County Hunter News

October 1, 2009
Volume 5, Issue 10

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, 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.

County Hunter Nets run on 14.0565, 10.122.5, and 7056.5, with activity occasionally on 3556.5 KHz. Also, with low sunspot activity, most of the SSB activity now is on 'friendly net' 7188/7185 KHz. The cw folks are now pioneering 17M operation on 18.0915. (21.0565, 24.9155, and 28.0565 when sunspots better). Look around 18135 or 18.132.5 for occasional 17M SSB runs.

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

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

The USACA award is sponsored by CQ Magazine. Rules and information are here: http://countyhunter.com/cq.htm

For general information FAQ on County Hunting, check out: http://countyhunter.com/whatis.htm

MARAC sponsors an award program for many other county hunting awards. You can find information on these awards and the rules at:
http://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 . Back issues of the County Hunter News are available at www.CHNewsonline.com

De N4CD (email: telegraphy@verizon.net)

Notes from the Editor

N4CD Bob USACA #883

The solar flux has been bouncing around in the upper 60s- not great, and propagation has been spotty over the past month. It looks like another sunspot is trying to form, and the flux actually got above 70 at the end of the month. We are into fall propagation, and the DX is once again coming through on 20M. There were quite a few state QSO Parties in September, with even more coming up in October before the big contest month of November. The heat has finally broken in Texas and fall weather is arriving. The amount of daylight decreases – we are into fall officially now.

Mobiles have been out on trips all over the country – big expeditions to New England and to the west coast by several mobiles. Thousands of miles have been put on cars with hundreds and hundreds of counties for the folks to work – the only impediment being propagation. That we just wait for sunspots.

30M activity and propagation seems to have picked up, although if you don't run on 20M or 40M, no one knows to QSY and actually listen on 10.1225 these days. However, every now and then you get some big pileups on 30M! Few have a second receiver on 30M. 17M has been poor – the flux needs to get above 70, and preferably 72 or 73, for some good skip there. Most of September has been 'spotless' with only one day of sunspots in the past 60 or so.

Notes from the Editor

1) **"WBOW"** - A comment on the K3IMC forum:

Q: "Downloaded the awards file but can't find anything about WBOW. As very much a relative newbie, I'm sure I don't qualify, but curious what it is."

A: "WBOW" is the term county hunters use for the very last of the 3077 counties. When you have all but one, and get the 'last one' to qualify for USACA – that is the LC "Whole Ball of Wax"….LC WBOW…….

Hopefully you'll be at that point shortly and someone will give you the Last County for the "whole ball of wax'!....nr 3077.

The MARAC award is the Last County LC-2 that you will give to the deserving mobile that went and got your last one for you.

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2) Jack, K0CO, says hi to y'all

"Thanks for the newsletter, Bob. I'm "stuck" here in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. where no radio is permitted. So it was great to read the news, thanks for putting it out. I get home to Colorado once in a blue moon

(actually 2 blue moons), but rarely have time to turn on the rig with catchup honey-do's and housework in my 2 week leave period.

Hi to all the folks whom we have worked over the years. Hope to get back in it after this assignment.
73,

K0CO Jack Colorado and Abu Dhabi"

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3) AC Inverter for Car

If you are looking at buying a 12V to 121VAC inverter for your car, you have many choices. Nearly all of them generate lots of hash that gives you lots of QRN on the radio, making them useless to be used while operating the radio.

Larry, W0QE, did an extensive search to find one that is QRN free. It's not cheap, but it works.

Go to www.samlexamerica.com

And check out the Cotek S300-112 inverter.

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4) Mobile Activity - Mostly CW (8/26/09 and after to 9/25/09)

Jim, **KB6TAL**, was out and about in NM running most of that state on 20, 17, 30 and 40M. The propagation gods didn't work too well, but he was workable if you were in the right place for conditions. Caught him once or twice on 17M here.

Bill, **K2HVN**, trekked across the top of the country headed to WA, then up into Canada doing some geo-caching along with ham radio. Back down through OR and CA, then into NV and headed back home.

Larry, **W7FEN**, was out and about in ID and eastern WA running some of the tougher ones!

Jim, **N9JF**, was out on business trips – KS, IA, and other places. He recently got an upgraded phone through work that has internet, so he will be able to spot himself. Would you believe he was off on a 4000 mile trip to Calgary, Alberta, and got Daniels, MT for a LC for Darrel, W6TMD? That guy gets around!

Jim, **KB4XK**, made a trip down through SC and GA.

Jimmy, **K4YFH**, made a huge trip out through the Midwest, running all over in KS into CO, UT, and still headed west.

Jim, **W4HSA**, buzzed around in VA and NC putting them out.

Jeff, **W9MSE**, ran on a few short trips in WI.

Barry, **N0KV**, and Pat, **N0DXE**, headed east from home through WI to New England – pulling a trailer so not much cw operation on the trip. Barry ran a few counties in New England on cw. Then through 20 counties in PA headed toward home.

Mark, **W8MP**, was spotted in OH.

Gene, **NT2A**, ran a few in NJ and NY state on cw for the folks.

Pete, **NN9K**, took a big trip out through NE, WY, MT, ID, SD and more running them on cw.

Jim, **K9JF**, headed from GA back to WA state running them along the way.

Jerry, **W0GXQ**, was out running a few counties.

Stan, **AC8W**, was on in MI and WI.

Ed, **K8ZZ**, spotted in a few MI counties going back and forth to southern MI.

W8GEJ was spotted in OH and KY.

Art, **N4PJ**, ran the entire state of MS – 20/30/40 CW.

N4XML ran the entire state of SC for the QSO Party – all SSB.

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5) KM9X/KB9MGI Trip Report

Thanks to all those that hung in there late to run us or get the needed MP contacts. Had a nice group late every night, clear till about 10pm on Sunday! Ran 97 counties, 1320 miles, 62 new unique xmit counties, picked up and ran a total of 32 for MP, and got 5 for 3rd time, four were a surprise. Judy got 7 bingos we ran plus 3 I think surprise contacts. I finished my 500 xmit counties for Master Platinum award requirements in Lucas County , IA.. I can not believe we have put out over 500 different counties since Jan 30, 2009 when I got MG. But looking back, trips to MI, Wi and IL in April, NC, KY, TN GA, NC, SC TN in June, the vacation trip to the Nationals in Petosky and then going to Maine and all of New England, and now the Nebraska trip. Lots of miles this year already.. at least one big week coming in October, not sure where all yet.. still working on hundreds of MP and about 40 bingos for Judy yet. thanks to all. was a good time"

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6) Collision in Colorado

Strange things seem to happen every now and then. After I mentioned on the K3IMC forum that I was headed to the panhandle of TX to get a few LCs for the folks there and to put out some of the needed ones there, over to Mora, NM, and up into the Southwest Corner of CO, and run along the south part of CO for the CO QSO Party, it seems that Ron, KB6UF had already posted a trip across TX on I20, then across the mid part of NM, and then up into CO. He got a bit upset that we would both hit about 8 counties.

I hadn't bothered to check posted trips in a while, and usually not his since I collect counties 99% of the time on cw and he doesn't run many on cw. There were very few needs posted there since most of the counties had been

run several times this summer by multiple mobiles (N0KV, N0ZA, K0ARS, and others). I had checked the needs, and there weren't even any near where I was headed but for one or two.

It seems that Ron and I were going to run through the same 8 or so counties in CO in the southwest corner. (Alamosa, Conejos, Saguache, Gunnison, Montrose, Hinsdale, Ouray, San Juan, San Miguel). You really don't have too many choices of routes to get anywhere in the Southwest corner – it is circle around to the north or to the south. That wasn't good since I'd hit a few before him, but since I don't run on SSB, he'd get the remaining LCs from the folks on SSB (two or three had posted needs there for prefixes, stars, etc) and I'd probably one on CW for the cw folks – although there weren't any posted. That wasn't the main reason for going there. Then it gets even stranger.

To make it even weirder, Matt, W0NAC and Sharon, N0LXJ, posted a trip after Ron's posting – they were circling around the state of Colorado on the Labor Day weekend – and wound up running most of those counties again, but on SSB and on digital modes, some before Ron, KB6UF, got to them. Matt did run San Juan on cw by request. They were doing the 'grand tour' of Colorado circling counter clockwise around the western half of the state including – San Juan, Ouray, Gunnison, La Plata, etc – most of the same 8 counties that everyone else was hitting.

To make it even weirder, Bob, N8KIE posted a trip to CO, NM, and beyond – and he will run through most of what KB6UF plans to run in the central and eastern part of Colorado on his way home but before Ron gets there! He will also run much of the southwest corner. It's almost as though everyone decided to go to Colorado about the same time, and run many of the same counties, but for different reasons.

Of course, if you look at the spots, Ross, N0ZA and Barry, N0KV, with Pat, N0DXE, and Larry, N2OCW, had just run San Juan and the others nearby in the past 30 days. All of them good for MG or MP. Jim, K0ARS, had run across to Alamosa on cw recently putting out the south tier.

N4CD was out there for the CO QSO Party – and to get away from 100 deg temps for a break. Oh, and check out the new car on 11,000 foot mountain passes! Ron, KB6UF was getting transmitted counties and MP needs while on the way to CA and back. Bob N8KIE, was getting his transmitted

counties – trying to finish up all 3077 this fall. Matt, W0NAC, and Sharon, were making the big circle tour before the snow flies in the mountains.

Now, Barry, N0KV and Pat, N0DXE, had run quite a few in south central Colorado for the past couple months. (Lake, Archuleta, Rio Grande, San Juan, LaPlata, Gunnison) – some of the same ones the 'rest' of the group would be hitting again – and again – and again. Ross, N0ZA, had put them out just week before, too! Hardly anyone needed anything out that way!

Then, during the CO QSO Party, some of the counties were activated by mobiles and fixed stations – Custer, Saguache, Rio Grande – the counties along the interstate, and everything around Denver.

Amazing! Three mobiles in San Juan in 3 days – and often you can wait 9 months for someone to go there! Eight mobiles in less than 8 weeks! N8KIE ran most of the Southwest corner as well within a few days of the others being there. Bonanza time for SW Colorado! And before that, nearly every county run two or three or five times this summer.

What can you say? Collision in Colorado. It's almost as though someone had scheduled a convention there with all the mobiles converging. Of course, it took lots of miles for some of the mobiles to get there, so hundreds of other counties were given out.

Now, if we could arrange that in ID or other states – where we 'flood' the state with mobiles running all the rare counties, that would be great.

7) 30 Meters

One of the nice things about cw county hunting is 30M. Sometimes the skip is too short for 20M. Can't hear the mobile. And 'too long' for good 40M with the static and QRN. Often, if the mobile has 30M, that will work out just fine. Don't forget to keep running and using 30M – it's a great tool to have. The SSB folks must really get frustrated when they can't hear mobiles on 20M SSB, and 40M isn't good enough for a contact. Quite a few are also looking for band counties, so don't neglect 30M when there is time to run it, or when you are seriously putting out counties on all bands and modes. Not much happening on 17m,but don't forget to at least try it every now and then!

As we go into winter, 20M will open later and later and close earlier and earlier. 30M gives you some nice 'morning and evening' time.

8) In this Issue

This month we cover a wide range of topics – from sunspot predictions, solar activity, magnetic portals, and quite a bit on AGW – supposed 'man made' global warming – now conveniently renamed 'global climate change since for the past 10 years, the climate is no long warming but plateauing. You'll find one theme through the AGW articles – one group (the world government greenie liberals) attempting to get economic and political control forcing their narrow-minded viewpoints upon humanity while profiting greatly, and trampling on the economic rights and on actual science in their quest. So on with the articles.

Few know that Maurice Strong, the granddaddy of AGW, is an avowed world socialist who is on the record having stated that the best way to curtail economic freedom is to control emissions. He has been involved in not one, but two big UN corruption scandals--oil for food and illegally siphoning UN money to North Korea through one of his organizations. Now, the UN is attempting to be in control of the entire world economy – and throttle it – in the process raking off not millions, not billions, but trillions of dollars to redistribute for 'social justice' purposes. That term ring a bell? It should.

Al Gore, producer of a recent scary science **fiction** movie, co-founded and manages a $5 billion company based in London that thrives in proportion to how much eco-fear he can instill in the world. Same for his more recent partnership in Kleiner Perkins.

James Hansen took a six-figure sum from George Soros, who supports radical left causes here and abroad, including a terrorist guerrilla group in Peru that murders and kidnaps. He's one of the chief 'alarmists' in the US calling for a stop to US economic growth.

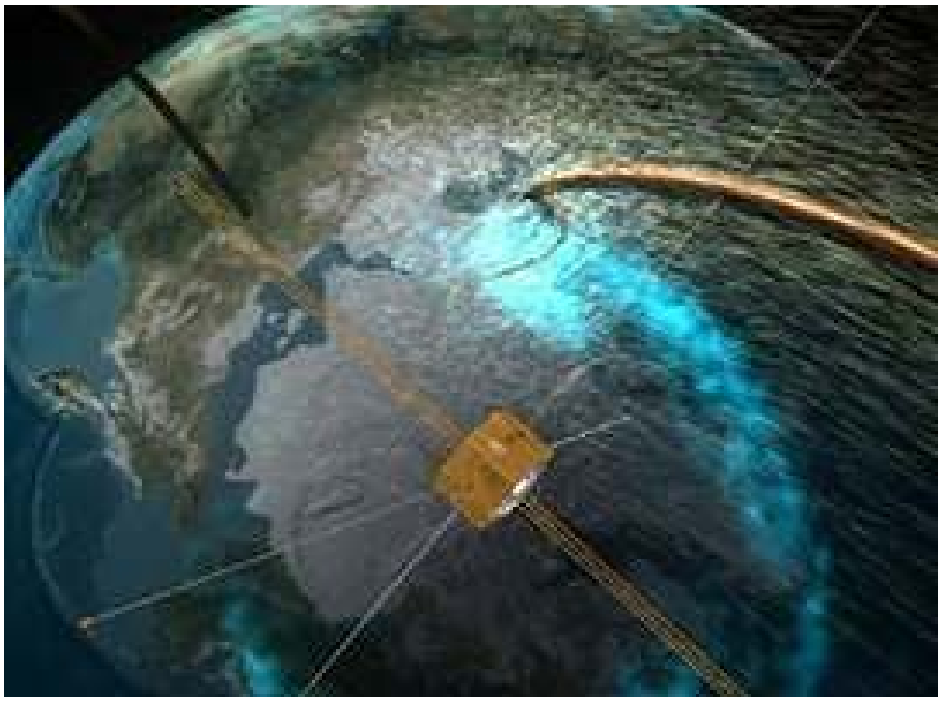
These are the main leaders and drivers of the fear of alleged AGW. What's pathetic is most of the science is still not there to support the greenie positions and fear mongering. More follows.

Magnetic Portals

During the time it takes you to read this article, something will happen high overhead that until recently many scientists didn't believe in. A magnetic portal will open, linking Earth to the sun 93 million miles away. Tons of high-energy particles may flow through the opening before it closes again, around the time you reach the end of the page.

"It's called a flux transfer event or 'FTE,'" says space physicist David Sibeck of the Goddard Space Flight Center. "Ten years ago I was pretty sure they didn't exist, but now the evidence is incontrovertible."

Indeed, today Sibeck is telling an international assembly of space physicists at the 2008 Plasma Workshop in Huntsville, Alabama, that FTEs are not just common, but possibly twice as common as anyone had ever imagined.



Above: An artist's concept of Earth's magnetic field connecting to the sun's--a.k.a. a "flux transfer event"--with a spacecraft on hand to measure particles and fields.

Researchers have long known that the Earth and sun must be connected. Earth's magnetosphere (the magnetic bubble that surrounds our planet) is filled with particles from the sun that arrive via the solar wind and penetrate the planet's magnetic defenses. They enter by following magnetic field lines that can be traced from *terra firma* all the way back to the sun's atmosphere.

"We used to think the connection was permanent and that solar wind could trickle into the near-Earth environment anytime the wind was active," says Sibeck. "We were wrong. The connections are not steady at all. They are often brief, bursty and very dynamic."

Several speakers at the Workshop have outlined how FTEs form: On the dayside of Earth (the side closest to the sun), Earth's magnetic field presses against the sun's magnetic field. Approximately every eight minutes, the two fields briefly merge or "reconnect," forming a portal through which particles can flow. The portal takes the form of a magnetic cylinder about as wide as Earth. The European Space Agency's fleet of four Cluster spacecraft and NASA's five THEMIS probes have flown through and surrounded these cylinders, measuring their dimensions and sensing the particles that shoot through. "They're real," says Sibeck.

Now that Cluster and THEMIS have directly sampled FTEs, theorists can use those measurements to simulate FTEs in their computers and predict how they might behave. Space physicist Jimmy Raeder of the University of New Hampshire presented one such simulation at the Workshop. He told his colleagues that the cylindrical portals tend to form above Earth's equator and then roll over Earth's winter pole. In December, FTEs roll over the north pole; in July they roll over the south pole

Sibeck believes this is happening twice as often as previously thought. "I think there are two varieties of FTEs: active and passive." Active FTEs are magnetic cylinders that allow particles to flow through rather easily; they are important conduits of energy for Earth's magnetosphere. Passive FTEs are magnetic cylinders that offer more resistance; their internal structure does not admit such an easy flow of particles and fields. (For experts: Active FTEs form at equatorial latitudes when the IMF tips south; passive FTEs

form at higher latitudes when the IMF tips north.) Sibeck has calculated the properties of passive FTEs and he is encouraging his colleagues to hunt for signs of them in data from THEMIS and Cluster. "Passive FTEs may not be very important, but until we know more about them we can't be sure."

There are many unanswered questions: Why do the portals form every 8 minutes? How do magnetic fields inside the cylinder twist and coil? "We're doing some heavy thinking about this at the Workshop," says Sibeck.

Meanwhile, high above your head, a new portal is opening, connecting your planet to the sun.

Source – NASA News

State QSO Parties I

Kansas

Wow! A good one. There were quite a few county hunter mobiles out there with W0BH, WY0A, K5YAA, NU0Q, K0RU out there running counties for the folks. Likely nearly all the KS counties were on the air. If you had propagation, you had a feast. NA0V was mobile on SSB and digital modes.

It was zip on 20M the whole time here – skip too long, and I really didn't even hear than many calling on 20M, but could tell what frequencies mobiles were on by small pileups. 40M was a lot better here – until evening when skip got long – and the RTTY moved in. There didn't seem to be a lot of 80M activity – at least not many contacts were spotted.

All it takes is a few good mobiles to get out, and things can turn out great. There were at least a dozen fixed stations on for much of the contest, plus two bonus stations – heard/worked one, but the other seemed to be mostly on 20M SSB – zilch from TX. However, I kept busy most of Saturday –

things slowed down a bit on Sunday as the contest ended at 2000Z and some mobiles reached their destinations before then.

The usual crowd of county hunters were out chasing the mobiles – from W0GXQ, KS5A, W9DC, K4BAI, KD8HB, W9DC, plus the state QSO contesters like N6MU, KU5B, N5NA,

From the 3830 Contest reflector:

NA0V/M: 426 SSB QSOs on 20 and 40M

K5YAA/m: 1162 CW QSO, 29 SSB: "700 clocked miles from Claremore, OK through 21 Kansas counties and back to Claremore. The WX was perfect - mid to upper 70s and clear skies both days.

Equipment and the vehicle performed flawlessly. Operator almost as good!

Only mess up was sitting in a fellas driveway off on a side road. I was surprised by him and what looked like his large brother. They drove up next to me and asked "Can we help you?". I said, no just making radio contacts around the country. Figured they would leave. Nope - the smaller of the two said "You're in my driveway". I quickly said - "Well, I'll move." They said no - that's OK. Funny thing was - the drive had a large iron fence blocking it (rusty fence) and the structure on the property looked like 1910 or maybe even earlier. Hay was stored in one room because you could see it - no window in that particular room. There was something that looked like a barn but it was caved in on itself - no hay could be stored there. When I first pulled up to get off the road I figured nobody lives here so shouldn't be a problem to stop for a bit. Figured wrong. I didn't chose anything that resembled a driveway to stop on the rest of the trip. Just because a place looks uninhabitable doesn't necessarily mean somebody doesn't like it!

You get real focused on working people in these things from a mobile. I'm in COW on 40 CW and get a call from AA0MZ. I send 599 COW and receive 599 NEM. I scratched my head a bit and asked "NE or NM?" I get back NEM. OK I think - maybe I've been copying too much CW. I ask again "NE or NM?" - some other station says quickly - Kansas. I figure it out - this is my first and ends up being my only KS QSO for the entire trip.

Thanks AA0MZ and sorry I was trying to put you out of state. I could have used NE - it was one of 8 states I didn't work - others were OK, ID, HI, NV, ND, SD, and ME. Might have worked some of those on SSB but was 99% CW. Worked 4 Canadian provinces and several DX stations. Most notable were DL3DXX, UA3AGW, HA8IB and LW3EX. I believe I worked DL3DXX in all but 2 or 3 of the 21 counties. Good signals from other DLs as well.

Thanks to the stations who showed up many, many times. You helped keep the long road short. Also, thanks to all who listened to the bug spurtin extra dits or lumps of dits rounding curves. The weighted arm just leaned over and wouldn't diddle so, now and then a 5 became a long T. I made some time through the counties after I figured out how to send, log and watch the road all at the same time. Only time I had to pay real close attention was in Wichita - construction on the freeway caused a stint of stop and go traffic.

I had 2 hours left Saturday evening after completing my intended counties so retired early. Might could have added a couple of counties but tired was setting in so stayed with the original plan.

There were many stations that were present both days and in most if not all the counties I moved through. Thanks for that effort. That's why the mobile end is so much fun - large numbers of callers - large signals and great operators hollerin at you. Once in a while I would just morse out a comment – maybe traffic, maybe WX or something about the countryside. Every time I did that, someone would Roger me. Thanks for riding along and a special thanks to W0BH for his efforts in seeing this party get in the books. Hopefully a number of county hunting stations filled in some blanks."

K4BAI(GA) : "72 CW 65 SSB 0 Mults = 66 - Got both bonus stations"

KS5A (NM): "98CW 29 SSB 69 Mult." "Who said KS doesn't know how to throw a party? Great times .. we will all work on the conditions for next year. Mobiles accounted for 100 of my QSO's - W0BH(35) K5YAA(30) NU0Q(15) K0RU(8) WY0A(7) NA0V(3) K0HNC(2)"

N6MU (CA): "115CW 131 SSB Mults = 93. Outstanding KS activity to kick this one off. Can't remember the last time I had more SSB Qs than

CW. Top mobiles: W0BH-76, K5YAA-40, K0RU-18, NU0Q-16 and WY0A-16.

NB0Z (ATC – KS) : 64 Q CW - I was surprised -- and pleased -- at the interest my CQs generated. My apologies to those I couldn't copy due to my high (S8) local noise level. It was an enjoyable operating event!"

N8II (WV): 135 cw 170 SSB 94 Mults: "decent activity for an inaugural event. You could tell that guys who never worked contests were encouraged by the organizers and clubs to get on the air. Around 16-18Z, there was a pretty solid 25 khz swath of KS stations running guys on 20 phone with a few more around the edges. …on Sunday …activity was down quite a bit from the day before. I didn't use spots, too unchallenging, and still managed to work 94 of the 105 counties. Knowing where W0BH was by his published schedule helped log a few Q's on 40 CW that would have been guesswork otherwise.

W0BM/m (with W0BH, op) – 1622 CW 888 SSB
"After all the work getting the new Kansas QSO Party off the ground, it was finally time to enjoy the actual event. Mother nature can be really brutal in late August in Kansas, but this year we had absolutely perfect weather as XYL Lorna / K0WHY and I headed out at 7:00am enroute to our first county line 80 miles to the west. The only sad note was the loss of our 12-year-old black Lab, Sasha, a few days before. Sasha often rode along with us on trips and likely heard all of you on the air through the speaker from time to time. She particularly enjoyed the county line stops with Lorna. This trip was for her.

My equipment configuration is pretty welled tuned in the Astro van (264,000 miles young) and hasn't changed in the last few QSO parties with one exception. I added an external 12v cooling fan to continuously blow air over the 706. It worked great and will be a fixture from now on. A number of you like to ask Lorna for a SSB Q as we're driving along, so I have a second mike available for her. The action was so fierce this time that I really didn't need the voice keyer, and Lorna just talked louder!

Saturday

For me, Saturday was a blur. I usually have time to enjoy the sights as we drive along, but the pileups started immediately and really never let up.

Western Kansas has some beautiful scenery, so occasionally Lorna would 'force' my attention outside. Back logging at the computer, I'd jump from 40CW to 20CW, then SSB if I had time (and usually did). It amazed me how many would be there waiting for me when I changed bands or modes .. some really experienced and savvy ops out there! Since Kansas hasn't had a QSO party in a number of years, many of my counties were rare?? Ones for county hunters, which added to the fun. The only time I had a break was when we covered a county enroute to a line, then had to return out through that same county to get to the next one. I could still make Qs, but took some time off for a sandwich or to catch my breath.

The story of this trip is that for once, there are very few stories to tell. The only Saturday snag was trying to get to the Hamilton / Greeley / Wichita county line. We had a choice of going one of two routes, and the route we picked stopped because of a partially completed housing subdivision out in the middle of nowhere. That cost us 15 minutes of backtracking while band conditions took a momentary dive, so there are only 18 Qs from Hamilton County in my log. Another noteworthy event was running through a small 'dust devil' with partially opened windows. The inside of the van and computer screens were instantly covered in a film of dust, which stayed with us the rest of the trip.

Other than some fierce RTTY competition on 40 later in the day, 20 and 40 stayed good. At least I didn't have to go down to 7021 to get away from the RTTY like I did in Oklahoma. I also went to 80CW the last hour with excellent results. Should have gone there sooner, and should have went to 40SSB more as well. I did check 15 and 10 from time to time, but no luck We ended Saturday with 1,616 combined Qs in the log for 12 hours work and headed 15 miles to Burlington CO for an overnight stop at Lorna's cousin's house.

Sunday

After a great breakfast we headed out into a cool, cloudy morning. My goal was to start out part way through Cheyenne county (the furthest northwest county in Kansas) since I knew it would be tight making the final three counties in my run. It was not to be. Instead, we were still in Sherman and 30 minutes away from Cheyenne when the bell rang for Round 2.

I'd worked Sherman on 40 and 80 the previous night, so started out on 20 CW. Finally, the Cheyenne county sign appeared as did a big pileup. Unfortunately, I sent CHE for Cheyenne instead of the correct CHY. Since CHE is Cherokee county, which just happens to be the furthest southeast county in Kansas, I'm sure some were confused. John, N6MU and Jeff, N8II teamed up to correct my mistake and I changed the computer macro, but then everyone heard a 'new' county and called me again. I logged the dupes and all are now logged as CHY, so if you worked me first thing on Sunday morning, check your log. Sorry for the confusion and a big thanks to John and Jeff for helping me minimize the damage.

It's been my experience in the Oklahoma and Texas QSO Parties that six-hour Sundays are often busier than Saturdays. Sunday in Kansas definitely started out that way, so I was expecting a really phenomenal run when I got to the Graham / Rooks county line. The run was good, but powerline noise made conditions almost unbearable. Lots of folks really wanted those two counties, so rather than leave, I asked whether Lincoln, Russell, and Ellsworth counties had been covered on Saturday. Many said they had, so I decided to drop those last three counties from my route and finish out the run, which put me back on my new) schedule.

On Sunday it always feels like you're racing the clock, so I'dd planned a shortcut to get to the last Jewell / Osborne / Mitchell three-county line. The gravel road turned to sand and then to bumpy sand. I'd just gone to SSB, so quite a few heard Lorna and I discussing whether we really should go over the dubious-looking bridge standing between us and the finish line. We did and we made it, but there was some luck involved. Lorna had to dodge big holes, bumps, and cows before we finally got back on pavement for a mile, then more sand to arrive at the line. It seemed to take forever. By the time we arrived, I could just feel you all out there. I set up the computer, told everyone I was taking a final sip of green tea, took a deep breath, and QRZ?

The next 37 minutes were the stuff of mobile contester dreams. 279 contacts later, I could finally breath again. Incredible. Thank you thank you all for your patience and operating courtesy! That run brought the Sunday six-hour total to 1002 Qs for a final total of 2616 Qs including Lorna's 71 contacts.

So how do you follow that? I finally got out of the van to stretch and take my first really good look around. As I was operating, I vaguely remember

Lorna chatting with a farmer who was driving by wondering what was up. Her explanation must have been good, because he said his dad was a ham and might stop by later. And so he did, 80+ year-old K0EQD, Wilford, who owns some land nearby. His first comment to me was with a twinkle in his eye, "You know You're right where three counties come together?? I did indeed! Lorna and I very much enjoyed our chat with Wilford over the next half hour. He sent us on our way with two big watermelons from the back of his loaded pickup and an invitation to come back again next year. Count on it!

Lorna and I drove a total of 1021 miles round trip from Kansas and would do it again tomorrow if we could (well, at least I would!). Thanks to Randy (K0LD) for coordinating the event, to Kent (KB0RWI) for the great web site, to the other sponsors, and to the volunteers who worked hard and will continue to work hard over the next months. Finally, special thanks to the mobiles and Kansas portable and base stations for being there and for putting what will likely turn out to be 99/105 counties on the air.

73, Bob/w0bh and Lorna/k0why"

NU0Q/M – 682 CW QSO: "Karen and I set out to combine the QSO party with some sight-seeing. We started out from the in-laws' driveway in Sedgwick County. I had a few problems at first, which I expected since I was using a new computer, new software (CQ/X), new keyer, and new GPS. In Chase County, I called CQ on SSB three times without answer and decided that CW was more fun, so we ended up being a CW-only mobile entry.

It wasn't part of the plan, but we stopped at the tallgrass visitor center in Chase County and spent half an hour looking around. Then we headed north and, after a short detour to Wabaunsee County, drove into Manhattan and ate lunch at Wendy's, which is actually on the county line! Then we headed to Rock City, a small tourist attraction in Ottawa County. We then went to check in early at the hotel in Salina before heading west to Mushroom Rock State Park. After a short trip to Rice County, we went to McPherson County, where we had a steak dinner in a local restaurant. By then, it was dark, and I hoped to get on 80 meters, but the antenna wouldn't tune that

low. Sorry about that. With all of the breaks, my operating time on Saturday was about 6 hours out of the 12 allowed.

We got started early Sunday and made it to the Post Rock Scenic Byway in Lincoln and Russell Counties right at 1400z. I kept operating while my wife stopped to take pictures of the lake and the world's largest souvenir travel plate! Then we headed up to Osborne County. We got great pileups there, so we went west to Rooks for more pileups. I also hoped to be close enough to catch W0BH from there, and we did finally work him while he was in Phillips before we left Rooks. That was our only KS qso!

From there, we headed south to Hays, stopped for lunch and gas, and then headed west to Trego County to drive the Smoky Valley Scenic Byway. We spent a lot of time looking for the bluffs and found ourselves on really bad gravel roads. With less than an hour left, we headed for Ness and Lane Counties. We ran out of time in Lane and never got to 40 meters. I made almost as many QSOs on Sunday as I did on Saturday.

Thanks to everyone for following us around. We didn't make things easy for you, as we were pretty unpredictable, but I hope you got some multipliers and maybe some all-time new counties. "

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COLORADO QSO PARTY

This was a fairly good QSO Party – there were 20 or so fixed stations that were on for at least a few hours each putting out their home counties – plus a few mobiles and portables to make it interesting. Likely 2/3 rds the state was on the air for the contest.

From the 3830 Reflector

KS8O(MI) : 53 cw 25 Mults "Could not hear many stations to work, but had fun with the ones that were out there. Only heard two mobiles out there,

and only a few stations on three bands. All we can do is wait for more sun spots. Thanks to all CO stations for contacts and see you next year."

AD1C (Adams, CO) : 183 CW 154 SSB : "I walked away from this contest very disappointed with my results. I realized I have too much local QRN, and I was told by a 9-land station (via E-mail) that people were calling me on 20 that I couldn't hear (that's a shock, considering my setup, and 20 is my least noisy band). Still, it was fun to get on, even though I was pretty tired during the first half.

I heard lots of loud "locals" on 80 meters Saturday night, but I couldn't get any power to the antenna; the remote tuner wouldn't match, and I had a near-infinite VSWR in the shack. Still, four of them managed to hear me. I was surprised I never heard Weld or Denver counties, since they are so close. W0QE called me from Broomfield, very weak."

W0BH (KS) : 24cw 15 ssb : "I actually listened for CO stations throughout the day as I was working around the house. My map shows that I worked zero stations in the eastern part of the state, but the rest of the state was represented. Thanks to the fixed stations and mobiles N4CD, W0ETT, K0CL, and KC0QXX for being out there."

N6MU (CA) : 87 CW QSO "Thanks to mobiles N4CD, N0KM, W0ETT and W0HXB for keeping it interesting. 73..."

KN4Y (FL) : 58 CW Q : "Operated CW and it was slow, not many mobile stations heard."

N0KM/m; 116 CW, 20 SSB: "Good to see some in-state activity first thing. Had relatives coming by to visit, so operated about an hour in Saguache. Their visit was short, so went back out to a county line spot and operated until after lunch. As it was pretty stormy, held off going back out until mid-afternoon. Made way to a rest stop near South Fork, operated a bit, but RTTY QRM bad around 7050. Proceeded on up to Mineral County, found a place to park off of the road, and finished up there around dark. Had fun, hope you did as well."

W0ETT/M 157cw 16 SSB - "Made 173 QSOs in 8 counties; doesn't seem like a lot considering I put in the entire day driving from county to

county, and stopping to operate as I can't drive and operate at the same time. Started at Silverthorne in Summit county and proceeded towards the home QTH in Parker, activating Summit, Lake, Eagle, Clear Creek/Grand CL, Gilpin, Douglas, and Elbert. My FT450 rig and hamsticks performed well altho 20m band condx didn't seem the best. When I started up Sat. morning, I heard loud DX stations on phone in a EU contest but couldn't get them to answer to collect a name and country. Things seemed slow in the morning but QSO rates picked up around noon and were good in the afternoon and evening, especially on 40m.

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On a side note: If you count a few days before the QSO party, and two weeks after, every county in the state was run. Between N4CD/m, KB6UF/m, W0NAC/m, K4YFH/m, K0ARS/m, and N8KIE/m – it seemed that everyone went to, passed through, or circled around in the state. Too bad it all couldn't have happened during the one day of the QSO party, but regular county hunters got a good chance to catch them all, if they hadn't caught up with them before from other mobiles running around in the state.

Green Lightbulbs Exposed!

Buyers of the main type of energy-saving bulb, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), are told on the packaging that they shine as brightly as an old-fashioned bulb. For example, an 11W CFL is labeled as being the equivalent of a 60W incandescent bulb.

However, the European Commission, which was responsible for the ban, has now conceded that this is "not true" and that such claims by manufacturers are "exaggerated".

The Sunday Telegraph has conducted its own tests on level of illuminance provided by light bulbs from different manufacturers to see whether their claims stand up to scrutiny.

We found that under normal household conditions, using a single lamp to light a room, an 11W low-energy CFL produced only 58 per cent of the illumination of an "equivalent" 60W bulb – even after a 10-minute "warm-up".

On a website intended to answer consumers' questions about the switch to energy saving bulbs, the European Commission states: "Currently, exaggerated claims are often made on the packaging about the light output of compact fluorescent lamps.

"For example, a 11-12 Watt compact fluorescent lamp would be the equivalent of a 60 Watt incandescent, which is not true. The light output of 15W compact fluorescent lamp is slightly more than the light output from a 60W incandescent."

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“After giving each bulb 10 minutes to warm up, a reading was taken in lux, a measure of illumination.

Clear 60W bulbs provided around 120 lux of illumination. By comparison, the best performing energy efficient light bulb, an 11W CFL made by General Electric and handed out free to Southern Electric customers, rated 79 lux. The worst performing 11W CFL, an Eveready, produced just 60 lux.

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/eu/6110547/Energy-saving-light-bulbs-offer-dim-future.html

Negative Sunspot Count?

It sure seems like we have negative sunspots. There is a parameter called the SSNe – Sunspot Number equivalent.

“Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA sent in an interesting piece that he wrote for this week's bulletin in response to an email exchange with Red Haines, WO0W. It is titled "The T Index and SSNe."

Carl writes, "Due to the day-to-day variability of the ionosphere, our propagation prediction programs use a monthly median model of the ionosphere. Thus the prediction outputs (usually MUF and signal strength) are statistical over a month's time frame. We have a monthly median model, as opposed to a daily model, because the developers did not find a satisfactory correlation between what the Sun was doing on a given day and what the ionosphere was doing on the same day. The proper correlation was between smoothed sunspot number (or smoothed solar flux) and monthly median ionospheric parameters (foE, foF2, hmF2, etc)."

He continues, "In order to get a better picture of what the ionosphere is doing 'now', two similar methods have been developed: the T Index and SSNe. The T Index comes out of Australia's IPS (Ionospheric Prediction Service), and is named after its developer Jack Turner. SSNe (equivalent sunspot number) was developed by the US Air Force Global Weather Central organization, and is available from Northwest Research Associates.

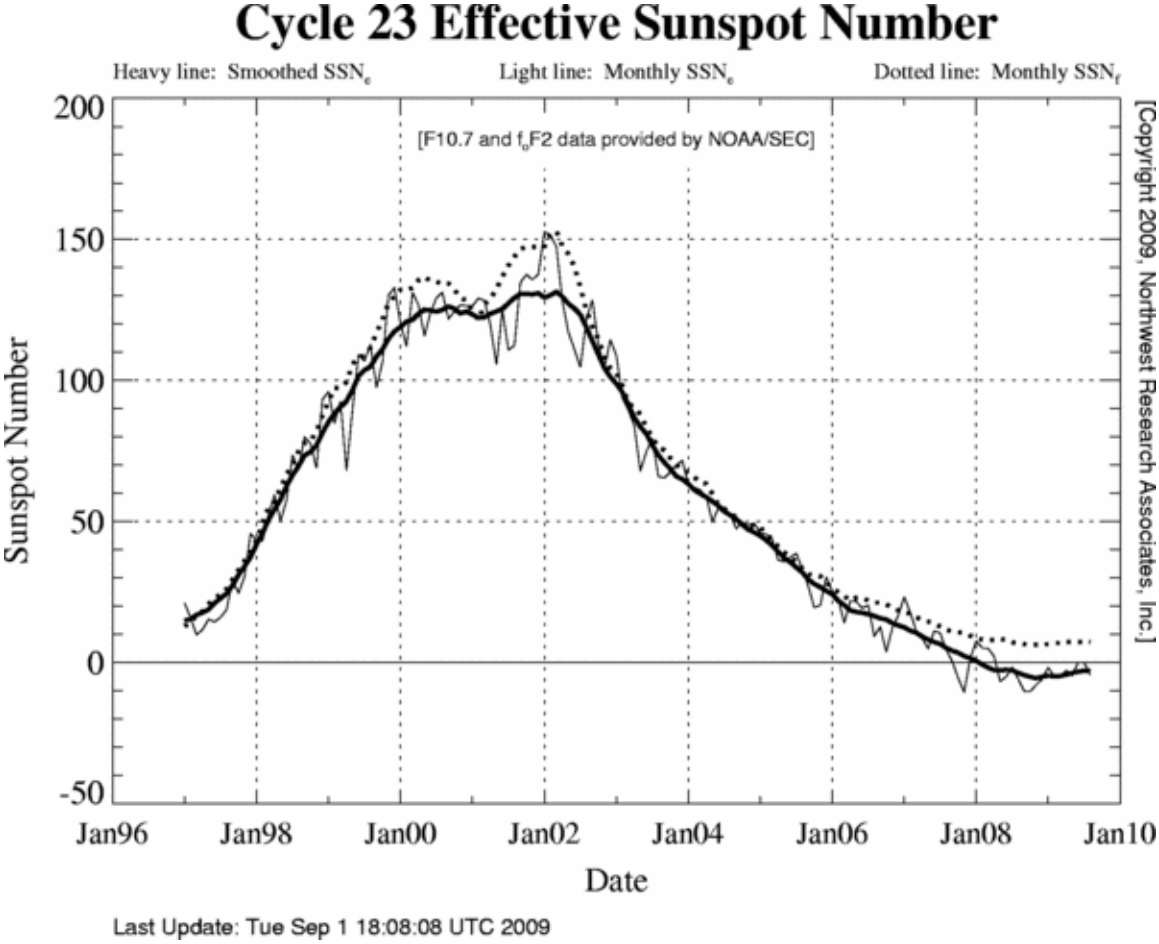
Carl goes on to say, "Both of these methods basically vary the sunspot number in a F2 region model of the ionosphere to force the model to a best fit to current foF2 data from worldwide ionosondes. Note the phrase 'best fit' - it's not a perfect fit, as the ionosphere does not necessarily track at all locations. For example, the F2 region ionization over the Millstone Hill (MA) ionosonde may increase at a given hour, while just 400 miles away the F2 region ionization over the Wallops Island (VA) ionosonde may decrease at the same time."

He ends by saying, "What does using the T Index and SSNe buy us? Neither gives us a daily model of the ionosphere due to the issue cited in the previous paragraph. Nor does either take into account D region and E region issues. But with respect to the F2 region, they close the gap between the heavily averaged smoothed sunspot number and short-term increases or decreases in sunspot activity (they also can show the effect of geomagnetic storms). An example of this is late December 2005. The official smoothed sunspot number for December 2005 will come in somewhere between 10 and 20, but the increased sunspot activity at the end of the year indicated that using a sunspot number of 40 in your favorite prediction program (from the SSNe website) would have given you a better 'now' prediction."

Above from K7RA Propagation weekly report for 2006

Source: http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/01/06/2/?nc=1

The effective sunspot number (SSNe) index is defined as that SSN which will return a zero average-error between foF2 values generated from a model (to which the SSNe is input) and a set of foF2 observations. The NWRA SSNe (solid lines on the plot) is generated by Northwest Research Associates, Inc., using mid-latitude foF2 observations from a single day as input (provided by the NOAA SWPC) and is based on the URSI-88 model.



This plot provides a look at the progression of the NWRA effective sunspot number (SSNe) for solar cycle 23. The heavy solid curve is the smoothed SSNe (centered 13-month average), the light solid curve is the monthly

average SSNe, and the dotted curve is a sunspot number calculated from the smoothed F10.7 solar flux. The foF2 and 10.7cm solar flux data used in these calculations were obtained from the NOAA SWPC."

Source: http://www.nwra.com/spawx/ssne-cycle23.html

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de N4CD: You'll see we are at negative equivalent sunspots – which you would crank into your propagation program to get the right results….

I can tell you what the answer is – 10 and 15 are mostly dead, dead, dead and 20M isn't much better some days!

State QSO Parties II

TENNESSEE QSO PARTY

It looks like this was a great one this year. No contacts on 15 or 10 meters – bands still closed on those frequencies despite folks calling and listening. (Same for CO and KS QSO Parties – just too low a sunspot count). A few contacts on 160M, but lots of static. The pile ups were big, and the regular contesters were out in force – even if for only a few hours on a holiday weekend.

N4CD was out mobile in CO – confused a few people. I forget to get hopping and work TN stations until a few hours into the contest – then caught up with a couple dozen TN stations. It would have been better from home perhaps, but I was on the way back from the CO QSO Party. You can't be everywhere at once. CO wasn't too bad a location - likely I heard more on 20M that from home - but mobiles calling vs. loud fixed stations meant you got heard after all the others had called. I still had fun. It's not so easy driving at 70 mph on narrow roads and tuning and hunting for TN

mobiles! I was headed home. I caught a few new ones, but missed many in counties I needed. Oh well! Next year!

From the 3830 contest reflector:

WB2ABD (WNY) – only on a short time, but caught 35 stations.

N4VV (TN) – made 421 CW contacts

VE1OP – made 87 cw, 4 ssb contacts into TN

NM2L (GA) – 24 QSO – mostly 80M.

W0BH (KS) 167 CW, 37 SSB "I remembered pretty much "non-stop" action from last year, and once again when conditions were in, the TNQP came through. When they weren't, there was even time for a short nap! Both 20 and 40 were good from Kansas at the start for several hours, then 20 went long and 40 faded in the later afternoon, but I was always able to hear and work at least some of the mobiles. It's a major help when mobiles post their route in scheduled order on the web site. From that, I know a number of counties I missed were just missed because of conditions. It also helps to key on the mobiles who will be going through counties I still need.

Overall, I worked 57 unique calls. Between last year and this year, I worked all the TN counties, so really excellent coverage. I worked more CW this year, and had less success calling CQ on SSB for some reason. I CQd 160 pretty hard on CW the last half hour thinking more fixed stations would appreciate the mult since mults accumulate per band, but got few takers even though the band was open from Kansas to Colorado as WF7T/4 and I found out after a bit of work.

This year I collected 82/95 counties

The Consistently Loudest Mobile Heard in Kansas Award goes hands down to KJ4BIX/m which proves that 1.5kw does in fact make a difference. Perhaps the TCG could loan a pair of 200A alternators to each mobile next year! "

NO5W (TX): 102 CW Q , :" wow, that was a great party, probably one of the best TnQPs from where I was sitting! Great job by the mobiles with good ears and good signals coming into the Houston area, especially later in the day on 40m.

The mobiles, several of them volunteers from out of state, kept moving making it into the log with the following number of QSOs: W4NZ(16), W1NN(10), K4ZGB(9), N4ZZ(9), N5WR(6), NY4N(6), K4TCG(5), W4OQG(5), K4LTA(2), and kept me in the chair way longer than I had planned -- thanks for the diversion from other stuff.

And new counties kept making it into the log right up to the very last minute. With less than ten minutes left and having just made the 100Q mark I thought it was about time to pull the plug….But a final spin of the dial revealed W1NN in WILL, a new county, with about five minutes to go and a big pileup. I knew I'd eventually be able to work Hal -- if time didn't run out. K4BAI and I were in a race against the clock and each other to work W1NN. Finally both of us made it into W1NN's log with only seconds to spare. A pair of quick 73's and Hal was on his way back to OH. "

N4ZZ/m (N4ZZ, AD4EB) – 981 Qs from 19 counties :" All I can say is WOW, now that was fun. This was my (AD4EB) first mobile event, and the first time being on the receiving end of a pileup. Cant' wait to try this again. We operated in 19 counties, and just missed our goal of 1K QSOs.

I know Don N4ZZ enjoyed it as much as I did, this was his second mobile event, he got hooked in the GA QSO Party."

KN4Y (FL) 105 CW : Operated CW only and had a ball working the five mobiles and the roaming club station along with fixed stations blasting away. It was a fun party."

N5WR/M 630 CW 143 SSB "The day began at the Campbell-Scott county line, where I pulled off the highway onto a side road to get ready for the opening run. I was on my cell phone with my dad in Oklahoma, checking to see if 20 meters was open (it wasn't), when an ole boy pulled up beside my

car on his ATV to ask me what I was doing. "I'm just making some radio contacts and I'll be moving along soon." "What kind of radio?" "Ham radio." That seemed to satisfy him that I wasn't a thief. Sometimes it is one thing to find what looks like a good stop on Google Maps, and quite another to actually get there in person.

At my Jackson county stop later in the contest, I was driving down a very narrow but paved county road, when the road turned into gravel and just seemed to head off into a field with a bunch of cows. I wasn't sure if I was still on a road or was in someone's driveway. I figured I wouldn't be there long so pulled off and had a nice run on CW. The cows didn't seem to mind.

I made one equipment addition to my mobile setup since my last run, an MFJ screwdriver controller with memory buttons. This allowed me to change bands much more easily, and also seemed to solve an RF problem I'd been having. I am also quite pleased with my Hi-Q 4/80 antenna. It performs very well, even on 80 meters. It is mechanically sound as well, surviving a few low hanging branches and even the McDonald's drive through window after the contest (definitely a 'duh' moment there).

I ended up with a little under 5 hours of CW operating time, and 4 hours of driving/SSB time. It was night and day difference in rate between the two. It is much more fun operating CW as a mobile, and it is a pleasure to work the state QSO party faithful on CW - excellent ops, and very manageable pileups. My wife has at least entertained the idea of learning to drive a standard, so there is hope that maybe one day I'll have a driver.

Most QSOs: W0BH (18), WA3HAE (13), WB8JUI (13), K9CS (13), K4BAI (12), W4RQ (11), KO1U (10), AA4FU (10), K4XU (10), VE3KZ (10) Most DX: DL3DXX (7), DL5AWI (7), CU2JT (5)

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ARKANSAS QSO Party

You could have left your radio on 14.0485 or 7048.5 and not missed much for this contest. There were fixed two stations spotted on PSK31, one on

SSB, and one on cw for the entire contest period. There was one mobile out there. The weather wasn't all that great with rain and thunderstorms over much of the state – but that meant that most other activities were likely cancelled, there weren't too many cookouts and picnics, and the rain was on again and off again all weekend, so folks could easily have gotten on for a few hours. You really have to wonder where all the Arkansas hams were for the Year of the State QSO party. It has to be pretty bad when not one club station, one ARRL official, any Arkansas county hunter, could be bothered to get on the air for a few hours of the contest! Arkansas joins NJ and HI and a few other states in a 'big no show' for in-state participation. Sad!

From the 3830 Contest Reflector

N2CU (NY) 46 CW 9 SSB 1 PSK :" HEY ARKANSAS - It's a good thing N4CD/M came to your state or you would have been completely embarrassed. In fact, it is embarrassing. You throw a party and nobody comes. Wow. N4CD/M accounted for 46 of my 47 QSOs. Thanks a million Bob. My only other QSO was PSK31 with AE5PW. Who was the mystery 'BONUS' station anyway?

NB4N (TN) 1 CW – "Are there any hams in Arkansas?

N5NA (TX) 16 CW : "There appears to be ZERO interest from the sponsor in this QSO party. There was absolutely NO promotion and the participation showed it. The web site didn't even have any information posted except a link to the standing rules. If not for N4CD/m from out of state there would have been NO activity, at least I didn't hear anyone else"

WB2ABD (NY) – 48 cw Q "Didn't work any bonus stations. In fact, didn't work anybody else except N4CD/M... he be the qso party."

W5ESE (TX) : 24 CW 5 SSB " Had fun in the event, but didn't hear any action from amateurs that actually live there.

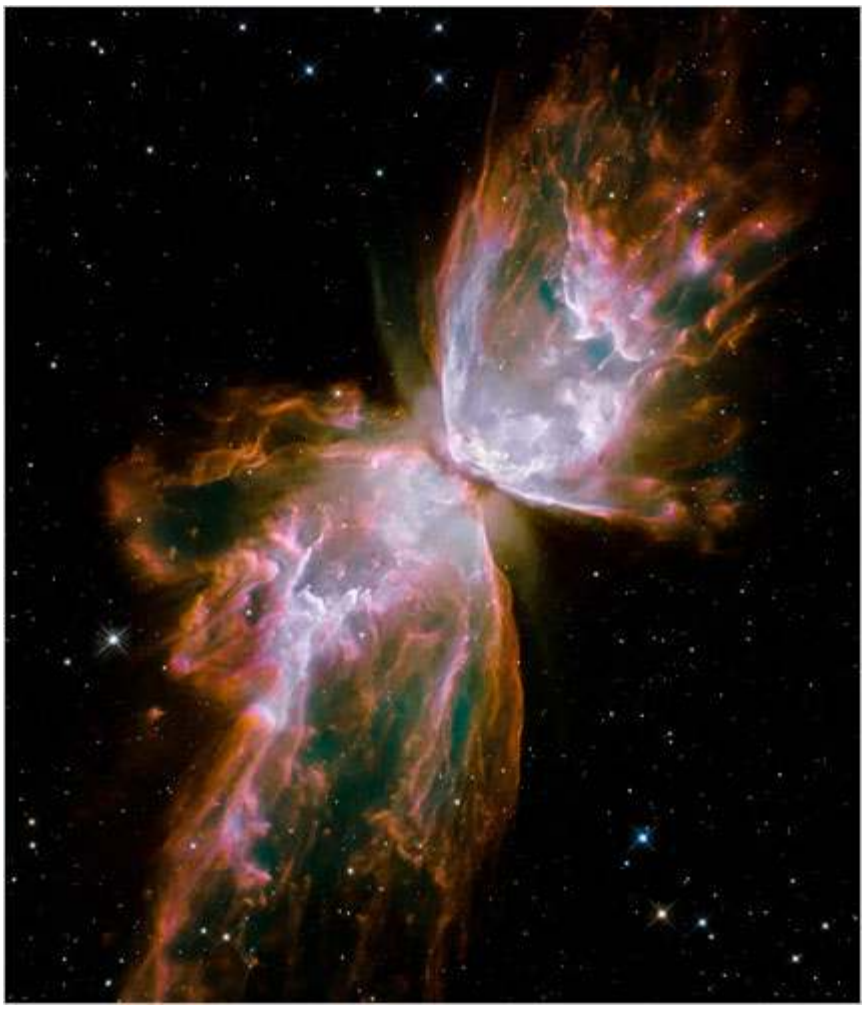
Thanks to N4CD, the event wasn't a total bust.

I think the QSO Party sponsor should consider changing the rules to allow ARK stations to contact each other. That might add a little more interest and vitality?"

K4BAI (GA) 8 cw 1 ssb "Thanks for all the mobile QSOs from N4CD/M, including two all-time new counties. Also to KE5ZSW for the one phone contact. Sorry the AR hams generally don't support their QSO party. I still need quite a few counties for all time new counties. "

Hubble Space Telescope – Back in Action

The new Wide Field Camera 3 aboard NASA's Hubble Space Telescope, took this image of hot gas fleeing a dying star 3,800 light-years away in the Scorpius constellation. A so-called planetary nebula, it is also known as the Bug Nebula or the Butterfly Nebula. What resemble dainty butterfly wings are actually roiling cauldrons of gas heated to more than 36,000 degrees Fahrenheit. The star itself, once about five times as massive as the Sun, is some 400,000 degrees Fahrenheit, making it one of the hottest known in the galaxy. In what amounts to a kind of galactic recycling, the lost gas, enriched by elements like oxygen, nitrogen and carbon produced by the formerly massive star, will form the stuff for future stars.



NASA Photo

Al Gore's Problem

You've probably heard of Al Gore's Award winning film – An Inconvenient Truth. What you likely have not heard is what the UK court system found about the film – it wasn't even mentioned by the media in the US. Surprised?

Every school kid in the US has likely seen the film multiple times – in 'science' class and other classes. But how many of them were 'warned' that the science in it was found 'so bad' that in England, a corrective statement of

the errors had to be issued to students before the film could be shown, along with a statement that this was a 'political partisan film' with questionable scientific basis? Not a one in the US.

Well, stay tuned for a very interesting story!

In 2007, a British lawyer sued in UK courts to 'correct' the alarmism and incorrect 'facts' in Al Gore's movie.

From

"*An Inconvenient Truth* won plaudits from the environmental lobby and an Oscar from the film industry but was found wanting when it was scrutinised in the High Court in London. Mr. Justice Burton identified nine significant errors within the former presidential candidate's documentary as he assessed whether it should be shown to school children….. said that some of the claims were wrong and had arisen in "the context of alarmism and exaggeration".

In what is a rare judicial ruling on what children can see in the class-room, Mr. Justice Barton was at pains to point out that the "apocalyptic vision" presented in the film was politically partisan and not an impartial analysis of the science of climate change.

"It is now common ground that it is not simply a science film – although it is clear that it is based substantially on scientific research and opinion – but that it is a political film."

He agreed it could be shown but on the condition that it was accompanied by new guidance notes for teachers to balance Mr. Gore's "one-sided" views." [1]

"The nine errors alleged by the judge included:

 Mr Gore's assertion that a sea-level rise of up to 20 feet would be caused by melting of ice in either West Antarctica or Greenland "in the near future". The judge said this was "distinctly alarmist" and it was common ground that

if Greenland's ice melted it would release this amount of water - "but only after, and over, millennia".

 Mr Gore's assertion that the disappearance of snow on Mount Kilimanjaro in East Africa was expressly attributable to global warming - the court heard the scientific consensus was that it cannot be established the snow recession is mainly attributable to human-induced climate change.

 Mr Gore's reference to a new scientific study showing that, for the first time, polar bears had actually drowned "swimming long distances - up to 60 miles - to find the ice". The judge said: "The only scientific study that either side before me can find is one which indicates that four polar bears have recently been found drowned because of a storm."

"However, in parts of the film, Gore presents evidence and arguments which do not accord with mainstream scientific opinion. This guidance points out, on a scene by scene basis, the areas where further input will be required from teaching staff. This guidance is designed to help teaching staff encourage their pupils to assess the validity and credibility of different information sources and explore different points of view so as to form their own opinions." [2]

As in customary in the UK, the losing side pays legal costs. The people who filed this complaint were awarded $450,000 in legal costs from Al Gore.

You can read what the judge ruled here. Some highlights of the case:

“It is now common ground that it is not simply a science film…but that it is a political film,…”

“Channel 4 has produced a film which was referred to during the hearing, although I have not seen it, which presents a counter-view, a sceptical approach to the climate change debate called “The Great Global Warming Swindle”. This has not been sent to schools,”

“In scene 16, by reference to a dramatic graphic of a polar bear desperately swimming through the water looking for ice, Mr. Gore says: “*A new scientific study shows that for the first time they are finding polar bears that have actually drowned swimming long distances up to 60 miles to find the ice. They did not find that before.*” The only scientific study that either side

before me can find is one which indicates that four polar bears have recently been found drowned because of a storm. That is not to say that there may not in the future be drowning-related deaths of polar bears if the trend of regression of pack-ice and/or longer open water continues, but it plainly does not support Mr. Gore's description."

Here is the entire text of the court ruling on the film:

http://www.noteviljustwrong.com/images/nejw/docs/22161.pdf

Before the film can be shown, students must be given a package outlining all of the errors, and advising them that this is a 'political partisan film'

""[Schools] must bear in mind the following points

* AIT promotes partisan political views (that is to say, one sided views about political issues)

* teaching staff must be careful to ensure that they do not themselves promote those views;

*(in order to make sure of that, they should take care to help pupils examine the scientific evidence critically (rather than simply accepting what is said at face value) and to point out where Gore's view may be inaccurate or departs from that of mainstream scientific opinion;

* where the film suggests that views should take particular action at the political level (e.g. to lobby their democratic representatives to vote for measures to cut carbon emissions), teaching staff must be careful to offer pupils a balanced presentation of opposing views and not to promote either the view *expressed in the film or any other particular view*.

Now, did you hear any of this in the US? Do your kids, grandkids know that the film is riddled with errors throughout? So bad, that the British courts found that educators must warn students about the errors, and be told it is partisan political viewpoint? Ha!.....not a word in the US!

References

[1[http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/law/article2633838.ece

[2] http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/education/7037671.stm

Latest Sunspot Forecast – Bad News

From NOAA – September 9, 2009 – Forecast of sunspots for the next five years – peaking at only 90!

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#          Predicted Sunspot Number And Radio Flux Values
#                       With Expected Ranges
#
#          -----Sunspot Number------  ----10.7 cm Radio Flux----
# YR MO    PREDICTED    HIGH    LOW   PREDICTED    HIGH    LOW
#-------------------------------------------------------------------
2009 03          2.2     3.2     1.2        68.9    69.9    67.9
2009 04          2.8     4.8     0.8        68.9    69.9    67.9
2009 05          3.5     6.5     0.5        68.9    70.9    66.9
2009 06          4.5     9.5     0.0        69.1    72.1    66.1
2009 07          5.7    10.7     0.7        69.4    73.4    65.4
2009 08          7.1    13.1     1.1        69.9    73.9    65.9
2009 09          8.6    15.6     1.6        70.5    75.5    65.5
2009 10         10.5    17.5     3.5        71.3    77.3    65.3
2009 11         12.4    20.4     4.4        72.3    79.3    65.3
2009 12         14.5    23.5     5.5        73.5    81.5    65.5
2010 01         16.7    25.7     7.7        75.0    83.0    67.0
2010 02         19.3    29.3     9.3        76.8    85.8    67.8
2010 03         21.9    31.9    11.9        78.8    87.8    69.8
2010 04         23.8    33.8    13.8        80.6    89.6    71.6
2010 05         26.4    36.4    16.4        82.9    91.9    73.9
2010 06         29.0    39.0    19.0        85.3    94.3    76.3
2010 07         31.6    41.6    21.6        87.7    96.7    78.7
2010 08         34.3    44.3    24.3        90.2    99.2    81.2
2010 09         37.1    47.1    27.1        92.7   101.7    83.7
2010 10         39.8    49.8    29.8        95.2   104.2    86.2
2010 11         42.5    52.5    32.5        97.8   106.8    88.8
2010 12         45.3    55.3    35.3       100.3   109.3    91.3
2011 01         48.0    58.0    38.0       102.8   111.8    93.8
2011 02         50.7    60.7    40.7       105.2   114.2    96.2
2011 03         53.3    63.3    43.3       107.7   116.7    98.7
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2011 04	55.9	65.9	45.9	110.0	119.0	101.0
2011 05	58.5	68.5	48.5	112.4	121.4	103.4
2011 06	60.9	70.9	50.9	114.6	123.6	105.6
2011 07	63.3	73.3	53.3	116.8	125.8	107.8
2011 08	65.7	75.7	55.7	119.0	128.0	110.0
2011 09	67.9	77.9	57.9	121.0	130.0	112.0
2011 10	70.0	80.0	60.0	123.0	132.0	114.0
2011 11	72.1	82.1	62.1	124.9	133.9	115.9
2011 12	74.0	84.0	64.0	126.7	135.7	117.7
2012 01	75.9	85.9	65.9	128.4	137.4	119.4
2012 02	77.6	87.6	67.6	130.0	139.0	121.0
2012 03	79.3	89.3	69.3	131.5	140.5	122.5
2012 04	80.8	90.8	70.8	132.9	141.9	123.9
2012 05	82.2	92.2	72.2	134.1	143.1	125.1
2012 06	83.5	93.5	73.5	135.3	144.3	126.3
2012 07	84.6	94.6	74.6	136.4	145.4	127.4
2012 08	85.7	95.7	75.7	137.4	146.4	128.4
2012 09	86.6	96.6	76.6	138.2	147.2	129.2
2012 10	87.5	97.5	77.5	139.0	148.0	130.0
2012 11	88.2	98.2	78.2	139.6	148.6	130.6
2012 12	88.7	98.7	78.7	140.2	149.2	131.2
2013 01	89.2	99.2	79.2	140.6	149.6	131.6
2013 02	89.6	99.6	79.6	140.9	149.9	131.9
2013 03	89.8	99.8	79.8	141.1	150.1	132.1
2013 04	89.9	99.9	79.9	141.3	150.3	132.3
2013 05	90.0	100.0	80.0	141.3	150.3	132.3
2013 06	89.9	99.9	79.9	141.2	150.2	132.2
2013 07	89.7	99.7	79.7	141.0	150.0	132.0
2013 08	89.4	99.4	79.4	140.7	149.7	131.7
2013 09	89.0	99.0	79.0	140.4	149.4	131.4
2013 10	88.5	98.5	78.5	139.9	148.9	130.9
2013 11	87.9	97.9	77.9	139.4	148.4	130.4
2013 12	87.2	97.2	77.2	138.8	147.8	129.8
2014 01	86.4	96.4	76.4	138.1	147.1	129.1
2014 02	85.6	95.6	75.6	137.3	146.3	128.3
2014 03	84.7	94.7	74.7	136.4	145.4	127.4
2014 04	83.7	93.7	73.7	135.5	144.5	126.5
2014 05	82.6	92.6	72.6	134.5	143.5	125.5
2014 06	81.4	91.4	71.4	133.5	142.5	124.5
2014 07	80.2	90.2	70.2	132.3	141.3	123.3
2014 08	78.9	88.9	68.9	131.2	140.2	122.2
2014 09	77.6	87.6	67.6	129.9	138.9	120.9
2014 10	76.2	86.2	66.2	128.7	137.7	119.7
2014 11	74.8	84.8	64.8	127.4	136.4	118.4
2014 12	73.3	83.3	63.3	126.0	135.0	117.0
2015 01	71.8	81.8	61.8	124.6	133.6	115.6
2015 02	70.2	80.2	60.2	123.2	132.2	114.2
2015 03	68.7	78.7	58.7	121.7	130.7	112.7
2015 04	67.0	77.0	57.0	120.2	129.2	111.2
2015 05	65.4	75.4	55.4	118.7	127.7	109.7
2015 06	63.8	73.8	53.8	117.2	126.2	108.2
2015 07	62.1	72.1	52.1	115.7	124.7	106.7
2015 08	60.4	70.4	50.4	114.1	123.1	105.1
2015 09	58.7	68.7	48.7	112.6	121.6	103.6
2015 10	57.0	67.0	47.0	111.0	120.0	102.0
2015 11	55.3	65.3	45.3	109.5	118.5	100.5
2015 12	53.6	63.6	43.6	107.9	116.9	98.9

Source: http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpdir/weekly/Predict.txt

Read it and weep….not much joy in that forecast.

Big Carbon Taxes Coming

Remember VP Joe Biden telling you over and over that 'cap and trade' (known as cap and tax) would "only" cost you a 'postage stamp' a day – or 44 cents? And Obama picking up that line time and time again?

He lied. They both lied. From CBS News:

Obama Admin: Cap And Trade Could Cost Families $1,761 A Year

The Obama administration has privately concluded that a cap and trade law would cost American taxpayers up to $200 billion a year, the equivalent of hiking personal income taxes by about 15 percent.

A previously unreleased analysis prepared by the U.S. Department of Treasury says the total in new taxes would be between $100 billion to $200 billion a year. At the upper end of the administration's estimate, the cost per American household would be an extra $1,761 a year.

A second memorandum, which was prepared for Obama's transition team after the November election, says this about climate change policies: "Economic costs will likely be on the order of 1 percent of GDP."

"The documents were obtained under the Freedom of Information Act by the free-market Competitive Enterprise Institute and released on Tuesday."

House Republican Leader John Boehner has estimated the additional tax bill would be at $366 billion a year, or $3,100 a year per family. Democrats have

pointed to estimates from MIT's John Reilly, who put the cost at $800 a year per family, and noted that tax credits to low income households could offset part of the bite. The Heritage Foundation says that, by 2035, "the typical family of four will see its direct energy costs rise by over $1,500 per year."

Because personal income tax revenues bring in around $1.37 trillion a year, a $200 billion additional tax would be the equivalent of a 15 percent increase a year. A $100 billion additional tax would represent a 7 or 8 percent increase a year.

http://www.cbsnews.com/blogs/2009/09/15/taking_liberties/ent...

Here' another site with the story

http://wattsupwiththat.com/2009/09/19/treasury-department-releases-documents-showing-cap-and-trade-costs-could-hit-300-billion-annually/#more-10959

"The documents were obtained by CEI Senior Fellow Christopher Horner through a Freedom of Information Act request and revealed in a Friday afternoon release after public attention to an earlier version raised questions of what the administration was hiding.

"**Today's release explains why the administration initially sought to keep its internal aspirations and expectations from the public: The cost of a cap-and-trade plan to businesses and consumers will be enormous," said Horner. "This candid perspective of what could prove to be the biggest tax increase in our nation's history now must be openly debated before the American public**".

Direct link to US Treasury http://www.openmarket.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/foia-re...

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de N4CD: So you think hiking taxes, like income taxes by 15% isn't significant? And, at the same time, killing the economic growth by at least 1

percent, and, by the administration's own calculations cause 1.5 to 2 million jobs each and every year to be lost….is something we should forge ahead on and pass "Cap and Tax"? For what reason? To lose 15 to 20 million jobs in 10 years? Isn't unemployment already high enough? You willing to fork over another $1800 each in carbon taxes to give to people in Africa to plant trees, to build airports that only one person uses for his congressional junket flights (John Murtha – PA) and to sell phony green credits through Al Gore's carbon trading firm? Or funnel money to support ACORN? Or similar groups worldwide funded by "UN Committees"?

He Lied! Remember his promise of not raising taxes on folks making less than $250,000 a year? Of course. Did he really mean it? Of course not. While 'cap and tax' has yet to clear the Senate, you can bet they'll pick your pocket to redistribute the money to politically oriented groups, unions, and contributors.

State QSO Parties III

South Carolina QSO Party

This seems to be another than had one very active mobile – N4XML made the circuit putting all the SC counties out on SSB. Congrats to him as being 'the mobile' and 90% of all the activity in the SC QSO Party. KA4NWS also was spotted running mobile through some counties. That's not a good picture when there are multiple active county hunters in the state who just seemed to have sat this one out – not even put out their home counties. It looked like other than some fixed stations and perhaps one other run by two mobiles in counties, that was it for the entire contest. Some activity on 40M SSB, but that doesn't do much for most of the west half of the country.

A few fixed stations, notably K4QNW – county hunter – was on for many, many hours – but only a few other fixed stations were spotted in the two days of the contest – 1 or 2 on SSB, and three or so on 40M CW.

Stations on cw were VERY few and far between – I never heard one on 20M calling for the QP, and Mark, KO1U, spotted 3 on 40m CW. I managed to work 4 on cw. That seems to have been about it!

I ran across K2SX – working stations in the WA Salmon Run – asked him if he would put out Georgetown, and he then ran a string of stations for the next 20 minutes! Otherwise, pretty slim pickings on cw!

From the 3830 contest reflector:

K4BAI (GA): 3 SSB - "Thanks for efforts by KA4NWS/M and N4XLS/M. Sounded like they had a good competition going on for top mobile score. Hope for more activity and better short distance band conditions next year. "

K6WSC (CA): 1 CW QSO

WB2ABD (NY) "N4XML and KA4NWS provided the mobile activity"

KN4Y (FL) 6 CW QSO – "A path to the South Carolina CW operators never materialized, I listened and worked all I heard, but alas it was very few. It must be true , all the CW operators have retired to South Florida.

N4CD (TX) 4 cw 2 SSB – not much to choose from. \

W0BH (KS) 3 CW – "Ran across 3 SC stations while fishing for salmon, and more than doubled my score from last year!

AE4EW(Oconee, SC) 32 cw 86 SSB "I know the population of South Carolina is pretty small (less than the greater Atlanta metro area), but the lack of participation was appalling. Because of the pronounced skip zone on 40, I got most of my mults on 75/80, but I didn't hear a single SC station on 75/80 during the prime Saturday evening hours!"

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WASHINGTON SALMON RUN

Another good one – although I didn't hear or see all of the counties spotted, there were loads of fixed stations in 80% of the Washington state counties – with good signals on multiple bands. There were spots from 160M through 20M – SSB and CW with most of the activity on CW. No spots seen on 15M, and I checked it. At sunspot max, 10 and 15 are booming in from there. Zilch today. There were a few brave mobiles out and about – W7WMO either mobile or portable, W7FEN, NU7J, and that seemed about it. Of course, conditions aren't great for mobiles in the northwest corner of the country.

Many of the regulars turned out to work the stations – county hunters, state QSO party folks, and others just giving out multipliers to the WA stations like K1BV (CT is rare in the state QSO Parties!). There were good crowds calling for both days.

From the contest reflector.

VE1OP: 26cw and 13 SSB.

WB8JUI (OH) : "This year's running of the salmon was pretty rough. Poor conditions on 20, and no propagation on the higher bands. I had also hoped for a few 160 contacts, but nothing heard.

44 unique calls in the log with 19 of those worked on 3 bands. Mobile/roversworked more than once include W7WMO (4) & NU7J (3)."

K4BAI (GA) 70 CW 38 SSB

WB2ABD (NY) 99 cw 43 ssb "Made more contacts than expected. I guess WA stations have good ears. Heard nil on 15 and 160. Had to lose a couple hours cutting grass and "entertaining" the dog. Kind of hard to tell who was mobile, portable, etc.: at first I thought I was logging the wrong county.

Anyway, it was a fun weekend despite the gorgeous wx and skookum radio here.."

W7DX (multi op WA) 253 cw 116 ssb "Abysmal conditions, I have done better on 75 ssb with a 100 watt mobile in other years. CQ for long stretches with no responses with spots. Hats off to Jake (N7WO) for 170 of the CW qso's with his bug, not computer keyed.

W0BH: 71 cw 222 SSB: "Another enjoyable Salmon Run in the books! Conditions were excellent from ansas to Washington all weekend long although I ran out of new folks to work fairly quickly.

Overall, I worked 37/39 counties and missed Lincoln and Pend Oreille

Overall I worked 221 unique calls."

NU7J (and K9JF)/m 265 CW 105 SSB – " K9JF and I teamed up for an NU7J/m multi-op Salmon Run Rover operation. We set up camp at a campsite in Wahkiakum County (WAH), a small county on the Columbia River. Propagation was lousy most of the time, but at least it was a quiet location with no nearby power lines. I selected the campsite that had the most convenient antenna supports, including a 30 foot flagpole to support the 80M doublet. There was a large hill immediately behind our campsite to the north, which probably wasn't helpful, but it was a clear shot in other directions.

The view overlooking the Columbia River was outstanding. We spent most of Saturday mobiling around Wahkiakum, Pacific, Grays Harbor, Thurston, Lewis, and Cowlitz counties. A highlight was having an enjoyable eyeball QSO with the W7PU multi-op crew (Grays Harbor County) on our drive through Grayland. The W7PU club had a nice antenna setup using a trailer mounted tower. Another highlight was when we stumbled across a restaurant that served FB oysters, with secret spices cooked over the fire on the sidewalk outside the restaurant. Their clam chowder was FB too. The weather was great and we enjoyed a short walk to the beach at Grayland State Park. K9JF managed to work Timor (4W) for a new band-country on 30M before the contest started on Sunday. I kept Jim well fed at the campsite with Dinty Moore stew, hamburgers and hot dogs. It didn't occur to me to cook a salmon then again most of them were on the radio this weekend and were probably suffering from RF burns.

75M was a lot of fun on Sunday morning, with a steady pileup at times and lots of new WA county mults. We took the antennas down around noon on Sunday to break camp. I managed to make a few more Q's on 20M SSB on the drive home, through WAH, COW, THU, PIE and KING. Unfortunately the key jack on my 857 failed on Sunday morning so I wasn't able to work CW from the van.

I didn't hear many stations on my drive home, but I did work W0BH a few more times, and also worked JA1BK (S9 plus 20dB!) while driving through downtown Seattle on I-5. We greatly appreciated the 10 or 11 Q's from W0BH. I thought that was an impressive feat until I read on W0BH's qrz.com write-up that he worked N8II 97 times in the KS QSO Party! Looking forward to better band conditions for the next one! Thanks to everyone for working us from the rover.

Tom (NU7J) and Jim (K9JF)

Greenie Alarmists at Work

Scare headlines:

"The Arctic climate is changing drastically at a rapid pace and the effects will be felt on a global scale. That was the overall conclusion from a scientific conference on climate changes in the Arctic which was held in Nuuk, Greenland last week. The conference showed that the Arctic climate is changing rapidly in a number of different ways:"

"The total mass-loss from the Greenland ice sheet has averaged 240 cubic kilometers of ice per year during the last 5 years."

"The permafrost in Greenland as well as globally is warming and in some areas thawing. Currently, construction regulations do not take this into account. Road damage has been observed and further damage on infrastructure is likely in the near future because of these combined effects."

Source:
http://www.greencarcongress.com/2009/09/arctic-20090901.html#more
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Now, that '240 cubic kilometers sounds like a lot' to some, right?

Let us examine things further.

The volume (not mass) of the Greenland ice sheet is some 3 million cubic kilometers, making the annual rate of change approximately

250/3,000,000 = .00008

which makes for a 1% change by the year 2130, just in time for the birth of your great-great-great grand daughter.

Frost heaves? You did watch the Ice Road Truckers? **And by now, you know that during the Medieval Warm Period, as shown by temp records in the Greenland Ice sheets, it was 2-4 degrees warmer than in Greenland for hundreds of years. Only back then, they didn't have any Viking global warming alarmists to tell them that the ice sheets were melting at 'alarming rates'.** Then came the Little Ice Age and those Viking colonies disappeared. When will the AGW folks tell you that? About the Medieval Warm period? About glaciers being essentially GONE in the Alps? They won't.

Did anyone think that 'global warming scientists' have an actual brain?

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PAGING AL GORE…..PAGING AL GORE…….

http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20090910_summerstat...

NOAA: Summer Temperature Below Average for U.S.

September 10, 2009

The average June-August 2009 summer temperature for the contiguous United States was below average – the 34th coolest on record, according to a preliminary analysis by NOAA's National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C. August was also below the long-term average. The analysis is based on records dating back to 1895."

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Note to Al Gore: Storm activity in the Atlantic and Pacific is now at 27 year low! Where were those killer hurricanes you predicted? Why have you suddenly removed all those slides about Category VII storms from your presentations now? Right – you were using bad science to start with, then exaggerated by a factor of 10 or 20 on top of that!

On the Road with N4CD – I

The urge to travel struck, and the call of the mountains was heard. N4CD hadn't left the state in a while and Labor Day Weekend was coming up. I was tired of near 100 deg temps. While Texas has lots of interesting areas, it has no real mountains like out west or back east. Summer was coming to an end for many. I decided to head to Colorado and enjoy some mountain scenery while it was still nice there (no snow). I loaded up the car for a week trip. It was still in the high 90s in Texas and 'hot'. It had been over a year since I'd been in Colorado or the mountains. It would be nice to have a 'summer place' out there somewhere.

There was one transmitted county left to run in NM that I had managed to drive around on half a dozen trips (Mora), plus a few county hunters needed counties in the TX panhandle. I've run the panhandle 20-30 times, usually twice a year, but I've not been out that way lately. Been going elsewhere!

There are some other less run counties on the way there, so I took a 80 mile detour through Foard and Cottle, then up to Collingsworth. Quite a few needed that one. No quick roads to hit the corner of Cottle County – many

counties out that way have one north south road and one east west road – and that is it!

Bill, NU0Q needed two in the panhandle – and he is closing in with needs under 10 for the WBOW. He was off in Colorado so I didn't know if we would hook up. I didn't know if he would be around for Hemphill, Lipscomb and Ochiltree. He was working me on the way there, so it looked good. I got up that way, and, dang, no NU0Q when I ran Hemphill.

I've run the panhandle so many times that I've staked out my favorite spots to operate. I dragged my feet in Hemphill, stopped for gas, had a lunch, and called Bill at the end of the county. No luck. He was off doing something.

I run a lot of county lines in the panhandle at favorite spots – most are decent. There are noisy power lines along many of the small roads up there – not much population, but oil wells and power lines going to them. You can do OK on the main roads, but the side roads I travel on are quite noisy.

I called on cellphone and Jerry, W0GXQ also tried to reach NU0Q. So I headed up to next line of Ochiltree and Lipscomb. At the end, NU0Q finds me on 40M. We work.

Hemphill, TX – LC for NU0Q

Fortunately, it is about 8 miles back to Hemphill – and I do that real quick after the run...and he is finished up in TX now. Only a handful to go for him.

Then I headed over 120 miles to Dallam County for the Budget Inn in Dalhart. There are lots of motels there – good place to stop. Budget Inn at $46 and that even includes breakfast. Next morning it was over to NM. I wasn't in a hurry, so I picked up some other counties, hit Mora finally finishing it off for 2nd time transmit, and wound up going to Taos when Jerry, W0GXQ, needed that for a LC in NM. Nice scenic county out this way, but you can have the city of Taos with the traffic.

Taos, NM – LC for W0GXQ – few bullet holes in sign, too!

Just west of Taos is a collection of Earthship houses. There are several communities of 'sustainable housing' – built with recycled materials, passive solar design, water recycling, off grid power systems, water cisterns for rain water collection - and many other ecological features. They have a model type home you can wander through.

http://www.sangres.com/newmexico/taos/earthship.htm

For the adventurous, you can rent and stay overnight in one of them.

After a quick tour of the model type house, I headed up to CO. I ran Conejos and into Alamosa. The Super 8 Motel in Alamosa is decent - $62 including breakfast with waffles. I've stopped there a few times before. I checked in, then headed east to Costilla. After running that, I decided to sightsee and headed to the Great Sand Dunes National Park – never been there before. (If you are over 62, you can buy a lifetime pass to get in free at all the National Parks for just $10).

http://www.nps.gov/grsa/index.htm

I spent an hour or so there at the visitor center and the overlooks, then K4DI calls and needs Conejos for a last county. Well, it is back to the town of Alamosa, then south 8 miles to Conejos – and we hooked up. Then back to the motel to put the radio gear in the room, then off to dinner. Bands were so so…sometimes good, sometimes not. .

Darrel, W6TMD, was out in CA. I caught him a few times on 17M. Later as I got west, he was gone on 17M. Dick, W3ZUH was headed north from

CA. I caught him many times on 20M. Jim, KB4XK was headed south. Bill, K2HVN was crossing MT to ID to WA and running around up there.

Friday I headed west, then up to Mineral and Hinsdale. Hinsdale has one road (149). It is painful to get to, and slow to go through it- lots of miles to get through it, but real nice mountain scenery. I circled around through Gunnison. The car got a workout with mountain passes. The 4 cylinder Malibu is good going uphill, but less engine compression that the 6 cylinder Buick. I'm learning how to use the tap shifters and the six speed transmission in the mountains to find the right gear coming downhill. Sometimes, nothing seems to work well. Most of the time, it did fine.

It's a nice gas sipper, but gas is about $2.60/gal in most places, up to $2.90 in the small mountain towns. I hit Montrose, then down in Ouray- a short detour in Ouray to the C/L of Ouray and San Miguel worked out fine. That is a great county line – scenic (facing east) – and good location – not up against the mountains. You can usually be heard. Then it was over the windy twisty pass into Silverton, CO (San Juan).

You head up out of Ouray – and up and up at 20 mph for nine miles. Back and forth, back and forth as you go from 7500 feet to 11,008 feet to the pass. I tried running the county at the pass – very poor location with big hills all around and steep up angle to get a sig out of there. Been there – done that, and lots of other county hunters have discovered how bad that location is. Real bad. Worse than bad. It's got a nice parking lot – but getting RF out of there is a challenge.

San Juan/Ouray CL – bad news RF wise

Later, on the way down the mountain, at one of the hairpin 180 degree turns, is a good spot where you are a few miles back from the ridge to the east, and even though at 1000 feet down from the pass, it works a lot better. I had a better run there. Then it was down to Silverton at 9300 feet – a nice little mining town with a historic district of old houses and store fronts from the 1860-1880 era. The end of the narrow gauge railroad from Durango is here.

Here's a 7 minute video – taken in Silverton – you get to see the train, the town location, and some of the 'touristy things'

http://bulletin.aarp.org/yourworld/articles/silverton_newspaper.html

I stopped at the Triangle Motel - $62 including breakfast - been there a few times before. Silverton in a nice place in the summer, but gets 30-40 feet of snow in the winter. It's like Nome, AK, in that there is one paved street in town, and all the other roads are gravel – makes it easier to plow the snow in the winter time for those several hundred hardy enough to spend winters there. It was 37 degrees in the morning. Daily highs typically in the 50s and 60s and low 70s in the summer time.

17M was not good today. I worked one or two, sometimes five or six, but it was difficult. I caught KB4XK in a few in SC on 17, but 339. Then the A index went up, 20M got tough and 17M died here. Oh well.

Saturday was the day for the Colorado QSO party. I'd looked at the CO QSO Party web page a week before for activity and didn't see a lot of mobiles, so why not run some of the counties for the folks? Well, that was one of the reasons I headed off to the mountains other than to get away from 3 months of 'hot' TX weather for a break. It was time to get headed back east. I ran San Juan (from the south end which is the only real place to run it) before you head down into La Plata. Up at 10,000 feet it was a cool 50 degrees in the morning – and great scenery. It was 37 degrees down in the valley of Silverton!

Then it was east from there, retracing much of what I had already run.

As I headed down 550, I had to stop for the 'train'. 1880s steam powered excursion train from Durango to Silverton through some wild countryside – well worth the ride! I don't mind waiting at railroad crossings for six car steam powered trains from the 1880s era!

The train – Durango/Silverton – thru the car window

Activity in the QSO Party was disappointing. Most of the regulars were off chasing Asian DX contest stations, the propagation was challenging, and the runs were poor. John, N6MU, normally a powerhouse, was barely workable on 20 or 40M. Many others likely were off enjoying the Labor Day Weekend. My radio runs very hot at 10,000 and 11,000 feet! It could use an auxiliary cooling fan – running cw for 30-40 minutes as you try to stir up activity got it a bit too warm. If you run at high altitude, think about a fan to keep it cooler – the air gets thin at 10,000 and 11,000 feet.

The DX was missing – only DX worked was UA – no DL3s, DL5s, OK1s, OHs or anything else out of Europe.

I ran San Juan, La Plata, Archuleta, Mineral, Rio Grande, Conejos and Alamosa – the number of contacts hardy justified the miles. I finally said enough when the 40M RTTY killed the cw portion of the band in the late afternoon, and decided to go back up into the hills – heading for Saguache and Chaffee County.

I made 235 CW contacts and 4 on SSB – half the SSB contacts with N8II – hi hi. There was zilch on 40M SSB. Late in the afternoon, the RTTY came pounding in on 40M, and the QSO rate plummeted to very low levels. It was time to just go QRT. A few high plains (8000 feet) storms were about – making a bit of QRN on the radio – but the weather was good all day.

At about 5:30 pm, I stopped in Salida(Chaffee County) – been there before, too – American Classic Inn - $62. About a mile down the road is Quincy's. They have no menu – it is steak or prime rib – that is the choice – one of two – and nothing else. The 8oz Prime Rib was good – for $10. The owner of the motel will talk your ear off, but gave me some good suggestions for things to do around there. Beware – the Super 8 and other name motels in this town think the place is a gold mine. Super 8 wanted $120/night! It is a touristy area, but the older motels are decent and half the price. All the 'name' motels were nearly 100% full on the holiday weekend.

In the morning, I enjoyed a good breakfast at the Wagon Wheel restaurant – and when I walked in - I realized I had eaten there a few years before, too!

That morning, I goofed off sightseeing for a while, heading up to St. Elmo. It's 10 miles up on paved road to Paradise Hot Springs then another six miles on good gravel/dirt road to St. Elmo. It's one of the Colorado ghost

towns – but 3 or 4 people live there year round and there are a few B&Bs that are open from spring to fall. St. Elmo has been called Colorado's best preserved ghost town.

The buildings have been 'preserved', not restored, so it is not 'picture perfect'. Most of the buildings date from 1878, and they were just thrown up quickly. At one point, the population hit 2000 – with miners from the local area, and those hauling wagon loads of goods over the mountains further west. It's a good 2 wheel gravel road up there, but beyond is 4 wheel drive Jeep territory. Winters are pretty rough at that altitude – 10,000 feet. Unfortunately, a good part of the town burned down in the past, so only parts remain.

The town was on the railroad –that ran over the Continental Divide through the Alpine tunnel to Pitkin - but when it shut down in 1922, the town faded away. The Alpine Tunnel was the highest (11500 feet) in the world when it was built – narrow gauge railroad – steam engines – and 1770 feet long.

http://www.legendsofamerica.com/co-alpinetunnel.html

One of the local mines hauled out over $60,000,000 in gold from the nearby hills. The old mining roads are now great 4 wheel drive places to go. The railroad right of way is now the main road into St. Elmo (easy grade) and easy for normal cars to travel.

http://www.ghosttowns.com/states/co/saintelmo.html

http://www.legendsofamerica.com/CP-StElmo1.html

St. Elmo, Colorado in the winter – main road - el 10,008 feet

Naturally, the fall colors of the aspen trees is spectacular in late September – the trees were just starting to turn in early September. The road is kept open all year long if you get an urge to head there in the winter time!

After a while there checking out part of the town, I headed back east through Park and over to Custer for a LC for W0GXQ.

Custer CO……LC for W0GXQ and KO1U

Ron, N5MLP needed a few in CO and caught up with me on the cellphone to arrange SSB contacts. It's pretty sparse populations in Southeast Colorado, with lots of national grasslands set aside – you can go for 50 miles and not see another car there – and no cellphone service either! Highway 109 from Otero down to Baca is not well traveled! It's the mostly flat part of Colorado (el 4300 feet or so).

I wound up Sunday night in Springfield, CO (Baca County) at the Starlite Motel – been there before, too, and seeing that it was Sunday, had pizza to celebrate getting W0GXQ, KO1U, and N5MLP getting their LCs (and some others). It's strange getting to a town then realizing you've stayed overnight in that town before – and that happens an amazing number of times. Then again, in south eastern CO, there are only a few places with motels – so the odds are good you'll be staying in one of the 2 towns that actually have a motel!

On Monday, it was a quick trip down through the panhandle, with a 3 mile detour to get Randall, then quickly down route 287 to home. I had a LC request for Randall – it's not on 287, but with the Texas Map Book, it was easy to find a small gravel/dirt road right at the intersection of the four counties, take a few mile detour to hit Randall, then get right back on the route home. If you do lots of driving in TX, buy the large 150 page large

page size ‘Map Book of Texas’ which shows lots of tiny roads not on the standard state maps.

The temps in Colorado were nice and cool (50s typical highs in the high mountains – 80s in the Alamosa Valley). It was nice and cool in the evenings. Not so it TX.

On the way home, the car thermometer said the outside temp was 100 degrees as I passed through Wichita County. The propagation conditions to Europe were better – OK1VD, OH3JF, DL5MC, and DL3DXX were in the log – hadn’t heard much from the DX on the trip.

Dang – I wish I had some more time to goof off in Colorado, but I had a full schedule coming up. My car got checked out going up and down the mountain passes – and I got a nice break from the hot weather. It looks like I was one of a handful of mobiles in the CO QSO Party – although 20 or so fixed stations put out their counties.

It looks like near 100 degrees for another week in Collin County.

Whew – 2600 miles and the 7 month old car is over 15,000 miles now. It gets to rest for two weeks before the big trip back east to NY and New England. Unless……

Global Cooling

Forecasts of climate change are about to go seriously out of kilter. One of the world's top climate modelers said Thursday we could be about to enter one or even two decades during which temperatures cool.

"People will say this is global warming disappearing," he told more than 1500 of the world's top climate scientists gathering in Geneva at the UN's World Climate Conference.

"I am not one of the skeptics," insisted Mojib Latif of the Leibniz Institute of Marine Sciences at Kiel University, Germany. "However, we have to ask the nasty questions ourselves or other people will do it."

Few climate scientists go as far as Latif, an author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. But more and more agree that the short-term prognosis for climate change is much less certain than once thought.

Nature vs humans

This is bad timing. The UN's World Meteorological Organization called the conference in order to draft a global plan for providing "climate services" to the world: that is, to deliver climate predictions useful to everyone from farmers worried about the next rainy season to doctors trying to predict malaria epidemics and builders of dams, roads and other infrastructure who need to assess the risk of floods and droughts 30 years hence.

But some of the climate scientists gathered in Geneva to discuss how this might be done admitted that, on such timescales, natural variability is at least as important as the long-term climate changes from global warming. "In many ways we know more about what will happen in the 2050s than next year," said Vicky Pope from the UK Met Office.

Cold Atlantic

Latif predicted that in the next few years a natural cooling trend would dominate over warming caused by humans. The cooling would be down to cyclical changes to ocean currents and temperatures in the North Atlantic, a feature known as the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO).

Breaking with climate-change orthodoxy, he said NAO cycles were probably responsible for some of the strong global warming seen in the past three decades. "But how much? The jury is still out," he told the conference. The NAO is now moving into a colder phase.

Latif said NAO cycles also explained the recent recovery of the Sahel region of Africa from the droughts of the 1970s and 1980s. James Murphy, head of climate prediction at the Met Office, agreed and linked the NAO to Indian monsoons, Atlantic hurricanes and sea ice in the Arctic. "The oceans are key to decadal natural variability," he said.

Another favorite climate nostrum was upturned when Pope warned that the dramatic Arctic ice loss in recent summers was partly a product of natural cycles rather than global warming. Preliminary reports suggest there has been much less melting this year than in 2007 or 2008.

In candid mood, climate scientists avoided blaming nature for their faltering predictions, however. "Model biases are also still a serious problem. We have a long way to go to get them right. They are hurting our forecasts," said Tim Stockdale of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts in Reading, UK.

The world may badly want reliable forecasts of future climate. But such predictions are proving as elusive as the perfect weather forecast."

http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn17742-worlds-climate-could-co

Texas Bug Catcher – Ends Manufacturing

Manufacturer of Texas Bug Catcher Antenna to Cease Operations (Sep 3, 2009) -- After October 31, 2009, GLA Systems -- the manufacturer of the Texas Bug Catcher antennas -- will cease taking orders for new antennas; according to their Web site, all orders received before that date will be filled. "Effective November 1, only orders for items that are in stock at the time will be accepted. Effective December 31, 2009, the toll free line, 1-800-588-2841, will be discontinued." No reason was given for the closure, but on GLA's Web site, owner Henry Allen, K5BUG, said "It has been a fun 30 years, but it is time to hang it up. I would like to thank everyone who has made this experience possible."

TX Bug Catcher

The Planet Has a Fever – NOT

From the Wood's Hole Oceanographic Institute

A new 2,000 year long reconstruction of sea surface temperatures (SST) from the Indo-Pacific warm pool (IPWP) suggests that temperatures in the region may have been as warm during the Medieval Warm Period as they are today.

The IPWP is the largest body of warm water in the world, and, as a result, it is the largest source of heat and moisture to the global atmosphere, and an important component of the planet's climate. Climate models suggest that global mean temperatures are particularly sensitive to sea surface temperatures in the IPWP. Understanding the past history of the region is of great importance for placing current warming trends in a global context.

The marine-based IPWP temperature reconstruction is in many ways similar to land temperature reconstructions from the Northern Hemisphere (NH). Major trends observed in NH temperature reconstructions, including the cooling during the Little Ice Age (~1500-1850 AD) and the marked warming during the late twentieth century, are also observed in the IPWP.

“The more interesting and potentially controversial result is that our data indicate surface water temperatures during a part of the Medieval Warm Period that are similar to today’s,” says Oppo. NH temperature reconstructions also suggest that temperatures warmed during this time period between A.D. 1000 and A.D. 1250, but they were not as warm as modern temperatures.

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Yet, Al Gore and his fellow global warming alarmists will tell you the oceans are boiling and heating up beyond ‘historical limits’. Really? You’ll note that most of what Al Gore presents conveniently ignores the Medieval Warm period – and starts right after the Little Ice Age begins, to show the ‘maximum temperature rise’. Dang. If I take ice cubes out of the freezer, and put them on the counter, I can show that ‘global warming’ is melting those ice cubes, too! That isn’t science – but that is what Al Gore is trying to sell you.

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Where is Al Gore when you need him?

Keigwin studied sediment cores in the Sargasso Sea. He found a cool period centered about 300-400 years ago and a warm period about 900-1100 years ago. **He writes that "SST was 1°C cooler than today 400 years ago (the Little Ice Age) and 1700 years ago, and 1°C warmer than today 1000 years ago (the Medieval Warm Period).** Thus, at least some of the warming since the Little Ice Age appears to be part of a natural oscillation." and that "the warming during the 20th century (0.5°C) is not unprecedented."

The Little Ice Age and Medieval Warm Period in the Sargasso Sea
www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/274/5292/1503

De N4CD…how can this be? That temperatures were warmer in the Medieval Warm Period? Wouldn’t that blow Al Gore’s ‘theory’ and that giant ‘consensus’ of UN folks all to smithereens? Of course it would. And does. I’ll bet you haven’t heard Al Gore mention this data! Global warming isn’t interested in ‘science’. The ‘politics’ have already been ‘settled’. All

they want to do is ram through higher taxes, and establish bigger and bigger government in control of every aspect of energy use and society.

On the Road with N4CD II

The Arkansas QSO Party was coming up. The official ArQP web site didn't look encouraging, with no new information, and only a reference to the 'standing rules'. However, it was posted on the ARRL Letter for weekly contests and was posted on the WA7BNM list of upcoming contests so it must be about to happen.

Find your upcoming contests for the next week at:

(http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html)

Last year there were a few ARK stations on that made quite a few contacts. I decided to go to Arkansas and came up with a route.

The weather was not expected to be great. As the weekend approached, the forecast was for rain, more rain, and even more rain. Friday night I watched the weather – Salado, TX had received 13 inches of rain in 3 hours and flooded Interstate 35 for 3 miles. The prediction was for many inches of rain over the weekend. A low pressure system was sitting over southeast Texas, cranking in Gulf moisture – which was drowning much of TX with 6 inches of rain or more. I went to bed and hoped for better weather. Gas prices had dropped 35c/gallon since Labor Day weekend – running about $2.25/gal here.

The alarm went off at 5:15. It was drizzling outside. I made a cup of coffee, had some OJ, put the antennas on the car, and was on the road before 6am headed east to Arkansas – about 200 miles to get to where I wanted to be at 9am when the QSO Party started. County hunters must be nuts.

Fortunately, the bad weather seemed to be everywhere but where I was. It rained lightly about half the time, but no frog stranglers or severe storms. I stopped to run since there is more logging required for state QSO parties and more 'strange' calls, plus the weaker DX stations trying to work you, plus more pile-ups to handle. I wandered along the bottom row of counties headed east, then started to circle around. Things went fairly well, but many of the contest regulars (W3BBO, WB8JUI, K9CS, etc) were off doing other things apparently, or didn't expect much, so weren't around. There was a Sprint contest, a SKCC event, a big Work All Europe DX event, the ARRL VHF contest, and few other things going on, but you would have thought that many of the Arkansas stations could have gotten on for a few hours like the folks did in Colorado the past weekend? Not to worry – I was out putting out the counties. I headed east in Ark running the bottom tier of counties.

That night I stopped in Arkansas County. There is a Super 8 motel there – checked in ($60), then went and ran 3 more counties – then back to the motel, grabbed dinner at The Grill across the street, and checked the weather channel. Oh my gosh – there were red blobs all over south Arkansas – big intense lines of thunder storms right where I had been – rainfall totals of several inches. Wave after wave of lines of storms and road flooding. I had managed to miss all of them and all of the large amounts of rainfall. The forecast for tomorrow was more of the same. I went to bed and would worry about weather in the morning.

Next morning early, I had a nice waffle, two cups of coffee, and headed out early in the drizzle to get to St Francis and Lee. It was raining lightly – it would rain most of the day lightly. Pete, N4AKP needed Lee for a LC. I headed down route 78 to the county line – recognized it – had met Al, KG5J, a few years before – when I needed it for a LC and we did it 50 feet apart on the way back from the 3M convention! (pic November 2005 issue of CHNews). Pete and I hooked up. The QSO Party didn't start until 10am local time – I guess to satisfy the church goers, so I just ran counties for the folks until the test started.

Bill, KM1C needed the next – Woodruff, so it was right up 78 to hit 49. We hooked up for his last in ARK – he is getting down to less than 80 to go now. The DX was 'in' for this contest with DL3DXX, DL3GA, DL5MC, DL5AWI, OK1KT, OK2EC, SP5SA, SM6VR in the log. Many of the cw

county hunter regulars were around, too, to snag the counties – not too many ARK mobiles about these days.

When the contest started 1500Z, I was in White – headed west. Jerry, W0GXQ, needed about 10 in ARK for MP, but I only could get to 3 of them for him. So many counties, so little time. As you head Northwest from White, you get up into the mountains of Arkansas – very scenic, but the roads get narrow and twisty – and there are multiple little towns to slow down your travel. I still got most of what I planned to run. As the afternoon wore on, the route headed generally southwest to get back to the TX border at about 5 pm. It was another 3 hours to home. I stopped in Hunt County for some pizza (Sunday night), then drove the last hour in a good steady pouring down rain to get back home at 9pm

The Dallas area had had 5-7 inches of rain over the weekend, so I really hadn't missed anything by leaving the state – and the storms were continuing. I probably saw less rain, but still did over 1000 miles being 'the mobile' for the Arkansas QSO party.

My radio is going flakey – sometimes it works fine – other times, it seems something is going wrong – once, while in 'receive' – it got so hot you couldn't touch it – no r.f. output on the meter – but you tell me – was the PA oscillating? Bias circuit going flakey? What would let the radio case get so hot you could barely touch it? But not blow the fuse? Hmmm…..with over half a million miles, probably half a million county hunter Qs..it might just be time to retire it. It's time to open it up and see what is going on.

I checked the spots for the weekend – apparently one cw station was spotted in ARK for a very short run– two on PSK, one on SSB – and a few folks managed to find one or two others by calling CQ Arkansas – but that was it. It looks like N4CD was 'the mobile' the entire weekend. Worked the usually multipliers for state QSO parties – caught KL1V on SSB for AK, and KH6G for HI, but no OR, CT, VT, ME, DE, KY, AL, ND, SD, ID, UT, LA, or any ARK county. Only VE3 out of Canada. Then again, there doesn't appear to be any 'competition' in the mobile category, either!

When I was headed down the road between stops for the AQP, I sometimes put out the county on 30M. That, of course, doesn't count for the QP – no contest activity on any WARC band – but folks need band counties, and a few could only hear AR on 30m. K8OOK mentioned the only band he

could hear me on was 30M! Too far for 40M, and too short for 20M. So it's nice that county hunters have 30M to use normally, and I made a slug of contacts on 30M for those needing those on 30M. I didn't get to run all the counties on 30M, but put out some of the ones I ran. I had to skip 3 of the planned counties – just not enough time.

Hope you got some you needed from me! I had fun, but got a bit water logged in the process, but no major problems. 19 pages of hand written log, double column – 1003 QSO in the QP, over 1300 counting runs to andn from AR, runs on 30M, and the morning runs on Sunday before the contest started.

ArQP rule allowed operation on 80-10M and two meters. For some strange reason, no 6M – it was the VHF contest weekend – maybe could have worked a few on 6M. The contest allowed PSK as separate mode. The rules were 'silent' on county lines – I ran two – had to make two contacts with everyone to insure that I was legit in getting a contact for 'each' county. Colorado QSO party allowed county lines to count automatically for 2, but I never stopped there on a county line during that QP!

Many QSO Parties now allow for 'digital' contacts. SSB/CW and PSK31

So that was the second trip of the month – whew….lots of driving.

Solar Wind and Earth

Al Gore will tell you ‘the science is settled’. Don’t believe him.

"It's like something else is heating the atmosphere besides the sun. This discovery is like finding it got hotter when the sun went down," said Larry Lyons, UCLA professor of atmospheric and oceanic sciences and a co-author of the research, which is in press in two companion papers in the *Journal of Geophysical Research*.

The sun, in addition to emitting radiation, emits a stream of ionized particles called the solar wind that affects the Earth and other planets in the solar system. The solar wind, which carries the particles from the sun's magnetic field, known as the interplanetary magnetic field, takes about three or four days to reach the Earth. When the charged electrical particles approach the Earth, they carve out a highly magnetized region — the magnetosphere — which surrounds and protects the Earth.

Charged particles carry currents, which cause significant modifications in the Earth's magnetosphere. This region is where communications spacecraft operate and where the energy releases in space known as substorms wreak havoc on satellites, power grids and communications systems.

The rate at which the solar wind transfers energy to the magnetosphere can vary widely, but what determines the rate of energy transfer is unclear.

"We thought it was known, but we came up with a major surprise," said Lyons, who conducted the research with Heejeong Kim, an assistant researcher in the UCLA Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, and other colleagues.

"This is where everything gets started," Lyons said. "Any important variations in the magnetosphere occur because there is a transfer of energy from the solar wind to the particles in the magnetosphere. The first critical step is to understand how the energy gets transferred from the solar wind to the magnetosphere."

The interplanetary magnetic field fluctuates greatly in magnitude and direction.

"We all have thought for our entire careers — I learned it as a graduate student — that this energy transfer rate is primarily controlled by the direction of the interplanetary magnetic field," Lyons said. "The closer to southward-pointing the magnetic field is, the stronger the energy transfer rate is, and the stronger the magnetic field is in that direction. If it is both southward and big, the energy transfer rate is even bigger."

However, Lyons, Kim and their colleagues analyzed radar data that measure the strength of the interaction by measuring flows in the ionosphere, the part of Earth's upper atmosphere ionized by solar radiation. The results surprised them.

"Any space physicist, including me, would have said a year ago there could not be substorms when the interplanetary magnetic field was staying northward, but that's wrong," Lyons said. "Generally, it's correct, but when you have a fluctuating interplanetary magnetic field, you can have substorms going off once per hour.

"Heejeong used detailed statistical analysis to prove this phenomenon is real. Convection in the magnetosphere and ionosphere can be strongly driven by these fluctuations, independent of the direction of the interplanetary magnetic field."

Convection describes the transfer of heat, or thermal energy, from one location to another through the movement of fluids such as liquids, gases or slow-flowing solids.

"The energy of the particles and the fields in the magnetosphere can vary by large amounts. It can be 10 times higher or 10 times lower from day to day, even from half-hour to half-hour. These are huge variations in particle intensities, magnetic field strength and electric field strength," Lyons said.

The magnetosphere was discovered in 1957. By the late 1960s, it had become accepted among scientists that the energy transfer rate was controlled predominantly by the interplanetary magnetic field.

Lyons and Kim were planning to study something unrelated when they made the discovery.

"We were looking to do something else, when we saw life is not the way we expected it to be," Lyons said. "The most exciting discoveries in science sometimes just drop in your lap. In our field, this finding is pretty earth-shaking. It's an entire new mode of energy transfer, which is step one. The next step is to understand how it works. It must be a completely different process."

The National Science Foundation has funded ground-based radars which send off radio waves that reflect off the ionosphere, allowing scientists to measure the speed at which the ions in the ionosphere are moving.

The radar stations are based in Greenland and Alaska. The NSF recently built the Poker Flat Research Range north of Fairbanks.

"The National Science Foundation's radars have enabled us to make this discovery," Lyons said. "We could not have done this without them."

The direction of the interplanetary magnetic field is important, Lyons said. Is it going in the same direction as the magnetic field going through the Earth? Does the interplanetary magnetic field connect with the Earth's magnetic field?

"We thought there could not be strong convection and that the energy necessary for a substorm could not develop unless the interplanetary magnetic field is southward," Lyons said. "I've said it and taught it. Now I have to say, 'But when you have these fluctuations, which is not a rare occurrence, you can have substorms going off once an hour.'"

Lyons and Kim used the radar measurements to study the strength of the interaction between the solar wind and the Earth's magnetosphere.

One of their papers addresses convection and its affect on substorms to show it is a global phenomenon.

"When the interplanetary magnetic field is pointing northward, there is not much happening, but when the interplanetary magnetic field is southward, the flow speeds in the polar regions of the ionosphere are strong. You see much stronger convection. That is what we expect," Lyons said. "We looked carefully at the data, and said, 'Wait a minute! There are times when the field is northward and there are strong flows in the dayside polar ionosphere.'"

The dayside has the most direct contact with the solar wind.

"It's not supposed to happen that way," Lyons said. "We want to understand why that is."

"Heejeong separated the data into when the solar wind was fluctuating a lot and when it was fluctuating a little," he added. "When the interplanetary magnetic field fluctuations are low, she saw the pattern everyone knows, but when she analyzed the pattern when the interplanetary magnetic field was fluctuating strongly, that pattern completely disappeared. Instead, the strength of the flows depended on the strength of the fluctuations.

"So rather than the picture of the connection between the magnetic field of the sun and the Earth controlling the transfer of energy by the solar wind to the Earth's magnetosphere, something else is happening that is equally interesting. The next question is discovering what that is. We have some ideas of what that may be, which we will test."

Source: http://www.physorg.com/news171791091.html

PS: But Al Gore will try to tell you 'the science is settled', but year after year, we find new things affecting the climate, and those trends have several hundred year type cycles – just what you see in weather – warm periods and COLD periods and transitions. All the vaunted computer models for future climate are about as good as the gigantic super computer models for sunspots – and we know about how accurate those have been! Not a one of them was correct!

Sunspot Forecasts

"Ever since Samuel Heinrich Schwabe, a German astronomer, first noted in 1843 that sunspots burgeon and wane over a roughly 11-year cycle, scientists have carefully watched the Sun's activity. In the latest lull, the Sun should have reached its calmest, least pockmarked state last fall.

Indeed, last year marked the blankest year of the Sun in the last half-century — 266 days with not a single sunspot visible from Earth. Then, in the first

four months of 2009, the Sun became even more blank, the pace of sunspots slowing more.

“It’s been as dead as a doornail,” David Hathaway, a solar physicist at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., said a couple of months ago.

A panel of 12 scientists assembled by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration now predicts that the May 2013 peak will average 90 sunspots during that month. That would make it the weakest solar maximum since 1928, which peaked at 78 sunspots. During an average solar maximum, the Sun is covered with an average of 120 sunspots.

But the panel’s consensus “was not a unanimous decision,” said Douglas A. Biesecker, chairman of the panel. One member still believed the cycle would roar to life while others thought the maximum would peter out at only 70.

Most solar physicists do not think anything that odd is going on with the Sun. With the recent burst of sunspots, “I don’t see we’re going into that,” Dr. Hathaway said last week.

Still, something like the Dalton Minimum — two solar cycles in the early 1800s that peaked at about an average of 50 sunspots — lies in the realm of the possible, Dr. Hathaway said.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s newest sun-watching spacecraft, the Solar Dynamics Observatory, which is scheduled for launching this fall, will carry an instrument that will essentially be able to take sonograms that deduce the convection flows generating the magnetic fields.

That could help explain why strong magnetic fields sometimes coalesce into sunspots and why sometimes the strong fields remain disorganized without forming spots. The mechanics of how solar storms erupt out of a sunspot are also not fully understood.

But no one can quite explain the current behavior or reliably predict the future.

“We still don’t quite understand this beast,” Dr. Hathaway said. “The theories we had for how the sunspot cycle works have major problems.”

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/21/science/space/21sunspot.html?_r=1

Posting Plan Trips

Dan, KM9X, posted the following on the K3IMC forum:

"Question for the week..

Does it do any good to post trips on the PLANNED TRIPS PAGE and a lead statement or quick list here on the forum??

The reason.. I posted our trip last weekend, as I always do. I always express I want to know who needs something so we dont drive through it and not run it. I got three responses.. two from K9AAA and one from KA3QLF. We got all three. We ran 97 counties, many I thought were somewhat rare.

Yet we had dozens of request to run off the track, go to this or that, etc while we were driving, especially in Nebraska. Way too late to change the trip plans and route. I needed a lot of MP in NE and Judy needed several Bingos, hence the trip.

After logging, it seems to me that many others needed NE too.. Lots of big runs, some in the high 30s for contacts. One of the biggest runs in my 7 yrs of CHing on 40m was had, 42 contacts on 40m Monday Labor day Morning for Nodaway/Worth MO. Only one of those had emailed me. We both needed it and that's the only reason we went out into Gods country, and county roads to run it... In fact, we ran Nodaway/Atchison at about 10pm that night after a 650 mile day in NE.. and had probably 25 contacts at that late hour! Thanks to all for hanging in there with us! I used to get lists of counties people needed, but not so much this year, even on our 12 day trip to Maine.. So have things changed, people not reading, or following, or the old timers have dropped off and the newbies need them all , so no sense emailing? Your thoughts?"

N1BY: “It helps.

Some of us can't be here 24/7 on the radio. Just sometimes we have to go to Wal-Mart, or other needed trip. I find that if I need XYZ county on Tuesday, I can shop/mow grass on Monday. Your posted planned trip always helps me plan other thing. The number 1 thing I hear that mobile complain about is going to a rare county and not working the ones who needed it. Mainly because they did not know when it was to be run. For everyone, Post as you like, one to 60 days before. Exact route or an about route. Bands you have. Most all know that changes happen. Nets full, in county for 2 miles. Don't blame the mobile.(He is the one helping us all) I tend to watch freqs that Mobile ABC will run in XYZ county I need. Any everyone - Please spot the mobile. Everyone Wins.”

Paul, NU4C: “I read both the Forum and Planned Trips nearly everyday. I use that info to plan my listening. I still "need" over 300 for USA-CA so I rarely ask for a particular county. But, be assured, when I get below 100 I will be asking a lot.”

Jim, N9JF: “I usually try to mention, either in Planned Trips or on the Forum, in general where I am going to be, if I know. I usually look at the Needs page as well and try to e-mail those who need just a few in a given state. If I don't see ANY needs for a particular county, I may not run it if I've run it before. If I know someone else has run a county dry in the week before, I may not run it, or at least don't keep "begging" for contacts. I get some requests for route changes and can occasionally accommodate these...but not always.”

Bob, N8KIE: “It seems like when I post a trip it triggers others to run those counties. It really don't matter to me but it does seem strange that 3 others would run counties that I had put in the trip plan the week before we left. We are running counties that we have not ever run and that is the main reason for the trip. It is nice to help others and whether they get it from me or someone else does not matter at all. This is the last big trip before we turn in the company cars and move on to something else, I guess. Another week and we will have transmitted from all 3077.”

Dave, KE3VV: “In my years of county hunting and occasionally looking at this web site, I have never thought that posting a trip on Planned Trips needed or sought an RSVP. Also many county hunters like me don't know

when we'll be near a radio, so we don't ask for special trips or routes. Rather than respond to a Planned Trip, I use the "special needs" to list needed counties (and I also use it to plan trips when I can) I try to send an email to someone who needs a LC or a few on my possible route if I have enough idea in advance of where I'm going.

But when I go mobile, it is often an "unplanned" trip and so I rarely post a trip plan (though I may post a general announcement like "I'm heading north through GA - SC - NC to SW VA") so I won't give anyone the false impression that I am entering into a blood pact to go put out a county for them.

Generally, I put out counties because it is fun and I enjoy it ... for the fun of traveling back roads and seeing new people and places or new people in familiar places. I help others when I can and go somewhere special for someone when I can. But there are a few folks who call themselves county "hunters" who really specialize in county "collecting." That is OK by me, but when they expect someone to follow a schedule or ask for a county clear on the other side of the state (yep - they want the mobile to not only go there, but also look it up on the map and compare that to where the actually happen to be), I really find that more than a bit presumptuous.

A number of simple ways to respond to those folks... ignore them or remind them that "I am not in that part of the planet today... or suggest (unsubtly) that you will be "on your way as soon as you cash the check they sent to you for gas money." That often produces an embarrassed silence. I must also say that I have never... and I mean NEVER... gotten an irate or rude email or phone call from any county collector complaining that I wasn't where and when I was supposed to be.

Anyway, remember that county hunting is all about having fun, not making work or hassles or creating unnecessary obligations. It is nice to work a new one and it is even nicer to have a long run in a county and help folks (and do it on several bands and modes).

Bottom line... thanks for posting Planned Trips when you can - although I'll treat it as a plan, not a promise. and thanks for keeping Special Needs up to date to help me decide where to wander (sometimes), but most of all, thanks to the county "hunters" who just listen to the radio when they can to see

what surprises lurk out there in the ether... and special thanks to those who look at a map before they ask me to put out a county 200 miles away."

Oxygen and AGW

Using a completely new method, researchers have shown that high atmospheric and oceanic oxygen content makes the climate colder. In prehistoric times, the earth experienced two periods of large increases and fluctuations in the oxygen level of the atmosphere and oceans. These fluctuations also lead to an explosion of multicellular organisms in the oceans, which are the predecessors for life as we know it today. The results are now being published in Nature.

Everybody talks about CO2 and other greenhouse gases as causes of global warming and the large climate changes we are currently experiencing. But what about the atmospheric and oceanic oxygen content? Which role does oxygen content play in global warming?

This question has become extremely relevant now that Professor Robert Frei from the Department of Geography and Geology at the University of Copenhagen, in collaboration with colleagues from Departamento de Geologı´a, Facultad de Ciencias in Uruguay, Newcastle University and the University of Southern Denmark, has established that there is a historical correlation between oxygen and temperature fluctuations towards global cooling.

The team of researchers reached their conclusions via analyses of iron-rich stones, so called banded iron formations, from different locations around the globe and covering a time span of more than 3,000 million years. Their discovery was made possible by a new analytical method which the research team developed. This method is based on analysis of chrome isotopes – different chemical variants of the element chrome. It turned out that the

chrome isotopes in the iron rich stones reflect the oxygen content of the atmosphere. The method is a unique tool, which makes it possible to examine historical changes in the atmospheric oxygen content and thereby possible climate changes.

“But we can simply conclude that high oxygen content in seawater enables a lot of life in the oceans “consuming” the greenhouse gas CO2, and which subsequently leads to a cooling of the earth’s surface. Throughout history our climate has been dependent on balance between CO2 and atmospheric oxygen. The more CO2 and other greenhouse gases, the warmer the climate has been. But we still don’t know much about the process which drives the earth from a period with a warmer climate towards an “ice age” with colder temperatures – other than that oxygen content plays an important role. It would therefore be interesting to consider atmospheric and oceanic oxygen contents much more in research aiming at understanding and tackling the causes of the current climate change,” says Professor Robert Frei.

The results Professor Frei and his international research team have obtained indicate that there have been two periods in the earth’s 4.5 billion year history where a significant change in the atmospheric and oceanic oxygen content has occurred. The first large increase took place in between 2.45 billion years and 2.2 billion years ago. The second “boost” occurred for only 800 to 542 million years ago and lead to an oxidisation of the deep oceans and thereby the possibility for life to exist at those depths.

”To understand the future, we have to understand the past. The two large increases in the oxygen content show, at the very least, that the temperature decreased. We hope that these results can contribute to our understanding of the complexity of climate change. I don’t believe that humans have a lot of influence on the major process of oxygen formation on a large scale or on the inevitable ice ages or variations in temperature that the Earth’s history is full of. But that doesn’t mean that we cannot do anything to slow down the current global warming trend. For example by increased forestry and other initiatives that help to increase atmospheric and oceanic oxygen levels,” explains Professor Robert Frei, who, along with his research team, has worked on the project for three years so far.

Source: http://www.ku.dk/english/news/?content=http://www.ku.dk/english/news/oxygen_climate.htm

Mobile Operation/Safety and Rules

==> NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL RESPONDS TO ARRL: NO EVIDENCE OF"SIGNIFICANT CRASH RISKS" WHILE OPERATING MOBILE

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, wrote a letter to National Safety Council (NSC) President Janet Froetscher in July expressing the ARRL's concerns that Amateur Radio not become an unintended victim of the growing public debate over what to do about distracted drivers <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/NSC_Letter7-30-09.pdf>. Froetscher has now replied, saying the NSC does not support bans or prohibitions on the use of Amateur Radios while driving.

Noting that there is significant evidence that talking on cell phones while driving poses crash risk four times that of other drivers, Froetscher observed that the NSC position calling for bans on the use of cell phones while driving is grounded in science. "We are not aware of evidence that using Amateur Radios while driving has significant crash risks," Froetscher wrote in her August 24 letter. "We also have no evidence that using two-way radios while driving poses significant crash risks. Until such time as compelling, peer-reviewed scientific research is presented that denotes significant risks associated with the use of Amateur Radios, two-way radios or other communication devices, the NSC does not support legislative bans or prohibition on their use."

Froetscher said that while "the specific risk of radio use while driving is unmeasured and likely does not approach that of cell phones, there indeed is some elevated risk to the drivers, their passengers and the public associated with 650,000 Amateur Radio operators who may not, at one time or another, not concentrate fully on their driving." She points out that the "best safety practice is to have one's full attention on their driving, their hands on the wheel and their eyes on the road. Drivers who engage in any activity that impairs any of these constitutes

an increased risk."

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the ARRL "appreciates NSC President and CEO Janet Froetscher's clear statement that the NSC does not support legislative bans or prohibitions on the use of Amateur Radio while driving. We applaud the NSC for taking positions that are grounded in science. At the same time, all radio amateurs should heed her call to concentrate fully on driving while behind the wheel. It is possible to operate a motor vehicle safely while using Amateur Radio, but if it becomes a distraction we owe it those with whom we share the road, as well as to our passengers, to put safety first."

On January 30, 2009, the ARRL Executive Committee adopted the ARRL's Policy Statement on Mobile Amateur Radio Operation that states "Amateur Radio mobile operation is ubiquitous, and Amateur Radio emergency and public service communications, and other organized Amateur Radio communications activities and networks necessitate operation of equipment while some licensees are driving motor vehicles.

Two-way radio use is dissimilar from full-duplex cellular telephone communications because the operator spends little time actually transmitting; the time spent listening is more similar to, and arguably less distracting than, listening to a broadcast radio, CD or MP3 player. There are no distinctions to be made between or among Amateur Radio, public safety land mobile radio, private land mobile radio or citizen's radio in terms of driver distraction. All are distinguishable from mobile cellular telephone communications in this respect. Nevertheless, ARRL encourages licensees to conduct Amateur communications from motor vehicles in a manner that does not detract from the safe and attentive operation of a motor vehicle at all times."

In his letter, Harrison explained to Froetscher that Amateur Radio operators provide essential emergency communications when regular communications channels are disrupted by disaster: "Through formal agreements with federal agencies, such as the National Weather Service, FEMA and private relief organizations, the Amateur Radio volunteers protect lives using their own equipment without compensation. The ability of hams to communicate and help protect the lives of those in danger would be strictly hindered if the federal, state and local

governments to not ensure that Amateur Radio operators can continue the use of their mobile radios while on the road."

Froetscher replied that she "appreciate[s] your focus of Amateur Radio for emergency communications during disasters. I encourage ARRL to adopt best practices for the safe operation of vehicles that confines use of Amateur Radios while driving only to disaster emergencies."

The Policy Statement asserts that the ARRL "is aware of no evidence that [mobile] operation contributes to driver inattention. Quite the contrary: Radio amateurs are public service-minded individuals who utilize their radio-equipped motor vehicles to assist others, and they are focused on driving in the execution of that function."

Source: ARRL Letter – Newington, CT, 06111 – Sept 11, 2009 issue

While the Sun Sleeps

HENRIK SVENSMARK, Professor, DTU, Copenhagen
Indeed, global warming stopped and a cooling is beginning. No climate model has predicted a cooling of the Earth, on the contrary. This means that projections of future climate is unpredictable, writes Henrik Svensmark.

The star which keeps us alive, has over the last few years almost no sunspots, which are the usual signs of the sun's magnetic activity.
Last week, reported the scientific team behind Sohosatellitten *(Solar and Heliospheric Observatory)* that the number of sunspot-free days suggest that solar activity is heading towards its lowest level in about 100 years'.
Everything indicates that the Sun is moving into a hibernation-like state, and the obvious question is whether it has any significance for us on Earth.
If you ask the International Panel on Climate Change IPCC, representing the current consensus on climate change, so the answer is a reassuring 'nothing'.
But history and recent research suggests that it is probably completely wrong. Let us take a closer look at why.

Solar activity has always varied. Around the year 1000, we had a period of very high solar activity, which coincided with the medieval warmth. It was a period when frosts in May was an almost unknown phenomenon and of great importance for a good harvest. Vikings settled in Greenland and explored the coast of North America. For example, China's population doubled over this period. But after about 1300, the earth began to get colder and it was the beginning of the period we now call the Little Ice Age. In this cold period all the Viking settlements in Greenland disappeared. Swedes [were surprised to see Denmark to freeze over in ice], and the Thames in London froze repeatedly. But more serious was the long periods of crop failure, which resulted in a poorly nourished population, because of disease and hunger [population was reduced] by about 30 per cent in Europe.
It is important to note that the Little Ice Age was a global event. It ended in the late 19th century and was followed by an increase in solar activity. Over the past 50 years solar activity has been the highest since the medieval warmth for 1,000 years ago. And now it appears that the sun returns and is heading towards what is called 'a grand minimum' as we saw in the Little Ice Age.

The coincidence between solar activity and climate through the ages have tried explained away as coincidence. But it turns out that almost no matter what time studying, not just the last 1000 years, so there is a line. Solar activity has repeatedly over the past 10,000 years has fluctuated between high and low. Actually, the sun over the past 10,000 years spent in a sleep mode, approx. 17 pct of the time, with a cooling of the Earth to follow.
One can wonder that the international climate panel IPCC does not believe that the sun changed activity has no effect on the climate, but the reason is that they only include changes in solar radiation.

Just radiation would be the simplest way by which the sun could change the climate. A bit like turning up and down the brightness of a light bulb. Satellite measurements of solar radiation has been shown that the variations are too small to cause climate change, but so has closed his eyes for a second much more powerful way the sun is able to affect Earth's climate. In 1996 we discovered a surprising influence of the sun – its impact on Earth's cloud cover. High energy accelerated particles of exploded stars, the cosmic radiation, are helping to form clouds.

When the Sun is active its magnetic field shields better against the cosmic rays from outer space before they reach our planet, and by regulating the

Earth's cloud cover the sun can turn up and down the temperature. High solar activity obtained fewer clouds and the earth is getting warmer. Low solar activity inferior shields against cosmic radiation, and it results in increased cloud cover and hence a cooling. As the sun's magnetism has doubled its strength during the 20th century, this natural mechanism may be responsible for a large part of global warming during this period.
This also explains why most climate scientists are trying to ignore this possibility. It does in fact favor the idea that the 20th century temperature rise is mainly due to human emissions of CO2. If the sun as has influenced a significant part of warming in the 20 century, it means that CO2's contribution must necessarily be smaller.

Ever since our theory was put forward in 1996, it has been through a very sharp criticism, which is normal in science.

First it was said that a link between clouds and solar activity could not be correct because no physical mechanism was known. But in 2006 after many years of work we managed to conduct experiments at DTU Space, where we demonstrated the existence of a physical mechanism. The cosmic radiation helps to form aerosols, which are the seeds for cloud formation.
Then came the criticism that the mechanism we have found in the laboratory was unable to survive in the real atmosphere and therefore had no practical significance. But the criticism we have just emphatically rejected. It turns out that the sun itself is doing, what we might call natural experiments. Giant solar flares can have the cosmic radiation on earth to dive suddenly over a few days. In the days after the eruption cloud cover falls by about 4 per cent. And the content of liquid water in clouds (droplets) is reduced by almost 7 per cent. Indeed, [you could say] that the clouds on Earth originated in space.

Therefore we have looked at the sun's magnetic activity with increasing concern, since it began to wane in the mid-1990s. That the sun could fall asleep in a deep minimum was suggested by [solar scientists] at a meeting in Kiruna in Sweden two years ago. As Nigel Calder and I updated our book "The Chilling Stars" therefore, we wrote a little provocative [passage] "we recommend our friends to enjoy global warming while it lasts."

Indeed, global warming stopped and a cooling is beginning. Last week, it was argued by Mojib Latif from the University of Kiel at the UN World Climate Conference in Geneva that cooling may continue through the next

10 to 20 years. His explanation was natural changes in North Atlantic circulation and not in solar activity. But no matter how it is interpreted, the natural variations in climate then penetrates more and more.
One consequence may be that the sun itself will show its importance for climate and thus to test the theories of global warming. No climate model has predicted a cooling of the Earth, on the contrary.

This means that projections of future climate is unpredictable. A forecast [that] says it may be warmer or colder for 50 years, is not very useful, for science is not able to predict solar activity.

So in many ways, we stand at a crossroads. The near future will be extremely interesting and I think it is important to recognize that nature is completely independent of what we humans think about it. Will Greenhouse theory survive a significant cooling of the Earth? Not in its current dominant form. Unfortunately, tomorrow's climate challenges will be quite different than greenhouse theory's predictions, and perhaps it becomes again popular to investigate the sun's impact on climate.

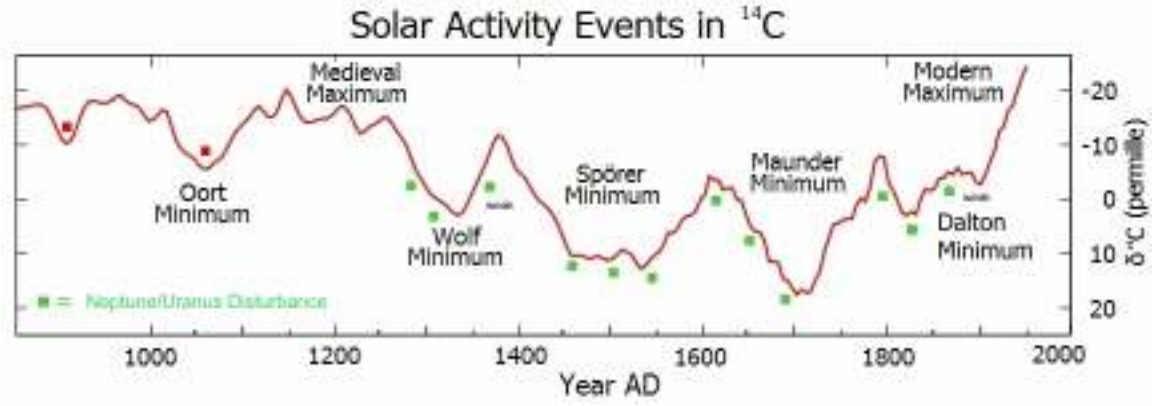
Professor Henrik Svensmark is director of the Center for Sun-Climate Research at DTU Space. His book "The Chilling Stars" has also been published in Danish as "Climate and the Cosmos" (Gads Forlag, DK ISBN 9788712043508)

Planetary Alignment and Sunspots

There is a theory that the planetary alignment affects solar activity and sunspot formation. Here's some information and a link to an extensive web site on the subject.

"The basic theory on how Neptune & Uranus control Solar Grand Minima and Solar Cycle Modulation is as follows: Shown in Carl's graph is a wave modulation mainly created by Jupiter & Saturn together (top of wave)and Jupiter & Saturn opposing (bottom of wave) which effectively is the momentum engine of the Sun, the top of the wave is strong, the bottom is weak (weaker means stronger cycle). Every 179 yrs Neptune & Uranus

gather behind Jupiter (the largest gravity source besides the Sun) giving it extra momentum force and **IF** Saturn is on the other side of the Sun, the "down" cycle is shortened and not as weak because of the reduced momentum to Saturn....this coincides every time with less sunspot activity for the last 1000 yrs at least. Just discovered in an extension I recently finished to Carl's graph back to 900AD is another line up that also causes Grand Minima before the Medieval Warm Period, over time Jupiter and Saturn gather on the other side of Neptune & Uranus causing disturbance at the top of the "wave" and substantially shortening the "up" cycle. Neptune and Uranus are the controllers of the 2 main drivers creating angular momentum, they can add or take away that momentum. The sunspot cycle modulation follows that control or momentum curve as shown in a graph later in the report. I believe we can now confidently predict Solar Grand Minima and Solar Cycle Modulation strength.



Carl's graph is a representation of the suns angular momentum as affected by all planets of our solar system. The interesting features in particular is the camel shaped humps (green & red arrows) that occur **every time** during Grand Minima and more recently (967, 1005, 1290, 1470, 1650, 1790, 1830, 1970 & 2010). Researching the planetary positions I found a recurring pattern, it seems that Neptune and Uranus aligning with Jupiter and Saturn opposing (doesn't have to be in perfect alignment) creates a disturbance which changes the regular pattern. This disturbance coincides with the Dalton, Maunder, Sporer and Wolf and Oort minimums.

In the past we had a build up of solar cycle strength immediately before Grand Minima which is due to the extra momentum in the system from N+U. When we get a Grand Minima event, the next 2 cycles after are always

very weak even though Angular Momentum is strong, this phenomena is still a mystery but perhaps it simply takes time to "restart the system “

http://www.landscheidt.info/?q=node/5

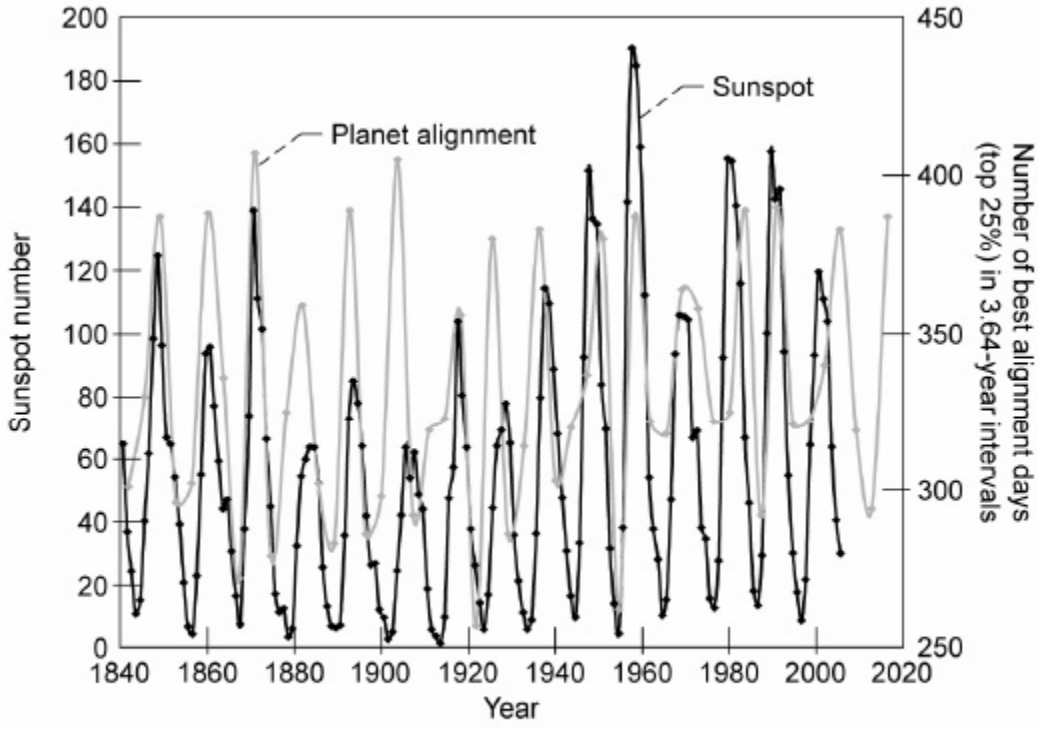


Figure 4.—Average number of sunspots every calendar year from 1840 to 2005 and number of most-aligned days (top 25 percent) each 3.64 years (1/3 of solar cycle) for Venus-Earth-Jupiter system from 1840 to 2018.

de N4CD: Makes for some interesting reading!

More at:
http://solarcycle24com.proboards.com/index.cgi?board=general&action=display&thread=528&page=50

In 2012, we have the ‘grand alignment’ of the major planets all on one side of the sun. Some feel the change in angular momentum is and will affect the sun’s internal structure – and the sunspot and magnetic field activity. Could it be that sunspots are more connected to cycles of the planets – alignment and position of planets – than anyone thought? No – not astrology and predicting the ‘future’, but real science that we slowly

understand to be able to more accurately model and predict what good ole ham radio propagation will be a few years out!

Could explain a few things! We'll find out shortly – only a few years away!

Awards

4th Time CW #6	W9MSE, Jeff	8/27/09
Fourth Time #142	W9MSE, Jeff	8/27/09
Bingo II #63	KW4V, Leslie	8/31/09
USACA #1187	W8MP, Mark	8/31/09
Five Star #41	N2OCW, Larry	9/7/09
Bingo III # 15	W6TMD, Darrel	9/5/09
4th Time #143	KB6UF, Ron	9/3/09
Bingo #312	W9JL, Jim	9/3/09
Fourth Time #144	WB2ABD, Paul	9/10/09
Bingo II #64	KN4Y, Ed	9/12/09
Second Time #392	W0FP, Frosty	9/13/09
USA- PA - K #16	WA5OPO, Ray	9/14/09
Second Time #393	W9JR, Rich	9/18/09
Sixth Time #34	Darrel, W6TMD	9/20/09
USA-CW II #21	Darrel, W6TMD	9/20/09

Activities for County Hunters

Alaska Statehood Celebration – October 18, 2009 1800Z to October 19, 2009 0600Z - All Four Judicial Districts should be on the air for this event!

Fifteen stations, using the callsign KL5O will be on the air. They should identify which districts they are in. See the web page for more information on the 15 stations.

http://www.kl5o.com/index.htm

We have some good QSO Parties coming up!

October 3-4

California QSO Party Serial and state/prov/"DX" or CA county
www.cqp.org
Oct 3, 1600Z - Oct 4, 2159Z

October 10-12

Pennsylvania QSO Party Serial and ARRL/RAC section
www.nittany-arc.net/paqso.html
Oct 10, 1600Z - 12 Oct 2200Z

Arizona QSO Party RS(T) and AZ county or S/P/C
www.azqsoparty.org
Oct 10, 1600Z - Oct 11 2359Z

October 17

Iowa QSO Party RS(T) and IA county, state/prov, or "DX"
www.wa0dx.org/iaqsoparty.html
Oct 17, 1400Z - Oct 17, 2300Z

New York QSO Party RS(T), NY county, state/prov, or "DX"
www.nyqp.org
Oct 17, 1800Z - Oct 18, 0600Z

October 18-19

Illinois QSO Party RS(T) and IL county or S/P/C
www.w9awe.org
Oct 18, 1700Z - Oct 19, 0100Z

October 24-25 (bad weekend to go SSB mobile!)

CQ WW SSB Contest RS and CQ zone
www.cqww.com
Oct 24, 0000Z - Oct 25, 2359Z

10-10 Fall CW and Digital QSO Party Call, name, 10-10 number, S/P/C
www.ten-ten.org
Oct 24, 0001Z - Oct 24, 2359Z

Final thoughts – the UN 'greenies' will be meeting in Copenhagen in December to attempt to regulate carbon energy out of your future. Just watch how many of them give up their first class airplane rides, charter jets, government planes – to take non-carbon based renewable fuel transportation there – either bicycles or walking within Europe, maybe riding an animal pulled canal boats….and for the rest of the world, traveling by sail boat. You think you'll have more than 1% doing that? Of course not. They'll be trying to plan your future without carbon fuels, but in the process spew out megatons of CO2 while getting to and from their deluxe accommodations in Copenhagen, Denmark. Do you think they'll 'practice what they preach?"

Hardly. The 'elites' never do. They'll be one of the largest groups of hypocrites in the world all in one place. It really should rub you the wrong way when these pompous idiots proclaim 'they have a clue'. They don't. And Obama wants $1800/yr from you in Carbon Taxes. Every year. Trillions to redistribute for 'social justice' worldwide.

Peak Oil - Every few months, you read about 'giant' oil finds. Oh, maybe a billion barrels of oil off Liberia. Maybe a billion new barrels in ultra deep water in the Gulf of Mexico. Great – at $70 dollars a barrel, that's hundreds of billions in new revenue. And tens of billions in new infrastructure spending to be able to get that oil out of the ground. In the big scheme of things, the world uses 38 billion barrels of oil every year. Year after year – relentlessly. Now, we are lucky to find 5 billion new barrels of oil annually, of which maybe 20-25% can actually be produced. So each time you hear 'a billion barrels' has been found – that's a bit more than a week's worth of oil for the world. Heard about 50 of them a year being found lately? Food for thought. The oil crunch is coming – just delayed a few years now with the recession/depression slowing down the increase in oil demand.

That's it for this month. 73 de N4CD