

# County Hunter News

April 1, 2015  
Volume 11, Issue 4

Welcome to the On-Line County Hunter News, a monthly publication for those interested in ham radio county hunting, with an orientation toward CW operation.

Contributions of articles, stories, letters, and pictures to the editor are welcomed, and may be included in future issues at the editor's discretion.

The County Hunter News will provide you with interesting, thought provoking articles, articles of county hunting history, or about county hunters or events, ham radio or electronics history, general ham radio interest, and provide news of upcoming operating events.

We hope you will enjoy the County Hunter News. Feel free to forward, or provide links. Permission is given for copying or quoting in part or all provided credit is given to the CHNews and to the author of article.

CW County Hunter Nets run on 14.0565, 10.122.5, and 7056.5, with activity occasionally on 3556.5 KHz. Also, there is SSB activity now is on 'friendly net' 7188 KHz. The cw folks are now pioneering 17M operation on 18.0915. (21.0565, 24.9155, and 28.0565 when sunspots better). Look around 18136 or for occasional 17M SSB runs usually after the run on 20M SSB. (21.336 and 28.336)

You can see live spots of county hunter activity at [ch.W6RK.com](http://ch.W6RK.com)

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

The USACA award is sponsored by CQ Magazine. Rules and information are here:

<http://countyhunter.com/cq.htm>

For general information FAQ on County Hunting, check out:

<http://countyhunter.com/whatis.htm>

MARAC sponsors an award program for many other county hunting awards. You can

find information on these awards and the rules at:

[http://countyhunter.com/marac\\_information\\_package.htm](http://countyhunter.com/marac_information_package.htm)

The CW net procedure is written up at:

<http://www.wd3p.net/ch/netproc/netproc.htm>

There is a lot more information at [www.countyhunter.com](http://www.countyhunter.com) . Please check it out.

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

Want county lines on your Garmin GPS?

<http://pages.suddenlink.net/w4ydy/hamlinks.html#County>

Download the file to a flash card that fits in your GPS unit, turn it on, and the county lines should appear!

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

## Notes from the Editor

### 1 ) N4CD Rumblings

Wow! February and March - and winter did not want to leave the east half of the country. The west half has had an easy winter and the folks in AK didn't have much of a winter at all this year. The weekly storms seemed unrelenting as weather front after weather front moved through with snow, ice, sleet and horrible driving conditions. Naturally mobile activity was constrained through the bad weather. Then mid month things turned around for many – although winter still hung on for the east coast from VA

up with a last storm dumping snow, sleet and ice.

The sunspot numbers continue to fall. Around the 19<sup>th</sup>, we had a SEVERE geomagnetic storm that hung around for days and made a real mess of the HF bands. Not long after, the east coast got another layer of snow. The A index was elevated for days and days.

More mobiles are out and running now that the weather has turned a bit more spring like.

## **2 ) RoadRunner Back Issues**

If you go hunting on the MARAC website for back issues of the RoadRunner, you might be disappointed. Go to Feb 2015 and see what you get! Half or more of the links are wrong - to the wrong year. Someone there might need to straighten it out.

## **3 ) Upgraded Open Office Suite**

A new upgrade came out for the Open Office Suite from Adobe Systems – free for all to use. Be careful. It eliminated many of my pictures on documents in progress. Had to go back and find the originals to put back in the newsletter! It's a undocumented 'feature' (bug). You don't need to spend big bucks on buying MSFT Office. It works nicely. Most of the time.

## **4 ) Last County Awards to mobiles**

An inquiring county hunter asked if you need to be a member of MARAC to send out a Last County Award. The answer is no. The price is the same (\$1) if you are a member or not. Just go to the web site and fill out the LC award form on the page for Awards off the main [www dot marac dot org](http://www.marac.org) page.

## **5 ) QSO Party Season**

Yes, we're right in the middle of QSO party season. There were a few good ones this month with more to follow next month. We report on them in this issue.

# Mobile Activity

Mobile Activity

last week in Feb:

Kerry, W4SIG, was off on many days running them – cw and down around 14275 on SSB

Jim, N9JF, was on in IN and IL and other states – cw

AB4YZ and the bogus prefix and bogus 'no star' 'me too' call were mobile in TX and other states.

AC0HW, big rig, was putting out counties on SSB.

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KB0BA/N0XYL headed back home from TX and OK. They noted on the K3IMC forum:

“Thank you to everyone who "rode" along with us on our trip to Arizona and back. The trip was 20 days long. We covered 8,370 miles and transmitted from 164 counties. While in Phoenix visiting a friend of nearly 50 years, we ran all of the counties in Arizona. During previous trips to Texas to visit cousins, we had covered all but 45 counties in the state. On this trip we finished Texas!! No offense to Texans, but we saw parts of the state we don't need to see again! --Sandra and Lowell, N0XYL and KB0BA. “

Lowell sent in a picture of Deaf Smith, TX.....N4CD's next to last WBOW -



KB0BA/N0XYL at Deaf Smith, TX

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March 2015

N4JT, KG5UZ, KJ5PQ arrived in HI and put out Hawaii County for the folks. Ran cw and five digital modes for the digital enthusiasts.

Greg, NM2L, headed to Chicago on a quick trip.

Lee, KC7QOP was on from OR and WA

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NA8W, Darl, noted on the K3IMC forum:

Home last night late. Didn't run any counties yesterday. Wife was getting sicker again and we needed to get home. She has adult asthma and something did not agree with her in Florida, not the warmth, Doctor said coral dust is a big problem. Never heard of that before. Anyway more details to come on our month. Basics are 5000 miles and over 1000 digital qso's. Great time except for hospital visits. I must say that the Florida Baptist Hospitals do great with out of town visitors.

I finally have had time to look over my log for the Florida trip. In the last week that we have been home I have been plowing snow almost every day for the Township as

payback for being gone. We spent almost a month on our trip, first at a convention and then taking the long way south to see some cousins in Alabama but we finally made it.

We were able to run all of southern Florida with some counties multiple times. While traveling we operated digital on PSK-63 to save time but in Florida I tried to give out multiple modes in most counties. I tried to give out cw when requested and got better on some calls after a month albeit still slow but practice makes me better. All in all we put out 134 counties with over 5000 miles and over 1000 qso's on digital alone. I have not counted the SSB contacts yet nor have they been entered in my Logger program. Several last counties were given which is always a pleasure to give someone. CW was the most fun albeit not many contacts. After one my wife asked me why I was jumping up and down in my seat and I told her I had just given a cw contact with no errors. hihi. 73 until my next trip.

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KB9OWD was on the air in WI on cw. Headed south from WI.

Dave, KW1DX, headed down to NJ running them along the way. Then headed north to the capital district of NY (Albany Area) and points east. Ran off net frequency while it was 'occupied'. He was then active in NH.

Jerry, W0GXQ and Ed, K8ZZ, headed out to get the last three WBOW Bingo for Paul, N7JPF - in MN(Morrison) and MI (Benzie/Leelanau). Paul is now moving and the big antennas had to come down. Special trips finished him up for Bingo.

KB6UF, Ron, was up in KY and IN, running SSB and 30M CW. Later a trip or two in LA.

N9JF, Jim, was up in MI on work.

KV7N, Kent, took a trip through ID counties up to Beaverhead, MT.

N9AC headed north from FL to IL.

Gene, WB4KZW headed on out on a long trip out Texas way, then back home to NC – over several weeks. 3200 miles.

Barry, N0KV, and Pat, N0DXE, headed to KS to run a bunch for the folks. Later in the month, they ran for a day in CO.

Dave, KW1DX was on the road again to NH to PA and PA to NH.

Rick, W5QP was running around in MO, putting them out on data modes and CW.

Bob, K7TM was on from NV and ID.

Kerry, W4SIG was busy in TN putting them out.

Kent, KV7N, took a two day trip to MT and back.

KB0BA/N0XYL Lowell and Sandra were busy putting them out in WI and MI.

Jim, N9JF was on the road many days – WI, IN, OH.

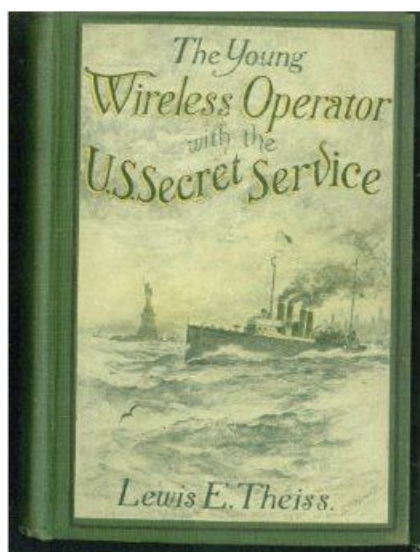
Greg, NM2L took a one day trip to run counties in GA.

John, AF5CC headed up to IA and back from his home in Comanche, OK.

KJ5OA, Tab, ran a few in TX on SSB.

## Book Review of the Month

**The Young Wireless Operator with the US Secret Service**  
by Lewis Theiss



This month it's another good tale by Lewis Theiss - circa 1920 or so. Willie, the youngest of the 4 Camp Brady Wireless Group who caught the German spies in a recently reviewed book (March 2015 issue), now has graduated from high school and is visiting his friend and former member of the Wireless Group, who is a wireless operator on the *Lycoming* – a freighter sailing between NY and central American ports. He's bemoaning the fact that he hasn't been able to find a job. He's short and looks a lot younger than his 18 years. He couldn't even find a job as an office boy in his hometown. So he is off to visit his friend in NYC. Maybe something will show up. He's aiming high – wants to be a Secret Service agent.

While there, he's visiting parts of the city he didn't get to see during his several month stay in the search for the German spies, which they identify and track, and the authorities capture them and the wireless. He's on a pier and sees something strange going on, but stays out of sight. After a gang of shady looking characters leave, he's leaving the pier when he's approached by a poorly dressed man who asks for a favor. He's to call a number written on the paper and relay a message. Willie is given a dollar, and the man says if there is a return message, to find him and there will be another dollar in it for him. Willie is shocked. He recognizes the number as the private number direct to the top brass at the HQ of the Secret Service – a number he was given during the Camp Brady Wireless adventure in NYC before. It seems that Willie has a near photographic memory and keen observation powers. He knows the man, Sheridan, is a Secret Service agent but says nothing.

He delivers the message and gets a return message. Now he has to find the same man



again among all the bars and saloons that dot the rough neighborhood of the piers. He uses some ingenuity to accomplish that goal. He's neatly dressed – you just can't go into a rough bar in pressed pants and shined shoes. He buys the coat of a Newsie (news paper hawker boy) and becomes a Newsie. He puts some ash on his pants to make them look worn.

To make a long story shorter, it turns out the poorly dressed man is a Secret Service agent in disguise. He notes Willie's innovative way to get the message back to him without attracting attention. They set up a rendezvous for later

At that later meet, Willie mentions he's hunting for a job, and boy oh boy, he'd would love to work for the Secret Service.

Nothing is available there, but Willie finally resigns himself to take a job as an office boy at the Treasury Department, with the recommendation of Sheridan, the SS man. He will start at the very bottom and work his way up. He's the gate keeper for the manager, sorts mail, runs errands all over the city – and learns a lot about the job, treasury department and mission by absorbing it all as it goes by. He's well regarded as a polite competent office boy who gets a lot done.

Willie then goes on through various adventures, over the next year, using his keen powers of observation, to help the Treasury Department round up smuggling operation after operation. It seems Willie has knack for not being noticed, is not seen as a threat by the bad guys, and manages to connect the dots. Much of it is 'off hours' since he is kept busy at work.

Over the following year, he is instrumental in tracking down lace and silk smugglers, diamond smugglers and in the last adventure helps capture the rum runners.

There's not a whole lot of wireless. Willie gets involved in daily sending of messages out to ships of the Customs Department of the Treasury Service. At lunch, he can talk to his buddies down in Central City, PA, where the Camp Brady Wireless Club is. Otherwise, it's pretty thin on radio technology – Willie magically sends and receives messages, they always get through, and they are useful for catching the bad guys.

At the end, Willie is offered a job as a Clerk at the Secret Service. He'll still be able to use his skills to aid the regular agents to help catch the bad guys. He's working his way up the ladder, step by step. Now he really is at the Secret Service and it is up to him to work his way up to regular Agent.

It's a good adventure story for younger audiences, and a couple hour read if you run across a copy. Somewhat like a Carl and Jerry story (Of Pop 'Tronics fame) less the technical detail.

Not on the web yet. My copy came for \$6 plus postage off Amazon dot com. Likely within a few months or a year or two, it will be up on the web in Ebook format.

## K0FG Trip Report

On January 20 my wife and I left on our annual trek to visit relatives and friends, most of which live in climates warmer than central Missouri. My mother in Phoenix and my wife's brother in Las Vegas were two very important stops. My wife is an exceptionally good sport. When we travel in our mini-van she sits in the second row of seats and builds a little nest of reading and napping materials. I get both front seats for me and my radio gear and road atlas. Like most county hunters I try to get off the interstate roads and enjoy the scenery of the lesser driven roads.

My setup is an Icom IC-7000 with LDG tuner and a Hustler mounted on the side of the back hatch opening. It seems to work pretty well. I usually run 20 & 40 meters but this time I decided to try running more 17 meters. And for the most part it worked well, but sometimes it was hard to raise anyone on 17. With the group camped out on 7.188 it is sometimes hard to find a spot on 40 phone, so often I did not get to run on 40.

The first day we drove to Benton AR where we stayed while we visited the Wal-Mart museum and the new Crystal Bridges Museum. Both of those are worth the time spent and they are both free. Crystal Bridges American Art museum was built by Sam Walton's daughter. And the Wal-Mart museum is located at the site of the second store Sam ever opened, it's in Bentonville, AR, and tells how Sam and his brother Bud started and expanded the operation until Wal-Mart is the largest corporation in the world. Oh yeah, I did run a few counties along the way.

Then we went to Wood TX and visited an old friend Don, WA0DEI who is not active anymore due to bad health. Wood county does not see a lot of traffic cause there ain't much there. When we left to head west we went north of Dallas and hit hwy 380 and

followed it almost to the NM state line. We had never been thru those counties before so it seemed like a good idea, and it was, seems like lots of people needed the counties along that route.

Then we went southwest to Carlsbad Caverns, which we had never visited before, I don't know why because it is not that much out of the way and it is an amazing hole in the ground. We hiked down into the cave using what they call the natural entrance. You go down over 700 feet but the path is all paved with a guard rail. It is switchback after switchback until I got dizzy. It's all downhill with good traction but it takes over an hour to get to the bottom, and that's if you keep moving. Then at the bottom we went on a 1 ½ hour walking tour. We wimped out and took the elevator back to the surface. They have a nice museum and a pretty nice snack shop.

We stayed in White's City, in the motel right at the entrance to the National Park. The place was clean and decent and the price may have been a little cheaper than staying in the city of Carlsbad. There is a good restaurant there and a store with some grocery items and a souvenir shop. There was not much in the store when we were there late in January but I understand the area is really hopping in the summer time.

From there it's pretty standard roads to Phoenix, we went southwest to El Paso and then I-10 because to run anything else in NM is a long way. We stayed with Tom, WA0OFO, and his wife Valerie in Sun City West. They spend summers at the Lake of the Ozarks about 12-15 miles from where we live and then head south when the temps get down to about 50 or so. It's really handy for us as my mother lives about 10 miles from them in a one bedroom apartment. I have lots of relatives and friends in the area so we are always busy trying to see as many as possible during the 6-8 days we spend there.

We would be willing to stay longer but Tom and Valerie told us we had to leave so they could clean up for their next guests. To our county hunter friends in the area I'm sorry we did not get a chance to get together, I will be sure to make time next year.

Then a one day drive to Las Vegas, with a stop at Hoover Dam. It's nice to walk out on the bridge so you can see the dam but we have already done that so this time I dropped off the wife and she walked on the dam and took a few pix then I picked her up and we drove on. We usually stay at the Orleans Casino when in Vegas. My wife's brother lives just a couple miles away and between his comps and what we get it's quite reasonable. I don't think there are any county hunters who need Clark NV, unless they are just starting over, but you get a couple. It's amazing, if you are not trying to run CW while you drive you can actually see a lot of scenery. I need to get into those oft-

run counties so I can rest a bit.

When we left Vegas it's a quick drive to St. George/Washington UT to visit some friends who just moved there from central Nebraska. They love it, maybe we should look into moving, except that one set of grandchildren live near St. Louis, just a couple hours drive from us. And the other lives in NJ, a thousand miles in the opposite direction. No, I guess the wife is not interested in moving farther away from them.

Usually it's a quick trip on I-15 up to I-70, then a dash across CO and KS to home. But this year Les, K0LG, begged and groveled and after carefully checking the weather forecast I agreed to go to extreme northeastern UT to put out Daggett county for him. We spent the night in Vernal UT which is about 25-30 miles from the Uintah/Daggett line. The temp was about 60 so I asked the desk clerk if that was normal for early Feb. He said that last year around this date they had 2-3 feet of snow and temps around zero. And last year they set an all-time low of minus 37 degrees. See why I checked the weather first?



Daggett Utah 8428 feet AMSL at C/L

The next morning we drove the narrow, windy, hilly drive, hwy 191, up to the Daggett/Uintah line which I think is at the top of the pass, you can read the altitude from the picture. Not much snow and the temp was around 30-35 at about 10:00AM. I got lots of takers on 20 phone but very few on CW on 40, 20 or 17. Sometimes you just can't spot yourself when you are away from civilization on those back roads. But you

can park on the road and straddle the signs because there is not much traffic. Two cars passed while I was there.

Still checking the weather we agreed to more of Les's begging and took hwy 40 across northern CO because Les needed Routt CO. There was no snow on the roads but when we got to Steamboat Springs the main street was closed for snow removal. It looked strange because standing here there was no snow and across the intersection there was a foot of snow. Then we saw the signs about the Winter Carnival going on, evidently they had to truck in the snow for the 3-4 blocks of main street for the carnival and now they were trucking it back out again!

Shortly after Steamboat Springs, while running Grand CO I came to the line with Jackson. The line is right where they have large parking lots on both sides of the road and both lots were filled with cars and trucks with small trailers hauling snow machines.

Pulling up at the west edge of the parking lot I straddled the line and gave Dave, KE3VV, Jackson for the WBOW for second time on CW. You're welcome Dave, no additional charge, hi hi.... That's a large part of the fun and why we do it!!!



K0FG Routt CO



Jackson CO - LC WBOW KE3VV CW2

We went far enough east on hwy 40 to avoid the Vail area because they were talking about some competitive ski championships going on there and possible traffic delays. Eventually we hit I-70 and were going east into the Denver area when Barry, N0KV called and said his bed and breakfast was open if we would like to use it. Heck yes!!! Barry and Pat have a great location, an impressive array of equipment and antennas, oh yeah, a nice home too. And their hospitality can't be beat. After dinner Matt and Sharon, W0NAC/N0LXJ came over and spent the evening. Thanks to all of you for a very special evening.

Then I had to make additional detours in CO and KS because guess who needed more counties. Yup, Les said he needed some and since I owe him so much for all the help he gave me when he lived here at the Lake I said sure, we have plenty of time. So those of you who got all those KS counties that were not on my original to-do list be sure to thank Les, K0LG. And you can thank me to because I was so busy running counties that I did not hear that lady in my GPS telling me to turn that I ran a couple extra counties before I could get back on the right track.



Greenwood KS

## On the Trail of Regens I

Last month I was catching up on my reading of past issues of CQ Magazine. My subscription lapsed – and I found a year's worth at a hamfest for \$3. What do I see in the September CQ Magazine but a nice article detailing a reproduction of the Classic Eddystone “All World Two' Regen Receiver. Since I'm not up on regens made in England, I found it a fascinating article. Just like the US, the broadcast craze, then the shortwave craze hit Europe. Maybe shortwave listening was even more interesting there as in the 1930s, the rise of Germany (and Hitler) plus all the politics of Europe were in play. Eddystone goes back to 1924.

The All Wave Two was one of the receivers used by the Intercept volunteers, who wrote down what they heard and forwarded to to a mysterious post office box. Those coded messages wound up at Bletchley Park (home of the intelligence services). If you've seen the recent movie *The Imitation Game* (highly recommended), you'll know all about Bletchley Park and breaking the Enigma machine encryption.

The article describes a modern day recreation of this 85 year old receiver. A few changes were made including US made tubes instead of the relatively rare UK ones. I haven't seen the second part of the article yet (maybe it was Dec 14 which I missed). More on the unit a bit later.

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First, a little broadcast history from the 'other side of the pond' – in the United Kingdom. Broadcasting started there in 1922. The BBC came on the air in 1922 and provided 'home entertainment' for the British folks. The race to build receiver kits was on – and tubes were expensive – as were all radio parts. Like the US, if you sold finished radios, you'd have to pay large royalties for the 'circuits' and patented design. So there were thousands of radio enthusiasts who 'rolled their own' using kits and instructions provided by multiple sources.

Stratton – a predecessor company – started selling parts for kits in the mid 1920s. The first radio parts known were sold in 1924 and the first assembled radio, under the trade name Eddystone.

Shortwave broadcasting started in 1927. There was an instant demand from ex-pat Brits for short wave receivers and Eddystone designed the Atlantic Two. By 1930, the company ceased making any BC sets and concentrated on Short Wave. Eddystone was the UK equivalent of Hammarlund or National and made tens of thousands of radios – all through WW2. In 1973, they went solid state. A bit later, Marconi, which had bought the company, decided that Marconi would only concentrate on the 'professional market'. At the same time, the Japanese invasion was killing the low end market.

If you take a trip to the UK and attend one of their swapmeets, or look at eBay.co.uk you'll probably see some of the more current models up for sale.

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These sets are very rare – for several reasons. One – England is a much smaller country than the US – a lot less radio enthusiasts bought radios. Second – during WW2, many of these radios were put into use monitoring things – either tuning for spies, or listening in on shortwave broadcasts, or used for intercept work. After the war, they were scrapped as obsolete. Third- those that weren't were often scrapped for parts or for metal for the war effort – or cannibalized to keep other radios going. Plus, of course, much of English cities were thoroughly bombed by the Germans, destroying lots of household items in the process! Also, most English houses don't have as much space as US homes – so less room to 'store stuff' for 75 years! You see most of these radios mostly in museums.

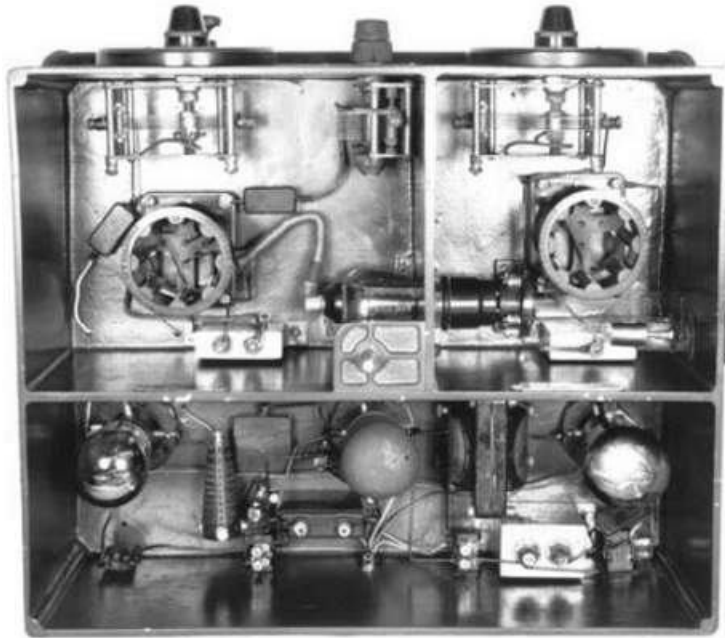
This is the first Eddystone Short Wave receiver – the Atlantic Two – 1928-9





### All wave Four

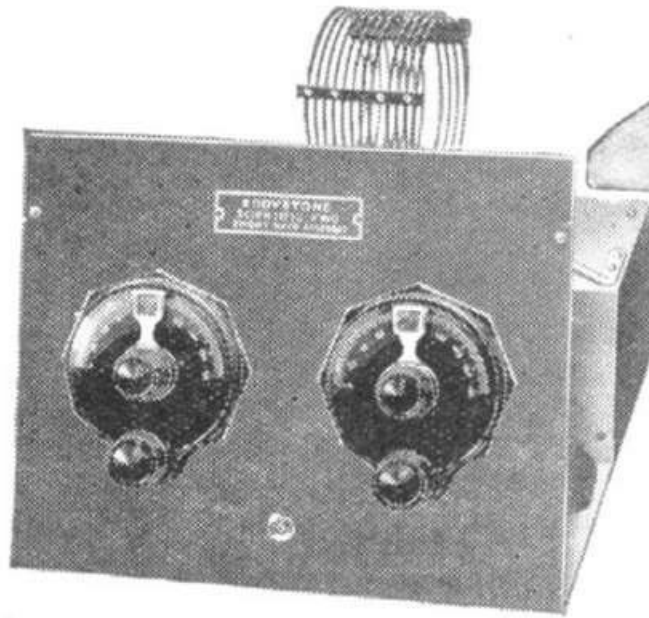
All-Wave Four, 1930 (pic below - top removed – see further) ALL-WAVE FOUR: 1930 1-V-2 Fully sealed tropicalised diecast sectionalised aluminium case. Devised by Harold Cox; (Technical Director), Bill Chaplin (Company Manager) and Stratton Laughton. In the above picture the top right section is the aerial tuning, (coupling condenser control just visible on side). Screengrid RF amp is on side through hole in screen (top cap anode). Top left is detector tuning and reaction. (Note large 2½” dia vertical plug-in oils).



***All-Wave Four, 1930***

KILODYNE FOUR: a kit series which started with the battery model of 1931. 1-V-2 (aperiodic aerial circuit). No cabinet. 14-85 metres Large diameter 2½” ribbed plug-in coil – this is the same as used in the All-Wave Four. Kit price £6 17s 6d (valves, speaker, M/LW coils and batts extra). An A.C. mains version was also available

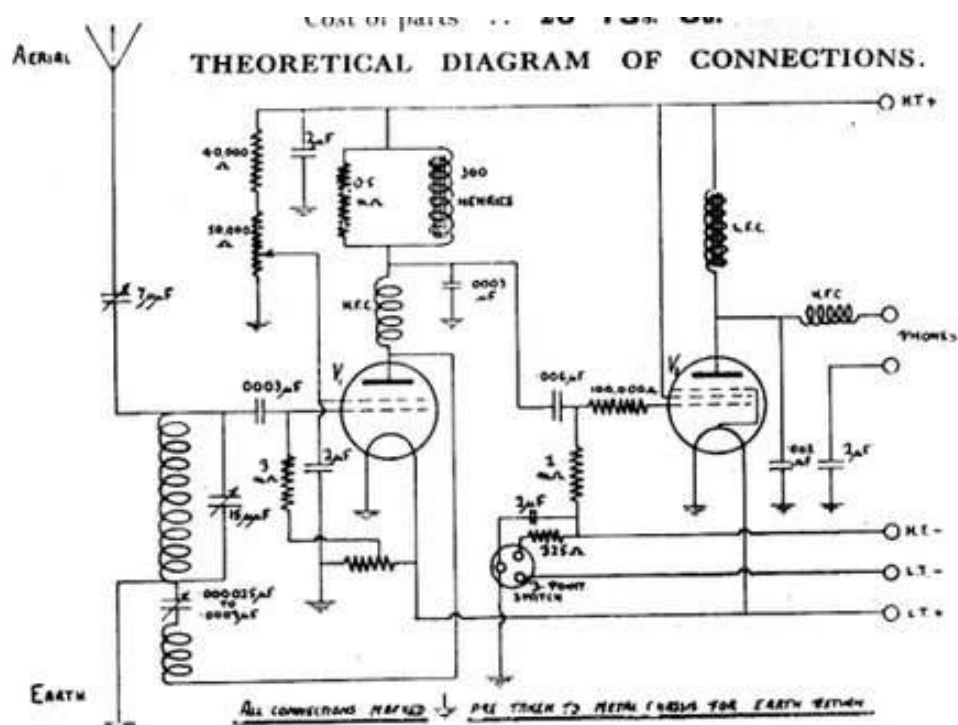
THE SCIENTIFIC TWO: a battery kit-set introduced in 1931. 0-V-1, described as “Simple . . . can be easily assembled with a screw-driver and a pair of pliers. No soldering.” Although the new vertical, ribbed, six-pin plug-in coils had been introduced the year before (in the All Wave Four – see above) this set continued to use the larger air-spaced coils dating from 1926. Possibly a ploy to shift old stock! The LH dial is tuning, the RH is reaction. The aerial coupling condenser is mounted on the LH rear of the chassis. Price for “complete set of parts” (unspecified frequ. coverage) £4 5s.



**Scientific 2 – 1931**

ATLANTIC THREE: 1932 Kit Set. 1-V-1 Aperiodic aerial circuit.. Breadboard construction. No cabinet. 12.5 -- 85 metres. (MW coils extra)

AMATEUR BANDS TWO: 1932 Kit Set. 0-V-1. Batteries; chassis-built, no cabinet. A very complex version of the Scientific 2 (ibid.) Frequency coverage: 20, 40 and 80 metre amateur bands (may be modified for general coverage). Full details in ESWM No1. Three out of the first five competitors in the 1932 B.E.R.U. Cup (SWL) Contest, including the winner, used this set. Employs a screen-grid detector with screen voltage controlled reaction and new small 1½" plug-in coils. Price of kit £6 13s 8d plus valves and batteries. Tunes 14-80m for the amateur bands 80, 40.20m.



Note the audio chokes in both tubes anode circuits – expensive! 300H audio chokes.

ALL WORLD TWO: 1936. 0-V-1 battery, headphones. 15-52 metres with the two coils supplied (others extra). Probably the ‘Cinderella’ of Stratton in the late ‘30s, the A.W.2 is described in E.S.W.M. No.3 (ibid.), offered as a kit (price £3 7s 6d plus valves and case) or ready-built and tested for £5 5s complete. It continued in the shops until the outbreak of World War 2, by which time its price (ready-built) had fallen to £3 17s 6d. To tempt new impecunious S.W.L.s it was offered on Hire Purchase terms complete with ‘phones and batteries for £1 down and six monthly payments of 16s 4d. (The starting pay for an office boy at this time was around 5s weekly).



### Eddystone “All Wave Two”

This radio used a pentode regen stage followed by either a triode or pentode audio stage. A pentode would take more battery power – so if you were 'economical' you might opt to use a triode audio stage. You'd need headphones. With a triode, you'd take less than 5ma from your 120v battery supply.

Here's a video on Youtube of an All Wave Two

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9bz9daAr36M>

So how much is this rare radio worth? **It sold for an amazing \$1197 on eBay!** Ouch! Way way way way out of my budget area. Oh well. See if you can find one at a local hamfest for me for \$25 or \$50!

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Eddystone then went on to make superhets for all varieties of users. Of course, during the 1930s, England was in a Depression as well as the US. The war reached them a lot earlier – well before 1939 as Hitler moved on other countries in Europe.

There's lots of info on Eddystone, some Shortwave Manuals from the 1930s available for download (better have high speed internet – 10s of megabytes) for free. Interesting

<http://eddystoneusergroup.org.uk/>

Nice article here on restoring one

<http://www.eddystoneusergroup.org.uk/Restoration%20projects/Eddystone%20All%20World%20Two%20Article%20With%20Appendices.pdf>

## Kalawao Mystery

Last month we had an article about Kalawao – and who had been there in the past year. No one offered any other information on who else had been there. We know he didn't work the three that had been there. So the mystery remains. How did one long time experienced county hunter (and his club call) finish up without working a Kalawao station?

Maybe it was an 'undocumented feature' of Logger to fill in missing counties one night? Might have been overloaded with 250,000 or 500,000 redundant contacts for 'both calls'. I dunno.

The mystery remains.

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Doug, WA4UNS, mentioned he did run Cape May NJ on SSB off frequency. The run was not spotted. Obviously, this station and his club call did not work him there.

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Recently, team N4JT/KG5UZ and KJ5PQ were in Kalawao so folks, if they worked them, should be set for the next year or two .

# On the Road with N4CD 1

The full first weekend of March the road wasn't too long – just 25 miles or so to the Irving TX Hamfest. This is a small one. For the first time in a couple years it was not in conflict with other things so I headed over. There was the usual stuff for sale – Kenwood TS-480 mobile,, an IC706 mobile, lots of 2m and 440 stuff – new and used – and a few vintage items – most not in great condition or missing tubes and parts.

I only found one goodie and it followed me home. It said 'make offer' and I did – not much – and the guy selling it was happy to be rid of it. He called it a 'barn find'. It's a 'vintage radio'. So what did N4CD come home with for \$10?

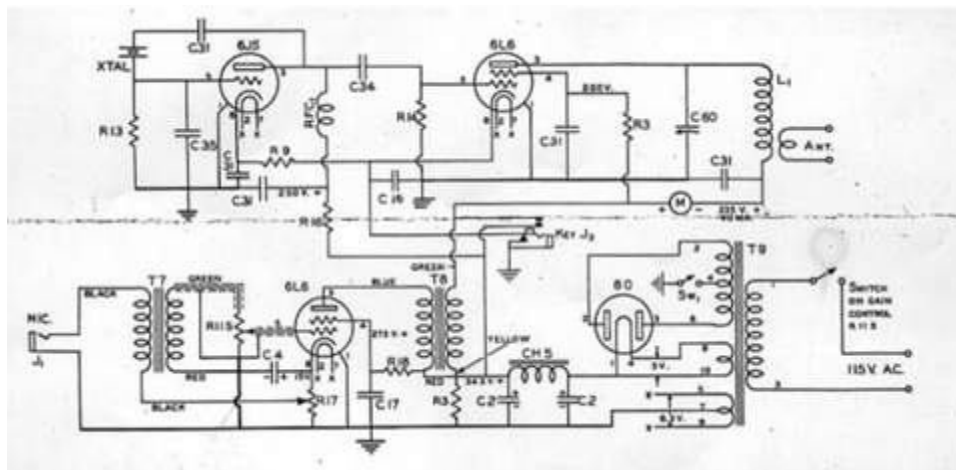
It's a Stancor 10P transmitter from the late 30s, early 40s that covers 160m through 20m, crystal controlled – 10W input - CW or AM. The tube line up is a 6J5 Pierce crystal oscillator (untuned) into a 6L6 final. The rectifier is the usual type 80 tube, and the modulator is a 6L6 with a transformer coupled carbon microphone input. The unit even had a crystal for 3712 kc/sec in a socket. You might get 6-7w out on cw and a real powerful 6w of AM!

RCA introduced the 6L6 tube , and it's big brother, the 807, in 1936. For a long time after , they became a standard tube in transmitters and audio amps. After WW2, you could buy surplus 807s inexpensively.

In 1941, it sold in kit form for \$20.49, less crystal, tubes and mic. You would use plug in coils to change bands. Some folks say that Stancor only sold ham gear to sell lots of transformers. This radio had a Stancor power transformer, a Stancor filter choke, and a Stancor modulation transformer in it- just a 10w transmitter! It's about a foot wide.



Stancor 10P Transmitter – (QRP)



Like many low powered transmitters of the day, the designers did have to worry about TVI – no TV stations on the air! Output was link coupling. No effort was made to keep down radiation from the set (not a completely closed cabinet) or any line filtering. No shielding, no filter caps, no harmonic filter, no line fuse either, but 'state of the art' at the time.

There was a nice article on it in Electric Radio #170, July 2003. You can read the entire



manual here at the bama website (lots of on line manuals - free)

<http://bama.edebris.com/manuals/stancor/10p>

A bit of history about the 6L6/807 tubes from Wiki:

“6L6 is the designator for a vacuum tube introduced by Radio Corporation of America in July 1936. At the time Philips had already developed and patented power pentode designs, which were fast replacing power triodes due to their greater efficiency. The beam tetrode design of the 6L6 allowed RCA to circumvent Philips' pentode patent.

The 6L6 is a descendant of the "Harries Valve" developed by British engineer J. Owen Harries and marketed by the Hivac Co. Ltd. in 1935. Harries is believed[by whom?] to have been the first engineer to discover the "critical distance" effect, which maximized the efficiency of a power tetrode, by positioning its anode at a distance which is a specific multiple of the screen grid-cathode distance. This design also minimized interference of secondary emission electrons dislodged from the anode.

Because this overall design eliminated the "tetrode kink" (negative resistance) in the lower parts of the tetrode's voltage-current characteristic curves, which sometimes caused tetrode amplifiers to become unstable, MOV (Marconi-Osram Valve, a subsidiary of EMI jointly owned with General Electric Company plc) marketed this tube family under the sobriquet "KT", meaning "kinkless tetrode".

Because MOV's engineers did not feel the kinkless tetrode could be successfully mass-produced, they licensed the design to RCA. This proved to be a poor business decision on MOV's part. RCA subsequently had enormous success with the 6L6. It replaced the use of power triodes in public-address amplifiers almost overnight. So many applications were found for the 6L6 that a complete list would be impossible to assemble. MOV introduced their version, the KT66, a year later.

RCA's first version was an early octal base tube. Like most with this base it had a metal, rather than glass, envelope. Later versions, including the 6L6G, 6L6GA, 6L6GB, 5881, 5932, 7027, and the final version 6L6GC had glass envelopes, which made radiation cooling of the anode easier.

The voltage and power rating of the 6L6 series were gradually pushed upwards by adding features such as a Micanol base, thicker plates, thicker grid wires, grid cooling fins, and special ultra-black plate coatings. The original metal version was rated for 19 watts dissipation while the later 6L6GC is usually rated for 30 watts. A "W" in the

descriptor, as in 6L6WGB, identifies the tube as designed for mechanically rugged environments, such as military or airborne use.

The 807 was preferred to the similar 6L6 by amateur radio enthusiasts because high transient voltages on the 6L6's anode when operating in class C could cause a flashover between pins 2 and 3 on the octal base, whereas this was not a problem with the top-cap anode of the otherwise identical 807, physically distant from all the base pins.

Further testimony for this device's success would be even simpler: as of 2012 the 6L6GC version was still being manufactured and used, primarily in guitar amplifiers. Manufacture continued in Russia (two factories), China (two factories), and Slovakia. The 6L6 had one of the longest active lifetimes of any electronic component, more than 70 years. ”

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Not much else caught my attention. I didn't need anything. Overall, there might have been 40 people selling things. 200 feet of just one row at Dayton has more stuff for sale than this entire hamfest – and there is a mile of rows at Dayton! It's not one of the bigger hamfests but it's only a few miles away and a good excuse to get out of the house after the storms, ice and snow of the past week! If you find a goodie, prices are usually pretty reasonable too (unlike Dayton where everything can be sky high).

More hamfests and travel coming up!

## Jim, N4JT, Ran All USA #17



N4JT – finishing up Ran All USA  
Kauai County HI  
Working KG5UZ on 2M FM

Jim finished off and applied for awards from the first states starting (Ran all XXX) back in the 1991 time frame. By 1991, NC, MD, CT, MD, DE, WV, VA, VT, SC, NH, OH, RI, TN were completely done. Next year he added in NJ, NY, WI, MI, KY, and IN – finished them up. 1996 saw AZ, NV, NM, MA, IL, FL and CA get finished off. In 1998, he had finished off OK, LA, and TX.

By the year 2010, he had finished off the lower 48 and Alaska – getting him to 49 states run and 3072 counties transmitted. For a long time, he joked he'd only go to Hawaii if they built a bridge or tunnel so he could drive his car there. Somehow, I guess Mike, KG5UZ and Cheryl, KJ5PQ, were able to talk him into an airplane flight so he could finish up state #50 for Ran All USA.

Congrats Jim!

## 30M, 17M and 12M Report

Activity comes and goes on 30M – it depends if there is an active mobile on the road. Some folks are still working on trying to get all 3077 'single band' award on 30M. It's often a great band for when skip is 'way too long' on 40M and 'too long' on 20M. Let's look at activity in Feb and March for 30M.

On 30M, who has been spotted? KB6UF, Ron; N9JF, Jim; KW1DX, Dave; AK8A, Steve; K8ZZ, Ed; K1TKL, Paul; N4CD, Bob; VA3XOV, Jim; W0GXQ, Jerry; N9AC, Gerry; NF0N, Mike; NM2L, Greg; K7TM, Bob; WA3QNT, Bob; W4SIG, Kerry; W3DYA, Norm; W0EAR, Don; N0KV, Barry; W5QP, Rick; WB4KZW, Gene; Greg, NM2; and KC7YE, Jack. Thirty meters should get better and better as the sunspots decline.

Who is closing in on 30M Single Band? From the toplist (See [www.countyhunter.com](http://www.countyhunter.com)) we can determine that:

KC3X has 2994 counties, KN4Y has 3056, K8QWY at 2894, W0EAR at 2694, WB2ABD at 2830, K4YFH at 2767, W9MSE at 3000, NF0N at 3076, K8ZZ at 3046, KA4RRU at 2934, etc. Many are in the 2000 plus worked range.

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On 17M cw we have the following mobiles active and spotted: N9JF, N4JT, N4CD, W0GXQ, W0EAR, KW1DX, W4SIG, K8ZZ, AK8A, K1TKL, KN4Y, K4YT, K0FG. The European DX really appreciate 17M as it is often much better for propagation and interference there. Skip is longer than 20M but often enough stations there to work when you go there.

on 17 SSB add in WD9EJK, KW1DX, NA8W, KC7QOP, AB7NK/K7SEN, N5MLP, W8FNW/W4FNW, W3CR, N7JPF, on 17m SSB plus team N4JT/KJ5PQ/KG5UZ from HI.

Who is doing well toward 17M Single Band? We have:

KC3X at an incredible 2936, W0GXQ at 2719, N4AAT and K1TKL both over 2000. KN4Y has over 2000 as well.

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How about 15cw? W0GXQ, N4JT, N9JF, W0EAR, KC3X, many fixed/mobiles during the NC QP, NM2L, N9AC, KN4Y, N0KV, W3DYA, KC7YE, NF0N, K2HVN all were active mobile.

The Hawaii team didn't seem to have much luck on 15M SSB – maybe too early in the day when they ran it for best 15m skip. I did work N4JT on 15m cw but didn't hear them on SSB or all the islands and not spotted on SSB most runs if they went there. (they also ran digital on several bands).

How are people doing toward a Single Band here on 15M? A few have over 1000 but it's going to be a long time before anyone finishes. K0DEQ has 1033, W0EAR is at 1069, KC3X is at 1649, W0GXQ at 1622, **KN4Y at 2313**, NW6S at 1133.

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Who made it up to 12M cw mobile in the past 2 months? W0EAR, W0GXQ, N9JF, K1TKL, W3DYA, N4JT, K7TM, K2HVN, WA3QNT.

From Toplist: Most folks only have a couple hundred counties here. It's going to take a good sunspot cycle to get the counts up! Or folks operating from DX locations to work back to the states.

The above only reflect those runs that were spotted and are in the spot history database. Likely there were other mobiles on that were not spotted.

It seems the sunspot count is now fading a bit – making contacts on 10m and 12m harder to come by – but you never know. The cycle has been up and down – for years now. Summer season can also bring E-skip on 10m.

You can find the latest top list at: <http://countyhunter.com/ccatoplist.htm>

## Items from eBay

Here's something you don't see too often. If you are a baby boomer, you've probably heard of Lafayette Radio. That company goes back to the 1930s or before and offered ham gear (mostly SWL type radio kits and name brands in their catalog). The lasted up through the 1960s and then disappeared.

This is a 3 tube Type 19 transceiver – maybe for Five Meters. I haven't been able to find any info on it yet.





Here's a 1950s goodie from Europe. It's a 15 tube Phillips BX925a heavy receiver. It weighs in at 84 lbs! It covers 250 KHz through 32 MHz with a single conversion IF of 735 KHz. It's being sold from the estate of a SK in Belgium – shipping would cost you over \$200 back to the USA.



Hey, if you were going mobile back in the 1950s, you might buy one of these for your car. It's a RME 55 mobile converter, that takes the amateur bands (80-75, 40, 20, 15, 11-10, and converts it to the broadcast band so you can use your car radio. You 'borrow' a bit of B+ from the car radio or use a vibrator supply for the 105-125v B+ needed. The



filaments can be wired for 6 or 12v. Cars in the 1950s had 6v battery systems.



RME MC 55 Converter

This item sold for \$70 back in the 1956 Allied radio catalog. It used the following tube line up: 6AK5 12AT7 6BJ6 6AL5

## Polar Bears Doing Great

2/27/2015

Today, as I'm sure you know, is International Polar Bear Day. And I'm afraid the news is bad...

...Bad news, that is, for all those environmentalists from David Attenborough downwards who have spent the last few years assiduously bringing up the polar bear as



a “threatened species.”

As I’ve argued before, any species which has experienced a five-fold increase in its population in the last fifty years (in the 60s there were about 5,000 of them; now there are around 25,000), sounds less like a rare and endangered creature and more like a verminous, out-of-control menace in sore need of culling.”

<http://www.breitbart.com/london/2015/02/27/more-bad-news-for-alarmists-polar-bears-doing-just-fine/>

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Of course, Obama and his progressive drones, along with all the other left wingers in the UN, will tell you that YOU have to fork out 2 trillion a year in carbon taxes, to be redistributed to 3rd world tyrant's and tycoons Swiss bank accounts....to ...save the polar bears!.....

No warming for 17 years yet this constant barrage continues with data 'picking' and changing the historical record to 'colder temps' to show 'warming'.

February 2015 is the COLDEST month ever in Boston and MA. Ever! Chicago broke the records all the way back to 1875.

It's snowing in all 50 states this week. oops, that is global warming particles. It doesn't snow any more since we've warmed up so much.

Global warming is all about two trillion dollars in global taxing and redistribution. Out of the US and Europe to the 3rd world.

# North Carolina QSO Party

Mobiles were out and running. N4E, N4C AA4XX W4TMO and others. There are 100 counties in NC and maybe 80 of them were on the air.

Mother Nature did not cooperate as a good part of the state had ice and sleet to contend with during the event.

## **N4YDU – Fixed – Franklin NC 236 cw 276 ssb**

Started out slow but the last two hours were really nice from here. Special thanks to the mobiles braving the questionable icy weather today. Very nice to work W0UCE as N4C with K4QPL driving several times in the last hour.

## **N4E – KA4RRU/WA4PGM mobile - 1104 cw QSO**

Well another year has come and gone and what a difference a year makes. Last year we had temps in the 70's with sunny skies and this year we had a thick coat of ice on the antennas at the beginning of the contest. The weather report looked bleak but we pushed forward to a rocky start. I knocked the ice off the antennas about 10 minutes before the contest but as time would pass and we traveled the SWR would begin to climb. At our first stop there must have been over an inch of ice on the antenna! As we traveled south the temperatures finally went above freezing but our day ahead would be pouring rain. About 90% of our trip was wet, cold, and ice.

I spent most of the day on Saturday preparing the "wife's" SUV for the trip. Running a power cable, installing the antennas, operating desk modifications, etc... It took a good part of the day but everything worked maybe a little too easy. ;)

Well just before the start of the contest we lost CW keying, \$%##&! Reboot and everything was working. Well for a while anyway. As it turned out we rebooted a couple more times before I changed out the keyboard and a USB hub. We didn't experience another keying problem so lesson learned. We had to retune(ATU) our antennas every once in a while due to ice but everything worked well. Our trip was shortened near the end of the contest due to darkness and weather plus having to travel secondary roads didn't

seem fun and we were running short on time. But we did manage to hit 27 of our 29 planned counties.

Many thanks to Mike KA4RRU for taking part in this adventure with me. He's a tremendous operator and a very good friend it was nice having another op and driver along.

80m - 83Q  
40m - 407  
20m - 614  
1104 total QSO

**OM2VL fixed DX 145 cw 51 ssb 67 mults**

Most QSO's with mobiles:

N4E 27/24,  
N4C 14/14  
AA4XX 11/7  
NC4QP 9/6  
KC3X 4/3  
W4TMO 4/3

**WN4AFP – fixed – SC 169 ssb 64 mults (low power/wire ants)**

This was my 2nd NCQP and I decided to give the Phone only category a try due to my success last year with phone Qs. Had a great time working my friends "North of the Border". I lived in Wake Forest, NC many years ago, so there's always a personal reason for operating this QP.

The on-air activity for this contest was much higher than last year. I worked many new contacts and a few old friends. Since I was just 40 miles south of the border, I spent a majority of my time "running" on 40m. At one time my "run" rate was 66 per hour. I had several opportunities to explain what the NCQP was to several non-contesters during my "run". 40m conditions were excellent to the entire state during the entire contest. Around 22:30, I went to 80m and my new G5RV performed well. I worked KK4CLY's expedition but no mobiles. Thanks for al the Qs, it was a fun ride. I look forward to next year.

73's Dave WN4AFP

**W4UX – stuck in driveway - 261 cw 73 ssb**

Intended to operate Expedition class from Yadkin and Forsyth but icy roads early Sunday put an end to that. So I operated semi-Expedition. I used my intended Expedition antennas (80M dipole and 20M dipole) from the driveway at my house on my portable mast and my home 40M dipole at 65'. Maybe next year I can operate Expedition. Thanks for all the QSO's. Thanks to Marty and his committee for all their hard work.

**KN4Y – fixed – FL - 84 cw - 41 counties**

What a great surprise, the Tar Heel amateurs on CW. Got home from church and CW mobiles moving fast from county to county. I had more fun than the time the cat bit its tail. Did not hear Surry County on CW missed a sweep of bonus stations by 1.

**N8II - fixed – WV - 77 cw 95 ssb 66 counties**

Weather was lousy, snow to sleet to freezing rain which never changed to rain as forecast. I had some ice on antennas, but it was not a serious problem. There was plenty of ice on the ground! I spent about 20 minutes or so shoveling crud only to have the rain glaze over it all again. I forgot about the QP, and was not really motivated to push it hard anyway, so first QSO was 77 minutes after the starting gun. The K index was 2-3 as I recall and absorption was high. There was a huge amount of activity on 20 I could not touch with 100 W on backscatter, an amp with KW would have really made a difference, even on 40.

I heard N4E on 20 CW Q5 from a bunch of counties and could not be heard, and don't think he was on 40 until evening. I could not run stations very well on 40 phone until 21Z when a large portion of the activity had gone QRT. I One of my best hours was the last one on 75/80 where I was able to run on SSB and even CW finally with about 20 minutes left. So, it was a let down in many ways, someone else will get a chance to win the honors. Thanks to the guys who answered CQ's and the mobiles (fewer than last year). AA4XX was the most consistent on 40. I did not work mobiles KC3X or W4TMO on 40 until the band opened well around 21Z; TMO was very weak here.

The snow is falling hard today, probably 8-9 inches deep now!”

**WB4UHI – fixed – Cleveland, NC**

I was only able to operate 6 of the contest’s 10 hours. Made 110 QSO’s. Worked 6 new counties and 28 new “band counties”. I even got to chat a bit with several interesting people.

73,

Mark

## USA Digital Award

Here are the rules for the Digital Awards. Note that unlike most of the other MARAC awards, you can get an 'Award' starting at only 1000 counties.

**OBJECTIVE:** To make contacts with amateur radio operators in All USA Counties using any digital Mode except CW.

**SPECIAL RULES:** Any Valid Contacts using a digital mode other than CW submitted for other MARAC awards may also be used for this award.

**AWARD LEVELS:** Basic Certificate for 1000 counties New Certificate s for 2000 and 3,000 counties

New Certificate for All USA Counties

Optional Plaque for All USA Counties

Each level is sequentially numbered with a unique series of numbers. When an upgrade level is achieved, the Awards Manager will issue a new certificate with

appropriate seals and a history of the previous levels.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees

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While there are several who have earned the USA Digital Award (1000 counties) there is no record available to MARAC members or anyone else of who those folks are. The Database has none listed and likely won't until someone earns the 3077 level. Mike, NF0N, recently earned the Digital Award for 1000 counties - #9. Who knows who actually are number 1 through 8? No way to know!

## W0GXQ's Quest to Reach 1000 LC's

Jerry, W0GXQ, is on a quest to reach 1000 transmitted last counties. He's now reached 920 and counting – trying to reach the 1000 number that only a handful of county hunters have ever done. He's got more trips planned, and will be attending the MI Mini – maybe picking up some LC's along the way. He's up to over 921 as of mid March.

## On the Trail of Regens II

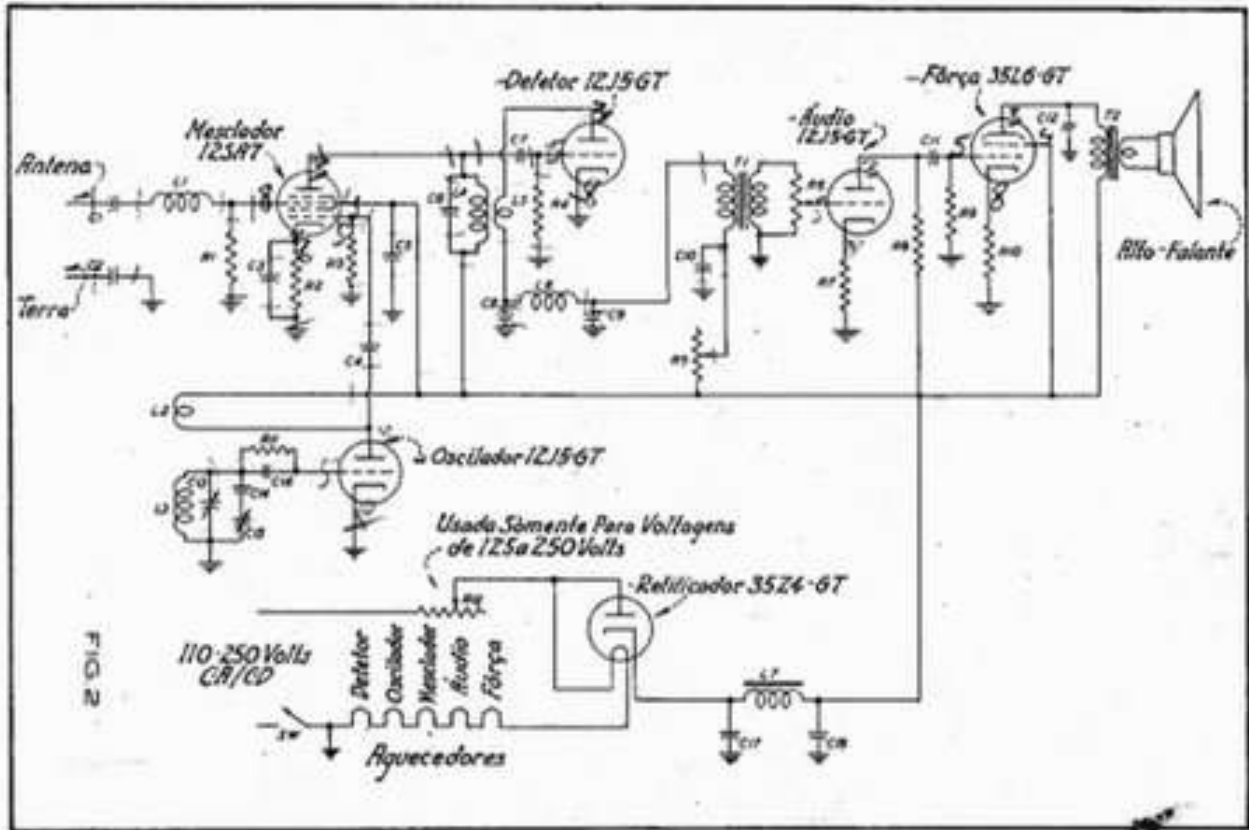
You never know what will show up on eBay or what you will learn by following a few leads on the web. There was a 'receiver' up for bid on eBay. I'd never seen one before. It was a Hollywood Radio and Television Institute Training Course radio. I've heard of NRI – and the radios that were made during their course work. I know that Heathkit had a radio trainer (tube type) where you started with a tube chassis – made a grid leak detector – then a regen – then finally a superhet by the end of the course. I never heard of Hollywood Radio and Television Institute. They apparently were active during the

late 1940s and into the 1950s

So...here's the pic off eBay and the schematic. Why is it under 'regens'. Look at the schematic. You'll see it is a superhet/regen. A four tube radio using a front end converter to upconvert to 12.5 MHz, then a regen detector at 12.5 Mhz. Wow. Then followed by two stages of audio amps. Probably was pretty miserable in the performance department. Coverage was from 550 Khz to 12 MHz.



Hollywood Trainer Kit



Notice the whole radio was ONE tuned circuit – in the regen detector stage! The RF mixer is untuned. Zero image rejection. Zero front end selectivity. Zero harmonic rejection from the local oscillator.

It looks like there is big dropping resistor so you could run this either on 220 or 110vac.

So far, all I've managed to uncover are manuals in Spanish and Portuguese. Maybe they only sold overseas? Their ad in Popular Mechanics in the 1940s said they have been in business for over 17 years and in 40 countries. That's all before my time – I'm a baby boomer!

This looks like a similar radio to the eBay one – and is described in one of the lessons.

[http://www.radiomuseum.org/forumdata/users/4942/file/HRTI\\_radio\\_kit\\_lesson\\_10L.pdf](http://www.radiomuseum.org/forumdata/users/4942/file/HRTI_radio_kit_lesson_10L.pdf)

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Here's another 'regen' goodie from 1922 up for sale on eBay. It's a Colin Kennedy model 281 receiver. If you were an experimenter in that era and had \$90 to spend (a lot of money then) you could buy this one tube receiver that covered 150 to 650 meters. That was the main 'band of interest' to 'wireless enthusiasts' at the time. All of 450 KHz to 2 MHz or so! This was a 'short wave' receiver, but short waves were a long longer back then! Only went up to 2 MHz!

It used a single 201A triode in a regen detector. Most 'communications' receivers of the era tuned 50 KHz to maybe 800 KHz – where the ship to shore traffic was centered (250 KHz and 500 KHz being the main channels). So that one MHz to 2 MHz was really the 'short waves' of the day.



Colin Kennedy 281 'shortwave' receiver

One more interesting RARE radio showed up (with \$1100 reserve price on it). It's a RCA radio from the 1920s - a 'short wave' receiver. Of course, back then, shortwaves were all of 2 MHz for most. This went up to 18 MHz – way way up there for the time. .

The eBay seller listed it as:

“Here's an RCA AR-1496-D Shortwave Receiver. It was manufactured by General Electric in the 1920's, and only a handful of them are known to exist.... The serial

number is 348. The radio is built like a battleship, is original throughout, and it comes with 7 RF and detector coils.

Condition of the radio is very good throughout, though obviously it's seen its fair share of use over the years. Case is aluminum, and the enamel finish is original. Coils are in good condition. Chassis is original throughout, with no evidence of re-soldering, re-wiring, modifications or repairs.

The radio measures approximately 27" x 9" x 9". Shipping weight will be about 45 lb.

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Coils included 17-28M, 27-45.5M, 45-80M, 12-17.5M - or about 3.5 to 18 MHz, really 'shortwave' for that time! It had separate tuning for the RF stage, the detector stage and a regen control (the 3 big dials). The plug in coils are on top for display.





## Idaho QSO Party

There were stations to catch and a few mobiles running around. I worked K7TQ (tough to work) in the far west (ran Benewah, Shoshone, and Latah and more) and WW7D in a dozen counties in the eastern part..and he kept running till midnight! There were spots on 40 and 80m until the wee hours as he ran the counties in the south part of ID. I went to bed early and missed many of them. Duh! I forgot to check the spots before I headed to bed. Missed half a dozen counties! On Sunday he was still running – the QSO party ran till 1900Z on Sunday. Caught 16 counties in ID.

There were a handful of fixed stations on as well. Propagation was so so- up and down but from TX to ID the path seemed to be OK. A lot better than the path to LA, which was NIL most of the day on both 20 and 40M – hi hi. I was out mobile for most of the QSO Party on Saturday, so that makes it challenges without the spots and having to search and drive and give out counties at the same time.

The ID QP and the LA QP were going on at the same time but not interfering with each

other – not enough activity for that – on Saturday. As the ID QP wound down, the WI QSO Party started up. Never a dull moment in QSO Party season!

From the 3830 contest reflector:

### **WW7D mobile - 530 cw 161 ssb QSO**

I had a blast traversing Idaho through 27 counties. Conditions were rather down compared to the two previous years, but the contest was great fun.

Many thanks for the QSOs and the company.

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This is the third year I've participated as a mobile station in the annual Idaho QSO Party (IDQP), and this one was at least as enjoyable as the first two.

My first trip in 2013 took me through Western Idaho from Elmore county north to Bonner county through 13 counties in total. I had never been in any of the counties south of Nez Perce county, so it was fun exploring new territories. Then, in 2014, I undertook an ambitious 26 county trek beginning in Teton county in east Idaho and ending on the Payette–Washington line in west Idaho, and covering all southern Idaho counties less four in the SE corner of the state.

For 2015, my intent was to improve the 2014 route, execute the plan better and do so with a better mobile station.

### **2015 Route**

In the months leading up to the 2015 IDQP, I spent a lot of time with mapping software trying to squeeze in a few more counties. My main constraint was to end close to the Washington or Oregon border to facilitate a drive home on Sunday night. The best I could find was to trade off a bit of sleep in order to add a single new county (Lemhi) to the mix. I made a few other minor changes to the route and stops, and changed the timing of some stops.

The plan for day one begins on the Lemhi–Clark county line on the Salmon highway followed by an eastbound trek to the Madison–Teton county line. From there, the route backtracks a bit before heading south, eventually taking a short spur into Twin Falls county. From there the route zig-zags north to Blaine county and then west through Camas, Elmore and ending at a motel in Boise (Ada county).

Sunday morning begins before sunrise with a trip up to the Boise–Gem county line located several miles down a dirt road off of highway 55. The route backtracks from there through Ada county into Canyon, takes a detour through Owyhee county and then north through Canyon, Payette and ends on the Payette–Washington county line.

The primary radio was a Kenwood TS-480SAT putting out 100 watts. Additionally, two Yaesu FT-857Ds were available as back-up rigs and for some special purposes (discussed below). As it turned out, the two Yaesus got almost no use.

The rover vehicle was my trusty 1988 4WD Toyota pickup truck. I purchased this vehicle with almost 200,000 miles on it in 2013 just before using it in my first IDQP. Four antennas were used for the contest. Three antennas were homebuilt screwdriver antennas. Two screwdrivers were mounted toward the rear of the bed.

Each screwdriver had a daytime configuration and a nighttime configuration. The passenger-side rear antenna had a stinger with a small capacitance hat on it about two thirds of the way up. This antenna was my primary 20m antenna during the day and could go to 40m at night. The driver-side rear antenna had a stinger with no capacitance hat. This antenna was primarily used for 15m during the day and 20m at night. Just behind the driver, toward the front of the cab was a 1/4 wave 10m whip. This antenna was for 10m, and connected to a Yaesu with an LDG antenna tuner. The antenna was a perfect match without the tuner, but the tuner would allow me to use the whip on 15m or 20m, should the need arise. Why would the need arise, you ask? Well...suppose a low hanging branch took out a couple of screwdrivers... The antenna was only used for 10m, but rather fruitlessly.

The third screwdriver antenna was on the front of the truck, mounted in an Alliance HD-73 rotor. The rotor is normally used for VHF and UHF rover operations, but it makes a fine platform for mounting one screwdriver antenna. This antenna had a large capacitance hat made of stainless steel wire and an aluminum central hub. A stout 3.5' stainless stinger supports the hat and allows the antenna to be tuned from 80m down to 20m. It was used as a 40m antenna for the day configuration and an 80m antenna for the night configuration. A cross-over switch was used to swap the front screwdriver and the rear driver's side antennas between the other FT-857 and the Kenwood. That allowed me to use the FT-857 to, say, hunt for 40m stations while 15m was still open on Saturday. Or look for 15m activities on the FT-857 early on Sunday morning while using the front antenna on 40m with the TS-480.

For solo operations, one must not only make QSOs and log, but also drive safely and navigate accurately. An old Android cell phone provided a UTC date and time function

using the GPS Test+ application. Another cell phone ran the Where am I? application that displays a small map and names the current county. This application requires a data connection and tends to chew up one's data allotment. A GPS was programmed with county line crossings and stops as waypoints. I recently purchased a TomTom GO 500 GPS, and used it for the first time as a rover in the January VHF contest. It worked well enough that I felt I could rely on it for the IDQP. It didn't let me down. In fact, I loved the right sidebar function that shows linear distance to waypoints and displays gas stations. Last year, I had an anxious 30 minutes after I missed a gas stop and proceed to consume all but one gallon of gas in the tank before finding a gas station. (This year, I also carried a jerrycan with 5 gallons of fuel...just in case.)

All logging was done on paper, using a clip board firmly attached to my right leg and mechanical pencils with stout 0.9mm lead. Driving and logging isn't for everyone. It takes much careful practice, but one can learn to operate a radio and log safely while driving. Usually I stick to CW while driving because it ends up being less distracting (don't ask me why...it is just that way).

## The Contest

The contest began for me on Friday morning, in Redmond, WA, with a 12 hour drive to Idaho Falls. I didn't quite have my station completely assembled, and the antennas were stowed in the back of the truck for this part of the trip. Speeds of 70 or 80 MPH put wear and tear on the screwdriver antennas, particularly the finger stock, so I didn't want to add to this unnecessarily.

Fortunately, the contest begins at 1pm local time, giving me plenty of time to sleep-in, finish station and antenna assembly and get to my starting point. On Saturday morning, I drove to a parking area near the Clark-Butte county line that I remembered from past contests. I arrived with three hours to kill, with a 20 minute trip to the Lehmi-Clark starting line. That was plenty of time to install antennas, tidy up wires, set up log sheets, eat, make a few phone calls, monitor the bands, check the oil, and kick the tires.

The Lehmi-Clark line had plenty of room to safely park on the county line. Twenty meters CW seemed like a good place to start. My buddy Doug, AC7T, immediately came back to my CQs. Of course, it helped that I had been on the phone with him an hour earlier, killing time before the start. But I only worked one more station before switching to 20 phone. This also yielded only a couple of QSOs.

Fifteen meters was in better shape and I managed a couple of short runs on both CW and phone, including a handful of European stations. Aside for a brief 15m run on the Clark-Butte line, the band was never really as productive as 20m for the rest of the IDQP.

Twenty meters CW and phone became relatively productive as I traversed Clark, Butte, Jefferson, Madison, Fremont, and Madison again on my way to Teton; still, I could tell

conditions were significantly down compared to the two previous years.

By the time I left Jefferson county for the final time, almost 300 QSOs had been logged (including a couple dozen duplicates), and 185 multipliers. One of the fun things about the IDQP (relative to, say, the Salmon Run or 7QP) is that mobile stations accumulate multipliers anew with each county and by mode. Hence, I tried to spend time working phone and CW in each county.

Traveling through Bonneville, Bingham and Bannock counties produced moderate QSO rates on 20m. I hit Power county at about 0100 UTC, and 20m was fading; but 40m wasn't quite ripe yet. The QSO rate went way down through Cassia and Minidoka counties, with a mix of 20cw and 40cw. Perhaps the only saving grace was the kick of working OM2VL in both counties...on 40m, no less! Forty meters improved a bit in Jerome county. Again, I worked OM2VL. The QSOs came one per minute (phone and CW) after crossing into Twin Falls county for a 30 minute stay.

Back in Jerome county at 0350 GMT, the first 80m QSOs came through with W7GF in Oregon and KG7E in Custer county, ID. But it was back to 40m CW for a rate of about 0.5 QSOs per min. The rate slightly improved and 80m showed some improvement in Gooding and Lincoln counties. Forty meters was fading during a brief stay on the Lincoln–Blaine line. A big surprise was working OM2VL (again!) at 0529 UTC on 40m CW as I got rolling through Blaine. Shortly after that, it was all 75m and 80m for the evening, and the rates were pretty low for the 2:45 minute trek through Camas, Elmore, and Ada counties. Essentially, each QSO took 12 minutes. I deeply appreciate the few people (esp. W7GKF, KB7N, NU0Q) that stayed up late and followed me for across these counties.

Sunday morning I was on the road by 1315 GMT (7:15 MDT) some 30 minutes before sunrise. There was no activity on 15m or 20m, but I managed a pair of 40m CW QSOs while en route through Ada county. I arrived on the Boise–Gem county line just a few minutes late. This is my favorite county line in Idaho, being on a dirt road at 4,200' in the middle of the rolling Boise Mountains.

It was difficult to scare up QSOs this particular Sunday morning. I finally managed to get a small run going on 20m phone, followed by 20m CW. CQing on 40m got a single response from Doug, AC7T. I only managed a handful of other QSOs on 15m and 20m before my hour was up. In all, the Boise–Gem line produced 38 QSOs in one hour, which was a bit disappointing. Last year, I arrived at the same time, stayed for a little over an hour, and made 116 QSOs—mostly on 20m, but including 12 QSOs on 40m and

32 QSOs on 15m. I think this exemplifies the difference in conditions between last year and this year. But don't take this as a complaint...the entire challenge of radiosport is taking the conditions you have and maximizing one's score.

By 1600 UTC, I had passed through ADA and into Canyon county, and 20m started showing more life. Rates returned to almost normal in Owyhee county where a 50 minute stay produced 40 QSOs, primarily on 20m. Last year I spent a few minutes longer than that in Owyhee and came away with 60 QSOs split between 20m and 15m. Fifteen meters continued its lackluster performance for the rest of the contest, as I worked my way through Canyon county again, and through Payette up to the Washington–Payette county line.



WW7D mobile

The last hour of the contest was pretty good. I made 39 QSOs x 2, all on 20m. I tried 15 and 10 meters as well, but there was nothing doing. Last year, I spent the last 35 minutes in the same spot and worked 38 x 2 QSOs. For the last few minutes of the IDQP, I went into search and pounce mode for the first time in order to work some strong WIQP stations on 20m phone and CW.



As I did last year, I must conclude that the IDQP is a blast to work mobile. Idaho has small counties, outstanding roads, and stunning scenery. If you've ever wanted to do a mobile HF contest, this one definitely should be at the top of your list.

The RF conditions were rather down this year, but last year's conditions seems spectacular. The weather cooperated, with only a few sprinkles. The skies were mostly overcast, which is perfect for my old truck without AC.

Many thanks to everyone who participated within state and outside of Idaho. I had a great time."

**KT7Q/mobile- rover made 130 QSO – 8 on 40m 90 on 20m and 32 on 15m**

**W7GF fixed OR – 35 cw 24 mults**

Missed a few counties from WW7D. Sat. night, heavy QRN hit around 0500; No copy from Oregon on 20m Sunday morning. Thanks for the new ones!

- W7GF

**N6ENO – fixed – CA 21 SSB 14 mults**

**KN4Y fixed FL 20 counties 14 mults**

Worked the two mobiles on CW and the four fixed stations on CW, not a bad score for a SSB State.

**OM2VL – fixed – DX – 24 cw 15 ssb qso -- 22 counties cw 15 SSB**

Unfortunately I can take part only on first night ... Missed many counties on Sunday. Thanks for those stations who answer on my CQ!

Most QSO's with mobiles:

WW7D/M 16 QSO/16 Cty

K7TQ/M 4 QSO/ 4 Cty

73 Laci OM2VL

## County Sign Database Project

Ah, a new county sign this month from Kent, KV7N – the last county sign in MT – Beaverhead



Beaverhead MT – by KV7N

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

There over 300 counties needed, but only ONE new one was added this month! Some states like PA are disaster areas just waiting for someone with a smartphone with camera or regular camera to find and snap the county line signs! What' up folks?

Many of the needed signs were run by mobiles – and no one took a picture!

## On the Road with N4CD II

Hey, another hamfest, and other trip! Why Not? They are good excuses for gassing up the car and heading out on a weekend trip – usually Friday and Saturday. This time it was the Green Country Hamfest up in Claremore, OK (Rogers County) about 270 miles up the road from Collin TX. It's close enough to MO to attract some folks from there, as well as the western part of AR and from the central cities of OK, and the location is not far from Tulsa. This one is fairly big as far as hamfests go with the indoor flea market.

The nice thing about this – is lots of space, and a handy crew to help you unload at the loading door and they help carry all your stuff to the tables with golf carts with cargo decks behind! Lots of heavy rigs are brought in for sale that way so you see lots of tube era equipment.

I checked the needs – not a lot needed in OK these days and soon the OKLA QSO party will fill in many counties. Just posted a quick note on the forum about the trip.

The trip up there – about 270 miles – was uneventful other than constant rain – and more rain – the entire way. The weather called for clearing, but instead we got an inch and half of rain all day which does not make for the best driving conditions. I had my sunglasses ready but no need for them. Just gloom and constant looking through the moving windshield wipers was the routine of the day. I departed after a nice breakfast at 8am then headed north up US 75 to US 69 that heads up that way – through Bryan, Atoka, Pittsburg, McIntosh, Muskogee, Mayes – then west to Rogers County. Lunch was a Subway chopped salad.

The temperature when I left TX was 64 degrees. It was 64 degrees the whole way up. It was 64 degrees at night. It was 64 the entire two days! I thought the car thermometer was broken, but it actually dropped one degree for a few miles then back to 64 degrees.

For the night, I reserved a room ahead of time at a Super 8 Motel (\$67 plus tax). After arrival at the motel, I checked in, then headed over the Claremore Fairgrounds for the event. It was still raining steadily. By 3pm there were already at least 80 sellers set up – things start early there. The hamfest opens at 4pm officially, but usually if you are

early enough you can walk right in. If you come at 3:30, they'll make you wait till 'official opening time'.

Wow! There were all sorts of tube rigs and classics for sale. You could take your pick of a dozen Collins rigs – KWM2s, one 75S2(rare), 75A4s, 30L1 Amps, etc, plus dozens of ICOMs, Kenwoods (TS-820/520/530/830), and a few Drake TR-7s. There must have been a dozen or more KW amps for sale – from Hammarlund HX-1 to SB-220 and SB200, Tempo, Yaesu, Collins, and more.



Collins 75S2 Receiver – only 300 made



Heathkit HW-5400 Transceiver

The HW-5400 was the last that Heathkit actually built and sold. They were nice radios but couldn't compete against Drake and the Japanese imports.



Heathkit HL-220 KW Amp

You don't see many of the Heathkit 'brown' radios for sale. Most are the typical tube radios in the trademark 'green'. The brown colored radios were the last gasp of Heathkit as it fought to stay viable as a ham radio provider.

I wandered around for 2 hours checking things out. County Hunter Fred, K0FG was there with some local friends. They were selling the estate of an SK – actually 2 or 3 of them, but most of the stuff there was from N0XO's estate, a recent SK. I bought an old Atwater Kent 'bathtub' radio in real ratty shape – barely above a 'barn find' – mainly for the tubes in it.(01As and a 00). Not 'restorable' as the finish was rusted, the paint really corroded away, and the radio itself not a classic. It followed me home. Helped out there with a few bucks for the widow fund. He only ran a few counties on the way down and back.



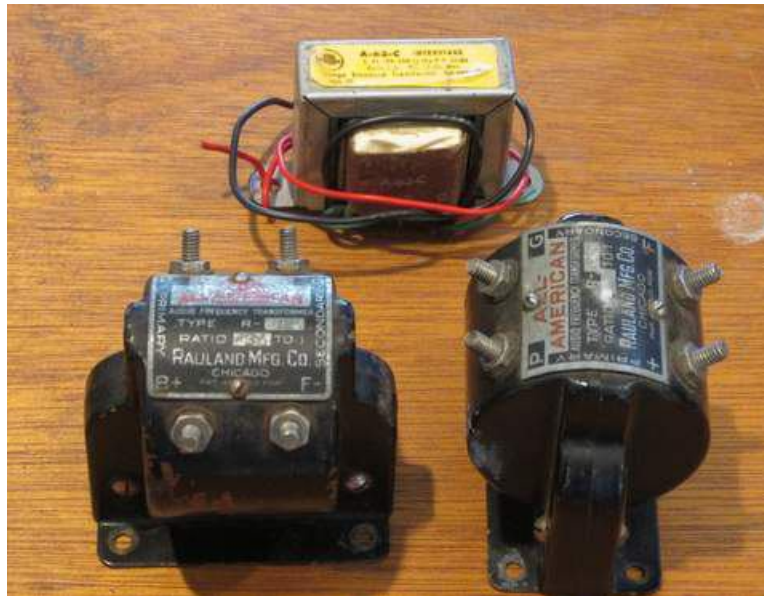
Fred, KØFG

I did find a few interesting books from way back – the entire set of Hints and Kinks published by ARRL starting in 1933 – 9 editions. I also bought a 1933 ARRL Handbook (10<sup>th</sup> Edition) for a few bucks. The big find of the day - was from a seller who remembered I had asked him about audio interstage transformers last year – and remembered to bring two he had! That's amazing. I didn't even remember asking him last year. Not only did he remember to bring them, he remembered me. We did a quick check of continuity – about 80% of 'vintage' transformers are bad – and both looked good. Two for \$10 – a real bargain. These were used in the early radios and in many regen radio designs.

Early radios had tubes that operated at very low plate voltages and currents – thus high impedance. In many radios of the day, there were one or two audio transformers (usually 1:3 ratio) that coupled the detector into the first audio, and the first audio stage into the next audio amp. Tube gains and designs were low – thus it was worth spending money on transformers to get the optimum gain out of a stage. Everything ran off batteries to start. Tubes were also expensive in the early 1920s. You'd have one side of the transformer as a 'plate load' and a higher impedance secondary connected to the grid of the next stage. If you didn't use a transformer, you'd use a big audio choke (300H



or more).



Bottom - old (20s) Rauland 3:1 Audio Interstage Transformers  
Top – New (40s-50s) 3:1 Audio Interstage Transformer by Stancor

When radios operated off line voltage (later 20s) then one could use resistive/capacitive coupling with the higher plate voltages and currents. Not as efficient, but tubes were higher gain now and it saved money by eliminating the transformers. You also then had screen grid (tetrode) and pentode tubes with many times more the gain of the original triodes and higher plate load impedances. However, you'll still find audio interstage transformers in regen designs through the 1950s – they were fairly cheap and a good way to couple the detector into the first audio stage. The A53C and A63C Stancor 3:1 transformer was used by the hundreds of thousands. Now they are 'scarce'. Well, almost no one but a builder of nostalgic radios wants them these days, or to fix 1920s sets. Or built a 'nostalgic' regen from an old handbook.

If you find an early radio at a flea market, the transformers are likely 'bad'. Crosley made ones – maybe 90% bad. All of them were wound with #42 wire and often potted. Over the years, the expansion/contraction cycles, plus likely the poor solder (had contaminants) result in those teeny wires breaking or corroding away from the terminals. Some purists will rewind the three or four thousand turns on them to keep things original! Getting the 'core' out of the potting is a real mess. You can also buy a new replacement transformer and mount it inside the original case (\$17 each these days).

I ran into Ron, AF5Q – he's active in the OK QSO Party and will be on this month putting out counties for the folks for two days. We yakked a few minutes.

I picked up a copy of the RSGB publication Homebrew Cookbook by Eamon Skelton, EI9SQ, 2011 pub date, for a few bucks second hand. It has some interesting projects in it.

After 4pm, I paid my entry fee, and left. The weather was rain, and more rain outside. I got drenched walking the 400 feet out to the car.

After a couple hours of checking things out, buying one radio and some books/magazines, it was back to the motel with a stop at the Golden Corral for dinner. (\$12). This had been a long day and the rain was still coming down. Slept well. Rained all night.

The Super 8 Motel has a free breakfast – and I partook of a waffle and bowl of cereal at 6:45 am. Still raining. Then it was off to the hamfest to get there early enough to just walk in. Not much more had arrived on Saturday – nothing new to buy.

Today, March 14, 2015 was 'super Pi day'. .....3.14.15 as in  $\pi = 3.14159$  etc. Didn't know that? There was actually a station, think it was K0PI, giving out PI day contacts! You won't see another super PI day for another 1000 years till 3/14/3015!

Didn't see any other county hunters beside those two yesterday. K5YAA lives in the county. Troy, K5OH usually shows up. I left after 2 hours so maybe others came later. There's get togethers on Saturday night for some groups like Collins collectors. Picked up another 3:1 interstage transformer for a buck! (An A63C similar to the A53C other than mounting). They are especially recommended for regen receivers because they have a static shield between windings! (so says the catalog!) OK...I learn something new every day.

It was time to run some new counties - so I headed east to Delaware, Cherokee and Adair. Dang...the 'scenic route 412' was closed by an accident. That's the way you take the 'shortcut' to Cherokee. After sitting for 10 minutes with no progress, and at least 20 cars up ahead with flashing lights blocking the road, I made a U-turn and got back on the Tollroad 412. I found out my TX Toll Tag now works on OK Tollroads.

However, on the Toll Road you can't get off to get to the 'shortcut' to Cherokee – so you have to take scenic route 10 – 20 miles later and head down along the Arkansas River. It's nice in the summer time as you drive 20 miles along the river and the folks are



rafting and having fun. Not today – it was STILL drizzling and still just 64 degrees. When you get on route 10, you hit Cherokee for a short distance, then go into Adair – but can't run the line without hanging out in the road and being blocked to the west by a steep hill. Ran them separately. Been there, done that a dozen times before. Then you wind around a bit. No tourists blocked the roads today with RVs and trailers so traffic moved nicely at 40-50 mph.

Then it was wandering south through Sequoyah, LeFlore, Haskell, Latimer and then back to home. The rain stopped when I crossed the Red River into TX and the sun came out. The temp went up to 68.

It was a good hamfest – one of the better ones out this way. You see stuff you don't see in the TX hamfests. At many in TX, it's the same people hauling around the same stuff they couldn't sell at the last one!

Mileage - 400 miles to home via the county hunter way for a total trip of 670 in 2 days.

## Texas Rattlesnake Roundup

### **Nearly 1,000 rattlers charm massive crowds at Texas's oldest and grandest snake roundup**

Thousands of people gathered in a small Texas town this weekend to watch rattlesnakes get cleaned, skinned, milked and more - some visitors even left their mark on the wall with bloody hand prints.

The Annual Sweetwater Jaycee's World's Largest Rattlesnake Roundup hosts hunts, beauty and eating contests, demonstrations, vendors selling snake-skin products and more. Attendees could even buy fried rattlesnake, which apparently takes like chicken.

Before the snakes are cooked, however, they are passed through an assembly line, where they are killed, decapitated, then cleaned and skinned as they hang from a wire.

The roundup, which has been going on since 1958 and is the oldest and grandest in Texas, began to control the population of rattlesnakes in the area, according to the Odessa American, but now more people are drawn to the sheer awe of the event.

A hunt for snakes starts about a month before the roundup, and hunters are able to harvest about 5,000 pounds of snakes - which averages out into about 1,000 snakes.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2995355/Rattlesnake-Roundup-CHARMS-massive-crowds-Texas-s-ol>

## Remembering K9EAB, Cliff Corne

A while back I received a letter from Larry, K9MMA (now residing in Wake,NC) about his recollection of Cliff Corne, K9EAB – the first person to earn the USA-CA.

He wrote:

“In 1959 I met Cliff Corne, K9EAB (SK), one of the earliest of County Hunter pioneers and one who was instrumental in the formation of numerous amateur radio wards for County Hunting, award hunting, and hunting the hunters. I was 15 at the time and Butch (as we called him) was a few years older. Almost everyone knows the story of his early polio issues and the need for his 24 hour stay in an iron lung (now almost a relic of the past). He was stricken with polio when he was in the seventh grade which left him totally paralyzed except for his head and his right thumb. His life seemed to have revolved around amateur radio, of course, and he was prepared to operate at almost any hour of the day or night to chase a rare county or DX-pedition. He had one of the finest rigs in Peoria, IL at the time, and his antenna farm made many of us 'locals' a bit envious. What was amazing about him, however, was his mental acuity. He memorized everything and could keep track of activity in his head. He didn't need any cross-checking programs...he did it with his brain. His hearing was simply amazing as was his talent in chasing DX.

After I got my driver's license in 1960, another friend from Peoria, Bill Moran (then K9MFH) and I started operating mobile in the states of Illinois, Wisconsin, Kentucky,

and Tennessee, passing out counties to whoever wanted them at the time. It was much more difficult in those days, however, since we only had Bill's fixed rig in the back seat of the car, some long extension cords, and a half-wave dipole for 40M, as we entered each county we would find a friendly gas station, nurse from their power line, string the antenna where possible, and give out the particular county of the moment. Our primary purpose to assist K9EAT with the few remaining counties that he needed for the USACA award. Of course, we were helping many other early county hunters in the process. What was required in every county, however, was that we mailed QSL cards from each of the counties we operated in. What a feat! Sometimes we spent more time looking for a post office than driving to the next county line!

When Bill and I had to go back to school each September, Butch's father (WA9DCQ) would hop in his car and drive to other states of interest for other early county hunters. By that time, the car was fully equipped for on-the-fly QSO's and he covered many of the states surrounding Illinois for the CH crowd, even hitting all the counties in Texas on one particular trip!

But amateur radio did not fully occupy Butch's life. His shack was headquarters for family and friends who would stop in for a visit. Often we played card gamers of other games. He was very sharp and we often lost because we were simply beat by a better player. In high school we went to football games, basketball games and dances. We shared our experiences with him, even though he was not able to participate. We brought our girlfriends to meet him! He was charming to them and I'm sure they remember him to this day.

Never mentioned in any write up on K9EAT were his mother or father, Vivian and Cliff "Sr, were truly gifts from god. They took care of Butch 24/7, made sure that he took his medications for back pain, fixed his meals, chased DX with the 75A4, and made sure that all of the award documentation was correctly submitted. His father was employed full time in the area, but always made sure to come home for lunch every day, and to run other errands necessary for such a family. Butch and his father were a very dynamic team, and were responsible for much of the innovation that took place within the amateur award community in those early days. Yes, Butch truly earned many of the awards that so many today seek. He did it with an amazing handicap and with a soulful determination and enthusiasm that would weaken most others. He was an inspiration for many. Those of us who were close to him, and his family cannot forget the love that tied them all together, given the hand that they were dealt by fate. Butch passed away at the early age of 31.

When Butch died, the light in the Corne family was extinguished.. His parents soon

followed him into the land of the Silent Keys where they no longer need worry about getting his microphone into position around the iron lung or rotating the tri-bander into the proper position. All are now with God, but we can remember K9EAB as a County Hunter leader and an extraordinary ham operator and individual. May he rest in peace.

73

Larry Hagemann, K9MMA (Nov 4, 2014)

## Louisiana QSO Party

This is usually a good one, but not so good from TX – many of the mobiles don't spend much (if any) time on 40M and it's right next door for 20M – no no skip. Got a few but missed most of them! Needed all of them!

From the 3830 reflector

### **K5UQ – mobile - 722 SSB QSO**

Wow what fun! I've operated several QSO parties and operated HF mobile for over a year, but being an in-state rover is a whole new experience. It's not just a contest, it's a journey.

It starts with the planning: what microphone to use, where to mount the PTT button, what route to use, how many bands to operate. It ends with that big stretch after spending several hours in the truck deciphering phonetics, following the navigation system, and seeing the sights of Sportman's Paradise (Louisiana). My one regret is not taking photos. All of the planning focuses on the radio operation, but it's so much more than that. For a kid raised in Michigan who moved to Louisiana in 2007 and spent all his time in and around New Orleans, it's a chance to see a small piece of the rest of my state.

7:30am I brew coffee and make the preparations. A few tools, extra wire, splices & crimping tool, antenna analyzer, zip ties, extra microphone – just in case.

9:00am I'm parked on West End Blvd, the computer goes to work on 40m: "CQ Louisiana QSO Party, Kilo Five Uniform Quebec mobile, Orleans Parish, Contest".

9:09am The first call comes in from K4ULP in SC. OK I'm on the scoreboard. Shortly after, I log K5KQ in West Baton Rouge (WBR), who I'll work seven times today.

9:50am Only 15 contacts in the first 50 minutes. I've been on the stretch of I-10 with Lake Pontchartrain to the north and mostly wetlands to the south. It's beautiful, but there's nowhere to stop. I broke down with a boat trailer here one time, and it wasn't pretty. After exiting I-10, I take the opportunity to change bands to 20m, the band which is expected to be the workhorse today.

11:13am I work K5LSU, the University Club Station in East Baton Rouge (EBR).

12:15pm It has been pretty uneventful so far. 200 QSOs in the log and I roll by K5LSU and LSU's Tiger Stadium, no doubt a lot quieter today than on game day. A few students were out dressed up and ready for St Patrick's Day celebrations.

12:26pm I cross the Mississippi River into West Baton Rouge (WBR). In Louisiana we take these bridges for granted because there's so many of them. I work K5KQ again. I told him I'd make it to WBR and sure enough I did.

1:04pm I approach my waypoint for the West Baton Rouge (WBR) / Point Coupee (PCP) parish line. It's a small dead-end road that happens to lie on the line. I park on the side of the street, my view blocked by the giant levee on the west bank of the Mississippi River. It's a little muddy from the 2-4" of rain over the past few days, but not too bad. I work 32 stations there, get a half dozen weird looks from the locals, and move on. I'm still not sure the correct pronunciation of Point Coupee.

1:30pm Wow! LA-10 is the only place to cross the Mississippi between Baton Rouge and Natchez, MS (90 miles by river). It's carried by the \$409,000,000 Audubon Bridge which is the second longest cable-stayed span in the Western Hemisphere. The nearest city is New Roads, LA which is seven miles away and has a population less than 5,000. Where I come from, we call this the boondocks and the only thing man-made is leftover junk.

1:58pm I roll through the small town of Slaughter, population 1,011. Your guess is as good as mine where it got this name, but the population of cows was also quite low here. I stopped in town next to an abandoned building to change to 15m.

2:20pm It's time to get back to 20m. The road is narrow, but I finally find a driveway to stop in. It looks abandoned, but there's a big no trespassing sign, and trash sitting around. When I jump out, I see the backbone of a small animal, maybe an armadillo? It's been there a long time, there's nothing left but bone. I picked it up and it broke in half. I threw it in the truck, switched bands, and then noticed the skull sitting several feet away. I decided to leave it alone and move on.

3:00pm I enter Livingston parish on LA 441. I hit the first water at 50mph and decided to slow it down. In places, the water completely covered the road, but it was only a few inches deep.

3:20pm Before getting on I-12, I decided to try 15m again. I worked 10 stations in 20 minutes, mostly by turning the VFO not by calling CQ. Back to 20m, on the interstate, and the Qs were rolling in again. 48 Qs in 29 minutes.

4:07pm I reach the Tangipahoa (TANG) / St Tammany (STAM) parish line. My waypoint is in a new subdivision where I can easily stop on the shoulder, with a few looks from the passerbys. I worked 46 stations here, for a total of 82 Qs (some had already worked me in TANG).

4:33pm The swing bridge in Madisonville is open letting boats through. I thought it only happened on the hour, but maybe on the half hours on the weekends. I've been boating here before, it's a beautiful place. The Wooden Boat Show happens here every year in October. I got out to have a stretch and breathe some fresh air. It's 70 degrees and overcast, a nice day compared to the past few days of non-stop rain.

4:40pm I stop to get some real food in my stomach. It's starting to feel like a long day, and the end is near.

5:20pm I approach the causeway and handover my \$3 toll. It's a quiet day on Lake Pontchartrain, just a few sailboats. With an area of 630 square miles, there's no such thing as a busy day except maybe if you're doing a Poker Run. But it's anything but quiet on 20m! Go figure there's RF noise the length of the bridge. I'm across in 24 minutes, with 34 new Qs. I'm getting tired, but Gerry (AE7KI) reminds me again he needs St Bernard (SBND) for Worked-All-Parishes in Louisiana. He got St Mary (SMAR) from Chuck (NO5W/M) already today on CW, and Iberville (IBVL) from me earlier.

6:24pm After some searching on Google Maps, I've figured out where the parish line is and made sure I'm in St Bernard (SBND). I immediately work Gerry (AE7KI), then

continue and log 96 Qs in 36 minutes (160 Qs/hr). I'm encouraging stations to find me on 40m, but it's not-to-be.

7:42pm I log only eight Qs in 35 minutes on 40m, including OM2VL. He's been booming in all day on 20m, and now on 40m. I've worked him seven times in total.

I make it home. I'm tired, but it was fun and worth the effort.

Most QSOs with me:

AA8GP (14), W4ANT (14)

DX: OM2VL (7)

LA: K5KQ (7)

Thanks to the Louisiana Contest Club & QSO Party organizers, Chuck NO5W for his advice on rover operation and CQ/X software, N1MM+ developers, those that followed me all day, and everyone who participated in the 2015 Louisiana QSO Party!

### **NO5W mobile 808 cw qso**

The score includes 1250 points for activating 25 parishes.

After several weeks of continuous rain and cold it was good to be out and about in the LAQP on a sunny and warm Saturday trying to keep the run rate up while dodging potholes, bouncing along some of Louisiana's finest roads, listening to massive power line noise, and navigating the back roads of Louisiana. Picking up Dallas-K1DW near Folsom around 1330z we had the navigation and logging computers up and running by 1340z and headed out to our first stop just inside the southwest corner of Washington parish arriving just a few minutes before the starting bell.

At the start of these QSO parties there's always a concern of whether all the right gear is in the vehicle, whether everything will work as planned, and will there be a crowd of frequent callers to keep us company during the 400+ miles making the trip and preparations worthwhile. Having used the mobile for many of the CWOps CWT contests recently I was pretty confident about the performance of the radio stuff but you never know for sure about propagation and activity.

After a few CQs on 40m we had NA4K in the log at 1401 and by 1420 twenty more, about half on 40m and half on 20m. So with things looking promising on two bands we moved on to Tangipahoa parish spending a little extra time in that one due to the driver missing a turn from I-55 to LA40. Fortunately that was the only missed turn all day and we were able to keep very close to the published schedule and out of the sink holes and bayous.

Thanks to the following for keeping us company and accounting for half of our QSOs: OM2VL(27), W1END(21), WB0PYF(21), WN4AFP(17), K0HNC(17), W1DWA(17), W7OM(16), DL5AWI(16), KC3X(16), AD1C(14), K9NW(14), N3RM(14), N8OT(14), N3RJ(14), WM1K(13), NA4K(12), W0EAR(12), WA9LEY(12), K0PC(12), KJ4IWZ(12), W8WVU(12), VA3ATT(12), W2CVW(12), NU0Q(11), N4RS(11), N1LN(11), W9GHX(11), W8CAG(11), K0PFV(11), N3KR(10).

Congratulations to Matt-K5UQ for keeping SE LA well-represented on the SSB side of the LaQP. A few weeks before the party we met for Sunday breakfast to discuss rover operation and answer a few questions about CQ/X. From Matt's excellent solo results it sure looks like he took the ball and ran with it and most importantly had enough fun to try it again.

Thanks to Dallas for doing most of the driving while I had fun on the radio and to Lynda and Dallas for hosting me on Saturday night.

73

Chuck-NO5W  
Dallas-K1DW

K3/100, HIQ-4/80, 2002 Pathfinder, CQ/X 1.8.0.8

**W3DYA mobile reported 629 cw QSO**

**N5NA – fixed - MT – QRP -**

The past few years I've operated mobile in the LAQP. This year, with the date



change, I was on my annual WA/MT ski trip. So I brought along my KX3 and portable magnetic loop antenna. I managed to work W5LA, KA5M, N5LCC, KZ5D, & W3DYA with my loop indoors running 12 watts. Thanks for the QSO's!

73, Alan N5NA

**WN4AFP – fixed – SC 31 cw 6 ssb - 31 cw 5 ssb mults**

Thanks to all the LA stations for the contacts. Special thanks to the mobiles NO5W/M (18 contacts), W3DYA (8 contacts) and K5UQ (2 contacts). Wish I could have spent more time on the air for this one

**W4ANT - fixed SC 22 ssb 18 mults**

In and out of the shack picking up LA stations as I heard them. 100% 20 meters, 100 % S&P, 100% phone due to the casual style. Followed K5UQ in the mobile most of the day and 24 miles across the Lake Pontchartrain bridge. Good job Matt!

**OM2VL – fixed DX 79 cw 45 ssb qso**

The plan was take part also on LAQP but "only just for fun" ... :)

So, it was FUN ... REALLY FUN - I enjoyed it so much.

Thank you very much for the LA resident stations who heard my CQ and called me to give me points and mults. Many of them was so kindly and QSY with me on another mode or/ and band.

I heard 2 mobile stations on CW.

NO5W/M 26 QSO/23 counties -THANKS Chuck!

W3DYA/M 17 QSO/ 17 counties -THANKS Norm!

I heard one mobile on SSB. For me SSB is very hard job because the band are full of EU stations and usually also on mobile frequency is another station. When I call the mobile the EU station think that I call him, or say "QSY this is my freq" ... :)

Despite of this I can work with Mathew - K5UQ 7 times! THANKS MAT!

Thanks again to everybody for the many QSO's! I am really enjoyed the QP.

Regards, Laci OM2VL

## Progressives Attack Warming “Skeptics”

### **The Political Assault on Climate Skeptics**

By Dr Lindzgen, MIT

Research in recent years has encouraged those of us who question the popular alarm over allegedly man-made global warming. Actually, the move from “global warming” to “climate change” indicated the silliness of this issue. The climate has been changing since the Earth was formed. This normal course is now taken to be evidence of doom.

Individuals and organizations highly vested in disaster scenarios have relentlessly attacked scientists and others who do not share their beliefs. The attacks have taken a threatening turn.

As to the science itself, it’s worth noting that all predictions of warming since the onset of the last warming episode of 1978-98—which is the only period that the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) attempts to attribute to carbon-dioxide emissions—have greatly exceeded what has been observed. These observations support a much reduced and essentially harmless climate response to increased atmospheric carbon dioxide.

In addition, there is experimental support for the increased importance of variations in solar radiation on climate and a renewed awareness of the importance of natural unforced climate variability that is largely absent in current climate models. There also

is observational evidence from several independent studies that the so-called “water vapor feedback,” essential to amplifying the relatively weak impact of carbon dioxide alone on Earth temperatures, is canceled by cloud processes.

**There are also claims that extreme weather—hurricanes, tornadoes, droughts, floods, you name it—may be due to global warming. The data show no increase in the number or intensity of such events. The IPCC itself acknowledges the lack of any evident relation between extreme weather and climate,** though allowing that with sufficient effort some relation might be uncovered.

World leaders proclaim that climate change is our greatest problem, demonizing carbon dioxide. Yet atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide have been vastly higher through most of Earth’s history. Climates both warmer and colder than the present have coexisted with these higher levels.

Currently elevated levels of carbon dioxide have contributed to increases in agricultural productivity. Indeed, climatologists before the recent global warming hysteria referred to warm periods as “climate optima.” Yet world leaders are embarking on costly policies that have no capacity to replace fossil fuels but enrich crony capitalists at public expense, increasing costs for all, and restricting access to energy to the world’s poorest populations that still lack access to electricity’s immense benefits.

Billions of dollars have been poured into studies supporting climate alarm, and trillions of dollars have been involved in overthrowing the energy economy. So it is unsurprising that great efforts have been made to ramp up hysteria, even as the case for climate alarm is disintegrating.

The latest example began with an article published in the New York Times on Feb. 22 about Willie Soon, a scientist at the Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. Mr. Soon has, for over 25 years, argued for a primary role of solar variability on climate. But as Greenpeace noted in 2011, Mr. Soon was, in small measure, supported by fossil-fuel companies over a period of 10 years.

The Times reintroduced this old material as news, arguing that Mr. Soon had failed to list this support in a recent paper in Science Bulletin of which he was one of four authors. Two days later Arizona Rep. Raul Grijalva, the ranking Democrat on the Natural Resources Committee, used the Times article as the basis for a hunting expedition into anything said, written and communicated by seven individuals—David Legates, John Christy, Judith Curry, Robert Balling, Roger Pielke Jr. , Steven Hayward and me—about testimony we gave to Congress or other governmental bodies. We were

selected solely on the basis of our objections to alarmist claims about the climate.

In letters he sent to the presidents of the universities employing us (although I have been retired from MIT since 2013), Mr. Grijalva wanted all details of all of our outside funding, and communications about this funding, including “consulting fees, promotional considerations, speaking fees, honoraria, travel expenses, salary, compensation and any other monies.” Mr. Grijalva acknowledged the absence of any evidence but purportedly wanted to know if accusations made against Mr. Soon about alleged conflicts of interest or failure to disclose his funding sources in science journals might not also apply to us.

Perhaps the most bizarre letter concerned the University of Colorado’s Mr. Pielke. His specialty is science policy, not science per se, and he supports reductions in carbon emissions but finds no basis for associating extreme weather with climate. Mr. Grijalva’s complaint is that Mr. Pielke, in agreeing with the IPCC on extreme weather and climate, contradicts the assertions of John Holdren, President Obama ’s science czar.

Mr. Grijalva’s letters convey an unstated but perfectly clear threat: Research disputing alarm over the climate should cease lest universities that employ such individuals incur massive inconvenience and expense—and scientists holding such views should not offer testimony to Congress. After the Times article, Sens. Edward Markey (D., Mass.), Sheldon Whitehouse (D., R.I.) and Barbara Boxer (D., Calif.) also sent letters to numerous energy companies, industrial organizations and, strangely, many right-of-center think tanks (including the Cato Institute, with which I have an association) to unearth their alleged influence peddling.

The American Meteorological Society responded with appropriate indignation at the singling out of scientists for their scientific positions, as did many individual scientists. On Monday, apparently reacting to criticism, Mr. Grijalva conceded to the National Journal that his requests for communications between the seven of us and our outside funders was “overreach.”

Where all this will lead is still hard to tell. At least Mr. Grijalva’s letters should help clarify for many the essentially political nature of the alarms over the climate, and the damage it is doing to science, the environment and the well-being of the world’s poorest.

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Dr. Lindzen is professor emeritus of atmospheric sciences at MIT and a distinguished senior fellow of the Cato Institute.

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de N4CD: Folks – it's all about adding TWO TRILLION in new taxes each year, to be 'REDISTRIBUTED' to third world countries, with most of the money winding up in the Swiss bank accounts of third world tyrants and tycoons. None of it, other than a few percent to fund the 'academia machine' and wind up in politicians campaign funds, and Al Gore's 'broker fees' for selling phony carbon credits – will do anything to change the 'climate' one iota. It will fund, however, an entire industry of millions of lawyers, consultants, brokers, academics, all groveling for cash to influence whose ox will be gored the least in the regulations, rules, and tax regimes, none of which has any positive effect on GDP or standard of living.

## Wisconsin QSO Party

This is usually very good, and this year was no exception! Mobiles were out and running all over the state (well, not too many way way north). Some counties were covered by 3 or 4 mobiles. You had to keep busy to snag all that were on. I managed to work 56 new ones – just started over so it was really fun! Mobiles out there included N0UR, W9MSE, W9DND, KE0G (rover), NE9U, N9NE, W0AA, W0ZQ, WI9WI.

All had good ears except WI9WI that seemed impossible for to work on 20M. Dozens called and he never heard them calling. A bit better on 40m but you had to be LOUD to be heard.

The DX was in with SP9LJD, ON4AAC and several DIs in there.

There were almost no spots on SSB although some entrants worked over 50 on SSB so there must have been stations (and mobiles?) on SSB! KD9ZP showed up on SSB. Worked him as my only SSB contact to give him some points. Mark, W9OP, was also on from home for a bit.

From the 3830 reflector:

**KE0G rover - 248 QSOs**

Was a great day to sit along the Mississippi River next to the Burlington Northern busy double railroad tracks in WI. Train watching was very good, 20 and 40 M were open, and people were ice fishing in 60 F degree temps. Bought a cup of Kool-Aid from 4 young entrepreneurs... a sure sign of Spring. Was the warmest and most pleasant northern QP is a long time. Thanks for all the calls. Logged SP, HA, 9A, F, G from EU on 20M to my surprise, using what I thought was an NVIS antenna. Caught many mobiles in WI, and many Q's with stations around the US.

K3/10 at 5 watts to a 40 M inverted vee, 20' up at the center, fed with 300 ohm twin lead and a Matchbox tuner.

73, and C U next time. Dan, ke0g.

### **W9DND mobile (with K0PC) – 812 CW QSO**

A successful run through Wisconsin with clear roads and great weather. No radio/computer problems on this outing. Band conditions were generally good. I thought 20M was better than previous years. A little 80M at the end of the contest to round things out.

Thanks to West Allis RAC for sponsoring WIQP again this year.

73,  
Pat K0PC & John W9DND

### **W0AA mobile (WA0MHJ op) 229 cw**

I planned out the maximum counties I could cover, and be back home in Minnesota at 4:30 CDT. I got in exactly three hours of operating in six counties. There were times on 20 meters it seemed more like WAE, and not WiQP. There were a couple of brief moments where it appeared I had gone bonkers, but it was actually N1MM which was giving me fits. Restart & back to normal. Thanks to all who helped make it an enjoyable afternoon drive.

Mark WA0MHJ

**NE9U mobile 776 cw 88 ssb**

I think this is the 24th year we have been doing this mobile adventure!  
Our radios keep getting smaller and better and our antennas keep getting bigger and better!!!

My usual partners, N9BCA and KK9K weren't able to participate this year due to family illnesses, so N9ISN volunteered to be my driver. Thanks Al! We modified my posted route a bit to just be a big loop instead of ending up north at the cabin. We ran out of time anyway to hit those northerly counties...finished up in Langlade.

Everything went well...no problems to note.

The weather was balmy for Wisconsin....good for the mobiles...bad for participation. It also didn't help that the biggest most exciting Wisconsin Badger basketball game of the year was on TV....I think that kept a lot of casual operators out of the shack...and our Mult and QSO totals down. My best year ever was 2013 during a snowstorm...that kept people in the house on their radios!!!

**AA0EE (with K0BBC) mobile 366 cw 37 ssb**



K0BBC mobile – set up for VHF contest

Despite the original plan of running 40m, 20m, and 2m, we found on the way to the start that despite some ferrites, 20m continues to light all kinds of bad lights on the dashboard and takes out the speedometer and odometer (of the K0BBC mobile – Jeep - Chrysler product) . So no 20m.

Some of the settings on the radio's keyer were also weird in a way which wasn't fixed before start, giving the iambic paddle a bit of a bug-like sound. Fortunately, the rig was integrated with computer frequency/mode control and CW memory keying, so the weird keying wasn't an issue, nor was an unsteady fist on the county roads of Pierce county (lots of hills, valleys, and winding roads).

This was the first mobile experience for AE0EE, and the first WIQP mobile with more than a 10m antenna for K0BBC. CW was mostly running, SSB was all search-and-pounce, and 2m FM was a mix of calling CQ and monitoring/searching.

Two stations had a sweep with us: NA0N and W9EAU. We only had 10 contacts in our 8 minutes in Sawyer county, so they were really onto us. Special mention goes to W9EAU for the additional 5 QSOs on 2m FM. Many stations had us in 7-10 counties.

100 W (40m) into a mobile screwdriver antenna, and 50 W (2m) into a 5/8 wave vertical. Mobile through Sawyer, Bayfield, Ashland, Price, Taylor, Clark, Chippewa, Eau Claire, Dunn, St. Croix, and Pierce counties (total: 11).



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de N4CD (ah, no wonder I didn't work Sawyer, Bayfield, Ashland, Taylor counties! - no 20M!) They used the K0BBC mobile – which is a fairly recent Jeep.

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### **W0ZQ mobile 583 CW QSO**

Good radio conditions and amazing weather equals a fun day spent driving around in western Wisconsin. Temperatures reached 62 degrees and stayed there for most of the contest. Late in the afternoon I was stopped along the road and was operating close to what in the summer time would be a marshy area, and much to my surprise I actually had a few mosquitoes ... a first for me in the WIQP.

I did try 15m in the early afternoon hours with few takers. 80m was pretty quiet throughout the day with no activity until the end. As such 20 and 40m were the money bands with 40 of my 583 Q's with DX stations.

Thanks for all the Q's and to the WARAC for hosting.

73, Jon

### **W9MSE mobile - 818 CW QSO**

Beautiful day for WIQP and trying out the new rig in the new minivan in a contest situation. Had a great time and everything went well. I even worked more of the other mobiles than usual. It took a few days to get my handwritten log data transcribed to a form to send in and to figure out results, but it was my best WIQP score ever.

Thanks to the WARAC for sponsoring the contest and to my brother-in-law Tom for driving again.

### **WI9WI Mobile - 300 cw QSO**

This was my 23rd year of operating the WIQP mobile. In my continuing quest to operate from every Wisconsin county solo mobile (no driver) I added 5 new

counties: CLA, WOO, JAC, MON, and LAC. I also passed through JUN where I had operated about 15 years ago, so I stopped there and operated for a while too. For a change I had no major problems this year, though I was plagued with some noise, particularly on 20. At first I thought it was atmospheric noise, but after a while it seemed more to be something in the car. It remained the same whether the engine was on or off, and also continued when I powered everything from an RV battery completely independent of the car's electrical system. I did a complete mockup of the station on Thursday before the event, and had no noise at all, except for some mild S1 ignition noise on 20 which was completely eliminated by the noise blanker. So something changed and obviously more investigation is necessary. The noise approached S7 on 20 which allowed few QSOs. I could hear stations calling me below the noise level, but they were unreadable for the most part. After 3 counties I gave up on 20. Usually my rates are about 100/hr., but for the first 2 hours of operating in CLA, WOO, and JAC it was only 55. They picked up in the last half of the contest to 95 in JUN, MON and LAC. As usual I operated about 4 of the 7 hours, taking 3 hours to drive and change counties. I don't feel safe driving, operating and logging at the same time. I am now up to 48 counties operated from and have completed all the far northern, central and western counties. I now have 24 counties to go, all in the south central, eastern and northeastern area. Thanks to everyone for the QSOs. See you all next year.

73

Jim

**WE9V – fixed WI 358 cw 366 ssb**

Overall, a great time. Couldn't get much going on 20M, so QSO total was down from last year. Also, 10 less mults than last year with several missing counties, states and provinces.

Thanks for all the QSOs, and a special thanks to all the mobiles!

Chad WE9V

**WN4AFP – fixed – SC 47 cw 27 ssb 34 mults**

This was my 2nd WIQP, my last year as a rookie. Wow what a rush! The activity was off the charts! I got a late start to the contest, but was able to work the last 4.5 hours. I started on 20m with good prop and went to 40m early around 2130z. The mobiles were all over the state! Thanks to all the mobiles the contacts. Mobiles worked included: NE9U, NG9T, N9NE, W0ZQ, W9DND, W9MSE, WI9WI and AE0EE. Looking forward to a full-time effort in 2016! This was a fantastic QSO Party experience!

73's Dave WN4AFP

**N2CU – fixed – NY 177 cw 56 ssb 61 mults**

The first 2.5 hours were a slog. 20m signals were ESP level and 40m wasn't far behind. If conditions were going to be this bad, I might as well give up. Then someone flipped the propagation switch and things got much better. Good job by the mobiles, as usual.

**N4PN 107 cw 139 ssb 63 mults**

Great seven hours of fun...lots of activity from both mobiles, fixed stations and portables...great job of promoting this one..  
Nice to see ole friends...thanks to all who came out on Sunday..  
See you next year!

73, Paul, N4PN

**K9TF – QRP – WI – Milwaukee – 118 cw 10 ssb**

I ran QRP and mostly CW. Real tuff on SSB but managed a few QSOs. Last year I had 75 for a multiplier and fewer contacts. This year it was 57 and more contacts This year 10, and 15 meters was not open and not active. 80M seemed it had more activity than last year. Could be conditions or antenna or Both. No Utah QSOs, one Montana one or two TX. West of the Time line only one or 2 stations, MT and TX that's it. I worked a few EUs on 20M. I sure hope more people showed up on 160 meters next year.

Jim K9TF

**W9EAU (multi op at the W0AIH 'Farm') - Eau Claire County WI**

Operator(s): W0AIH KB9S WB9NTO KI0F K0TG N0KD KB9WPC KB9AZZ  
KG0KM

482 CW      1003 QSOs



From QTH.com description:

"The Farm" as it is referred to by W0AIH regulars is located on 120 acres of rolling farmland in West Central Wisconsin, just southeast of Eau Claire. Most hams who have driven on I-94 between Chicago and Minneapolis have seen the endless array of towers that can be seen on the hills overlooking the interstate at mile marker 76.

Located on the site are more than 50 towers. About 25 towers or poles are used as vertical radiators plus numerous telephone poles and other towers that are used to support feed line, ends of wire antennas and what ever else needs to be held in the air.

The main building, commonly referred to as the Chalet, is a building originally used to house a broadcast station transmitter at a different antenna site. Currently it houses five of the six HF operating positions along with 2 spotting positions.

The 20 meter position is located about 300 feet away in a small 6 by 8 building known as the "Air Force Shack", because in a previous life it was a portable Air Force communications shelter. Here you will find both the 20 meter position and the 20 meter spotter.

<http://www.qth.com/w0aih/>

## Worked All Wisconsin Counties

Some still chase 'awards' – paper chasers. Here's one you can work on – Worked All Wisconsin Counties.



The WAWC award certificate will be issued to any individual licensed Amateur Radio Operator who submits a complete WAWC Application Form listing confirmed two-way QSO's with all of Wisconsin's 72 counties. Only QSO's made after 1800Z March 12, 1995 are valid. The WAWC Application Form must be signed by the applicant and

verified by one other licensed Amateur who is not related to the applicant. All QSO's are to be from the applicant's QTH.

A valid QSO is a contact for which the Amateur Operator has a QSL card confirming the time, date, mode and address of the contact. **In addition to QSL cards, as of 2014, Wisconsin QSO Party (WIQP) contacts MAY be claimed without a QSL card.**

Applicants are encouraged to use the application form provided. The application must show the call, city and county of each station worked, date, mode and band, arranged in alphabetical order by county. Please indicate WIQP claimed QSO's in the last column of the form.

Applications and correspondence regarding the WAWC award can be either emailed ([wawc@warac.org](mailto:wawc@warac.org)) or submitted by regular mail to:

West Allis Radio Amateur Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 1072

Milwaukee, WI 53201

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de N4CD – If you have entered the WI QP for several years, you've probably worked all the counties. No QSL cards needed! Just fill out the form!

So far, only 6 people have been awarded the WAWC. They include NN9K, W9CBE, KJ8F, K0EVE, W9HR, and KG4CRJ.

Of course, if you have your USACA number, you've worked them all...but many worked them all before 1995 with confirmations and none confirmed since then.

## Green Corruption

### The Face of Cronyism

Billionaire John Catsimatidis is working to slip a biofuel mandate that would add \$150

million to New Yorkers' heat expenses into the state budget just as a company he owns completes construction of the largest biofuel plant in the region.

“The New York Post reports that Catsimatidis’ lobbyists are putting the pressure on State senators to slip a provision that would require all heating oil sold in New York to contain “2 percent or more of soybean oil and/or spent vegetable oils.”

He is a close friend of the Clintons

[http://www.coyoteblog.com/coyote\\_blog/2015/03/the-face-of-cronyism.html](http://www.coyoteblog.com/coyote_blog/2015/03/the-face-of-cronyism.html)

The Greenie movement – it's all about the cash – not the 'climate' – not the polar bears – but the cold hard 'green' cash. Ripped from consumer pockets and going to special interest groups and companies.

## Solar News from NASA

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, a major geomagnetic storm hit the Earth – a severe level 4 on the scale from 1 to 5. The A index climbed to 117 and the K index to 8. The propagation banner read “Poor” On all bands' for HF. Likely 6 and 2m were full of aurora contacts for folks in the north part of the country. It continued for more than 24 hours.

Jim, N9JF, wondered why he couldn't raise anyone as he traveled across IN and OH!. Rick, W5QP, was struggling for contacts from MO. Luckily Gene, WB4KZW was taking a day off on his long trip.

There was spectacular aurora at both poles



Northern Lights in Norway

From NASA/Daily Mail:

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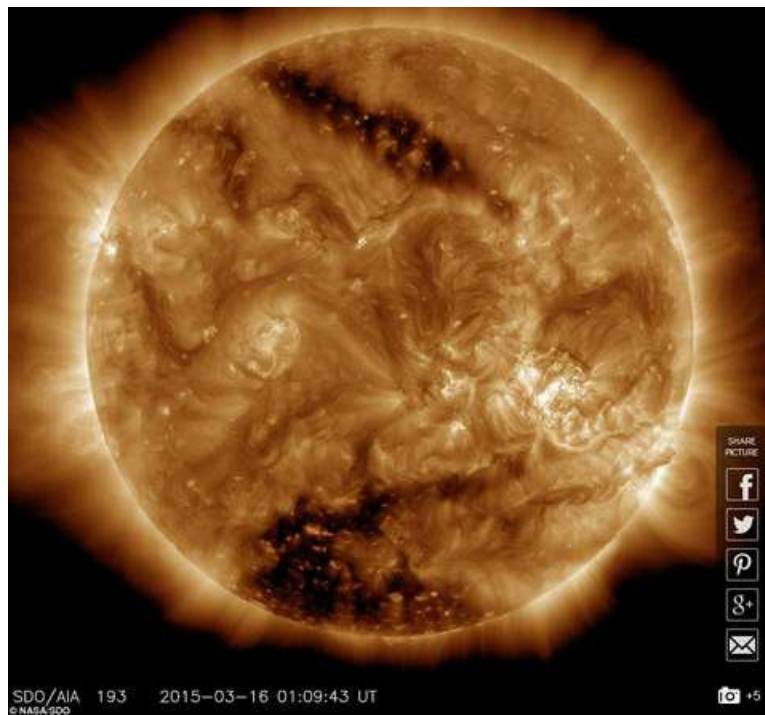
3/18/2015

Nasa has spotted a pair of huge 'holes' on the solar surface.

The larger coronal hole of the two, near the southern pole, covers an estimated 6 to 8-percent of the total solar surface, 142 billion miles - making it one of the largest polar holes scientists have observed in decades.

The smaller coronal hole, towards the opposite pole, is long and narrow, covering about 3.8 billion square miles on the sun - only about 0.16-percent of the solar surface.





'Coronal holes are lower density and temperature regions of the sun's outer atmosphere, known as the corona,' explained Nasa.

'Coronal holes can be a source of fast solar wind of solar particles that envelop the Earth.'

The magnetic field in these regions extends far out into space rather than quickly looping back into the sun's surface.

Magnetic fields that loop up and back down to the surface can be seen as arcs in non-coronal hole regions of the image, including over the lower right horizon.

The bright active region on the lower right quadrant is the same region that produced solar flares last week.

It is the second time Nasa has spotted a huge hole on the sun.

The sun has started 2015 with a mysterious event - a huge hole has appeared.

Known as a coronal hole, the phenomenon occurred near the south pole - and is seen as a dark area covered all of its base in these stunning images.

Coronal holes were first seen in images taken by astronauts on board NASA's Skylab space station in 1973 and 1974.

They can be seen for a long time, although the exact shape changes all the time.

As Solar Cycle 24 fades, the number of flares each day will get smaller, but the coronal holes provide another source of space weather that needs to be understood and predicted.

Coronal holes are a typical feature on the sun, though they appear at different places and with more frequency at different times of the sun's activity cycle.

The holes are important to our understanding of space weather, as they are the source of a high-speed wind of solar particles that streams off the sun some three times faster than the slower wind elsewhere.

While it's unclear what causes coronal holes, they correlate to areas on the sun where magnetic fields soar up and away, failing to loop back down to the surface, as they do elsewhere.

The material constantly flowing outward is called the solar wind, which typically 'blows' at around 250 miles (400 km) per second.

When a coronal hole is present, though, the wind speed can double to nearly 500 miles (800 km) per second.

Nanoflares, should they exist, may explain why the sun's outer atmosphere, called the corona, is sizzling hot, a mystery called the 'coronal heating problem.'

The corona is, on average, 1.8 million degrees Fahrenheit (1 million degrees Celsius), while the surface of the sun is relatively cooler at 10,800 Fahrenheit (6,000 degrees Celsius). It is like a flame coming out of an ice cube. Nanoflares, in combination with flares, may be sources of the intense heat.

The images comes weeks after warnings that Earth could be hit by a series of damaging solar flares after the largest sunspot to be seen on the star for 24 years aligns with our planet.

The sunspot, previously known as Active Region 12192, began facing Earth in October but did not produce any coronal mass ejection (CMEs).

CMEs are the most energetic events in our solar system, involving huge bubbles of plasma and magnetic fields being spewed from the sun's surface into space.

The region, renamed Active Region 12192, has now rotated around to face Earth again, and is likely to create CMEs, Nasa scientist Holly Gilbert told Space.com during a video interview.

'This time around, it's more likely to have some coronal mass ejections associated with it, even though the solar flares might be smaller,' she said.

'We have a good idea, based on the structure of that magnetic field and the sunspot, that it's very possible that it will create some mid-level flares.'

Magnetic fields in sunspots can store vast amounts of energy, but looping magnetic field lines can get tangled up and snap, releasing their energy as explosions called flares.

According to Dr Gilbert, the sunspot is still large enough for 10 Earths to fit inside it, and is believed to be the 33rd largest of 32,908 active regions recorded since 1874.

The Jupiter-sized sunspot produced six eruptions in October and early November, before disappearing for two weeks.

Earlier this year, Ashley Dale, who is a member of an international task force, dubbed Solarmax, warned that solar 'super-storms' pose a 'catastrophic' and 'long-lasting' threat to life on Earth.

A solar superstorm occurs when a CME of sufficient magnitude tears into the Earth's surrounding magnetic field and rips it apart

Such an event could induce huge surges of electrical currents in the ground and in overhead transmission lines, causing widespread power outages and severely damaging critical electrical components.

Mr Dale, carrying out doctoral research in aerospace engineering at Bristol University, said it is only a 'matter of time' before an exceptionally violent solar storm is propelled towards Earth.

He says such a storm would wreak havoc with communication systems and power supplies, crippling vital services such as transport, sanitation and medicine.

Without power, people would struggle to fuel their cars at petrol stations, get money from cash dispensers or pay online,' he said.

'Water and sewage systems would be affected too, meaning that health epidemics in urbanised areas would quickly take a grip, with diseases we thought we had left behind centuries ago soon returning.'

The largest ever solar super-storm on record occurred in 1859 and is known as the Carrington Event, named after the English astronomer Richard Carrington who spotted the preceding solar flare.

This massive CME released about 1022 kJ of energy - the equivalent to 10 billion Hiroshima bombs exploding at the same time - and hurled around a trillion kilos of charged particles towards the Earth at speeds of up to 3000 km/s.

However, its impact on the human population was relatively benign as our electronic infrastructure at the time amounted to no more than about 124,000 miles (200,000 km) of telegraph lines.

Mr Dale says these types of events are not just a threat, but inevitable.

Nasa scientists have predicted that the Earth is in the path of a Carrington-level event every 150 years on average.

This means that we are currently five years overdue - and that the likelihood of one occurring in the next decade is as high as 12 per cent.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2999520/Is-sun-going-dark-Latest-Nasa-images-reveal-TWO-giant-holes-one-covering-10-solar-surface.html#ixzz3Uk59qOTj>

# Oklahoma QSO Party

Mobiles were out and running despite the continuing geomagnetic storm. The A index was 24 and K=2 which was better than the A of 117 and K of 8 during the week!

Norm, W3DYA, and Connie, K5CM and Bob, W0BH were zipping around along with Ron, AF5Q and AD0DX all on cw. K5ZZR was supposed to be out on SSB but never spotted if he was on Saturday. He ran just a few on Sunday according to the spots, but SSB spotters are not that efficient or numerous. The radio conditions were not great – but lots of contacts were made. Did not see too many SSB spots if any SSB county hunters were looking for OK. . Folks work the mobiles and fixed stations and don't spot?

Since I had just started over, it was a 'feast' – at least when the mobiles went to 40M. Most spent at least 2 or 4 minutes on 40m so I could find them before they disappeared. Not many were calling on 40M due to the rotten conditions. There were a few fixed stations on from OK as well – N4IJ/5 in OKL , W5CW in Wagoner and N5DY in Payne and N5PHT in Latimer on 40M . For those tracking no-star you've got to be careful to enter them as fixed. K5WE was on from the K5CM QTH in Muskogee while Connie was out mobile.

On Sunday, Jerry, K5YAA headed west and was running counties, and N5KW mobile showed up to add in more on cw. Conditions were 'better' with an A of 'only' 14 and K=4 – still not good. Another category 2 geomagnetic storm happened Sunday morning. Normally I can hear CO (about 800 miles - S9).....zip. Nothing. The east coast was pounding in and so were the few fixed stations in VA. Never heard the VA mobiles who seemed to stay on 40M.

NE0OK showed upon 20M SSB on Sunday. There were all counties on the air during the contest – at least on 20m cw

Looks like most of the counties if not all were run on cw on 40m. I missed 12 of the 77 by not getting on the first two hours, and AD0DX and AF5Q skipped 40m on several counties. Not bad - 65 new counties for N4CD in one weekend! Fun!

From the 3830 reflector:



Ron, AF5Q

**AF5Q mobile - 249 cw 33 ssb QSO**

Had a passing in the family, so was not quite focused. I will do better in 2016. Excitingly enough, helped N6MU with the last county for the sweep, Cotton. Great conditions, even though had some trouble with the setup. Still felt good just to get out and see beautiful SW Oklahoma even on a cloudy day.

73 and thanks for the contacts. See ya in Missouri in 2 weeks.

Ron, AF5Q

**W3DYA mobile reported 580 QSOs**

**N6MU – fixed – CA 112 cw 77 counties (Sweep!)**

Managed an all CW Sweep this year. The first 70 or so counties are just as important as the last few but it's those last few that provide a lot of intrigue. Would K5YAA get to the far panhandle TEX/CIM line before the end of the Party to give me my last two? Of course, Jerry made it with a whole 10 minutes to spare! Would old reliable W0BH finish his 28 county journey with two new ones (WOO/ALF) for the deserving? You bet Bob did. I was sure I was going to miss COT but, once again, AF5Q rode to the rescue Sunday. Thanks, Ron. A special thanks to Ron, AD0DX, who changed his route plan Saturday night to include coverage of JEF, STE and GRA for the deserving. Judging from the pileup he had at the GRA/MCL line, I wasn't the only grateful recipient! It's this kind of camaraderie that makes these things so much fun!

Thanks to all the mobiles and fixed stations for another great OKQP and kudos to Connie, K5CM, for putting it all together. 73...

**N4PN – fixed GA 82 cw Mults = 46**

Not much time this year - lots of activity at home and church..  
Still good to see ole friends, i.e. K5YAA, W0BH, K5CM, W5LE and others.  
Thanks for keeping it fun while was in the chair..  
See ya next year.  
73, Paul

**KN4Y – fixed FL - 71 cw 34 counties**

I had planned a full time effort in the Oklahoma QSO party, the cooler was cool, the bands were hot, the drinks were cold and a soft pillow to sit on. Then a phone call, a bowler had been rushed to the hospital and I was needed to replace him. So I worked the QSO party before and after bowling. So much for long term planning. The five mobiles made it a fun party.

**KQ6P** worked 21 ssb counties –

# Logger Problems

A county hunter called and asked how does one tell if folks are 'mobile' in a state QSO Party – and does Logger handle it correctly when you just 'import' things from the spots. While for most awards there is no problem – such as USACA or Nth time, or 'all cw', or even the new 'all SSB', or prefixes or call combos or Bingo – there are some problems.

If you look at the spots, they are insensitive to 'mobile, portable, or fixed'. There is no way to tell. Of course, if you work them on 14.336 and you are not NC with a passer by fixed station giving you a report, you can assume that if you work anyone that they are mobile. That's all that gets run 99.99% of the time. The problem comes in the No Star and other books.

No Star requires working MOBILES with no stars. If you don't enter spots correctly, things will get credited to the No Star book incorrectly. For example, in state QSO parties, there are a few mobiles out – and likely a dozen or more fixed stations giving out counties. Do most county hunters who work the QSO parties change the data when spotting from 'mobile' which is the default, to 'fixed' station? I doubt it. They import it, and rush off to work the next station in the QSO Party (or contest). That could mean a lot of corrupted 'No Star' books out there.

If you go mobile, and enter in the fixed stations you work, do you take care to make sure they are entered as 'fixed' if they are at home? If not, they could show up as 'mobile to mobile' contacts as well as potential no star book entries.

Even more difficult – calls like N4E...used by WA4PGM and KA4RRU recently in the NC QP – even if mobile.....are really NOT No Star contacts since Kyle, WA4PGM, operating N4E, and Mike, KA4RRU has a star. Unless you read the forum or planned trips, you might not know that. Did you work KE0G in the MN QSO Party? He was 'rover' or portable. Ran a half dozen counties. Set up a big antenna at each location. Did you log it as 'portable' or 'mobile'? The only way you would know he was not mobile was read the MN QSO Party web site or the county hunter news – after the fact and contest – where folks likely would not go back and change those contacts.

If folks aren't careful, there could be the hundreds and hundreds of wrong entries in the No



Star books.

If you have worked W4CA, you need to be sure it does not show up in your NO STAR book. The operator for W4CA is AB4YZ and he has a load of stars. W4CA is not good for No Star. How many false entries do you have? It is also not good for the W prefix since Ray must personally hold that call, and he does not. As the rules for Prefixes says:

“To make contacts with amateur radio **operators** who have as the first letter of **their** call sign one of four letters assigned to USA stations.”

Note is says OPERATOR who has THEIR call sign. W4CA does not belong to Ray. He's just borrowing it. Tomorrow some other 'club member' could be using it.

## Virginia QSO Party

As normal, this was a 40/80m event. Few VA stations and as far as I can tell, NO mobile run on 20M cw. Not a one. Makes it rough from TX and CA when 90% of the activity is on the lower bands. Disappointing – well, from years past, I didn't expect much, and didn't get much. 15M had a whole 2 cw contacts the entire weekend. 20M wasn't much better with constant tuning and only finding 15 stations on the whole weekend. The stations that were on 20M cw had great signals. No problem. They were just stuck on 40M most of the time!

The club group multi-op W4CA was on the air from Patrick, VA on an expedition. If you worked one of the other ops beside AB4YZ, it counts for no-star as a portable station.

From the 3830 contest score reflector:

**K2PI – fixed – Fauquier – VA 211 cw 617 ssb**

Despite conditions, a fun contest. I tried to have fun, and make the contacts

fun for others. Had many a good long exchange - some QSO's really - and enjoyed the chance to talk to the people I was working, instead of rapid-fire exchanges. This may have cut down my rate, but I believe this is important.

So many mobiles activated counties and independent cities I've never seen before, and I'm grateful to all of them and others who went portable. Heck, I am grateful to everyone who took the time out to work me. There lies the big secret of this QSO party - there are many out of state folks who join in, and they make it so much better. I cannot count the number of high serial numbers from out-of-state hams. We are very grateful, and many of us, myself included, participate in the other QSO parties to return the favor.

This was my first test with the Elecraft KPA500, and I could not imagine not having that little amp after this. It just works, and it protects itself from all my attempts to kill it with the wrong antenna or bad SWR.

Thanks also to many hams who followed me from place to place, giving multiple contacts. One such was WA6HHK, who has a legitimate concern about VA stations not working on the higher bands. As you can see, I put in about 300 Q's on 20 and 15 combined, and that made a huge difference in my score. We really need to get up off of 40 during the daytime.

Elecraft K3 and KPA500, ZS6BKW dipole, 160M Inverted L, and 2 and 6 Meter beams

73  
Harv  
K2PI

**N4PN – fixed – GA - 135 cw      0 Mults = 68 Total**

Activity seemed way down...only a few mobiles out this year..  
Missed some of the usual crowd like Bob, W4MYA/W4ML and N4NW.  
Thanks to those who showed up....didn't stray far from the rig  
even with all the basketball games going on.  
See ya next year!

73, Paul

(more than 90% of his contacts were on 40/80m)

- - - -

**WN4AFP – fixed - SC - 53 cw 60 ssb 63 counties**

This was my 2nd VAQP and it was another fun QP. Lived on 40m with a bit of 80m during the last hour of the event. I never heard the bonus station. Thanks to the mobiles for all the counties - K4EG, KT4KA, N4TGR, W3TB, KJ4OAP, N4USS, KI4ZKJ and W1ATA. Trying QRP for a change. 73s Dave WN4AFP

**WA6KHK – fixed – CA 26 31 ssb 28 counties**

Every time I looked at your spotting cluster all the VA stations were hanging out on 40 meters. Was there some good reason why most of those stations never got on 15 or 20 meters??? Were conditions on those 2 bands that poor in VA??? Very sad. No chance for the west coast, as usual. I even emailed some of your rovers ahead of your QSO party to let them know that I had 13 counties left to work in VA. That's 13 out of the last 47 I have to go for ALL US counties! I didn't get 1 new county from VA this week end and it was not due to the lack of effort on MY part!

**K4Z at N4HB – fixed – Northumberland VA 210 cs 934 SSB**  
(exactly 1 QSO on 20cw – 415 on 20M ssb))

K4ZOperator(s): N4HB AB4SF KR4OI

Band conditions on Sunday varied from poor to fair. We all got sapped by "Ole Sol".

**N8II fixed – WV - 67 cw 157 ssb 81 mults**

My time was quite limited, only about 50 QSO's on Saturday. I spent all Saturday

from 1515Z until 2030Z looking for goodies with friend at flea market, 2nd hand store, and antique mall. Then, I was too tired to operate much that evening. Conditions were halfway decent despite the very high K index Saturday, but oh my goodness Sunday, absolutely no prop to VA on 40 until about 16-17Z with normally strong signals returning around 20Z despite a low K index of 1 at 18Z. OK stations were pretty easy to work on 40 until 15Z, so the ionosphere had really taken a hit.

There was a very good mobile SSB turnout, but I was too busy playing catch up running stations on 40 phone once the mobiles could finally be heard to try and catch nearly all of their counties. Thanks to mobiles K4EG, KJ4AOP, and AB4YK for several rare cities/counties and to a passel of others for a couple of QSO's. K1HTV and I ran thru the bands except 160 to populate the band QSO's and line of sight KW4VA partially did the same. Between Rich and Mark, K4SO, Culpepper county should have been in every log. I worked almost all of the nearby NW VA counties which I thought nearly impossible before 40 meters opened Sunday including, WIX, FRE, CLA, SHE, MAD, LSA, FLU, PAG, RAP, LDN, PRW, FAU, RHM, and WAX.

Skip stayed quite short on 40 until sunset which helped a lot with my near the VA border QTH. KJ4OAP put Buena Vista city on the air (first time ever worked) which brought back fond memories of a visit to there, Goshen Pass (Maury river gorge), Lexington, and the Blue Ridge Parkway last Spring. There is some spectacular scenery in that area!

It was a very fun event overall which was hurt by the poor conditions half of Sunday. It was nice to hear all of the mobiles. This was probably my best score ever in VQP. Thanks for the QSO's.

73, Jeff

**W1IE – fixed – Bedford VA** – made 480 contacts on SSB...and exactly one on cw. Makes it rough to work 'em on cw.

There were at least a dozen stations reporting.....who made zero or next to zero cw contacts, or made zero on 20m and many on 40/80m. Sure doesn't help the 'rest of the country'.

# QSO Party Spotting Site?

QSO Party Spotting Site? Suggested by the VA QP homepage.

Apparently during the VA QSO Party, some folks were using

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

This seems to be a spotting site oriented toward QSO parties. Anyone familiar with it or used it?

Let us know! There sure weren't all that many spots on the W6RK site.

K4EG ran 25 counties in the VA QP on 40m cw and almost none of them were spotted on the regular county hunting sites.

# California Drought

Likely you've heard the dire warnings that California reservoirs are down to 8% of their normal levels and they expect to run out of water next year. And you've heard it's all caused by 'Global Warming'. Well....it's not!

From the NY Slimes newspaper:

“BEGINNING about 1,100 years ago, what is now California baked in two droughts, the first lasting 220 years and the second 140 years. Each was much more intense than the mere six-year dry spells that afflict modern California from time to time, new studies of past climates show. The findings suggest, in fact, that relatively wet periods like the 20th century have been the exception rather than the rule in California for at least the last 3,500 years, and that mega-droughts are likely to recur.

The evidence for the big droughts comes from an analysis of the trunks of trees that

grew in the dry beds of lakes, swamps and rivers in and adjacent to the Sierra Nevada, but died when the droughts ended and the water levels rose. Immersion in water has preserved the trunks over the centuries.

Dr. Scott Stine, a paleoclimatologist at California State University at Hayward, used radiocarbon dating techniques to determine the age of the trees' outermost annual growth rings, thereby establishing the ends of drought periods. He then calculated the lengths of the preceding dry spells by counting the rings in each stump.

This method identified droughts lasting from A.D. 892 to A.D. 1112 and from A.D. 1209 to A.D. 1350. Judging by how far the water levels dropped during these periods -- as much as 50 feet in some cases -- Dr. Stine concluded that the droughts were not only much longer, they were far more severe than either the drought of 1928 to 1934, California's worst in modern times, or the more recent severe dry spell of 1987 to 1992.

In medieval times the California droughts coincided roughly with a warmer climate in Europe, which allowed the Vikings to colonize Greenland and vineyards to grow in England, and with a severe dry period in South America, which caused the collapse of that continent's most advanced pre-Inca empire, the rich and powerful state of Tiwanaku, other recent studies have found.

Does Tiwanaku's fate await modern California?

Dr. Stine, who reported his findings last month in the British journal *Nature*, says that California, like Tiwanaku, presents "a classic case of people building themselves beyond the carrying capacity of the land," which is determined not by wet times but by dry ones. "What we've done in California is fail to recognize that there are lean times ahead," said Dr. Stine, "and they are a lot leaner than anything we've come up against" in the modern era.

How far ahead that reckoning might lie is, of course, uncertain.

Dr. Stine's findings, combined with similar evidence he turned up in Patagonia, strengthen the case of those who believe that the earth experienced a general warming at the time of the Middle Ages, Dr. F. Alayne Street-Perrott, a paleoclimatologist at Oxford University in England, wrote in a commentary accompanying Dr. Stine's report in *Nature*.

There appears to be little doubt that the epic dry spells of the past did occur, he said, adding that "what has happened can happen."

The Sierra Nevada, where Dr. Stine conducted his study, is California's most important area for the collection of water. Runoff from the Sierras provides two-thirds of the state's surface-water supply for cities and farms. The study involved trees at four places: Mono

Lake, Tenaya Lake, the West Walker River and Osgood Swamp. Dr. Stine's tree-ring analysis found that live trees had covered dry beds of lakes, streams and swamps for overlapping periods of 50, 100, 141 and 220 years and that these "lowstand" periods were clustered in two major dry spells separated by a century-long wet period. "Epic drought," he wrote in *Nature*, is "the only plausible explanation for the site-to-site contemporaneity of the stumps."

In the period separating the two long droughts, Dr. Stine said, the water in Mono Lake rose to a level higher than any in the last 150 years, suggesting that the California climate was even wetter then than it is today. **The last century and a half, Dr. Stine found, has been the third wettest period in the last three millennia. But, he said, "the vast majority of years during the past 3,500 years have been much drier than what we've come to expect to be normal in California."**

The evidence for the medieval drought periods is especially strong, Dr. Hughes said, because the lake basins are closed, with no natural outlets; consequently, their water levels are influenced only by inflow and evaporation, making them ideal gauges of drought. And even though radiocarbon dating is somewhat imprecise, he said, it is good enough "to show two major phases of tree growth and lowstands; there's no doubt about that." This, he said, shows that "often, for sure, there have been periods of 100 years or more" that have been "markedly drier" than the 20th century.

The 10th to the 14th centuries, encompassing the prolonged droughts reported by Dr. Stine, saw "dramatic changes" in Western Hemisphere civilizations, Dr. Street-Perrott wrote in *Nature*, and some have been attributed by archeologists to changes in rainfall. One example is the sudden decline of the Anasazi cliff-dwellers in the American southwest at about the year 1300. Another, even more striking, is the collapse of Tiwanaku.

Tiwanaku was a flourishing empire that lasted seven centuries and reached its zenith near the end of the first millennium A.D. It commanded an area about the size of California, extending from the Andean plateau around Lake Titicaca to the Pacific Coast and covering parts of present-day Bolivia, Chile and Peru.

The empire's economy was based on intensive agriculture carried out on raised fields: acres of end-to-end rectangular platforms created by digging the dirt from areas between them. The dug-out areas became canals from which silt was taken to provide fertilizer. This highly productive and environmentally sound system dominated Latin American agriculture for centuries. *Death of a Civilization*

But several lines of evidence, including analyses of fossilized pollen grains and isotopes of oxygen in lake sediments, make it clear that an extended drought afflicted the region starting between A.D. 950 and A.D. 1000 and continuing, with fluctuations, until 1410, concluded a study last year by Charles R. Ortloff, a fluid-mechanics specialist at the

FMC Corporate Technology Center at Santa Clara, Calif., and Dr. Alan L. Kolata, an archeologist at the University of Chicago. That period mostly overlaps the one in which the California mega-droughts occurred.

The South American drought was of "horrendous proportions," said Dr. Kolata, and it destroyed Tiwanaku's agricultural base. The empire's cities were abandoned by about 1000. Dr. Kolata believes that the raised fields could no longer support the cities, and archeological evidence shows that the fields were abandoned between 1000 and 1100. The political state collapsed, the population dispersed and, with agriculture no longer possible, the people relied on raising alpacas and llamas.

Tiwanaku's agricultural system had been able to adjust to the less drastic cycles of drought and inundation that were thought to be normal, but "Tiwanaku agro-engineers were incapable of responding to a drought of unprecedented duration and severity," Mr. Ortloff and Dr. Kolata wrote in a 1993 paper in *The Journal of Archeological Science*.

Like Tiwanaku's engineers, those who draw up California's water-management plans do so on the basis of what are believed to be normal droughts but in fact are not nearly as severe as what has occurred in the past and can occur again, said Dr. Stine.

"The assumption they've made for a long time -- that California is subject to droughts of a maximum of seven years -- could be harmful in the long run," he said, because "they have doled out water on that assumption.

"This could be destructive if you get hit with a 9th or a 10th or a 15th year of severe drought."

In gauging the length and frequency of droughts for planning purposes, California officials rely on a tree-ring study extending back to about 1560. Over that period, the 1928-1934 drought was the longest and worst. The problem, said Dr. Stine, is that the study period includes not only the wet 19th and 20th centuries, but also the even wetter 16th and 17th centuries. "They're using the wettest period of the last 3,000 years to define the duration and severity of the droughts we can expect in the future," he said.

Maurice Roos, the chief hydrologist of the California Department of Water Resources, said he had not read Dr. Stine's report in *Nature*. But he did acknowledge that a mega-drought of the kind described in the report would probably cause much of the state's lush irrigated cropland to cease producing. The cities would probably have the money and political power to appropriate enough water to get by, he said, adding, "There will always be some water; there is not going to be no water." He said he would not expect farming to cease altogether, or cities to be deserted.

Modern California has at least one coping weapon that Tiwanaku did not: the ability to turn sea water into fresh water. The 1987-92 drought did, in fact, prompt Santa Barbara to build a desalinization plant, Mr. Roos said, though he was quick to point out that this



solution at present would be "enormously expensive."

At the very least, Dr. Stine wrote in Nature, a recurrence of the medieval droughts "would be highly disruptive environmentally and economically." Planning for a mega-drought now, while heads are a little cooler, would help, he says. The planning might include, for example, deciding which crops are to be taken out of production first, what restrictions to place on the pumping of groundwater and how cities are to obtain water.

But in the end, he said, a reprise of the medieval droughts would simply overwhelm California's efforts to cope. And he said: "We don't need 200 years of drought to bring us down. At some point, in the 9th year, or the 15th year or the 19th year, the damage is done and it doesn't matter any more."

- - -

The warmists won't tell you that. We will. CA might just run out of water for agriculture and many other industries. Unless you believe the Vikings drove SUVs by the millions to 'change their climate', they too discovered Iceland, Greenland and Labrador were not 'warm' enough for farming after the first 30-40 years when the climate went back to normal.

## MARAC Elections

MARAC Elections are coming up. The voting period is the month of May.

The following people are running for office: (per the MARAC webpage)

### **2015 MARAC Election - Candidates**

Vice President - Terry (WQ7A) (unopposed)

Great Lakes District Director - Dan (KM9X) and **Timothy (W8JJ)**

South Central District Director - Dick (K5VYT) and **Barry (N0KV)**

North East District Director - **David (KW1DX)** and Al (N1API)

North Central District Director - **Mike (NF0N)** and Tony (WA9DLB)

South East District Director - Jim (N4JT) and **Kerry (W4SIG)**

You can vote for your candidate of choice in your 'District'. For too long, most of the directors and officers simply 'rubber stamped' whatever was proposed by 'the leaders' (KZ2P, KE3VV and crew) and didn't do good for the county hunting community. It's time for a major shift.

In Great Lakes, Dr. Tim, W8JJ has done a great job of doing good for county hunting. He leads the County Hunting Forum each year at Dayton, no easy task and is an active mobiler. He's anxious to get things moving again in MARAC.

In the North East, Dave, KW1DX has one again thrown his hat back in the ring, anxious to get MARAC straightened out again. If elected, he'll likely re engage on the Logger upgrade.

In North Central, Mike, NF0N, is anxious to get some 'change' in MARAC.

In South Central, Barry, N0KV, is anxious for getting MARAC changed for the better.

In South Central, Kerry, W4SIG, has great ideas for getting things moving. He's the spark plug now behind the MARAC booth at the Dayton hamfest.

It's fairly easy to decide who to vote for. If they help and 'enable' the current mess on 14.336 by doing relays or acting as assistant net control – they are not part of the 'solution'. Simple. If they run mobile on 14.336 these days when the S.C. NC is around...and enable the poor behavior, they are not 'part of the solution'. There needs to be a major shift in MARAC thinking.

In a year or two, we can go after change in the other offices of MARAC and complete the transition.

If you haven't got a 'MARAC KEY' you will need to go to the web site and key a MARAC key to be able to vote. Contact KV7N to get your key. If you have voted in the past, your computer will likely remember your voting key. Voting is on line. Or you can print off a ballot and mail it to Kent.

# Taxes, Taxes and More Taxes

Politicians stay up nights dreaming up new ways to tax people. They never met a tax they didn't like.

The following is a list of 97 taxes Americans pay every year...

- #1 Air Transportation Taxes (just look at how much you were charged the last time you flew)
- #2 Biodiesel Fuel Taxes
- #3 Building Permit Taxes
- #4 Business Registration Fees
- #5 Capital Gains Taxes
- #6 Cigarette Taxes
- #7 Court Fines (indirect taxes)
- #8 Disposal Fees
- #9 Dog License Taxes
- #10 Drivers License Fees (another form of taxation)
- #11 Employer Health Insurance Mandate Tax
- #12 Employer Medicare Taxes
- #13 Employer Social Security Taxes
- #14 Environmental Fees
- #15 Estate Taxes
- #16 Excise Taxes On Comprehensive Health Insurance Plans
- #17 Federal Corporate Taxes
- #18 Federal Income Taxes
- #19 Federal Unemployment Taxes
- #20 Fishing License Taxes
- #21 Flush Taxes (yes, this actually exists in some areas)
- #22 Food And Beverage License Fees
- #23 Franchise Business Taxes
- #24 Garbage Taxes
- #25 Gasoline Taxes
- #26 Gift Taxes
- #27 Gun Ownership Permits
- #28 Hazardous Material Disposal Fees

#29 Highway Access Fees  
#30 Hotel Taxes (these are becoming quite large in some areas)  
#31 Hunting License Taxes  
#32 Import Taxes  
#33 Individual Health Insurance Mandate Taxes  
#34 Inheritance Taxes  
#35 Insect Control Hazardous Materials Licenses  
#36 Inspection Fees  
#37 Insurance Premium Taxes  
#38 Interstate User Diesel Fuel Taxes  
#39 Inventory Taxes  
#40 IRA Early Withdrawal Taxes  
#41 IRS Interest Charges (tax on top of tax)  
#42 IRS Penalties (tax on top of tax)  
#43 Library Taxes  
#44 License Plate Fees  
#45 Liquor Taxes  
#46 Local Corporate Taxes  
#47 Local Income Taxes  
#48 Local School Taxes  
#49 Local Unemployment Taxes  
#50 Luxury Taxes  
#51 Marriage License Taxes  
#52 Medicare Taxes  
#53 Medicare Tax Surcharge On High Earning Americans Under Obamacare  
#54 Obamacare Individual Mandate Excise Tax (if you don't buy "qualifying" health insurance under Obamacare you will have to pay an additional tax)  
#55 Obamacare Surtax On Investment Income (a new 3.8% surtax on investment income)  
#56 Parking Meters  
#57 Passport Fees  
#58 Professional Licenses And Fees (another form of taxation)  
#59 Property Taxes  
#60 Real Estate Taxes  
#61 Recreational Vehicle Taxes  
#62 Registration Fees For New Businesses  
#63 Toll Booth Taxes  
#64 Sales Taxes  
#65 Self-Employment Taxes  
#66 Sewer & Water Taxes

- #67 School Taxes
- #68 Septic Permit Taxes
- #69 Service Charge Taxes
- #70 Social Security Taxes
- #71 Special Assessments For Road Repairs Or Construction
- #72 Sports Stadium Taxes
- #73 State Corporate Taxes
- #74 State Income Taxes
- #75 State Park Entrance Fees
- #76 State Unemployment Taxes (SUTA)
- #77 Tanning Taxes (a new Obamacare tax on tanning services)
- #78 Telephone 911 Service Taxes
- #79 Telephone Federal Excise Taxes
- #80 Telephone Federal Universal Service Fee Taxes
- #81 Telephone Minimum Usage Surcharge Taxes
- #82 Telephone State And Local Taxes
- #83 Telephone Universal Access Taxes
- #84 The Alternative Minimum Tax
- #85 Tire Recycling Fees
- #86 Tire Taxes
- #87 Tolls (another form of taxation)
- #88 Traffic Fines (indirect taxation)
- #89 Use Taxes (Out of state purchases, etc.)
- #90 Utility Taxes
- #91 Vehicle Registration Taxes
- #92 Waste Management Taxes
- #93 Water Rights Fees
- #94 Watercraft Registration & Licensing Fees
- #95 Well Permit Fees
- #96 Workers Compensation Taxes
- #97 Zoning Permit Fees

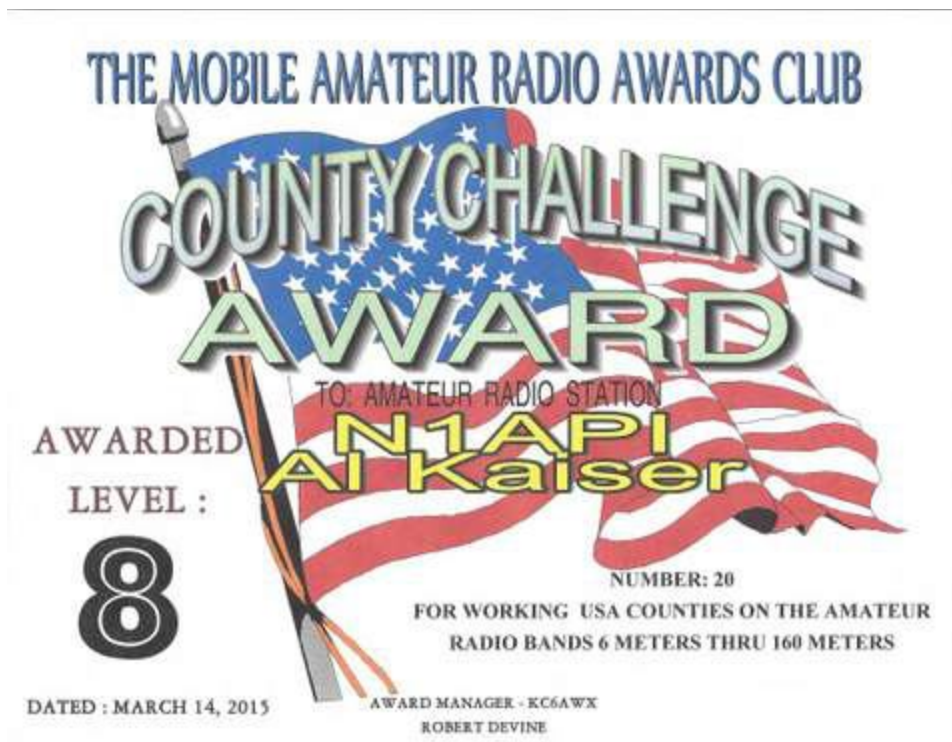
## County Challenge Award

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One of the awards you can be working on at all times is the County Challenge Award. It's a good reason to work mobiles on as many bands as you can also, get in state QSO

parties to work mobiles on 80m and 15m if you have propagation, and work special event and other stations for their 'band-county'. All contacts made under your call from anywhere count.

This is what the award looks like:



Awarded to N1AP for Level 8

from the Awards page:

**IN MEMORIAM:** The County Challenge Award is dedicated to Bill Inkrote (K2NJ SK). In addition to his years of service to MARAC and leadership as MARAC President, Bill was an active DXCC Honor Roll member, contester, DXpeditioner, and a dedicated county hunter who led the way in working counties on all bands and modes.

**OBJECTIVE:** To encourage county hunters to work and activate counties on as many bands as possible and to work as many counties as possible on the following bands: 160m, 75 -80m, 40m, 30m, 20m, 17m, 15m, 12m, 10m, and 6m.

**SPECIAL RULES:** The number of counties worked for the award is the combined total

of counties worked on each band. For example, if 500 counties are worked on 80m, 1500 on 40m, 2000 on 30m, and 3000 on 20m, the County Challenge total is 7000.

AWARD LEVELS: Each one thousand (1000) counties worked is one level of the award. For example, a CC total of 7,000 counties would be eligible for CC Level #7.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fee

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The award is not mode sensitive. You can work 'em' on SSB or CW or both or RTTY or digital. All that counts are 'band counties' from 160-6, not including 5MHz. Some are up to Level 16 (KN4Y) and 17 (KC3X) now.

It seems that many have just woken up – and realized this award exists. Logger will track it if you turn it on to track it.

This is another one that does not appear anywhere in the awards database on MARAC. You've got room for USA-SSB 1 to 10, and not one has been issued yet and you won't get to USA-SSB-10 if Kalawao and Second AK is only run once a year on average until 2025! . But no space for County Challenge or US Digital to be listed either under 'awards' or under the individual calls. Hello?

## Awards

Second Time #433	Don, W3DLM	3.1.15
Third 3rd Time #246	Mark, KM6HB	3.21.15
Ninth Time #9	Bob, N4CD	3.4.15

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USA-CW II #35	Gene, WB4KZW	2.23.15,
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USA-CW V #6	Bob, N4CD	3.4.15
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Bingo #366	Paul, N7JPF	3.7.15,
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Bingo III #31	Gene, WB4KZW	2.23.15,
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Bingo III #32	Don, AE3Z	3.11.15,
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USA-CA Digital - 1000+ #9	Mike, NF0N	3.2.15
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USA-CA Digital - 1000+ #10	Dennis, N6PDB	3.2.15
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USA-CA Digital - 1000+ #11	Mike, KA4RRU	3.5.15,
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USA-PA "K" Prefix #28	Gene WB4KZW	2.23.15
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Gemini Award #170	Gene, WB4KZW	2.23.15,
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US Presidents #46	Gene, WB4KZW	2.23.15,
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US Presidents #47	Bob, N4CD	3..4.15
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Native American Counties #49	Gene, WB4KZW	2.23.15,
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Native American Counties #50	Bob,N4CD	3.4.15
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Single Band 20 meters #26	Gene, WB4KZW	2.23.15,
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Ran All USA #17	Jim, N4JT	3/5/2017
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County Challenge Level 6	Mark, KM6HB	3.21.1
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County Challenge Level 7	Wayne, WE7G	3.20.15
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County Challenge Level 7	Dennis, N6PDB	3.23.15
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County Challenge Level 8	Al, N1API	3.14.15,
County Challenge Level 9	Larry, W7FEN	3.21.15,
County Challenge Level 11	Larry, N2OCW	3.21.15
County Challenge Level 12	Mike, KA4RRU	3.5.15
County Challenge Level 14	Bill, K0DEQ	3.24.15

## Events for County Hunters

### **Mississippi QSO Party**

RS(T) and MS county or S/P/C

[www.arrlmiss.org](http://www.arrlmiss.org)

Apr 4, 1400Z - Apr 5, 0200Z

CW 50 kHz above band edge;

Phone 3.862, 7.195, 14.270, 21.370, 28.370 MHz;

Digital per band plan

### **Missouri QSO Party**

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

[www.w0ma.org](http://www.w0ma.org)

Apr 4, 1400Z - See website

CW 1.820 and 40 kHz from band edge;

Phone--1.880,3.825,7.220,14.250,21.380,28.350 MHz;

Digital--80 kHz from band edge;

VHF/UHF--see website

### **Montana QSO Party**

RS(T) and MT county or S/P/C

[www.fvarc.org](http://www.fvarc.org)

Apr 4, 1800Z - Apr 5, 1800Z

### **New Mexico QSO Party**

Call sign, name, and NM county or S/P/C

[www.newmexicoqsoparty.org](http://www.newmexicoqsoparty.org)

Apr 11, 1400Z - Apr 12, 0200Z

CW-1.82,3.55,7.045,14.05,21.05,28.05,50.095;

SSB-1.85,3.815,7.26,14.28,21.38,28.38,50.13 MHz

### **Georgia QSO Party**

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

[www.georgiaqsoparty.org](http://www.georgiaqsoparty.org)

Apr 11, 1800Z - See website

CW 1.815,3.545,7.045,14.045,21.045,28.045,50.095;

Phone 1.865,3.810,7.225,14.250,21.300,28.450,50.135 MHz

### **Nebraska QSO Party**

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

[www.qcwa.org/chapter025.htm](http://www.qcwa.org/chapter025.htm)

Apr 18, 1200Z - Apr 19, 2300Z

CW 1.805 and 35 kHz above band edge, Nov/Tech--10 kHz above band edge;

Phone--1.915,3.865,7.265,14.265,21.365,28.465,146.460 MHz

### **Michigan QSO Party**

Serial and MI county or S/P/C

[www.miqp.org](http://www.miqp.org)

Apr 18, 1600Z - Apr 19, 0400Z

CW 45 kHz from band edge,

Phone 3.825,7.200,14.250,21.300,28.450 MHz

### **North Dakota QSO Party**

RST and ND county or S/P/C

[www.w0nd.com](http://www.w0nd.com)

Apr 18, 1800Z - Apr 19, 1800Z

CW 1.850, 3.550, 3705, 7.050, 14.050, 21.050, 28.050;

Phone 1.870, 3.850, 7.250, 14.270, 21.350, 28.450;

VHF+/Digital per band plan

note: ND0S will be in Slope ND for the QSO Party – SSB 14273/21373 – Good for the Natural Bingo!

### **Florida QSO Party**

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

[www.floridagsoparty.org](http://www.floridagsoparty.org)

Apr 25, 1600Z - See website See website

### **Texas state Parks on the Air**

County hunters: on April 4 and 5 (UTC) we will be active as K5C in the 2015 edition of the Texas State Parks On The Air event, from Kickapoo Cavern State Park, located in both Kinney and Edwards counties. The county line runs through the middle of the park, fairly close to our primary operation position (which is in Kinney county). Plans have not been finalized yet; but there is a very good chance we can set up a second (mobile) station a few hundred feet up the road, which in turn will be located in Edwards county. Make sure you listen for us; we know that these two counties are relatively rare!

**You can find more information about us on our website at [www.coyotearc.net](http://www.coyotearc.net).**

**73!**

Erik - K5WW

CARC Secretary / Trustee

from <http://www.tspota.com/site/index>

### **TSPOTA 2015 Official Contest Rules**

#### **Purpose**

To promote public awareness of ham radio and Texas' beautiful state parks system; to contribute to the recognition that Texas has a very diverse and wonderful ecology; and to

promote camaraderie within the ranks of Texas' Amateur Radio operators.

## Suggested Frequencies

These are only suggested frequencies. Operators should use good amateur radio practices and be considerate of others - do not cause interference.

<b>Band (Meters)</b>	<b>CW (MHz)</b>	<b>Phone (MHz)</b>
80	3.545	3.885
40	7.045	7.285
20	14.045	14.285
15	21.045	21.385
10	28.045	28.450
6	50.045	50.145

List of parks and abbreviations at above link

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Maybe 10 state parks will be on the air.

## Michigan Mini

Michigan Mini is hosted by Ed, K8ZZ and Joe, W8TVT and will be held April 23 - 24 & 25th at the West Bay Beach - Holiday Inn Resort 615 East Front Street • Traverse City, Michigan 49686 Phone: (231) 947-3700 • Toll Free: (800) 888-8020 Room rates of: \$89.95 plus tax per night if reserved by March 27th, 2015.

Over 100 people are now registered for this blockbuster event!

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## Dayton Hamfest

Dayton Hamfest May 15-17 Hara Arena (same place as usual).

The County Hunter Forum will be on Friday afternoon at 3pm – hosted by W8JJ, Tim. Afterward we'll QSY to the Golden Corral for dinner at 5-5:30pm

## 3M – Mini in Murphreesboro

The MMM will be held in Murfreesboro, TN October 8-11. Hotel will be the Clarion ( previously Holidome) at 2227 Old Fort Parkway. Cracker Barrel next door plus other places for meals. Pets are free... remind them so you get an outside room. Reservations at: 615-896-2420 . Friday lunch group at Mary BoBos being planned as well. You do not have to be an Old Timer to attend..... just be a friendly face wanting to meet other kindred spirits and honor Bill Bell... KM4W.... who initiated this meeting and ran it for 25 years.

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

The Cracker Barrel is located just a 100 yards away as are several other fast food spots.... other restaurants are within a mile or so and the hotel, The CLARION is located just off I-24 in Central Murfreesboro. There is a large interior atrium area with a pool for our social activities and we have the deck and a social room for our pleasure as well. Perhaps we can entice a few of the musically inclined to entertain us once again with their renditions of some songs???? Or how about some full-contact Backgammon???

N5KDG, Steve, is taking the reservations for Mary BoBos which at your choice can include a free visit to the one and only Jack Daniels Distillery .... and if you golf... bring those sticks along..... maybe we can get Gene, N4ANV to lead us around the course once again???? and the shoppers best save some room for some world class shopping as well...Info available from KA3DRO, N8EMV.

This event is NOT sponsored by MARAC.

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from KA3DRO

note: reservations must mention "HAM RADIO 3M Reunion "..... that's the way the group is in their computer and appears the only way their reservations clerk can give the \$80 room rate and outside rooms in our block.... also note... Pet Fee waived for our group.... and to have anyone who prefers a second floor or inside room to mention this to the reservations clerk.... they get our rate, which includes the hot breakfast buffet.. I also just found out that there are a few special smokers rooms available... if there is anyone who still smokes??? This is open to ALL ( OK... almost all ! ) COUNTY HUNTERS....

Thanks/ 73/Ron

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

Note2: For those interested in attending the 3m mini this year and want to go to Mary Bobo's on Friday October 9, 2015 this is the telephone number. Area 931-759-7394. Tell the person that answers the phone you are with the Ham Radio 3M Reunion Group. We have reservations for 1 P.M. They suggest we arrive before 12:30 P.M. Everyone has always enjoyed Mary Bobo's in the past so should be fun time with lots of great food. Hope to see a lot of you there. STEVE AND WILLA K 5 K D G

Note 3: Jack Daniels Tour

Tours are held daily from 9 AM to 4:30 PM .... they are "first come-first served".... the basic tour lasts 1 hr 15 minutes..... lots of walking and stairs to climb... much outside of buildings.... this is a FREE tour. There is also a TASTING TOUR.... charge is \$10 + tax for this.... you must be 21 and over and this lasts 1 hr 45 minutes... includes a sampling

of their product! Cameras are allowed... but no large camera bags, totes, backpacks, etc. No smoking, no pets, no weapons, no strollers. Additional info available at 931-759-6357 . If you have never seen such an operation, this is a worthwhile tour.... but there is a lot of walking, steps, etc so wear comfy shoes....

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National Convention – Florida –July - see the MARAC site for info.

That's all folks!

73