Solar Eclipse QSO Party

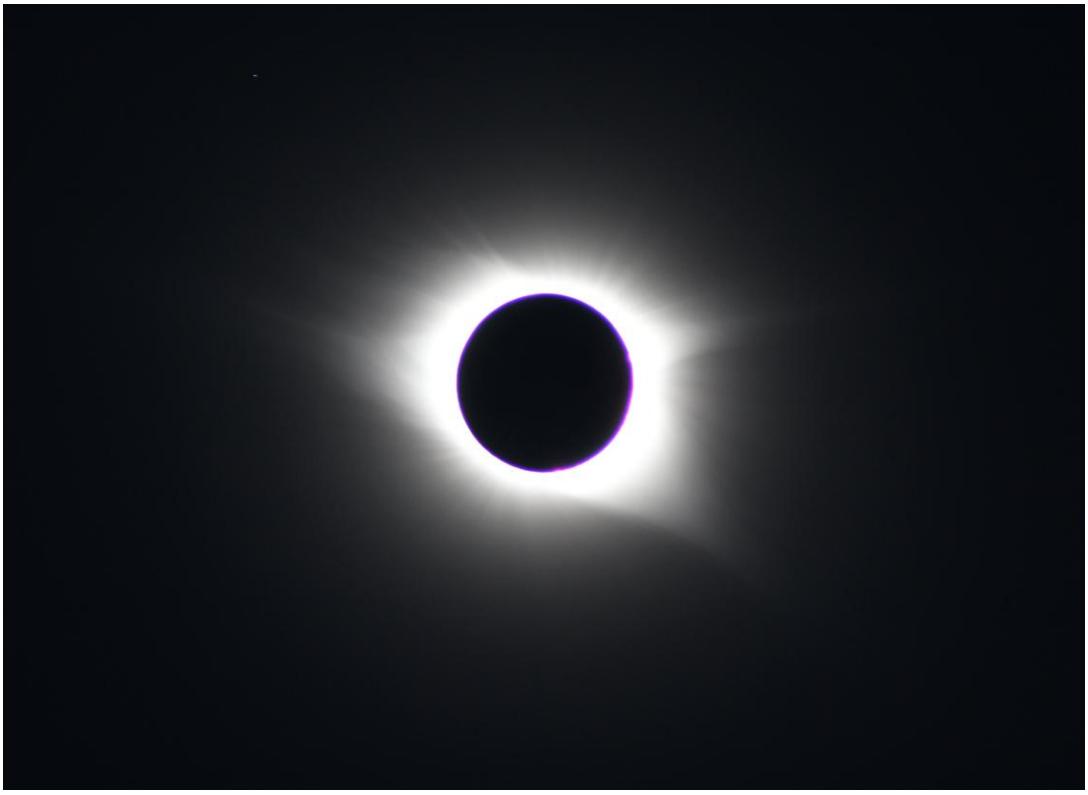
By Mike Furrey – WA5POK

Our SEQP station was set up field day style near the entrance of Blue Spring cave which is about a mile from the eclipse center line. The station used is an Icom 7200 transceiver about 100 watts output. Antennas used are an 80/40 meter trap dipole about 40 feet high and a 20 meter dipole, also up about 40 feet. Both dipoles were oriented for the major lobes to be parallel with the path of the eclipse. We used an HP laptop computer running windows 10 and using N1MM+ logging program. Power was provide by a 4kw generator.

Our objective was to expose cavers (four are pictured behind Cheryl – KM4TYV) to ham radio and expose ham radio operators to caving. It just so happened that all the ham radio operators that came by are also cavers, thus our group name, "Blue Spring Cave Cavers." We only made 101 QSO as we spent a lot of time talking to cavers about ham radio, taking a short trip into the cave ourselves, and we shut down during the eclipse to enjoy the sight and do a bit of photography. Blue Spring cave is the longest cave in Tennessee and the 10th longest cave in the US at over 40 miles of surveyed passage (and more needs to be done). The owner of the property, Lonnie Carr, was gracious enough to open his property to our ham radio operation during the eclipse and to anyone that wanted to drop by for the day's activities.

Below Cheryl, KM4TYV, is looking on while Jay, KD4AYU, operates.

Below is a photo that I, WA5POK, took during totality. I purchased the camera and homebrewed a solar filter just days before the eclipse.



All photo are by Mike Furrey, WA5POK