

# County Hunter News

June 2007

Volume 3, Issue 6

Welcome to the On-Line County Hunter News, a monthly publication for those interested in 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 attempt to provide you with interesting, thought provoking articles, articles of county hunting history, or about county hunters or events, or provide news of upcoming events.

We hope you will enjoy the new 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.

County Hunter Nets run on 14.0565, 10.122.5, and **7056.5**, with activity nights on 3556.5 on Tuesday evenings around 8-9pm Eastern Time. Also, with low sunspot activity, most of the SSB activity now is on 7185.

You can see live spots of county hunter activity at [ch.w6rk.com](http://ch.w6rk.com)

De N4CD (email: [telegraphy@verizon.net](mailto:telegraphy@verizon.net))

## Notes from the Editor

1) **Page numbers** – the CH News got a request for page numbers, so folks that print them out can be sure they got all the pages. Done!

2) **Propagation** in late April/early May wasn't too good. A index was over 20 for several days in a row! Joyce, WB99NUL and Barry W9UCW took a trip to MS. On the way back, Joyce wrote in the MARAC newsletter: "As I write this we are in Mississippi headed home. The bands have been terrible.

I only made seven contacts on 20 but a lot more on 40.” It seems that 40M continues to do better than 20M most days, but some days 20M is good as well.

It was a good month for those chasing MP with AA9JJ, N9QPQ, WG6X, N8STF and N4CD giving out the MP contacts. Lots of action on 40M SSB.

3) **First Class Mail** - Remember – Postage went up to 41 cents in May! If you have buro envelopes with stamps on them, maybe time to send in some helper stamps.

4) **Dayton** report included this month – always a good one, and a bit of an adventure for N4CD this year. Lots of mobiles and lots of activities.

5) **W7KQZ** – On the road with N4CD – story about Ernie W7KQZ included this month.

6) **Favorite Mobiles** – KL1V made a trip to AZ, NM, and TX recently. Did you notice that “the club” managed to run the net for 15 of the 16 days that KL1V put out counties? Didn’t take the usual Tuesdays and Thursdays and misc other days off. There every day except the 24<sup>th</sup>? Other mobiles on trips to New England and other areas don’t seem to get the same treatment. Unusual, isn’t it? Oh, and it seems ‘the club’ is always around (or sends his designated henchman) to run the net while N4CD is on the road, to be sure than he is busy ‘running off mobiles’ not running them. Hi hi Interesting isn’t it? I guess the other mobiles just ‘don’t rate’?

7) **Awards** – Slim pickings the past few months with just a few awards issued each month – indicative of the poor propagation and fewer long trips by mobiles out running counties.

## Helping Out – Needs

One of the fun things of county hunting is that almost everyone helps everyone else out finish (a few NC stations excepted who seem to go out of their way to insure that contacts don’t happen – hi hi). That’s been a long standing tradition for nearly all – getting those last counties and the last

county WBOW (whole ball of wax). In the past, lots of time spent on net trying to get those last few counties for the folks on the net. These days, it seems that isn't the normal "mode of operation", but the contacts still happen DESPITE net control on SSB. Of course on cw, everyone is working hard to try to get folks finished up.

So the bands are rotten these days, but you can still have some fun, maybe head out a 100 miles and give out some urgently needed counties to help those under 50 closing in. Some are down to a half dozen to finish. Unless folks take interest and take a small detour on a trip, or maybe spent a Saturday going 200 miles round trip for a 'county putting out trip', these folks might still be looking for those counties a year or two from now!

Several county hunters closing in on getting the USCA award. Maybe you can help? (from the K3IMC special needs page). Go to

<http://208.178.228.13/cgi-bin/flynn/needs.pl>

That page will display the needs listed by county hunter and state for the various awards they are working on.

You can also check at the top of the page for the 'needed counties' by state, or the most needed counties in a state. Of course, you need to pay heed to what the listings say. If someone is looking for SSB, and you only operate CW, or vice versa, that might not work, although the majority of mobiles can get on SSB (if not run off), and some SSB mobiles can manage a CW contact.

**AD1C** – Needs about 30 on cw and only 12 on SSB to get his USCA – see if you can help him out. Usually around only on weekends/holidays

**K1SO** - needs about 40 to finish USCA – a few in many states. Can you help?

**K2RP** – down to six after 40 years of working on USCA! Let's get Ron finished up! AL: Bulloch, Greene, KY: Floyd, Letcher, Menifee, Robertson.

**N4AKP** – Pete is down to 11 for getting his Bingo on cw. Can you help him out?

**K4AMC** – One to go for WBOW – Clay, MS? Who is going to get it for him?

**WA4HXG** – Second Time – Only two to go! NY: Orleans, SD: Harding. On SSB for Ralph.

Ralph also only needs 3 to finish Bingo! MT: Carbon, Pondera, and WY: Weston

**KD4HXM** – Rufus down to under 40 to finish MG. Let's help him get done.

**WB4KZW** – down to under 25 to finish USCA

**KA4TYG** - She is closing in on 2<sup>nd</sup> time. She needs ID: Nez Perce, Shoshone, Custer. MT: Chouteau, PA: Mifflin, VA: Buckingham and WA: Asotin.

**K4UNF** – getting close on 5<sup>th</sup> time. NJ: Ocean, NY: Bronx, Westchester, Niagara, Ulster and OR: Marion

**N4XML** – down to for Bingo KY: Elliott, and VA: Brunswick

**K4YT** – closing in on USCA – CO: Routt, GA: Lincoln, OH: Lawrence, TX: Hutchinson, UT: Washington, VA: Surry, Madison, WA: Adams

**AB4YZ** – 3<sup>rd</sup> time – down to THREE – WA: Douglas, Jefferson, Kittitas. He also needs about 20 for MG. See if you can help out.

**NV4Z** – Five Star – not many to go! KS: Wichita, OR: Washington, and WA: Asotin, Ferry, Kitsap,

**KS5A** – about 40 to go for Bingo – lots of one per state. LC abound.

**K5AAR** closing in on Bingo – lots of one or two per state needs. CW..

**K5OT** – under 30 to finish USCA

**AJ5ZX** – Under 20 to go for USCA – can you help him? SSB only

**WD6CKT** – down to a handful for 2<sup>nd</sup> time IN: Greene, Jefferson, KY: Mclean, Meade, and PA: Armstrong. CW

**VA6JR** – down to about 50 to go. Are you headed where he needs something?

**WA6OCV** – down to 59 for first time. Many states with one or two. Can you help her?

**WG6X** – Five Star – about 20 to go. Some right next door to major county hunters. How about helping him finish? He sure puts out the counties for others. Also closing in on next time around.

**W7GQK** – Abe closing in on 3<sup>rd</sup> time. Anything close to you?

**W7KZQ** – Ernie is closing in on many of the prefix awards. If you got the right one for his needs, see if you can get to his counties.

**WY7LL** – under 100 and going strong toward USCA. Now on SSB and CW.

**N7PIB** – about 39 to finish MG for San. SSB only.

**K7REL** - about 15 to go for MG! Let's get him finished up! He is also getting close on many prefix awards.

**AB7RW**- Phil needs only 17 for Bingo! And only the following for USACW! ID: Idaho and NC: Carteret!

**W8CE** – under 40 for second time

**KJ8F** – Sharon down to 7 for 2<sup>nd</sup> time. CA: Sierra, IA: Mitchell, KS: Douglas, MT: Carter, NY: Oswego, VA: Henry, Madison SSB

**N8KIE** – 35 to go for Bob for 3<sup>rd</sup> time. He's been putting out the counties. Now let's help him get done. He can't drive to all the counties himself to work the YL, although he's sure been a lot giving out contacts.

**N9ID**: 3 to go! After 30+ years. Time to help him out big time! MT: Pondera ID: Boundary, Clark. (formerly KT5H).

**W9JL** – under 60 to go, many states with just a few.

**N9STL** – Joyce down to a handful for 5<sup>th</sup> time. KS: Rawlins, LA: Pointe Coupee, Caldwell, MN: Sherburne, NV: Esmeralda, OR: Benton, Polk.

**KM9X** – ND: McIntosh, ND – last WBOW. He might have to head there on the way to the National if no one else gets there.

**KI0AZ** – down to 84 for USCA.

**AC0B** – closing in on Bingo: KY: Letcher, LA: Cameron, MT: Richland, PA: Bradford, SD: Ziebach, VA: Dickinson

**W0DFK** – only 10 for MG! SSB

Needs only KY: Boyd OH: Henry WA: Whitman to finish the Five Star award, too!

**W0EAR**- about 20 to go for next time around.

**W0FP** – down to 20 to go for Bingo!

**KC0JG** – Silver down to a few for USACW – AR: Greene, Polk, CT: Litchfield, KS: Greenwood, KY: Crittenden, Elliott, Webster, Letcher, NJ: Cumberland, MD: Kent - let's get Silver finished up on all CW!

**N0LXJ** – Sharon down to under 30 for USCA. Let's get his YL her number!

**KA0SHC** – under 50 for Larry for MG.

Check out the needs. If you're planning a trip, maybe you can get a bunch of counties to help folks finish. Need a weekend diversion? Check with the folks needing the counties and make an event of getting them finished.

You won't find DXers running off to other countries to help others get 'way up on the honor roll'.... But county hunters regularly want to see others get their USCA, the nth time around, Bingo, MG, and MP (well, except for a certain handful whose club callsigns we won't mention). In days past, there

was a big deal about 'last county in the state' and getting folks finished up. No time on 20M SSB 'net' for that these days. Mostly you hear 'any mobile ready to run', but you're danged if you ask about maybe getting a mobile to go 3 miles off the route to a urgently needed county.

Yet, you can now probably get most of your counties on the friendly 40M net or on the friendly CW nets! Be sure to take along the phone number of the station needing the contact so you can arrange something without taking up 'valuable net time' spent calling for 'any mobile station ready to run a county'. Summer travel season is upon us, despite the bottom of the sunspot cycle, so extra effort might be required to get these folks finished up!

Some are down to 1 or 2 or 3 to finish! Many are working on first time – and for me, the first time was the most exciting! Still a thrill to get the new awards, and working on MP now. I bet you remember getting the last couple for USCA - so how about returning a favor or two to the new folks?

## Dayton Report

Dayton comes around every year in May, and many look forward to heading there to enjoy the activities. Many county hunters take the 'county hunter way' to get there, running extra miles and putting out the counties along the way.

I started going in 1969 or 1970, so I've been there a few times! Let's see...was this the 38<sup>th</sup> year? I didn't make it every year, but sure did a lot of them. Tens of thousands of hams head there, and it is a good excuse to go on a county hunting trip! Naturally, it was on the calendar of places to go for me and many others. Anyone remember how long the County Hunter Forum has been held? I remember John, N8BGF running things. KJ8V had it for a while. Memories fade. Who remembers the first County Hunter Forum there?

This year seems to be the year that nearly everything has decided to have problems at my house. First, the refrigerator, 17 years old, decided to start freezing eggs. Ever try to make an omelet with a frozen egg? One morning I was half awake, making breakfast when the egg just wouldn't break – frozen! It just plain doesn't work! A few days later a new thermostat got installed for \$250. That was the beginning. Then the 17 year old 35 inch Mitsubishi TV set decided to go on the fritz. Wouldn't turn on. So it was hauled off to the shop to get fixed. More \$\$\$.

As I was driving up the highway about 15 miles north of here a few days later, the transmission in the 2001 Buick started acting funny. Then it started acting downright sick! So it went into the Buick dealer, and \$2600 later got 'repaired' at 151,000 miles. The last Buick made it to over 203,000 miles with no transmission work. Oh well, those county hunting miles add up, and only six years old. Then again, better to fail near home than in the middle of nowhere on a Sunday morning with 100 miles to the nearest repair place.

So I figured it was time to get prepared for Dayton. But before I could leave, the pool DE filter needed to be replaced. You guessed it – 17 years old. Another thousand bucks. Then the Kreepy Krauly pool cleaner decided it was time to die. Seventeen years old. Another \$300. Fortunately, I set a bit aside each year for 'house maintenance'. This has been the year to spend it all it seems. It still hurts to spend all that money, and not on radio goodies! Murphy had been striking left and right.

So with that string of problems in mind, I cleaned the mag mount antenna. The connection point inside the base usually corrodes after a while. With my luck this year, I disassembled it in the driveway, cleaned it up real nice, then put it back together, figuring better at home than on the side of the road somewhere when it developed high SWR. I didn't do it for the other mag mount that holds the 40M SSB antenna. I never had a problem with it before.

I headed out the Monday before the hamfest. Gas was \$2.87 in TX, but higher elsewhere. Things went well, and the first night I made it up to Tennessee, running a few counties along the southern border. I had sent out email on the route and posted the trip on the K3IMC pages. This was another 'connect the dots' trip, for second time transmitted, for Master



Platinum needs. For the past several years, Charlie, W0RRY and N4CD had made a joint trip, but Charlie was busy this year. Tuesday I ran along the southern TN border with minimal problems. There was lots of activity on 40M CW and SSB, plus a handful working me on 30m, and a good dozen on 20M cw, including OH3JF, DL5MC, DL6KVA, LY2ZZ, SM6VR, OK1KT, and OK2EC. The western folks were chasing mobiles on 20cw – W7GVE, W6TMD, AB7RW, K7VAY, KB6TAL, K7REL, and W7KQZ as well.

A good number of the MP holders were on too – K5GE, N9STL, N4UJK, W6TMD, ND3T, N4AAT, N0ZA, KC0JG, KC3X, AA9JJ and N9QPQ, N8KIE, and WG6X – so I did get a MP contact in all the ones I needed, and naturally chased AA9JJ and WG6X around as well. Gave out lots of MPs, too! N8STF was heard in SD.

Before long, gas prices were over \$3/gallon, and by the time I got north to Dayton, the gas prices were from \$3.07 to \$3.29 at the various stations around Dayton. Along the way, most of the time it was around \$3.25/gallon. The Buick, if you take it easy, gets about 28- 29mpg (corrected) on the road – so the cost is about 10c/mile for fuel – not too bad as long as you don't take 10,000 trips all the time on your own nickel. Of course, if you get half the gas mileage, you feel twice the pain when you fill up!

The second night I stopped north of Knoxville. The regular net control took the day off the following day, but “Just Plain Rotten” was around and was more interested in ‘Running off mobiles’ than ‘running them’ that day. Lots of time spent calling for ‘any mobile ready to run?’ Now, allegedly, Percy has an ‘N4CD and N9STL’ filter in his radio. Claims he doesn't hear them, but if N4CD comes on, suddenly he manages to hear him. Joyce, N9STL, ran AA9JJ/N9QPQ when Percy couldn't hear them and asked for someone to run them. He couldn't ‘hear’ her running the mobile. Funny! But he kept quiet while the stations worked her and she did relays.

What a shame for those needing the counties on 20M SSB from the ‘left coast’. The reign of terror continues with the two dimwit NCs in FL and SC. Just about all the folks east of the Rockies got in on 40M SSB and CW. Scottie, N4AAT, mentioned on the K3IMC forum that he couldn't get MP contacts from N4CD on 20M SSB. Well, look no further than the ‘club’ stations. Seems the ‘rights’ of the county hunters disappear when ‘the club’ and henchmen take over, Taliban style. If you remember right, the first

thing the Taliban did in Afghanistan was execute all the opposition to their autocratic rule- teachers, government leaders, professors, doctors, and other professionals with experience. That left just the 'sheep' who would go along with whatever they said. Not much different on 14.336. Sad for those that are working on MARAC awards and not able to get the counties, and have to be afraid of stepping on the Net Mullah's toes (or his long drop out relays).....and being yelled at like little kids.

Over the first five years of the 'reign of terror' – the Net Mullah ran off nearly all the experienced ops – KI0JD, N4ANV, W9GBH, N7BKW, W7LQT, W7WBZ, KF0LZ, N4CD, WA4UNS, WB4UPW, N9STL, KF0LZ, N3AHA and on and on.....he thought if he 'eliminated' them from 14.336 there would no longer be any opposition. Wrong!

W6TMD had a booming 40M CW signal in the mornings. The rest of the time, he was on 20cw chasing the MP counties. W3CR was chasing MP on 40M SSB. The quest for MP award #1 continues, with some needing less than 400 according to the numbers being passed around. Many need less than a thousand to finish.

Then it was into KY, and I had some extra time built into the route, so I ran some in Eastern KY, (Harlan, Knox, Bell, Casey, etc) then off to central KY. Knox was the last transmitted county for me in KY for second time around. As I headed west of the Interstate, K8QWY was just ahead of me. We worked each other as he moved west, and at one point, he passed me while I was on the CL giving out counties. It turned out that Ernie, W7KQZ needed Cumberland, KY for the last WBOW for the Five Star Award.

For those not familiar with this award, you must work mobiles with a total of at least 5 'stars'. A mobile earns a star for each time he/she has worked all the counties. You can work five different people with 1 star each, or any combination of people totally five or more stars. Ernie needed just one more star to finish up. I got to the county line, and ran it on several bands, and didn't hear Ernie on 20CW. He frequently catches me there. Too far for 40M SSB. I ran it and was spotted on 14.347, but no luck hooking up with Ernie. I was sitting there for over 40 minutes, getting anxious to get going. N9STL gave me his phone number. We finally got together on 20 cw and Ernie got his contact. Her got award #27.

Then it was heading north. Lots of mobiles out there. K8ZZ and W8JJ. Frank and Kay had been on a trip for over 10 days already, and still going strong – so I caught them on 20/40M SSB in the MP counties. K8AO, NX4W, WG6X, K0RU, AA8R, K0ARS, KJ8F, and many others putting out counties. At times, folks had to move off net and run their counties it was so busy on 40M SSB. On Wednesday afternoon the N4CD mobile arrived in Montgomery County, OH, site of the famous Dayton Hamvention. I managed to stay in motels in funky places – with no wireless internet, and same for the inexpensive motel in Dayton (\$45/night plus tax). I was ‘out of touch’ other than listening to the net. Most days I went until 6pm then started looking for a motel. Some towns only had one. Some had none.

This year, Tim W8JJ was the forum moderator. About 75 people attended the forum on Friday afternoon, followed by a dinner at the Ryan’s Steak House with over 30 county hunters present. We had about 10 ‘first timers’ at the forum – maybe we’ll recruit a few new ones. The fellow who sat behind me mentioned that he had operated portable from Grand Isle, VT, and ‘checked in’ on 14.336, to find that he was ‘rudely dismissed’ as not being a mobile. There went another possible county hunter. Needless to say, he never went back to the 20M net again for any reason. It seems 20M SSB manages to ‘run off’ most of the potential new recruits. I suggested CW or the 40M net as better places to attract new blood into county hunting.



W8JJ and mobile – Tim is Moderator of the County Hunter Forum

N4CD presented a short bit on ‘Yearly update’. Seems if you played Rip Van Winkle for a year, and turned on your radio, you’d find that the 40M SSB frequency is no longer 7238, but now 7185. The CW frequency moved from 7038.5 up to 7056.5, and the 30M frequency moved twice – from 10.114 to 10.126, then to 10.1225. 40M has been excellent with tons of activity, starting early in the morning and going until the mobiles get tired. Every now and then I get an email saying ‘where is everyone?’...they are listening on the ‘old’ frequencies – hi hi!

Bob, N8KIE, talked about putting out counties in HI. He has made several trips to Kalawao and the other HI counties and will be returning again soon to run Kauai and others. Jeffrey, AF3X, gave a talk on the two spotting networks – superhosts and W6RK – and the main features and functions of each.

There are new awards to work toward keeping activity up, and now folks are chasing ‘band counties’ – something relatively new – the W6RK Top List Challenge award – now under consideration as a MARAC award.

Great time at Dayton. Good to meet some of the newer folks and folks returning to county hunting – K4DI, W8MP, and many others. The flea market was ‘OK’ but seems to get smaller each year, with less ‘goodies’ available for sale. There are more and more empty spots with no one selling so you walk more distance and see less. It seems you are destined to walk several miles to see it all, and then repeat again on Saturday morning to catch any new arriving sellers. Thirty years ago, you could barely get up and down the isles they were so crowded – now, you wonder where all the folks have disappeared to!

Some recent equipment like IC706s and the Alinco DX-70T for sale second hand. Some Hustler resonators for sale. If you need some misc hardware or parts, it’s a good place to pick it up.



Atlas 210X – 70s vintage radio



SBE SB33 and 34, with matching KW amps - 70s vintage

After writing about early county hunting mobiles, I spied a few of the ‘old time’ radios in the flea market from the 50s, 60s, 70s, including Multi-Elmac PMR 7 and 8, the Heathkit Cheyenne and Comanche, several Atlas 210X, the SBE33 and 34, and a Collins KWM-2. I didn’t have any urge to buy any of them however! My house holds enough ‘buried treasure’.



Old Heathkit Stuff - 60s vintage – Single Banders

You can find more interesting ‘junk’ on Ebay than at the flea market it seems – although there are treasures to be found, but they sell very fast if they are priced right.

On the way up there, I notice that the 40M antenna seemed to be intermittent as the antenna swayed back and forward. So I decided it was time to clean the MFJ mount for the hamstick. Easy to get apart, but dang....it took me over 2 hours to get it back together again so it would work. Not an easy job. The other mag mounts are made by Lakeview and come apart and go back together in a few minutes. The MFJ had worked fine for 2 years – better design, but when it comes time to fix it, it is tricky to get it back together. It seems to work OK on the way home.



W8FNW at the County Hunter Forum



W9KB/m – often heard on 40M SSB





W9KB/M

After two days at the Dayton Hamfest, my feet and back were 'wore out'. I headed home on Sunday the fastest route, with a minor detour to get Weakley, Gibson and Tipton TN which I needed to run. In Hot Spring AR, I stopped for some chow, and afterwards as I was returning to the car, noticed that it was leaning back too far. I inspected it closer and found the mast had a fracture just above the mount – and the fracture went all the way around. I pushed it forward just a bit, and it came off in my hand!

There was about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch of mast attached at the mount! The other 5'11 and  $\frac{3}{4}$ " was in my hand!



Mag mount with fractured mast



That mast had gone 200,000 miles or more. The aluminum fatigued  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch above the mount, right above where the screw reached. If I had gone on the road, it would have fallen off on the highway and likely all the resonators would have been broken. So I was lucky I checked it. Serendipity – Murphy Foiled a bit. From that point on, it was only 40M SSB the rest of the way home, but at least the antenna waited until after the big run through KY and TN to break! I don't carry a spare 6 foot mast and wasn't going to put up an alternate of shorter sections with only 300 miles or so to home, all interstate that I ran on the way out. I don't run masts with joints, but this is the first time the end part of a mast section gave up the ghost!

Murphy could find new ways to strike!

I tried operating 40cw with the hamstick tuned on 7185, but the SWR was high, and I barely could work a loud mobile. Not good! Maybe 1 or 2 watts ERP. Forget it without a tuner.

Tim W8JJ/Ed K8ZZ were having so much fun they spent an extra day in KY. Frank and Kay were still headed west giving out counties, and the mobiles from the Hamvention put out the counties on the way home, too. It was a busy week. WG6X wound up in Northern OH, and got home 4 days later. Now I have to fix some antennas and get ready for the next trips. It was 2700 miles this trip.

So it was an 'adventure' but lots of fun to go to Dayton again this year overall. Likely I'll be at the next one next year, too!

## Sunspot Cycle

**Potential Bad News.** Don't rush out and buy resonators for 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters yet. Rejoice if you're a low band fanatic on 160, 80, 60, or 40M. According to the government, in a recent report:

## **“March 20, 2007**

The Solar Cycle 24 Prediction Panel anticipates the solar minimum marking the onset of Cycle 24 will occur in March, 2008 ( $\pm 6$  months). The panel reached this conclusion due to the absence of expected signatures of minimum-like conditions on the Sun at the time of the panel meeting in March, 2007: there have been no high-latitude sunspots observed with the expected Cycle 24 polarity; the configuration of the large scale white-light corona has not yet relaxed to a simple dipole; the heliospheric current sheet has not yet flattened; and activity measures, such as cosmic ray flux, radio flux, and sunspot number, have not yet reached typical solar minimum values.

In light of the expected long interval until the onset of Cycle 24, the Prediction Panel has been unable to resolve a sufficient number of questions to reach a single, consensus prediction for the amplitude of the cycle. The deliberations of the panel supported two possible peak amplitudes for the smoothed International Sunspot Number ( $R_i$ ):  $R_i = 140 \pm 20$  and  $R_i = 90 \pm 10$ . Important questions to be resolved in the year following solar minimum will lead to a consensus decision by the panel.

The panel agrees solar maximum will occur near October, 2011 for the large cycle ( $R_i=140$ ) case and August, 2012 for the small cycle ( $R_i=90$ ) prediction.”

In another press release, more details:

“And left them evenly split on whether a weak or strong period of solar storms lies ahead, but neither group predicts a record-breaker.”

“In the cycle forecast issued today, half of the panel predicts a moderately strong cycle of 140 sunspots, plus or minus 20, expected to peak in October of 2011. The other half predicts a moderately weak cycle of 90 sunspots, plus or minus 10, peaking in August of 2012. An average solar cycle ranges from 75 to 155 sunspots. The late decline of Cycle 23 has helped shift the panel away from its earlier leaning toward a strong Cycle 24. Now the group is evenly split between strong and weak.”

“One disagreement among the current panel members centers on the importance of magnetic fields around the Sun’s poles as the previous cycle decays. End-cycle polar fields are the bedrock of the approach predicting a weak Cycle 24. The strong-cycle forecasters place more importance on other precursors extending over a several-cycle history. Another clue will be whether Cycle 24 sunspots appear by mid 2008. If not, the strong-cycle group might change their forecast. “

<http://www.sec.noaa.gov/SolarCycle/SC24/PressRelease.html>

[http://www.sec.noaa.gov/SolarCycle/SC24/Statement\\_01.html](http://www.sec.noaa.gov/SolarCycle/SC24/Statement_01.html)

It looks like we have another six months of solar minimum – at the least, and maybe 18 months until things head up again on 20 meters and above!

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## **Sticker Shock – Coming Next Fall**

A 2007 Toyota Prius hybrid is rated at 60 miles per gallon in city driving and 51 mpg on the highway. The 2008 model, which is unchanged mechanically, will be rated at 48 mpg city (a drop of about 20 percent) and 45 mph on the highway (12 percent less), which is a lot closer to what the average Prius owner sees.

The thing that buyers should keep in mind is the 2008 models are no less fuel-efficient than the 2007 models. All that is happening is the window sticker will reflect a more realistic view.

With gasoline prices once again firmly planted in the \$3-per-gallon range, many people shopping for new cars this year will focus at least in part on fuel economy. And they're probably not going to like what they see on the window sticker.

That doesn't mean the 2008 model is thirstier at the pump than last year's model. What has changed is the decades-old testing procedures of the Environmental Protection Agency, which produces those city-highway mileage estimates printed on the window stickers.

In the old test, the EPA used a number of clearly outdated assumptions about how we all drive. For example, the old EPA test cycle, which was last overhauled in the 1980s and was based on standards written in the 1970s, tested vehicles at no greater speed than 55 mph. The air conditioner wasn't on, nor was the heater or defroster.

The tests, run on machines called dynamometers, were run at relatively warm temperatures and acceleration was at a pace that would elicit angry honks from other drivers if a real driver took off like that from a stoplight.

The new test runs up to 80 miles an hour, takes into account the use of air conditioners and heaters, and is run at both hot and cold outside temperatures. The testing is still done on dynamometers, so the results can't exactly recreate what an individual driver can expect.

Savvy buyers have known for years that the EPA window sticker numbers were more fantasy than reality, but the new figures should be closer to the real world.

The EPA estimates that the average city mileage rating on a 2008 vehicle will drop about 12 percent from the comparable 2007 model. Highway ratings will dip on average by 8 percent.

But gasoline-electric hybrids will see more dramatically reduced ratings because the old tests, which emphasized leisurely acceleration and gentle braking, played to the strengths of hybrids.

## The Unique Antenna

“Unique” is the right word to describe this antenna seen on a car at the Ryan’s Steak House where the annual County Hunter Dinner is held Friday

night each year. Rick, AI5P, was on the ball and snapped a pic of this usual set-up in 2006. Many looked at it, and wondered exactly what it was. There were coils everywhere, a little motor at the bottom with string going up the mast to an assembly up near the top. Maybe 50 separate pieces of this antenna system, with 3 'coils', clip leads, and a lot of confusion!



You will see it is quite a structure. On the front seat of the car is a hat with the call letters of the ham who owns this. The antenna is about 8 feet tall. I actually ran into this ham at the DX program the next day– he was wearing that hat, and I remembered the call letters. No one looking at it could figure out exactly what was going on with this antenna! Very strange. The owner explained how it worked briefly:

The feed point is at the lower left. It is a center/top loaded antenna for 80 through 10 meters. The radiating element goes up the vertical. The 40m

section slopes down toward the right rear – he is on that band most of the time. There is another adjustable loading coil that feeds that sloping down section right at the junction.

There are three top-hats – that look like upside down umbrellas. Two of these are moveable – the top one and the bottom one - controlled by a little motor at the bottom of the mast on the left hand side of the car by the main mount.

Here's a better pic of the top part of the antenna



By changing the coil at the bottom section (for 80, 40, 20), adjusting the tap on the coil half way up, and then using the ‘variable’ top hat loading, he claims to have the ability to get under 2:1 SWR on any band – end to end by the fine tuning of the top hat. The extra ‘mast’ actually lets him switch in and out more loading at the top.

To make changes, he has to sometimes change coil taps, then use the little motor from inside to tweak the top hat position (they work like upside down umbrellas with a looped string through pulleys) to get lowest SWR. Sort of like a screwdriver, but instead of changing the coil turns, he changes the top loading at the first and third levels by bringing in the elements toward the mast or letting them come out to be flat. That changes the capacity to ground. So instead of a screwdriver changing inductance, his antenna changes capacitance.

Maybe he'll be back there again this year? Take a good look. You won't see too many antennas like this one! His call is something like VE3FNW or something like that. I can't read the call on the hat on the front seat of the car in the pic, and my memory isn't that good from a year ago.

This wasn't spotted at the Ryans in 2007 - but maybe someone saw it somewhere else?

## On the Road with N4CD – W7KQZ

A few years ago on the way to California, I stopped by to visit Ernie, W7KQZ, in Greenlee County, AZ. If you've ever been on the nets, Ernie is always there – 20 hours a day, 7 days a week, chasing counties. Day or night, Ernie is there.

He is one of the few people proposing new awards on a regular basis, and keeps the awards committee busy considering the new proposals. He's active on 20, 30 and 40M both SSB and CW. Ernie has worked 'em all 4 times, has the Five Star award, Bingo and Bingo II, and the "K" prefix award.



Ernie, W7KQZ at the operating position/computer

On the way to Dayton this year, I traveled to Cumberland County, KY, which turned out to be his last WBOW for the Five Star Award. It took a while to hook up with him. I ran it on cw, then 40M SSB, , then went to 14.347 where I was spotted. No Ernie – he was on the .336 net chasing another mobile. Finally we got together on 14.054 CW and he got the last county to finish up his Five Star. He is only 2 away from Bingo III.

From his bio on QRZ Ernie tells his story:

Ernie learned Morse code by flashlight in the Boy Scouts. His high school had a radio club, so in November 1957, he took his "Novice" test, receiving the call KN2KSQ in Belmar, NJ (Monmouth County), 20 January 1958. He was 14 years old. Then he moved to Troy, Illinois (Madison County), where he upgraded to general as K9QIG, moving again the next January to southern Missouri (Wright County), where he got K0UDQ.

He joined the marines and became a "Machine Gunner". His last assignment in the USMC was as "Amateur Radio Operator" at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba as KG4AM, where he ran thousands of phone patches and messages to the U.S. between Jan 64 to 1 Apr 65. He was allowed to operate at other times also and took advantage of it, especially for contests. He still has all logs for operation there.

Ernie was discharged after Cuba. Six months later, he decided to go Air Force as "Ground Radio Operator", first in Panama City, Florida, then Ie Shima Island off Okinawa, operating as KR6IS (July 67-July 68, running about 80 phone patches a day, mostly with Senator Barry Goldwater, who was an Air Force MARS member.

He then went to Tactical Air Command headquarters at Langley AFB, Virginia, then was discharged 17 October 1969. From 11/15/69-11/15/71, he went to Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, then went into the Navy as a "Radioman", Aug73-Aug80.

Ernie received call W7KQZ in 1975 before spending 4 yrs in Japan and retired 2 Oct 1992 with 25 years of Federal Service, including 10 years US Postal Service. I came up on the air at my current location in Feb 2002 with 100 watts to a 10-15-20 3 el yagi up only 29 ft and also have a 10-40 meter vertical and other antennas for 160-10.

He worked all of the 3077 counties in the U.S., working his last county on 11-24-2002, but not getting them all confirmed - his USA-CA ALL COUNTIES #1065 until 4-16-2003, working them all 20 meter ssb, all mobiles.

He has been a "County Hunter" off and on since 20 January 1958. He has put out 244 counties from my mobile and would like to put out all 3077. However, he has not been mobile since October 1982.



Ernie operates on a shoe string budget. His beam antenna was literally held together with duct tape, but he manages to snag and log the counties. He's in there trying to work all the mobiles. He commented that '20M isn't too bad' out his way – he is far enough away from most of the mobiles he has skip. For those in the Midwest, it is hour after hour of nothing but noise, and hearing county hunters out west work the mobiles these days.

I had a nice visit with Ernie back a few years. He is VERY active – on the air more than anyone else on the net. If you are out mobile, and the band is open, Ernie will likely be there, taking off one or two days a month to go to Tucson 170 miles away for medical checkups. He'll find you on 20, or 30, or 40 if there is propagation. He's still entering all those old logs, with the contacts good for prefixes. Ernie likely earns the award for 'most time spent chasing counties' each year if there was such an award.

## A Tax Parable

“Suppose that every day, ten men go out for beer and the bill for all ten comes to \$100.

If they paid their bill the way we pay our taxes, it would go something like this:

- The first four men (the poorest) would pay nothing.
- The fifth would pay \$1.

- The sixth would pay \$3.
- The seventh would pay \$7.
- The eighth would pay \$12.
- The ninth would pay \$18.
- The tenth man (the richest) would pay \$59.

So, that's what they decided to do.

The ten men drank in the bar every day and seemed quite happy with the arrangement, until one day, the owner threw them a curve.

"Since you are all such good customers," he said, "I'm going to reduce the cost of your daily beer by \$20. "Drinks for the ten now cost just \$80.

The group still wanted to pay their bill the way we pay our taxes so the first four men were unaffected. They would still drink for free.

But what about the other six men - the paying customers?

How could they divide the \$20 windfall so that everyone would get his 'fair share?' They realized that \$20 divided by six is \$3.33.

But if they subtracted that from everybody's share, then the fifth man and the sixth man would each end up being paid to drink his beer.

So, the bar owner suggested that it would be fair to reduce each man's bill by roughly the same amount, and he proceeded to work out the amounts each should pay.

And so:

- The fifth man, like the first four, now paid nothing (100% savings).
- The sixth now paid \$2 instead of \$3 (33% savings).
- The seventh now pay \$5 instead of \$7 (28% savings).
- The eighth now paid \$9 instead of \$12 (25% savings).
- The ninth now paid \$14 instead of \$18 (22% savings).
- The tenth now paid \$49 instead of \$59 (16% savings).

Each of the six was better off than before. And the first four continued to drink for free. But once outside the restaurant, the men began to compare their savings.

"I only got a dollar out of the \$20, "declared the sixth man. He pointed to the tenth man," but he got \$10!"

"Yeah, that's right," exclaimed the fifth man. "I only saved a dollar, too. It's unfair that he got ten times more than I!"

"That's true!!!" shouted the seventh man. "Why should he get \$10 back when I got only two? The wealthy get all the breaks!"

"Wait a minute," yelled the first four men in unison. "We didn't get anything at all. The system exploits the poor!"

So the nine men surrounded the tenth and beat him up.

The next night the tenth man didn't show up for drinks, so the nine sat down and had beers without him. But when it came time to pay the bill, they discovered something important. They didn't have enough money between all of them for even half of the bill!

And that, boys and girls, journalists and college professors, is how our tax system works. The people who pay the highest taxes get the most benefit from a tax reduction. Tax them too much, attack them for being wealthy, and they just may not show up anymore. In fact, they might start drinking overseas where the atmosphere is somewhat friendlier.

*Author unknown. According to snopes.com, this has been going around for many years, and no one has a clue to who the real author is.*

For those who understand, no explanation is needed.

For those who do not understand, no explanation is possible.”

So when you hear the politicians decrying ‘tax cuts for the rich’, think about the above. That’s exactly what they’re complaining about. Beat up on the oil companies. Beat up on the ‘wealthy’. Beat up on those creating successful businesses and employing millions. They might not show up next time. Or might do it in China or India or overseas.

## Be Afraid – Be Very Afraid

This is the level of thinking of Congress!....Be worried!

<http://apnews.excite.com/article/20070522/D8P9MJ201.html>

“Decrying near-record high gasoline prices, the House voted Tuesday to allow the government to sue OPEC over oil production quotas. “

““We don't have to stand by and watch OPEC dictate the price of gas," Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers, D-Mich., the bill's chief sponsor, declared, reflecting the frustration lawmakers have felt over their inability to address people's worries about high summer fuel costs.

The measure passed 345-72. A similar bill awaits action in the Senate.

... the House felt it was important to take on OPEC, whose member states last t year agreed to cut production by 1.1 million barrels a day to counter what had been a buildup of world oil stocks.

Conyers accused the OPEC engaging in a "price fixing conspiracy" that has "unfairly driven up the price" of crude oil and, in turn gasoline.

His measure would change antitrust laws so that the Justice Department can sue OPEC member countries for price-fixing, and would remove the immunity given a sovereign state against such lawsuits.

Lawmakers have been frustrated over their inability to counter the surge in gasoline prices that last week averaged just under \$3.22 cents a gallon, within a half penny of an historically inflation-adjusted high in March, 1981.

"As politicians ... there's no other issues of greater interest to us than gasoline prices and the impact it's having on the American public," said Rep. Ed Whitfield, R-Ky., at a hearing by the House Energy and Commerce investigations subcommittee. “

Arrrgh!...When gas prices are the MOST IMPORTANT issues to Congress members, the county is in BIG TROUBLE! What about national defense? What about the budget deficit and the Social Security and Medicare funding problems? What about immigration? It's obvious that Congress doesn't

have a clue. Maybe not even a collective brain when they spend time passing measures like this.

Let's see. Whose oil is it? Who can decide how much and at what price they want to sell it? What happens when they reach peak oil production and can't produce more? Are demands from US Congress people going to change the rules of geology and nature?

## Trip Reports

Several interesting trip reports this month

**From KL1V:** "Here are the stats from my last trip of 7,180 miles on a rental car.

4,528 contacts total

971 contacts on 40 meters

50 contacts on 30 meters

3,507 contacts on 20 meters (1,937 cw, 2,591 SSB)

166 separate counties

**From W0QE:** "The MARAC contest sure proved to be exciting concerning the weather. Before leaving on Friday the forecast was very grim and reality matched the forecast. Hard rain, lightning, hail 3 times, visible tornadoes on the horizon, flooding of major roads, and a ban on being anywhere near Greensburg, KS (town destroyed by tornado) forced me to change the route and delete 6 counties and add 2. I was unable to run Rice, Stafford, Kiowa, Clark, Meade, and Seward, KS but added Rush and Gray, KS.

The worst part was staying in Concordia, KS (Cloud County) Saturday night. The area was under many tornado warnings from 8pm to 6am. The rain and wind were so bad that the motel sounded like it was going to be destroyed and people left their rooms to go to the shelter in the motel basement. Sunday morning the local sheriff said at one of the many flooding roadblocks that Cloud County had received the most rain in a single day that they had ever gotten since they started keeping records.

Nevertheless the contest was fun other than the QRN and next time I will have an alternate plan ready in case the weather forecast is like the one this past weekend.”

## Energy Independence?

It seems there is a lot of political talk about “Energy Independence”. A quick review will show you that there is no reason to put any faith in presidents seeking energy independence.

How about the President who declared: “WE will break the back of the energy crisis; we will lay the foundation for our future capacity to meet America’s energy needs from American’s own resources’ – Richard M. Nixon in his State of the Union speech, 1974. “At the end of the decade.... the United States will not be dependent upon any other country for the energy we need to provide our jobs, to heart our homes, and to keep our transportation moving”. However, Nixon’s chief accomplishment was to impose price controls on oil and ignite a vicious cycle of inflation and recessions lasting more than a decade.

With the economy reeling from high energy prices, the new President declared: “To make the United States invulnerable to foreign disruption, I propose standby emergency legislation and a strategic storage program of one billion barrels of oil for domestic needs and 300 million barrels for national defense purposes....I have established a goal of one million barrels of synthetic fuels and shale oil production per day by 1985 together with an incentive program to achieve it. Within the next 10 years, my program envisions: 200 major nuclear power plants, 250 major coal mines; 150 major coal fired power plants; 30 major new refineries; 10 major new synthetic fuel plants; .....” That was Gerald. R. Ford in 1975. Seen any new nuclear power plants? Synfuels are still a dream in the USA. The strategic oil reserve is about half of what he proposed, and with more usage, provides even less backup. Most of his plan vaporized.

Not to be outdone, the next President declared that energy independence to be ‘the moral equivalent of war’. Unfortunately, Jimmy Carter declared war on the US economy. He pushed Congress to pass Ford’s idea of a

windfall-profits tax, depriving energy companies of money they could have used to modernize and expand. He created subsidies for energy conservation, solar, wind, gasohol, synfuels from coal, the trans-Alaska pipeline, which distorted energy markets and leaving American citizens and businesses feeling that energy efficiency is a government entitlement program. He did end price controls on oil and gas (a good thing).

Ronald Reagan didn't have to do much. With higher oil prices, supplies from around the world became abundant. The US diversified its sources of oil, buying from low cost providers and conserving its own resources. Buying from low cost providers was more efficient than subsidizing domestic high-cost drillers.

Plummeting prices hurt the domestic market. If anyone understood that impact it was G.W. Bush. His oil business hurt so much that he decided he could make more money managing a baseball team.

Now, in his State of the Union address, he proposed to reduce gasoline consumption by 20% during the next 10 years, and wants to set a 'mandate' to use renewables to replace 35 billion gallons of gasoline a year, while upgrading fuel economy standards to save another 8.5 billion gallons a year.

The US consumes 150 billion gallons of gasoline a year, and about the same amount of other petroleum products. If he succeeds, the total world demand will drop by 3.6% in 10 years out of a current total of 1.2 trillion gallons per day world consumption!

Naturally, readers of the CH News know that China is growing oil imports at 8% per year or more. That car production is growing at 20% (doubling every 4 years!). That in 15 years, China will have more cars on the road than the USA. So any US savings isn't going to affect the price of oil one bit.

So when you hear that these programs will lead to 'energy independence' – take those statements with a grain of salt. Until technology radically changes, burning gasoline isn't going to solve the problem, or saving a few gallons a year isn't going to solve the problem. Subsidizing farmers for biofuels that don't provide additional energy is a net loser all around (except for large corporate farmers). The government should research and fund incubator projects which might yield results down the road.

Of course, you can control some of **your** energy costs – by owning energy efficient cars, using them wisely, or realizing that it is an ‘expense’ that has to be figured into the budget if county hunting mobiling is one of your fun activities. Energy independence? No way – and until the US gets over nuclear-phobia there is just about no hope at all even decades out. Even then, the energy use per person is quite likely to be half of what it is today, perhaps less. Think big time efforts at energy conservation!

## Global Warming or Not?

“DENVER Hurricane forecaster William Gray said Friday that global ocean currents, not human-produced carbon dioxide, are responsible for global warming, and the Earth may begin to cool on its own in five to 10 years.

Gray, a Colorado State University researcher best known for his annual forecasts of hurricanes along the U.S. Atlantic coast, also said increasing levels of carbon dioxide won't produce more or stronger hurricanes.

He said that over the past 40 years the number of major hurricanes making landfall on the U.S. Atlantic coast has declined even though carbon dioxide levels have risen.

Gray, speaking to a group of Republican state lawmakers, had harsh words for researchers and politicians who say man-made greenhouse gases are responsible for global warming.

"They're blaming it all on humans, which is crazy," he said. "We're not the cause of it."

Many researchers believe warming is causing hurricanes to get stronger, while others aren't sure.

Gray complained that politics and research into global warming have created "almost an industry" that has unfairly frightened the public and overwhelmed dissenting voices.

He said research arguing that humans are causing global warming is "mush" based on unreliable computer models that cannot possibly take into account



the hundreds of factors that influence the weather.

Gray said little-understood ocean currents are behind a decades-long warming cycle and disputed assertions that greenhouse gases could raise global temperatures as much as some scientists predict.

"There's no way that doubling CO<sub>2</sub> is going to cause that amount of warming," he said.

Gray also said warming and cooling trends cannot go on indefinitely and believes temperatures are beginning to level out after a very warm year in 1998.

"We're going to begin to see some cooling," he said."

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### **From Fox News**

In the history of the global-warming movement, no scientist is more revered than Roger Revelle of Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Harvard University and University of California San Diego. He was the co-author of the seminal 1957 paper that demonstrated that fossil fuels had increased carbon-dioxide levels in the air. Under his leadership, the President's Science Advisory Committee Panel on Environmental Pollution in 1965 published the first authoritative U.S. government report in which carbon dioxide from fossil fuels was officially recognized as a potential global problem. He was the author of the influential 1982 Scientific American article that elevated global warming on to the public agenda. For being "the grandfather of the greenhouse effect," as he put it, he was awarded the National Medal of Science by the first President Bush.

Roger Revelle's most consequential act, however, may have come in his role as a teacher, during the 1960s at Harvard. Dr. Revelle inspired a young student named Al Gore. Dr. Revelle would change Gore's life, particularly since the climate-change field had become cutting edge, with Dr. Revelle adding to the excitement by giving his students advance notice of the fruits of his research.

Calling him "a wonderful, visionary professor" who was "one of the first people in the academic community to sound the alarm on global warming,"

Gore thought of Dr. Revelle as his mentor and referred to him frequently, relaying his experiences as a student in his book *Earth in the Balance*, published in 1992. **Gore's warmth for Dr. Revelle cooled, however, when it became clear that he had misunderstood his former professor:**

Although Dr. Revelle recognized potential harm from global warming, he also saw potential benefits and was by no means alarmed, as seen in this 1984 interview in *Omni* magazine.

**Omni:** A problem that has occupied your attention for many years is the increasing levels of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere, which could cause the earth's climate to become warmer. Is this actually happening?

Revelle: I estimate that the total increase [in CO<sub>2</sub>] over the past hundred years has been about 21%. But whether the increase will lead to a significant rise in global temperature, we can't absolutely say.

**Omni:** What will the warming of the earth mean to us?

**Revelle:** There may be lots of effects. Increased CO<sub>2</sub> in the air acts like a fertilizer for plants ... you get more plant growth. Increasing CO<sub>2</sub> levels also affect water transpiration, causing plants to close their pores and sweat less. That means plants will be able to grow in drier climates.

**Omni:** Does the increase in CO<sub>2</sub> have anything to do with people saying the weather is getting worse?

**Revelle:** People are always saying the weather's getting worse. Actually, the CO<sub>2</sub> increase is predicted to temper weather extremes ... .

**While Gore in the late 1980s was becoming a prominent politician, loudly warning of global warming dangers, Dr. Revelle was quietly warning against taking any drastic action.**

Dr. Revelle wrote an article for *Cosmos*, a scientific journal, with two illustrious colleagues, Chauncey Starr, founding director of the Electric Power Research Institute and Fred Singer, the first director of the U.S. Weather Satellite. Entitled "What to do about greenhouse warming: Look before you leap," the article argued that decades of research could be required for the consequences of increased carbon dioxide to be understood, and laid out the harm that could come of acting recklessly: "Drastic, precipitous and, especially, unilateral steps to delay the putative greenhouse

impacts can cost jobs and prosperity and increase the human costs of global poverty, without being effective. Stringent controls enacted now would be economically devastating, particularly for developing countries for whom reduced energy consumption would mean slower rates of economic growth without being able to delay greatly the growth of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Yale economist William Nordhaus, one of the few who have been trying to deal quantitatively with the economics of the greenhouse effect, has pointed out that '... those who argue for strong measures to slow greenhouse warming have reached their conclusion without any discernible analysis of the costs and benefits ... . ' It would be prudent to complete the ongoing and recently expanded research so that we will know what we are doing before we act. 'Look before you leap' may still be good advice."

Three months after the Cosmos article appeared, Dr. Revelle died of a heart attack. and Dr. Revelle. Would Dr. Revelle, if he were still alive, believe that global warming now demands urgent action? We can never know. **We do know, however, that Dr. Revelle had no time for the alarmist views of Al Gore in the 1980s.** We also know that those whose views Dr. Revelle respected continue to caution us against precipitous action: Dr. Revelle's colleague and friend, Fred Singer, is among the most prominent of Al Gore's critics, and economist William Nordhaus, generally considered the leading expert in the field, **continue to warn of the economic danger of climate alarmism.**

We also know that the science is still not settled, and that in the years since Dr. Revelle's death, new research from many of the world's most respected scientists bears out the cautions that Dr. Revelle bequeathed us."

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In April, the USA was at a rate to import 653 million gallons of ethanol a year from South America. Hey, I thought that ethanol was supposed to give us 'energy independence'. So now, instead of oil, we are importing ethanol? Only in 'political speak' does this make sense.

## What Peak Oil Might Mean

At some point, oil production will peak. No one disputes that. Will the world be ready?

If oil production were to decline by one million barrels of oil a year, how would you replace that energy? The April issue of ASPO-USA notes that if oil production declining by 1 million barrels/day annually, that would be the energy equivalent of taking about 80 nuclear power stations or 2 trillion cubic feet of gas off the market. That's an astounding number. And that would be each for each and every million barrels a day of drop in output.

How many windmills would need to be installed in a year to make up for that level of energy loss. If you assume 3MW windmills, which are about as big as they get these days one will generate about the equivalent of 1 MW a day since they average about 30% production. The energy produced by a windmill each day is equivalent to the energy in 11.8 bbl of oil. A nuclear power plant is rated at 1000 MW production. You would need to install 80,000 new windmills each and every year to compensate for the loss of a million barrels of oil/day. Once you reach 'peak oil', you are likely to be down at least 10 million bbl/day within 25 years. Maybe 20 million barrels a year. Windmills aren't going to solve the problem themselves.

#### Post Peak Countries

How many countries are now 'post peak' in oil production? Over 60!  
Here's the list: (from Matt Simmons, Simmons and Co)

Poland Myanmar Spain Georgia Syria UK  
Austria Ghana Cameroon **Russia** Czech Republic **Oman**  
Germany Tunisia Greece Tajikistan Slovakia South Africa  
Bulgaria Chile Hungary **Ukraine** Gabon Denmark  
**USA** Croatia Benin France India **Norway**  
Bahrain Bosnia Netherlands Senegal Italy Bangladesh  
Israel/Palestine Serbia Taiwan Turkey New Zealand China  
Romania Morocco Congo Kinshasa Japan Argentina **Yemen**  
**Iran** Peru Jordan **Egypt** Barbados Australia  
Trinidad & Tobago Albania Belarus Papua New Guinea Uzbekistan  
Guatemala **Kyrgystan** Colombia Surinam **Mexico**

<http://www.simmonsco-intl.com/files/Investment%20Advisers%20Association%20April%2026.pdf>

# County Hunter Operating Activities – June 2007

Courtesy of ARRL Contest Corral ([www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org))

## June 2-3

**2007 Alabama QSO Party** -- SSB/CW, sponsored by the Alabama Contest Group from 1600Z Jun 2-0400Z Jun 3. Frequencies: 160-10 meters. Categories: SO, MS, MM, Mobile, QRP/LP (<150 W) /HP all categories. Exchange: RST and County or S/P/C. For more information: [www.AlabamaQSOParty.org](http://www.AlabamaQSOParty.org).

## June 9-11

ARRL VHF Contest – good chance for 6M band counties! 1800Z to 0300Z

## June 16-17

**West Virginia QSO Party** -- CW/SSB, sponsored by the West Virginia State Amateur Radio Council from 1600Z Jun 16-0200Z Jun 17. Frequencies: 80-10 meters; CW -- 35 kHz up from band edge, Phone -- General class segment and Novice/Tech 10 meter segment. For more information: [www.qsl.net/wvsarc](http://www.qsl.net/wvsarc).

## June 23-23

ARRL Field Day – forget county hunting for the weekend and join a local club group, or go out by yourself. Other than 30M, the bands will be full of CQ FD, CQ FD. Nets will be near impossible to keep running. Take the day off from county hunting.

Listing of other contests available weekly at:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>

## Global Warming Scam II

<http://www.wecnmagazine.com/2007issues/may/may07.html#1>

“Some people are lucky enough to enjoy their work, some are lucky enough to love it, and then there’s Reid Bryson. At age 86, he’s still hard at it every day, delving into the science some say he invented.”

“Long ago in the Army Air Corps, Bryson and a colleague prepared the aviation weather forecast that predicted discovery of the jet stream by a group of B-29s flying to and from Tokyo. Their warning to expect westerly winds at 168 knots earned Bryson and his friend a chewing out from a general—and the general’s apology the next day when he learned they were right.”

“Bryson describes the navigational instructions provided for Norse mariners making their way from Europe to their settlements in Greenland. The place was named for a reason: The Norse farmed there from the 10th century to the 13th, a somewhat longer period than the United States has existed. But around 1200 the mariners’ instructions changed in a big way. Ice became a major navigational reference. Today, old Viking farmsteads are covered by glaciers.

“Bryson mentions the retreat of Alpine glaciers, common grist for current headlines. “What do they find when the ice sheets retreat, in the Alps?”

We recall the two-year-old report saying a mature forest and agricultural water-management structures had been discovered emerging from the ice, seeing sunlight for the first time in thousands of years. Bryson interrupts excitedly.

“A silver mine! The guys had stacked up their tools because they were going to be back the next spring to mine more silver, only the snow never went,” he says. “There used to be less ice than now. It’s just getting back to normal.”

## Putting things in Perspective

The US currently imports 13,800,000 barrels of oil a day. 66.67% of what we use. It is growing at a rate of 3-4%/yr. If we extrapolate out only 7 more years, at 3.1%/yr increase in imports, it will require 17.2M bbl/day of imports.

Here are the net exports for the top producers in the world. OPEC countries in italics.

Top World Oil Net Exporters, 2006* (OPEC members in italics)		
	Country	Net Oil Exports (million barrels per day)
1)	<i>Saudi Arabia</i>	8.7
2)	Russia	6.6
3)	Norway	2.5
4)	<i>Iran</i>	2.5
5)	<i>United Arab Emirates</i>	2.5
6)	<i>Venezuela</i>	2.2
7)	<i>Kuwait</i>	2.1
8)	<i>Nigeria</i>	2.1
9)	<i>Algeria</i>	1.8
10)	Mexico	1.7
11)	<i>Libya</i>	1.5
12)	<i>Iraq</i>	1.4
13)	<i>Angola</i>	1.4
14)	Kazakhstan	1.1
15)	Canada	1.1

\*Table includes all countries with net exports exceeding 1 million barrels per day in 2006.

It would take ALL of the output of the top three producers (Saudi, Russia, and Norway) to satisfy just the USA demand. That leaves 21.4 M bbl/day for the rest of the world, 94% of the world population. You really think that is going to happen? You also think that those production numbers above are going to stay at those levels? Internal consumption in Russia, Saudi, Iran, UAE, and Venezuela climbing due to gas prices of 50 cents per gallon. Thus, net exports will fall. They are going to use more of their production, and export less. Are they simply going to spend the tens of billions, if it is

even possible, to increase output just to ‘help us out’? Don’t bet on it. Those 1.5 billion Chinese and billion Indians also want to drive cars, and will be adding another 20-30 million vehicles on the road! Where is all that oil going to come from. Is China and India going to stop growing? And shrink their oil usage? Not on your life.

While Congress is passing silly legislation, the real crisis is just over the horizon.

## Awards

USACW #89, KB8OMG, Barry, 4/5/20007  
Five Star #27, W7KQZ, Ernie, 5/16/2007  
Bingo #290, K8ZZ, Ed, 5/1/2007

Trivia Question? W9JL asked on the K3IMC forum what the shortest time to work all the counties was.

Several have done it in under 8 months, including Ed, NT9V. Katie, N9HRX, did it five times in five years! Of course, it helps to have the sunspots working with you. The longest? Some folks are still plugging away after 40 years, so we’ll have to wait to see when they finish up!

That’s it for this month!...See you next month...de N4CD



