

County Hunter News

June 1, 2012
Volume 8, Issue 6

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

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

The County Hunter News will 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.

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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' 7188/7185 KHz. The cw folks are now pioneering 17M operation on 18.0915. (21.0565, 24.9155, and 28.0565 when sunspots better). Look around 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) May was a good month for County Hunting with the better weather and folks traveling for many reasons. At least 50 headed to Dayton OH for the county hunter convention and we had several large QSO parties to bring up the cw activity tremendously

Mobile Activity

At the end of April 2012

We had quite a few mobiles on the way to the mini in MI, including, N8KIE, W0GXQ, KA9JAC/KB9YVT, W0NAC/N0LXJ, AA9JJ/N9QPQ, NG9L, K3IMC, WA9DLB, W7FEN,

AC0B, W8JJ, KM9X/KB9MGI, Some took the 'long way" home.



Group Picture from the MI Mini
pic courtesy of Tim W8JJ

Matt, W0NAC, and Sharon, N0LXJ, headed to NC from MI...then wound their way back home on a long trip. Frank, AA9JJ, and Kay, N9QPQ, headed to IL then back across MO, OK, TX, NM and to home.



W7FEN, K0PVW and future county hunter

Starting around the beginning of May - -

AF3X headed out from TN...wandered all over the place in the midwest, including into ND, SD, WY, MN, CO, KS, NE, NM, TX, LA, MS, AL, to home.



K0PVW and AF3X

N0KV Barry, and Pat, N0DXE, headed out from CO making a loop into NE to get the last WBOW for Scottie, N4AAT for USA-CW II.

Ron, K2RP, continued his trek east through TX

W7ACN was spotted in a few in CA.

Paul, WD9EJK, spotted in a few in IA

Gene, K5GE, was out in TX one day.

W4CEB spotted in a few in GA.

Pete, NN9K, was out in Kauai for a few days and active on the air from there.

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KA1VSC, big rig, showed up in counties. He was new to the net, no one took time to explain things to him, and he vanished after two days after getting a nasty email. Sad. If someone had taken a few minutes to explain things, we might have had a new mobile on the net. Back in the good old days, NC was more interesting in recruiting new mobiles than running off mobiles – old and new.

K2MF wrote: “I may have been the one who introduced Matt to county hunting. When we were on our way to Florida in late January, I met him on 146.52 in South Carolina and he couldn't have been a nicer fellow. He told me he wanted to install HF equipment in his cab and I told him about the mobile net on 14.336 MHz. He seemed to be enthused about it. “

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Ron, KA3DRO, headed out on a big trip cross country through TN, KY, IL, MO, NE. Ran on SSB and CW.

Bill, WG9A headed east from IL. To Maine – later returned back to IL.

Kirby, W8DCD spotted out and about.

N9AC spotted out and about mobile

Ron, K2RP headed east to Dayton through IL and IN.

Bill, K2HVN reports on his last trip to FL and Back: 3,275 miles, 129 counties, 91 new.

Phil, reported on this trip to Wallowa, OR

“The trip from Pullman, WA to Wallowa was something. The round trip was 183 miles. The road goes up one hill and down another. One elevation sign said 3983 feet. Used over a half tank of gas pushing the car over those hills. Then part of the road was gravel. I stopped twice before I found a good spot. The sign at the bottom of the hill outside Troy, OR said WARNING this is a very dangerous gravel road with lots of switchbacks, S curves, and no guard rails on the edge of the mountain. Travel at your own risk. I made a quick decision to proceed or the trip would have been for nothing. After about a half mile, the road split, so I took the high road because I thought I could get my signal over the mountain. About a mile up the gravel hill, there was a small spot where I could pull over. I could not believe the strength of the incoming signals. After finishing up with CW, looked for the microphone. It was not in the car. For some reason we took it into the hotel room where I found it when I returned. What a blunder! “

There were dozens of mobiles headed to Dayton including WD9EJK, KA4RRU, W8JJ, K4YT, W0GXQ/W0EAR, KB0BA/N0XYL

WB7E was putting them out in MO.

W0BH headed from KS to SC.

K6JN/W6XJN headed from FL all the way to CA.

N2OO headed from Ocean, NJ to Dayton and back.

KB9AIT/W9WI headed to Dayton

N5KGY headed up from MS to KY.

K5TVC was up in ND

KM9X/KB9MGI made a trip down to KY and back.

ND9M trekked across the county.

N8KIE flew to FL, then ran counties headed back to MI with lots of zigs and zags in GA.

WA4UNS was out in TN and KY on his way to Dayton and back.

N9STL was spotted out and about in IA in the motor home headed somewhere.

First Integrated Circuit?

As 'seen' on Ebay – and N4CD went off on another tangent.

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On offer is one LOEWE 3NF tube , the worlds first integrated circuit . Produced by LOEWE somewhere around 1926 for the LOEWE OE333 TRF receiver .

Consists of 3 triodes , 4 resistors & 2 capacitors integrated into a common envelope . The resistors & capacitors are in separately evacuated bulbs so as not contaminate the tube vacuum system .



The triodes are two horizontally mounted & one vertical , about twice the length of triodes 1 & 2 as it is the output triode .



The radio consisted of a case , socket , tuning capacitor , coil & a filament switch -- nothing much else . The inducement to create this item was not scientific progress , but the German Government policy to tax radios on the number of tubes it contained , this radio had one .

I decided that to properly describe the merits of this tube I should test it , so I built a TRF virtually as described above & it works well . It performs remarkably well considering that there is no regeneration . I used 3 volt filament supply instead of 4 volt & the HT was only 35 volts .



So -- a completely working LOEWE NF3 -- A rarity that one does not often see advertised as a working example .

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Here's an interesting video of the device including a tube pin layout and radio

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1E8StV497sQ>

Here's even more info on the tube

<http://www.electricstuff.co.uk/loewe.html>

Sold for \$535. Plus \$20 shipping. Sockets have gone for over \$1000 each, and tubes have sold for in the thousands previously. A 'rarity'.

Florida QSO Party

This was another great Florida QSO Party. People had the option to chase the 1x1 callsigns in many of the Florida counties – dozens of them. A dozen mobiles were out and all counties in the state were on the air. Mobiles zigged and zagged all over the place, sometimes with 2 or 3 mobiles in the same county and the same time.

Some of the high power FL stations managed several hundred QSOs on 15m. Propagation was good into EU and the west coast on 15M. I didn't hear a peep out of FL on either 15 or 10M. Very few reported any 10M contacts and likely those were all local.

From the contest reflector, folks were reporting 1500 and 1800 contacts made by the FL station. In this contest, there is a 10 KHz 'window' reserved for mobile use. No fixed stations can use the mobile window – which is nice.

From the 3830 contest reflector:

KN4Y mobile – 1211 CW QSO

“Operated Saturday with a driver, Sunday without a driver (got sick), Great band condition with pile-ups galore. Heard nothing on ten meters”

K4OJ multi op mobile – cw only

Ops: N4KM (Kevin) and K0LUZ (Red) - Just a couple of Midwestern farm boys out for a spin.

This is Kevin's and my 7th FQP together and each year we try to improve the conditions. This year Kevin upgraded the computer which also required a converter from 110 to 20 volts. Previously we used a dos machine that operated at 12 volts using CT. The new machine with N1MM made scoring easier, but no matter what converter we tried, we had issues. The converter we used (a big thank you to Art, N4PJ) did not have any hash but had little birdies floating by the run frequency bringing the noise level to above s9. This wasn't so bad when the birdies just floated by, but sometimes it would decide to just sit

there for awhile. So for all of you that wondered what on earth was going on, there were times when all we could do was wait or hope the stations calling us were 599 + 20 db! Our apologies to some of the weak stations we just couldn't pull through. This will be our major project for next year.

Found 40 to be slower than usual until quite late in the evening. Perhaps a result of 20 meters being open longer. Sunday morning we were running Calhoun county with the N1MM 10 minute rate meter consistently above 300 for few minutes when suddenly there was no one there and we had to call cq for about 3 or 4 minutes before a return call. That had to be something significant of a solar sort. Things gradually returned to normal although I question if it was as hot as early Sunday or Saturday. Fifteen was slightly open with west coast and as far east as some esp 9 stations. Couldn't get any decent rate on 15.

Overall, everything went fine although we missed Dixie and we didn't realize it until we were too far to go back. Sorry about that! Also interesting when we would work a county a second time, dupes were experienced in abundance. Why is that? Thanks to all that stood by when I would give a couple of letters and hope only stations with that criteria would answer.

K4FCG/mobile - K1NKQ operator - SSB only

I covered 18 counties of the originally planned 19. Skipped Hernando as it seemed to be well represented by KH7XS/W4 (Hi). Everything went well, no Murphy visits. The Florida Police checked on me twice during the operation. They wanted to know if everything was OK. So then I lost about 20 minutes each time explaining about "Ham Radio", always with a smile on my face (good Karma). There was very little generated rf noise in the car, so the time I invested in bonding with ground straps on the frame, engine, muffler etc. was well spent. Thanks for all the qso's. I had a great time.

W4AN multi-op mobile (K4BAI, KU8E)

In the week before the FQP, Jeff, KU8E, installed wiring for power and antennas in my newest car, a 1997 Buick LeSabre. Everything tested out perfectly beforehand with resonant antennas for 40, 20, 15, and 10. The only downside was that we would have to stop to change bands (and often that is impossible to do safely, particularly on interstate highways). Sometimes in the past we have had two masts and could go to two bands without stopping. Sorry that we advertised that we would be mixed modes, but we decided for a first test of the new installation to use CW only, avoiding

antenna loading problems on the different mode frequencies.

We have in the past logged on paper or used NA, which requires a separate contest log for each county. This year, we used N1MM and it was great to be able to change the county with a few key strokes and have full functionality without having to set up different files ahead of time and it took only a few seconds to change counties. We made a few 40M QSOs around 17Z on the first day and everything seemed OK. We made only one QSO (N5NA in TX) on our only outing to 15M on the first day.

Otherwise we were running on or about 14044 kHz Saturday until about 22Z when we went back to 40. Almost immediately the computer had problems and we determined that they were related to RF on 40M. Strange that we had not had the problems earlier. Eventually, we determined that we could log on 40M if we disconnected the rig control and computer CW keying from the USB port. I sent with a paddle and the internal keyer of the rig for the rest of the evening. When we went back to 20M and plugged the USB cable back in, it didn't work. I think we could have shut the computer down (again) and rebooted it and it would have been OK on 20M, but we didn't take the time to do that.

We had arranged before the contest to stay at the same Holiday Inn Express west of Jacksonville that the K4KG team (K5KG and VE7ZO) had reservations at so we could eat dinner and breakfast with them. We were much later than they arriving at the hotel and talked to them on the telephone, but didn't see them until Sunday morning. They got up early to work on computer logging problems they had encountered and we hoped to put a choke in the coax and add some toroids to try to cure our RF problems with our computer on 40M. In the process, we discovered that our mag mount had been broken the night before when Jeff had tried to take it off the car to lock it in the trunk for security. We had ended up leaving it on the car, but didn't realize that we had broken the coax connection to the mount and therefore to the mast until we found infinite SWR just before the Sunday session started. God bless George, K5KG. He had purchased a new mag mount just in case one of theirs failed and he loaned it to us. Jeff thinks he could have repaired our mag mount, but we would probably have lost hours of the Sunday session. So, thanks to George and Jim we got started Sunday on time.

We started on 40M Sunday and were there for about a half an hour with only a few RFI problems, but it was clear that the problem was not cured by the new mount. We stayed on 20M for most of Sunday with a couple of forays to 20M where we worked one station each in CA, AZ, and CO and a number of Europeans plus one in Puerto Rico. The rate was so slow on 15M that it seemed best most

of the time to stay on 20M calling CQ after the rate dropped rather than stop and change the resonator to check 15M. We went back to 40 again just after 21Z on Sunday and encountered the same RF problems. Again the rig control and CW keying lines were disconnected and I sent with a paddle on 40 and 20 until the end of the contest. I apologize for poor CW sending. I was trying to send with a K8RA mini paddle on the left side of the computer (I am right handed) while logging with my left hand. Hardly an ideal set up for sending CW. We had no desk in the car and the key was sitting on a yellow writing tablet on the seat of the car.

Band conditions seemed poor to fair on 40, 20, and 15. But activity levels seemed to largely make up for poor propagation conditions. There were a lot of DX QSOs made, but signals were often weak and 40M seemed weaker than I ever remember it. We had almost no west coast QSOs on 40 and only a few Europeans. Our best DX was UA9FAR who called in toward the end of the Saturday session. I am almost certain that we have never made as many QSOs as we did this year, although our score may be higher when we worked both modes.

Special thanks to the DX stations who hung in there chasing us from county to county when our signals must have been very weak. Thanks to FCG for organizing another great QSO party. Thanks to the fixed stations who did, for the most part, observe the request not to CQ in the "mobile window." And my special thanks to Jeff, KU8E, for installing the set up for mobile operation in my car and providing his rig and interfaces.

W4AN is the club call for South East Contest Club, which covers most of GA, SC, and a portion of NC. It is in memory of the late Bill Fisher, W4AN. All W4AN QSLs go via K4BAI and I will be pleased to answer any QSL requests for this or any previous use of the call.

Total of 33 counties.

73, John, K4BAI for the W4AN/M team.

AD8J Mobile - 15 counties

What an experience! This was single op, NO DRIVER, mixed mode and low power. I live in Asheville, NC so had to add 525 miles each way. The Saturday route was eight (8) counties with only about 70 miles of driving. Spent about an hour in each county. The Sunday route had seven (7) new counties, 100 miles of driving,

and a repeat of ALC from the day before. I was able to make multiple visits to some of the Sunday counties and this really helped the numbers. This confused a bunch a guys, including some of the big guns who probably got red in the face when told it was a DUPE.

The equipment, antennas and Honda Accord all held together. I only made one wrong turn which wasted about 20 minutes getting to NAS which was the last county. As a result, I only had about 40 minutes there but it shortened the trip home by 20 minutes. All operation was while parked.

Got back to Asheville at 12:30AM after 1,220 miles of driving. The guy at the car wash wanted to know where I'd been when he saw all the bugs stuck to the front of the car. I did see two other mobiles. One was a white van with what looked like a hustler stick and three band radiators. I heard the clicking but couldn't find their frequency. The other was W5WMU in a sedan with three antennas on the back. I was able to work them as they flew by my shady parking spot.

N4AO mobile, WC4E operator - 2180 cw QSO

No major Murphy stories this year. Thought I had all the noise licked when I got all 12V power supplies and totally eliminated the need for a power inverter. Nope, the loud swooshing hash kept drifting in around my freq all weekend. I eventually learned (Late Sunday) to plug in the laptop charger when running loud stations and unplug and battery power later in the county. So if I had to ask for repeats, it was all the QRN fun. Maybe I'll encase it in a metal case for next year.

N1MM "Enter Sends Message" kept making me sound like a lid all weekend, sorry but I had to keep it on because it much easier to hit the large enter key then find the tiny half size insert key on a laptop KB. All while twisted sideways in the driver seat and typing in passenger seat side. (It was all an operator issue) Overall the program work flawlessly!!

Adding in a couple counties was much better, especially when condx took a dip.

Drove in very heavy rains in South FL on Sunday , first time I had to do that mobile in FQP. I'll take the rain way over the famous black swarms of "love bugs".

2006 Nissan Frontier

750 miles added while driving 22 Counties
Rig: IC 7000
NI7J Scorpion SA-680 (This antenna Rocks!!)
N1MM 12.4 on 10 Year old 20lb DELL Laptop

Thanks again to all!!

73

Jeff N4AO/m (WC4E)

K5CM mobile...with N5RW - 1109 cw 334 SSB QSO

“Next time a little better planning will allow Pam and I to make the 14 hour drive with a little more time to relax before the party starts. We did have some good beach time afterwards however :>)

73

Connie and Pam

N5WR mobile 2454 CW QSO

I have been wanting to do the FQP since I moved to the southeast 3 years ago, and finally this year I was able to get the time off to make the trip down. I drove down Friday night and stayed in Jackson county and started the contest there. I spent the first 4 hours generally heading east across the northern part of the state towards Jacksonville. Rates the first 2 hours were OK but not great, less than 100/hr, and on 20 meters signals seemed fluttery. I wasn't sure what this meant, there is a lot of noise while operating mobile, so I wasn't sure if it was engine noise, power line noise, or propagation. Conditions on 20 meters got better and I had 100+ in hours 3 and 4 of the contest. 15 meters was open also but was long, I worked several EU stations and W7s as well.

Getting closer to Jacksonville I was having some intermittent problems with my 20 meter antenna. Normally I use a Hi-Q 4/80 screwdriver type antenna which I park on 40 meters and then a 20 meter hamstick. The hamstick was giving me high SWR so I had to stop several times to troubleshoot. I finally tracked down the problem as a bad coax. I pulled over to the side of the road in Putnam county to work on this, and was leaning over to get something out of my trunk with my hand on the ground, when suddenly I felt a burning sensation on my hand. I looked down and my hand was covered with ants that were biting me. I quickly shook them off, but I still have marks on my hand. I don't know what kind of

ants they were but they sure hurt - some aggressive tropical ants that only live south of I-10 I guess.

I had no further equipment issues after this. I ran into a little traffic jam in Orange county driving past Disney World, and Polk county seemed to go on for a long time (long enough to make 106 QSOs there), but otherwise there were no issues with my route. As the evening hours came, 40 opened up and was able to work more of the closer W4 stations. I ended the first day in Sarasota, one county shy of my goal but still with 26 counties in the first day. Was very nice to meet Dan K1TO for the first time as we met up for dinner near his home along my route.

Day 2 started north of Tampa in Hillsborough county and I headed north across the Gulf coast counties and then west across the Panhandle. Conditions were good on 20 and I seemed to get off to a better start on Sunday. I really do not know how I am doing during the contest because I do not create the log until after the contest. The audio is recorded with a digital voice recorder and the log generated post-contest. To me this is the only way to safely drive and operate at the same time. This way my eyes are always on the road, left hand on the wheel, right hand on the keyer.

I passed a couple of other mobiles on Sunday, driving past with antennas sticking off their vehicles, so I knew I wasn't the only crazy one out there. It is always amusing the looks and the comments I get when operating mobile. Including one from a guy who pulled up in his Ford dually truck and rolled down his window - 'Hey man, is that for a CB radio?' 'Ham radio.' 'How far can you talk with that thing?' 'Pretty far'. As far as UA9 in this contest, in fact.

Late Sunday afternoon, as I was making my way across the panhandle, it became apparent to me that quite a few stations still needed Gulf county, as I had several stations asking when I would be there. I had quite a good pileup when I finally made it there. But then, right in the middle of the pileup, my GPS decided to have me turn down a county road that turned into a dirt road that turned into a dead end, and I had to just stop running the pile for a few minutes until I could figure out where I was. This happened to me in Bay county as well, which was really quite pretty driving along the Gulf coast, until the GPS led me down an unpaved road that was more sand than dirt and I nearly got stuck before finally making it back to the highway and getting back on track.

Finished the contest heading towards Pensacola on I-10 and it ended with a flurry of pileups and 212 QSOs in the last hour. I did not quite make it to Escambia county but finished with 24 counties on Sunday and a grand total of 49.

Thanks to everyone for the QSOs.

73, Erik N5WR

K7IA – AZ 265 cw 35 ssb (50 contacts on 15M)

This is one of the largest QSO Parties of the year, and the turnout was great--lots of action for both in-state and out-of-state ops. The Rules offer a real treat--setting aside 10 kHz on each band for mobile running frequencies--and there was a gaggle of mobile ops who changed counties frequently and remained on "their own" CW run frequencies. No need to tune around for them--just leave them on the bandmap and loop around and around the mobile sub-band. It was good fun, accumulating new mults and encountering new pileups every few minutes!

Many thanks to all of the ops who turned out, and special thanks go to these hard working, hard operating mobile ops:

Call QSOs

AD4ES 9

K4KG 13

K4M 13

K4OJ 16

N4AO 10

N4EEB 15

N5WR 11

NX4N 13

W4AN 11

W5WMU 8 (plus a drive from Louisiana--tu Pat!)

N4CW – portable - St Johns FL 353 CW

First time operating FQP "from" Florida (St. Augustine, St. Johns County).

Set up station in a hurry...CCR's in this subdivision so needed "stealth" antenna. Picture this: a 40-meter dipole folded like the letter "Z" with the diagonal across the widest/diagonal part of a two car garage, mounted on the ceiling using electric fence insulators! The center of the dipole was 6 inches from the garage door opener (unplugged from AC mains during the contest!!!). Coax fed

with RG-8X to a tuner...very high SWR! But never mind that...it worked! I even worked as far as HA and VE7 with it! Rig was a K3, barefoot. I forgot to bring my parallel port keying adapter, so did all my CQ'ing with either the paddle or K3 keying memory!

All exchanges were by hand.

I don't know if it was conditions or my setup, but copy was tough in the afternoons. Wish I could have operated more on Sunday morning... Great working old friends here and there! Maybe next year I'll do better. 73 and thanks for your patience if my signal wasn't loud and my apologies if I couldn't hear you.

N9AUG – OH 453 CW

What a fantastic party. Lots of activity and a great bunch of mobile operators. Mobile contacts - Tie for first were K4KG, NX4M AND K4OJ with 30 Qs each. N4AN was next with 29 (He would have also had 30 but he couldn't hear me on 40 Sunday afternoon). Next in order were N4EEB - 27, N5WR - 25, N4AO - 24, W5WMU - 22, AD4ES - 21, AD8J - 18, K4M AND K4NY with 16, NF4A - 12, ND9M - 8 AND K5CM - 5.

Midnight on the Titanic?

An update on global net oil exports: Is it midnight on the Titanic?

by Jeffrey J. Brown

My thesis is that US oil industry continues to make a serious mistake by providing, in my opinion, wildly unrealistic scenarios for US and global crude oil production. For example, ExxonMobil has run ads stating that we won't see a global production peak for decades to come, while Daniel Yergin tells us that the worst case is an "Undulating Plateau" many decades from now.

Unfortunately, since global annual crude oil production has been flat to down since 2005, the "Undulating Plateau" seems to have arrived slightly ahead of schedule.

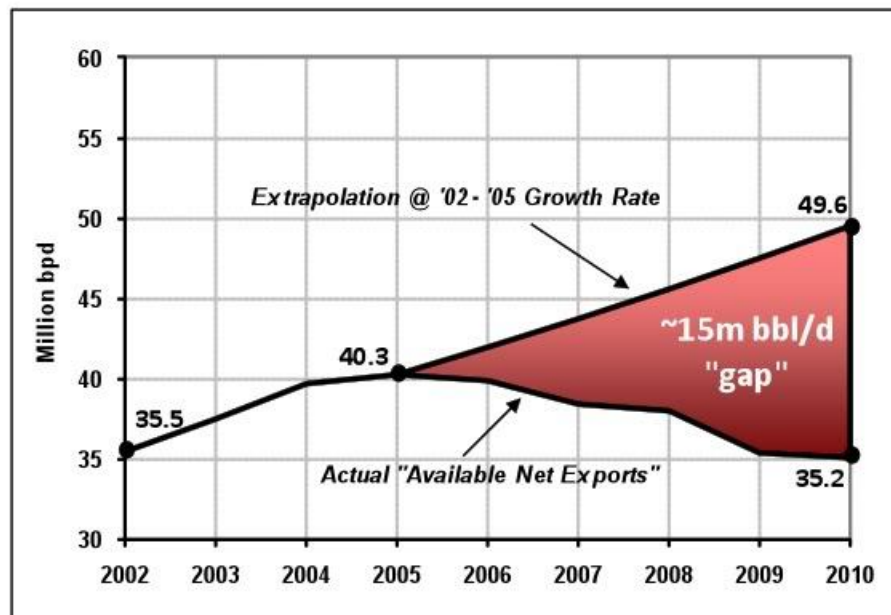
Global annual (Brent) crude oil prices doubled from \$55 in 2005 to \$111 in 2011, an average rate of increase of one percent per month, although actual prices have of course been above and below this trend line. The available production data over this time frame, from the EIA and BP,

show that global crude oil production and global total petroleum liquids production have been virtually flat, with a slight increase in total liquids production of about 0.5%/year (inclusive of low net energy biofuels).

A study of the top 33 net oil exporters in the world, which account for 99% plus of total global net exports, and which we define as Global Net Exports of oil (GNE), shows that GNE fell from 46 mbpd (million barrels per day) in 2005 to 43 mbpd in 2010 (BP & minor EIA data, total petroleum liquids).

Furthermore, China and India (“Chindia”) have been consuming an increasing share of this declining volume of GNE. At the 2005 to 2010 rate of increase in Chindia’s combined net oil imports as a percentage of GNE, the Chindia region alone would consume 100% of GNE by the year 2030, 18 years from now. I define Available Net Exports (ANE) as GNE less the Chindia region’s combined net oil imports.

“Available Net Exports”



Note: Available Net Exports defined as "Global Net Exports" less China & India net imports.

While the US has shown a small increase in crude oil production, up from the pre-hurricane rate of 5.4 mbpd in 2004 to 5.7 mbpd in 2011, a net increase of 0.3 mbpd, this is virtually a rounding error in the context of the multimillion barrel per day declines that we have seen in GNE, especially the ongoing decline in the volume of GNE available to importers other than China and India, which dropped from 40 mbpd in 2005 to 35 mbpd in 2010.

And while it is certainly true that US net oil imports have declined, a significant contributor to the decline in net imports was a large decline in US consumption, which was down by 1.5 mbpd from 2004 to 2010 (EIA).

So, while slowly increasing US crude oil production is very important, the dominant trend we are seeing is that developed oil importing countries like the US are being gradually priced out of the global market for exported oil, as global oil prices doubled from 2005 to 2011, and as developing countries like the Chindia region consumed an increasing share of a declining volume of global net exports of oil.

The Titanic hit the iceberg at 11:40 P.M. on the evening of April 14, 1912. At midnight, only a handful of people on the ship knew that it would sink, but that did not mean that the ship was not sinking. The Titanic's pumps helped, but they could not fully offset the flow of seawater into the ship. In my opinion, slowly rising US crude oil production is to the ongoing decline in Global and Available Net Exports as the Titanic's pumps were to the flood of incoming seawater.

California's Green Mirage

<http://www.nationalreview.com/planet-gore/296962/california-...>

On April 19, Next 10, a California-based cheerleader for all things green, issued a press release announcing the publication of the 2012 California Green Innovation Index. Next 10's presser lede claims that CA's global clean technology leadership is "supporting the state's economic rebound, while also driving CA's ability to cut emissions."

Claim: Clean technology has supported CA's economic rebound; **Fact:** From the start of the recession in December 2007 to March 2012, CA has lost 557,610 jobs while the ranks of the officially recognized unemployed have jumped 981,137. [Next 10 must be using the environmentalists' definition of "economic rebound."]

Claim: Clean technology has cut CA's greenhouse gas emissions; **Fact:** In addition to losing 557,610 jobs, the CA economy shrank from 2008 to 2010 — it's easy to reduce emissions when you're not making as much stuff.

Claim: CA's commitment to a "clean" economy will strengthen the economy; **Fact:** CA's public

policy mandates surrounding the use of renewable energy have boosted CA electricity rates to among the highest in the nation, accelerating industry's flight out of CA to the benefit of states with lower energy costs, such as Texas.

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The "California Green Innovation Index" sounds like something Stalin's Ministry of Propaganda would have released after the failure of another five-year plan.

On the Road with N4CD Part I

The Dayton Hamvention and the annual gathering of the County Hunters at the County Hunter Forum was coming up, so once again it was time to head that way 'the county hunter way'. It's 980 miles the direct way, but because I'm an addicted county hunter, I seldom manage to make it with less than at least a few hundred extra miles, and sometimes it's a few thousand extra miles. There were counties to put out for the folks, and a few counties for me to snag for the Mobile Diamond award. I packed for a two week trip, but figured I could do it in 10-11 days if everything went well, but it helps to have a few days extra 'just in case'. I ran the normal mobile set up on a IC-706 (original) with the 500 Hz CW filter, the six foot mast with 40/30/20/17 and 15m resonators, a separate 40M SSB hamstick, and 20M SSB antenna (4 foot mast with 20M resonator horizontal).

This year I left a bit earlier than normal, planning on hitting many counties in OH that I needed and folks needed, so I left on Sunday morning early with five days allocated to get there. The trip always seems to start with heading out Interstate 30 up to Little Rock, AR (Pulaski County) then over toward Memphis on I-40. I had a handful to run in TN left for MD, so it was a beeline to Gibson County, then over to Stewart, TN. Of course, I put out all the counties in between at the bands were OK. I was running 20 and 40 cw, plus once I got to TN, 40m SSB, and some 17m, and occasionally 30m cw if there was still time in the county. I'd save running all the bands for the KY and OH counties. If you run all the bands in every county, it can take 20-30 minutes depending upon the 'rarity' of the county. A few others were already on the way to the Hamvention, but most were still a few days from leaving.

The first night I stopped in Stewart, TN – just pooped out after 500 plus miles. Stopped at a nice (but not cheap) motel – Dover Motel. . Just down the road there was a hilltop 'battery' (gun emplacement) that peaked my interest in history. As it turns out, nearby there was a civil war battle that was decisive. From the web page at:

<http://www.civilwaracademy.com/civil-war-battles-in-tennessee.html>

“After capturing Fort Henry on February 6, 1862, Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant advanced cross-country to invest Fort Donelson. On February 16, 1862, after the failure of their all-out attack aimed at breaking through Grant's investment lines, the fort's 12,000-man garrison surrendered unconditionally. This was a major victory for Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and a catastrophe for the South. It ensured that Kentucky would stay in the Union and opened up Tennessee for a Northern advance along the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers. Grant received a promotion to major general for his victory and attained stature in the Western Theater, earning the nom de guerre Unconditional Surrender.”

This was Sunday night, so CHNews readers know that is Pizza Night! (I have to limit myself to pizza once a week and it is usually on Sundays). Just down the road from the motel was Moma Mea's Pizza which was quite good. I probably could have saved a few bucks by heading up in KY for a motel, but I had driven enough that day.

On Monday it was up through KY to get to a few of the tougher counties to run. It's slow going on the backroads of KY, and it drizzled on and off that day – fortunately mostly 'off' but the wipers still got a workout. It was first “up” in KY to get Union and Crittenden, then down back south to Logan, and get to Macon and Trousdale in TN. Wow....you've got some real twisty windy roads there – whew – and no place to pull over at the county line without hanging half way in the road – fortunately not much traffic (like none) but still not the world's safest. Then it was back across in south KY over to Rockcastle for the night. (I was getting a bit behind my planned schedule so I skipped the trip up to Pike IN. Those twisty roads in KY took a bit longer than I planned.

Chuck, W3CR, was down to handfull to finish up his Master Platinum. He was one of the first to be working on it, and gave many others the counties in the adjoining states but was sidelined for a long time with medical problems. He's back home now and trying to finish up. He needed Jackson KY.



Jackson, KY County Line

After a stop at an Econolodge Motel in Mt Vernon (\$46 including tax), with a dinner at Denny's across the road, it was over to get Jackson KY for him in the morning. Well, that was after breakfast at the Denny's again. Denny's offers 'AARP' coffee for a buck. When I went to pay my bill, the nice person at the cash register said 'third shift doesn't have access to AARP coffee discount'. You can't have it. It was 5:30 in the morning. Fine, I said – here's the sign right on top of the register advertising \$1 coffee 24 hours a day – figure out a way to honor what you clearly advertise here and pointed to the sign. Are you going to tell me you do false advertising? She got flustered...and eventually figured out something to come close. That makes it half the normal price. It was then over to Jackson County.

Chuck and I hooked up on 40m SSB. Now, he desperately needs someone with Masters Gold to head to HI to finish him up (he's only on SSB). From there I zipped up to the interstate to get over to WV. Yep, I took the 'round about way' to get to Dayton going through WV to get to Wirt, one of the handful I needed for MD in WV. What's a 300 mile detour for county hunters? After all, Dayton is on the west side of OH, and here I was headed to the east side of OH. Well, experienced county hunters know the feeling – there are just counties to be 'put out'. For the more advance MARAC awards, including Bingo, Masters Gold, Master Platinum and Mobile Diamond, you can also get credit for the county you are in if you work someone with the necessary award, too. I needed a dozen in OH and could get many of them.

Quite a few needed Lawrence, OH, and it's just a mile detour off the interstate to the north. You zip across the bridge over the river and you are there. Of course, once to you start running the county, you are there for 20-30 minutes as it's not run that often on cw. You head back across the river back to the interstate, then up another interstate to get to Wood – then a short detour for Wirt, WV. Success there.

If you stay on the interstate it takes you right up in OH. I had lots to run in OH for MD, and of course, folks needed some of the harder to get to counties like Holmes and Coshochton. I wound up in a Red Roof motel for the night in Licking County, with dinner at the truck stop across the street – about the only option. They had a buffet – it wasn't bad. Now I was ahead of planned schedule as the weather was good, and OH roads aren't too bad – small roads but you can make decent time, and I didn't have too many 'dead end' counties where you run the county stopped, then go back out of the county and on the route.

I decided to head on in to Dayton for Wednesday night and stayed at the normal motel – Super 8 in Moraine. It's just south of town but sort of in the middle of nowhere as far as places to eat – you've got to drive a few miles to get to decent places.

There's a whole day event put on by QRP – ARCI called 'Four Days in May'. That's an all day session on QRP type technology held over at the Marriott in Fairborn each year the day before the hamfest. When you combine it with the 3 days of the hamfest, you get 'four days in May' which is where it gets its name. Several hundred attend each year.

To be continued in Part II

Radio Broadcast Magazine

Some interesting 1920s era mags online

<http://www.vacuumtubeera.net/RadioBroadcastMagazine.html>

Nebraska QSO Party

Yes, Virginia, there was a NE QSO Party.

Several folks filed scores on the 3830 contest reflector (8 so far) with the biggest score having a total of 18 contacts, the next biggest score having 10 contacts. Activity on CW was 'sparse' and on SSB not much better.

Mike, NF0N, put out a half a dozen plus on CW for the QSO Party. He was by far the most active mobile.

Also spotted on the W6RK spot site

SSB – WB9QAF Douglas, N1NU Custer, KC0JRW Buffalo, KB0OWY Saunders, K0HA Seward, K0PVW Thayer and Nuckolls, K0NEB Lancaster, K0USA Douglas,

CW – K0BLT Merrill

That was about it!

Hams Aren't the Only Radio Fanatics

Perhaps My Final Radio Quest (or Not) by Tom Burslem

Some people shop in the Mall all their lives. When clothes are worn out, they are replaced. All at the mall? How boring. Nuff said. I guess my shopping takes on a quantum leap by comparison. I recently drove 500 miles one way to pick up a 200 pound console from 1948. Oh, I tried to purchase it locally...for over 29 years... I'd looked closer to town. If mountain won't come to Mohamed, Mohamed will go to mountain. I think Mohamed said that...? This quest was more like a poignant idea that grew by leaps and bounds until it very quickly had a momentum of its own.

First, a quick background; as this Radio was the same model number owned by my grand parents. The ultimate Magnavox cabinet "The Windsor" built by Drexel. The unit featured 2 'mirror image' mahogany doors with a central pull out drawer for phonograph and 2 smaller cabinet doors hiding the speaker. 47" long by 37" tall by 18" deep. All mahogany solid wood, no particle board anywhere. At first glance, it did not look like a radio/phono. It was a solid piece of furniture. Though I obtained the unit from my Grandparents I entrusted it to my little brother and his wife for safekeeping. Big mistake.

Some artifacts mean more to some people than others. Or perhaps the word "special meaning" means virtually nothing. They sold it at a garage sale for \$25.00 back in 1981. Even though I'm certain my parents were married when he was conceived; he no doubt had a serious lapse of memory and reasoning at the time of sale...

I've been trying to find this same unit for the last 29 years.

I searched on Ebay. I watched soulfully as they sold out of Boston, New York, and Chicago. They were local pick up only. They show up twice a year on average for the last five years. I learned about Craigslist and began my nightly scans. Not a one since I started looking in Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, Corpus Christi, nor Austin. Then, 2 weeks ago I plugged in Tulsa, Oklahoma on a whim and saw it. This piece had been used as a "buffet table" in

someone's dining room. Radio had been purchased at an estate sale. Never plugged in. What's fascinating is how fast a purpose can manifest it's own destiny. The odds my wife would react with such nonchalance? (no big deal hon, I'll just be driving bout 1000 miles to get me another radio...) My boss would give me two days off with short notice? My buddy in Dallas could take a vacation day to go with me and his new wife of four months would 'understand'. And he happened to have a truck available? Turned out he even had a friend from Vietnam days that invited us to spend the night that lives 10 miles from our pickup point? That the folks in Tulsa would hold it for me until I could pick it up?

All these things happened in a matter of minutes and phone calls. Like one domino after another; I was a man on a mission.

A one week goal objective was met and final arrangements were made. No glitches. I trekked up to North Dallas, spent one night with my friend and left the next morning with thermos full of 100% Colombian. Roger is not satisfied with McDonalds/Burger King breakfast.

Oh, no, he had to prepare our own with Jimmy Dean sausage and homemade biscuits. So off we traveled with Little Mc'rogers wrapped in aluminum foil and a pot of beans that his buddy lusted after. Who says men can't cook? After many years being single, he had established his own way of doing things. And, this was, after all, an adventure. Though he doesn't collect Radios he appreciates the dedicated intensity of my quest. He never asked "why" nor implied any judgment. His friend was after a Radio. Could have been a nuclear submarine... Reaction would have been the same "when do we leave?" A fine friend indeed. You don't find friends like this in the phone book... I am truly blessed. Women don't have this approach. I mean, their thought process makes it impossible to not ask "why" to anything a man does... I've done the research. ...

The weather was clear and crisp. A small slice of south America. 20 some miles north of Tulsa.

The unit sat just like in the pictures they'd sent... in the corner of the dining room. The color was unmistakable. The reddish deep brown that only mahogany wood can provide. Damn near perfect.

We met my friend's friend soon after pickup. Jim was ex-vietnam 30 year plus retired from the Air-Force. Jim's passion was fishing lures. He had restored over 500 all individually boxed and labeled on his dining room table. He repainted em... restored em. Older ones were better than new plastic... Where one would expect family pics he had full color blow ups of airplanes. He'd been single for the last 26 years and judging by his design motif of lined tool boxes and fishing lures in the dining and living room, his marital status was unlikely to change any time soon. I listened. They talked. Bangkok was an interesting place in the late 1960's. Mostly, testosterone on steroids of the mind and body. Must be a bunch

of blue eyed Tai children down there...

They started playing chess around 9:00 PM. I knew when he made a fresh pot of coffee it was gonna be a long game...checked my cargo next morning. Frost line all over the tarp. Got down to 28 degrees during the night. We had breakfast at a local place. Genuine smiles from seasoned but somehow fresh waitresses. History repeating itself. Jim said the same place used to belong to an Uncle when it was a bar. No doubt the children of former waitresses following their Mother's and Father's footsteps.

We were transported in Jim's pride-a 1994 Toyota Land Rover with 4 wheel drive. "285,000 miles and only on the second transmission," Jim said proudly. Jim was doing just fine. A slice of America; a slice of hardworking, semi-retired grass roots America. The type of American Obama never conceived of...I know...I digress again. It's hard being a professional writer without discussing woman or politics...I get so angry at our current president's lack of any depth nor sense of history. I mean, has he ever spent the night with a 30 year retired Air Force veteran? Does he deserve to even sleep in this man's garage? Whoops...there I go again...



The ride back to Dallas was as crisp and clean as the Travel to Tulsa.

We had to buy our coffee, this time. Roger's new wife of four months greeted us at the door. First night they'd slept apart in 8 months or so. Love knows no bounds...Hope it lasts... Next morning I'm off to Houston after a kings breakfast. The Radio was transferred to my wife's Honda Odyssey with 2 inches to spare on the sides with both rear seats removed. As I drove, the memories of this radio floated back to me. I remember visiting my Grandparent and walking directly to the radio. My first memories are of staring (almost at my eye level so I couldn't have been more than 38" tall at the time) at the 6U5 tuning eye. Once a station was found it would wiggle just a tad when the announcer spoke. I can still smell the sweet

scents of my Grandmothers perfume and my Grandfathers huge hands with the smell of shaving cream lingering in the air. I no doubt was picked up a few times and cautioned to not touch “the instrument” as my Grandfather called it.

At each holiday as their living room filled with other family I was allowed to open the door but not play the radio. I was the strange little kid staring at a blank 6U5 tube...but this was the coolest radio I'd ever seen. It wasn't till junior high school that my Grandparents passed. The Radio was given to my Mom and she made me promise to not alter the look of her “buffet table”. As if I would destroy that look???

Of course I took the radio and power amp and put them in my room. This had a separate power amp with 4 6v6's in push pull parallel. Most powerful amp I'd ever seen. I found a \$10.95 pre amp at Radio Shack for the phono circuit and soon had a magnetic cartridge playing nicely.

But far away college days took me away. That, and the smell of fresh perfume. I had sense enough to replace all the components back into the cabinet. Not too long after, my Mother needed to move and somehow “the buffet table” was unnecessary.

Verily, I entrusted to my younger brother and then as stated previously, he discarded it at a garage sale like a used sock with a hole in it....\$25.00?? I'm doing my best to forgive my little brother but there is still lingering thoughts that if he chided me at all regarding ‘wasting time chasing down a silly radio’, they'll be some furniture moving when it's all said and done...nothing like being “dissed” by your little brother...Perhaps that old timey lesson time of the meaning of respect???

Anyway, I feel a sense of closure. My Grandparents spent what must have been at least 2 or 3 months salary back then to obtain this unit. And though the room was draped with other fine pieces ranging from the handmade oriental rug to real ivory bone lamps encased with hand made glass etc. it's not so much what they paid but it's the importance they placed on making and using “special” objects that made up who and what they believed in. A pretty neat slice of America. Their past was a land and place where an Obama could never conceive of. My Grandparents were simple people that worked hard to have quality in their lives and had an appreciation for craftsmanship. There is a sense of history that transgresses an emotional feel for sentimentality. Put this in perspective- They cared THAT MUCH to purchase this item??? Am I gonna spend 3 months salary for a piece of furniture? (I'd have to pause and reflect before answering if a radio was involved).

No garage sale price could ever do this piece justice.

I'm proud to own such a piece of America. This is a solid link to my past. Right here in my living room. And what will I put inside this beautiful cabinet? No doubt my favorite

components will fit nicely.

The Harmon Kardon pre amp connected to my Dynaco 70 power amp will drive the Accuphase FM Tuner (analog) and Pioneer cd player. I've got a double cassette from Nakamichi which deserves consideration and my rebuilt Advent speakers on either side of the unit. And if, by chance, the ghost of my Grandfather shows up one morning at 3:00 Am as he decides to check out that radio, what will he ask me? Besides, " why so many knobs"? My guess is he won't say anything...

He'll appreciate my work.

Source: Houston Grid Leak

More pictures here

http://www.callawayclockandantiqueradioservice.com/Radio_Gallery.php

Atlas Shrugged Part II

Coming in Octoberbefore the election

May 2011

Stossel on Atlas Shrugged – several parts

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=osr4uHTA0kA>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KNk45cqkiyk&feature=related>

from last May's issue of the Chnews

'Atlas Shrugged': From Fiction to Fact in 52 Years

If only "Atlas" were required reading for every member of Congress and political appointee in the Obama administration. I'm confident that we'd get out of the current financial mess a lot faster.

Many of us who know Rand's work have noticed that with each passing week, and with each successive bailout plan and economic-stimulus scheme out of Washington, our current politicians are committing the very acts of economic lunacy that "Atlas Shrugged" parodied in 1957, when this 1,000-page novel was first published and became an instant hit.

Rand, who had come to America from Soviet Russia with striking insights into totalitarianism and the destructiveness of socialism, was already a celebrity. The left, naturally, hated her. But as recently as 1991, a survey by the Library of Congress and the Book of the Month Club found that readers rated "Atlas" as the second-most influential book in their lives, behind only the Bible.

For the uninitiated, the moral of the story is simply this: **Politicians invariably respond to crises**

-- that in most cases they themselves created -- by spawning new government programs, laws and regulations. These, in turn, generate more havoc and poverty, which inspires the politicians to create more programs . . . and the downward spiral repeats itself until the productive sectors of the economy collapse under the collective weight of taxes and **other burdens imposed in the name of fairness, equality and do-goodism.**

In the book, these relentless wealth redistributionists and their programs are disparaged as "the looters and their laws." Every new act of government futility and stupidity carries with it a benevolent-sounding title. These include the "Anti-Greed Act" to redistribute income (sounds like Charlie Rangel's promises soak-the-rich tax bill) and the "Equalization of Opportunity Act" to prevent people from starting more than one business (to give other people a chance). My personal favorite, the "Anti Dog-Eat-Dog Act," aims to restrict cut-throat competition between firms and thus slow the wave of business bankruptcies. Why didn't Hank Paulson think of that? The current economic strategy is right out of "Atlas Shrugged": The more incompetent you are in business, the more handouts the politicians will bestow on you. That's the justification for the \$2 trillion of subsidies doled out already to keep afloat distressed insurance companies, banks, Wall Street investment houses, and auto companies -- while standing next in line for their share of the booty are real-estate developers, the steel industry, chemical companies, airlines, ethanol producers, construction firms and even catfish farmers. With each successive bailout to "calm the markets," another trillion of national wealth is subsequently lost. Yet, as "Atlas" grimly foretold, we now treat the incompetent who wreck their companies as victims, while those resourceful business owners who manage to make a profit are portrayed as recipients of illegitimate "windfalls."

When Rand was writing in the 1950s, one of the pillars of American industrial might was the railroads. In her novel the railroad owner, Dagny Taggart, an enterprising industrialist, has a FedEx-like vision for expansion and first-rate service by rail. But she is continuously badgered, cajoled, taxed, ruled and regulated -- always in the public interest -- into bankruptcy. Sound farfetched?

On the day I sat down to write this ode to "Atlas," a Wall Street Journal headline blared: "Rail Shippers Ask Congress to Regulate Freight Prices." In one chapter of the book, an entrepreneur invents a new miracle metal -- stronger but lighter than steel. The government immediately appropriates the invention in "the public good." The politicians demand that the metal inventor come to Washington and sign over ownership of his invention or lose everything.

The scene is eerily similar to an event when six bank presidents were summoned by Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson to Washington, and then shuttled into a conference room and told, in effect, that they could not leave until they collectively signed a document handing over percentages of their future profits to the government. The Treasury folks insisted that this shakedown, too, was all in "the public interest."

Source: WSJ

- -

Don't forget the government shakedown of oil companies, the EPA regional head saying he would 'make examples' by 'crucifying' oil and gas companies (and then did with the Range Fuels episode that costs them millions in legal fees and was finally dropped after the EPA it had no data to support the alleged 'crimes' and charges. Just like the Romans did when they invaded new territories. Take the first five people they find, crucify them, then the rest of the population is 'cowed'.

Or the government going after innovative company, or 'profit making companies', like the oil companies, and the giants like Google and Apple – for not paying 'their 'fair' share'...or putting competitors at disadvantages because, well, they price according to the market. The government is doing hack work for the less efficient to weaken the strong. Yepper....

Now it's a full scale attack on Bain Capital – since Governor Romney was was working for them. It seems the democrats have cranked up the anti-business, anti-investment community....except, of course, when it comes to raising money. There, Obama was taken in TENS OF MILLIONS in campaign contributions from Wall Street – in record amounts. Seems he has no problem taking their money – while at the same time, bashing them in 'class warfare' , hate 'business' tirades time and time again.

7th Area QSO Party

This was another good year. Several mobiles made it interesting, including a few of the regular county hunters like KS5A, KC7YE, , K7RE, . WQ7A was also out in WA but did not appear to be spotted off CH SSB freq.

As in the past, two dozen big multi-op contest stations made it on with big signals and big antennas. Quite a few of those had hundreds of contacts on 15M, and a few had big piles on 10M (probably mostly DX) although 10M did nothing for most of the country.

The Spring 10-10 contest was going on, and on my vertical I heard exactly one station in HP land calling CQ, and worked one AZ station who faded in and out in 2 minutes - the entire contest time on 10M. Ed, KN4Y was on for the duration with not a ping heard here.

From my QTH, 15m was open to the FAR Northwest and to New England. It depends how far you were away from the activity (and how good your antennas are!). I caught dozens of new 15m band counties this year.

from the 3830 reflector

K7BG mobile in MT

Weather wasn't the best this year so I had to push myself to get going and got a late start in the mobile. Only activated 4 counties this year, but it was fun nonetheless. Stopped on a few county lines so the Q total is higher. Not sure how many mults I had, I'll let the results computers figger out the score.

TS690S and a Texas bugcatcher on a '92 Aerostar van.

73,

Matt--K7BG/m

K7RE//mobile

I put in about 10 hours of drive time, handled by the XYL, KD7GLY. It did rain steadily for about 70% of that time. Still, the cloud cover made to display of my little net book easier

to see.

I am constantly amazed at how lousy many fists seem to be, many beyond recognition. In this day and age, it is difficult for me to understand how operators can not even send their own call signs.

Most radios have CW keyers, and free computer programs that log usually can send CW macros as well. Some radios even allow CW macros. Why not simply load either or both of these devices with a macro that contains your call sign and exchange? If you don't own a PC, older 486 machines can be had for nothing, as well as a lot of very usable and free software.

I also encountered a lot of dupes, at one point, 16 out of 20 that called me were dupes!

This takes up everyone's time and resources, again easily remedied by a logging computer. Still we had a very nice time, and I thank all those operators whom we contacted. Someday

I hope that LOTW and EQSL will allow electronic verification with rovers in different counties without jumping through too many hoops.

NK7U – multi op in OR with (NK7U, K7ZO, W7ZRC, N7WR, WJ9B, N9JA)

Overall our score was down about 13% from last year. A quarter of the difference was due to missing three mults relative to last year when we only missed VY0 and got 72 out of a possible 73 mults. This year we got a VY0 but missed VO, VY1, VY2, and VE8. The other three quarters were due to lower QSO points -- notably on SSB. Last year we had 1,787 SSB QSOs vs this year 1,190. We did improve our CW effort from 817 to 1,036 QSOs. As several people mentioned in earlier posts low band QRN likely related to thunderstorms was very high this year, higher than anything we could remember in the past. On 40 Meters our noise level to the east was a steady S9 +5. We ended up beaming south and working just up and down the west coast.

Note: They made over 100 contacts on 10meters! Big antennas!

KS5A mobile - 333 CW QSO

This mobile's objective was to cover some of those AZ counties with little or no announced coverage. From a few of the 3830 comments, I believe we accomplished our purpose. Thanks to all the AZ participants as intel says we had all the counties on the air. It will be interesting to see who had an AZ clean sweep.

We traveled through 7 counties for the 7QP in a BIG state. How big is it?

Well, we started out 3 hours before the party start time to get to our initial county. 15 hours and 700 miles later we completed our trip. Actual operating time was around 8 hours with stops only to prevent running out of the county with stations calling and the normal necessity breaks. We shut down the last hour as we enter the home and previously run county to battled the traffic through Phoenix.

The two 10m Q's were with KN4Y, all by his lonesome in a 10-10 contest. Ed was strong, so the band was open, just no other takers. I checked 80m at the start but nobody was home.

County QSO Totals:

Cochise - 73

La Paz - 57

Maricopa - 57

Pima - 19

Pinal - 24

Santa Cruz - 67

Yuma - 36

Stations with most Q's:

N6MU - 8

K7EAR - 6

K7QQ - 6

N5AU - 5

N8II - 5

Vehicle, rig, antennas, computer, occupants - all worked and lasted the duration. Could not ask for more. Good times. Thanks to all for the contacts

– I know we may have missed a few due to the road noise - sorry.

–

IC-706MKIIG, 7 Hustlers in a horizontal array atop a 7' mast, mounted on F-350 toolbox

73/Guff

KS5A

KS7S mobile - 343 CW

Operated mobile from seven AZ counties - AZSCZ, AZCHS, AZGHM, AZGLE, AZGLA, AZAPH and AZNVO

Rig: "Icom IC-7000 -- High Sierra Sidekick/TurboTuner"

NG7M County Expedition 1812 cw 573 SSB

This was a fun Single Op effort on a three county line. I was at a great location and with permission from the land owner I was pumped up for my Single Op effort in the 7QP. Getting ready had been consuming my thought process for weeks. I'll put a link to the pictures and video I took of my effort. I think I only have one picture of a worn out NG7M when I was almost done with the 6 hour pack up and setup take down. The video is HD and the pictures are 18 mega pixels, so it will take awhile to download the video especially if you can't stream it.

Before I forget, I need to credit N7BAN (Dave Banner) for the great idea to use a farm jack setup to push the lower mast sections up on the spider beam mast. Google up N7BAN and Spider Beam to find his pictures and description of the setup. Dave's setup really made the Single Op setup and full effort possible for me. Big thanks to N7BAN for sharing his idea on the Spider Beam mast setup. I made a few changes to Dave's original setup that really worked out well and I also dreamed up the idea to use cord reels to make the guys easy to deal with near the mast. No running around as I slowly jacked up the mast sections. With a one man show, the system really worked well... it just took some time. It worked great with the harsh winds too.. keep reading about the wind.

Pictures: <http://www.nc7j.com/downloads/ng7m/Contests/2012/7QP/>
Video: <http://www.nc7j.com/downloads/ng7m/Contests/2012/7QP/Video/>

First the low part of the 18 hour 7QP contest... I missed almost 5 hours of operating time Saturday afternoon due to high winds on the Utah and Wyoming boarder. My spider beam (which played really well) up 60 ft was doing fine in the brutal wind until one of the tripod legs slipped and was shortened in the leg tube. This was the real cause of the failure. You can see in one of the videos the lower mast sections tilted to the left... I just didn't realize this when I was focused on the flexing of the top of the mast. I'm convinced the setup would have been fine in the wind if that one tripod leg would not have slipped in 4-6 inches... this was the weak link in the setup... note to self... use pliers to tighten the tripod leg clamps. See the videos in the links above. This tilt at the mast bottom caused the second to the top mast section to

buckle in the unforgiving due to the fact the two guys were not able to pull the mast back into the wind like they normally would and it was hard to watch the spider beam blow like a sprung umbrella against the nasty sustained wind from the west. I didn't realize the tripod leg had shortened due to the mast pressure at the bottom of the tubular mast until after I lowered the mast. I waited several hours to let the wind calm down so I could bring the mast down. It was very disheartening to not keep up the full 18 hour effort... I couldn't operate with the spider beam pointed at the ground up 60 feet! I had my low band dipole still up and it wasn't worth transmitting with everything in a mess.

After I brought mast and spider beam down, I bucked up and decided to finish using the ladder line fed 140' dipole. I got the Mr. Spidy Beam down on the ground and only lost one fiberglass tube. I then put the mast back up as high as I could... about 55ft again... I started operating again and stayed on 20 with the dipole until the rate dropped and then moved back between 40 and 80 for the rest of the duration. I made 1 Q (3 if you count the 3 county line ;) on 160 and it was clear 160 wasn't worth it.

It was a big effort as a single op to setup, but it was well worth it. I was surprised that CW was the place to be for rate. With the verbose long exchange, I had a much better rate on CW than phone. It was brutal on phone... way too many repeats and SSB stations were just not ready for the long exchange. I prefer CW anyway so I was happy to stay on CW. I remember my N1MM rate meter touching 189 for just a few moments even with the big long exchange I was sending. Kudo's to the CW ops out there dealing with my 3 county exchange! Thanks to the SSB and CW Op's for working hard to copy the exchange.

So the good news is the fact I was still able to pull off ~800 Q's by the end of the contest. 604 on CW... I'm sure the numbers will drop, but I'm happy as a lark at this point to have posted a raw score of 421K points due to the 3 for 1 Q three county line bonus. Only being able to operating just over 13 hours too. I figure I missed out on a few more mults and problem walked away from 200-300 more Q's. Sigh...

73 and thanks for reading everyone.

de Max NG7M

K7IA County Expedition

Every year I operate 7QP (and the AZQP) from a different county line, always looking for something "better." "Better" has come to mean the likely absence of freak snowstorms or the destruction of my 2011 site by the Wallow Fire in eastern Arizona in 2011. This year's spot, on the Apache-Navajo County line filled the bill--all we had was continuous wind, truly a welcome change!

The following is an obvious statement, but I'll make it anyway. Despite hours of preplanning, pouring over National Forest Service charts, topog maps, computer mapping programs, and Google Earth, potential sites that "look good and accessible" don't always pan out, and this one was no exception. Even new revisions of older maps continue to show roads and landmarks that no longer exist, or, worse, formerly vacant country now "developed."

Because of the distance to the site from home (225 miles), wife Erin and I decided not to make a recon trip beforehand, opting instead to leave home an extra day earlier to spend the extra time searching the hard way, if needed. I'm glad we gave ourselves the extra day, because none of the three "good looking" sites panned out. However, persistence paid off, and we found a passable lane that took us to the ancient fenceline marking the county line, complete with benchmark. Parking the 4WD camper within 80 feet of the line was no problem, there were no passers-by, nor were there any grazing livestock. We truly had the place to ourselves.

This year's site was in lower elevations to avoid the higher country's surprise snowstorms of the past. Scrubby country, there were no trees for homebrew wire directional antennas, so I used an old Butternut vertical, recently rebuilt with a portable base, guy ropes, and 32 "portable" radials. I had tested the B-nut in last month's NMQP on similar terrain, and it worked better than expected. With the chance of not finding a spot on the APH-NVO line, I took my wire antennas (and slingshot) along and planned to operate on the Coconino-Navajo line, an hour further from home. Redundancy pays! (As does a backup radio, backup generator, and backup laptop, none of which were used.)

This year we had beautiful weather, aside from the continuous steady winds from the west. We were treated to two spectacular sunsets and a "Super Moon" moonrise (the unusual combination of the moon at its closest distance to Earth and full--in fact, so full that by our eyes, the Earth was nearly dead on line between the setting sun and rising moon--a near lunar eclipse).

Operating 7QP was fun, as usual. Ten meters was empty each time I checked, but the other bands, 80-15, were busy, and QRN was minimal. I worked CW mostly, but 15m SSB was workable for my tired old ears. 20m SSB was just too crowded for

me, so I tried 20m RRTY for a few moments and even found a few callers. After supper, when 40m quieted down, I gave SSB a shot and attracted a fair amount of attention. Unfortunately, I could work only the strong signals, and for the first time ever, I had to QSY to CW, leaving callers behind--they were just barely audible above the noise. As I told them, I'm not much of a phone operator, and I have an audiogram to prove it... My apologies to them!

It was nice to say howdy to a few old QSO Party friends, but where was fellow Apache County op Andy, KK7AC??

I had the impression that there was more 7QP activity than ever this year--both within and without the 7th Area. I also thought the 7QP has found a cohesive niche with the older QP's--the New England and the Indiana. NEQP and INQP operators alike seemed very happy to swap QSO's with 7QP, even though the County Line exchanges were considerably longer than a mere two letters! Thanks guys!! There were also more obvious county line operations this year than before, including one operating from a "triple point." Clearly, the 7QP has grown into a major event that many ops around the country (and world, considering the DX interest--34 EU-SA's, worked) look forward to.

A hearty Bravo Zulu (well done) to the Central Oregon DX Club and to the 7-land state Captains & Co-captains for their hard work!!

Equipment:

K3

KPA-500 (new, worked great on 2 Kw genset and 300 watts out)

Butternut vertical

N1MM Logger

73, Dan k7ia

N7OU mobile - 79 cw QSO

Operated from parking lots in Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington Counties, Oregon. It seemed like every time I started think I wasn't getting out, YO8DOH or DL3DXX would call in. I used a K2 on the dash and a whip on the trunk.

73 Bill

N7XU mobile (K4XU opr) - 809 CW

Long day in the saddle. Almost everything went right. I listened on 10m a few times but there was nothing there.

Next year I'm going to upgrade from the TS50 to a TS480, get the computer connected to the rig, and work on more efficient antennas than the Hustler pitchfork triband traps.

K7EAR really multi-op County Expedition

with N5IA, N5BG, N7AM, N2IC, WA5Y, NI5L, W5CF, AI7AZ, K7JEM, W7AZY, AA7NW, KB7CSE, KF7JCJ, KF7SOU, KB7BFG, KF7SOR, KF7SOP, KF7UFK, K7LON, JASON,

The planning for this operation began after the 2010 7QP when I asked the question, "Would it do any good to call 1-800-BIG-WIND and request a few days without wind?"

The 2011 operation was canceled a few days before the event due to circumstances beyond our control. So the 'no wind' request and other planned improvements had to wait until the Cinco de Mayo, 2012.

The weather request was mostly honored and 'breezy' was the maximum air velocity delivered by Mother Nature. Well, there were a gust or two that played havoc with one camping canopy and felled the 5BTV for the digital station. Temperatures were ideal, coupled with the normal low humidity. Temps at sunrise were in the mid-40's and topped out at 90 in the mid-afternoon.

In the overall picture, Murphy stayed up in the White Mountains and his cousin did not visit the K7EAR operation. Oh, we won't count that one digital operator had to cancel mid-day Friday due to a family emergency. Or that one Band Captain was conspicuously absent due to being more interested in an exotic DX Pedition. Other than those couple of MIAs, and the fact that the tower erecting device was 4 hours late on Friday (a long story by itself), all went well in EAARS-land.

The two operating buses were prepared beforehand with the stations and networked logging computers, and were carefully driven out the dirt ranch road to the Graham/Greenlee County line operating site. There were no casualties.

The rehabbed (new for this operation) 18 kW diesel powered genset was towed

into place midway between the two operating buses by K7JEM. 250 foot runs of #6 stranded aluminum URD Triplex cable was run to each bus. Generator coughs, refueling in the dark, and varying AC frequency that the UPSs don't like became things of the past.

The antenna systems were deployed without incident and all was in place by sunset Friday evening. Then it was off to get some sleep and be ready to Rock and Roll at 6 AM Saturday.

The sunrise over the mountains in New Mexico 30 minutes before starting time was incredible. It was a portent of how the contest day would play out.

The only hour below 100 was the very last one, hour 18, which finished up the fabulous day with 196 to complete the log of 3,103 contacts.

The EAARS group has some great operators but the most important part of the whole operation was the training of and operating by the newly licensed people, most of whom had never seen an HF radio. It was inspiring to see some of these new ops running stations on 15 SSB by mid-day and knocking 'em dead by late afternoon.

But all was not easy. Ten Meters was open, both E layer and F layer, but there just weren't that many stations on the air for the contest. When the 7O6T expedition showed up on 10 CW the entire east coast of the US was being heard off the back side of their beams. But none of them wanted to contact a measly county line expedition. :-)

20 Meters again was the money band for all three modes. The late evening opening to EU added a tremendous amount of DX to the K7EAR log. We worked 29 Russian, 24 German stations, and 17 Italians. We logged 101 Canadians and 21 Hawaiian stations. Overall, not including Alaska and Hawaii, we worked 43 DXCC entities.

State wise California led the way with 323 contacts. Others in order of quantity of contacts were Oregon-214, Washington-203, Texas-137, Florida-127, our own state of Arizona-116, and Ohio-102. Ontario led the Canadian Provinces providing us with 37 contacts and BC was 2nd with 27 contacts.

Of significance for us is the highest Multiplier total our group has ever accomplished. Of the 73 total mults possible, we missed only Nunavut and Northern Territories in Canada.

Particular recognition and thanks go to Grace, KB7CSE and Beth, AA7NW, for heading up the mid-day meal crew. The evening meal was 'Garbage Pizza' from the Mom n' Pop Humble Pie pizza shop in Duncan, 7 miles distant. This was the fuel needed to push everyone to the finish line at midnight.

At midnight operations ceased. Then it was off to the sack for a too short 4-5 hours sleep, but with a smile on everyone's face.

Tear down started at just before 6 AM. Everyone and everything was gone by noon. The team work for the dismantling and loading of the antenna systems was poetry in motion.

A special thanks to the mobiles and other county line expeditions for all their efforts.

73 to everyone.

W7QC County Expedition to Boundary ID – 619 CW QSO

It was wet, cold and windy in a tent on a mountain in Northern Idaho. The sun didn't show up until Sunday morning and made me want to stay up there. The wind kept me from getting my antenna up high enough but it still worked fairly well. Great contest with good participation and I look forward to it every year.

N7T County Expedition - Maricopa/Gila AZ

Interesting contest. We did a two county line this year with 100 watt radios and G5RV's. Didn't come close to pre-contest goals for a number of reasons, but learned a lot. And in a somewhat wierd sort of way we were actually more rare than the Yemen expedition because they probably made more Q's in their first 15 minutes than we did in the entire contest!!

N6MU – fixed in California - 290 cw

Kudos to the myriad of mobiles who were out there doing their thing. Top mobile for me was N7XU with 18 Qs. All the rest were less than 10 Qs. Good portable and fixed

activity as well. Getting to be one of my favorites

KV8Q – fixed OH – 78 Mults

Another good time playing three contests at once in an attempt to wear the knobs off of two perfectly good radios. We sure had the noise on 80 once the sun went down. Other than that, this was fun once again. Thanks to all of the portable, rover, mobiles for all of the Q's and new counties. Here are the leaders:

Call (QSO's/Counties)

NX7U 9/8
NG7M 9/3
K7RE 7/7
K7IA 6/2
K7EAR 6/2
K7S 5/5
KS5A 4/3
AA5TL 4/2
AC7WJ 4/2
K7TM 3/3
WJ7TT 2/2
WT7TT 2/2

N8II – fixed WV

Conditions were the best I have seen for 7QP from here, but could have been better. The QRN level on 20 from Midwest storms was a steady S7 or better drone from the start until about 18Z, then again after 23Z. Luckily 15 was not open to the stormy area and was blissfully quiet with loud signals by 14Z and OR/WA were loud by 1430Z thru until 23Z.

Activity was slow to build up though, especially on 15 phone. 10 was open to AZ around 15Z, but no one was there (W7Z moved with me from 15). This gave me enough time to chase most of the mobiles thru the morning and afternoon.

The NEQP at 20Z muddied the 20M waters with QRM both modes, but luckily both New England and IN were skipping over me. I noticed a bit late that 7QP activity was up to the top of the 20M phone band. Finally at 2211Z, I was able to run stations on 20 phone.

Many thanks to the county expeditions and mobiles for many rare counties. I think I got all of the county line ones. I worked Dick N7XU/M the most, he was never really hard to copy, good signal! Thanks also to mobiles KS5A, K7S, K7RE, WT7TT, and KT7G. I had a sweep of AZ counties by early afternoon. Activity was excellent from WA, OR, and ID (ID contesting ham population boom), barely got a Clark Co., NV (Las Vegas).

Mult totals were WA-28, OR-26, ID-18, UT-14, MT-13, WY-11, and NV-8.

FM Channel Numbers

When FM Broadcasting started in 1941 – your radio dial could have 'channel numbers' – or maybe have the frequencies in MHz for the 41-47 MHz band originally allotted to FM broadcast radio.

from wiki

Early FM broadcasting in North America originally used the 42–50 MHz band[8] (this range was also used by a class of experimental wideband AM stations known as apex broadcasters). Shortly after World War II the United States FCC decided to move FM broadcasters to the 88.1–105.9 MHz band (later extended to 107.9 MHz). Only non-commercial stations can use the 88–92 MHz range.

In the United States FM radio stations broadcast at frequencies of 87.8–108 MHz. FM radio was developed in the United States by Edwin Armstrong.

During the 1930s there were a small number of experimental (known as "Apex") stations attempting to broadcast high fidelity audio using wide-bandwidth AM on VHF frequencies. In 1937 W1XOJ was the first FM radio station, granted a construction permit by the FCC. On June 17, 1936, FM radio was demonstrated to the FCC for the first time. On January 5, 1940, Edwin H. Armstrong demonstrated FM broadcasting in a long-distance relay network, via five stations in five States.[2][3] FM radio was assigned the 42 to 50 MHz band of the spectrum in 1940.

After World War II, the FCC moved FM to the frequencies between 88 and 108 MHz on June 27, 1945. The change in frequency was said to be for avoiding possible interference problems between stations in nearby cities and to make "room" for more FM radio channels. However, the FCC was influenced by RCA chairman David Sarnoff, who had the covert goal of disrupting the successful FM network that Edwin Armstrong had established on the old band. [4] The 500,000 receivers built for the original FM radio band could be retrofitted with converters, but many were just replaced. The greater expense was to the radio stations themselves that had to rebuild their stations for the new FM radio band. The move of the FM band, an organized campaign of misinformation by RCA (a company that competed with FM radio by focusing on AM radio and the emerging technology of television), and adverse rulings by the FCC severely set back the development of FM radio.

As late as 1947, in Detroit, there were only 3,000 FM receivers in use for the new band, and 21,000 obsolete ones for the old band. On March 1, 1941 W47NV began operations in Nashville, Tennessee, becoming the first modern commercial FM radio station. However, FM radio did not recover from the setback until the upsurge in high fidelity equipment in the late 1950s.

During the 1970s, FM radio experienced a golden age of integrity programming, with disc jockeys playing what they wanted, including album cuts not designated as "singles" and lengthy progressive rock tracks

From May 1934 until October 1935, Armstrong conducted the first large scale field tests of his FM radio technology from a laboratory constructed by RCA on the 85th floor of the Empire State Building. An antenna attached to the spire of the building fired radio waves at receivers about 80 miles away. However RCA had its eye on television broadcasting, and chose not to buy the patents for the FM technology.

A June 17, 1936, presentation at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) headquarters made headlines nationwide. He played a jazz record over conventional AM radio, then switched to an FM broadcast. "If the audience of 50 engineers had shut their eyes they would have believed the jazz band was in the same room. There were no extraneous sounds," noted one reporter. He added that several engineers described the invention "as one of the most important radio developments since the first earphone crystal sets were introduced."

In 1937, Armstrong financed construction of the first FM radio station, W2XMN, a 40 kilowatt broadcaster in Alpine, New Jersey. The signal (at 42.8 MHz) could be heard clearly 100 miles (160 km) away, despite the use of less power than an AM radio station.

RCA began to lobby for a change in the law or FCC regulations that would prevent FM radios from becoming dominant. By June 1945, the RCA had pushed the FCC hard on the allocation

of frequencies for the fledgling television industry. Although they denied wrongdoing, David Sarnoff and RCA managed to get the FCC to move the FM radio spectrum from 42-50 MHz, to 88-108 MHz, while getting new low-powered community television stations allocated to a new Channel 1 in the 44-50 MHz range.

In fairness to the FCC, the 42-50 MHz band was plagued by frequent tropospheric and E-layer stratospheric propagation which caused distant high powered stations to interfere with each other. The problem becomes even more severe on a cyclical basis when sunspot levels reach a maximum every 11 years and lower VHF band signals below 50 MHz can travel across the Atlantic Ocean or from coast to coast within North America on occasion. Sunspot levels were near their cyclical peak when the FCC reallocated FM in 1945. The 88-108 MHz range is a technically better location for FM broadcast because it is less susceptible to this kind of frequent interference. (Channel 1 eventually had to be deleted as well, with all TV broadcasts licensed at frequencies 54 MHz or higher, and the band is no longer widely used for emergency first responders either, those services having moved mostly to UHF.

But the immediate economic impact of the shift, whatever its technical merit, was devastating to early FM broadcasters. This single FCC action would render all Armstrong-era FM receivers useless within a short time as stations were moved to the new band, while it also protected both RCA's AM-radio stronghold and that of the other major competing networks, CBS, ABC and Mutual. Armstrong's radio network did not survive the shift into the high frequencies and was set back by the FCC decision. This change was strongly supported by AT&T, because loss of FM relaying stations forced radio stations to buy wired links from AT&T.

The FCC designated the FM band with "FM call numbers" labeled from 21-99. Those were the official FM channel numbers as specified by the FCC in 1941. The numbers 21 through 99 correspond to the frequency with the 4 and the decimal point deleted (i.e., 421 through 499). The FCC assigned call signs that had the customary W or K, the 2-digit channel number, and one or two letters indicating the city. Since Philco didn't sell FM sets until after this scheme was announced, they (and some other manufacturers) decided to use the channel numbers on the dial instead of markings in MHz.

Companies like GE and Zenith that had already been selling FM radios (there were a few experimental stations on the air) continued to use the MHz markings. The FCC dropped the special call sign system in 1944, at the same time that it permitted co-owned AM, FM and TV stations to use the same call letters...

Here some of the half million radios that were made and 'obsoleted' when the FCC decided to change the band after WW2 to the present 88-108 area of the band.

<http://www.wa2ise.com/radios/fm45.html>

So if you find an old 'broadcast' radio at a flea market, and it is marked 200-299, or 21 to 99 on

the dial, you'll know why

Now – in the 'future'....

In March 2008, the FCC requested public comment on turning the bandwidth currently occupied by analog television channels 5 and 6 (76–88 MHz) over to extending the FM broadcast band when the digital television transition was to be completed in February 2009 (ultimately delayed to June 2009). This proposed allocation would effectively assign frequencies corresponding to the existing Japanese FM radio service (which begins at 76 MHz) for use as an extension to the existing North American FM broadcast band. (More Molaah for the feds to waste for the welfare weenies as more spectrum is auctioned off – there's always , always, a money reason behind anything the government does).

Missouri QSO Party – Additional

We covered this last month, but the CHNews got some interesting trip report from N0AX that arrived late

- - -

On Saturday, Ellen KD0PES got her first taste of contesting as the driver, logging a lot of miles when the OM was busy concentrating on the pileups. She spotted two camels(!) while in Schuyler County - one Bactrian and one Dromedary - no extra multipliers were claimed. And a few llamas. The best part was handing out Howard County to a number of stations that needed it as "last county" or "last county on CW" in Missouri - that's a rare one! We were there about 9:30 pm local and it kinda creeped out the driver to be parked in the boonies on a dark country road, though. DL3DXX hung around and worked us in Howard at about 4 am his local time after following us all day - on 7 MHz CW, too! Lots of great scenery and some good pizza in Kirksville - where one of Ellen's former students was spotted with a group of friends - small world!

Then on Sunday, I hadn't worked the bonus station so I decided to head

up to Fox Hill Park here in St Charles and wound up spending another couple of hours on the bands working folks with good conditions from that hilltop - logged a bunch of MO counties I did not hear on Saturday. Almost gave up but hung around and finally heard W0MA on 20 CW. Put the Hamstick back in the car and went back home after quite a weekend.

The total trip was about 600 miles and all of the major driving was done on Saturday. We may do two days next year - that would REALLY get a lot of counties in the log! I'm working for Worked FROM All Missouri Counties :-)) We haven't decided whether to try for more NW counties or head for the hills in the south.

Fine conditions both days - worked quite a few Europeans! 20 and 40 were really good. I just stayed there as I didn't have enough time to get on 15. By the time 75 and 80 started getting good, I was pooped and we were headed home on I-70.

Equipment: IC-7000 transceiver, LDG AT-7000 tuner, Hamsticks, paper logging, Dixon 2.0 pencils :-))

I really enjoy getting on the County Hunter's Nets - Ellen was enjoying it, too, recognizing some of the calls after a couple of check-ins. I really appreciate the willingness of the hunters to give me a QSO number and their state. It hasn't always been encouraged on CHN, I know, but times change and I'm glad of that.

The final total was 593 CW QSOs (there may be a couple of dupes in there) and 392 Phone QSOs. I worked 46 states (missed UT, VT, SD, and KY), 7 VE provinces, and several DX countries - all in Europe (OK, OE, DL, G, OZ, UA, ON, PA, SP - off the top of my head). With the W0MA bonus QSO, that works out to 105,826 which is a REALLY big score, particularly for a mobile. A second day from more counties would really add to the fun! We shall see how it all plays out.

Anyway - thanks for the interest. See you next year, hopefully!
73, Ward N0AX
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GA QSO Party Late Entry

We reported on this last month, but Hal, W1NN, sent in late report so we include it.

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W1NN Mobile

For several years I have been looking for a chance to make a mobile run in the GQP and this year I was finally able to set aside the necessary time to make the trip. It is quite a time-consuming project to operate a mobile contest, especially one located over 800 miles away. There is route preparation, car and equipment preparation, travel arrangements, the drive (or flight) to and from the target state, the actual operating, and the log preparation after the contest. Since I operate from a rental car, I need some extra time to set things up. I spent many hours planning my route, two days driving to and from Georgia and two days operating the contest, driving 2,000 miles in total (and spending three nights in hotels). Keyboarding my recorded log took another two days! One really needs about a week to put in a major effort in one of these events.

I have done quite a few mobile contests over the years and for the last decade or so I have especially enjoyed the challenge of doing everything by myself both the driving and the operating. I have not figured out a safe way to log on a computer while driving so my practice has been to log on paper and try to plan a route that minimizes the driving so I can operate much of the time while parked at the side of the road. But this approach has its limits and I have been trying to find a way to move to the next level. Last summer in the Ohio QSO Party I recorded the whole contest on a digital voice recorder while still keeping a paper log. After that contest, I listened to the recording and found that it was easy to decipher and reliable. For the GAQP, I decided to eliminate the paper log and go with the DVR only. This would allow me to keep moving throughout most of the contest and cover more counties.

I started setting up the car on the Thursday afternoon before the contest and finished up departure preparations on Friday morning. The station consisted of my K3, an old AEA CK-2 memory keyer, a paddle, two magnet mounts (one on the roof and one on the trunk lid) and two ham sticks. I would have 20 and 40 during the day and after dark my plan was to replace the 20 meter antenna with an 80 meter Hustler antenna. This was the first time to use my K3 in the car and it was a great improvement over the ICOM 706MKII + outboard antenna tuner

that I previously used. The equipment was placed on a custom-made two-by-three foot plywood table set up in the passenger seat at elbow height. I fastened the paddle where I could easily send with my right hand while keeping my left hand on the steering wheel. The memory keyer was right next to the paddle where I could push a single button to send CQ, my exchange and the TU message. This had to be reprogrammed when entering each county, a very troublesome procedure that I would like to improve in the future. I could reach the K3 if necessary but I set the bandwidth at around 700 Hz and found that I only needed to touch the radio to change bands. The speaker was on the whole time and no headphones were used.

I departed my home in northern Ohio around 1 PM Friday and drove straight through to Charlotte - about 500 miles where I spent the night. This left me with a three hour drive to the Georgia border on Saturday morning. I arrived at my starting point with an hour or so to spare before the 2 PM start time and checked out the equipment. I also ate what would be my last meal until the end of the contest 10 hours later.

Things started off reasonably well on Saturday, although conditions did not seem to be very good. By changing counties every 30 minutes in the beginning, I was able to keep the rate at a good level. The first hour produced 123 contacts but the rate fell to 101 in the second hour declined further when I got lost in my fifth county (Madison) and ended up staying there too long. I realized too late that although my operating style had changed, my route was still planned to keep me on narrow country roads with little traffic, which is suited to someone logging on paper while driving but not to someone freed from this task. Some of these roads looked fine on the map but ended up being unpaved and there were very few road markings. This was a problem on both Saturday and Sunday and probably cost me 100 contacts or more. I realize now that I should have spent more time on the main highways and Interstates.

One problem with logging on a DVR is that you do not really know how well you are doing. I didn't learn how I did until I got back home and had the time to type out the log. It turns out that on day one I ended up with 1,029 contacts, barely maintaining a rate of 100 per hour for the 10-hour session. Things really declined during the last four hours of the contest and the rate fell below 80 during the last two hours. The table at the end of this report provides hourly rates. I made it to 20 counties on the first day.

Day two was significantly better, something that I could tell even without having detailed data. As mentioned, I got lost again as I encountered unmarked dirt roads and ended up spending too much time in a couple of counties. To make up for this lost time, I had to shorten my route so I only made it to 18

counties on Sunday. But even with this problem, the rate on Sunday was nearly 40% better than on Saturday, and the worst hour was still 122. The last four hours were fantastic, with the rate during the last two hours reaching 184 and 182.

Adding up all of the periods in which I did not operate at all, I see that I lost 1:05 so if there is a next time, I should be able to do a good deal better by improving my route. There is no doubt that I need to buy a GPS.

As I planned my GQP operation, I was very conscious of the fantastic record that N5WR set in 2011 and I was wondering if I could even come close to his score. Eric ended up with 2,547 contacts and 49 multipliers for a final score of 249,606 (his claimed score was $2,567 \times 49 = 251,566$) with a setup similar to mine, operating with no driver. As I keyboarded my log from the beginning, I was pretty sure that I would fall short of his score but began to have a little hope as I typed in those final hours. When I was finished, I was surprised to see that because I had two more multipliers than Eric, my claimed score ended up 986 points above Eric's. It will be interesting to see if my score is still above his after log checking. But even if it is, I will still consider that his extra 89 QSOs entitle him to the record, for multipliers are pretty much a matter of luck in these contests and the real skill is in maximizing those contacts.

The GQP is truly one of the best US QSO parties, on a par with Florida and California. I would like to congratulate and thank the South East Contest Club for doing such a great job.

Of course, a contest is only as good as its participants, and most of all I would like to thank the many stations that followed me and the other mobiles around the state. “

On the Road with N4CD Part II

On Thursday, I headed over to the FDIM event nearby. They hold it in a giant room that holds several hundred enthusiastic QRPers. 300-400 showed up this year. (\$40 conference fee).

Now, most mobile operators who run 40m in their cars likely are already in the “QRP” category if you talk about ERP. I get amused when folks talk about 'what they can do with QRP' as they run 5W output on CW, or 10W PEP on SSB....then feed that to a 6 el beam up 110 feet. They

likely have an ERP approaching 100W.

That's more than I have at home with my rig to a R5 vertical which is about 50% efficient on 20M, so 100w to the antenna, through 60 feet of RG-8X, gives you less than 100W ERP. When your mobile, same thing – at best with a 100w rig, you are running 50W ERP on 20M, maybe less with a poorer antenna system.

On 40M, most antennas are down at least 10 dB – so you start with your 100W and drop it to 10W. So you are effectively “QRP” with a normal mobile. If you have a 'shorty' antenna, you are down to a few watts ERP. On 80M, maybe 2 or 3W for a “good” antenna system.

Well, I just enjoy seeing what folks are building and doing, and the kits that show up there. Thursday night is vendor night and 40 or so vendors set up shop, sell various kits and parts and pieces to build things, small antennas for portable use, etc. A segment of the QRP crowd are into rigs they can use to hike in to remote areas, set up and operate for a few hours, and come back out – carrying in rig, battery to run it, antennas and needed accessories. That means lightweight or ultra lightweight rigs, efficient rigs, lightweight antennas, small accessories such as keys, maybe a tiny lamp, etc. If you are going to backpack it in five or 10 or 20 miles, along with your tent, clothes, water, food – it's got to be light. You can't take an IC-706 that takes an amp on just receive and run it off a 5 amp hour battery for long!

Usually there are six or so one hour presentations. You could also watch it 'on line' if you knew where to get the video – folks could even sit in their hotel rooms and watch on their laptops or handhelds using the hotel wi-fi, or remotely in Europe or around the globe.

Here's the web site and list of programs.

<http://fdim.qrparci.org/>

They included talks on using microcontrollers for various projects, software-defined radio, VHF and UHF for QRPers, homebrewing with “hollow state” devices (more commonly known as tubes), using open-source electronic design tools, and operating pedestrian mobile. The talk by Grayson, TA2ZGE/KJ7UM was humorous and interesting.

From KB6NU's blog

“Two things about TA2ZGE’s talk stood out for me. First, was his method for homebrewing tube circuits. What he does is to take a Dremel tool and create pads on a bare piece of circuit board material, including pads that you can solder a tube socket to. Using this breadboard, you can create prototypes “Manhattan” style. Second, was the list of online resources.

I bought some parts at the Thursday night vendors market – you just can't find 'solder lugs' around these days – handy for working on tube radios or circuits – like putting in replacement filter caps and finding a place to ground them. 50 years ago they were very common.

During lunch break, I checked the spotting site to try and snag W0GXQ. I needed him in 2 in IN on his route. He hadn't got there, so I was sitting out in the car with the radio, watching the QRP video stream – while I waited for Jerry to get to Vermillion IN. It's a very short distance on the interstate – and he and Don, W0EAR, who headed on down together, stopped to run it. Success – but later he was 'too close' or didn't run Montgomery IN and didn't hear him. Fortunately I snagged that on the way home.

It was a good QRP event and I managed to escape without any major purchases. I'd save the flea market money for Friday – you never know what will show up at Dayton! It was time to rest up for the big day tomorrow.

Some of the things you'll see at Dayton from KB6NU's blog:

Horse Fence Antennas from KB6NK's blog page

“I’ve seen this guy at the last couple of Dayton’s that I’ve attended, and every time I see his antennas, I think what a great idea this is. Then, I make a mental note to go to Tractor Supply or some such place and get some of this material and make my own. Then, I promptly forget to do it.

This does seem like a great idea, though. Not only would the antenna be very strong and light, but it should also be very broadband. KF4BWG claims an SWR less than 1.4:1 across the entire 80m band, less than 1.3:1 across the entire 40m band, and 1.1:1 across the 20m, 15m, and 10m bands.

When I mentioned to KF4BWG my plans to duplicate his antenna on my own (his cost \$85), he told me that the quality of the fencing material that Tractor Supply sells is not as high as the stuff he uses. That may be true, but I’d bet it will work just fine. Now, I just gotta do it. “

<http://kf4bwg.com/>

He uses wide material to make a broadband antenna.

Continued in Part III

On the Regen Trail

The first Hallicrafters Receiver - Skyrider

Bill (William J.) Halligan began building receivers for the ham trade in late 1932. He called his receivers "Hallicrafters"-a combination of his name and craftsmanship." Sales were slow due to the depression and just a few were made. RCA threatened him with patent infringements but apparently would not issue him a license. Consequently he began searching for a firm that had an RCA license.

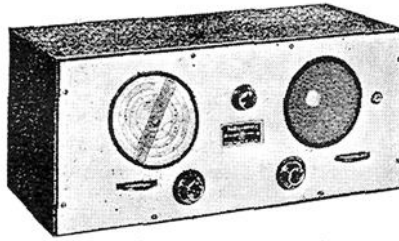
In 1933 Silver-Marshall, which had an RCA license, went into bankruptcy, and Halligan arranged to take over the company. He renamed it the Silver-Marshall Manufacturing Company. During this period Hallicrafters produced its first "Skyrider" receiver described here.

First announced in the April 1934 issue of "Radio News," the "S-1 Skyrider" sold for \$39.95, about the same price as popular kit radios. A few were built in small production runs of fifty or a hundred sets. Each one was handcrafted and signed by the assembler.

The S-1 introduced several new innovations into ham radio receivers. Most receivers up until now had plug-in coils. While not the "very first" radio to have this, the S-1 featured band switching. Four positions covered from 1.6 to 22 mhz.

This operation soon became financially distressed and Halligan left the firm. He then made arrangements to take over the Echophone Radio Company which was also in financial trouble. Hallicrafters and Echophone merged and the firm took on the Hallicrafters name. For a short time they did work for other radio manufacturers in order to build up cash reserves and in 1935 began making their own communications receivers. The SX-9 was the first model to be produced in any real quantity.

CONTINUOUS BAND-SPREAD



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SKY-RIDER Short-Wave
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Every station on the complete short-wave spectrum, from 200 to 12 meters now easily separated with the exclusive SKY-RIDER continuous band-spread.

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Address..... Dept. D

According to the ads that appeared in the August 1934 issue of Radio News this receiver was made and sold by the Silver-Marshall Manufacturing Company but the November 1934 issue specified Hallicrafters, Inc. in which a similar-appearing "Super Skyrider" appeared. The "Super Skyrider" was a super-hetrodyne with an RF stage before the mixer.

Following is the Radio News text concerning the Silver-Marshall-produced Skyrider.

We feel that there is a definite need for a complete, very compact short-wave receiver, to bring in the whole short-wave band from 200 meters down. The Skyrider receiver described in this short article, is such a set equipped with a major tuning dial, calibrated in wavelength and frequency, control-led by a "thumb" knob, placed horizontally in the panel. This kind of a thumb control is also used for the regenerative control at the right of the panel. Located diagonally above this is the loudspeaker grill. An upper central control knob is a trimmer and two lower central control knobs are a wave-switch (on the left) and a gain control (on the right). The tuning of this little receiver is just about as simple and easy as the description of the front panel just made.

The circuit employed is one that has always been famous among the amateurs but it has been rearranged and considerably simplified by using newest-type tubes (which are furnished with the receiver) matched in the laboratory. Starting at the aerial, the set uses a doublet antenna with a transposed lead-in and a separate ground. The doublet feeds into the red and green wires with the ground attached to the black wire coming from the receiver. The three sets of coils are arranged in connection with a wave-change switch, to tune the input to the first tube which is a radio-frequency amplifier, the input and the output to the second tube and also the regenerative plate circuit of the second tube which is the detector. These two tubes are the new 6D6 types. The regeneration control is a 25,000-ohm variable resistance. The output of the detector tube feeds into a 6C6 audio amplifier tube with the volume control in the grid circuit, as shown in the diagram. The output circuit of this stage feeds into a 42 tube, feeding the loudspeaker through a transformer. A 'phone jack is provided for listening-in for distance stations if desired. The whole receiver is fed by a self-contained power pack using an 80 full-wave rectifier tube. A careful perusal of the circuit diagram should clear all the circuit details, giving constants wherever possible.

In testing out the .receiver in the Radio News Short-wave Listening Posts, it was used to bring in the usual run of short-wave DX signals. During these tests it took only a comparatively short time to become accustomed to using the regenerative sensitivity control without annoyance. A careful operation of this control increased the selectivity tremendously, as well as setting up a louder signal. Where a high degree of selectivity is required, the regeneration control is set critically and the volume reduced by means of the gain control. The trimmer control was also

found very useful in tuning in some of those hard-to-get stations.

Beside the DX short-wave broad-casts, the set tunes in the following frequencies, in four steps: First from 200 to 97 meters-this frequency band covers aircraft, commercial 'phones, ship stations, amateur telephones, police calls; second, 100 to 48 meters-this band covers foreign and domestic broadcasts, airport transmitters, beacons, commercial 'phones and amateurs; third, 50 to 27 meters-short-wave broadcast stations, amateurs, commercial 'phones and a few aircraft stations; and fourth, 29 to 12 meters-this band covers the low-wavelength DX broad-cast stations, a raft of international 'phones, the 20-meter amateur band and just takes in some of the frequencies of the Byrd expedition, including Buenos Aires.

As can be seen from the photographs, the set is simple, neat and business-like in design and lacking most of the ordinary ornamental "trim" of some receivers. The receiver is enclosed in a crackle-finish metal shielded cabinet with a front panel of Eurado, a brightly lacquered metal. The loud-speaker bezel is the same diameter as the tuning dial. The size of the set, overall, is 17 inches by 7-1/2 inches by 7-1/2 inches. Its total weight, packed ready-to-ship including tubes and coils, is 24 pounds. It makes an excellent job for listening to amateur telegraphy as well as to broadcasting.

Source: <http://www.antiqueradios.org/gazette/Hallicrafters1.htm>

and <http://www.eht.com/oldradio/arrrl/2000-11/index.html>

More Hallicrafters info <http://www.hallicraftercollector.com/index.htm>

de N4CD: "Somewhere between 50 and 100 of this radio were made. That means I'm unlikely to find one to add to my collection of regen receivers - "

Folks couldn't afford much in the 1930s, and Hallicrafters managed to secured a license through Silver Marshall subsidiary to make superhet receivers.

This was the one and only regen radio that Hallicrafters made. Try it on your Hallicrafters buddies to see if they 'have a clue'. Hi hi

Indiana QSO Party

from the 3830 reflector:

AE8M 231 cw 231 SSB

This was a fun contest and a good day to go mobile. Thanks to all who called me. Many stations worked me 4 or 5 times, too many to list, but I am very grateful. I do need to mention WA3HAE 17 Q's, K3TW 9, KV8Q 8, N4JF 7, N8XX 6 and W9I 6.

My claimed score is virtually the same as last year but achieved in a slightly different manner. 20M was good last year but I could not get much going there this year. As the scoring summary shows, 40M was the place to be. A memorable QSO was with K8BUF somewhere around Detroit running 1 W on 40M SSB.

The mobile setup is a K3 into Lakeview Hamsticks.

73, John, AE8M

W4UCW – fixed – GA

Amidst the Three Ring Circus I worked at allocating special attention to the Hoosiers this year and it paid off with a lot of fun.

From Atlanta is is largely a 40 meter endeavor but there were lots of well-dispersed mobiles to track :

Thanks to : WN9O (16), KJ9C (13), WB9CIF (10) and AE8M (7)

Was able to whittle my needed-counties list down to 8.

Just for the record - as if somebody cared - I am really not crazy about parties where Mults are counted on *both* phone and CW, essentially doubling the count. Obviously, that's because I am a CW only operator. But the reasoning must surely have a parallel for the phone ops who feel compelled to bumble around on CW for mults to get a decent score.

Since I'm "fun" operator and not a "glory" op the point is really moot. And, obviously, using CW-Only/Phone-Only/Mixed categories helps things.

Anyway, that's my two cents. I had to think about it twice as I only get a penny for my thoughts (hi). They're probably overvalued even at that price.

KV8Q – fixed, OH – 70 mults on cw

Another good time playing three contests at once in an attempt to wear the knobs off of two perfectly good radios. We sure had the noise on 80 once the sun went down. Other than that, this was fun once again. Thanks to all of the portable, rover, mobiles for all of the Q's and new counties. Here are the leaders:

/m (QSO's/Counties)

WN9O 22/21

AE8M 11/11

KJ9C 11/11

WB9CIF 10/10

WT9U 10/10

N9FN 4/2

N9RD 2/2

KV9W 2/2

AA4GT's New Antenna System

George, AA4GT sent in this picture. George wrote:

The mast is 75 feet of the ground. It is fiberglass and will go up 38 feet
It is not guyed. When a bad storm is coming, we drop it on the
roof. We have it setup like a flag pole.

We have our QCWA meetings every month. They will put your antennas up for you.
The wire antenna is 133 feet long total. 20 feet of ladder line and 113 feet of wire. Each side is
5 1/2 feet. I have a 4 to 1 balun at the bottom of the ladder line.

We are in a retirement community apartment. We knew that they allow you to put up antennas.
We had 3 other hams here before me. One ham had a Vila and put up a 10 to 80 vertical in the
front yard. I talked to the sales people and had a signed paper before we moved in, that we

could have our antennas up. They do everything to make you happy. I have a Icom 756 Pro 3 for HF.

I have a Icom 7000 for VHF & UHF. Our antenna for that is a Cooper J-pole. It brings up repeaters up 50 miles away. We are very happy here. I only need 72 more counties for my 4th star and 134 for all CW. Before we came here our antennas was only up 18 feet. That will help.

I use the 133 ft antenna version. I use 20 feet of ladder line. I subtract 20 feet from 133 and get 113. I cut this in half and I have 56 1/2 feet each side. Add 20 feet and 113 for the full length. Use a 4 to 1 balun at the bottom. It works great.

73 George AA4GT & Mary NV4Z



Note; On this antenna , the entire feedline radiates from the balun on. The balun is at the bottom of the 20 foot feedline section here, with coax feeding the balun. You need an antenna tuner.

If you want more info on George's antenna system, drop him an email.

Global Cooling Coming?

Is 'global cooling' on the way? Lake sediment proves sun cooled earth 2,800 years ago - and it could happen again soon

When the Greek poet Homer was writing The Odyssey around 2,800 years ago, the Earth went through an abrupt period of cooling, caused by the sun - and the same could happen again soon.

Scientists at the GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences analysed lake sediment in Lake Meerfelder Maar, and found direct evidence of a sudden cooling caused by a 'solar minimum'.

Some scientists suspect that the current period of high solar activity - including increased sunspots and solar storms this year - will be followed by a 'minimum' period, which could even cause an Ice Age.

If the GFZ research is correct, a new 'solar minimum' could have a direct impact on Earth's climate - cooling our planet drastically, and knocking the predictions of global-warming alarmists out of whack.

Dr Achim Brauer of the GFZ said, 'An abrupt cooling in Europe together with an increase in humidity and particularly in windiness coincided with a sustained reduction in solar activity 2800 years ago.'

Brauer's measurement's of lake sediments allow 'a precise dating even of short-term climate changes.'

The 'Homeric Minimum' - the solar minimum that coincided with the famous poet's lifetime - caused a cool period that lasted 200 years.

Scientists from the German Research Centre for Geosciences GFZ in collaboration with Swedish and Dutch colleagues provide evidence for a direct solar-climate linkage on centennial timescales,' say the researchers.

'Using the most modern methodological approach, they analysed sediments from Lake Meerfelder Maar, a maar lake in the Eifel/Germany, to determine annual variations in climate and solar activity.'

Suggestions that the sun might affect climate so profoundly are controversial.

Mankind's use of fossil fuels has led to billions of tons of carbon dioxide being pumped into

the atmosphere, triggering global temperature rises from which experts believe we will take millennia to recover. That is the consensus view.

Three centuries ago similar changes in the Sun were linked to a period of almost unprecedented cold, known as the 'little ice-age' - a time when the ice on London's River Thames was regularly a foot deep and when thousands went hungry because crops froze in the fields.

The link between Solar 'moods' and the weather down here on Earth was first noticed in the 1970s, when the American astronomer Jack Eddy noticed a strong correlation between historic weather records and contemporaneous accounts of Solar activity, most notably the long record of sunspots published a century before by the astronomer Edward Maunder.

Eddy noticed that a 'quiet' Sun correlates with cold weather and a manic phase means warmer conditions.

His best evidence for this link comes from the last time the Sun went to sleep, the so-called 'Maunder Minimum' period from 1645 to 1715.

During this period and for about a century either side, much of Europe and North America suffered a succession of bitterly cold winters and damp washout summers - the 'little ice age'.

Source: : <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2141705/Global-cooling-Lake-sediment-proves-solar-activity-cooled-earth-2-800-years-ago--happen-again.html#ixzz1uNccrrQt>

New England QSO Party

This was another great one with mobiles out there. K1KI was running up in Maine. WA1Z was busy in VT and NH. K1LI spotted in a few. W1UJ was spotted from RI to ME. There were operations from Dukes (W1ACT contest group). Some of the regular county hunters like K1BV and KO1U were on from the home station. K2LEK only spotted on SSB from Nantucket. KM3T/m ran 3 counties in MA, NH.

From the 3830 reflector:

W1UJ mobile (W1UJ, N1WK, KB1SBC)

What a great adventure! First HF Rover ever for all of us. Extra special thanks to the "Driving Miss Jay-sie" guys N1WK on Saturday and KB1SBC Sunday. We had great WX and good company!

The audio was pumping through the hi-fidelity cassette-to-1/8 audio converter. The car and rig were so quiet that the motor turning the non-existent cassette spindles is heard. The K3 is a fantastic, versatile rig. No noise from the car with an installation that started only the week before.

NO5W and N5NA Were huge help getting me going on with the fine GPS Enabled mobile contesting software CQ/x offering support before during and after.

GPS took N1WK and W1UJ off-roading in Wareham MA at the beginning. Ending up turning around in the middle of a cranberry-bog crossing bridges that were probably weight-rated for carts. This had the questions of the far-away planned routes could be.. bad..... Thankfully, all was better than great after!

The worst road and worst county goes to RI. The roads were bone-chattering going through NEWRI, and we spent an amazing amount of time for only a single QSO from KENRI, and that was not easy. Thank you AB1OD.

Most scenic is NH into VT. I think cheapest fuel was central NH (North).

2 fantastic dining experiences.

Saturday started at New England Amateur Radio Festival (NEAR Fest) in NH and Sweet Sausage from the 'truck' in the middle of NEAR Fest.(Hot was considered, until the reality of the long trip ahead was also considered) then to Wareham/PLYMA to make sure KB1SBC was ready at home and went to a local restaurant where a fine home-style (Turkey Croquettes, Stuffed Chicken and I forgot what N1WK had.... but all was 5 star)

Sunday was North of Lake Winnepesake NH. They were generous with the Corn/Lobstah dishes, Surf-Lobstah & Turf-Steak tips Corn Cobb & 2 potatoes, Lobster-Corn Chowder, Corn Fritters.

The scenery was awesome and the event was awesome. Will try something new next year hopefully.

K3 100w / High-Sierra Motorized antenna / CQ/x from NO5W GPS Enabled Software
Just CQ'd high in the band while chatting through the ride.

Thanks for following us around!

Jay W1UJ

WA1Z mobile

Thanks again to Tom, K1KI, for organizing another great NEQP!

After two years of talking about it, Kurt, W6PH, and I finally teamed up in the NEQP this year. Kurt did the driving and I did the operating. Kurt says he enjoyed listening to the action fed into the car stereo AUX jack.

The K3 and Win-Keyer were set up on a homemade table secured to the backseat. The laptop and CW paddle were situated on a lap desk on, well, my lap. This worked well and I managed to stay comfortable with this configuration for the duration of the contest.

Two Comet antenna mounts were installed on the back of the car for quick switching between two bands. These are trunk-lip mounts that are not designed to be used with the medium-duty MO-2 masts. To make the antennas very secure, I constructed a harness made from PVC sections that extends from the car's roof rack for added stability - I don't do any mobile operating outside of NEQP to justify drilling holes for a more substantial antenna mount.

Kurt kept us on schedule the whole weekend through our 24 county changes in 20 total counties. Conditions both days seemed very good. However, activity seemed low. We averaged about 45-60 minutes in each county, for the most part.

We tried to drive straight through big counties and had planned stops in smaller counties to increase operating time. In hindsight, even 45 minutes is a little too long when activity is low.

Highlights:

- Having VK4AAR call in on 20 Sunday morning.
- Best observed 60 Minute Rate peak was 105/hour on Sunday afternoon.
- Dedicated group of guys that work this contest every year. Thanks guys!
- No major technical issues during the contest, except for a mishap with a CW

paddle that got damaged when it fell off my lap on Sunday (sorry K1GQ and KO1U for QLF moment)

- County plan was executed by Kurt flawlessly.
- OT: Watching bicyclists tackle RT 11 East in Bennington VT (this road is steep in spots)

Thanks to everyone who called in this weekend. Lots of repeat customers this year helped keep the rate up. Also, thanks to all the guys who moved to phone when asked on Sunday to complete "the three-point play." It was very hard to get anyone to answer CQs on phone, but passing worked really well and helped to keep the rate up on Sunday.

Also had a dedicated group of repeat DX callers.

By my count, 447 unique callsigns were worked this weekend.
Station:

Radio: Elecraft K3, 100 watts.

Antennas: Hustler monoband resonators 80-15 (also had 10 with me, but never used). Resonators mounted on Hustler MO-2 masts. Two antenna mounts available on the rear hatch.

Logging: Computer logging on laptop powered by combination of internal batteries and sealed jump-start batteries, Writelog

W1UE portable Suffolk, MA

"I chose to do a small DXpedition with Eric KV1J to Suffolk County, Ma. Unfortunately for us, there seemed to be plenty of SUFMA Qs available this weekend, but we still had a fun time setting up and operating.

We set up in Winthrop, Ma, at the Yacht Club, right in the takeoff path of Logan Airport. Every 10 minutes or so another jet would take off, and things would get very loud. We both had K3s, a small generator to run them and the laptops, and the antennas were varied: a multi-band, quick set up antenna that Eric has, a pair of phased 20M verticals, a full-size 40M vertical, and dipoles for 20/15M at about 6 feet off the ground. Why 6 ft? That was about as far up the pole as I could reach! I operated CW, and Eric ground it out on phone.

W1HQ – fixed CT (opr KX9X and K1IU)

Mike K1IU and decided to activate W1HQ instead of W1AW this year. W1HQ is the club station for ARRL staff, and it's a great resource for staffers like Mike and I that live in apartments and can't put up a tower. So we thought we should work on needed states and countries for various awards.

We had a great time, but I think next year I will go back to mobile operation for NEQP; that is a lot of fun.

N4PN – GA - worked all 67 counties in New England!

“Thanks to Tom, K1KI/m and all the others for making this just a great QSO Party...

Sure there are some tired mobiles operators tonight...but, thanks to Bob, WA1Z/m for the most Q's this year - 29, followed by Jay, W1UJ with 17, Tom, K1KI with 15. Also, thanks to N1JEO who kept finding me on SSB for 8 contacts. Also, on Sunday, Brian, NJ1F with 4 Q's...

W1NG led the way among the fixed stations with 10 contacts, and my only two contacts on 10 meters....and Randy (K5ZD) WR1TC with 7 Q's and WB1Z with 6....lots with 5 Q's...thanks to all...

On Sunday, it looked no sweep this year...missed WA1Z in Franklin, VT....Tom, K1KI gave me SAGME at 1640z Sunday, leaving on Franklin, VT. Seventeen minutes later, at 1657z, N1DXR called me on 20 SSB with FRAVT for the sweep....He asked me if I would QSL, as he needed GA for WAS....I sed "send ur QSL on down"!!

Condx, especially on 20m, were outstanding....worked a bunch of QRP stations running 5 to 10w and one station running 1 watt....”

Note de N4CD – several others reported working 63 or 64 counties. Nantucket and some others only on SSB.

44th Annual Convention

Here's a list of who is headed to the Convention in WA state. Don't be left out!

Anthos, Paul WB2ABD
Barber, Bruce KL7D
Bingham, Leo WY7LL
Bingham, Chris WY7ML
Bird, Cliff AC0B
Bird, Kathy XYL
Bonham, Milt KY0E
Bonham, Ellen N0CWX
Boothe, Joyce WB9NUL
Boothe, Barry W9UCW
Breedlow, Peter NN9k
Breedlow, Hailey
Breedlow, Nancy N9DQS
Courtney, Larry W7FEN
Courtney, Rita XYL
Crampton, Ray AB4YZ
Devine, Bob KC6AWX
Dummler, Terry
Dummler, Boni XYL
Fenstermaker, James K9JF
Fenstermaker, Shirley W7SAF
Grandinetti, James K2JG
Grew, William WG9A
Harris, Rick AI5P
Lynch, Don KA1YZV
Lynch, Barbara XYL
Matthew, Robert W0NAC
Matthew, Sharon N0LXJ
Melinosky, Ted K1BV
Melinosky, Betty XYL
Mitchell, Barry N0KV
Mitchell, Sharon N0LXJ
Nelson, Paul N7JFP

Nickolaus, Michael NF)N
Nickolaus, Dianne XYL
Olig, Gene KD9ZP
Olig, Dottie K9FDL
Ordway, Walt K1DFO
Reinke, Kent KL1V
Rookiard, Jack KC7YE
Salinas, George KD4FJ
Schue, Jerry K7KWO
Schue, Katch KD7KWM
Splitt, David KE3VV
Tennyson, Lowell KB0BA
Tennyson, Sandra N0XYL
Thorne, Karen WB9ZNA
Vince, Neil K7SEN
Vince, Mary AB7NK
Voss, Bob N4CD
Yasson, Phil AB7RW
Yasson, Barbara AC7UH
Yohe, Frank AA9JJ
Yohe, Kay N9QPQ

On the Road with N4CD Part III

At the hamfest

The weather was good but 'hot' for the hamfest. It started out with a jacket and flannel long sleeve shirt at 7am as I caught the first bus to the area from the remote parking area at the shopping center. You can't get in till 8am to the flea market, so I spun my wheels at the Pub enjoying a second breakfast. (you get cereal and juice and coffee at the Super 8 motel there). There's a bunch there waiting for official start time.

At 8 am, there's a line waiting to get in – and I join in the first couple hundred flooding the flea market hunting for bargains. Well, I really didn't need too much, but you never know what will turn up on the various tables and under the tables. The inside area doesn't open to 9am and I'm not into buying much in the way of new stuff.

This year seemed to be the year for used Heathkits and VHF AM gear – it was all over the

place. Heathkit Senecas for 6/2 meters. Old Heathkit receivers and transmitters – a few amplifiers – and probably a dozen Clegg rigs from 3 Interceptor receivers, a Venus 6m SSB transceiver, Clegg 99'ers, a Thor 6, Apollo Amp. If you wanted 6m AM gear it was everywhere for some reason. There was the usual collection of Kenwood radios and for some reason a large number of IC-735s and Swan Transceivers. A few more modern radios were there. Supposedly a Elecraft K3 was for sale but it went real fast. (The Elecraft radios are real popular with the QRP crowd, too – K1, KX-1, K2).

There were very few Collins rigs, just a few Drake pieces of equipment, but a fair number of the older National Receivers, a dozen or more 'shortwave receivers' like the Radio Shack models, a dozen Hallicrafters receivers.

As usual, I wore out my feet, back, legs from all the walking – and more walking – and more walking. Soon it was taking off the jacket.....then the flannel shirt as the temps headed into the mid 80s with bright sun – in other words – toasty warm. The inside of the building also heated up from the heat and the crowds. It got up to 80 plus degrees on Friday and near 90 on Saturday with bright sun. Many folks got a good sunburn outside if they stayed out for hours without heavy duty sunscreen

I met a few county hunters wandering around the flea market. Steve, AA8HH was there, as was W9OP (pink hat but no pink shorts this year), Jerry, W0GXQ/W0EAR, etc. Not all can make the 4pm county hunter forum – some have other commitments and you just run across them in the flea market Friday or Saturday.

Inside, the big announcements were by Flex radio and the model 6000 radio (for \$6000 plus), and the Kenwood TS-990. Kenwood only had a 'prototype' under a plexiglass cover. Someone commented they must have bought up a button provider as the radio front panel was filled with dozens of push buttons. Allegedly the picture on the Kenwood site was 'photo shopped' to show it.

<http://flexradio.com>

The Kenwood is a 200W top of the line radio – two receivers and a price tag to match – likely a \$10,000 or \$12,000 radio. Ten Tec showed their new Eagle...and of course, there was a lot of commotion about the new KX-3 from Elecraft. Folks are awaiting the 100W mobile amp to come out.

I wandered the flea market looking for interesting goodies. Hmmm...there were three Knight Kit regen receivers for sale – all of the common ones: The bare bones Knight Ocean Hopper (most valuable as there is a cult with them) with 4 or the 5 plug in coils, with a cabinet (an option) and in working condition. It had a few mods like an extra hole in the front panel, and the tube socket had been changed from the old fragile wafer sockets (that sometimes didn't

make good contact after 60 years) to a ceramic socket. Asking price \$100.

There was a Knight Space Spanner – the middle of the line with 'two bands' - a junker radio – missing knobs and a tuning capacitor and the guy wanted \$40 for it as 'it just needed a few parts'. Ha – for \$40, you can buy one complete and working without mods in a cabinet. He seemed to think the cabinet was 'rare'. Wrong – only for the Ocean Hoppers which was the bottom of the line (started at \$11.95 and crept up to \$14.95 over the years) with cabinet and extra coils extra. I think that guy would up hauling home is \$5 or \$10 parts radio. It's the knobs that are scarce.

Then there was the 'top of the line' Span Master – 4 band regen with pentode detector – asking price \$45. It was 'top of the line' for regens – but they were soon to be eclipsed by low cost Japanese imports – superhets.

I walked and walked – and later saw someone with a Meissner set with miniature tubes – it was missing two of the tubes and he had a sign on it asking for tube info. It wasn't for sale - he just brought it along. Well, he had a \$200 price tag on a \$50 radio. Fortunately I didn't need it as I already had one. I gave him my card with email on it, so when he gets home if he still needs the info, I can check mine and tell him what tubes go in it.

That was it for regen sets that I saw.....despite lots of looking. Of course, at Dayton, so many things change hands that maybe there were some goodies that sold at one end of the flea market long before I got to that location. Then again not many collect regen sets. Or bother to bring them.

Dayton Flea Market Videos for those who have never been (2011) - before it opened to public

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-YUQ3idoXM>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0tiuNp7u-xM&feature=related>

General hamfest video (and quick shots of Air Force Museum – a must see on one of your trips to Dayton).

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQkwxhFPZ2Y>

Later in the day, the county hunters got together for the annual County Hunter Forum. Probably about 60 showed up – I didn't count. The room was 2/3rds full. Clark, N8CBW gave a talk as did Tim, W8JJ. After we had introductions all around and time for some ragchewing before we headed over to the Golden Corral for the dinner coordinated by Sharon,

KJ8F. She managed to talk the Golden Corral into setting aside a room for the 30 or so who showed up there to continue the tall tales and story swapping.

I talked with Mike, KA4RRU and K4YT about their route home. I desperately needed Pleasants WV on CW for one of my last 8 for the next time round cw. Mike said he could take a short detour off highway 50 to get it for me.....looks like about 10 miles from the map. Others were trying to arrange getting needed counties as well as various county hunters took different routes home.

Here's a few of the folks attending Dayton – and we add their pics to the database of county hunter pics in the County Hunter News:



John, WA4JA



Michelle, KD8GWX

Michelle is the XYL of Clark, N8CBW – she might get on as a 'team' with him. The only radio they have at the moment is a mobile radio as they live in a restricted apartment. Clark should be more 'radio active' next year.



Bill, K5WAF



K0WJ, Lon



K0FG Fred



W0EAR, Don



N9WNN, Steve

On Saturday it was pretty much the same routine – over to the Salem Mall to park, catching one of the early buses over to the Arena – and then a second breakfast at the pub – but just had some coffee and a banana. At 8am I made it into the flea market – on Friday I hadn't made it all around, so I finished up. Probably there were some bargains I missed but the feet can only take so much walking these days. There wasn't anything new to report. It was still busy in the flea market – I don't know what the attendance was – but the parking lot over at Salem Mall was sure filled up!

The 'finds' on Saturday including going by the G-QRP group and finding a couple of CDs:

The regenerative files - by George Dobbs G3RJV

Minimalist Radio – by George Dobbs G3RJV

And issues 1-140 of Spratt Magazine – on DVD- the monthly publication of the G-QRP club.

If you've been to previous FIDIM QRP sessions, you've likely heard George, G3RJV give presentations. His philosophy is

“Simplicity is making the journey of this life with just baggage enough.”

George is a big advocate for building stuff with the least amount of extraneous frills.

I hit a few of the programs on Saturday then left after noon to head back to the motel. Had enough and I was getting worn out. It was getting a bit warm and the feet and legs were tired out. It used to be a lot easier 40 years ago running around! Hi hi. I'd rest up a bit for the trip back to Texas the County Hunter Way.

To be continued in Part IV

USACA and LoTW

In the latest issue of CQ Magazine, Ted, K1BV notes:

'In January, the ARRL signed a formal agreement with CQ Communications to provide support for CQ awards with data from the Logbook of the World system. The first of the CQ awards programs to be worked on is the WPX. The other CQ awards, including USA-CA, will be worked on later in 2012. “

“....the good news is that the long-awaited process is finally underway. This is a tool that will be offered as an alternative to your physical possession of the QSLs/mrcs. I suspect that the new option offered by the ARRL's LoTW will help control QSLing costs, but it will not replace

paper QSLs“

Source: Page 82, May 2012 issue CQ Magazine.

Stuff from Ebay

Every now and then some unusual electronic things from the past show up on Ebay. Here's an unusual item.



“This offering is the for **circa. 1938 Sears one tube battery operated receiver set kit; unassembled and in original box** pictured. It was purchased recently at a vintage radio auction where several collectors were parting out parts or all of their collections. It includes a rare RCA EK1000 tube (pictured) that was made especially for this kit and the soldering iron needed to secure the wire connections. The entire instruction manual for assembling the receiving set is included . The box states that the Electronic Kit is catalog #4779.”

RCA made the EK-1000 tube just for this line of kits. This is actually an 'electronics' lab kit that allows you to build a simple audio oscillator, or a 'relay circuit' and similar. It comes with

a small power transformer to power the tube filament. This kit included a soldering iron, solder, for building it!

RCA offered similar kits up through 1941, when everything was converted to war production.

The EK-1000 tube consists of a diode section used as a rectifier, and a pentode section. From looking at the kit, the tube radio you build would be a grid leak detector circuit – which would at best, with a long antenna and good ground, receive a few of the loud broadcast stations. 1938 was still at the height of the 'liberal depression' brought about by the failed policies of FDR. Unemployment was still 17% in 1939. Only unleashing private industry to crank up the war machine allowed the US to recover from the Great Depression (and that is about the only good thing FDR did in office and he did it very reluctantly over the Big Government types and 'central command types' in his administration and party).

The EK-1000 tube is not especially rare. You can buy one from one of the tube suppliers for \$3.00. It took 12.6v at 300 ma for the filaments. It had no use in any commercial gear. It has a one of a kind 8 pin octal pin out plus a grid cap, similar to the 6A8 7 pin tube. Asking price was \$99.

Heathkit Educational Systems - SK

For the second time since 1992, Heathkit Educational Services (HES) has shuttered its doors. Rumors of the legendary kit-building company's demise were posted on QRZ.com, with several readers bringing the news to the attention of the ARRL. In August 2011, Heathkit announced it was returning to the kit building business, and in September, that it would once again be manufacturing Amateur Radio kits.

The ARRL tried to reach Heathkit to confirm that the company is still in business, but their phone and fax numbers have a continuous busy signal, and e-mails to the company have gone unanswered.

On LinkedIn, a popular networking site, HES Chief Executive Officer Lori Marciniak listed her employment ending at Heathkit as of March 2012. Likewise, Heathkit's Marketing and Sales Director Ernie Wake listed his employment ending in April 2012. An unsubstantiated report on Wikipedia states that "[in] December 2011, Heathkit Educational Systems laid off most employees and in March 2012, the company indefinitely suspended operations."

Tom Ferriter, of Technical Education Products, is an outside sales representative for HES, based in Hampden, Massachusetts. “Heathkit is telling us that they have temporarily closed, but that they are hopeful that they will be able to reorganize,” he told the ARRL. “While they’re not telling us too much, they did say that they were having poor sales for a myriad of reasons and are hopeful that they will be able to refinance the company and negotiate with the bank to refinance some of the debt.”

ARRL Education and Technology Program Director Mark Spencer, WA8SME, spoke with Ferriter a few weeks ago. Ferriter told him that Heathkit was having problems with its creditors. Ferriter also said that Heathkit told the distributors that it hopes to reopen sometime in the future, but it was his opinion, as well as the opinion of others, that Heathkit was not going to be able to do so.

Source: ARRL Letter, May 10, 2012, ARRL , Newington CYT 06111

On the Road with N4CD IV

At 6:00 am, I packed up the things in the car – and was at the breakfast room at 6:15 am to grab a bowl of cereal, juice and coffee. Then it was on the road headed toward – duh- IA – the county hunter way of getting home. The best route to get to where the 'new counties' were was straight across I-70 (where at least 5 other county hunters had trekked on the way there), then I-74 to the Quad Cities. I'd make it there in about six hours. So I thought.

I hit Montgomery IN – one I needed and got a MD contact there – then there was nothing new until IA.

Then Murphy raised his ugly head. I decided to make a quick pit stop in Crawfordsville at a McDonalds. As I was turning onto the street, into the sun, there was a big 'entrance sign'. I made a left hand turn, but didn't see the little island that was there.....and , oops.....banged the right front wheel pretty hard against the island – bouncing over it. About 10 seconds later, the car starting squawking – LOW TIRE PRESSURE. The built in tire pressure sensor reported that there was no ZERO pressure in the tire. Hmmm.....I had killed the tire/wheel.

I grabbed the cellphone after looking at the very flat tire and called AAA. It took about 45 minutes for them to show up and change to the spare tire. I had my little tire inflator in the truck as the spare itself was down to 30 PSI and those little spares should be at 60 PSI. I pumped it up waiting for the AAA folks to show up. It took 10 minutes to put the spare on, and the tire rim had a nice dent in it that was the cause of the problem. It was a Sunday, so there were few places to get something like this fixed. You can drive on the little spare for

likely 1500-2000 miles total, but it is only a 2 ply type small tire, so I didn't want to push my luck. It was 250-300 miles over to the Quad Cities and I figured I could get it worked on the first thing on Monday. Maybe I'd need a new rim? Or new tire? I made good for the waiting time by having another good breakfast.

Mike, KA4RRU was trekking across OH headed east – and I was tracking his progress toward the desperately needed Pleasants County. He must have found a great spot to operate – we hooked up first on 40M – then he switched to 30 and still great copy. Then up to 20M and still great copy – 3 bands which is unusual. Conditions seemed to have improved from the not so great ones on the way up to Dayton.

I held the speed down to 60 or so – the speedometer is off by at least 15% - so I used the GPS to figure out what was 60 mph – when not in 'trip mode' it indicates your road speed. 55 indicated on the speedometer it was 49 mph actual. So I moved it up to 55-60 actual. I 'limped on' over to IA. I had another reason to head there – that is the HQ of the American Pickers folks – if you've ever watched the series American Pickers on the History Channel. They would be open from 12-4 pm at the store in Le Claire, IA. I could spend some time there in the afternoon.

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

If you don't have the History Channel, go to the link above and you can watch some of the full shows on line.

One of the items on display at the store is the Von Dutch Motorcycle- made by the legendary Von Dutch



The store pretty much looked like what you saw on TV – actually TV made it look better than

what you see – but that is 'Hollywood Magic'. If you've got something like \$20,000+ grand you might be able to talk them out of the Von Dutch cycle.

There was a nearby Super 8 motel so I headed there for the rest of the afternoon. The nice lady at the desk recommended I drop by Everetts Body and Auto repair five miles down the road. They opened at 8am and I was there waiting. He does lots of body work.

Meanwhile – it was Sunday night – and readers know that is PIZZA NIGHT. The recommended place was Happy Joe's so I headed there for one. They had a ham and tomato pizza...you could get the tomatoes put on before they put it in the oven, or after. I choose after – that would be different. Sure enough – it comes and there is a layer of chopped tomatoes on top of a delicious cheese/ham pizza.

In the morning it was five miles to Everetts.

He asked if it was a steel or aluminum rim. Apparently you can't fix much in aluminum wheels. You dent them, and if they 'fix' them they usually wind up cracking then or a bit later – so you are going to buy a new wheel. With steel wheels, you can fix them. I had no clue but it was 'black'. That is usually steel. We examined it and it was steel – with a pretty good dent in it – maybe in over an inch for about 3 inches and about 4-5 inches where it didn't mate with the tire. He said 'maybe' he could fix it.

The tire came off and his assistant banged away with a small hammer...then a bigger hammer to straighten it out. Everett then whacked it another 20 times. It looked like they were making progress. Finally they were satisfied and put the tire back on. It balanced out nicely so it went back on the car. It was \$70 to fix the tire. Whew....a less capable tire place would have instantly sold me a new rim (\$100 plus) plus tried to sell me new tire (another \$150) plus labor. It's nice to run into honest folks in the automotive business. He also does 24 hr/day towing. He said he was the only one in the Quad cities that would have fixed the rim. Everyone else, especially the tire places, would have not even tried. Just serendipity in running into him.

Now it was time for full scale county hunting. I didn't have a time constraint but I had the urge to get home, so it was mostly doing 'on the run' operating through the counties in IA, then back into Schuyler, MO, down though Adair (successfully this time without a deer incident).

I looked at the map and figured I could save a few miles by going down highway 11. Whew – it's one of them roller coaster MO roads that go up and down, up and down, up and down – mile after mile. You can still make decent time. I hit Sullivan and Linn and stopped on the highway to run them. There wasn't much traffic. In fact, in the entire run, not a single car passed me by. As I was set to leave finally a car appeared in the rear view and it was time to get going since I was hanging out into the road at the county line. I had to hit Chariton, Carroll and Ray for MD. I was looking for a motel in Carroll – say one tiny one along route 10 – but there was no nearby place to eat and it looked sort of grungy so I skipped it and kept driving,

winding up in Ray for the night at a Super 8 Motel.

It took a while the next day to get around Kansas City – to run the ones on the route such as Leavenworth, Jefferson (got WA4UNS for one of his needed ones there), then on south hitting counties while on the run. I checked the GPS and it said if I kept the pedal to the metal, I could make it home by dark.

With the 100% gas available up that way, the car was getting 33-35 mph there. When it runs on 10% ethanol crap, the mileage drops to 31-32 mpg. That's all folks can get in about 45 states and the feds are trying to foist 15% ethanol pollution in the gasoline to reward the greenie ethanol industry even more.

Once I hit OK, I ran mostly – 20 M SSB as I headed on south on 69 which runs into 75 to TX. The 20M net was in 'friendly' mode and it was easy to just run the counties as I hit. I'd done enough cw for a while...and K0ARS treks down through these counties on cw every month or two it seems.

3548* miles total (but with likely minus 50 bogus miles from using the teeny spare that messes up the speed/miles recorded). So call it 3500 miles. I had success in every needed MD counties thanks to the MP holders who followed me around.

Recent Awards

USACA #1226	Bob, KI2G	April 30, 2012
USACA #1227	Larry, N4VA	May 23, 2012
USA CW II #29	Scottie, N4AAT	May 06, 2012
Fifth Time #108	Ron, KB6UF	May 2, 2012
Bingo #340	Troy, K5OH	April 23, 2012
Five Star #60	Don, W0EAR	April 29, 2012

Upcoming Events for County Hunters

June 2-3

Alabama QSO Party RS(T) and AL county or S/P/C

www.alabamagsoparty.org

Jun 2, 1600Z - Jun 3, 0400Z CW--1.810, 3.545, 7.045, 14.045, 21.045, 28.045; PH--1.865, 3.855, 7.230, 14.250, 21.300, 28.450.

June 16-17

West Virginia QSO Party

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

www.qsl.net/wvsarc

Jun 16, 1600Z - Jun 17, 0200Z

June 23-24

Good weekend NOT to be mobile!

ARRL Field Day

Category, ARRL/RAC section or DX

www.arrl.org/contests

Jun 23, 1800Z - Jun 24, 2100Z