karl	2June2013
Ran All West Virginia #24	Karl, K4YT	4November2017
Ran All California #27	Karl, K4YT	1June2013

Upcoming Events for County Hunters

August 4 0001 to 5 2359
 10-10 International Summer Contest, SSB Ph
 Name, Membership number or if none "0," SPC
www.ten-ten.org

August 4 1800 to 5 0559
 North American QSO Party, CW
 Name, state/DC/province/country
www.ncjweb.com

August 11 1600 to 12 0400
 Maryland-DC QSO Party CW Ph Dig
 Entry class, county or SPC
www.w3vpr.org

August 18 1800 to 19 0559
North American QSO Party, SSB Ph
Name, state/DC/province/country
www.ncjweb.com

August 25 0400 to 26 0400
Hawaii QSO Party CW Ph Dig
RS(T), HI QTH or SPC
www.hawaiiqsoparty.org

August 25 1400 to 26 2000
Kansas QSO Party CW Ph Dig
RS(T), county or SPC
ksqsoparty.org

August 25 1600 to 26 0400 3.5-28
Ohio QSO Party CW Ph
RS(T), county or SPC
<http://www.ohqp.org/>

MARAC Convention - 50th Anniversary – and maybe the last one ever? Don't miss out
– going to be a great one!

Kansas City, Missouri **October 3rd - October 6th**

For more info, reservations, and rooms – click here

<https://chspots.org/wp/>

That's all folks!