

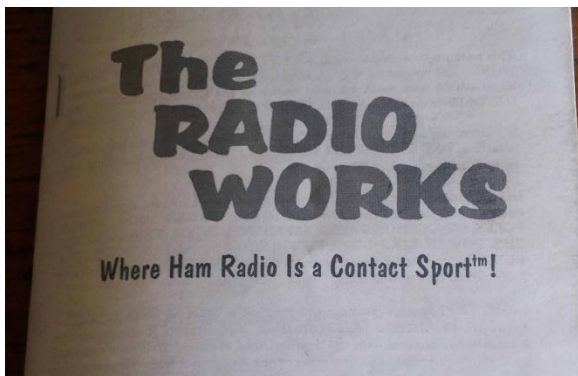




even though we were next to the old runway that is labeled, "180" ( that means it runs north and south), an agreement as to where east was could not be reached. The beam was finally pointed in a "generally toward the east coast" direction.

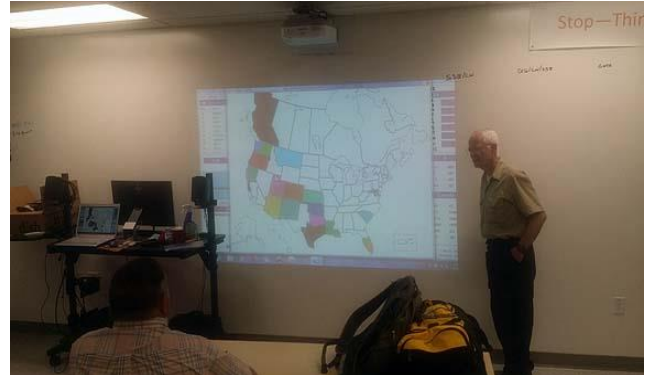
Regarding the 3rd antenna, Rick presented the antenna crew with a Carolina Windom. That's not a dipole; rather it is several hams opinion on how to improve Mother Nature and Physics. It was determined that the center of this wire antenna would hang from the available light pole. Lyn reached into his trunk and pulled out a sling shot with fishing reel on it. He then proceeded to shoot a small lead sinker over the light poles cross arm. The fishing line wanted to land on top of one of the square light fixtures. After much energy was spent attempting to move the line off the light fixture it was determined there was a 4 inch square electrical box on top of the fixture that was preventing line realignment.

Not to be discouraged, Lyn pulled the line down and with a manly aim shot the sinker through the open space between the two light fixtures. In a matter of mere minutes the antenna was up! A quick Antenna Analyzer check showed that ...well it is not a dipole so we just let it go trusting the automatic antenna tuners to do their job.



Not to spoil this part of the story, the Windom antenna did a very fine job.

Here's a look at the projected graph of States early on. Bill, one of the Club members is looking at all the activity. The "Old Airport Terminal" works out well for Field Day since it was over 100°F. The room is air conditioned; not to 72° but close enough.



Here's a picture of Ric Wayman and Mike Blenderman setting up the computers for logging. Ric was the "man" in charge of the Field Day and did a impressive job. We'd guess it took him a few days to recover.



With the antennas all set up it was time to operate. When 12 o'clock struck the operators began calling; "CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day, this is W7DRC, Whiskey Seven Delta Radio Charlie" The thrill of the day was seeing brand new young hams, who had passed the test 3 days prior, operating like pros!



Other young hams joined in the fun and they racked up many contacts for the Club. The "Goto" station made 58 contacts. The smiles of these young folks brought joy to the hearts of many of the crusty old hams in attendance. It is hard to put into words the look of wonderment on the faces of these young operators as they suddenly "got it."

The look was only surpassed by the huge smile on their faces after their very first phone contact. This was an experience that will remain with them the rest of their lives. Perhaps, like many past young hams, the Field Day experience will steer them into a career involving electronics or some form of communication.



Meanwhile, Mike and Boyd were in the center of the room with headsets on working CW stations one after another. They racked up an impressive number of contacts (136 stations) in about 6 hours of continuous operation. Working as a team with Mike on the key and Boyd on the logging computer, heads were turned when one of them would shout out, they were wearing headsets, "we got that one

already." It was fun to watch and hear the cw key flying as Mike made contact after contact.

In total the Club worked 48 States lacking only Delaware and Maine. The total included Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. It appears that Rick will have to wait for his sixty first birthday for the WAS (Worked All States).



After Dinner, the crew thinned out. Those that stayed around had fun working the different bands as the propagation changed and the solar noise kept us off 80 meters. (We didn't have an 80M antenna this year.)

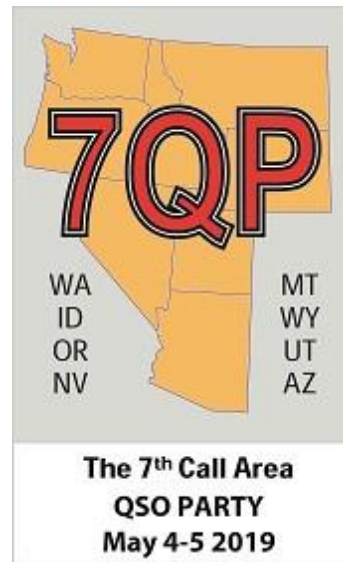
Sunday was punctuated by the "tear down." All the antennas and rigs had to be taken out of the building and off the property. Although the crew was few in number, they were up to the task. The antennas came down smoothly without accidents. The Beam is a bit dicey to disassemble.

As we were taking the 40 meter loop down, Bob and Mac were planning on how to enlarge it to an 80 meter loop next year. This will give us a presence on 80 meters after the sun goes down. We missed many contacts on 80 because our antenna system was not up to the task.

Field Day is not just about fun, food, fellowship; it is also about learning how to do it better next year. Each time we missed a contact on 80 meters we realized that the only band we were successful on was 40 meters. In the same light past experience with the tower showed us that it was folly to crank it "all the way up." The

extra foot gained caused much pain at tear down. Thus doing it just a little bit different this year proved a success on all fronts.

How can you help to make Field Day 2019 an even greater success? Easy steps include blocking out the third weekend in June so that the family knows not to schedule events on that weekend. This means that Aunt Sally will have to wait to see you, but you promise to see her. Another step is to determine when you are available for one or more of the necessary tasks for a successful Field Day. Once you have determined your task comfort zone, sign up for them so the Field Day Director can actually plan the event for success. Many of us enjoy set up and tear down while also taking a stint or two at operating. May I suggest that we allow a space for the new hams and the young hams on Saturday afternoon? The action is hot and heavy which enhances their experience. The stations missed will be around after the Dinner for you old timers to stag.



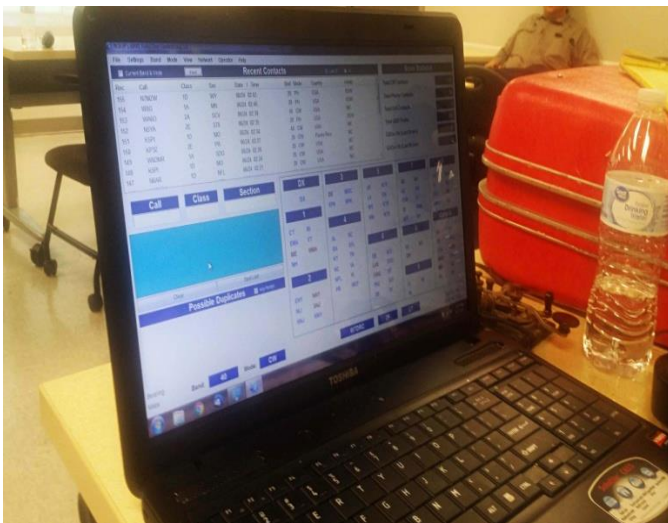
## 7th Area County Expedition, NG7IL operating 7QP UTMIL By Gil Leonard

*"Editor note: This Article was sent in by Don Leonard, W7LRP. His brother Gil wrote it and it is used with permission"*

7th Call Area QSO Party occurred May 5th and 6th this year. Having participated in years prior to this event, I wanted to do something a little bit different.

Contesting or Radio Sport is an activity many ham radio operators participate in. There are thousands of different contests and special events available to suit every operating style and preference. Some people are extremely serious and competitive, others just want to have fun, while others use the opportunity to complete other radio goals. Some of those goals are as simple as getting the last state needed for Worked All States (WAS). Getting the most points, a printed certificate, plaque, or just bragging rights entice operators to participate. It is a whole lot of fun and a great way to exercise the license privileges we studied so hard to get.

What the heck is 7QP? 7QP is an organized event encompassing the states in the 7-area ham radio call district. Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming. A weekend designed to allow 7



This is a picture of the log screen in the late afternoon. By then over 150 contacts had been made--not including the contacts at the GOTO Station. Note: Mike Cartmill's "Go Box" suitcase with his CW equipment. You can't see it in the upper right corner but he and Boyd logged 136 CW contacts.

area operators to activate the county in the state they live in and give the opportunity to other amateurs to make contacts in those counties.

Some hams set a goal to work every county in every state in the Union, WOW, can you imagine the pride and bragging rights you would earn by accomplishing such a feat!

What if there is not a ham that lives in or operates from a particular county? Ah-ha, drum roll please, enter the county expedition. Yup, you guessed it, some counties are a rare thing to collect. This so happens to be the case for Millard county in Utah. My research shows it to be a county that is sparsely populated and not a lot of hams operate 7QP. Millard county also is the home to many exciting rockhounding collection sites. That provided the perfect excuse to get out of the house, enjoy some time with my wife, and operate the radio!



Figure 1 Icom 706MKII with auto tuner, FT817 and tuner for QRP, and a portable lightweight straight key.

My county expedition grew from just such a desire. Debbie, my wife, really enjoys looking for and finding different rock specimens. I just happen to enjoy camping in the desert and operating a portable radio station.

Imagine, as luck would have it, Debbie wanted to visit Painter Spring to look for smoky quartz, pink feldspar, garnets, and other

minerals. Painter Spring just happens to be located in Millard county not far from the Nevada border.

We were treated to amazing views of mountains and sunsets. Fabulous weather with cool nights. NO crowds. Peace and quiet abounded. Quiet! can you imagine the only noise on my radio was actually just atmospheric noise (QRN). No buzzing, crackling, popping, rhythmic hum, or any other man-made noise (QRM). Radio operation was truly a pleasure.



Figure 1s that a KL call coming in?

Arriving Friday evening, with the camping area of our choice just waiting for us, nicely placed on top of a small knoll providing excellent views. Did I mention it was even level?

We set up our trailer and I set up my station as my wife prepared a light dinner. We ate dinner with a nice cool breeze and awe-inspiring mountains.

The portable station consisted of a 90 amp-hour battery, an Icom 706MKII, Buddy-pole antenna, and a simple portable straight key. The Buddy-pole is frustrating to some as it requires some effort to adjust and tune. I enjoy the challenge and once configured, found it to be repeatable in another area. We actually stayed in a different spot on Saturday evening. The antenna was configured in a dipole with

coils that allowed me to simply change from 20 meters to 40 meters by only moving a jumper wire. The radio was happy and was adjusted to about 80 watts output, which put minimal drain on my battery.

My efforts were quickly rewarded with clear contacts from K7Q out of Douglas county Nevada and WS7L from Pacific county Washington. I had to search and pounce for a while until I could find a clear frequency on 20 meters I could run for a while.

My goal was simple, just have fun. Personally, I prefer operating CW, out of the 50 unique contacts I made, only 4 were phone. Hey, I just wanted to see if the microphone still worked. I haven't talked to it in years. Propagation was nothing to jump up and down about. Most of my contacts were within a 1000-mile radius so I managed to work the other 7 states in the 7<sup>th</sup> call area. Logging Maryland, West Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama, and Alaska was truly a multiplier and made all the effort worthwhile.

I submitted my log as a County Expedition, single operator, low power, mixed station. Low power is defined as less than 150 Watts and mixed is defined as more than one mode (CW, Phone, Digital). How many points did I score? Who knows? I had a great time, got to see some amazing country, exercised my license privileges, and relaxed. It doesn't get much better.



Figure Buddi Pole in a dipole configuration with taps on the coils for quick 20 and 40 meter band changes.

It doesn't matter if you are a new operator or a seasoned pro. Radio sport has something for everyone to enjoy. There is an event that is tailored to your experience and style. Give it a shot, who knows? You just might enjoy yourself. Follow some of the links below for more information on 7QP, special events, and other contests.

7QP

<http://ws7n.net/7QP/new/Page.asp?Content=st art>

ARRL Contest Listings

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

I hope to hear you on the air soon!

73 de Gil, NG7IL

## *Whispers over the Wireless*

### **The Triple Play**

**By Mike Cartmill, ACØPR**

I hope others enjoyed Field Day as much as I did! Seeing the different qso's logged into the three main categories, CW-DIGITAL-PHONE, as well as the map getting filled up reminded me of one of the great ways an operator can test their skills—the Triple Play Award. What is that? It's an award offered by ARRL to anyone who is able to work and confirm contacts with all 50 states in each of those categories—CW, digital, and phone. For most of us I think, we tend to gravitate towards one or maybe two modes, but working every state in all three is a challenge worthy of any operator.

Personally, I'm not a huge fan of digital modes, but I decided to take up the challenge of the Triple Play. Two important things happened—I got on the radio more frequently and I learned a lot. You can work at your own pace, and, of course, have fun on the radio! More information can be found at:

<http://www.arrl.org/triple-play>

73!

## YOU DO NOT NEED TO GET THE 2 BONUS STATIONS FOR A CLEAN SWEEP

### Spotting

If you work a colony station, you are encouraged to spot it for others. We suggest [DX Summit](#).

The 13 Colonies Special Event is a not for profit event. All donations are used to fund the next years event, and to defray any expenses occurred. All donations are used for operating costs, supplies, equipment, and 13 Colony Group initiatives. Donation is voluntary. If you have difficulty with a donation, tell us on your log sheet, and we will send you the certificate earned-No Questions Asked!.

### V.E. Testing Sessions

By Gary Zabriskie, N7ARE

There is a regularly scheduled ARRL Volunteer Examiner-administered exam test session held at 5:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month, except in December. The monthly V.E. exam is held at the same location as the Club Meeting that follows at 7:00 p.m.: St. George Community Building, located at the southwest corner of Washington County's Gayle M. & Mary Aldred Senior Citizens Center property, which is located at 245 North 200 West, St. George, Utah.

In addition to the eleven monthly 3rd Wednesday test sessions (January through November), we offer V.E. sessions on six Saturdays each year. They are scheduled on the 2nd Saturday of each of the even-numbered months during the year. This is so those who cannot participate in the monthly 3rd Wednesday V.E. exam session will have an opportunity to take a test with our V.E. team. The Saturday sessions are held at the Hurricane City Branch Library, in the Conference Room and start at 1:00 p.m. The address of the Hurricane Library is 36 South 300 West, Hurricane, Utah. See our website: <http://www.dixieham.org/meetings.html> for info.



*(Editor: Here's an event Mike suggested. It's worth taking a look.)* <http://www.13colonies.net/>

### 2018 Event Dates / July 1 (9AM EST) to July 7 (Midnight EST)

(July 1, 2018-1300 UTC to July 8, 2018-0400 UTC)

The 13 Colonies Special Event enlisted one dedicated SSB/CW QRP operator for each state for the 2014 event and beyond. No special station requirements, except the operator must be a General class or higher. We want to give the low power QRP station a chance to get a 13 Colony States "Clean Sweep" endorsement on your certificate. We know the thrill of a QRP station breaking a pile up, but with 200+ QRO/and higher stations in a pile up, well, most of the times +/-5 watts just won't work.

**YOU DO NOT NEED ALL 13 COLONIES TO  
GET THE CERTIFICATE**