

County Hunter News

August 1, 2017
Volume 13 Issue 8

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

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

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

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

For general information FAQ on County Hunting, check out:

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

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

find information on these awards and the rules at:

http://countyhunter.com/marac_information_package.htm

The CW net procedure is written up at:

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

There is a lot more information at www.countyhunter.com . Please check it out.

Back issues of the County Hunter News are available at 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)

Notes from the Editor

1) N4CD Rumblings

A bunch of things happened this way at the N4CD QTH. First, the mobile decided to quit 2 hours from home on a big trip planned out west TX way. Didn't know what was going on, so headed back home. That was in mid June and it took me a while to get around to fixing it. More on that later.

Then the 10 year old computer decided to give up the ghost. Been slowing down for a while, then mid day surfing – it just died – wouldn't boot. Likely dead hard drive. Talked to local guru here and he said it could be \$200 or more to replace the drive and install Win 7 first, then do the upgrade to Win 10. Not worth fixing a 10 year old computer. Like putting an engine or transmission in a 15 year old car – not worth it! Something else will die likely soon after on a car that old. I'm not enough of a computer geek to replacing hard drives, re-installing Win 7, then upgrade to 10, find the drivers for everything, etc.

So it was off to the computer store to buy a new one. So far so good. Had the contact list and then it vanished, so we'll see if I can get the County Hunter News Emailed out or not. A whole lot of people on that list. Hi hi. Took a while to find the LoTW certificate and some other things buried away and get all the settings back to what I like.

2) Rotten Bands

Whoa – the propagation has not been something to write home about. It's been pretty miserable on many days, compounded by not a whole lot of activity. Several mobiles did make nice trips and folks like N9JF and W4SIG and K6YUK who travel a lot kept things going a bit. July is the month to vote for your mobile of the quarter. N9JF put 10,000 miles on the car getting to and from AK – all 4 districts, too! Rick, AI5P finished running every county along Route 66 from Illinois out to the traffic jams of Los Angeles.

3) KX9X retires from ARRL

Sean, KX9X, one of the two geniuses behind the very successful ARRL National Parks on the Air, has left the ARRL to pursue other options. He's headed to cooking school. You'll still hear him activating things via satellite.

4) Parks to Counties Reference

It is now available from <http://marac.org/chdownloads>. Select the KFF County file with the date of July 19 2017 in the filename. Future updates will continue to be posted at that location with the date in the filename. There are more than 4,000 parks in the US that are in the Parks On The Air Program. This file provides the county/counties in which each of those parks are located. A team of hams (including county hunters) compiled the

information and maintain it. An online version of the entire US in a single page is maintained by Barry, K2MF and can be found at <http://countyhunter.com/Toplist/KFF-County.htm>.

Enjoy!

KA2LHO 7/19/2017

5) National Convention Coming Up!

2017 MARAC National Convention

QTH: Colorado Springs, CO

Dates: September 25,26,27 2017

The 2017 MARAC National Convention will be held in beautiful Colorado Springs, CO on Sept 25, 26, 27 with checkout on 28 Sept. The convention will be held at the 3-star Hotel Elegante Conference and Event Center. The Hotel's no. is 719-576-5900
Tour the Olympic Training Center and Garden of the Gods, attend a presentation on NPOTA, SPOTME overview, State of MARAC IT, CW forum, etc. or just visit with other county hunters. So, Come one, come all... meet your fellow hams/county hunters. Hope to see you in Sept 2017!!!

Pat, N0DXE

<http://www.marac.org/2017national.htm>

On the Road with N4CD I

The mobile had been fixed. Turns out – that after the last aborted run a few weeks ago that the problem was the fuse holder. If you put a meter on the plug that goes into the radio – it would measure 13.8V. Duh! Well, if I had 13.8 volts at the radio, then the

radio must be dead, right?

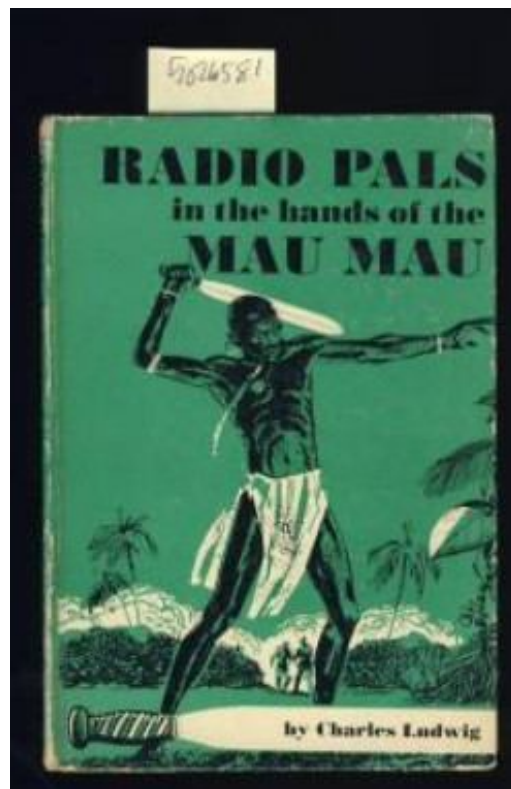
Came home and put the radio on the bench just to be sure. Whoa! Radio works fine. What's going on here. Go out and inspect the fuse holder that is at the front of the cable just before the battery with a 30a fuse. Try to pull the fuse out – 2/3rds of it comes out but a part of it is melted into the socket. Looks like a bad case of overheating. It made enough contact so at a milliamp of current, you would measure correct voltage at the end of the cable. If you tried to pull any current, it went open or very high resistance. I hunted around for a decent fuse holders – the ones you find at hamfests are usually crap plastic things that really aren't designed for 20a radio draw and engine compartment temperatures. Found one in the junk box on an old ICOM power cable and replaced the fuse holder. Hurrah – radio back to working.

It was time to check it out – and a new park had recently been added to the list of WWFF sites in Texas. I could be the first headed there so on a Wednesday morning after rush hour, I was on my way the 75 miles to the LBJ National Grasslands in Wise County TX. Took me a while to actually find the place – I was looking for the closest spot that might be identified by a sign. No such luck. The map was good showing the 30 or so different areas that make up the grasslands – but no signs. I finally settled on a 'forest service' road, not a county road, that the GPS lady said was 'in the park'. There are a few primitive camp sites there – and likely better spots to find signs another 10 miles north. Didn't do that this trip.

Luckily the county hunters were around and 55 contacts went in the log in about 2 hours along with dozens of park chasers. The radio seems to be working as before. So I'm now set for a few more trips.

The weather was – HOT! - hitting 101 degrees as I headed the 2 hours or so back to the QTH and removing the antennas. Worked K5GE a few times while he is on his big trip and caught N9JF coming back from AK. It's definitely a sizzling summer time here. Last year I missed most of it on trips to cooler places!

Book Report of the Month



We're back in the 1950s with another in the series of the Radio Pals – and it's Radio Pals in the Hands of the Mau Mau – by Charles Ludwig.

The story starts with their father – a missionary – off on a visit to Kenya. His trip is being paid for by a beneficiary at his home church. In addition, he can take his 3 children - the Radio Pals - for this two month trip. They leave Seattle on a prop plane headed to London – with a few stops along the way naturally. Next, the new Comet jet plane provides the next legs of the journey – from London to Rome to Beirut and eventually to the airport in Kenya. The final destination is a Mission School.

It seems at this time, the Mau Mau – a terrorist group of Natives, upset about 'white farmers' having moved in on 'former' tribal lands, and now going around killing whites by the dozens. Everything needs to be guarded and caution taken at every turn. The newspapers are full of daily horrific killings – usually by the heads being chopped off by the sharp long knives of the Mau Mau. The conflict with the Mau Mau started in 1952 and ran till 1960 – actual history – in British Kenya.

Fortunately for the Radio Pals, they've managed to secure a license to transmit in Kenya – and talk around the world and back home via Morse code with their HF equipment. In Kenya, their callsign is VQ4XKX. In addition, they've packed a pair of lightweight easily concealable two meter walkie talkies.

Needless to say, on one hunting trip going after lions and large game animals...the father and two boys are chased up trees by two lions – who are after the buffalo they just shot. However, the lions don't let them down from the trees and some Mau Mau come along and capture the three up the tree. They are then taken to one of the native villages miles away – they know not where – and are told they will die the next day. Things are not looking good.

Fortunately, the boys figure out how to get a message out on 2M to the one who remained behind (because he was sick with a touch of malaria)....and the local police are led by the remaining boy, using his walkie talkie to direction find the village – and capture dozens of Mau Mau about to go on a rampage of killing. Seems this is the spot where Mau Mau are recruited by the 'witch doctor' and sent out to kill the whites. It all ends well...the bad guys are marched off to prison, the Radio Pals rescued. They become 'celebrities' in for their assistance in rounding up the most dangerous of the Mau Mau...but quickly leave the country after that to avoid any 'revenge killings'.

The book is written for the youth market and actually has a fair amount of radio content....if you find a copy for a few bucks, read it. Otherwise, it's not on line yet. There's two more in the series to go – to find and reviewsix in total.

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Footnote: The Mau Mau Rebellion – was seen as an uprising against British Colonial rule. Over the 8 year period, an estimated 20,000 Mau Mau were killed by British Troops. In 1963, 3 years after the rebellion was ended, Kenya was granted Independence. You should have heard of Kenya – Obama was from there indirectly – and his father spent his life hating the British and doing everything he could to secure 'social justice' (reparations) to Kenya for the years of brutal colonial rule under the iron hand of Britain. (See Obama's ghost written book by Bill Ayers - Dreams of my Father). Obama had the same hatred of Britain as well, and of 'western society' – which he though owed the rest of the world a good chunk of 'western nation wealth'.

On the Road with Gene, K5GE

K5GE July Trip

This trip was planned from the start as a county hunting trip. We did manage to get some sightseeing in however. The first highlight was providing AJ5ZX a last for the WBOW. The second was getting N6PDB through also for the WBOW. There were a few who missed some counties because they were not available and one who missed all his needs because he was out of the country. Unfortunately, this happens to us all at times.

As most of you know, most of my needs are for Double Diamond and since this is a new award, most every direction I go I can get new counties. This only works if I get a contact with N4CD, N8KIE or WQ7A in the needed county. These guys do a great job and I thank them for their assistance during these unstable band conditions. I don't keep statistics, but N8KIE says he got 178 new DD, so that is probably what I received credit for.

The new self credit awards tailored after the Master Gold thru Double Diamond awards also provided me a few new ones. I had planned to pick up some for Natural Bingo, but found out after my planning that self credit wouldn't work. Bummer. Glad you got them though.

Those of us who run mobile know to expect some detours, bad roads, bad drivers as well as some unknowns. This trip was no exception. We came very close to an accident by other drivers pulling into our lane or directly onto the road in front of us. In spite of this we had a good time. We want to thank all who helped and especially WD4OIN & his wife who invited us for lunch & great visit.

Thanks again for riding along and hopefully I was able to help you meet some of your goals.

Gene K5GE

Mobile Activity

At the end of the last reporting – starting 6/26

Bill, K0DEQ was busy putting them out in MO

Rick, AI5P, was in TX on his first leg of the Route 66 trip headed for home

Jerry, W0GXQ, was up in MN then headed to CO via SD

Jim, N9JF had reached the Fourth District of AK. By the end of June had reached the Third District

N9MM was observed putting out parks in KS. He operates portable. Good for the no-star award as well.

Mike, NF0N ran counties in NE on a nice trip

Starting in July

Parks were run by KB3VVE, N2CX K0ATX W5MIG N1MFL AF5Q and duly spotted on the W6RK page. They are all in counties and folks run them 'portable' so they are good for no-star and other awards as well. If you haven't put out a park yet, join in the fun, and join the hunt for the 4000 parks in the USA. Bob, KA9JAC has worked over 444 parks now

Jim, N9JF reached the Second District of AK and put it out. Tough conditions with the sunspot numbers we have.

Jack, K0MAF, started in IL, down through MO, into KY and IN, to VA, WV,

Chuck, W3CR, put out counties in IL

Gene, K5GE, headed out on his long trip through 175 plus counties.

Kraig, KA2IHO, busy in FL putting out parks

WN8Y (parks in SC and TN) and K5ACL (TX) noted running Parks on the Air

Kerry, W4SIG, put out counties in MS. Into AL and over in to FL

Dick, K5VYT was active in NE

Bill, K2HVN ran counties in DE

Mark, N2MH, ran counties in NY

Peter, N4UP put out counties in TN

Frosty, W0FP, was active in MO

KB0BA/N0XYL were on the road again in IA

Rick, AI5P, started the second leg of the Route 66 trip to CA.

Jim, N9JF, reached the First District of AK

AF5CC ran a few in OK.

KC7YE was on from WA

Jim, N9JF hit the lower 48 running counties in MT, ND, SD on the way home – 39 days and 10,000 plus miles overall.

Meanwhile, K5GE was on every day for the month – GA, SC, NC, VA.....and back through KY. Got home on the 22nd.

Karl, K4YT, was active in CO zipping around a good part of the state.

Phil, AB7RW was active in OR and WA

Doug, WA4UNS was active in MD

K6YEK spotted in IL and IN

N9AC headed out from IL to CA running counties along the way

Seth, N3MRA was spotted in KS

On the Road with N4CD II

July has lots of hot weather here in Texas – often getting near or to 100 degrees or above. Regardless, it was time for a trip up to the Oklahoma City hamfest about 200 miles north held around this time of year. The event is held in a big hotel with indoor swap market. Outdoors would simply be too brutal.

I loaded up the car for a two day overnight trip in which I could hit a few parks along the way and a few counties not on the interstate. Come Friday morning the car headed north through Grayson over to Cooke TX along Route 82 through rural areas with big ranches and farms for the most part. In Cooke County there were a few oil pump jacks working away getting the last few barrels of oil out of old tired fields. It was already warm with temps reaching the 90s early in the morning. The weather folks said it was going to be another scorcher hitting 100 plus.

Propagation has not been fantastic this summer. Miserable might be the correct term. The A index was 17 in the morning with the propagation banner stating poor on everything from DC to light at 8am. Hopefully, I'd get some contacts while I zipped up to the first park in Cleveland County - Lake Thunderbird State Park. It was easy to find and I arrived at Indian Point – which had a visitor center and a boat launching ramp.

There are a dozen other access points to the lake around the park as well. This is a 6000 acre park on large Lake Thunderbird – a man made reservoir. You've got equestrian

stables, a couple hundred camp sites, trails, cabins, boating and fishing – a nice park not far from population centers.



Looked OK to me and it was fairly quiet on 20M SSB. Did the runs – bands not great – some stations loud, many not so loud, and some areas just weren't there. Only one DX station made it through – IK1GPG. 40M was quite noisy. Seems that much of Oklahoma just has S5 noise on 40M no matter where you are!

After two hours, I put 50 contacts in the log – so successfully 'activated' this new park. I don't believe anyone had been there before.

Now it was an hour drive to the Tower Hotel in NW Oklahoma City - the site of the hamfest. This is a 16 story hotel with decent size ballroom. As I drove through OK City at 3pm in the afternoon, the car outdoor temperature indicator said 106F. Ouch. Seriously hot!

Things got going at 3pm – I was already a bit late to snag any bargains, but usually there aren't many here.. It's fairly small with maybe 50 tables worth of stuff. I wandered around an hour and found nothing of interest. I've got too much junk as it is – as do

many hams that have been around for 30-40-50 years!

Dinner was at a nearby Golden Corral. They have “Premium Weekends” on Friday and Saturday where the price is up about \$15. Rest of the week it is \$11-12 for dinner, except M-Tu when it is under 10 bucks for seniors! Lots of restaurants around if you like other chains – dozens of them.

The hotel/hamfest had a free breakfast buffet so I enjoyed that – then did the flea market once again when it opened. Nothing of interest in the way of 'old' stuff. There was an ICOM 706 for sale for \$650. No other old HF units seen other than an FT-817 QRP rig for \$600 . Not even much VHF stuff – the new stuff is so cheap these days folks seldom buy 'used'. 20-30 year old radios don't sell. There were a few boat anchor Hammarlund and Hallicrafters receivers there for sale as well.

By 10am I was done. Saw everything twice. There were programs at the hamfest all day – but had parks to run on the way home via a long detour. This is also an ARRL Section fest so some HQ folks were there plus the locals. Checked the propagation banner early in the morning – all bands 'poor' and A index up at 17 again. K a bit lower at 3. Dang. Things would get a little better as the sun came up.

The car headed west through Canadian County along I-40 for 50 miles or so till I got to Caddo County and the first park - Red Rock Canyon State Park. It's about 310 acres – and was a spot on the trails headed west where you would find water. There are still wagon ruts there from the pioneer days.

I pulled in – there's a visitor center – closed on Sundays – with a good size lot. Right after that, the road descends steeply into 'the canyon'. Previous experience tells me that canyons are not the best places for getting a signal out to others. Bad news! This one isn't 'too deep' but I didn't have time to check it out.

Parked there at the top and 20cw was OK – not much QRN. Ran it. The QRN was a bit higher from the power lines and probably the visitor center on 30M. Not good at all on 40M but conditions are so bad you don't work much anyway there. I checked 20m SSB and about S4-5 noise! Oops. This isn't going to work.



The road drops almost immediately into the canyon – I moved down the road about 300 feet and down a bit in elevation and the noise improved a bit. Could here folks on 20M but not all that much activity across the whole band at 11-12 am in the morning – only a few QSO/net going on and mostly empty band! I did manage to get the 44+ number with all the bands and modes with a lot of work. Sure was a lot easier 2-3 years ago with the great conditions. Last year I averaged over 100 QSOs per park for the National Parks on the Air Program. OK...no DX worked – New England near impossible to hear. Did catch two dozen park hunters. Bands worse than on Friday. On to the next.

Down the road a bit you get to another OK state park – this one Fort Cobb - still in Caddo County - and this is a bit hard to find a sign for the park. Did find park area signs without the name, and the GPS and the on-line map said I was 'in the park' but dang, I like to find the 'entry' sign. Nope. Not going to happen. Spend 30 minutes hunting for one. Picked a nice quiet area and pulled off to run the park. Unfortunately, it's in the same county – so some of the county hunters probably saw the spot and said I already got that county. Others worked me again to give me credit for the park. I need the contacts! With propagation so rotten it's a struggle to get to 44 contacts. It took a long time and some pleading on the POTA page to scrounge up enough to 'qualify' for activating the park – and finally did reach 44 plus. Whew. Tough! No DX coming through – When the A is above 5, they struggle to make it. Of course, usually only the 'big guns' can work mobiles consistently anyway these days.

Eventually did find a sign that said 'Fort Cobb' on it at the south entrance area.



It was now 2pm and a long way to home, so put the pedal to the metal and zipped on south through Comanche OK – with about 120 miles at 75mph making some good time headed home. Got home at 6pm with a trip total at 572 miles in 2 days and three new parks activated. Averaged 27 mpg with the high speeds and sitting for hours and hours with the engine running in 3 different parks.

Did catch Gene, K5GE, a few times mobile to mobile as he finally did reach home after his long long trip through over 170 counties back east. Heard/worked N9AC only a few times – most times we were too close for 20M CW to work. It seemed I heard him better than he heard me. Failed to get through a few times. Hope you caught something you needed.

Logs will be uploaded to LoTW for Caddo County OK and to WWFF database for park chasers.

It will be a few days before the next trip. Early August to IL for a convention and hamfest is the next planned big trip.

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Meanwhile, I'm fighting a new computer here. Seem to have most things under control but haven't figured out the picture bit yet (compressed pictures). Google Picassa is now obsolete and that's what I used before. You can't download the old version from Google any longer. The old Dell – 10 years old – decided to give up the ghost – so it was time for a new machine. Still fighting Win 10 – hi hi. Had the Win 7 format from before. If anyone has the 'download' program for Picassa saved away (the exe program you downloaded then ran) let me know ASAP. Now you only have Google Pictures which is not much of anything!

Lots of joys with upgrade Let's see....Now Outlook mail – you can't change the default font size setup. I don't know what idiot at MSFT did that. In Live Mail, the previous mail program, you could. Upgrades lose features from before and that tiny size 9 type is a pain for old tired senior eyes- hi hi. That's why we do the CH News in size 14 type!

Route 66 – Across the Country

Rick, AI5P, recently completed an end to end trek on the famous Route 66. He ran every county along the way – making at least one contact from each. He did it in two segments. From Chicago to home in NM – 3650 miles , and then from home to the west coast. Radio conditions from out west were challenging.

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U.S. Route 66 - the Will Rogers Highway, the Main Street of America or the Mother Road - was one of the original highways within the U.S. Highway System. US 66 was created November 11, 1926. Road signs were erected the following year. The highway, ran from Chicago, Illinois, through Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona before ending at Santa Monica, California - a total of 2,448 miles.



US 66 served as a major path for those who migrated west and the road greatly helped the economies of the communities along it. People doing business along the route became prosperous due to the growing popularity of the highway. Those same people later fought to keep the highway alive in the face of the growing threat of being bypassed by the new Interstate Highway System.

US 66 was officially removed from the United States Highway System in 1985 after it had been replaced by the interstate Highway System. Portions of the road that passed through Illinois, Missouri, New Mexico, and Arizona have been designated a National Scenic Byway of the name "Historic Route 66", which is returning to some maps. Some states have adopted significant bypassed sections of the former US 66 into the state road network as State Route 66.

Some history

In 1857, Lt. Edward Fitzgerald Beale, a Naval officer in the service of the U.S. Army Corps of Topographical Engineers, was ordered by the War Department to build a government-funded wagon road along the 35th Parallel.

During this early time period, a nationwide network of numbered highways was adopted by the states and auto trails were marked by private organizations. The route that would become US 66 was formed by three highways. The Lone Star Route passed through St. Louis on its way from Chicago to Louisiana.. The transcontinental National Old Trails Road led via St. Louis to Los Angeles, but was not followed until New Mexico; instead US 66 used one of the main routes of the Ozark Trails system which ended just south of

Las Vegas, New Mexico. The National Old Trails Road became the rest of the route to Los Angeles.

It was not until Congress enacted in 1925 for the plan for national highway construction. From the beginning, public road planners intended US 66 to connect the main streets of rural and urban communities along its course as most small towns had no prior access to a major national thoroughfare. The numerical designation 66 was assigned to the Chicago-to-Los Angeles route on April 30, 1926.

Much of the highway was essentially flat and this made the highway a popular truck route. The Dust Bowl of the 1930s saw many farming families, mainly from Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas, and Texas, heading west for agricultural jobs in California.

Like all the other early highways, Route 66 was originally gravel or graded dirt. Due to the efforts of the U.S. Highway 66 Association, US 66 did become the first highway to be completely paved in 1938.

In the 1950s, US 66 became the main highway for vacationers heading to Los Angeles. The road passed through the Painted Desert, near the Grand Canyon and Meteor Crater. This large increase in tourism in turn gave rise to a large trade in all manner of roadside attractions - teepee-shaped motels, frozen custard stands, Indian curio shops, and reptile farms. It also marked the birth of the fast-food industry - Red's Giant Hamburg in Springfield, Missouri, site of the first drive-through restaurant, as well as the first McDonald's in San Bernardino, California.

The beginning of the decline for US 66 came in 1956 with the signing of the Interstate Highway Act by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

In 1953, the first major bypassing of US 66 occurred in Oklahoma with the opening of the Turner Turnpike between Tulsa and Oklahoma City. The Turner Turnpike was joined in 1957 by the new Will Rogers Turnpike, which connected Tulsa with the Oklahoma-Missouri border west of Joplin, Missouri, again paralleling US 66 and bypassing the towns in northeastern Oklahoma in addition to its entire stretch through Kansas. Both Oklahoma turnpikes were soon designated as I-44.

Going west – I-40 replaced entire sections.

When the highway was officially decommissioned, bypassed sections of the road were disposed of in different ways. Within many cities, the route became a "business loop" for the interstate. Some sections became state roads, local roads, private drives, or were

abandoned completely. Although it is no longer possible to drive the original US 66 uninterrupted all the way from Chicago to Los Angeles, much of the original route and alternates are still able to be driven with careful planning. Some stretches are well preserved, for example, the one between Springfield, Missouri, and Tulsa, Oklahoma. Some sections of US 66 still retain their historic 9-foot-wide (2.7 m) "sidewalk highway" form, never having been resurfaced or changed to make them into full-width highways. These old original sections have a single, paved lane, concrete curbs to mark the edge of the lane, and gravel shoulders for passing.

You can drive along much of the original route with careful planning, and in IL, some of the interstate lanes were built over the original highway. It's not the old days with towns every 20-30-40 miles of the old days – then again, cars get better than 10-13 mpg, don't need a quart of oil every 500 miles, and you don't get flat tires frequently or have breakdowns. Radiators seldom boil over. Generators don't die – now you have very long life alternators. On the other hand, many of the road side attractions are still there to experience – although you might not wish to stay at 70-80 year old motels – hi hi.

I'm sure Rick had a great trip along the road. Each year, hams along the way put “route 66” on the air – trying to activate many of the counties along the way – and towns.

Selected Special Needs

Special Needs - Folks real close - See if you can help – from the K3IMC web page. See the Special Needs page for latest updates and needs – plus lots of needs for other awards such as prefixes. Some of these folks are REAL CLOSE. Let's get them done!

NØKV - Mobile/Mobile Award using SSB and CW - Updated:7/19/2017
All counties listed. 303-841-6510

GA: Hall, Talbot, Wheeler

KY: Knott, Larue, Letcher, Meniffee

NC: Catawba, Lee

VA: Lunenburg, Mathews

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NFØN - Bingo 3 Award using Any Mode - Updated:7/25/2017

ID: Adams

KY: Cumberland, Elliott, Harlan, Knox

MN:Sherburne

ND: Dickey

NE:Boyd, Knox, Nance

NY: Chenango, Cortland

OR: Coos

WI: Washington

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NFØN - 1x3 Combo Award using Any Mode - Updated:7/25/2017

NC: Caswell

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NØKV - USACA Award using CW Only - Updated:7/19/2017

All listed for 1st time CW. Any help appreciated. Please email NØKV@earthlink.net
303-841-6510

GA: Greene, Jenkins, Warren

ID: Madison, Owyhee

IN: Switzerland

KY:Boyle, Knott, Mason, Meniffee

LA: Iberville, West Carroll

NC:Graham, Madison, Mcdowell, Mitchell

SC: Allendale

SD: Buffalo, Jackson

WI: Rusk

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WØGXQ - 7th Time Award using CW Only - Updated:7/10/2017

AR: Lincoln

CO: Lake, Ouray, San Juan

HI: Kauai

KY: Garrard, Jackson, Meade, Mercer, Spencer, Whitley

MA:Nantucket

MN: Marshall

ND: Burke, Divide, Dunn, Grant, Hettinger, Mclean, Sioux, Williams

NE: Garden, Sheridan

NJ: Hudson

NY: Kings

TN: Campbell, Grainger, Hancock

WA: Okanogan, Whatcom

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KØFG - USACA Award using CW Only - Updated:6/23/2017

LA: Vermilion

ND: Logan

SC: Allendale

TX: Calhoun, Foard, Kimble

- - - -

KØFG - 3rd Time Award using Any Mode - Updated:6/23/2017

KS: Morton

MS: Jefferson Davis

MT: Lake

NC: Mitchell

NE: Johnson

SD: Hyde, Walworth

TX: Hardin

- - - - -

N9QS - 10th Time Award using SSB Only - Updated:7/24/2017

FL: Levy

GA: Glascock, Mitchell, Wilkinson

IL: Mercer

KY:
Magoffin

MA:Nantucket

MD: Caroline, Worcester

MT: Chouteau

NJ: Morris

OH: Geauga, Monroe, Noble

TX: Brazoria

VT: Caledonia

WA: Cowlitz

- - -

N9QS - 3rd Time Award using CW Only - Updated:7/24/2017

GA: Marion

IA: Jefferson

IL: Kendall, Livingston

IN: Bartholomew, Brown, Wabash, Washington

KY: Anderson, Harlan, Johnson, Knott, Lawrence, Magoffin, Whitley

MO: Monroe

NC: Polk

OH: Carroll, Harrison, Marion, Portage

PA: Perry

VA: Accomack, Pulaski, Smyth

WI: Pierce

WV: Jackson

- - - - -

NN9K - Master Gold Award using CW Only - Updated:7/12/2017

AR: Dallas, Lincoln

CA: Kings

GA: Murray, Muscogee

IL:
Crawford, Du Page, Edgar, Jasper, Winnebago

KS: Clay

KY: Lincoln

MI: Branch, St. Joseph, Washtenaw

NC: Madison

OH: Carroll, Monroe

TN: Unicoi

TX: Andrews, Loving, Matagorda

WA: Douglas, Grant

WV: Upshur

- - -

W9MSE - 5 Star Award using CW Only - Updated:7/12/2017

CA: Nevada 1), Placer 1)

IL: Boone, De Kalb, Kane, Lawrence, Mchenry

WI: Buffalo 1)

- - -

AA8R - Master Platinum Award using Any Mode - Updated:7/4/2017

AK: First J. D. S E

AL: Monroe

FL: Putnam

GA: Bleckley, Candler, Echols, Lanier, Putnam, Twiggs, Wheeler, Wilkinson

ID: Adams

MD: St. Mary's

MI: Gladwin

MO: Lincoln

NC: Transylvania

OR: Lincoln, Wheeler

PA: Bradford, Lycoming

VA: Cumberland

WA: Chelan

KB9AIT - USACA Award using Any Mode - Updated:7/24/2017

MT: Musselshell

- - -

W9DC - 4th Time Award using SSB and CW - Updated:7/14/2017

CA: Marin, Modoc

GA: Atkinson, Columbia, Crawford, Macon, Peach, Schley, Taylor, Turner

ID: Benewah

KY: Calloway

LA: East Carroll

MN:Waseca

NC:
Chatham, Lee

SC: Georgetown

SD: Jerauld

TN: Unicoi

UT: Daggett

VA: Essex, Gloucester, Middlesex

WV: Hampshire

- - - -

W9DC - Bingo 2 Award using Any Mode - Updated:7/14/2017

NC: Lee

- - - - -

KA9JAC - 4th Time Award using Any Mode - Updated:7/11/2017

ND: Emmons

NE: Franklin

- - - -

KA9JAC - Bingo 3 Award using Any Mode - Updated:7/11/2017

GA: Baker, Crawford

ID: Clark

IL: Lee

KY: Butler, Union

MI: Cass, Lenawee, Tuscola

MN:

Dodge, Fillmore

ND: Emmons

NE: Franklin, Pierce

OR: Coos

TN: Union

VA: Bath, Floyd

WI: Taylor

- - - - -

KA9JAC - Master Platinum Award using Any Mode - Updated:7/11/2017

AR: Calhoun, Grant

CA: San Benito

GA: Crawford

IA:Howard

MD: Kent

MI: Cass, Huron, Manistee, Muskegon

NJ: Camden, Cape May, Middlesex

NY: Jefferson

OR: Coos

WI: Ozaukee

- - -

AA8R - 20m Band Award using Any Mode - Updated:7/4/2017

IN: Floyd,Martin,Perry

KY: Estill

OH: Henry

- - - - -

N8KIE - 7th Time Award using Any Mode - Updated:7/20/2017

GA: Wilcox

HI: Kauai

ID: Teton

IN: Adams, Decatur, Franklin, Union, Wabash

MI: Gladwin

NC: Harnett, Lincoln, Mitchell, Yancey

OR: Columbia

PA: Lycoming, Sullivan

TX: Brooks, Jim Wells

WI: Walworth

- - -

W8FNW - Master Gold Award using SSB and CW - Updated:7/21/2017

MA: Suffolk

ME: Oxford

MO: Putnam

MT: Glacier, Ravalli

NV: Lincoln, White Pine

NY: Chenango

OR: Lincoln

TX: Armstrong, Castro, Cottle, Limestone

VA: Amelia, Franklin, Henry, Lunenburg, Northumberland, Nottoway, Prince Edward

- - -

W8FNW - 3rd Time Award using Any Mode - Updated:7/21/2017

KY: Carroll

MT: Glacier

NE: Garfield, Wheeler

- - -

K7REL - 9th Times Award using Any Mode - Updated:7/2/2017

AK: Fourth J. D. C

IN: Hamilton, Jefferson, Randolph, Washington

KY: Garrard, Greenup, Jessamine, Johnson, Lawrence, Lincoln

MA: Hampshire

NC: Carteret, Cleveland, Onslow, Pamlico, Stokes

PA: Delaware, Juniata, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Perry

VA: Craig, Northampton

WV: Brooke

- - -

N7LFX - Bingo Award using Any Mode - Updated:6/25/2017

GA: Wayne

IN: Montgomery

KY: Larue

OH: Madison

- ----

N7LFX - 20m Band Award using Any Mode - Updated:6/25/2017

CA: Mendocino, Plumas, Trinity

ID: Adams, Boise, Clearwater, Washington

NV: Lander

OR: Coos, Lincoln, Yamhill

VA: Cumberland

WA: Cowlitz

- - -

K7DM - 2nd Time Award using Any Mode - Updated:7/9/2017

GA: Baldwin, Turner, White

KY: Larue, Mclean

PA: Delaware

TN: Claiborne, Fentress

- - -

N6PDB - Master Platinum Award using Any Mode - Updated:7/2/2017

MD: Anne Arundel

NH: Grafton, Merrimack

NJ: Cape May, Monmouth

NY: Franklin, Jefferson

PA: Schuylkill

RI: Bristol

VT: Essex, Lamoille, Washington

- - - -

N6PDB - 4th Time Award using Any Mode - Updated:7/2/2017

AL: Henry

GA: Fannin, Washington, Wheeler

ID: Washington

IN: Blackford

KY: Lincoln, Meade, Nicholas

MA: Barnstable, Nantucket

OH: Holmes

PA: Clinton, Lycoming, Monroe

TN: Anderson

VA: Craig

VT: Orleans

WV: Jackson

- - -

KD5YUK - 3rd Time Award using SSB Only - Updated:6/29/2017

AK: Second J. D. N W

FL: Liberty

GA: Clinch

KS: Stevens

KY: Lincoln

MA: Plymouth

NJ: Monmouth

PA: Monroe, Sullivan

TX: Hays

VA: Sussex

WA: Douglas, Franklin, Pend Oreille, Stevens

- - -

KC5P - USACA Award using CW Only - Updated:7/22/2017

AR: Pike

GA: Atkinson, Clarke, Lamar, Polk

IA: Hardin

IN: Hamilton

KY: Floyd, Nicholas, Robertson, Woodford

LA: Avoyelles, Claiborne, East Feliciana, Red River, St. Landry

MA: Nantucket

MN: Sherburne

MO: Monroe

MS: Attala, George, Sunflower

NE: Chase, Johnson, Sherman

NJ: Hudson,

TN: Johnson, Macon, Meigs

WA: Walla Walla

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N5MLP - 1x3 Combo Award using SSB Only - Updated:7/22/2017

Last county for WBOW - 1x3 Call Combo! Plaque will be given to whoever satisfies this need!

NC: Caswell

N5MLP - N Prefix Award using SSB Only - Updated:7/22/2017

MN: Kanabec

WI: Door

K4YT - Mobile/Mobile Award using Any Mode - Updated:7/16/2017

CA: Alpine,Marin,Nevada,San Joaquin,Yolo

MD: Calvert

OR: Benton, Coos

VA: Amherst

- - - -

W4YDY - N Prefix Award using Any Mode - Updated:7/2/2017

WBOW!! Worked next-to-last 10/4/2015! Who wants to get the last one for the little car plaque!

WA: Wahkiakum

- - -

W4YDY - 2nd Time Award using CW Only - Updated:7/2/2017

CA: Alpine

GA: Long

IL: Lawrence

IN: Lawrence, Miami

MT: Mineral, Rosebud

OR: Crook,Wheeler

WV:Putnam

- - -

WA4UNS - USACA Award using CW Only - Updated:7/24/2017

6 left to go. [170518] Class is over for the summer... advance notice still appreciated

GA: Chattooga

IN: Noble, Washington

NY: Wayne

OH: Henry, Medina

- - - - -

N4RS - 30m Band Award using CW Only - Updated:7/25/2017

AK: Third J. D. C

IL: Boone, McHenry

NE: Boone, Hooker, Wheeler

WA: Kitsap, Kittitas, Whatcom

- - -

KC3X - 20m Band Award using CW Only - Updated:7/24/2017

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GA: Appling, Toombs, Turner, Wheeler

KY: Hart, Knott

NY: Schuyler

OH: Butler

PA: Bradford, Columbia, Philadelphia

TN:Anderson, Hancock

VA:Orange

- - -

KC3X - USACA Nth time Award using Any Mode - Updated:7/24/2017

CA: Trinity

PA: Chester, Lancaster, Wyoming

SC: Berkeley

TN: Hancock

- - -

WA3QNT - Bingo 2 Award using Any Mode - Updated:7/10/2017

Using SSB or CW. For WBOW !!!!! WBOW !!! WBOW !!!

NY: Fulton,Kings

- - -

K3IMC - Master Gold Award using SSB and CW - Updated:7/13/2017

I need 3 counties in 3 states to complete my Masters Gold. I have listed all my needs.

NC: Martin

NY: Queens

VA: Franklin

- - - -

CU3AA - USACA Award using Any Mode - Updated:6/24/2017

Just two left. If anyone plans to go through these counties please drop me a line to my e-mail. Thanks a lot.

ND: Grant

UT: Duchesne

- - - -

WA2VYA - USACA Award using Any Mode - Updated:7/20/2017

CO: Ouray, San Juan

MT: Carbon

NE: Merrick

NV: Humboldt

SD: Sully

TX: Haskell, Live Oak, Orange

VA: King William

- - -

K2MF - 20m Band Award using SSB Only - Updated:7/14/2017

GA: Dodge, Lamar, Pulaski, Walton

KY: Boyle, Carter, Garrard, Jackson, Laurel, Lewis, McCreary, Rowan

NC: Haywood, Yancey

- - -

Many other needs at the K3IMC special needs page for prefixes, call combos, Bingo N, YL, etc.

<http://www.countyhunterweb.org/DisplayNeeds.php>

It's good travel season – plan your routes to the National Convention in September to hit some of these!

Awards Issued

USA-CA #1260

Chuck, WA4WKL

June 20, 2017

Dennis, N6PDB finished off all CW during the month but no official award. Same for W0EAR who finished 8th time. AJ5ZX finished Second Time, too. Maybe at end of month?

Operating Events for County Hunters

Aug 5 1800z Aug 6 0559z

North American QSO Party, CW

CW

Name, SPC

ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf

Aug 12 1600z Aug 13 2359z

Maryland-DC QSO Party

CW Ph Dig

Entry class, county or SPC

mdcqsoparty.w3vpr.org

Aug 19 1800z Aug 20 0559z

North American QSO Party, SSB

Ph

Name, SPC

www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf

Aug 21 1400z to 21 2200z

1.8-50

Solar Eclipse QSO Party

CW Ph Dig

Other station's call, RS(T), 6-char grid square, your call

hamsci.org/seqp

Aug 26 0400z to 28 0400z

Hawaii QSO Party

CW Ph Dig

RS(T), county or SPC

www.hiqsoparty.org

Aug 26 1400z to 27 2000z

Kansas QSO Party

CW Ph Dig

RS(T), county or SPC

ksqsoparty.org

Aug 26 1600z to 27 0400z

Ohio QSO Party

CW Ph

RS(T), county or SPC

www.ohqp.org

2017 MARAC National Convention

QTH: Colorado Springs, CO

Dates: September 25,26,27 2017

The 2017 MARAC National Convention will be held in beautiful Colorado Springs, CO on Sept 25, 26, 27 with checkout on 28 Sept. The convention will be held at the 3-star Hotel Elegante Conference and Event Center. The Hotel's no. is 719-576-5900 Tour the Olympic Training Center and Garden of the Gods, attend a presentation on NPOTA, SPOTME overview, State of MARAC IT, CW forum, etc. or just visit with other county hunters. So, Come one, come all... meet your fellow hams/county hunters. Hope to see you in Sept 2017!!!

Pat, N0DXE

That's all this month! 73