

# County Hunter News

September 1, 2015

Volume 11, 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 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](http://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](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](http://www.countyhunter.com) . Please check it out.

Back issues of the County Hunter News are available at [www.CHNewsonline.com](http://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](mailto:telegraphy@verizon.net) )

## Notes from the Editor

### 1 ) N4CD Rumblings

The summer is progressing – and we down south have had just about 'enough' summer. The schools are back in session here. Ole Sol rises later and later each day but the afternoon temps are still climbing toward 100 here in TX. OK – enough summer! Worse, it might get down to 92-95 at 10PM and maybe 82 by sunrise. Makes you want to head north for a while! This year the house repairs have been denting the travel budget. Seems after 25 years just about everything in this house has decided to self destruct this year with the latest being the 32 year old washing machine bleeding out its

guts all over the floor. That after \$3000 worth of pool repairs, \$1000 shower pan/tile replacement, and a new a/c system for half the house.(\$4400) Prior were two new furnaces/air handlers. Oh well. I'm keeping the economy going! Then decided to replace the other a/c unit as it was groaning away. Hi hi. At least while I'm stuck at home getting things fixed I'm keeping an ear tuned to the radio looking for those cw mobiles.

On the radio, it's been a slow summer with just a few mobiles out on trips. Seems like it's been a long, long time since folks went off and ran entire states or went out on 10 day county putting out trips. Still, there have been a couple hundred counties to be snagged between the new season of QSO Parties, some folks traveling here and there with a few on vacation trips, and a few putting them out while getting places to do work, visit relatives, or 'head into town'.

Propagation has really had it's ups and downs – like the stock market - with major disturbances, A indexes up in the high triple digits, and some days of really rotten conditions. You take what you get. It could be worse.

We start a new season of contests and QSO Parties – a few coming up including KS at the end of this month, then CO, AR, TX and more. Hope as many of you as can are planning on the new 3M in Murphreesboro. Should be a good one this year! A few hamfests in AR and NC and other places should stimulate some travel. There should be over 400 counties on the air in the next month between KS and TX and AR and CO.

## **2 ) note from N4AKP, Pete**

“I think it is time for this old- timer to drop the anchor and retire from county hunting. We will be moving to another retirement home and call it the end of a grand hobby. The hobby is more than a hobby, as you know. I have too much to do, planning, sorting, junking, selling, etc. to do, and can't sit at a radio waiting hours for a county I need, as I have done many times. I loved road-running, and home CW county hunting and will miss it.

I plan on keeping my FT-900 AT and may do some listening. If it was possible o operate from a retirement home, I would do so. I (we) will miss the conventions, and if it is possible , we would love to be notified and invited. I will try to keep the counting hunting website and enjoy it.

I am 86 tomorrow, and the wife is 85. We can't keep the house and grounds. Old worn

out joints, pill, etc. rule our world now. It's time to rest. “

### 3 ) FQP Certificates - Florida QSO Party Spelling Bee

I tend to 'participate' in a log of QSO parties, but since I don't use a computer or N1NN logger or anything else (just paper logs) I have a tendency not to transcribe and send in logs. I'm just in them for the mobile and fixed contacts (and giving out a few points to the stations I hear). Well, whaddaya know. I get an email saying I qualified for a certificate for working enough 1x1 stations to spell out ORANGE in the Florida QSO Party. They provided a link to download a certificate for the 'spelling bee'. Here's what it looked like.



Several of the state QSO Parties now have 'spelling bees' including Kansas coming up in late August.

### 4 ) Note from Bob - NA5AR – KW5USA -

“Didn't know who to ask this but you seem to be the one most involved in county hunting. I have 4 convention group pictures that I would like to give to someone who

would like them. actually I have 5. I have an old black and white from I think back in the late 60's. Picture is of some real old timer county hunters, Many SK now I would think. Maybe a picture of the 303 gang.

The others are 1987 in Denver, 1996 in Phoenix, 1997 in Orlando and 1998 in San Antonio Tx.

Thanks for the help and also thanks for the county hunters bulletin in send out. Great info even thou I am not involved, I share with some DX friends.

73 Bob na5ar”

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Bob received USCA #73 back in 1972. He later qualified for Second Time #276 in 2000 and then Bingo in 2005. I suggested he send the pictures to the MARAC Historian, Gary, K4EXT, and maybe Gary will share the old one with the rest of us to enjoy. I remember working Bob a bunch back in the 1990s and early 2000s when he was quite active.

He's had a bunch of calls including the current NA5AR, KW5USA, N5DGQ, WA3OPO, WB5HGS, and KI5XM. He now resides in Bandera County, TX.

## **5 ) Mississippi QSO Party Synopsis**

“Examination of the 164 logs received for the Twelfth Mississippi QSO Party indicate that we had pretty good propagation with mobiles being able to work Europe on 15 as late as 3PM! Conditions were so good to Europe that OM2VL made 104 Mississippi QSOs in 48 counties from the Slovak Republic for the top score outside of W/VE. The top stateside score came from KV8Q in Ohio with 75 QSOs in 30 counties. The logs indicate that 96 Mississippi Stations were on the air in 70 of the 82 counties.

Special thanks to the mobiles and portables, who put a lot of counties on the air that would otherwise not have been available. A pat on the back for W3DYA/M, KK4TE/M, NO5W/M, K4ZGB/M, K5YG/P, W5OBM/P, W5GWD/P, and W5ETZ/P. These stations collectively put 50 counties on the air making over three thousand QSOs. In the record department, KK4TE/M made over 100Qs in three counties maxing out at 204 Qs in Greene County. That's a lot of hard work for a FT-857 and hamstick. And last, but not least, thanks to N5NA for coordinating mobile routes and portable locations with his

website.

High Score Mississippi Mobile (no driver) – W3DYA/M

High Score Out of State Station (W/VE) – KV8Q

High Score DX Station (outside W/VE) – OM2VL

As a special feature of the QSO Party, the Mississippi DX Association secured the special event calls K5M, K5I, K5P, and K5S. Certificates were awarded to those stations that worked stations whose suffixes spelled out MISSISSIPPI with suffix letters being allowed to be used multiple times. Club station K5MDX was used as the ‘wild card.’

MSQP results will be sent out in the next month by email to those who provided an email address (save that postage!), or otherwise by snail mail. Those eligible for plaques and certificates will received them somewhat later by snail mail. Remember next year the QSO Party will be held the first full weekend of April. Put April 2-3, 2016 on your long range calendar!”

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/laszlo.vegh.372/posts/1023566737668251>

## 6 ) Google Maps with County Lines

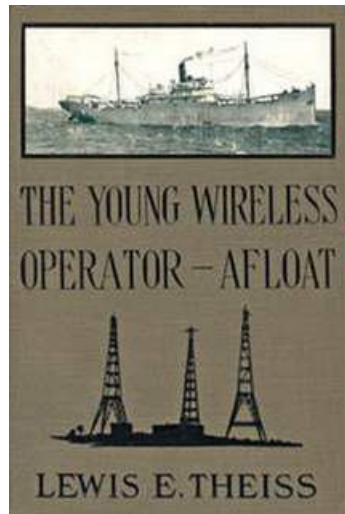
There was a bit of discussion on the K3IMC forum and route planning and finding county lines. One comment was about Google maps, that has near invisible county lines. Here's a link that puts very easy to see county designations and lines on the Google Maps

<http://www.mob-rule.com/gmap.html>

Right click on the link, and open in a new window.....if you want to visit the link

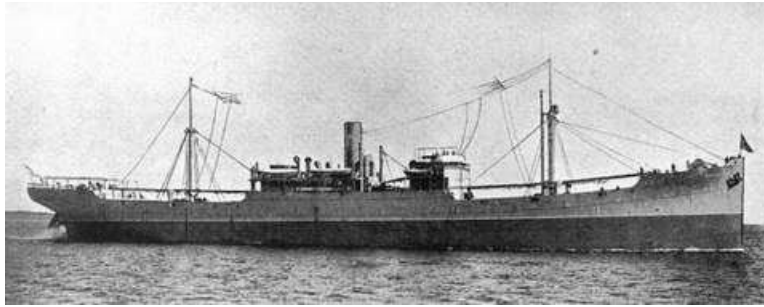
## Book Review of the Month

This month it's another Lewis Theiss book in the six book series - the Young Wireless Operator Afloat - or How Roy Mercer Won His Spurs in the Merchant Marine.



Roy Mercer is a 19 year old on his first job. You might recall that he was the oldest of the Camp Brady wireless group, the one that stopped the saboteurs from blowing up the dam in Pennsylvania, then went on help the government catch the German spies in NYC. From the recognition he got during that adventure, he was able to become a wireless operator on a new ship – the Lycoming. The time frame is around 1917. The Lycoming sails between NYC and Galveston.

The captain of the Lycoming is a 30 year old crusty very experienced man who is not much for words. He runs the ship with an iron fist and isn't too enamored of 'new fangled things' like wireless, so Roy has his job cut out for him. He's only 19 years old, never been to sea before, never even been to the Marconi Wireless school. He's actually an employee of the Marconi company – as were most ship operators back then. Since the Lycoming did not carry many passengers, only freight, only one wireless operator was required to be on duty for 10 hours a day or so. This is the spark gap transmitter era with likely a Marconi Magnetic Detector (as show in last month's issue), and long antennas. Range was normally a few hundred miles.



The Lycoming – Note Antenna

Roy checks in with the captain, who doesn't seem too impressed with a 'youngster'. He advises him he'll likely be replaced with a 'more experienced' operator after the first 90 days of the contract are up. It looks like Roy has a tough row to hoe ahead. The captain wants folks who can do whatever is necessary to keep the ship operating.

So Roy gets into various adventures on the ship. Nothing he can do seems to 'please' the captain, but Roy, or “Mr Mercer” as he is known on the ship, does his best to faithfully carry out his job. The captain is overseeing an army of people, who load and unload the ship and its hundreds of tons of cargo – and is known for 'getting the job done'. When at sea, he expects things done and done quickly and correctly. There's no room for mistakes.

At one point, the Lycoming is surrounded by a giant fog bank – and proceeding slowly. Roy has taken the initiative of saving all the 'sailing reports' and calculates which ships should be in the vicinity. He calls them up on the wireless to see if they are nearby. It turns out one is VERY loud on the radio and in the same fog off Cape Hatteras. They can hear the other ships fog horn, but the fog distorts direction so they aren't certain as to their distance. Roy comes up with the idea to have the other ship synchronize sending on the wireless with the foghorn. On the first reading, they are a mile apart – the wireless signal is 'instantaneous', while sound travels 1000 feet a second. The difference between the two is five seconds. A minute later, they are 2000 feet or two seconds apart. Both ships hit reverse, and avoid colliding by seconds. Roy has 'saved the day' but gets no recognition. He's sort of bummed out but continues his good work.

On the next passage from NY to Galveston in September, the worst month for storms, the Lycoming is hit by horrible storms which last for 3 days. Only by the excellent seamanship of the captain does the Lycoming get through. When just off shore of

Galveston, Roy receives an SOS from the Steamship Empress. It just so happens that the captain of the empress is the brother of the captain of the Lycoming. It's about 130 miles away, and it's rudder has broken, it is drifting and has maybe 8 hours before it is dashed to smithereens against the coast. Roy keeps in touch with the ailing Empress as the Lycoming speeds to the rescue.

Needless to say, the Lycoming plows back into the storm at full speed. Only a serious experienced captain with great skill can manage to get a line to the floundering steamship in the incredibly bad weather – 70-100 mile winds, 30 foot waves – but he does it. Roy has jumped in one of the small boats which manages to get a line across to the Empress...but the boat and crew is lost in the waves – and Roy winds up separated later and manages to find land after many hours. He manages to make it back to the Lycoming a few days later and reports to the Captain that he is back on duty. The captain gruffly advises him that he 'missed his wireless man' and should not have gone off in the boat – sailors he's got – but he's only got one wireless man.

At the end as they reach NYC after 90 days, Roy is set to leave to ship - not knowing what is next. A new Marconi man – likely his replacement has just entered the captains office. Roy hears the captain bellow: “What do I need a new wireless man for – I've already got the best danged wireless man afloat”.....Jack has done his job, and done it well. He'll be sailing for the next years on the Lycoming – under the best captain afloat.

Good entertaining adventure like most of Theiss's books. This was a new reprint (for \$6) from General Reprints.

You can read it here for free - lots of 'youthful adventure'.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=Mgo5AQAAIAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs\\_ge\\_summary\\_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=Mgo5AQAAIAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false)

## Mobile Activity

Don, K3IMC, was out on a trip in CO, NM and TX.

KC7QOP was spotted out mobile on a trip

Randy, AJ5ZX and Janet, KC5QCB, were out and about in TX

Jim, N4JT, was out in VA and NC.

Jim, W0CML was spotted out in CO

Bob, W0BH, was noted in WY and NE on his way home from vacation. .

Jack, WD4OIN, was spotted out in GA

Jim, N9JF made a long trip down to KY and ran most of the east half in the tough to run counties. Made a lot of people happy with LC's and filling in needs. Later in the month we was in IN, then over in MO and IA.

Ron, KB6UF, was active a few days in LA putting out counties

Kyle, WA4PGM spotted out in WV and VA

Ed, K8ZZ, was busy in IN and OH putting them out for the folks. Then did a couple trips in MI.

Kerry, W4SIG, was over in east TN running some of the tough ones there. Later was in MS putting them out there. Finished up Master's Gold and now needs to run another 500 counties for Master Platinum.

WW5DD was putting out counties in TX - on SSB

Seth, N3MRA, was spotted in AL and TN.

Jack, WD4OIN, was spotted in MO, AR

Dick, K5VYT started in SD and headed back home to CO.

Phil, K5MZF spotted in MS - SSB

WB5TMW spotted out in TX counties on SSB.

Charlie, N2JNE, headed up through NY to VT. Had car problems and turned around.

AB7NK, Mary, and Neil, K7SEN, were out and about in AZ and NM.

John, K0PFV was out on a trip in WY.

Bill, NU0Q put out counties while on vacation in IA and NE. Then to WY and MT down around through UT to CO to home.

AF5CC, John, headed on down to TX for a few, then back home later.

Mike, KG5UZ and Cheryl, KJ5PQ, continued putting out more counties on digital modes up in the MN area.

Jeff, W9MSE, headed over to OH – while there ran in the OH QSO Party. Then headed back to WI.

The team of W4FNW/W8FNW and W8GEJ put out counties in OH, with Al, W8GEJ running on cw.

Frank, AA9JJ, and Kay, N9QPQ, headed up to Clark County, NV.

W5QP, Rick, was out and about in AR putting them out on data modes.

Larry, W7FEN, was noted out in OR.

# CW County Hunter Contest

The mobiles were out and running. W3DYA, N4CD, KI0I, WB0PYF, K7TM, K5CM, NU0Q, WC5D, N2JNE, W0GXQ. This is a contest using the standard bands – 20 and 40M – with some activity on 15. There were hundreds of counties to snag between mobiles and fixed stations.

There was an IOTA (Islands on the Air) contest going on. The Europeans are real big on IOTA – working folks living or on expeditions to islands surrounded by sea water. Dukes, MA was on the air as well as a dozen other US islands in various counties. There are thousands of folks in the IOTA contest – makes it near impossible for European County Hunters to avoid the QRM and there were lots of weak EU stations all up and down the band. Most CH moved up above 14045 to avoid most of the QRM. Long Island, NY (Nassau/Suffolk), and New York, NY are islands and were on. So were some in MI/WI and FL and SC, NC, FL, MA, ME. Didn't hear any HI stations or AK ones but didn't look too hard.

## de N4CD

Saturday I took a loop around in OK – 741 miles in 1 1/2 days but only one in the contest. That trip was in last month's edition. Sunday I stayed home. Final count was 446 qso points and 138 counties.

Here in TX on Sunday, I saw a spot for K8MP on 10M. Went up there and sure enough, he's 599 here. Worked a few others on 10M but not many were there to check it out. No random contacts with non-county hunters. Worked K5YAA on 15m. Didn't have 15m mobile so no report there. I was busy chasing W0GXQ – just a whisper most of the time, and NU0Q – loud most of the time in KS. At times, the skip from 200-300 miles was 599 with K5CM/m pounding in in OK. Strange – short skip on 20m – 10m and 6m should have been wide open – but no activity there. If there was mobile activity back east, it wasn't audible here. Even K1BV from CT, who got on during Sunday, was barely S3 here – and usually he's S9 plus. Nice to get those extra counties even if the stations only show up a few hours.

Conditions were anywhere from miserable to rotten to so so to fair. Not much in the way of 'good' for any period of time. The DX was in – but not strong – at least in my

neighborhood. DL5AWI, DL8USA, DL5ME – were heard/worked on Saturday. Probably it was better for DX up in ND. I caught a few 'needed' ones and spotted what I heard to help out the folks on Sunday. Some of the mobiles were 'self spotting'. 40M was not productive....the S6 noise level here didn't help either.

From the 3830 contest reflector:

**K4BAI (fixed MUSC GA) 178Q 131 counties**

Thanks for all QSOs including two all-time new counties (NF0N/M and NU0Q/M). Band conditions were OK on 20 and fair on 40. Not much activity on 40. Heard no activity on 15 and 10. Had a high power line noise level on 40 and missed a couple of callers. Very sorry about that. Thanks for all QSOs. 73, John, K4BAI.

**N6MU (fixed – Orange, CA) 274 QSO 232 counties**

Conditions not great Saturday but I could hear all the mobiles pretty well and ended up with 210 Qs. What a difference Sunday as band conditions were awful and I could no longer hear the mobiles except for an occasional peak. I could hear all the other fixed stations working them but nothing here. I finally gave up in frustration early Sunday afternoon after a measly 64 Qs. Overall, had 5 DX Qs, 92 fixed Qs and 177 mobile Qs. Oh well, next year! 73...

**N2CQ (fixed NJ) 49Q 45 counties**

Mobile QSOs:23  
DX QSOs:2  
Fix Stns QSOs:24

**KJ9C/m 33 ssb 30 cw in WY and also fixed 110 56 in MT**

SITTING ON THE MT/WY LINE IN YELLOWSTONE PARK..

Then he operated the home station in IN remotely and worked another 12Q and 12 counties.

**KM4FO 130 QSO 115 counties**

**K5YAA (fixed OK) 423 QSO 239 counties**

Very good mobile activity from several ops. 10 and 15 even opened up for a while. From memory, W0GXQ, NU0Q, KI0I, NF0N, K7TM, KJ9C, WB0PYF, K0FG and others. Great job folks.

A different perspective this year operating from the home shack versus the mobile shack. Some illness creeping up on me made me stay close to home this year.

Found I could work close in counties on 20 meters which was nice for the total. 40 meters had big signals from everyone.

Thanks to Norm W3DYA for his support for this one again this year and thanks to all the mobiles who scurried around the countryside making for a fun 16 hours.

73 - Jerry K5YAA

**NS9I (fixed WI) 68 60 counties**

**WB0PYF mobile 250Q 84 counties**

**KN4Y mobile 632 contacts 183 counties**

Not the best band conditions for a contest, especially operating mobile. Ran 18 Counties in Georgia and 13 counties in Florida. I could stop at a rest area and not miss many contacts. A happy bladder makes for happy QSO's.

**N4VA – fixed – VA - 55 qso 59 counties**

I had a lot of fun with the limited time available this weekend. Great job, mobiles! And a big Thank You to Norm, for keeping this contest alive.

73,

Larry

**K8TE – fixed – NM 311 QSO 234 counties**

This was my first time in this contest and it was certainly an interesting event--thanks! Lots of folks didn't know their county's abbreviations. That list of counties really help--thanks again!

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From WC5D via QRZ dot com

**MURPHY MURPHY MURPHY & the END of the WC5D/M:**



WC5D mobile 2015

Many mobile stations were on for the 2015 contest: W0GXQ, W3DYA, NU0Q, K7TM, KN4Y, KI0I, K5CM, N4CD, and more

I drove solo onto County Lines in NE TX and S OK. Temperature for most of both days was 100F/37C!

I ran with the IC-7100 worked great and love the touch screen! Also added the BIG Coil to the BuddiStick.

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It started small, but it went up in FLAMES!

1) I use a 2 step lightweight stool to reach the top section of my buddistick to put it up while stopped and put it down for moving.

I left it behind Saturday at TX WOOD/RAINes. Dumb

2) The SWR is at 3:1 at TARRant/DaLLaS. Why? I think the coax from the base of the mobile mount has been squashed by the trunk lid opening and closing. No big deal, I've got a replacement I got at Dallas Ham-Com 2years ago just for this. I work til 2359:59 and then meet XYL for dinner.

3) Buy duplicate stool to facilitate raising and lowering extended sections to 8ft 9" (2.66M) Replace coax, clean some corrosion, good as new.

3) I check everything. OK at local church parking lot at 1205Z before driving 90 minutes to 1st C/L. An intermittent SWR jump, but mostly excellent. Hmmm? Retract antenna. Leave on trip.

4) Arrive 1345Z at TX COOke/MontaGUE perfect! Extend antenna sections. Pulls fully out of socket! No fixing it! Spare, I bought 3 years ago at home QTH. That is rotten.

5) Fortunately I have the BIG loading coil to help my 44" antenna. Again, fortunately I have my Antenna Analyzer (Rig Expert AH-54 \*excellent by the way\* a life saver) to make best matching possible. 1st QSO at 1445Z, behind schedule. Just shorten from 40-45 minutes operating time at each C/L to 30 minutes.

6) I enter a bad Latitude/Longitude into GPS, doubt my route, but it takes me right, anyway, except the back road I've selected is closed for some reason. Quick to the Google Earth on the iPad. Only 15 minutes lost, but I'm 1 hour behind now.

Now, The BIG ONE!!

7) Either arriving or departing OK STePHens/CARTer I heard my Power supply and/or DC Power strip shift in the trunk. I run the CL, open a Diet Root Beer, call the XYL to

give my location, on a map I'd made for her, then start driving on Hwy 7. I go 100 yards, smell some smoke(not good). I stop on side of highway. Open hood...everything FB...nothing. Close hood.

8) Open driver door. Smoke pouring out!!! Yikes, this is A PROBLEM. Turn off car, turn off radio, no source found. Open back door behind driver. YIKES, this is a REALLY BIG, BIG PROBLEM when you've got a flame in the back seat!

9) My Heavy duty DC power cord goes from Battery, along driver side baseboard, tucked neatly into plastic covers, then turns across back seat to trunk through middle, fold down access. A splice has a small flame on it, I yank hard enough to break the splice. Throw a bit of the Diet Root Beer on the flame, have a bit of water, too, but the beach towel, I've been using to protect stuff from the sun and hide wires for the last few days, gets stuffed onto the flaming area.

10) I'm going to let that go for a minute to see if that works. Open trunk to check for anything going on in there. Thankfully, nothing. I'm tossing stuff down the embankment from the car and am ready to abandon ship, if need be. A motorist stops to render assistance with liquids. Not required as the beach towel has done the job!

11) Secure the scene. No damage to electrical bundle nearby, everything on the car works. I'm OK, but very upset. What caused this? Call XYL to give a brief report and that I'm heading homeward.

12) I get to IH-35. It is backed up as far as I can see. Take alternate way home, a scenic route, but I don't enjoy it. Only good outcome, I'll be 3 hours early at Grand daughter's birthday celebration.

13) I find that the shift of the equipment had the grounding mesh, just barely touching a minute opening to metal on a + (red) post on the DC Power strip. You couldn't duplicate that in a 100 tries, but it did! So the splice overheated as the weak link along the DC line and the splice overheating was what burned through to the seat. Could have been tons worse, upon further review!

14) Given my brush with this, my age, and the frown on the XYL, it is time to park the mobile rig. QRT.

15) I file automobile claim with insurance to replace back seat and door panel, etc. Estimator comes in at \$XXXX.xx Dang it!

Oh, well, "Life IS Good" and no one hurt, car will be good as new, I'll be hammin' from home or portable.

Thanks MURPHY!!

Tnx QSOs 73 DX & GH

After 43 years mobiling as K3ZMI/m, KL7HNN/m & WC5D/m  
WC5D/M is now QRT.

Some personal history:

“Licensed 1963. Delaware callsign was KN3ZMI upgraded to K3ZMI. The USAF in 1972 sent me to Alaska. I became KL7HNN. Also operated from Club stations KL7FAF at Eielson AFB and KL7FBI Shemya Island in the Aleutians. I was an USAF Pilot on RC-135A/D/S & EC-135A/C/G models. After the USAF I flew for Braniff Airlines, the original, for 5 years.

I upgraded to Extra Class and became WC5D in 1985. Retired from FAA in 2005 after completing 22.5 years as Flight Service Specialist. My primary duty was EFAS Enroute Flight Advisory Service for pilots, also known as Flight Watch on 122.0 Mhz. Lockheed Martin took over the Flight Service Contract resulting in my re-assignment to the Fort Worth, TX HUB where I'm still employed....until April 2016?

I'm ALL CW all the time. I've transmitted from 45 states, while single-op mobile CW. I've worked All USA Counties CW USA-CA #1092 All CW #71. Ham interests include USA-CA CW County Hunting, Contests, and DX. Other daily interests are Major League Baseball and almost anything aviation related.

My home QTH rig is a Yaesu FTdx 3000, LDG tuner, K5 keyer, with an Alpha Delta DX-EE 40ft long 40-10M antenna in the attic.

updated July 29, 2015

73 GH & DX

Van

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Update: Insurance did pay! But, I had to do 3 detailed taped interviews. Insurance has a special "fire & interior/upholstery" specialist vs collision specialists. They were particularly interested in the installation.

Did it go through the firewall? Did it go with any other wiring bundle? Was ANY modification made to the vehicle? Was the radio mounted/attached to the vehicle? Any fault with the radio(failure) "Think can we sue the radio manufacturer"? And so on and so on. I emphasized this was an accident.

I explained, truthfully, that this was a temporary installation, radio sitting on seat and heavy DC Red&Black wire routed under hood, past wipers to Driver door, past rubber gaskets, through plastic door sill panels to back seat splice to pass through the fold down mid-seat pass through, to DC Multiple Power outlet and equipment sitting in trunk.

Lessons:

Secure equipment. Non-slip. It had been in other mobiles, but changed setup in the new car to make it, still incomplete, more visually appealing.

Keep Ground wires of any sort far, far away from anything that may have + Positive metal exposure.

Fuses between battery and DC Panel, not after. As Bob N4CD inquired, "were fuses 'AT' the battery". Shudda been. The old Solara (Gold) did.

Carry something to smother an electrical fire (worked for me). A fire extinguisher could be messy, but could save the day, too.

For any new car with a valuable warranty, no modifications or installations, you could be liable for a voided warranty.



Door Damage



Seat Damage

## Update II

Yesterday the XYL clarified her displeasure with mobiling – t hat it was damage to the brand new Lexus with 3000 miles, and not my mobiling trips that really upset her.

An older car like my Gold Solara used 2007-2010 would be better since it had nearly 100k miles and already loss of value. Also a rental car could be used.  
Sooooo....my mobile days may not be entirely over, after all!

73 & GH  
Van

- - - - -  
de N4CD

It's always a good idea to have a fuse at the battery end of the power cable in both leads. That way if your heavy duty feed gets shorted along the way, your car doesn't go up in smoke. ALWAYS a fuse at the battery. ALWAYS. Both leads.

In new cars, you do NOT want to take the negative lead to the battery. Most new cars now have a 'battery management system' (BMS) that uses the negative lead to 'sense' the current drain. If you connect your negative battery lead to the battery, you will confuse it and maybe even wind up running your battery down. Most new cars now have 'start/stop' systems that shut off your car when you are sitting at a traffic light.

Per K0BG, connect the heavy black lead (with fuse) to the point where the battery is grounded. ( Put a temporary jumper from the negative post of the battery to a different ground point while you connect the lead to the 'ground point' for the car. You might have to remove the lead or it might come lose while you are trying to get another lug onto the bolt then screwed down. You don't want an 'interruption' in the battery circuit as it can reset everything from the security on the car radio to the computers in the car.

More reading here at K0BG's excellent web site

<http://www.k0bg.com/wiring.html>

# On the Road with N4CD I

Time for another road trip! Each year about this time, the Antique Radio Club up in IL holds an annual convention just south of Chicago in Dupage County in the city of Burr Ridge. Several local folks told me it is the second largest gathering the in the country of old radio enthusiasts so I decided to check it out this year. In addition, the next day, there is the Hamfesters hamfest on Sunday in Peotone, IL at the Will County Fair Grounds about an hour drive away. A 'double header' for the weekend. It seems many hamfests up north are on Sundays. Down here in the 'bible belt' they are all on Saturdays. It would be about 1100 miles up to IL the way I planned to go.

In addition, if I took extra travel time, I could stop by the new store of the American Pickers in Le Claire, IA for a short visit. I'd stopped here before at the 'old store' but now they built a new, larger building and have more of their 'finds' on display. That's one of my favorite TV programs (History Channel – Wednesday night). They have two stores – one in IA and one in Nashville, TN. If you are in the neighborhood, stop on by.

## Day 1 Wednesday

The car was ready- and the suitcase filled up for a week long trip. I headed out leaving 2 1/2 days to get the 1000 miles up to northern IL via 'the county hunter way' – hitting new transmit counties (3<sup>rd</sup> time) along the way. First, I had to get the 300 miles away from home to even get to a new county. So it was off early in the morning headed north up highway 75 to highway 69 up through the east half of Oklahoma – same boring route up to the Joplin, MO area – Newton County. Then it would be to new counties headed north, up into IA, and over to the event. I checked the county sign database needs. None in MO or OK. W5QP and others had filled them all in! Same for IA – all filled in! There are missing signs in IL yet.

Temperatures in TX were getting up to the 'sizzling point' – 100 degree days with the evenings still at 95 or 90, and only getting down to low 80s by 6am in the morning. Hot! It would be nice to get up north with cooler temps!

Things went well.....for a while. Zipped up through OK, over in MO, then headed north from Newton County on the interstate headed north to the Kansas City area.....until half way there.....the transmission in the Malibu seemed to develop a problem. Ever since

the Transmission Control Module in the Malibu, which died at about 85,000 miles when it wouldn't stay in sixth gear, was replaced – it's a little bit 'rf sensitive'. 20M gets into the gauges – on certain types of pavements. Dunno why. Well....for some reason, I lost both 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> gears. Hmmm....going along at 60 and turning 3500 rpm when it should be under 2000. That had never, ever, happened before. Once in a while, you'd get a blip as the transmission didn't shift smoothly if you transmitted when it shifted – on certain types of pavement. Or the 'key' light would come on – meaning the car lost track of the little transponder in the key. As soon as you turned off the car it would reset. No big deal. But this was. - No 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> gear – the main highway gears in the automatic and you didn't have any 'manual' control mode either! Not good! Stopped on the side of the interstate. Turned car off and back on – no reset. Dang, I'm in trouble now.

Time to find a Chevy Dealer and get this thing checked out. Nearest one turns out to be 50 miles ahead in Lee Summit, MO (Clay County). Call them on the phone and they can check out the car so head that way. This trip might have to be aborted if there are big time problems. Well, I got an extra day factored in – or I could just head home otherwise and cancel the trip. So I limped up there at 50-55 on the interstate for 50 miles – didn't forget to put out the counties, until I got there just before five. Car engine working overtime with a thousand extra revs per minute.

They guy said if you need a new transmission, it would be about \$4000 installed. Ouch. It might be 'less of a problem'. He said he would check – and would loan me a car if I needed it for a day or two. Nope, I'd limp over to the motel and see him in the morning.

Fortunately there was a Super 8 motel in town just down the street so I stopped there for the night – maybe longer, who knows? (\$80/night). Found an Italian restaurant and headed there for a salad/lasagna dinner. The place was Waldo's Pizza, apparently a well known and popular spot with all sorts of gourmet pizza and food items. It was good. Comfort food for a very frustrated county hunter.

<http://waldopizzals.com/>

After dinner, I started up the car – and lo and behold, the transmission seems to have reset itself. I now had 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> gears back, and manual mode, too. Hmmm? Did I scramble the TCM code, and after it sat for a while, it reset upon starting the car up again? Who knows? Don't know if it really fixed itself, or the problem will re appear when the car warms up after 20 miles on the road. Maybe it is time for more grounding of the engine and exhaust system?

Went to bed and worried a bit about the car and trip but nodded off quickly.

## **Day 2 – Thursday**

I woke up and decided to continue the trip. Called the dealer and he said there was no available transmission – told him to stop looking – and I'd hit the road and hope the problem didn't re appear. The worst thing that could happen....well, losing 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>....or losing the entire thing – well, that's why they have tow trucks. There were counties to be run and places to be!

Waffle for breakfast at the Super 8 motel. Checked out and headed north. Temps were a bit cooler – headed the right way!

I got back on the interstate headed up to IA – things ran fine. Dunno. Maybe time for a few more ground straps on the car to prevent it again? Things were running OK – and I'd be continuing along running the counties. Soon I was in IA headed to the main interstate headed east/west over into the Le Claire, IA area for the night. I was ahead of schedule for the day so added in a few bonus counties with short detours of a few miles. The American Pickers store is open till 6pm so no need to get there too early, then spin my wheels for hours in the afternoon – might as well hit a few more along the route. Added in Madison with a short 1 mile detour, and a bit later Muscatine with a short couple mile detour. I arrived at the American Pickers store (Antique Archaeology) in mid afternoon.

If you have cable/satellite TV and watch the History Channel, maybe you've seen the show – on Wednesday nights. The program is about two guys – 'pickers' - who roam the country looking for old items – mainly motorcycle/automotive related things from the 1900-1940 period. As well as old bicycles, advertising signs, and items they can resell in their stores – collectible 'junk' and museum pieces, as well as things they can repurpose, like industrial lighting fixtures. They have stores in IA and one in Nashville, TN. If you go to the 3M this fall, you might take an hour or two to stop by the TN store in downtown Nashville.

You can even watch a few episodes on line here!

<http://www.history.com/shows/american-pickers>

I reached their town about 3pm and dropped by the store. The new one is 3 times the size of the former one – and there's a fair amount of their 'finds' on display – some of it

'not for sale' – and other items up for sale. The old store – basically a garage, is still open. They also sell a lot of tee-shirts and souvenirs. There were dozens of tourists coming and going. The shows been on for half a dozen years now. I spent about an hour at the store, then headed over to the Super 8 Motel there. About \$80 including tax. Dinner was at Happy Joes – good salads, a view overlooking the river – right in downtown on the main street. Also pizza and pasta there – good reviews.

Le Claire is a 'river town' from the old days. Steamers used to head up and down the river plying their trade. Settlers moved here in the 1850s. The total population is only a few thousand, but it is part of the Quad Cities area. “Buffalo Bill” Cody was born here and there's a small museum in his honor here.

Hit the hay early. Propagation has not been great for the past two days.

### **Day 3 Friday**

Waffle for breakfast at the Super 8. Cruddy 'orange drink'. Waffle was good.

On Friday I headed over to the Chicago area via back roads in IL – that way I could hit a bunch of county lines and put out more new counties. There was only 200 miles to go to reach the motel in Romeoville, where I'd stop for two nights. I got there after lunch and checked in - \$58/night including tax. Well, this is one Super 8 you probably want to avoid. It was sort of ratty. The security doors didn't work and looked like they hadn't worked in years. The door locks on the rooms were good. The carpet was ratty, but the bed was OK. I wasn't planning on spending much time in the room, and the a/c worked. On a scale from 1 to 5, it's a 1.5. Skip this one. Old tired building. TV set worked – didn't have much time to work and there was a fridge and microwave in the room. Slept fine.

Now time to head to the big ARCI convention (Antique Radio Club, Inc) about 10 miles away. I waited too late to decide to go and couldn't stay at the convention hotel – all sold out. So I commuted. No big deal.

The ARCI Antique Wireless Convention in Burr Ridge starts Friday afternoon with an auction at 6:30pm. You can view the items up for auction in the afternoon. My friend Jim Sargent, who is President of our local club in TX, told me this is the second best get together in the country – and he's been to all of them. That's why I was there to see if I'd find some 'goodies' that I could afford. About 200 folks were present for the auction – good crowd and lots of bidding.

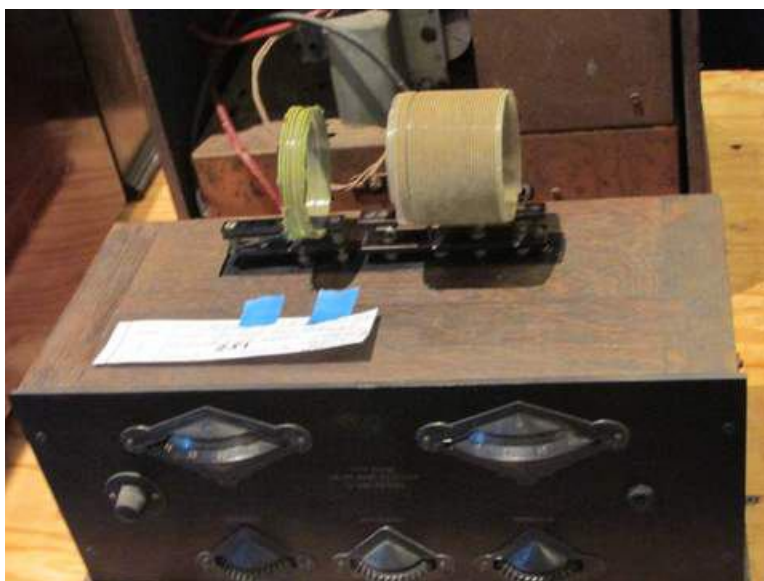
Well – up for sale were lots of nice old radios from the 20s and 30s. Half a dozen Atwater Kents with 4 'breadboard' radios from the early 20s. These are especially sought after and valuable – going from a couple hundred in 'rotten shape' to well over a thousand for the rarer models. The top end models back then were very high priced and few were sold. Here's a picture of a mid level unit – that sold for over \$500.



Atwater Kent Breadboard

The input is on the right side – with variable capacitors along the top edge of the unit, and tubes in 'islands'. You've got 3 tuned RF stages, with two individual tubes, and then the 'triple tube' RF AMP, detector/amp and audio tube. A 'five tube' set. You'll notice the 3 tuned circuits have the coils all at right angles to each other along the 'front edge' as you look at the picture. You'd need a couple batteries to run this radio – preferably a 6v wet cell for the filaments (or a super A battery), a B battery with 45 and 90v taps, and a C battery of 7.5v for bias. This was state of the art in 1922. The wiring was under the wood slab.

There was a nice Grebe CR-18 up for sale – this one of the first short wave sets with plug in coils. This is a regen and was one of the first commercially offered sets with plug in coils. As you look at the picture, the coil seems like it is out of place on top of the radio, but that is where it plugs in! On a good day you'd hear stuff up to 20MHz, not there was much going on there! Just experimental things.



Grebe CR-18

According to my friend Jim (the auctioneer), this radio is currently 'worth' about \$700, but this unit had a \$850 reserve price on it and didn't sell. Oh well. I'll be hunting for one along the way. At a better price, too! This radio would cover up to 22 MHz or so....but after 10MHz, was essentially 'deaf'.

The only other item of interest at the auction was a Knight Kit Ocean Hopper in immaculate condition. I'd bet this was the one totally restored by Dave, WA6VVL, who has rebuilt at least a dozen Ocean Hoppers over the years. It was better than new, with newly plated chassis that looked factory new, a new repainted front panel and lettering that was 100% perfect, and the unit had been rewired with 90 degree bends in all the wires, and silver mica caps throughout. He strips them down to bare chassis and refinishes it, then rebuilds it with better parts. A showpiece. It sold for over \$250 on Ebay (plus shipping) I think a year or so ago. It had a reserve price of \$280 and didn't sell. In my opinion, it was probably worth \$200 – if you needed a pristine example of the Ocean Hopper. It did come with two original plug in coils and five other homemade coils (which adds value). It went back home with its owner.

This auction requires that sellers pay a \$7/item to sell fee, and buyers pay a 10% buyer premium to pay for the cost of the facility/ballroom, etc, and earn some money for the ARCI – the sponsoring group. I didn't buy anything but paid my \$7 to register for the auction. Oh well – missed opportunities and about 250 items went by. It was a good auction. A few pieces of ham gear sold.



Hallicrafters S-26 VHF RX

The Hallicrafters S-26 sold for \$150, and a Swan 500C with DC power supplies sold for \$75. Everything is sold 'as is, where is' – although the seller sometimes has a note on the unit saying 'working' or 'rebuilt and recapped', etc. It's buyer beware with no guarantees. If you know the seller, you can often get the full scoop ahead of bid time. There was a Hallicrafters S-110 for sale and that was about it for ham items. You don't go to this for ham stuff – it's mainly old broadcast radios from the 1920 to 1950s, and with value over \$50.

Note: The TX convention has 3 auctions and lower price items from \$10 up sell at one of them – more fun and opportunity for getting 'goodies'. (November each year).

After a couple hours it was time to head back to the motel for the night – straight shot on the interstate. Hit the hay at 10pm or so.

#### **Day 4 – Saturday**

Waffle for breakfast at the Super 8 motel.

One of the main events at the ARCI convention is a giant flea market on Saturday – with about 100 sellers of vintage stuff. There's a few ham items there too. I was there before 7am after a breakfast at the Super 8 – at least the motel had waffles! Oh, and the security outdoor lights didn't work in the front and side of the motel. I parked in back. They don't care, it seems, is their motto. I should have checked TripAdvisor first. Don't ever stay there! Not many 'good' reviews on TripAdvisor – an excellent resource for getting reviews on places to stay, eat, and see.

I headed over to the convention site, and there were already most folks set up and selling items at sunrise. One could buy some nice items – more Atwater Kents, a nice Collins KWM-2 in a suitcase for \$700, a few pieces of ham gear, and an Aero 500C short wave set from about 1929 with plug in coils – one of the first units on the market. Dang..I forgot to get a picture of it and it sold to someone else before you know it. Gone – a real goodie but the asking price was way too high (\$500). Some you win, some you lose, and if you snooze, you sometimes miss out. Oh well. Onward to find more goodies.

What's this? A Knight Kit Ocean Hopper. Dang, someone ruined the front panel by putting a speaker in it – drilling a bunch of holes – destroying half the value of the unit. It had the BC band coil in it, and the cabinet, a plus. Plus the original knob, which you can't replace. The cabinet and knob are worth \$25 at least. Most of the radios were sold without cabinets. This was a budget entry level, el cheapo unit – sold for \$11.95 in kit form back in the late 50s and 60s. It's a cult item these days. (the pristine one yesterday had the \$280 reserve but didn't sell). This one, because of the messed up front panel, was low price. It followed me home. Budget price actually. The parts are worth more than I paid for it. Hi hi. I'm not into most of the 'antique radio' stuff. I did find 4 books from the way back days for a buck a book! (Radio Boys type books from the 1920s) – but nothing 'new'. They'll be up for sale at the next local hamfest/swap meet here. I've already read everything I can find these days. The rare ones, when I can find them, come off the internet.

The convention features a couple programs during the day on radio restoration and history of the early radio manufacturers. There's a banquet at night but I skipped it. Don't know the local people, etc. During the day, they do have a display of radios going on – competing for 'best of' prizes. I headed out early back to the not so super Super 8 Motel. Found a Golden Corral nearby and had a nice dinner with a plate of salad, and then some other good food. I'd walked about 2 miles it seems in the flea market up and down the long isle a four or five times. I was tired out.

Hit the hay early – 9 pm - to get up early.

## **Day 5 Sunday**

I was awake at 4:30 am –got up - checked out – no one at desk - and headed over to Denny's for breakfast. The one at the Super 8 wouldn't start till 6am. Had a nice breakfast of pancakes, eggs, sausage and fruit for \$7 with AARP discount. Was on the road to Peotone, IL – 50 miles away - for the hamfest at 5:15am. It's 30 miles or so south of Chicago just off the interstate. Sun was just beginning to show on the horizon at 5:30am. I get there around 6am and things are already in full swing for the sellers.

The sun is up early over in the eastern edge of IL at Will County fairgrounds. I park, pay my admission, and head on in to the flea market where it looks like 50 people are all set up. Things are spread out along one main drag – probably 1500 feet long. A few people have set up in an open air show barn. Wear good shoes because you'll be walking a bit to get from end to end. At 8am the insides opens with a few dealers and displays. This is a hamfest so most of the stuff is ham related, with two folks selling computer stuff.

In two hours, I find one item slightly of interest. It's one of the Heathkit Regen receivers. I've got one or two of them already but the price is so good, I buy it. Cheap. Maybe good trading material for something later. Supposedly 'working'. You never know.

Here's a picture of the 'finds' for the trip.



Saturday – Ocean Hopper with 'holey' front panel  
Sunday – Heath GR-81 Regen

Well, by 8:30 am I had seen everything 3 times over. Didn't need anything and quickly

checked out the insides – nothing new – some dealers selling new radios and books and misc hardware, antenna parts, etc. I didn't need anything and didn't buy anything else. It was time to hit the road. No new people were streaming in to sell. Not sure if more would show up or not. It seemed there were more sellers than buyers. I'm glad I didn't drive hundreds of miles to get here – a bit disappointing.

There are a lot of hamfests in Chicago. Maybe too many. There had been one at this very fairgrounds by a different group two weeks before! This was sponsored by the 'Hamfesters' group. The one two weeks ago was put on by another club. Dunno. Seems strange to have two hamfests at the same place two weeks apart. However, each club needs a 'fund raiser' I guess. I'd rather they have one big hamfest than two small ones!

Now it was time to head the car back to TX the county hunter way. I looked at my already run counties and tried to pick a route that would get me home in two days, yet hit a bunch of new counties along the way. Hmmmm.....if I did some of the route on interstate, and some on back roads, I'd get another dozen put out and still get down into MO by night. That was the plan. So now it was heading mostly south through the middle of Illinois. I hit a few new transmit counties – and hit 3 of the needed signs for the database. Well, I ran through 3 of them. I was asleep at the switch for one of them.

Here's two that I snagged for the database project, which is trying to get a sign for every one of the 3077 counties in the US. So far, the database has over 2800 different signs in it. I caught Fayette and Coles. Due to 'brain fog', I stopped on the county line of Washington.....ran the county...and took off without getting the picture. Worse, as I drove off – suddenly I remembered that was on the list of needed county signs. OK – I'd get it on the way out - catch the sign on the other side. Duh! 20 miles later I hit the large town in the next county – I missed the next county line. It's on the interstate so someone should be able to get it soon! Still about 10 to go in IL – and folks are going through there all the time!



Coles, IL



Fayette, IL

That afternoon I made it down to the tip of IL and crossed into Cape Girardeau, MO from the Alexander, IL side. Alexander County is just a mile or so on the main interstate but I was on a highway where you could stop, without power lines, just before the bridge to put it out. Nice spot. Then the route went over to the interstate and south. It was getting late and there was a sign for a Super 8 motel in Sikeston, MO. I pulled over and found the Super 8 in Scott County.

On the sign they advertised \$49/night and up. Well, you only get the \$49 rate if you stay for 3 days or more. Otherwise, I had to pay \$53 senior plus tax (about \$60 with taxes). Motel not too bad. I asked at the desk for places to eat – fast food nearby – but the better places were over 'by the Walmart'. In most towns, if you know 'where the Walmart is', all your navigation problems are solved. I needed directions to the Walmart – and right across the street was a great China Buffet. It was located in an old Ryans – and was very busy – with a couple hundred eating. Good eats for under \$9!

Headed back to motel and slept well.

## **Day 6 Monday**

After a nice waffle at the motel (probably ate too many waffles this trip) – it was on the road again south for a few miles to catch highway 60 going west over to Clinton, AR. You zip through a few MO counties then it heads into AR. With a few zigs, you get to highway 90 and a southwest shot down to AR through most of the counties in the NE corner of the state. You have to stop to run a few of them as there's only 2-5 miles of road in some of them. Things went well, and I was in Little Rock (Pulaski County) about lunch time – then a straight shot on I-30 back to Dallas.

Once I hit the TX border, the speed limit was 75 and traffic was moving 80-85 mph to the trip moved along nicely. The outside temp gauge hit 100 F as I crossed into TX. Yuk! Home about a bit after 4pm to a very hot Dallas.

## On the Trail of Regens

Each month I scan the Ebay ads for interesting items that appear. Almost every month you see the common Knight Kit **Space Spanner** and the **Ocean Hopper** for sale – sometimes at ridiculous asking prices since the Ocean Hopper is more of 'cult' item these days. You'll often see the **Heathkit GR-81** kit and now and then the **Lafayette KT-135** kit – common stuff. Radios that sell for under \$100, sometimes as low as \$20-25. These were the entry level SWL kits of the late 50s and 60s.

Every now and then you'll see things like the **Pilot Wasp** and **Super Wasp** (1930s radios) and National SW-3 sets – ones with plug in coils up for sale - \$150 and up radios. On rare occasion, you'll see the 1910-1920 sets designed for 'short wave' (a few MHz) show up – and those can fetch prices to over \$500 to \$1000 each in excellent condition.

In addition, you'll see some modern made 'regen radios' that look nice and 'retro' - but aren't all that great for listening. In between all the 'noise' every month, you sometimes find something different. I'll bid on things I don't have in the collection.

Some auctions I manage to 'win' – others I just look at for the sake of nostalgia – and yet others were rigs I had 'way back when' or wished I had. Now a days, I tend to collect mostly regen receivers and the past month has seen some nifty items come up for bid. It's a toss up – prices can go fairly high, but some of the items only show up for sale once every couple years. If you go to a distant hamfest and maybe get one at a lower price, by the time you figure gas, motels, and everything else, you've 'paid up' anyway. Sometimes you just got to pay 'eBay prices' to get the more unusual stuff. Or try. There's a lot of collectors out there for the really rare items that show up.

At the start of the month, some modern recreations of old rigs appeared. One industrious fellow built copies of the 1929 Handbook Regen receiver – a design right out of the end of the 1920s when regen receivers were often the only thing 'affordable' to most hams. The items for sale included a 2 tube regen with plug in coil for selecting the band and it covered 160-40 meters – the main bands of the day. Back then, most of the activity was on 160M and 80M as equipment was rather temperamental - crystal control was not common for transmitters. People drifted all over the place and the higher the frequency, the more the drift and stability. Everything was built on 'wood chassis'.

From the ad: “AWA 1929 style regenerative receive and Hartley transmitter. I picked up

this combo several years ago. Only had it on the air once. There are many actual period components in both sets and some modern components.

The vacuum tubes in both sets appear to be period originals. -The receiver grid leak resistor is encased in glass. the audio tube is mounted on a shock absorbing socket to minimize micro phonics. The interstage coupling audio transformer appears to be period also. It has a wire wound pot to control filament voltage and regeneration. It has bandset, vernier bandspread and antenna trim controls. comes with coils that appears to be for 160,80,40 meter ham band. -

The transmitter is a classic Hartley power oscillator. The copper tubing appears to be configured for 80 meters. As the photos show, output coupling is by swinging link assembly with series tuned capacitor. Very unique. The transmitter is capable of a couple of watts, but best tone is obtained when lightly loaded at around 1 watt or less. And positioning the coil tap is crucial. Remember anything and everything on the antenna affects how the transmitter sounds. Good solid installed antenna work best, not swaying around in the wind. Tight and secure wire and feed line works best. I used an end fed antenna that the top portions was tensioned very tight and the down lead was secured by insulated brackets into the house also with tension. For anyone building these kind of radios knows that finding parts that is period or modern look-alike can cost a fortune and take forever to find. Here it is in one package. As is with any vintage home built equipment, no warranties made or implied. I expect you know your way around a radio. Sold as is , where is. “

Here's a few pics:



1929 TX/RX



1929 Ham Regen Receiver - Rear View



1929 Hartley Transmitter

You'll note there is no crystal socket. This was a 'tuned circuit' and that was it. As it heated up, it would tend to drift – and you had to tinker with loading and coil taps for 'best note' as it would chirp like a bird if you didn't tweak it just right – typical of the day. That's why the RST system was in place – oh, and not everyone had a 'clean' power supply with lots of filtering – so many signals would have some hum on them.

Ah, the 'good old days'. You hoped your signal would be 'somewhere within the band'.

## Maryland DC QSO Party

If you are a cw fan, this was a sleeper – and not too much better on SSB from more than 1000 miles away. I strained to find a single CW station on 20M. Close in folks did better with fair 40M activity on SSB and even two SSB mobiles showing up.

**WC7Q - fixed – Western Washington - 3 cw 1 ssb 4 mults**

Band condx were terrible Saturday at my location. Heard only one MDC station that was loud enough to work. When I did work him on cw, he gave the exchange in reverse, he sent county and then club which was confusing to me and to N1MM+ the contest program I was using. Conditions improved Sunday but where were the MDC stations? I checked 20 and 15 looking on and off all day and only heard 3 stations calling. I know the WAE contest seemed to take over the entire 20 M band and it was hard to hear MDC but I seriously tried. When operating NAQP and Salmon Run I usually get many Maryland stations in the log and I tried to reciprocate but!!!

Sam WC7Q

**WN4AFP - fixed - SC - 19 cw 50 ssb mults 19**

This was my 3rd MDCQP. Worked the contest most of Saturday with limited time on Sunday. As many have noted, band conditions weren't the best on Saturday and they seemed to improve on Sun. Due to my location, 40m was my best band, able to work stations anytime. I did experience a moment of short 'skip' into MD for about 15 minutes on 20m, so I made the most of it.

Overall activity seemed lower than previous years and most activity was on Phone. Where's all the CWOps? probably working WAE. I worked

W5VPR, K3CCR, N3TCR, K3CAL and W3C club stations, most on different modes and bands. I worked two mobiles including K0BAK and KB3QWC. Thanks Pete for multiple counties. A special thanks to many of the stations who were willing to QSY to other bands and modes. Thanks to all of the MDC stations for the Qs. My best approach was S&P on phone, running was challenging on phone and fruitless on CW. Also, I missed the following counties in my hunt... Allegany, Cecil, Charles, Talbot, WDC and Wicomico. Please enlist more club stations in these counties. It was one of my more challenging QSO Parties and I had fun playing in it.

**VA3KGO – fixed      76 ssb   21 mults**

**KS4X/QRP - fixed TN    4 cw 26 ssb 16 mults**

**KM4FO – fixed – TN -    4 cw   5 ssb   8 mults**

## **Jerry's Quest for the 1000<sup>th</sup> LC**

Only a few county hunters have reached the 'official' 1000 transmitted last county level. Not all county hunters 'reward' the mobiles with a 'last county' award when they get a last county in a state for their next award. So likely folks have really put out – 20-30-40-50% more? Who knows? With LC's now down to a buck each, there's not too much reason to reward those mobiles out on trips burning gas to get your counties needed.

As of the beginning of the year, Rick, AI5P, has 1011. Kent, KV7N, has 1013 as of May 26, 2015. Scottie, N4AAT has 1060. Ed, WA0SBR, has 1230 listed in the database. N9QPQ, Kay, has 1262 now with Frank, AA9JJ at 989 – close to the 1000 level. Ron, KB6UF, has 1288 listed. KB7QO, the first person to run all US Counties, has 1363 LC listed in the database. N4CD is over 1000.

Earlier this month, Bob, N8KIE, passed the 1000 transmitted county level.

**We are delighted to report that with his recent trips to ND, Jerry, W0GXQ is now well over 1000 transmitted last counties. Mission accomplished.**

We are also delighted to report that Frank, AA9JJ, has joined the select group giving out 1000 or more transmitted last counties!

- - - -

Jerry, W0GXQ, let me know he has a new goal. He wrote:

New goal for W0GXQ  
250,000 Mobile contacts

Curious as to the number of contacts I've made while operating mobile, I decided to go back through my handwritten logs to see if I could come up with an accurate total. My first mobile run was in 1999.

Thanks to Randy AA8R and Jeff W9MSE for providing contact totals from the CH contests prior to 2007 . . . logs that I had trashed in anticipation of a QTH move. After a week of digging into all of the logs, I came up with a number of 245,843.

Since this is 16 years of data, I figure it will take me another two years to complete, if I'm able to continue operating mobile that long.

I would be interested in knowing what other mobile operator totals are. Some county hunters have been out there on the road since the sixties and seventies.

## On the Trail of Regens II

From Dave Schmarders Web Pages:

“ Welcome to the fifties! This radio is much like the little regenerative radios that Lafayette, Knight Kit and Heath sold those many decades ago. The circuit is a different than those I've have seen before. I want to thank Frank, K5DKZ for putting the circuit for this set on his web site. (Update: Unfortunately the project is no longer on his website.) When I saw the circuit, I knew immediately that this is the one for me.

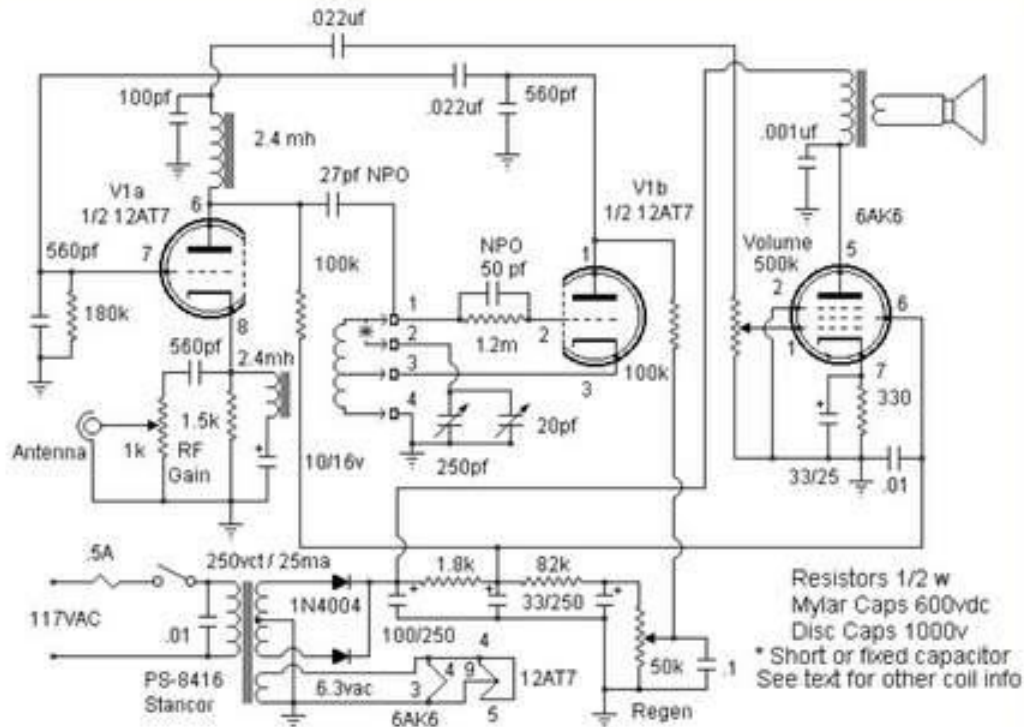
The circuit is built around a 12AT7 and a 6AK6 tube. The 6AK6 is a conventional audio tube. There is nothing really special about this section. The detector is a different story. The first section of the 12AT7 is used as a ground grid rf amplifier. This provides a better impedance match between the antenna and the detector and also provides isolation so the regenerative detector doesn't bother anyone else's reception. (A regenerative detectors that is oscillating is a small transmitter.)

The signal then goes to a grid leak regenerative detector. The coil is tapped with the tap going to the cathode of the second half of the 12AT7. The regeneration is controlled by adjusting the B+ voltage on that stage. The audio is recovered at the plate of this section.

Here is where it gets interesting, folks. That audio signal is fed back to the grid of the first stage. This stage is grounded to RF but not to audio! This first part of the 12AT7 now acts as an audio amplifier. This is called "reflexing". This technique was popular in the first days of radio as a means to obtain more amplification without extra expensive tubes or more battery power.



Regen-o- Flex Receiver



2 Tube Regen-o-flex Receiver (c) 2004, D. Schmarder

Rev. 06/02/04

#### Regen-o-flex Schematic

Dave's article is here:

<http://www.makearadio.com/tube/12at7-6ak6.php>

You can find the original article here

<http://www.americanradiohistory.com/Archive-Poptronics/60s/66/Pop-1966-08.pdf>

All of the old Pop Tronic magazines are available at the above web site.

Way back in the 1920s, tubes were expensive! Radios sold for maybe \$20 for the radio, and another \$15 to \$20 for the tubes to make it work! If you could get a 'dual use' out of a tube, it was tried. Then, you had 'TRF' sets- 3 or 4 stages of RF amps followed by

a detector and audio stage or two. Or a regen detector with an audio stage or two. One design was the 'reflex' radio using one or more stages for both RF and audio service. Then, you could only get a single triode in a tube envelop. The Crosley Tri-Dyn is one of the prime examples of a reflexed radio where two stages were both RF and Audio amps in the 4 tube set. They could boast 'matches a five tube set'.

The reflex radio had its good points and bad points. Fewer tubes – but more problems from overload, lack of dynamic range, distortion, and hard to control oscillation tendencies. It added complexity to save tube costs. All the tubes were triodes.

They lasted for a few years before lower tube prices, A/C power supplies and of course, a/c being present in houses, and then the superhet radio and 4 or 5 element tubes (screen grid and pentode tubes) made them obsolete quickly.

Reflex designs appeared again in the late 1950s with 'transistor radios'. Transistors were expensive. The first transistor radios were often 2 transistors and reflexed. Didn't work well, and ...then were gone quickly once transistor prices dropped to where everyone made 'six transistor' and up radios.

This regen-o-flex radio sold for \$90 on Ebay – a one of a couple ever built from the 1960s Popular Electronics article.

## Hawaii QSO Party

Yes, there was a HI QSO Party but there wasn't much going on. Unlike the past couple years, 15M was very quiet, with only a lone station, KH6DD on the Big Island (Hawaii) noted here in TX on cw. Didn't see any other cw spots for 15, and just one or two on 15 SSB. Not much happening on 20M either- one spot on 20M SSB and a few west coast spots on 20cw. NIL heard here on 20M. On Saturday, the A index varied from 6 to 9, and the K from 2-3. The upper bands (15 and 10M) have not been good lately. Not a station of any kind heard on 10M here the whole weekend, and only a few on 15M the entire time on my vertical. K7VAY spotted some HI stations on 40 and 80m in the evening.

On Sunday, the A index kicked up to 9, the K up to 6 and a major geomagnetic storm

was underway. Sunday was a total washout as far as I can tell for most.

Perhaps those with beams or who lived on the west coast did better.

The good news is I only needed one county in HI, and that was the one that showed up on 15M. Can't complain too much – hi hi.

From the 3830 contest reflector:

**KH6Y - fixed – HI 272 cw contacts**

Band condx were not that good, especially on Sunday and the lighting storm didn't help any. Had a good time and look forward to next year. Could have worked more Hawaiian stations but couldn't find that many in CW.

73

Bob/KH6Y Mililani

**KH6CJJ – fixed – Maui HI 43 cw 16 ssb**

Family responsibilities limited my participation and then, Saturday night, a software issue developed that knocked me out for the remainder of the HQP. When I was on, participation seemed down.

**AH6KO – fixed – HI - 277 cw qso**

New location for me, in the Ohia forest 1000 feet above sea level. 40 and 20 were good; apparently missed the opening on 15 Saturday (busy building the 15 meter Moxon!). Coupled resonator dipole on 40 and 20, Lots of bamboo and duct tape. Fun working W3DA in the last hour for Delaware! Surprised to only work 7 of the 14 Hawaii multipliers. Hope to spend more time next year; see you there!

**W6ZQ – fixed =- CA     5 cw 6 ssb qso**

**W0PAN – fixed – AZ -   3 ssb**

Worked everyone I heard - lousy conditions. KH6BZF and I organized and ran the first Hawaii QSO Party in 1965 or 1966 - can't believe it was 50 years ago!

**K6GHA – fixed – CA 33 cw 36 ssb 3 rtty 3 PSK**

This year there were a number of operators who were flexible in contest and allowed me to work many bands with them.

Many thanks go to KH6CJJ, KH6DD, KH6J for their multi-band support. Also, to the digital group who were active on PSK and RTTY. And last, a special thanks for K0BAD/KH6 QRP station who answered my CQ and put me at 75 QSOs!

It seems appropriate that this years contest ended on Duke Kahanamoku's 125th birthday. Again, this weekend allowed me to capture a bit of the island feeling, and gave me a chance to say Aloha to many on air friends.

Till next year... Mahalo.

**N1CC - - fixed – TX   15 cw 8 ssb 3 PSK**

Conditions on Saturday were OK. Sunday conditions abysmal - Solar Flare. Skip was VERY long on Sunday, heard Far East stations all day long, no HQP stations until 7 PM local! Heard no stations on RTTY, and worked 3 on BPSK - a mode that I really don't like, however, it came through the mess of signals.

Saturday worked Ohio QSO Party most of the time, bouncing to HQP stations when they were spotted, or I rolled over them on the band - static crashes were worse on Saturday, however, signals were much stronger and could be pulled through fine. Sunday most signals in the "grass" and the lighter crashes made it hard to get calls and county names.

N7MM fixed WA 29 cw 24 ssb

Many thanks for the Q's - my favorite QSO party although propagation just wasn't cooperating this year.

73, Doug - N7NM

# County Sign Database Project

As of the end of August, there had been no updates since 7/21. Nothing new to report. Either no one sent in any new pictures, or Gary, K4EXT didn't have time to update the file.

Currently at 2867 of the 3077 counties and holding!

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

## MARAC Membership Drive I

### **MARAC Membership Drive by AB7RW**

When Barbara and I attended the National Convention in The Villages, Florida, we heard Kerry W4SIG express his desire to have membership drives to bring our membership numbers up higher. I thought this was an excellent idea, and then forgot about it. Back in Vancouver, Washington, with the forest fire smoke filling my lungs, I remembered that the Clark County Amateur Radio Club was holding their annual Ham Fair at the American Legion Post 176. As the finance officer I had given them permission to use our Legion hall for the event.

When I heard that they had two tables available because of cancellations, the idea hit me that I could use one of the tables for a MARAC membership drive. I booked the table for a mere \$12.00 and followed up with an email to Kerry to send me the banner that he had mentioned. I received a phone call from Dave KS4BO who used the banner in Roanoke the weekend of 15 August; he mailed it to me so I could use it at our fair on 22 August. Things were looking up. Next I made up a list of County Hunter web pages and made copies of the registration form that I would have available on my table.

The morning of 22 August arrived. When I opened up the Legion Post the other vendors followed me in, and we set up our tables. On my table, I had my framed USA-CA #1132 certificate, several of the wooden cars, several plaques I had received, and my laptop to demo Logger. The certificate was the eye catcher for everyone who came by the display. Many of the hams had never heard of CHers. Some had no radio, some had no antenna, and some were just plain not interested. Others were interested and picked up a registration form so they can think about joining.

When it was all over, I had nine hams signed up to become MARAC members. I feel pretty sure that you will be hearing some of the on the air. It was great fun running this table. I met many people and now more of them know about our corner of the hobby.

## Ohio QSO Party

Yes, there was a OH QSO Party this year. Many stations were active and a few mobiles were out and running, including W9MSE, AE8M, K0O, K8MR on cw. It was a good one!

Here at the N4CD QTH in TX, I needed about 18 to finish up next time, and snagged about 8 of them, not too bad considering conditions. 20M was fairly decent - but only one station worked on 15M. I heard a dozen stations work him – including some OH stations, but they never ran on 15M. Oh well. Later in the afternoon, activity shifted to 40M then 80M with some workable from TX on 40M. I heard lots of county hunters in there working OH so it looked like lots of activity with at least 2/3rds the counties on the air on cw, and likely most with both modes combined.

A index went from 6 to 9, K from 3 to 2. Not great for the lower bands, for the upper bands, but activity seemed decent on 20 and 40M.

from the 3830 contest reflector:

### **AE8M mobile 431 cw 73 ssb qso**

This was the first time I exceeded 500 Q's (although barely) as a mobile in a state QSO Party. I appreciate every QSO; finishing at 499 Q's would have been very disappointing. The most frequently worked stations were K5YAA (12), K9OM (11), N4PN (9), K0RI (8), N2MM (8), KO1U (7), WX4G (6), WA8ZBT (6), and many others less than 6.

The bands seemed noisy throughout the entire contest, but the propagation was sufficient to allow a fun contest and activity seemed excellent. I worked very few OH stations during daylight, but activity from the west on 20M was great. One highlight was working NU0Q/M in WY and then in UT. Another highlight was working TI8/AA8HH 5 times. During the afternoon it was impossible to get anything going on 40M SSB, but I finished with a run of 40 Q's on 40M SSB just before midnight. Attempting to pickup OH multipliers on 75 SSB was frustrating. Finding a hole to call CQ was impossible (some rag chewers became upset with me), and my mobile signal was insufficient to bust pileups. The rig was a KX3/KXPA100 at 100W into hamsticks on 20M and 40M, and Hustlers on 80/75. I park to operate.

### **K8O mobile (W8CAR, K8NZ) 776 cw 104 ssb**

An event to be remembered. We had all sorts of problems but somehow kept on keeping on. Condx seemed pretty good but at times we felt like no one could hear us then the bands would explode with signals. . TNX to all who moved us to SSB, N4PN amd K0RI hold the record and if we heard "qsy ssb" on CW we knew who it was!

problems in no particular order:

80 meter antenna that normally works great just sounded like dummy load-found out 6 hours in test that W8CAR had left the AUX rcvr ant. button clicked.(I normally use RCVR ants at the home station). Found later that antenna had other REAL problems AND when tearing down yesterday found all hardware loose on antenna.

WINKEY kept losing its com-port requiring a COMPLETE (at least 5 times) restart of the winXP laptop. Eventually that went away.

TomTom GPS routed us around a detour (I think) way out of our way causing us to not know what county we were in for a bit. Think we spent an hour in Defiance but the rate stayed pretty good. As a consequence we did not make our last 4 counties.

AND, The chief op, (W8CAR), after meticulously planning and printing a 'route sheet' that had times in county, miles in county and stopping points, neglected to put it IN the car where it would be useful.

But it was a beautiful day to be driving around Ohio and the looks we get from people are worth every penny!

tnx for all the Qs guys

73 Dan W8CAR

### **K8MR mobile 746 cw qso 66 ssb**

A bit disappointing after several years of bountiful in state qsos on 40 meters. Also very little DX was worked. But activity was pretty decent including a number of persistent followers. K5YAA was at the top of that list, followed by N4PN.

I like the rover category as providing a chance to activate SSB from some rare counties for the benefit of the non-CW operators of OhQP. Unfortunately, with 40 so long for the first 11 hours there was little point to set up the fixed antenna to do 40 meters. We ended up stopping in only three places, MAHO (at the start), TUSC, and MONR, all places we would likely have spent some time parked even as a regular mobile.

I did lack the enthusiasm to actively move guys to SSB. 40 SSB never produced much even when parked. So nearly all of my 40 and 20 SSB contacts were guys moving me for the SSB multiplier.

This year I was with first time (for OhQP) driver Glen, W3JL, a good friend

going back to my high school days in Sharon, PA. He now lives near New Castle, PA, so hence the start in Mahoning county. We wanted to get back to our meeting point near Warren, OH, by the end of the contest, so we skipped the back route through Holmes county, etc., and just got on I-71 in Morrow county. Even with that we still had an hour of driving after the contest ended, just after our entry to SUMM.

Only a few minor problems. At one point N1MM I had the WinKey frequently deciding to push the CW speed from 35 or so to 54. I have no idea why, but shutting down and restarting N1MM cured that problem. The other issue was in MORG when I noticed a high SWR reading on 40. Retuned the K3 tuner and it was happy. Just as we entered PERR we stopped to look at the antenna. I found it about a turn loose in the mag mount, so I tightened things and moved on. An hour later, while stopped for gas, I looked up and realized the top 18" of the 40 meter Hustler resonator was not there. Apparently an encounter with trees left an unusual piece of trash laying on a street in McConnellsburg. I wonder if the IC-746 would have tolerated such a resulting mismatch.

It was great having a weekend with only the OhQP on the contest calendar. Thanks to Bob, W0BH, who had not realized there were five weekends this August, and that the fifth was not also Labor Day weekend, and agreed to move the Kansas QSO Party to next weekend. I'll be in there to give the Jayhawks a few QSOs, undistracted by the usual conflict with OhQP.

Thanks to all who participated. See you in 2016!

73 - Jim K8MR

### **KV8Q – fixed – OH - 533 cw qsos**

Long skip on 40 in the afternoon prevented me from chasing the Ohio mobiles around and missed a bunch of counties. Only got 48 counties and 45 states. But, it was a ton of fun, even with all the QRN. Thanks to everyone who came to our party. It was great having you pay us a visit.

K5YAA – fixed – OK 244 cw 149 ssb 75 cw mults 57 ssb mults

K8MR and W9MSE are workhorses along with K8O. Good signals on all 4 bands (10 is

not much longer a band unfortunately). Signals from 8 land on 15 were stout but not many traveled down there to check it out.

This was my first extended effort at the Ohio QP as it usually conflicts with my yearly mobile run in the Kansas QSO Party. Next weekend look for me out West in Kansas.

Thanks to Jim K8MR for his effort both in organizing and also in that swift mode changing mobile. Also to the Mad River Gang a thanks.

73, Jerry K5YAA

**N1CC – fixed – TX** 99 cw qso 137 ssb / 38 cw mults 55 ssb mults

After 3 months with no rain or storms Saturday included lots of QRN due to storms. 80 Meters pretty worthless with 30-40 over 9 crashes all day/night. No stations heard on 10 Meters - except for non-Ohio stations further away.

Had a nice SSB run 1640-1940 working 106 on phone and dropping another 14 on CW into that time period ... only problem is that I ran out of stations to work. 20 Meters was the workhorse band - unlike several other QSO Party events there was more on phone than CW .... much work digging out folks!

Fun contest. Lots of good operators - just not enough!  
N4PN - fixed – GA 184 cw 197 ssb / 72 cw mults 74 ssb mults

Thanks to the "Mad Guys" again...it was great as always....  
K8MR led the way with 25 Q's, followed by K8O w/20; W9MSE w/12;  
K8RYU w/10 and AE8M w/9....

Missed 9 counties on both CW and SSB....  
Thanks to all who made it out...

73, Paul, N4PN

### **K1LT – fixed – Fairfield OH - 569 cw qso**

When I started my goal was again to try to beat W8WTS operating from K8AZ's station.

Several of the mobiles and rovers start in relatively rare counties and 40 meters is the band to use to work them. However, at the start of the contest absorption was very high and short hop contacts on 40 just did not work. Initially, I CQed on 20 meters on the first radio while using the second radio to tune 40 meters. I note that 40 and 80 were so quiet in the daytime that I could use the transmit antennas for receive instead of the Beverages. I found myself staying on CW. After a while, I changed my goal. The new goal was to win the "Ohio Single Operator CW" plaque which KV8Q won last year. Therefore I figured I had to beat his QSO total or score, one or the other since I'm not sure of the criteria for the plaque.

At the end of the contest, I think I made my goal. I exceeded KV8Q's 2014 QSO total and score, despite having far fewer multipliers. Of course, if Tom beat his own score, then I am nothing. Nevertheless, it was great fun.

### **N6MU – fixed – CA 91 cw 21 ssb / 42 cw mults 27 ssb**

Poor conditions. Couldn't hear the mobiles most of the time. 73...

John, N6MU

### **K8BL – fixed – Lake OH 382 cw 198 ssb qso**

Well, since I don't have working software for this Contest, my goal was to make Lake County available as much as possible. 99% of the time I sat on a frequency and called CQ and let people find me for a Mult.

My trusty/rusty old CT doesn't support OQP, so I just logged the Calls I worked in its "DXpedition" Mode.

Until it turned almost dark, conditions for working In-State Stations were very poor, especially the mobiles. After several hours on 40 working weak guys and many stations in the 200-400 mile range, I went to 20 and worked a lot of 4s & 5s. Once it got dark, 40 and 80 came up nicely and working stations was no longer as difficult.

**N8BGQ – fixed OH 654 cw 3 ssb**

My best primarily CW effort. Bands were very noisy - S9 on 40M most of the time - used the pixel loop most of the time on 40 & 80. Still missed a couple who called that I could not pull out. 40 was quite good for out of state stations but not for in state. Didn't work many mobiles until early evening when I could hear them. Thanks to K8MR, K8O, W9MSE & AE8M for the mults.

**N8Q QRP - fixed Clinton – OH 51 cw 29 ssb**

Wow! What a difference Old Sol can do to a pleasant outing to a rare county. Very marginal internet connectivity, only by walking to the camp commissary every so often for the latest. So missed the fact that it was ionospheric conditions which were the main culprit (high absorption on 40 and 80/75 meters) rather than the marginal antenna I was using because of incorrect interpretation of local report of "most trees in the campground are down due to a insect infestation."

It proved what any LID (like me) knows - a 32 foot high inverted L antenna is no match for a full sized 80 meter dipole at 70+ feet for 80, and even for 40 meters where it's up a half wave. Being amidst a rather dense forest of 70+ foot high trees didn't help the radiation of my measly 32 foot high inverted L. Note to myself - NEVER attempt an end fed antenna for a contest operation unless there's absolutely NO other antenna possibilities. And, marginal internet connectivity caused me to NOT get a "rah rah, don't give up" e-mail on the OHQP reflector, so I gave up at 7 hours into the battle. I had a comfortable margin (I hope) over the previous QRP record score from CLINTon county, and didn't have the foggiest idea that I could recover to my usual 20+ Q's per hour if I'd have stayed till midnight.

Yes, you can call me a wimp - and I'll freely admit it. Goal was to set a new

record for the county as QRP, and only secondarily to try for another QRP Plaque.

Thanks to the organizers of the event.

## MARAC Membership Drive II

### **MARAC Booth at Roanoke Hamfest By Kerry, W4SIG**

This month Dave, KS4BO, organized and ran a county hunting and MARAC booth at the Roanoke hamfest with the assistance of Jerry, K1SO. Kudos to both these fine gents for their time and efforts to promote our unique hobby and the MARAC organization. The booth utilized the brand new MARAC banner that was recently created for such events. Dave worked hard to create a banner that would draw attention and highlight our club. They also displayed a sample USA-CA framed certificate, wooden car plaques, county hunting coloring books, and even a laptop demonstrating the features of MARACs Logger program. We created a informational flyer that was passed out to interested hams which included an overview of county hunting and listed many resources that could be accessed for more information. Dave and Jerry reported that interest was brisk and they enjoyed spreading the word.

Again, the Membership Growth Committee greatly appreciates their efforts! We welcome any MARAC member to do the same in their areas whenever a hamfest or local club event occurs. The banner is for use by any member, just let me know in advance and I can ship it and some flyers to you.

73!



KS4BO

K1SO

## Awards Issued

USCA #1250	Dietmar, DL3DXX	8/20/15
USCA #1251	Wayne, WE7G	8/21/15
4th Time #166	Al, N1API	8.3.15
USA-CW #143	Wayne, WE7G	7.29.15
USA-CW #144	Don, AE3Z	8.9.15,
USA-CW II #37	Kerry, W4SIG	8.16.15
Master Gold #68	Kerry, W4SIG	7.31.15,
Master Platinum #25	Karl, K4YT	8.10.15,

## Events for County Hunters

We're back in QSO Party season with some good ones coming up!

September 5

### **Colorado QSO Party**

Sept 5 1300 to 0400Z Sept 6 (7am to 10pm MDST)

Name, County or S/P/C

<http://ppraa.org/coqp>

PPRAA is pleased to announce the new Worked All Counties – Colorado (WACCO) award. This award was kicked off in conjunction with the 2010 Colorado QSO Party. You can earn the award by working a contact in each of Colorado's 64 counties. There is also a Worked From All Counties version for making contacts from each county. You can get the rules [here](#).

This year you cannot work from or work 'county lines'.

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September 12

**Arkansas QSO Party**

Sept 12 1400z to 0200z Sept 13

RS(R) and AR county, or S/P/C

<http://www.arkqsoparty.com/>

**Ohio State Parks on the Air**

Sept 12 1600z to 2359z

Park abbreviation or S/P/C

<http://www.ospota.org/ospota/index.php>

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September 19

**South Carolina QSO Party**

Sept 19 1400z to 0300z Sept 20

RS(T), county or S/P/C

<http://scqso.com/>

Note: ARRL Contest Corral suggests that serial number is required. Rules from SC web page say only RST and your S/P/C is required. Dunno. I'll follow the rules on the SC web page.

### **Washington State Salmon Run**

Saturday, September 19th: (1600Z to 0700Z on 9/20)

Sunday, September 20th: (1600Z to 2400Z)

<http://www.wwdxc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/2015-Salmon-Run-Rules.pdf>

<http://www.wwdxc.org/2015-salmon-run-information/>

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September 26

### **Texas QSO Party**

1400Z on September 26 to 0200Z on September 27

1400Z to 2000Z on SUNDAY, September 27

RST and county or S/P/C

Info courtesy of ARRL Contest Corral, published by ARRL, Inc, Newington CT.

## **County Hunter 3M - October**

3M – Mini in Murfreesboro The MMM will be held in Murfreesboro, TN October 8-11. Hotel will be the Clarion ( previously Holidome) at 2227 Old Fort Parkway.

Cracker Barrel next door plus other places for meals. Pets are free... remind them so you get an outside room. Everyone invited.

Reservations at: 615-896-2420 . Friday lunch group at Mary BoBos being planned as

well. You do not have to be an Old Timer to attend..... just be a friendly face wanting to meet other kindred spirits and honor Bill Bell... KM4W.... who initiated this meeting and ran it for 25 years.

The 3M folks will gather in Murfreesboro, TN October 8-9-10-11 for several days of world class rag-chewing and eye-ball qso's. We have reserved outside rooms so you can unload direct from your cars to your rooms.... or you may request a second floor and/or interior room if you prefer... all at our same \$80/night rate that includes a super hot buffet breakfast. Note also, they have waived their pet fees... but you MUST have an outside room with a pet.

I have also just learned they have a few special rooms dedicated for smokers if you still enjoy that weed. The Cracker Barrel is located just a 100 yards away as are several other fast food spots.... other restaurants are within a mile or so and the hotel, The CLARION is located just off I-24 in Central Murfreesboro. There is a large interior atrium area with a pool for our social activities and we have the deck and a social room for our pleasure as well. Perhaps we can entice a few of the musically inclined to entertain us once again with their renditions of some songs????

Or how about some full-contact Backgammon???

K5KDG, Steve, is taking the reservations for Mary BoBos which at your choice can include a free visit to the one and only Jack Daniels Distillery .... and if you golf... bring those sticks along..... maybe we can get Gene, N4ANV to lead us around the course once again???? and the shoppers best save some room for some world class shopping as well...

Info available from KA3DRO, N8EMV. This event is NOT sponsored by MARAC.

Reservations must mention "HAM RADIO 3M Reunion "..... that's the way the group is in their computer and appears the only way their reservations clerk can give the \$80 room rate and outside rooms in our block.... also note... Pet Fee waived for our group.... and to have anyone who prefers a second floor or inside room to mention this to the reservations clerk.... they get our rate, which includes the hot breakfast buffet..

This is open to ALL ( OK... almost all ! ) COUNTY HUNTERS.... Thanks/ 73/Ron

NOTE: Use the term " HAM RADIO 3M REUNION" and this will get you right in to our reservation block. The computer they use is kinda specific ! phone: 615-896-2420

Note2: For those interested in attending the 3m mini this year and want to go to Mary Bobo's on Friday October 9, 2015 this is the telephone number. Area 931-759-7394. Tell the person that answers the phone you are with the Ham Radio Group. We have reservations for 1 P.M. They suggest we arrive before 12:30 P.M. Everyone has always enjoyed Mary Bobo's in the past so should be fun time with lots of great food. Price will be, as of this time, \$20.81 each and the meal is, for our group, set for the 1 PM serving time. Remind them you will be with the Old Time Radio Operators group to be seated with fellow County Hunters.

Hope to see a lot of you there. STEVE AND WILLA K 5 K D G - - -

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Time to sign up! Let's see if we can reach 100 people there!

That's all folks  
8/25/2015