

County Hunter News

June 1, 2014
Volume 10, Issue 6

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For general information FAQ on County Hunting, check out:

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

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

find information on these awards and the rules at:

http://countyhunter.com/marac_information_package.htm

The CW net procedure is written up at:

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

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

Back issues of the County Hunter News are available at www.CHNewsonline.com

Want county lines on your Garmin GPS?

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

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

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

Notes from the Editor

1) N4CD Rumbings – May was off to a good start. The weather was nasty in some places with the tornado season really getting into gear. Over 30 died in tornadoes and storms, so if you are out and about, keep an eye on the weather. Spring has really sprung in TX with 90 deg temps and a big lack of rain. Severe storms are present weekly in Oklahoma then spreading east/southeast this time of year and west TX has been getting it's share too. Wildfires are burning all over the west USA.

The radio came to life as mobiles headed to the MI Mini (record attendance there) and then back. Plus, we had several good state QSO Parties.

I've been working at 5th time CW – progress was pretty slow ovr the winter months. Things are getting better. At the end of April, NM2L got Geneva for me in AL. Then after the mini- AB7NK got a couple in NE. In one county I needed, the band just died – zero copy in Franklin, NE but she was 59 an hour later. Dang. Jerry, K5YAA headed up to WY to run it and it looks like he had some real adventure there – trip report later. Other mobiles going to the Mini in northern MI, notably N9STL, N9QS, and W4SIG cleaned up the lower peninsula on CW – leaving only Keweenaw,MI...and serendipitously, Mary, AB7NK decided to take the scenic route home and got that for me on cw. Michigan is done! Jerry, K5YAA, got some of my NE needs on the way up to run th e7QP– AB7NK got some headed west, and got me Hamilton, KS (out in the boonies with bad power lines) and then Jerry, K5YAA came back through NE – he needed to run Harlan/Franklin for SM7ZDI so I snagged that one too. Down to just needing Washington, NE now. Not too far from NF0N, so maybe he'll get out that way some day. Larry, W0QE, headed across the interstate in KS and ran through the next to last there, leaving one.

The 7QP got me two more in OR I needed, leaving 2 there, and one of the 4 I needed in UT, plus the NE QP finished off MA with a contact in Hampshire. I didn't hear the other counties in New England on the air on cw, but Paul N4PN got a clean sweep between phone and cw there – so somehow all 67 counties got on. Just never spotted or heard here or maybe only on 40 or 80m or SSB. Addison, VT will show up someday! (last one up there). So I went from about needing 110 to down to 84 in just 10 days at the beginning of May. They tend to come slowly as you're closing in. It's either feast or famine in seems. I'm sure others have had the same experience and hopefully the travel from the mobiles filled in lots of needs for everyone!

Then there was Dayton with even more trips to fill in things. Others were on cross country trips putting them out by the dozens and dozens. We're off to a good summer season of county hunting!

I'll get there to the end with a little help from my friends.

2) Reader Feedback - From an east coast county hunter:

I always enjoy reading your CHN.

I like all of the CHN articles and have even taken steps to improve my health due to material in your past two newsletters.

3) Reader Feedback – from a reader in the southeast:

First, thanks for another excellent monthly "Letter".

Your cholesterol info was interesting. I have been taking Lipitor for about 20 years after some trial and error. I went 3 months, under the GP's orders, without eating any cholesterol product. My total dropped from 280 to 240! You are lucky to control yours with diet. The reason is that 80% of all cholesterol in your body is generated by your body! You do not have that problem!

Mine is between 160-140 and has been for years, with only 10mg of Lipitor. I have no other health problems - that is also good luck - other than old age, almost 78! Been an active ham for 64 of those years!

Thanks again for all you do for Ham Radio and County Hunting.

4) Michigan Mini 2014

A record crowd showed up at the MI Mini. Here's a picture of the crowd from the MI MINI web page:



MI MINI 2014

Here's a list of who planned to attend:

K8ZZ Ed, Traverse City, MI

Reverend Kate, Gaylord, MI
W8TVT Joe, Traverse City, MI
N8RRR Janet, Traverse City, MI
W8JJ Tim, Grand Blanc, MI
AB7NK Mary, Cordes Lakes, AZ
K7SEN Neil, Cordes Lakes, AZ
K8OOK Mike, Grand Rapids, MI
N8IPG Nancy, Grand Rapids, MI
WQ7A Terry & Bonnie, Yelm, WA
KD9ZP Gene, Fond du Lac, WI
K9FDL Dottie, Fond du Lac, WI
KB0BA Lowell, Blue Grass, IA
N0XYL Sandra, Blue Grass, IA
N9QS Silver & Bonnie, Collinsville, IL
WA9DLB Tony & Helen, Barrington, IL
N8HAM Jim & Peggy, South Lyon, MI
WG9A Bill & Sandy, Batavia, IL
N8KIE Bob & Jaci, Clarkston, MI
W9OP Mark, Neenah, WI
W9PIP Joan, Neenah, WI
NN9K Pete & Nancy, Colona, IL
WY8I Jim, Fair Haven, MI
N8DMW Karen, Fair Haven, MI
W8TZA Bill, Shelbyville, MI
W8WKD Sharon, Shelbyville, MI
KM9X Dan, Osgood, IN
KB9MGI Judy and guest Mary, Osgood, IN
KB9GYP Danny, Osgood, IN
N8OR John, Boyne City, MI

W9SUQ Larry & guest Richard, Lynn, IN
N8BGF John, Fairfield, OH
KC8WRP Joan, Fairfield, OH
K0PFV John, Omaha, NE
WA0VDO Marian, Omaha, NE
AA8R Randy, Grant, MI
W8TAX Pattie, Grant, MI
N8WTQ Doris, Midland, MI
W8FNW Jim, Delaware, OH
W4FNW Damaris, Delaware, OH
KA1YZV Don, Dunedin, FL
KA9JAC Bob, Hortonville, WI
KB9YVT Ann, Hortonville, WI
K8AO Duane, Gladstone, MI
WB8JZN Bill, Hastings, MI
KA8ZPN Brenda, Hastings, MI
K8EMS Mike, Gladstone, MI
W4SIG Kerry, Collierville, TN
N9STL Joyce, Belleville, IL
W8GEJ Al, Delaware, OH
AK8A Steve, Fennville, MI
N8EMV Paula, Fennville, MI
KJ8V Dave, Bear Lake, MI
KJ8W Sandy, Bear Lake, MI
WB8FBJ Jerry, Battle Creek, MI
KB8TIN Ida, Battle Creek, MI

5) July Issue County Hunter News

N4CD will be traveling the last part of June, so the next issue of the County Hunter News will be delayed by 2 weeks. Don't panic if it doesn't show up around June 25th. Likely be July 10th.

6) Dayton OH Hamvention

What more to do you need to say? 80-100 county hunters headed that way. Full report follows later.

7) **W0KZZ, Carl, USACA #27 SK** - Carl was listed in the Silent Key Column in the June 2014 QST. He was one of the original county hunters in the early 1960s, and gave Cliff Corne, K9EAB, who was the first one to earn USACA in 1965, many counties along the way. Carl helped contribute to the article about the start of the USACA program and K9EAB earning the first award – in the Jan 2007 issue of the County Hunter News. There are still a few of the original folks from 'way back then' around to recall the early days but it gets less and less each year.

N7JPF Trip Report

My wife and I took a little vacation into the San Juan Islands (San Juan, WA) and neighboring counties on April 21-25. For those of you who haven't transmitted from there yet, you need to have that wonderful experience of quaint villages tucked into the many islands. It requires a ferry boat ride to one of the several islands.



San Juan Islands - N7JPF

Time spent there is worth while. Accommodations tend to be expensive with most of the lodging being resorts or B&B. Also, don't leave the mainland without a full tank of gas and a cooler with food. The ferry boat ride for car and passenger can cost \$50-\$65, depending on which island you are going to, and the size of your vehicle. They also have inter-island ferries so you can hop from one to another as time allows.

It is not a quick process, so make sure you check with a CH'er who has been there before you try it. As N4CD wrote a few years ago, allow for time to take down your antennas before getting onto the ferry to avoid the tall-vehicle surcharge. Once on the island(s), be prepared to spot yourself, as it is rare that anyone will hear you strong enough to pick you up. I had made arrangements with a few CH'ers who needed the county, so a simple prearranged cell call, and they were able to work and spot me.

It was unfortunate that the few days we were there, the propagation was horrible. Even when conditions are good, as many of you know, the coastal counties of Washington are difficult to get a signal out. On our 5-day mini-vacation, I put out 7 counties with only a total of 93 contacts, several of them LC. I made my first effort of putting out some of them on the 17 and 20 CW net frequencies, and had some success. At least a quarter of my contacts were CW this trip. (I have discovered it is time to get a better paddle for in the car!) I want to thank those of you who helped, and especially those who were patient on CW, as I could barely hear most signals and I found it difficult to distinguish calls. I did find 17m was better than 20m on this trip. CU next trip.

Mobile Activity

Duane, K8AO headed to the Mini in MI

Ron, KB6UF, trekked across MS, AL, through GA, SC on his way north to ME

W8UE continued his trip arriving in FL Later he wandered back across the country and wound up in IN for the state QSO party there before heading home.

Bill, K0DEQ was out and about in MO

Mike KG5UZ and Cheryl KJ5PQ, were out on multiple trips putting out the counties on data modes.

Joyce, N9STL headed to the mini – via lots of counties in IN and MI. She saw these two signs – as she was headed to Barry, MI for N4CD



N9STL saw CD Ave on the way for N4CD

then she got to Barry County MI shortly thereafter



N9STL Barry,MI

After the mini in MI

Silver, N9QS headed back home through MI, IN and IL.

Kerry, W4SIG went down the east side of IN, filling in many needs. He got the last county WBOW for VA3XOV – second time all cw (Noble IN)

Terry, WQ7A wandered around in MI then WI eventually heading home. He's working on those MD transmit counties.

Mary, AB7NK and Neil, K7SEN, headed up to the 'upper part' of MI to run that. Then down through WI and cross through NE down through KS as they headed back home via lots in TX.

Silver, N9QS, headed to northwest AR and southwest MO to run a few. He's working on MD transmitted counties. (have to run 500 for that award).

N7JPF was spotted in a few in WA state. Tough being heard in the mobile out that way these days.

Jim, N9JF, was out on various trips putting them out in WI and IA and IN and OH.

Dan, KM9X, headed across IN to get Owen, IN – LC WBOW CW for VE1WT.

Kerry, W4SIG headed east along the south border of TN hitting some of the rarer ones, then returned along the top of AL to MS to home.

Ron, KB6UF, ran a bunch in ME on SSB and CW

Greg, KG5RJ, headed up through OK and MO on a trip.

Jimmy, K4YT, headed west from NC to points unknown on a multi month trip. Might wind up in Alaska.

Rick, W5QP was out and about in KS.

Larry, W7FEN, was trekking out west putting them out.

Jerry, W0GXQ, headed to CO toward the end of the month.

Phil, AB7RW, continued his trek to the east, then back to home out west.

Joyce, N9STL, headed across MO to OK to TX to run some Mobile Diamond transmit counties filling in the blanks. She had an eyeball in K5YAA, Jerry, in OK: He noted:

“Joyce and I had a coffee, cinnamon (something), and my standard Sausage and Egg McMuffin while we met and talked a little county hunting. I also met Jethro Bodine as Joyce calls her pet dog. Jethro likes to ride just behind the driver seat and seems like a nice fellow. I was pleased Joyce took the time out of her quest to sit and chat a while. Nice lady and I wished her well on her travels across Oklahoma. “

W5IL was spotted out and about on SSB.

W3DQT noted on cw in WV.

KA1YZV spotted in GA and FL on SSB.

Don, K3IMC, continued his trip west. Running a few on CW every now and then, rest on SSB.

Late QSO Party Reports

We went to press before some mobiles had time to calculate their scores and file comments on the 3830 reflector. We include a few more for last month's QSO Parties.

Michigan QSO Party

W8ZZ mobile 73 cw 31 ssb

This was our first try at a mobile operation in MiQP. We usually do multiple portable setups but didn't have the time available to do that this year. 40m was poor for us until late in the afternoon, and 15m/10m were dead. 20m was our money band and it, too, was pretty hit-and-miss. The weather was good and there were no equipment problems so it made for a pleasant afternoon. Thanks to all for following us from county-to-county and digging us out. 73, Ron (W8RU) and Bill (KC8VGG).

New Mexico QSO Party

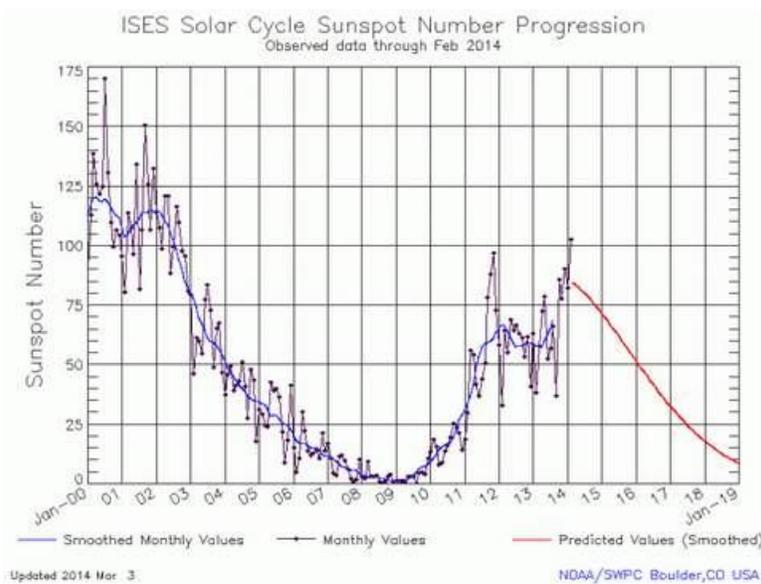
KK6MC – mobile 88 cw 181 ssb QSO

We operated from 9 counties. Worked N6MU from all of them, 22 times total band mode combinations! Also AD1C and WA6KHK provided lots of QSOes outside of NM. Mobile to mobile contacts with K9DAJ and NM5DX provided several needed NM counties. It is always nice to work other mobiles in the QSO parties. In state, WK5T, K7IA, NI5T and WA5TYJ provided multiple NM QSOes.

Solar Cycle 24

The Sun is at solar maximum! Solar Cycle 24 is seeing a second, higher peak in the sunspot number.

The Sun is in the midst of its "maximum phase," though modest when compared with recent cycles. Data and imagery show the comings and goings of sunspots, markers of the strong local magnetic fields that cause the eruptions commonly thought of as space weather. Forecasters expect intermittent activity to continue throughout 2014 and continuing for the rest of the solar cycle. At times the activity will be significant. Watch the SWPC web site for news of those times.



Source: NASA via the ARRL Propagation Bulletin

Liberals and Green Energy

At the annual corporate meeting of billionaire Warren Buffet's Berkshire Hathaway empire:

“So it was fascinating to hear Mr. Buffett explain that his real tax rule is to pay as little as possible, both personally and at the corporate level. "I will not pay a dime more of individual taxes than I owe, and I won't pay a dime more of corporate taxes than we owe. And that's very simple," Mr. Buffett told Fortune magazine in an interview last week.

The billionaire was even more explicit about his goal of reducing his company's tax payments. "I will do anything that is basically covered by the law to reduce Berkshire's tax rate," he said. **"For example, on wind energy, we get a tax credit if we build a lot of wind farms. That's the only reason to build them. They don't make sense without the tax credit."**

...political favors for the wind industry induce a leading U.S. company to misallocate its scarce investment dollars for an uneconomic purpose. Berkshire and its billionaire shareholder get a tax break and the feds get less revenue, which must be made up by raising tax rates on millions of other Americans who are much less well-heeled than Mr. Buffett. [emphasis added]

Source: <http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304831304579541782064848174?mg=reno64-wsj>

And that, dear Reader, is why all these folks push green energy. They reap gigantic profits and tax breaks, and you, your kids, and your grandkids get to pay for them in the trillion dollars borrowed by Obama, and in 30% higher utility rates.

Florida QSO Party

The mobiles were out and running. There were counties to snag by the handful from them and many fixed stations to get on. You had the bonus K4OJ, plus some 1x1 stations to work.

Propagation didn't seem all that good. In past years, 15m to FL from TX has been good. This year all I heard was a few Europeans calling the FL stations but not a one FL. 10M was deader than a doornail. In past years, there's been a few short openings on 10m to south FL, but nothing seen this year here. Maybe others had a bit of luck. Looks like it was 20M and down for most other than the Europeans who snagged some on 15M. I checked every now and then but 15 and 10 were barren of activity from FL here. I didn't need any 'this time around' in FL but still got on, worked the mobiles to give them points, and the fixed stations. Heck, it's a party and if folks don't participate, it and the others will fade away from lack of activity! Keep those mobiles busy! In past years, I've filled in my needs many times with the QSO Parties.

Florida was invaded by the K5YAA land rush mobile, and some from GA who zipped on down there for the contest (W4AN/K4BAI). W8UE was in FL after a long drive back from up north.

Chuck, NO5W, was in FL from his home QTH of LA.

Not much else was going on on the county hunter frequencies other than K0DEQ out in MO on cw and KG5UZ/KJ5PQ on data only in the panhandle of TX.

From the 3830 reflector

N4CW – mobile - 794 cw

Ran 50 Watts to the K3 until the last county and then I cranked it up to 100W! Did seven different counties first day, starting in PUT and ending in NAS(covering the NE part of NFL). Second day I started in DUV and ended in MAO (Ocala National Forest!), covering the mid-coast and mid-inland. I ran both days in "lone ranger" fashion, no separate driver; thus, I drove to a county, parked, and operated. I operated in shopping centers, church yards, a college parking lot, and access roads leading to boat ramps! I had to select

shade because temps ranged up to 94 degrees (Eustis on Sunday afternoon!). Most roads traveled were in excellent condition...and Florida has some LONG stretches of straight roads...it was easy to observe the "vanishing point" perspective of power lines as I sighted down the road! I put on around 500 miles over both days.

Great fun, but I don't know if I ever want to do this alone again! Many thanks to all the great ops that pounced on me when I opened up in a new county...great for the ego to be the "DX"! Sorry I had to hesitate between calls -- my logger wouldn't log my entry so I had to hit three additional keys to log the call. Also, the logger didn't give any QSO points nor spell out any mults except for FL counties! The above totals are pretty close, but I'm counting on the contest folks to apply the points appropriately.

Many thanks to all who called, and my apologies for missing any callers!

K4ELF mobile - 17 cw 11 ssb QSO

Testing K9WX/M station in advance of our INQP operation next week. We operated mobile multi-single: K9ELF on SSB and K9WX on CW.

K4FCG mobile – SSB only - 603 QSO

Things went perfect on Saturday with qso's exceeding last years Saturday total. However, 1.5 hours into Sunday operation the rig shut down due to low voltage input. After checking found that one of my three main batteries had died and pulled the other two down. This also caused my power controller to die. Tried to operate on the remaining battery power, but voltage output quickly went down to 9V. Sorry to all the ops who were tracking me. I realize that I just disappeared. I think when K5KG went past me at about 60mph on a back road in Hamilton county (early Sunday AM) he sent bad vibes my way (Hi Hi). Still it was fun.

Rig: Kenwood TS480 + laptop N3FJP software

Ant: 10, 15, 20 ham sticks, 40 homebrew loaded vertical 13 feet 2 inches long.

Counties: 18

73, "OJ"

K1KNQ Jack

N4FP – mobile - 1196 cw QSO

What a trip!! Marty (xyl, WB2VYK) and I headed out, single op with driver, Sat noon with the goal of 1000 Q's, or a 25% improvement over last year. Started off a bit slow but picked up. Ran 14 counties on Saturday. 20 was our best band, but 40 was decent Sat evening. Marty did a great job driving, but I did spell her about 3 hours over the 2 days. Spent Sat night in our own bed and started from our driveway Sunday morning, covered 11 counties including repeats of Marion and Sumter. I drove for an hour starting at 1420Z after a good run in Seminole County. Stopped in Volusia at a wild bird viewing spot that was the only stopping place on 46 between Seminole and Brevard. 20 seemed almost dead, 40 and 15 were dead, and I feared we might be done for the weekend. Worked 25 q's, then on to Brevard and things started picking up. Followed that with a good run of 43 more in Volusia and headed up I95 through Flagler and St Johns with good runs and rest stops. While in St Johns a station told me my cw signal was very bad, which was confirmed by another station. Swapped out the loaner Yaesu FT-100D with my trusty old Kenwood TS-440SAT I brought along 'just in case', and Murphy made sure I needed it. I was continually amazed at how well I was getting out on 20 with 100 watts to horizontally mounted Hustler atop a 40 inch mast mag mounted to the roof of our Kia Rondo. Best run rate was 5 q/minute. Entered every contact manually with left hand (I'm right handed) on keyboard to N1MM, and all keying was done with paddle, no macros. Spent the last 20 minutes sitting in our driveway in The Villages, Sumter County, after 630 miles and 1196 preliminary contacts, 60% improvement over last year. FT-100D seems okay after a reset.

N4GI mobile 2205 cw QSO

Thanks again to N4GI for providing the truck, rig, and antenna(s) for our operation. I provided the computer and route planning, or should I say "planning."

Early counts have us missing four counties that were on my overly-aggressive itinerary: SEM, ORA, LAK, and OSC. Preliminary count shows a total of 41

counties activated.

It's no coincidence that SEM, ORA, LAK, and OSC were at the ends of each day's activity plans. Both routes looked to be in the neighborhood of 9.5 hours driving. I assumed that all our stops (for gas, food, and to operate in counties where we would spend only a short time) would be a lot shorter than they turned out to be. Traffic on some of the rural roads also turned out to be problematic.

It's valuable experience. Last year, we made only a modest effort at planning a route and stuck close to the interstate for the entire day Sunday. This year we crisscrossed I75 and I10 regularly to add counties. I'll have more realistic expectations next year and will attempt to pick up a few more counties and 300-400 more QSOs.

Finally, apologies for the slow CW speed at the beginning of the contest on Saturday. I eliminated some speed changes within the messages at the very beginning of the contest, and I got the speed as fast as I could. However, there is apparently an upper limit on the speed within the WinKey dialog within CQ/x that was set at 26wpm. As soon as Blake sat down to operate about 5 hours in to the contest he said that we would have to speed up the keying or he was going home. He was able to figure out the problem with CQ/x and get the speed up above 30wpm. I had loaded the messages and verified that keying worked, but don't have a mobile HF rig so didn't actually play the messages through anything with sidetone, so didn't verify that setting the speed at 32wpm didn't actually make the program send at 32wpm.

Thanks to all the out of state stations who make mobile operation such a pleasure.

Rig: IC7000

Ant: Hamsticks mounted on a truck toolbox

Software: CQ/x on a Dell D630 laptop running Windows 7

73,

Chris WF3C

W4AN mobile – (K4BAI, KU8E ops) - 2346 QSO

Jeff, KU8E, cured the RFI problems we had in the GA QSO Party. Rigs, antennas, and computer worked fine. Jeff had also improved the back-seat installation of the rig and gotten a desktop to place on the operator's lap to hold the computer and paddle. It had a built in light that came in handy Saturday night. Jeff's older son, Andrew, was our chief navigator again and kept us on the correct roads. Unfortunately, we were unable to get to all the counties on our list, but we are glad that others took up the slack and sweeps were still possible. We were QRV in 32 counties.

Band conditions were pretty bad for most of the weekend. 15M had some real good signals from Europe, Central and South America. Also, our best DX was a few QSOs with RZ0AF in Asia. Our only two QSOs on 10M were with K5YAA in our same county and a very weak WA6KHK on a QSY from 15M. Obviously from other reports to 3830, we missed some good openings on 10 to California at least. 40M had several very strong EU stations and a few from the U.S. west coast. We had either two (80 and 40) or three (20, 15, and 10) bands available at any one time, so QSYs were easier than when we formerly had to stop to change resonators. Many thanks for all who called (and a few FL stations who answered our calls on 40M).
we missed HI, AK, UT, NV, NE, ND, SD, VE5, VE8, VY1, 2, and 0. Must have had about 30 DX country mults.

Congrats to all the other mobile operators. We met VE7ZO and K5KG of the K4KG/M operation for supper Saturday night near Jacksonville. Thanks to the FCG and all who work on making this QSO party so successful.

Tentatively, we hope to QRV again in the Alabama QSO Party the first Saturday in June.

IC756Pro, 100W, Hustler mobile whips with DX Engineering Top Hat for 20M. J

73, John, K4BAI.

K5YAA mobile – 2363 cw QSO

Paul, N4PN and I had a pretty good time in this one. I don't think activity was as high as prior years. The pileups were not as deep as I remember them but a

good time was had nonetheless. Our Saturday morning start in Hamilton County had us thinking something was amiss with the bands as it took 6 minutes before we made our first Q. We sat for a while then started motoring along I75.

Here was W4AN tooling along in parallel with us. A few solid Qs on different bands followed. We were moving a bit faster than John and Jeff and never saw them the rest of the weekend. In fact, we never saw another mobile the whole weekend which is a bit of a puzzle because there seemed to be dozens of them on Florida roads based on the postings. So many in fact, that may have been the reason for reduced QSOs in this one. Callers were distracted with so many to work. I had targeted 3,000 Qs and we came no where near that many.

We suffered only a couple of road difficulties. One was all the red lights across Osceola County. Seems they had them set to turn red upon approach, everyone of them! It must have taken 6 or 8 hours to get across that county, or so it seemed. Because of that we failed to make our last two counties on Saturday evening so we ran them the first thing Sunday morning which, as it turned out, didn't take away from our Sunday count. We made all on the Sunday list plus those two early morning ones.

The other road difficulty happened to be a little more exciting. We were motoring along in Levy County on Hwy 24 to make our way to Chieftan on Hwy 19. The gas tank meter showed very near the red line where, when hit, the little gas tank icon comes on and a bell rings. A couple minutes later the icon came on and the bell chimed. Paul said, we need to get some gas don't we? I asked, how far is it to Chieftan. He "estimated" 30 miles or so. I said, oh, we will be OK. This thing runs for 30 miles after the red line is hit. Well, it seems we were a bit further than 30 miles from Chieftan. Moving along on Hwy 24 we see a wooden sign on the side of the road that said "Food and Gas - Otter Creek". OK, we are gonna get us some of that gas.

A little further along the road Paul says, "We just ran out of gas I think". I believe he knew that because when he pushed the peddle nothing was speeding up. We could see the store that had advertised gas and food. It was on the other side of the road and was sitting right at a yellow flashing light. I said "Maybe we can coast and make it". Paul was "muscling" the van with standard type steering and his timing was perfect, he made a left turn just after a car in the left lane made it past the yellow light, and we did coast toward the little store.

He said, "I have no brakes!". I said, "Push hard on the pedal!". As we coasted past the front of the little store we saw a gas tank that looked like it hadn't pumped gas since oil was discovered. It was rusted and the handle that is usually on a gas pump was gone! So, what do we do now? After we came to a stop Paul said, "You do have some spare gas in the generator gas backup containers don't you?". I told him yes, we can use that. Well, the spout on the red container didn't quite fit the van's gas inlet. So, I got out the funnel I use to fill the generator and stuck it in the van inlet. We poured but only about half the gas was making it into the van inlet. The rest was getting splashed on the street. Paul said, let me get a match and burn that off. I said, wait 'til I get done before you strike a match. Well, needless to say, we had a few laughs about our gas mishap. Fortunately nothing happened to us or the three ladies sitting in front of the little store that would cause a 911 episode.

That probably was good because I think those were the only people within miles. If the food in that little store was like the gas pump well, I'm glad we weren't hungry. I don't think the ladies really do any business with that store. They seemed to just be having a Sunday morning get together with their kids and neighbor friends. We must have gotten enough gas in the tank as we made it to Chieftan and did a standard type of fill up using a pump with an actual handle on it. No more episodes after that. We did see a number of Osprey nests on the tall power poles along the road. Quite a site. The birds were roosting way up on those poles. I believe Florida has some of the tallest power poles in the country.

Sunday's run was better than Saturday. The bands were a bit better. No 10 meter QSOs though all weekend except for the one with W4AN when they were 20 feet away from us on I75 Saturday morning. More like a CB Q than a ham radio Q.

We looked over and saw John, K4BAI concentrating on the road while Jeff was in the back pounding away moving us from band to band. Jeff's nephew was in the front seat giving BAI road directions. Such a team. They made almost as many Qs as we did using low power to our high power.

Like I said, we had a good time. The weather couldn't have been any better and except for the gas shortage, we didn't suffer from lack of equipment or enthusiasm. Thanks to all who gave us a call. I got a handful of on the air reports about our choppy CW but there was nothing we could do on the road about that. Seems we sounded better on Sunday, maybe because we slowed our CW down a

bit. Regardless of the quality everyone seemed to be copying. Europeans never asked us for a repeat and callers kept coming back from county to county. In a couple of weeks I'll be trying out a solid state amp which should modify the CW dits and dahs.

Now for a few numbers from the log. We worked 29 countries including, 9A, CM, DL, EA, F, FG, G, HA, HB, HC, HI, HK, I, JA, KP2, KP4, LX, LY, OH, OK, OM, ON, S5, SM, SP, UA, UA9, UR and YV. DX seems attracted to the FQP more so than other parties.

15 was open quite late to Europe.

Speaking of 40 - what a bust. Every time we went down to 40 we had to S&P to see if anybody was there. Usually there was one lonely FL station calling FQP. A NIL when we called CQ FQP. The band was in pretty good shape because we heard W1AW/2 in Jersey most of the times we looked at 40 so there was propagation but no action.

Many stations were in there the whole weekend. Sweep chasers a plenty. That K9PG has something really strange happening with his key. He sent what sounded like hundreds of dits when he sent his 5NN. Also, he seemed to laugh a lot. Lots of dits there too. Of course he's a lid so we just chuckled and went about our business.

Though counties are not mults I counted them. We worked 20 of them. Only 1 on 40 meters the others on 20 and 15. Go figure.

To keep the wind down I will stop here with our report. Thanks much to Dan K1TO and others who put on this FB party every year. I've said many times it takes a lot of work and dedication to do a party up right. They get it done in Florida every year.

My personal thanks to Paul, N4PN for being with me on this run. He remains in great shape for an OM witnessed by his ability to steer a dead power driven vehicle with no brakes. Thanks too to his wonderful XYL for putting me up in their home on Friday and Sunday evening after our return from Florida. She is a gem and just accepts the fact that Paul has to do some operating in almost every contest. We should all have such a partner.

Until the next one, 73, Jerry K5YAA.

Rig: That same Oklahoma Land Rush Mobile running a K3, Tarheel, Hustlers an

811H amp and a Honda generator. Software is N1MM running on a heavily used Dell Laptop. The fire extinguisher almost had it's first usage on this run and remains at the ready.

K1XX Multi-op Mobile – 2323 QSOs

Once again, Murphy struck. This year we beat him. Coming out of Pinellas right after the start on Saturday, we lost close to an hour due to a traffic accident.

We decided to push hard and try to make up that time. Yours truly missed the exit off of I-75 heading to Citrus and managed to lose another 10-12 minutes. At the end of the day's run, we ran short of time and couldn't get to Union & Bradford, ending with 26 out of the planned 28 counties.

After getting settled into our cozy roach motel for the remainder of the evening, I spent some time with my route planning tools and figured out a way to start in Bradford, go to Union, and then pick up our planned route for Sunday without wasting too much time. I figured we could push as long as we could on Sunday and make 53 or 54 total counties. Our goal had been 27 on Sunday for a total of 55 counties. At 6pm Sunday evening, we had made it through the complete $27 + 2 = 29$ counties equaling our planned 55 counties for the weekend.

A few things stand out on this FQP. Our run into Lake county was maybe a mile long with a U turn in the middle. Congratulations to the 4 stations that managed to catch us there. I don't remember turning the engine off on Sunday. Marty & I got pretty proficient when pulling into a gas station. We loaded the car with gas, unloaded the operators (maybe Depends next year!), swapped the driver/operator and took off down the road. Lastly, we were in the last few hours and had turned onto a 2-lane road. I remember Marty accelerating to pass someone. I saw that car not too far away on my right side. Then, I looked to the left and there was a big, white truck passing us too! At that point I just put my head down and prayed for more than Qs.

The new car and custom roof mount for the Tarheel seemed to work well. Conditions were a bit strange. 40 wasn't as popular on Sunday morning as in the past. 15 seemed to be wide open a lot, but most people seemed to like 20. Good Europeans on 15. Thanks to Andy, G4PIQ, for picking us up out of the noise on 10.

All in all, another great FQP weekend. Thanks for all the Qs and putting up with our garbage sending. Bouncing around in the backseat is not a great way to send CW.

Rig was a K3, with the Tarheel 2 antenna over a 4x4 foot solid aluminum ground plane on the roof rack. Used CQ/x for logging and some navigation. Installed independent laptop as second navigation source in the front seat using Streets & Trips. Also experimented with putting our route onto my Android cellphone. Will probably change this a bit next year with different logging s/w and simplified navigation s/w.

73 Charlie, k1xx & Marty, w1md

KN4Y mobile - 592 cw QSO

Band conditions limited to 20-meters with a very very very brief opening on 15-meters. Checked prior to a county change but never heard a signal on 40-meters. The weather was good for a mobile outing. Stopped at a great Bar-B-Cue joint and made contact with three ribs.

N4AO (WC4E opr) mobile – 2100 QSO

Another Great Florida QSO Party!

Other than a computer glitch at the start, everything worked well and had a blast! Sunday afternoon was crazy with huge pileups. Thanks for your patience while I tried to work everyone. I was less concerned about utilizing every second of the contest and took a few breaks in the contest. I think I operated about 18 of the 20 hours in almost 900 miles driven.

Big thanks to everyone who came out and worked us in Florida!

IC7000
Nissan Frontier
Scorpion SA-680
N1MM Logging SW



WC4E Mobile Set up

K4OJ multi op mobile – 3973 cw QSO

WOW - What a wild ride!

The K4OJ Multi-Mult-Mobile (MM/m) team crammed 4 complete stations, 4 antennas and 4 operators plus driver into one Chevy Suburban SUV and hit the ground running, operating-in-motion across 47 counties!



My wife Lili could not drive me this year due to another commitment so I was looking for something 'unusual' to do - I think we hit the mark! Frankly I wasn't sure a MM/m effort was even possible. The two big technical issues to overcome were inter-station interference (RFI) and power generation and distribution. Well, with a lot of hard work our team overcame them both and we had a grand time!

- Our MM station:*
-

2002 Chevrolet Suburban, 2-wheel drive, 320K miles (Yep - your eyes don't deceive you; this is one tough SUV!)

BAND	OPERATOR	RADIO	ANTENNA
40m	Kevin, N4KM	IC-756	40m Hustler - Roof mounted
20m	Red, K0LUZ	K3	20m Hustler - Roof mounted 20" from 40m ant
15m	Bob, N4BP	KX-3/KPA500 (100w)	15m Hustler - Roof mounted 30" from 20m ant
10m	Lu, W4LT	K3	10m 1/4 wave whip - Roof mounted 48" from 40m ant

- *Driver, Station Engineer, Janitor, Host and Team Lead - Chris, NX4N*
- *Backup op and driver for dry-run road testing - Larry, KR4X*



In picture, left to right:
 Chris, NX4N (Driver, team leader)
 Lu, W4LT (10m op)
 Kevin, N4KM (40m op)
 Bob, N4BP (15m op)
 Red, K0LUZ (20m op)

Power - A Honda EU-2000i 2KW generator driving individual switching power supplies for each station. Generator was mounted with an external fuel

tank and *K5YAA*-inspired 'plumbers delight' rain cover with vent on a hitch-mount cargo carrier (Thanks Jerry for the guidance!). E0 ethanol-free premium fuel was used. Fuel consumed over 24 hours of actual run time = 6 gallons.

While our operation was far from flawless (see below), we were just amazed by the overall reliability of the setup - we had ****zero**** unplanned stops to fix or repair anything. That was a huge victory all by itself and meant maximum butt-in-chair operating time!

Still, there were a few 'flies in the ointment', including:

1. RFI on the 15m and 10m stations - there was a whole layer of smaller signals that we missed (even with our excellent ops' ears) due to QRM from the other stations. We easily left 500-1500 QSO's on the table. Those of you who called and called - sorry, we tried our best!

This is a non-starter for next year so we already are working plans to fix it.

2. The Cdx were down, especially Saturday - this also played a factor on 15m and 10m (see above) and a bit on 40m too. I am convinced that with improved conditions and better managed RFI there is ample opportunity to increase our score substantially next year!

3. PC's were our biggest problems:

- 30 *seconds* before the FQP start, Bob's PC froze - YIKES! Bob kept his head, rebooted and a minute later he was off and running with the rest of the stations in LAK. After a few more occurrences (arggh!) he figured out it was RFI on the cables and a handy ferrite choke solved it.

- On Sunday morning as we set sail, Kevin's PC's decided it was going to not work. We were already driving to our starting point and had about half an hour before the contest started and with 10 minutes to spare he was able to get it going again - breathing resumed shortly thereafter.

- Finally, Lu's 10m PC had various issues too - but he persisted in repairing them one at a time. Red had a few minor PC gliches as well; you get the picture. More opportunities for improvement...

Keep in mind that in MM/m each op is on their own to fix any problem, or else we need to pull over. Boy Scout motto was adopted by our team - we had a backup for just about everything.

All that said, the power/radios/antennas worked flawlessly - not bad!

Now onto the fun part - operating! We hit the ground running with simply glorious wx all weekend, and our route planning worked really well. Rates were poor-to-great depending on the band, day and time (as usual). We decided Saturday night to add MON and DAD to our Sunday route; we even managed to hit all our counties and tame the *DRAGON* (aka- Collier, the beast county)!

Best of all, we enjoyed just being together on this unique once (twice?) in a lifetime adventure. We shared fun and aggravation, swapped scores and stories when things got slow (i.e.- CLR), helped each other with directions, passing snacks/drinks, requesting 'QRX while I copy this weak sig', etc. We even found "Red's Tavern" in CLM (almost stopped for a beer!).

It was such great camaraderie - Red, Lu, Bob, Kevin and Larry each made personal sacrifices before, during and after the contest to benefit our team and maximize our score and our fun. This team had a special chemistry and I enjoyed watching their world-class operating skills in action. I believe this team raised the bar a bit toward pushing the state of our technical and operating art - I am very proud of our achievements and very lucky to call each of these guys my friend. In short, it was a blast!!

Too much more to talk about in an email, and I am sure there are a lot of questions regarding Multi-Multi-Mobile; perhaps the team can talk at one of our FCG meetings in the future.

I will gladly send out some pictures separately to FCG and FQP distributions, and to those who email me directly with a request for photos. Believe me, some of these pics will amaze you!

Our team would like to thank FCG leaders Dan, Ron, Chris, Jeff, Eric, George, Fred, Steve and many others who make the FQP the very best QSO

Party around. Sincere tnx and 88 to my FB fun-loving wife Lili - she cooked dinners and breakfasts, packed our lunch/snack bags/drinks and was a full team member in every respect! No ham could have a more supportive spouse.

Big thanks also to Bob K0RC for his amazing tracking sheets (and he is helping FCG big time by revamping our FQP records too - pse QRX), and to Chuck NO5W with his FB CQ/x contest software. Both first rate guys with first rate tools that so many of us use- thanks again!

To our fellow road warriors - well done! Each of your results and writeups is eagerly awaited and just fantastic to read...CU on on the road!

A huge tip of the hat to our many, many, many friends both in and out of state who tracked and worked us (or tried) repeatedly, put up with our QRX, QSY, QRQ, QRS, QRDeaf and QLF -
THANK YOU ALL!

Finally, sincere thanks to my vy FB teammates Kevin, Lu, Red, Bob and Larry - guys, sure hope we can do this craziness next year! I am convinced Jim K4OJ is smiling down on this amazing little success story of ours. :-)

vy 73/OJ,
Chris, NX4N team lead
K4OJ Multi-Multi-Mobile

NO5W mobile – multi op

Ah, the last weekend of April and time again for the annual FQP where mobile ops can go to test their skills against the biggest pileups found inside the CONUS. So with new RainX blades in the wipers, new oil in the 145K mile crankcase, many new gallons of regular of various prices (ouch!) waiting to be converted to forward motion, a new operator position, a new common mode choke on the antenna feedline, new guest op/driver, Ted-KN5O and I set out on the same old route Dallas-K1DW and I used in 2013 to try our hand with the FQP pileups, to determine where we fit in the spectrum between total lids and competent operators, and most of all just to have some radio fun in one of the finest

state QSO parties existing.

When we entered the panhandle on the drive over Friday afternoon from KN5O's QTH near Covington, LA, I remarked that on Sunday afternoon we would probably experience some good pileups on our return home through the western set of panhandle counties including Washington, Holmes, Walton, etc. Boy was that an understatement! Pileups all day Saturday and during most of the day on Sunday were good but manageable. But the monster pileup in Holmes on Sunday afternoon took us to the brink of chaos where discerning even a single letter from the roaring din seemed impossible. It was not even possible to determine whether the din tolled for us or for some other station several hundred Hz to the side as there was very little relation between what I sent and the response of the pile. As KN5O pulled out of the area where we had stopped to run Holmes and headed on west to the next one, I was toast and feeling more than a little defeated. However, on review of the log it looks like about 67 Qs were pulled through the din so it was at least not a total washout. Apologies if you were in the din but did not make it into our log.

For the most part Murphy stayed away from our adventure but there was that instance in Duval around noon on Sunday when the D610 logging computer shut totally down with no prior indication of a problem. Fortunately we were able to get it going again and it behaved during the rest of the party. Saturday startup was also a bit of a problem. Normally we prefer an earlier start than the 1600z used in the FQP on Saturday but the late start turned out to be a good thing since the Win7 machine we were using for the driver navigation insisted on detecting the serial GPS as a mouse rendering the machine unuseable until we could recall how to disable that Win7 feature.

It was somewhat disappointing that we missed Lake during the Saturday session and Santa Rosa and Escambia on Sunday. There's always a tradeoff between leaving QSOson the table in a county where you have a choice about how long to stay and meeting the overall schedule. This time we erred on the side of staying with a county until the pileup was essentially worked through -- Holmes being a notable exception. That was particularly true in Lafayette and Gilchrist on Saturday. On Sunday we spent an excessive amount of time in Columbia due to the driver getting in line at a Subway behind a group of school kids who were undecided about the ingredients they wanted on their sub -- we kept operating during that lunch break but by that time Columbia had essentially been worked out. Apologies if you were needing us in those missed counties for a sweep. Perhaps a review of the route is in order for next year.

But one thing for sure Sunday afternoon will find us headed back to Louisiana through the western panhandle counties looking to test mettle against some demanding pileups.

It was also disappointing that we could not get anything going on 15m or 10m although we tried several times and after multiple CQs checked the band and heard no signals. So 20m was our primary band plus a small number of Qs on 40. We've seen numerous scores with some 15m component but it just was not there when we tried to get something going.

We were running behind as early as LEO and the thought occurred that we should skip the detour off of I-10 required to pick up LIB, returning us through CAH which we had already activated on Saturday at the start. That would have eliminated only one county from the plan and would have probably put us back on schedule allowing us to reach Santa Rosa and Escambia. In LIB-CAH-JAC and the beginning of WAG the callers were frequent and steady but the pileups had not yet grown to the supernova size of the ones at the end of WAG and during most of HOL where the rate meter rarely got above the 130 level.

Many thanks to the FQP organizers for keeping the FQP running and making it one of the best state QSO parties. And finally congratulations to W4AN (K4BAI & KU8E) as well as K1XX (K1XX & W1MD) and N4GI (N4GI & WF3C) for putting up some outstanding numbers in the Mobile/Multi-Single CW category. Prospects are not looking good for a top three finish for NO5W in what is turning out to be a very competitive category. Looks in fact like NO5W should lobby for a Mobile-Multi-Single-Single-Band-20m-CW-Only category. Whaddya say Dan? At any rate we need to tune up our 15m capability and come back in 2015 ready to add some 15m to the mix.

KN5O remarked on the drive back to LA that, although he was not sure beforehand what it would be like seeing as this was his first time at a state QSO party, he was ready to spend some time in the FQP as part of the NO5W mobile again in future years. That alone made our adventure a success as far as I was concerned. I assured Ted that year after year FQP rises to the occasion with fun-fun-fun and pileups-pileups-pileups that you won't experience without being DX. Many thanks to Ted for coming along with me to the FQP, doing some excellent driving and operating and also to Ted, Lorraine, and Connie for inviting me to crash at their place on Sunday night.

Equipment: K3/100, HiQ 4/80, Dell D610-XP-CQ/X (logging), Sony Vaio-Win7-CQ/X (navigation), 2002 Pathfinder

73 es OJ

Chuck-NO5W
Ted-KN5O

K8MFO - 413 cw

Since I have a lot of post-winter outside work to do, I decided to put in a couple of hours to work the mobiles. Actually wound up putting about 13 hours in the chair, with MANY short work breaks. FINALLY at 1652Z on Sunday I worked KN4Y in Holmes for the SWEEP. Thank you Ed! I worked a few more mobiles and then closed down, sent the log file in and uploaded all conacts to LotW. It's great fun to chase the mobiles around, and I appreciate each and every one of them. Thanks for the fun.

Rig K-3 and amp about 500 watts. Antenna on 20 and 15 is the driven element of a Mosley TA-33 tribander at 48 feet. On 40 I used my Mosley PRO-67. The PRO-67 at 117 feet is too high for Florida.

73

Don K8MFO

DL6KVA – 307 CW QSO

Many thanks for a lot of fun!

Tried for a clean sweep ... missed WAG, NAS, BRO mainly because not all mobiles went to 15m on sunday.

K8IR – fixed MI - 510 cw QSO

It was great to be able to escape the noise and weak signals on 20 on Sunday to 15 meters which was in great shape to the southern half of the state. Thanks to all the mobiles for another great job and interesting weekend.

N1CC – fixed TX 311 cw 117 ssb

This was my first adventure with the FQP. I was fun, however, the Solar Gods did not serve me well. 15 was barely open and 10 nearly not at all. In December 2013 and in the WPX SSB in March conditions were far better to Florida.

Finished the CW sweep at 2052 with Washington Co. courtesy of NO5W mobile ... I missed the morning run by others through the county due to severe weather here.

FQP has a really strong mobile organization! K4OJ (29), K1XX (26), N4GI (21), N4UU (20), W4AN (19), N4AO (17), K5YAA (16), and N4FP(9) combined to result in most of my contacts multiple times (More than half)! Since I am unfamiliar with FQP I chose Assisted because the challenge was to "learn" the contest as well as compete! I might keep the assisted because some of the multipliers may not have been found without the spotting network.

A good time was had! Thanks FQP! 73, Jim

K9PG – fixed – IL 455 cw 86 ssb

Just 100w & DIPOLIO.... sat for most of the time with a few 10-15 min breaks.

The mobiles... what can you say! 41 Qs with K4OJ, 56 with K4KG, 37 with N4GI, 29 with NO5W, 23 with K5YAA, 35 with K1XX, 28 with N4AO, 15 with W4AN, 32 with N4UU, 19 with N4FP... and there were plenty of times where I couldn't hear these guys at all because of my monstrous wire antenna.

K5WA – fixed = TX 351 cw

With no outdoor antenna (dipole in attic), low power and very little time to spare I was not thinking I would have any fun this weekend in FQP, however, with all the great ears in most of the mobiles, I was able to work all 67 counties with my little peanut whistle home station and have a ball to boot. I had gotten all but three counties on the first day and then picked up two of the

last three on 40M early Sunday morning but WAL was just not in the cards. I looked at the "Counties on the Air" plan and saw that NO5W was my only hope of getting WAL near the end of the contest. About an hour and a half before the end, Chuck had a huge pileup in WAG and HOL and apparently pulled over to work the pile down (according to the APRS indicator). My hopes for a SWEEP seemed to sink when it looked like he was not going make it to WAL before 2200Z, but he got on I-10 and set the cruise control around 75 mph (again, a guess on my part from reading the APRS data) and spun through HOL saying WAL was about 7 miles away and there were still 30 minutes left in the contest. Right about the time he thought he was going to be in WAL, he stopped transmitting. Again I thought my sweep was vanishing at a gas station or pit stop. I waited 15-20 seconds and just couldn't wait any longer so I just called him blind. Sure enough, he came right back and I was his first WAL QSO as he was heading home. The expected huge pileup ensued but my contest was over with a sweep. That was fun.

I think NO5W and N4UU tied in the smooth sending mobile category with the best CW fists. K5YAA must have had some bad RFI getting into his keying line because it was tough to copy but if you need a particular county, you can copy anything. ;-)

WN4AFP – fixed – SC - 64 cw 20 ssb

This was my 1st FQP and what fun it was! I want to especially thank all of the mobiles for their tireless efforts to activate so many FL counties. Those I worked included: W4AN, N4FP, K4OJ, NO5W, N4AO, K1XX, W4MY and K4FCG. I only worked one mobile on Phone.

OM2VL – fixed – DX – 488 cw 212 ssb qso

What a weekend

This year I had plan to take part in full 20 hours. Usually my prior band at the beginning is 20m, but in this weekend I was very disappointed with condition on this band. No any Florid signal, only sometimes I HRD some USA stations working with somebody - I assume it was any mobile ...

Fortunately 15m was excellent.

Some minutes before the QP I had QSO with K4KG on 15m and with K4OJ on 15 and

10m - I noted his frq on paper. Because of the absolutly dead 20m I began on 15m. First QSO with K4KG/M on CW and suddenly ask to QSY to SSB. Back to CW and HRD/WKD some strong stations. On 21048 I found K4OJ/M - I know he was M/M, I QSY to 28041,5 (we worked here before the QP)and HRD him here excellent also. I tried also on 14041,5 and 14048, but nothing heard. Back to 15m and S/P on CW.

On 2nd VFO I had K4OJ frq 21048 and usually I checked it on which county is he was in. When I made QSO on 15m, I QSY to 28041,5 and many times I can work him here also (sometimes I called, but no lucky he don't copy me) and after that quick QSY to 14041 (I found here him at 17:28Z)

Many times I tried SSB because of the SSB multipliers - thank you very much for all station who called me! At this time I sure missed some CW QSO's, but got SSB multitis!

- last QSO on 10m was at 20:12Z with NF4A, on 15m at 22:09Z with K4KG(I 20m was open on all night!

first QSO on 40m was at 22:32Z with W4AN

I finished first day with 399 QSO's and 66 counties - missed only HOLMES.

I knew that N4UU start his route on sunday on HOLMES. At 12:02Z on 21.046 I found N4UU/M in HOLMES! Thank you very much Martin for SWEEP !!!! It was first time, I never had it before!

MIXED SWEEP at 12:02Z
CW sweep at 12:02Z

On SSB I worked with 58 counties (missed: BRA, FRA, GUL, HEN, HIG, HOL, SAN, UNI, WAL)

Most QSO's with mobiles:

K4KG 120/43 (QSO/CTY)
K4OJ 92/44
K5YAA 40/30
W4AN 31/24
K1XX 29/25

N4AO 26/20
W4MY 22/21
NO5W 20/18
N4GI 18/17
N4UU 14/12
K4FCG 10/10
N4CW 7/7
K1RQ 6/5
N4UM 4/2
N9RD 4/2
KN4Y 4/4
N4DAB 3/2

73 de Laci, OM2VL

Solar Update 2

04/29/2014

Amateur Radio propagation and solar phenomena authority Carl Luetzelschwab, **K9LA**, said in an April 27 webinar, “Are We Headed into Another Maunder Minimum? What Does That Mean for Propagation?” that most solar scientists believe several low solar cycles lie ahead, ushering in periods of diminished HF propagation, especially on the higher bands. Luetzelschwab, who maintains [K9LA’s Amateur Radio Propagation Web Site](#) and pens a regular “Propagation” column for *NCJ*, stopped short of concluding that we’ll experience a Maunder minimum — an extended period of very few or no sunspots. As the Marshall Space Flight Center’s “Solar Physics” web page explains, early sunspot records indicate that the Sun went through an inactive period from about 1645 to 1715 — called the Maunder minimum after the scientist who discovered it — when very few sunspots were observed.

“Right now there’s nothing bulletproof to say we’re heading into a Maunder minimum, so we’re just going to have to wait and see,” Luetzelschwab told the webinar, sponsored by the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation ([WWROF](#)). “It sure looks like something inside the sun changed around the peak of Cycle 23. There’s lots of evidence that we’re entering a grand solar minimum. But I don’t think any of the solar scientists are 100 percent sure that we’re going to see a Maunder-type minimum.” A grand solar

minimum, he explained, is an extended period of low sunspot activity but not as severe as a Maunder minimum.

Many solar scientists believe that Cycle 24 — the current solar cycle — is the weakest in years, and that this portends even less sunspot activity in the future. Some even have predicted outright that a Maunder minimum is around the corner.

In the hour-long presentation, Luetzelschwab reviewed the conclusions of research published by several solar scientists, raising various scenarios for what might lie ahead in terms of sunspots and related HF propagation. If a Maunder minimum were to occur, he predicted “we’ll probably have some pretty good low-band propagation. Most everybody believes the low bands are better at solar minimum.” But he conceded that a lot of factors come into play when trying to foresee what will happen from one solar cycle to the next and how it will affect radio propagation.

In a period of extremely few sunspots, Luetzelschwab said, we might expect “spotty” F2 layer propagation on 15 meters and “probably 12 and 10 will be noise.” He said that if it’s a Dalton-type minimum, “we’ll probably experience propagation kind of like what we’re experiencing right now in this Solar cycle.” The Dalton minimum, from about 1790 until 1830, was another extended low-sunspot period that was not as severe as the earlier Maunder minimum.

Some of the factors scientists believe could predict solar conditions include “hemispheric asymmetry,” where the number of sunspots in the Sun’s northern and southern hemispheres differ. Prior to solar minima, more sunspots may appear in one solar hemisphere than the other, although Luetzelschwab pointed out that this does not always occur over the course of the solar record. “Cycle 23 had a second peak, because the southern hemisphere sunspots peaked,” he noted.

Another factor is the condition of the Sun’s polar magnetic flux field. “Note that the magnetic field of the sun reverses at solar max,” Luetzelschwab said. He told his audience that the solar polar fields are decreasing, but after the Solar Cycle 23 maximum, “They just did not pick up. They’re pretty low.”

“We need to gather some really good data” over the next 10 years, Luetzelschwab concluded, adding that the additional data will provide evidence one way or the other. “This would cover the decline of Cycle 24 and the ascent of Cycle 25 to maybe get a better idea of what the sun is doing,” he said.

“Are We Headed into Another Maunder Minimum? What Does That Mean for Propagation?” will be posted in the webinar archive on the WWROF website.

Source: ARRL Newsletter May 1 , 2014, ARRL, Inc, Newington, CT 06111

Indiana QSO Party

Yes, there were mobiles out. Lots of activity, though was on 40m then 80m at night. Few mobiles ventured up to 20M and the upper bands were good on Saturday but not much activity seen on 15M. Just a few spotters around – mainly on 40M. W8UE was one of the 20M mobiles (maybe only 20M) and stumbled into my last county – Clark – so it was a real good QSO party for me – hi hi. He was busy running a bunch before, during, and after the QSO Party, too! There were at least 3 mobiles out there on cw and maybe one or two on SSB. N9JF was there the day before but not much action seen out of him during the contest.

WT9U mobile 510 cw 120 ssb

“Solo mobile operating from county lines. Never could get anything going on the higher bands.”

Note de N4CD.....98% of his contacts were on 40 and 80 meters with most on 40M.

AE8M mobile – 8 counties put out 191 cw 256 ssb qso

Thanks to all who called me. Special thanks to the out-of-state stations that stuck with me for a large part of the contest.

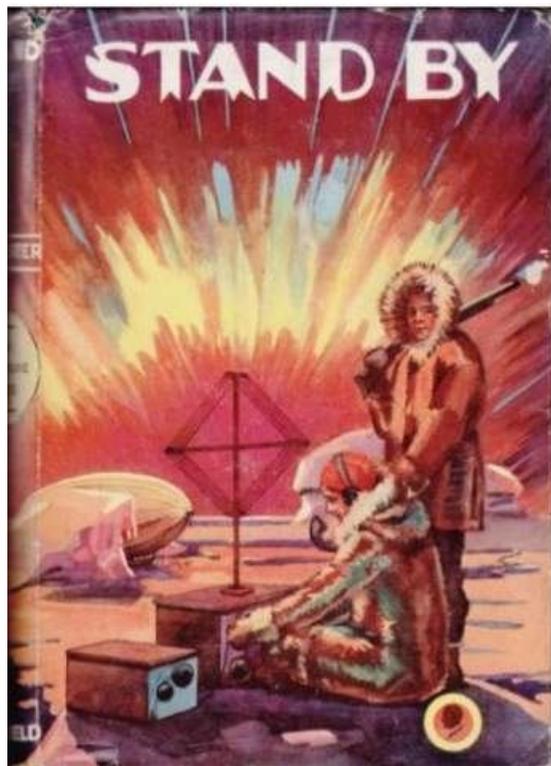
KE9V – fixed Delaware IN

I spent almost three hours searching and pouncing from home in Delaware County. 100 watts and a wire. 40M seemed undecided if it really wanted to play while the sun was shining. By the time 80 was coming up I was done. 46 cw and 33 phone between 40 and 80. Snagged W9JP/100 for the 50 point bonus. Heard W1AW/7 calling from Nevada on 80 cw with no takers so gave him DEL. Good times. Thanks to all who work hard to make it fun! 73 de Jeff

WN4AFP – fixed – SC reported a Total: 28 cw 24 ssb QSOs

Book Review of the Month

Stand By – Boys Adventure in the Arctic
by ...Hugh McAlister 1930



This is a later juvenile fiction book, copyright 1930. It's really intended for a young audience...maybe under 14 years old as there is little technology other than basic stuff in it. It sounded like it had a lot of potential from the dust jacket – but it was a big disappointment.

The main character, Lee, lives in a very small rural town in Alabama to start. As he grows up, there is nothing but poverty around him. He acquires a simple science book and is off trying to learn about 'electricity' from the 60 year old book of Natural

Philosophy. Science was lumped under Natural Philosophy back then in the 1800s. A bit later, the local doctor takes an interest in him and provides him with a newer science book. The first half of the book is concerned with Lee learning about static electricity, voltaic piles, and he occupies himself rebuilding himself a 'lightning machine' that had been abandoned by a local deceased wealthy person. A bit later he gets into radio, making his own receiver – then building himself a small transceiver portable set. He becomes proficient at 1910-1915 type radio technology, the time frame where the story seems to be set.

He makes some money selling radio sets to pay for his experiments. During a major flood in his area, he is the only one able to call for help for tens of thousands stranded by flood with no way to call for help – the phone lines are out. He receives some national attention for doing this.

He eventually, through his work he gets invited to join an expedition taking a giant dirigible to the great north up in the uncharted polar regions for scientific research. Actually they are hunting for buried treasure as well. He's an assistant radio operator. They actually find the treasure. Needless to say, eventually the giant blimp is brought down by ice and bad weather, and he and a few others are separated from the main crew, which is also stranded with a remains of the wrecked blimp. They wind up on a giant ice floe that is slowly breaking apart. There's the usual stories of polar bears and 'killer whales', packs of wolves, igloos, Eskimos, nearly dying, and injury/illness.

He succeeds in rigging up a wireless station from the crashed remains of part of the blimp that fell off as he did, and calls for help. His call is heard by a friend in AL who calls in all the needed resources to rescue the members of the scientific expedition. Ships from a couple countries home on in, and the entire crew is found and rescued.

They manage to fix the blimp with the help of the ships and it sails on home.

It's rather elementary and there isn't much for adults to enjoy, so you can just skip this one and not miss anything. It's not worth your time. One more struck off the list of ancient 'wireless' fiction books from my dad's days (not that he ever read any of them!). There's only a small handful left and we're getting down to the more obscure, unknown and not collected ones at this point.

On the Road with N4CD Part I

On the Way to Dayton

The big QSO Party season is now in a summer 'lull'. We've had the 7QP, the New England QP as the last of the 'biggies' for the spring. Now it is into travel season with hamfests, conventions, and vacations. We're a bit of of sync time wise, but we'll start on the long Dayton report here in the newsletter.

Every year about this time the annual treks to Dayton start. Some leave a week early to get there by the event and others just have a few hours to get there. Many try to hit needed counties on the way there. This year quite a few mobiles were on cw – KA4RRU, K4YT, NT2A, N2OO, N4CD, K5YAA, W8JJ/K8ZZ. Others were on cross county treks, like Jimmy K4YFH headed across lower row of KY and points west – maybe all the way to AK. AB7RW was headed east but not to Dayton. Mary, AB7NK was wandering around in TX and Cliff K6JN and Nelda W6XJN were on the way from FL to CA once again. K3IMC was headed west as well. W8FNW/W4FNW team was on the road. It was busy and all the cw frequencies were in use at times, and mobiles down 2 as well. AC0B, NX0X, KB0MMH, WD9EJK/WD9EJN, KA9JAC/KB9YVT and others were keeping SSB busy, too. W5QP would be out running around in KS. Jack, WD4OIN noted running after the convention.

My trip is a very long one day (1000 miles) or two fairly busy days, or more days if I want to get off the beaten path to some of the not often run counties. I usually sprint through the first 500 miles without too many detours to get to more interesting counties. So the trip was up the same boring interstates – I-30 to Little Rock, AR from my QTH near Dallas then across I-40 to almost Memphis (Shelby, MO).

It was 55 degrees in TX outside at 6:30 in the morning. Warm. No rain till AR, then it rained on and off across the state.

The only detour was to get off the interstate and run Cross – a one mile detour each way. Of course, you might sit there for 15 or 20 minutes running the county – but it's not too bad and not often run. That puts me into Union City, TN (Obion County) about dinner time and I've often stopped there. It rained half the time on the way up there. Temps up at 79 degrees. Not bad at all! I can deal with that. Lunch at a Subway – chopped salad - just after Little Rock (Pulaski County – gas stop too! - only \$3.29/gal here).

The motel in Obion county is a former Super 8 – and not too super but it will do. It's a Magnum Inn. There's a Ryan's across the street – quick dinner and your choice of stuff to eat, including lots of veggies and fruit and good stuff – as well as all sorts of evil high calorie high sugar deserts and lots of carbs if that is your thing!... hi hi. No longer is that my choice!

Next morning after a small 'continental breakfast' (crummy orange drink – ie sugar water - , bowl of cereal, coffee) it was heading up into KY. Bring your own oranges and bananas on a trip – or your fruit of choice. The first detour was to get Calloway KY for N9STL on CW- ten mile detour off the route each way – but by the time you are done, it's about an hour it seems.



Calloway KY for N9STL - cw

I take 'Percy Pictures'. It shuts up the bloviating from the “Florida Loudmouth” 'buddy' of Mr Grouchy on 14.336. The one who has been known to rant and rave that 'He's not there, or she can't possibly be in Garfield, MT' and similar packs of lies. Yes, there have been a few 'rotten apples' but he and his buddy were the last to actually call them out. The “K7” in Wash/OR comes to mind. As well as the 'KA9” in MN who seems to have gone from sort of bad to really bad over a decade and fortunately a couple years decided to 'hang it up'. That and a “0” land station who supposedly was flying 'aero mobile' to those rare counties 30 years ago. Maybe 3 or 4 really rotten apples over the past 20-40 years – and rightfully 'busted'!...but of the 300 or so active county hunters, we 'trust them' to be where they say...and sooner or later the rotten apples are found out. On the other hand, ole 'Loudmouth' just attacks folks on the 'black list', where folks wind up for not groveling appropriately to Mr Grouchy on .336. The one who runs off more potential county hunters than recruits them successfully – hi hi . You know who.

Anyway, I take lots of Percy Pics and they come in handy to fill in the County Sign

database. Missed a few, too, as couldn't get over in time in the traffic to find a place to stop and get the sign. I'll get them next year. Kenton is a tough one but if you are prepared for a quick pullover on the shoulder, you should be able to snap it. Or have a driver and someone with fast camera to snag it on the move.

OK....that worked and propagation was fairly short on 40M even at an early hour. That can be a problem as IL isn't too far from that part of KY. I'm usually on the road before 7am, too. That sign was needed for the database, so I got a Percy Pic, too – a double header. Drizzling so the picture wasn't all that good through a wet windshield.

Then it was up to the northeast. Kerry, W4SIG, needed two in KY - one was on the other side, and the other was Grayson – right on my way. However, he needed them on 20M SSB. The propagation gods were appeased that day....and he was good copy on 20M. Jerry, W0GXQ would do the helping if we had to run off frequency or on net with Mr Grouchy gone – he usually takes Tuesdays off except when N9STL is running counties, or of KV7N is out on a trip. He was off that day. I stopped for a real breakfast at a Huddle House – had a nice veggie omelet. As it turned out, Kerry worked his next to last during that stop, so when I got to Grayson it turned out to be a LC WBOW for him for 'all 20M SSB'. That was nice. Didn't plan it that way -the stomach was just growling at that point when I stopped.



Grayson KY – LC WBOW for W4SIG
All 20M SSB

I just ran a few counties on the way up on SSB – there were tons running on SSB so no need to 'fill in there'. Propagation seemed OK.....you could work someone on some

band – 17m down to 40M. There wasn't a whole lot of DX making it through, though and I'm sure they missed out on many rare ones. The further north and east, the better for the DX.

Well...then it was off to get some of the Mobile Diamond counties for KC3X and another one for N9STL for CW. I wandered around on the small back roads – good paved roads but they twist and turn and sometimes you can't go east – got to go south first for 20 or 30 miles to get to a road that goes east...or maybe northeast. You might average 35 mph. It takes a while to get from the ones you want to the next ones you want and you pass through even more. Well, lots of folks needed them (including me, but I can't work myself)....maybe someone else will get the hint and go there – hi hi – Washington, Nelson, Marion, Taylor, Lincoln, Madison, Garrard, etc on cw.

Dang, I turned on the AM radio and this part of KY is under a tornado WARNING....hmmm.. seems there was a small tornado 100 miles. It's been raining on and off all day. The wipers never quit...from drizzle to downpour to road splatter.....thunkeyty thunk..back and forth. By 4:00 pm it was getting dark. I pulled into a town with half a dozen motels. Tried 2 of them – all full up! Advised that all of them likely full – and of course, I didn't want to afford a Best Western or Marriott. Not good.

The next nearest town with motels was 30 miles east over by the interstate. Didn't want to go there as it was off the route...but not too many other choices. Called a Super 8 in Richmond. Ah...room available at good price. It's 45 minutes away – via the back roads of KY....well, it's probably time to hunker down when there's severe storm warning/tornado watch around. I get there OK...even a bonus county or two! The place looked familiar. I've stayed here before! After 20 years of putting out counties, that happens time and time again – I get to a motel and say 'hey, I've been here before'. Maybe others remember all the places(cities) they've stayed in. Those details don't stick in my memory banks. Once I get there – oh, “I've been to this motel before” hits me!

Dinner at a Bob Evans near by.....great salad bar with the chicken dinner. Eat 3 or 4lb of salad and fruit. Good.

The next morning – it was waffle time – had one.....and a bowl of oatmeal cereal....with my own banana on top.. Oh well....I guess I can 'pig out' on the Dayton trip each year.....got to have 'some fun' in there.... hihi.....then on to get Jessamine for Hollis and others....then to Shelby for N4AKP...oops...no show.....thought he needed that.....then on to Trimble for N9STL on cw.....it's usually just a small bit – less than a mile - on the normal route and you are in and out of it in less than a mile/minute..this

time I stopped as I was coming in on a back road....ran it all bands well.....that should take care of most needs. Now it was time to get to Dayton, with a small side trip to Grant...had 'enough fun' on the way up. 1300 miles to get there the county hunter way. (otherwise 980 miles with no detours).

I arrived mid afternoon at the motel just south of Dayton – same one I've been at for a while – Super 8. It works, but all the motels jack up their prices for the Hamvention. You have to pay up. Helps to share a room if you are on a budget. Worse, no hot waffle for breakfast – Jerry K5YAA would be devastated – but they do have the frozen waffles you can pop in the toaster if you need that carb fix. Or a bowl of cereal...bring your own banana to cut up on it.

The flea market is being set up on Thursday. Those that have a flea market ticket can get in early and there is a bunch of 'swapping' that goes on....but only 10% of the sellers are there – if that. Otherwise, the flea market opens to the public at 8am on Friday. It was nasty cold on Thursday with the temp about 40 deg...and if it wasn't raining, it looked like it should be and the wind was 20 mph from the north. When I left TX it was 85 degrees the past week– we've been swimming for weeks already thermal shock! I did check the weather ahead – forecast was highs in low 60s....and 30% chance of rain on Friday - less on Sat. Well, weather played a role this year but the hams worked around it. OK...it was time to get ready for the big day. Dinner at he Asian Buffet place a few miles away...stopped in at the Kroger next door to buy some fruit to snack on - then off to bed for an early start...

The 5 day ahead weather forecast was for high at 60 or so. Turns out it was a rotten forecast. The 'big chill' was about to happen.

To be continued in part II.

7 Land QSO Party

The stations were ON from 7 land. The band was filled on 20 and 15 meters with signals from 'out west' and there were a few mobiles to chase. K5YAA ventured out in WY and MT and ID with help from Alan, KO7X as a team. A few other mobiles including WT7TT, WW7D, NX7U and others were on cw. Maybe some out on SSB as well. You could work over 150

counties in the 7th call area. Most states had a good percentage of the counties on the air – other than MT which has lots of counties but all that much mobile activity. There you could get about 10 or so. OR had about 80% on the air. WY was way up there and much of AZ and UT was there to grab. Half a dozen NV counties were in there, too.

W1AW/7 was busy from AZ (several stations in several counties) and in Nevada handing out the contacts (At the same time in CT as W1AW and W1AW/1 in CT counties!).

I needed a some out that way in OR, and caught 2 of the 4 I needed, so that was a 'success'. I was set for all the other states other than UT, got 1 of 4 needed there, but MT where I still need 2 – but no hope of mobiles there in the QP other than ones that accidentally find themselves there while traveling. I don't ever recall a mobile driving all day there putting them out. This year, K5YAA did run a few in MT, sort of accidentally.

The 7QP is famous (along with CaQP) for 'expeditions'. This year there were several in OR, but few seen in AZ for some reason, or at least I didn't hear them. There was one '3 way' line in OR – counts for the QSO party but MARAC only lets you count a county line of '2'.. You could catch them on 2 bands if you needed all 3 for MARAC awards.

With the 7 land QP, the New England QP, and the Indiana QP going on at once, it kept you busy hunting for all the stations in there on the different bands. There seemed to be a sparsity of spotters though! I heard lots of county hunters calling away, but only a handful bothered to spot anything – not good! Yet, after a spot, there would be 10 or 15 regular county hunters that would jump in there in the next couple minutes!

15M was great on Saturday. On Sunday, someone stole the propagation and there was a flare Sunday morning – and that ended most of my openings on 15 for the rest of the QP.

NX7U mobile

N7XU Mobile ran 14 ID and 8 OR counties.

Charlie and I have been doing this 7QP mobile route with minor variations for the past four years. Charlie is KI6Y, my pilot. He keeps us between the lines and under the radar. On Friday before the contest we drive east 600 miles to Twin Falls, ID. There is no good circular route that will hit as many counties as the 650 mile return trip from Twin Falls.

We start at 7AM local time and go east, picking up Cassia and Minidoka before rejoining I-84 and heading west. We follow I-84, taking some side trips to hit

Lincoln, Owyhee, and Boise. Just before the Oregon border, we leave I-84 and head north to catch Gem and Washington and then across the Snake River into Oregon and Malheur County. It's a short leg to Baker up Rt26 and then a very long stint over Dixie Summit into Grant and Harney. Lake and Deschutes are the last two before meeting at WS7N's place for dinner. We have done 650 miles in just over 12 hours.

After dinner, Charlie heads back to Portland and I go solo. It's 02Z, 7PM. I re-arrange the lap desk and knock off a few more Deschutes Qs in Bob's driveway before making the 28 mile trip up to the little state park on the canyon rim in Jefferson County. I often get a visit from a state or county cop wondering what I'm up to with my headlamp and stuff. This location is very quiet and I can hear a pin drop. I arrive about 8PM and spend my time flipping between 20 and 40m. The W1s are plentiful and hungry. 20m is almost dead but surprising signals show up. 0330Z DL5MU is watery on but he's happy for the mult. By 0430Z things have dried up on 20 and 40m is going long. I put the computer on the passenger seat and drive 20 minutes to the Crook County border.

Crook is rare. Here I am 'fresh meat' and the rate picks up to more than 100/hr for a short spell. 20m is dead so I work between 80 and 40m. This requires going outside in the wind and rain to swap the 15/20/40 pitchfork to the 80m Hamstick. This 80m antenna probably puts me in the QRPp category because it's so inefficient but I snag 28 Qs on 80m as far away as K2SSS in NY. He has good ears. By 06Z things are down to 20/hr and there are no new victims for S&P. I've been sitting in the same seat for the past 17 hours. It's 11PM, time to head for home, 40 minutes south.

This was a fun run. The solar flare on Friday did not help much. But there were times on 15m when I felt like I had a 5 el stack working Europeans, though more likely the result of a packet spot. OH6NIO made it in seven counties, DL6KVA in six.

The rig is a TS-480SAT, 100W with a tuner- necessary if you are going to work both modes. This was CW only but it came in handy on 80m. The antenna is a Hustler 58" fold-over mast on a sturdy ball mount on the Jetta TDI's fender. It has three resonators on the top so switching bands 40/20/15 is instant, no thinking required -- except -- the computer is an old IBM ThinkPad running DOS and for some reason it would not let TR talk to the 480. So even though changing bands was effortless, it required remembering to switch bands on the logger too. Keying was via the LPT port. The reason for this computer

choice is simple -- it runs on 12V. Most newer computers, Dell and HP, have an insidious third wire in the charger plug that goes to a little one-wire ROM. Without it, no charge. I was originally going to run a modern laptop with Win7 and N1MM. This would make logging and post-contest a breeze but when it was all hooked up with the AC adapter and the 100W AC inverter, the 40kHz switching noise was intolerable. Without time to evaluate other power options, I reverted to the old reliable 12V IBM.

We use two Garmin GPS units for navigation. One is a Street Pilot that Charlie has for general navigation. The other, an old GPS3+, is on my lap desk. It has a route programmed with all the county border crossings set as waypoints. While it's all "as the crow flies", on a straight road it will tell reasonable time and distance to the next county. These waypoints are very useful for instances where the county line marker has died from target practice.

Jobs for next year:

- Design an antenna that hits the 13'6" maximum, and will also work on 80m.
- Find a 12" Win7 laptop that will run on 12V, or a truly quiet inverter.
- Get the TS480 on the program.

- Get more mobiles active in the 7QP. There are 259 counties out there just waiting for you.

73,
Dick - k4xu

N7WA mobile - 635 cw QSOs

This was a challenge year. In the past, I have always operated as a multi when going mobile. At the very least, I've had a driver if not another operator. This year I was going alone. I spent a fair amount of time figuring out which county lines I could sit on and their coordinates. Doing all the driving was different. Instead of a radio contest, it became more of a rally drive with short rest periods involving radio.

Usually, when we talk of BIC, we talk of home operations. This one became BIC simply in terms of driving. After 12 hours, I was pretty much ready to head on home but I kept telling myself there was 1/3rd of the test still to go. In the

end, I did bag it after 16 hours simply because it was another 3 hours to get home to my own bed. It also gets REALLY dark out in the open spaces stretches of eastern Washington. (And no, I was in no mood to go out and look at the stars.)

Being able to count two Q's for each contact was a plus when on a county line. On this run, I approached contact totals similar to my two-day Salmon Run trips. I think if the Douglas/Grant county line had not been so noisy (I am pretty sure it was some nearby sodium vapor street lights) and it hadn't been so dark I couldn't find another safe location, I could have broken 700 Q's.

There was disappointment. I was working with Vic SM7ZDI to get him Columbia and Garfield counties(non-contest). We were coordinating by SMS but found ourselves with no cell service on the COL/GAR line. I finally moved on to Pomeroy in Garfield county and we chatted but couldn't make it work. I probably chewed up an extra hour in the attempt but it was worth trying. Overall, the European presence was good throughout the test. Maybe at the next Salmon Run.

There is a lot of nice country out in eastern Washington in the Spring and Fall. My favorite moment of this run was sitting high in the hills of the Colville Reservation northeast of the Grand Coulee Dam and on the OKA/FER line. The sun was near setting and the clouds were perfect. It was real quiet outside and there was no hint of an outside world or anybody else in it except an old IC-706 radio bursting at the seams with signals... many looking for me.

There are quite a number of regulars I work every year. I thank you all for coming along again and keeping me company.

cheers
dink, n7wa

K7KO county expedition - 993 cw (20/15M) 2561 ssb (20/15/40)

ops: K7KO W7GH K7GT NA7OM K7IBN K7IBC”

The Rogue RF Project operated from the tri-county lines of JAC, JOS and DOU in Southern Oregon.

AE7KI County Expedition 5 cw 385 ssb

This was an unabashed success compared to last year when Murphy went for the jugular. This year I had a friend help out, and had a bit more operating experience. Kudos to Brian for the delicious burgers too. There was no starving.

For the Lake-Klamath border, I spent a fair amount of time researching places that were reasonably easily accessible, had trees available, and weren't in a valley. This location has all 3 and was my second year in this particular location. It's just slightly below a ridge to the west, so the wind is very audible, but it mostly all goes up and over the trees keeping things relatively sheltered. There are plenty of 100'+ ponderosa's in the area, testing the limits of my slingshot. In the end, our antenna setup was amazingly simple. A simple 40m dipole with a 20m fan element served for 40/20/15, and we had it up at 55'. The 50' coax feedline would bob nicely right at eye level.

With the suggestion of K4XU/N7XU, a switch box was cobbled together to switch the shield to center at the "feed point" at eye level, and then some roughly measured radials added to give us reasonably decent 80m capability.

For 10m, a carbon fiber fishing pole Moxon did quite nicely mounted on a DK9SQ carbon fiber mast at about 30'. So in the end we had 5 bands in two antennas.

Rig is still an 'old' TS-440 running barefoot, nicely on loan, and at first we thought we were going to have horrendous noise issues on 40m and 80m from the generator - a Honda EU1000i. However, we used some tent stakes and copper wire to make an impromptu ground system that got rid of most of the noise, along with the 440's noise blanker.

N1MM performed nicely as usual. It also helps having ferrites on all the cables which has been the #1 source for problems with this particular computer. A new processor also allows for the running of fldigi, which as neither one of us knew CW, allowed for a little dabbling in CW. It's not really efficient though, and unreliable for running a frequency, and not really appropriate for a contest when people want to ensure you got their call right.

Band conditions were interesting, some very echo-ey multipath on 40m later on, but there were some interesting DX on. In the end, at least 7 DX entities

checked in (10 including Canada/AK/HI), and I'm quite happy with this year's results, especially after things died last year. Next year, my wish list includes a simpler tent setup, getting off my duff and learning CW, and an amplifier since there's no power category for county line expeditions.

K7IA County Expedition 229 cw 188 ssb qso

It was a lot of fun while it lasted, but it didn't last very long!

Erin and I hit the road with the camper and Jeep in tow on Wednesday late afternoon to avoid the bike riders on the highways in the annual "Tour of the Gila" bike races. We arrived at our intended site just before sundown, a spot from which we have never operated in the Apache National Forest, about 6 miles from Alpine, AZ and about one mile from the AZ-NM border. We had enough daylight to shoot two lines into the Ponderosa Pines with a brand new -Air Boss Antenna Launcher,- a pneumatic device that propels a 2 oz. fishing weight (with fishing line attached) at least 100 feet into the air with only 40 psig in the chamber. Rest in peace, Mr. Slingshot!

On Thursday we put five wire antennas into the treetops: homebrew Moxon rectangles for 20 and 15m, a delta loop for 10m, and vees for 40 and 80. On the air tests on Thursday afternoon showed excellent matches with all antennas, and, while 20 and 15 were long I worked EU and JA DX. But at sundown, a stiff breeze broke one of the three redwood spreaders on the 15m Moxon, rendering it useless. These things always happen on Field Day, so why not immunity on 7QP?

On Friday morning, I had a plan to rebuild the 15m Mox. For some reason, when I packed up the equipment on Tuesday, I included extra spreaders--the ones I milled from 2x4 fir for my first version of a wire Moxon for 20m. All I need to do was to drill some holes for attaching the wire elements and the haul ropes. Hmmm, I didn't pack an electric drill or bits.

Fortunately, KK7AC was up from Tucson in his Alpine cabin for the 7QP, and we had planned our usual eyeball for Friday. Did he have a drill and bits? Yep! Homeowners have these things, but campers do not, and our eyeball revolved around the Moxon rebuild and placement aloft. Many thanks, Andy!!

20m was so-so at the opening bell on Saturday, while 15 was essentially empty.

I enjoyed pretty good rates on 20m CW for an hour, and then moved to 15, which had become more active, despite deep and slow QSB. As usual in QSO Parties, SSB rates exceeded CW rates--there are simply more talkers than pounders. I had lunch on the fly, and when the IN QP chaps began their Party, rates picked up even more. N1MM logger did a masterful job of logging IN counties and county lines--just enter the counties and press return, and multiple QSOs are logged without any fuss.

Many thanks to the W1-land ops who handed out points and mults before their own QSO Party began! I worked all New England states in the morning, before the disaster struck. Yep, 15 minutes before the NEWE QP began, Erin and I went out to top off the little 900 watt generator with fuel, and Erin looked around at the beautiful pine forest and saw a tiny plume of smoke just clearing the treetops at what appeared to be 2-4 miles distant. A minute later, the plume was larger, and it was indeed a growing fire. And, of course, the wind was blowing from the fire's direction.

Fortunately, the 2mFM radio was tuned to the Eastern AZ Amateur Radio Society's (EAARS) Alpine machine, which is part of a large linked repeater system in the Southwest. I made a general call to the linked system to report the fire, and several stations responded--first responder was Steve, a mobile in Holbrook, AZ, and the second was another mobile in San Manuel, AZ. Neither had landline telephones, but both took my description of our location and the fire's presumed location. A third responder had a landline and reported the fire via 911 (the Alpine Ranger Station is closed on weekends, but the Forest Service never sleeps! Thanks, guys, for taking my call and for handling the landline communications. My apologies for not recording your callsigns, but I went QRT to put the radios onto the camper's bed, throw the gensets and the Jerry can into the Jeep and to get out of Dodge. We dropped off the camper at Luna Lake and drove the Jeep eastward on Hwy 180 to see if we could zero in on the fire's location. We encountered a Forest Service employee who was returning to New Mexico from a weekend meeting in Flagstaff--just "happening by" as it were. He told us the fire was two miles from that spot on the highway, which made it about 3 miles from our 7QP camp, which was within sight of Hwy 180. We returned to camp, and in 45 minutes, we had the antennas down, rolled up, and packed.

We repacked all of our gear at Luna Lake, and as we were finishing up, the helicopter that was hauling a small water dump bucket to douse the fire was joined by two large slurry bombers--only 2.5 hours after we saw the smoke

plume! We are well familiar with slurry bombers, for last June, a lightning-induced wildfire, requiring over 700 firefighters, began only 5 miles from our home QTH in New Mexico.

That was the end of 2014 7QP for me. Erin and I feel most fortunate that we went out to refill the generator with fuel when we did--had we done so any earlier, we wouldn't have noticed the smoke plume, but we would have certainly smelled it later on, depending on the wind direction, which was never constant that day. Saturday was a bright and sunny day with no clouds at all, so the fire was not ignited by lightning. It is known now as the Cameron Fire for those who wish to follow it. As of an hour ago, it is some 400 acres and zero percent contained, burning on the south side of Hwy 180 (our camp was on the north side).

So, what are the learning issues here? The American West is dry as a bone these days, but that's hardly different from past years. We always have escape routes planned, and we never do portable ops at locations having only one way out. Considering my QSO rates and how the bands (especially 15m) had improved before QRT time, I felt I was on track for a score bettering past years, but the retrospectroscope is always a favorable one. One plays the odds when working portable, and we've been fortunate that this is the only natural event that has run us off before an event is finished. So, next portable op will be Field Day from roughly the same QTH. Hat's off to the firefighters! We pray for their safety and their success.

Oh yes, an electric drill and bits are on the packing list!

As for antenna performance, I made more 7QP DX QSOs on Saturday than in any other year, working 57 Qs and 21 DXCC entities, exclusive of W, VE, and KH6. What an 18 hour event it could have been! Many thanks for the QSOs and to the the Organizers and Sponsors. My apologies to New England ops for bailing out!

W7BRO County Expedition – Klamath/Lake OR – 490 cw 206 ssb Qs

I couldn't make my primary site due to snow on the roads, so settled for a site about 8 miles south of Hwy 31 on the Klamath & Lake county line.

Used a trailer-mounted tower with a tribander for the high bands, which worked

very well, and withstood the winds. I put up a 40 meter delta loop, but had generator-induced noise on that band.

Got a late start, due to moving the delta loop in hopes of improving the noise level, but that proved unsuccessful. Worked the high bands fine, but only did a little S&P on 40 until the noise convinced me I should knock off early.

Great overall experience.

K5YAA mobile (with KO7X)

Alan, KO7X and I had a very good run in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho! Montana and Idaho were bonuses from us to the party goers. They were not on our original plan but became necessary due to road closures in Yellowstone Park. We were in Park County Wyoming for what seemed like half the party. Alan had checked the WYDOT website Friday evening and found no mention of road problems up to the Northwest where we were going to be on Saturday. A few miles ahead of Yellowstone we saw a sign that had "paths" noted with Xs. The path to Jackson, WY was marked with a Red X. The other two, don't remember which they were now, had Green Xs.

As we went past the sign Alan said "That shows Jackson is closed!". Half a mile up the road Alan said "Let's go back and double check that sign." He is the expert on Wyoming and other areas out West so a U-Turn later we went to inspect the sign again. Yep, Red X next to Jackson our party escape from Yellowstone. What to do?

Again, the expert said "Let's ask the ranger when we get to Yellowstone if that is right." Sure enough, the ranger confirmed the road to Jackson was closed. OK, Alan decided to go to the West exit of the park and we wouldn't be much out of our way. Miles and photos later we come upon a roadblock. The West exit out of Yellowstone is also closed. Hmmm, somebody has it in for us we decided. We had already been on the air from Park County WY for some time and the bands were drying up. Alan, did an about face with the van and started thinking what's the way out of this place? We backtracked our path around Yellowstone Lake with it's frozen cover and Bison along side the lake. Many tourists taking pictures and we supposed seeing their first ever Bison. Several miles back along our route Alan turned to the North and told me we would have to go through Montana then a part of Idaho if we were to ever make it to Jackson, WY

and be back on our planned path.

Gallatin County, MT then Fremont County, ID plus Teton County, ID and Jackson, WY was in our sites as long as we made it through the Teton Pass. We did, hot brakes on the van and all, then Teton County, WY and we were back on schedule. A look at the time told us we could make it to all our proposed counties as long as we didn't find another "closed" road. We did make it to all our WY counties so MT and ID were bonuses.

While in Park County we decided to venture to SSB and figured we could just become a Mixed category entrant. 20 SSB produced some good runs for us. In Lincoln and Uinta counties Alan almost had more than he could do to handle the callers on 20 SSB. Another novelty effort was 80 SSB. I found a frequency 3.804 among the various rag chewers always found on 80 SSB and called a CQ. Much to our surprise a good run occurred. 80 was quite good both CW and SSB. The band was fairly quiet and both coasts were coming in quite well. I had the pleasure of a short ragchew with my longtime friend K5RX. In addition, I had QSOs in the party with K5KJ and AK5X two more longtime friends. All three of those guys are Texans which I don't hold against them since I spent the first 35 years of my life in Texas. In my heart Texas is still home.

40 CW never really did much for us. Not one contact on 10 meters even though it sounds like the band did open for a while. I think we were too busy with 20 and 15 to even take a look at 10 so we missed a few Qs down there I suppose.

We live in a large and beautiful country for sure. Wyoming is proof of that. Animal life across most of the state and some of the most beautiful scenery in the world. I was fortunate to have a "native" share the mobile with me. His knowledge of the countryside came in handy especially when we got "stuck" in Yellowstone. Herds of deer and antelope were seen several times in Wyoming. The mobile made a 3,200 mile round trip to and from Wyoming going through Kansas and Nebraska. Some of the most beautiful herd of cattle I have ever seen are in those two states. It is calving season and there were many many little fellows with their Mamas in those vast herds. I was tempted to stop and see if one of the little guys would come over and let me scratch their head. Over a 100 photos and all those miles later I made it back to Oklahoma ready for the next QSO Party adventure.

Here are a few numbers on the stations that contacted us out there in the wild wild west.

We worked every state except VT, AK and ND. 21 countries made it in the log including DL, ER, G, HA, HB, HK, I, JA, LY, OH, OK, OM, ON, PY, SM, SP, UA2, UA3, UA9, UR AND YV. SP9LJD had incredible signals every time he called and of course Jonas LY5A was stout as usual. OH6NIO kept us knowing that Northern Europe was coming in still on both 15 and 20. Thanks to all the DX that called and made us our maximum of 10 multipliers. I get a special pleasure at giving county QSOs to DX.

Stateside callers were of course many. As one op called my listing in the Florida Party "The Honor Roll" here are the stations that made the Honor Roll with more than 10 QSOs. W0BH, N6MU (How many times have we seen those two calls in the parties?) K5KDG, K7REL, AF6O, K3DSW, NU0Q, KC3X, K2SSS, N2JNE, K8MFO, W7GF, KQ3F AND N8II. KH6LC called us a handful of times – always fun to work the Aloha state - thanks for the calls.

Canadian provinces included VE1, VE3, VE4, VE6 and VE7. VE3KP and VE3KZ seemed to be going head to head as in practically every county we made they both called in. Thanks to the Canadians for their QSOs and FB activity.

A special thanks to Dick K4XU and his crew for organizing the 7QP. One of these times they will get all the counties out there covered. A monumental task considering the size and count they have to deal with.

Thanks to everyone for the Qs. Each of you made our run a fun experience.

Finally, I want to thank Alan, KO7X for his companionship in the 2014 7QP. It was a pleasure to have such a well known and accomplished operator drive and operate with me in this one. After 18 hours on the road, and some good CW and SSB the both of us were feeling very well and figured we could go even further. It was a long party but surprisingly a very enjoyable one.

73, Jerry K5YAA

WW7D mobile

The 7QP is one of the great operating events in the western U.S. I look forward to it

every year. And after my IDQP adventure earlier this year, I was looking forward to re-running a similar route, but one that included a Wyoming county and a couple of Oregon counties, in addition to 26 Idaho counties.

The other great thing about the 7QP is that I have a driver. My buddy Dave insists on joining me for, what has become, a three-day journey through the northwestern U.S. Dave drives and takes pictures, while I work the radios and periodically blurt out random bits of conversations and commentary.

The adventure begins a few days before. This year, a generous friend made available to us a 2014 Dodge Ram pickup truck. It was very much like the Toyota Tundra that we had last year, and the installation wasn't much different. I got the Ram home on Wednesday afternoon for our Friday morning departure.

Truck Preparations

The installation took place Wednesday mid-afternoon into the evening, and Thursday night.

Power from the truck battery to a second battery, enclosed in a fiberglass battery box secured behind the driver's seat, was straightforward. The Ram has good-sized body plugs located in convenient locations under the cab, and the cable came up through a split in the carpet under the driver's seat. Thirty amp fuses were installed on both poles at the battery. An N8XJK Super Booster sat between the power and the rigs.

Coax et al.: The Dodge Ram has a sliding rear electric window. So I used the same sandwich of plexiglass sheets that served me last year. The feed-through hole is a short piece of PVC pipe with rubber plumbing splices slipped on on each side. Plastic rebar caps ("mushrooms") are used as pliable plugs around the wires to keep wind and water out. A total of 6 pieces of coax and three antenna control boxes ran through the feed-through.

Antenna Mounts: Last year's vehicle had a row of threaded inserts along the top inside sidewalls of the bed to which I bolted two 6' pieces of angle steel. But the Ram had a bed-liner, and I didn't want to remove it. Instead, I cut the pieces of angle steel and bolted them across the bed using the built-in eyes near each corner. I added a longitudinal (front to rear) piece of angle iron at the centers. This worked pretty well, as the slight flex in the angle steel reduced the stress on the antennas themselves. The antenna mounting can be seen here, here and here.



WW7D mobile Clark/Butte ID

Equipment

Antennas: Last year I used two screwdriver antennas and a couple of Hustler resonators. The screwdriver antennas worked so much better than the Hustlers that I decided to add a third screwdriver. I finished building the screwdriver the week before the contest. Thus, there were three screwdrivers tuned to three different bands, at any one time. One of the antennas had a homemade capacitance hat that is new since last year. The hat allowed the antenna to resonate from 80m to 20m, and this antenna was usually kept at the band with the longest wavelength at any point in the contest. The other two screwdrivers were used from 10m through 40m. The new screwdriver antenna worked well, except that it didn't seem to like 15m. Go figure.

I also installed one hustler mount for an 75m resonator that could be used during the day. In addition, I added 2m and 6m magnet mount whips to the mix, although I ended up not working any VHF during the contest.

Rigs: The primary rig was a Kenwood TS-480SAT. This is really all I need for mobile contesting. But I put one of the screwdrivers on a Yaesu FT-857D, and that did allow me to do some tuning around when the Kenwood was busy. Finally, a second FT-857D served as a back-up rig, and monitored 6m and 2m for activity. In practice, most QSOs were from the Kenwood. The rigs were mounted in a rack that was bolted to a sheet of plywood. The whole thing was held in place with the seat belt.

Operating Position: A plywood operating table at the center console held the TS-480 head and one FT-857D head, a Winkeyer, switches to switch a headset mic and key between rigs, and a audio mixer (which didn't really work out on account of RF feedback on 15m). The second Kenwood head was mounted above the dash with a suction cup mount. Finally, a plywood table slid into the arm rest and held the paddle. The total set-up was comfortable and worked very well.

We left Friday morning for the eleven hour drive to Driggs, Idaho. Last year, we traveled to Driggs via the southern route—through Oregon and Idaho. This time, we went the Northern route, through Idaho, into Montana, and back into Idaho. I haven't been through that part of Montana in many years, and it has me thinking about alternative 7QP routes....

On Saturday morning, we were up before 6am (MDT) and out the door to a beautiful skyline.....with plenty of time to travel the 20 minutes to the Teton, WY/Teton, ID county (and state) line. The line itself is on a gravel road that had no other traffic.

The start of the contest was slow. I started out of 15m CW and noted that there was “a bunch of crap” on the band. And nobody answered my CQs. On 20m, a couple of minutes of CQing finally got a response from N5AU in Texas. After seven more minutes of fruitless calling, I did some search-n-pounce for a few minutes before going back to calling CQ. Things picked up a bit, but 30 minutes into it, the 20m responses dried up and I went to 40m CW. Here I got a pretty solid 20 minute run in.

My first impression was that the bands were rather noisy—even with the ignition turned off. Noise would remain a difficulty throughout the contest, suggesting that, perhaps, a bit of chassis/body panel bonding on the truck might have helped out.

Once we hit Madison county, Idaho, things picked up substantially. Fifteen meters was open to Europe, and 20m was reliably snagging domestic contacts. After almost three hours, we arrived on the Clark–Butte county line, and things got hot. The next hour produced just shy of 120 QSOs, mostly on 20m and 15m CW, but with some 20m phone thrown in, too. This put us a few minutes behind schedule, as the schedule called for a 45 minute stop. But it was definitely worth the delay

Back in motion, we undertook a long journey following I-15 and I-86 through eight counties. The only stop was for 30 minutes on the Jerome–Minnedoka line. For this entire part of the route, the QSO rate was brisk, but not spectacular, and almost entirely on 20m and 15m. We left the interstate and dipped down into Twin Falls county, ID at a scenic overlook on the Snake River. This was the view that I didn't see, but David

caught on digital media:

From Twin Falls, we headed back into Jerome county, and then started working our way north through Gooding, Lincoln, Blaine, and Camas, stopping briefly on a few of the county lines. I dabbled a bit on 40m during this part of the trip, and 40m became increasingly viable for the rest of the contest.

From there, we took the Sun Valley highway (US 20) west into Elmore county and then descended past Bennett mountain down to Mountain Home, Idaho. We proceeded NW on I-84 to Ada county, and departed toward the north on Hwy 55 into Boise county. A side trip about three miles down a dirt road brought us to the Gem county–Boise county line in what seemed like the middle of nowhere.

I found this location for the 2014 IDQP and began there on the second morning of the contest. It was incredibly productive (and surreal) then. This time it was pretty productive, giving us about 100 QSOs in 45 minutes. It was dusk as we wandered the dirt road back to the highway.

Back in Ada county, the noise levels on 20m dove me to 40m and then, for the first time all contest, to 80m. We next hit Canyon county (for the first time). Domestic stations were scarce on 20m, but I worked a bunch of Europeans and Hawaii. We took Hwy 55 south over the Snake River into Owyhee county, where we stopped at a river-side park for about 20 minutes. My last 20m QSO was with DL3HSS at 04:35 UTC.

We continued briefly through Owyhee county and headed up US 95 and back into Canyon county. Eighty meters was quite productive and 40m was losing out to noise with about 2 hours remaining in the contest. Once we hit Payette county, it was all 80m except for one QSY back to 40 to work N6MU from Washington county—and that was a rough QSO. We hit the Washington, ID–Malheur, OR county/state lines with one hour to go. Thirty minutes was mostly CW on 80m and produced about 20 QSOs. Things dried up, so the last 30 minutes was search-n-pounce on 80 phone for another 10 QSOs. Baker City was twenty miles ahead, and we headed there for a hotel.

The next morning began with a late breakfast followed by a leisurely trip back to Redmond, WA.

Results

The big task ahead was entering my paper logs into the computer. It took me a week or so.

We activated 29 counties in three states. The final results were 760 CW QSOs and 79 Phone QSOs, for 839 total QSOs. For multipliers, we worked a total of 64, that included all states except Alaska, North Dakota, and South Dakota, seven Provinces (AB, BC, MB, NS, ON, QC, and SK) and all ten DX entities. The final score was 156,032.

Last year we did much better for QSOs: 814 CW and 118 phone for 932 total. But we had far fewer multipliers—only 58. So this year we came out a little ahead of last year's score of 155,324. My feeling is that conditions were better last year, but the installation in the Dodge Ram may have resulted in excessive noise.

The 7QP is both fun and challenging, beginning with the initial route planning, to a complete installation in a new vehicle, to the actual contest. As with last year, everything came together and worked reasonably well. We had an excellent adventure!

WC7S – fixed – WY - 390 cw QSO

Super conditions, bands in great shape. Awesome to have a whole log full of friends. Great memories with Asiatic Russians calling me while I was running. Finding friends dropping by. Thanks to everyone, especially my bride who supported with a wonderful supper and my second harmonic who cheered me on. See you next year!!

KB7Q – fixed – MT - 588 CW

It was a blustery and quite cool day here in Bozeman so I decided to amuse myself by seeing just how many contacts I could make with 33 feet of wire up a tree and a chain link fence for a counter-poise. I figured 500 Q's would be good. Without an high power tuner I could only run the amp on 40 meters. You can see that in the band/contacts.

K3 + KPA500

N6MU – fixed – CA - 387 cw 127 mults!

Another personal best in this year's 7QP. Great participation from the 7-Landers (except for MT, hi). I don't think WY has ever had that kind of coverage.

Of course the mobiles are key and there were some good ones out there. Top mobile for me was N7XU with 30 Qs followed closely by WW7D(29), K5YAA(25), N7WA/W7QC(11), WT7TT/KK6MC(10), N7OU(6) and KT7G(2).

The many portable county liners also helped a lot. Eighteen hours is a long day but many were there right to the end. THANKS! 73...

John, N6MU

NK7G multi op fixed 1120 cw 2059 ssb qso

Unless someone posts a higher score this should finally beat the K7ZSD W7 M/M record we have been chasing since 2008. We had a good group of ops with CW masters W7ZRC and WJ9B, SSB stalwarts K7MK and K7ZO, and station owner NK7U keeping 4 stations on the air throughout the day. Band conditions were generally pretty good though we were disappointed in 10. It was open most of the day down to Florida and South America but we only really had a one hour opening during the 2300 hour. 15 was open almost the whole day only finally closing down in the 0400 hour. We made QSOs on 20 in every hour of the contest and almost every hour on 40. K7MK staked out 7197.7 on 40M for several hours working them far and wide for our best ever 40 SSB count. 80 had great rates the last few hours with seasonal noise levels at fairly low levels and nice strong signals from coast to coast. WJ9B held court on 160 CW the last 4 hours and slowly but steadily built up an impressive 160 QSO total for this event, well above anything we have done in the past. We did also notice that there was a nice 6M opening over most of the country but it didn't quite reach us or we didn't catch it in time -- so we missed our opportunity for 6M QSOs.

We used N1MM for the first time in this contest because the W7 QSO Party module for Writelog has so many problems. N1MM is not without its challenges as well and we lost 90 minutes or so of operating time due to sound board configuration problems and it does not count the Canadian multipliers correctly. But, otherwise it performed well and did its job.

Thanks to the many stations who accepted our request to QSY to another band for the QSO. Taking a quick look at the log some of the top stations out there were: VE3KP - 11 QSOs, N8II & NX6T - 10 QSOs, K6MMM, W0BH & VE4VT - 8 QSOs, KB3LIX - 7.

See everyone next time.

Scott/K7ZO for Team NK7U

N8II fixed – WV - 289 cw 317 ssb qsos 151 mults

Wow, that was pretty close to QP nirvana! Signals were nil on 40 at the start, a bit worrying. But, signals in 20 were strong and there were more of them early than a few years back. 20 stayed good until about 1520Z; from then until about 22Z, I was the bottom of the heap dweller despite being able to work some mobiles like N7XU, K5YAA, and WW7D pretty easily on CW. I only had about 50 QSO's on 20 phone at 2140Z when I took a dinner break; the 20M feedline needs replaced. The good 20 phone runs started at 2244Z and lasted off and on until 0254Z, quite late! 15 M was the optimal band for most of the day, but activity was focused on 20 or split between the two except for maybe 16-20Z. N9RV was loud at 1344Z, but the band opened well to all of 7 land around 1444Z. Most signals even from small stations were easy copy and the big guns stayed very loud. Except for W1AW/7, nothing from W7 was heard on 10 until 2326Z when NK7U was worked at 15-20 db over S9. I milked 10 for more or less all it was worth also finding 5 new mults in out of the way places like Lincoln, NV and Millard, UT. Signals on 10 were mostly nice and loud for about an hour, a pity many ops missed the opportunity to add QSO's. 40 opened a bit late, but was fine with limited activity and plenty of NEQP QRM. The QRN level could not have been lower for May on both 80 and 40 and signals on 80 were about as good as they can get for May.

Many thanks to all of the county expeditions, county line expeditions, and mobiles for a job very well done! I worked mobiles K5YAA, N7XU, N7WA, WW7D, N7OU, and WT7TT many times and it should have been more while I was busy running on phone. There was almost no phone mobile activity heard here, only two Q's with K5YAA. Vast areas of UT, WY, and MT were not heard here. I only missed a few counties in OR and WA which were covered best by the fixed plus portable and mobile stations, but did not come close to a sweep in any. N7XU and WW7D did a great job covering big areas of ID.

I didn't check the old records pre-contest, but had a rough idea of the LP

mixed record. This score would probably rank 3rd in the HIGH power records, but I had a brief chat with record holder W0BH who looked like he was gunning to up the record. It's safe to say a new LP record will be set; the old one was 136K. Many thanks to all who called in and went out of their way to put rare counties on the air. The activity level seems to be increasing, always nice to see.

73, Jeff

N7J – multi op – fixed OR - 995 ssb qso

This was our 4th year hosting the event as N7J, with guest operators from the local Columbia Amateur Radio Club. Our purpose, as usual, was to get "non-contesters", involved with a low key/fun contesting opportunity. Lots of contacts made, lots of food eaten (almost too much!), and a lot of great socializing. We came very close to 1,000 QSOs, which gives us a goal for next year!

The high bands were unpredictable, with major QSB on both 15M and 20M on occasion, and some paths that were open for brief times when they weren't supposed to be. 10M sounded like a ghost band here in the Northwest, it was essentially vacant of activity.

Murphy kept at bay for the most part, except for some intermittent volume issues with the 4 port headphone amp, which would decide to suddenly lower its volume, then come back about 5 minutes later. By the afternoon it had decided to behave, and the station played well for the rest of the test.

The work we had done on the previous Thursday to replace the driven elements on the TH6DXX was certainly worth it, as there were no SWR issues when the antenna got wet.

Kudos to the organizers (the CODXC) for another great 7QP!

73;

Mike, W7VO

W0BH - fixed - KS - 216 cw 515 ssb qso

The fixed stations, mobile stations, and expeditions once again did a great job. Overall, I worked 437 unique calls, almost the same as last year's 441. I concentrate on the 7QP, but I always enjoy working INQP and NEQP stations who call needing Kansas.

Here's the top group from the mobiles, expeditions, and fixed stations. Some of the mobiles were just driving along and gave me counties along the way.

- 19 WW7D/m - thanks for looking for me on SSB!
- 16 K5YAA/m - always knew where to look, but couldn't always hear you
- 12 K7KO
- 11 N7XU/m
- 11 W1AW/7
- 09 N7WA/m
- 08 N7DXT N7KE N7SMI NK7U
- 06 KK6MC/m
- 03 W7QC/m N7OU/m N7BDL/m KT7G/m K7GPS/m

It was great to have W1AW/7 active from Nevada. I worked them in CLA, STO, and WAS, but apparently missed them in CAR and NYE (as shown on the planned operations web page). Logging the different counties was no problem, but none of the W1AW/7 stations gave their county when calling CQ, so it sometimes took time to wait for a caller and find out if they were a new county on a particular band and mode. At times I gave up waiting and just asked. Here's my county history plus this year's stats. I did operate in 2006 (the first year), but only put in 9 hours that year so it's not included. This year includes five new personal bests (PB), and one tied PB.

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014:	MAX POSSIBLE
--14	--14	--13	--14	--14	--15	--15	--11:	15 Arizona
--16	--15	--21	--22	--14	--18	--20	--31:	44 Idaho (new PB)
--24	--21	--16	--27	--13	--12	--13	--14:	56 Montana
--08	--04	--08	--11	--07	--10	--07	--12:	17 Nevada (new PB)
--34	--33	--30	--28	--31	--31	--32	--33:	36 Oregon
--19	--20	--20	--18	--17	--11	--14	--16:	29 Utah
--31	--26	--27	--32	--32	--30	--32	--32:	39 Washington (tied PB)
--07	--13	--07	--05	--08	--06	--13	--14:	23 Wyoming (new PB)

-153	-146	-142	-157	-136	-133	-146	-163:	259 total counties (new PB)
-550	-621	-611	-654	-694	-640	-695	-731:	total contacts (new PB)

I've been keeping track of counties worked in the 7QP each year. No one is likely to work all 259 in one year, but if you combine the years, I'm down to 22 remaining.

Here are the ones I have never worked in the 7QP :

AZ : all worked

ID : CAR FRA FRE LEW ONE WAS

MT : BLA DAN DEE GOL LIB MAD ROO ROS SHE STI SWE TRE WHE WIB

NV : MIN

OR : all worked

UT : all worked

WA : FER

WY : all worked as of this year (thanks, Jerry and Alan!)

Health Notes

Everyone knows that drinking sugary drinks, such as fizzy drinks and some fruit juices, can cause them to pile on the pounds. But new research suggests they can also lead to an increase in blood pressure.

A review published in The American Journal of Cardiology revealed there is a strong correlation between drinking sugar-sweetened drinks and elevated blood pressure. Dr Aaqib Habib Malik, from the Griffin Hospital in Derby, Connecticut, and his colleagues reviewed 12 studies to establish if there is a link between sweet drinks and high blood pressure, **Health Day** reports.

The studies they looked at included almost 410,000 people. They discovered that all of the studies showed a correlation between consuming sugar-sweetened drinks and high blood pressure. The studies revealed that people who drink sugary drinks are between 26 and 70 per cent more likely to develop high blood pressure than people who do not drink them, [Daily RX](#) reports.

They also showed that teenagers who drink three or more sugar-sweetened drinks a day are 87 per cent more likely to develop high blood pressure.

The researchers made a number of suggestions as to how the drinks might increase blood pressure. They say they can lower the levels of nitric oxide in the body which causes the blood vessels to constrict and, therefore, the blood pressure to increase.

Alternatively, they suggest that the increase in blood pressure could be a response to the salt in some of these drinks. Medical Xpress reports that the authors wrote: 'In conclusion, our systematic review shows that the consumption of [sugar-sweetened beverages] is associated with higher [blood pressure], leading to increased incidence of hypertension.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-2612003/Sugary-drinks-increase-chance-getting-high-blood-pressure-70-teenagers.html#ixzz2zpy421Vt>

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On the Road with N4CD – Part II

At the Dayton Hamvention - Friday

The keyword this year was COLD. That is C-O-L-D. Brrr. Last year it was warm in the flea market. This year the folks were saying the week before it was nice in the 70s.....and last year humid and warm but on the whole – very good. This year....well...the weather forecast wasn't great to start with, and the weather turned out to be worse than the forecast. With the internet and weather.com one should not be surprised at what lies ahead. I guess I was a bit unprepared even though I checked the forecast of lows around 44 and highs in the 60s. Maybe I imagined the sun would be out part of the time? It was not to be. The temperatures NEVER got out of the 40s! Maybe 52 on late Saturday afternoon when the sun finally broke out.....

Cloudy, more cloudy and even more cloudy with moisture falling out of the clouds at times. Fortunately the flea market was open for a couple hours before any drizzle started.

Friday morning came and I was off to the hamfest early after a 'continental breakfast' at the Super 8. It's about a 20-25 minute drive to the 'former' Salem Mall as the brochure now calls it. The Salem Mall doesn't even have a sign up any longer and it's all boarded up. However, the

giant parking lot is still there and holds thousands of cars. Those were the days when this was rocking with Sears and other main line department stores plus 50 or 80 others busy as could be – maybe 30-40 years ago, and still going strong 15 years ago or so. Now – nothing there but emptiness and grass growing up through the pavement in the parking lot. However, for \$8 you get a bus pass that zips you in 10 minutes from the parking lot right to the main entrance of Hara Arena and to the flea market entrance. You can park on private property within 1000-2000 feet of the Hamvention for \$8 to \$10 a day- usually on grass fields.

Things start early with vendors either already set up – the big ones with big tents and tables and tables – and those arriving early. It was 40 degrees most of the way over to the parking lot...with dips down into the 30s as you drove along. No sun. Even some fog in the river valley. I come in from the south. Take the 35 exit and swing around to the west then north – 35 runs into 49 and it's clear sailing with next to zero traffic – and it takes you right to the mall. Nifty – no need to fight I-75 mess (always under construction for the past couple five years and likely will be for another five). No hint of sun and everything was sopping wet from storms over night. It was 'chilly' to put it mildly. I remembered to bring my ski jacket, winter hat, gloves, flannel shirt, etc...but forgot to bring another sweater and my thermal underwear! I could have used it. I was in when the flea market opened and wandered around.

Now, you northern folks, especially from MN and places like that, probably think that 40 is 'warm' compared to the past winter where it didn't get above 10 below some days. Well, us Texas folks have been basking in the sun, in shorts and tee shirts for a couple weeks. Some have had the home a/c units going – some to keep out the high spring pollen levels....and of course, in the car in the middle of the day, the a/c is running. We've been sleeping with the windows open. I guess if I were age 20 it wouldn't make too much difference....but I'm not....it was dang cold up there. Well, enough on the weather. You can't do much about it. Next year, it's another layer of clothes and my old thermal underwear! Yeah! And maybe pocket hand warmers? Yeah! I'll beat mother nature yet!

The hamfest is basically a Friday and Saturday affair – although the flea market is open on Sunday - most folks are long gone by 2pm Sunday afternoon and there are only a handful of forums on Sunday morning. The majority of small sellers have left.

Some folks of the QRP variety arrive early for an all day seminar (Four Days in May – FDIM) on the Thursday before the big event – a couple hundred of them. I've been a few times – interesting but unless you are really into it, it tends to repeat after a while. The big finds in the flea market are usually early in the morning as stuff appears and folks snap up the bargains.

There was the usual stuff – everything from top of the line complete Collins S line (\$3700 including all the accessories) – and lots of other Collins gear- a fair number of HF transceivers and dozens of HF amps. VHF equipment and the usual 40 or 50 vendors of two way radio stuff (mostly Motorola these days). Antenna and tower parts and misc parts were all over the place. Name your radio manufacturer and there were some units there from Johnson to Drake to

ICOM to Gonset. There were half a dozen 'mobile units' from the 50s and 60s – receivers and transmitters. None of them tugged at my wallet....didn't need them.

Ran into Jeffery, N4EWK – been in county hunting for a long time but yet to finish up



Jeffery N4EWK – out of Knox, TN

I saw a few folks wandering the flea market that were county hunters or former ones – some folks just pass through the hobby for a while – or burn out after a while. The big event-county hunter forum, would be later in the day at 4pm. .

I wandered around for 3 hours in the cold....that is C-O-L-D. 40 degrees – maybe 20 mph wind from the north....damp...did I say DAMP? The ground was wet. No sun but clouds threatening drizzle at any time. Nasty. You kept moving to keep warm. I walked a good two miles going up and down rows, checking out tables, under tables....looking for buried treasure. I found an Knight Kit Ocean Hopper regen radio– no line cord, no tubes...but it had everything else including the 'unobtainium knob' on the front...and got it for 'parts radio' price. I may have overlooked another real real goodie.....more on it later.

After a couple hours of wandering around....I crashed at the flea market spot of Mike, KA4RRU and Kyle, WA4PGM (and another friend of theirs). They get the same spot every

year. I sat for a while, and then Kyle asked “ Did you see the pile of W9UCW resonators for sale”? Nope...turns out I missed that by about 50 feet – turned around before I'd reached the very end of that row....the density had petered out and I switched rows. well, Kyle said its space 3655 – way, way, way, way down there by the tree line at the far far far end of the flea market from where we were. He wasn't kidding. It's as far as you could go from end to end in the flea market. I hoofed it down there – 10 minute walk. Kyle said the guy had a 'complete set' – from 160 to 10m including WARC resonators and wouldn't split it. He did have an extra 40M that Kyle picked up.

So it was off a long hike.....walking...walking...walking....must be close of a half mile it seems and I'm already cold and tuckered out...but....for a find like that – you just gotta keep going. Yep, K0KE is selling stuff for a friend Charlie Summers, W0YG. Charlie was a wildlife photographer – world famous – for National Geographic - and did DX peditions. He'd run from ZS6 land while on assignments. (and other exotic DX entities) Only a few of the resonators ever seemed used and a few sections of the mast.

What was Keith, K0KE selling? Brand new in the box W9UCW resonators from 160M (never saw one of them) to 10M including WARC....looks like in the original box he got them some time ago. Package deal....no dividing it up. He also had a dozen mast sections....some of them the 'heavy duty' real real thick wall mast, plus a super heavy duty mount with the mast/mount and 2 or 3 other resonators for another 'package deal'. There were a few six way adapters in the deal too. Well, I couldn't resist. Left a bundle of cash there.....not cheap but have you looked at the price of mast lately? Or Hustler resonators new? Charlie, W0YG is at the top of the DX honor roll....but lost interest in ham radio so these were up for sale. He was a good customer of Barry buying lots of stuff for his trips.



160m thru 10M with WARC
16 sections of mast – some HD 2-4' lengths

The 160 resonator is at the bottom inside the packing tube. Looks like he used the 20M ones – showed some wear but many of the others are new looking.

If anyone is interested in a like new 160m W9UCW in the box resonator...let me know....I'm not even on 80m no less 160 from this QTH.....no less mobile.....but it's a beauty. The box says #1 on it....don't know if it is the first and only ever made or not? Might be a place for it in the future County Hunting Museum... hihi....it weighs a few pounds. Or maybe it was #1 in the set going from low to high? Dunno? I don't recall seeing too many 160 resonators on top of masts at conventions! These days, Barry is into the toroid and 'flying saucer' type resonators.

Wow....giant pile of stuff – too bulky and heavy to carry in one trip. Fortunately the Hamfest has a bunch of 'courtesy golf carts' for just that purpose – either carrying heavy items up to the gate to catch the bus to the 'former' shopping mall – or to another spot. Had to wait about 15 minutes – his spot was really 'out in the boondocks. The resonators were under the table in a box. Kyle has sharp eyes.....hats off to him.

Mike, KA4RRU, said he could carry the stuff to dinner – he wouldn't make the Golden Corral but eats across the street with another group at El Rio Mexican place. He stuffed the stuff into his small car and hauled it out for me. Serendipity. We'd meet up at dinner time for the transfer to my car. A bit later, I found another pile of Hustler resonators for sale.....20M through 10M, with 17 and 12 brand new in the package....wow....\$5 apiece for them. Another great find. The Hustlers I like on 20M and up. The 30M Hustler sucks – it's narrow and drifts in the rain and doesn't work well on the horizontal setup – at least mine. Probably the 40m has its problems too. On the upper bands – they seem to work well. Looks like I'm set....

Mike, KA4RRU, runs a short mast on a Diamond mount- with 3 resonators with the Hustler plate pointed up at the 45 deg angle or so. It's either than or a mini-screw driver which can get him down to 80m for those late night runs. He likes the separate resonators – fast band switching and with mobiles running on all frequencies, you wear out your screwdriver in no time at all switching bands. You can't have too much on those mounts before they give out....

Herman, N4CH, found a 'goodie' from the way back days of 6 meter AM. It was really popular in the 50s and early 60s before SSB took over the VHF bands. This is a Neil Alpha mobile 6m transmitter – AM – you just see ads for one. I've never seen one. Herman collects all sorts of stuff like this. He showed it to me.



Neil Alpha Six

You would need a HV power supply to run it – maybe a real hefty vibrator pack, or a dynamotor, or one of them new solid state switching HV units.

After a few hours of COLD – and I got chilled despite the hat, gloves and jacket....it started to drizzle....I headed inside for a second breakfast at the pub. They have a breakfast special for \$6.50. Nope....ten minutes too late....all gone....trays just cleaned out.....oh well....I got a cup of coffee to warm up. Then it was time to wander inside to see a few exhibits. After an hour of wandering around, seeing the same stuff from last year....I attended a few of the seminars. They are scheduled all day long in five room simultaneously. From Drake Collectors to Collins, to Public Service, Ham Radio University, Amateur Radio Newslines/Community,DX, Antennas, Contesting of various types, ARRL 100th year celebration, how to be the best operator, etc.

I looked around for a while more INSIDE where it was toasty warm with 10,000 plus bodies – they probably had the a/c running inside....it still took me 3 hours to warm up again. I definitely needed thermal underwear under my jeans. The good news is the legs seemed to be in a lot better shape this year – no cramps. Jerry would report that N4CD did ingest a slice of nice warm pizza for lunch. Needed some calories to warm me up. I was chilled. They don't sell salads at Dayton.

You run into a few folks that aren't 'county hunters' but enter the state QSO parties. Here's WB8JUI who is always chasing the stations in the QP's in a big way!



Rick WB8JUI – big State QSO Party operator

At 3:30 I headed over to the area of Room 2 where the county hunters meet. Outside there were folks gathering for the event – good time to yak for a bit while resting up. I'd already done my 2 miles of walking outside. Maybe 3 or 4. Who knows? Not much would be showing up till Saturday morning now.



Chuck, NMIG



Ryan, KB9OWD

Just before 4, we all headed inside for the hour long forum. This year we had a great crowd, and more importantly had at least 10 people stopping by the first time, hoping to learn about county hunting. That's a good sign! We need new interest to keep things going instead of 'running folks off 336' as has often been the case. Tim W8JJ put on a great forum this year. After some opening remarks, we heard from Lowell, KB0BA and Sandra, N0XYL about their county hunting experience. Lowell showed slides of their mobile set up. They use two microphones as they do 'team operation' - sure beats trying to swing the mike back and forth. For antennas, they use two mounts with two hamsticks on each. Lowell modified a mount to hold the two hamsticks – at about a 45 degree angle. He occasionally now puts out a county on CW as well. He uses a 13.8V battery booster so he can run with the engine off, too. (NJ8X one).



Tim W8JJ – County Hunter Forum Moderator



N0XYL, Sandra and Lowell, KB0BA

They were followed by Mark, W8MP. He's an airline pilot – and used to travel domestically and had layovers here and there. He told of his encounters with hams close and far – running counties out in the Pacific Northwest on one layover with AB7RW....and then just happened to run into N4CD/m out in that neck of the woods for an eyeball a couple years ago. He's dropped in on others here and there, and gets to put them out on vacation in his motor home. Now he's in a larger plane flying to Europe and Asia – and drops by hams in Kuwait like 9K2KN – who just happens to be a county hunter! Small world.. He had the crowd really entertained and involved. A good time was had by all. You missed a good one if you skipped this. Probably 60-70 folks attended – I forgot to take a head count. It was a good turnout and that's important to keep our 'forum spot' as there's lots of folks wanting forum meeting time.



The crowd at the Forum

Next, we had the usual round of introductions – go around the room – and put a face to the

'voice on the radio'.....and we had some 'first timers' this year as well. Jerry, K5YAA, made the County Hunter Forum. He seemed like he was really really having a blast and really into it. . Gene, NT2A, came from Richmond County NY for the first time. Wow – great to meet a few new folks! Well, all good things have to end and we had to skedaddle and get over to the Golden Corral.



Jerry, K5YAA

I had to catch the bus – but those Dayton folks were right on top of it. Despite a line of maybe 300 people, there was a line of 5 buses picking them up just as fast – five minute wait to get on a bus – 10 minutes over to the 'former' shopping mall – and then 20 minutes or so over to the Golden Corral at exit 59 (as in signal report) off the I-75 for the dinner. I took the back roads.

I met Mike, KA4RRU for the pickup first – we arrived within 2 minutes even though we started from different places...serendipity again....for the antenna load....and then it was over to the restaurant where Sharon, KJ8F, had 'coordinated' tables together – hard to do for a place that doesn't take 'reservations' – especially on a Friday night – especially on Dayton hamvention weekend – with 20,000 plus folks plus the normal travelers and folks eating out...jamming things up. Sharon got us 4 tables – and we had about 25 or 30 there. Others have other dinner obligations or groups meeting as well on Friday evening including the big DX bash. Had a nice dinner – big plate of salad to start with, then some nice turkey, veggies of half a dozen variety, some carrot casserole.....and a small bowl of banana pudding. The pudding tasted like stuff out of a can or package – well, I should have had more fruit for

desert....but it was all about yak and more yak. Got to have an quick eyeball with Gene, NT2A for a minute there – missed him at the forum – too many coming/going and we had to hustle out of there at the end to get to dinner. Great meeting the folks you work all the time.



Gene NT2A

After that I headed back to the motel to rest up for another day of wandering the COLD flea market again. You never know what will show up 'new' on Saturday morning. Some folks only come for the Saturday to sell – things like jobs keeping them busy on Fridays – or traveling all day Friday to get there for Saturday. Things we 'retired' folks don't have to worry about as much – or those willing to take off extra days to enjoy the hamfest.

At the Hamvention – Saturday

Saturday started like Friday. The drive over there showed the thermometer at 40-41 degrees – and on the way over the river – fog! 100% humidity – and of course, everything was till sopping wet with the rain showers that pass through. Got to the mall , oops, **former** Salem Mall lot and caught a bus over to the hamvention. In early to the flea market to wander around and wander around and wander around. Didn't see anything new or things I had to have. There wasn't much on my shopping list but regens. One of the items 'not for sale' was a regen – sitting on the tailgate of a truck behind the regular table. I might have passed this by early Friday morning.....I should have bought it instantly. It's the 'find of the decade' that got away I think.

Here's some pics. If you are an antique radio buff, you might recognize it. After I looked real closely, I realized it WAS a regen receiver. Dang...Wish I owned it.



This is a 1935 vintage regen. On the left side is an RF amp stage with a 4 pin plug in coil.

Inside the shielded box, where the cover folds over for easy access, is the regen detector with a six pin plug in coil. On the left is the audio amp stage. Very nicely built and out of QST about 1935. I don't know what the lucky guy paid for it. Dang.....one got away.

I had a nice conversation with the ham who bought it...K9GAW.....lucky son of a gun.....he wasn't sure exactly what it was. I knew after 3 minutes exactly what it was. I'll never find another in the next 40 years....oho well....

Maybe you met KB9AIT? He was selling antenna coils out in the flea market



KB9AIT – Gary

He works with Terry, N9AOT and winds the coils for Wolf River Coils, Inc. Nice made coils for resonators or loading coils for various antenna set ups, or portable operation. Manual screwdriver type deals, too, with stainless hardware and wire.



Wolf River Coil – Manual Screwdriver

Check out the web site at:

wolfrivercoils.com

.after wandering around a bit.....and then.....and then.....

and then.....

It started to SLEET – cold....chill...and sleet....and baby hail coming down bouncing off the ground, bouncing off the cars....going 'ping ping ping' on the canopy tops. Everyone in the flea market was rushing for cover and things were quickly getting covered up, put inside cars or moved under the canopies. Well, that sort of did in the flea market for a while and it was time to flee inside to the crowded insides. I hit the pub again for a second breakfast at 9:10. What's this? Out of eggs already? Just biscuits and bacon and sausage links? Well, I had some of them to keep me going and to warm up – and a cup of coffee. I didn't bother to get back outside again for a long time.

I visited the G-QRP booth – they've had some nifty stuff. I stopped by the CQ table. They gave me the March/April issue of CQ and a sheet telling folks how to get it (in case your mag never arrived) and the missing Feb issue (only on line). The promise to be back on schedule with the next issue. Here's a bunch of info for you CQ subscribers. I subscribe since CQ sponsors the USACA award (important) - got to keep that and the enthusiasm going. I think without a big magazine support (either CQ or ARRL), the USACA award would fade away quickly and with it county hunting. If you look at the DX working for USACA-500, there are dozens applying each year for the first level award. That's only because it is sponsored by a name recognized organization. So I send in my money each year – and a lot of the articles are interesting as well as the County Hunting column by Ted, K1BV, these days.

* * * *

So here's the poop from the issue of CQ:

“As you no doubt have noticed, our recent print issues have been very late getting out the door and into your mailbox. We apologize for these delays and are taking several steps to get things back on schedule as quickly as possible. Here's a quick rundown:

1) We have consolidated CQ, VHF, Popular Communications, and WorldRadio Online

magazines into CQ Plus, a 50+ page monthly supplement to our digital edition. Subsidizing these magazines was the major reason behind the problems we've been experiencing with the print edition of CQ. The first issue of CQ Plus appeared in February.

2) The February issue of CQ was published in digital form only. There will be no print edition. You are invited to read the issue online at

<http://www.zinio.com/reader.jsp?issue=416293364&o=ext>

3) All subscriptions are being extended for one issue so you'll get your money's worth of issues.

Some other tidbits from the last issue:

- a) Voice of Russia remains on the air – through 2014 but most of programming now beamed at Asia and not in English
- b) Solar Cycle Peaks – according to NASA the sun's magnetic poles have reversed – officially marking the 'peak' of Cycle 24.
- c) More countries given access to 60m
- d) Russian Woodpecker returns - heard on 20, 15 and 10m bands

The Feb issue had a nice article by Ted, K1BV on the award to N7JPF, Paul of USACA #1238 on page 93. check it out

* * * * *

After wandering around inside, I decided to just head on home. I was worn out, I'd seen the flea market twice around at least with nothing new seen, I didn't need any last minute bargains, I'd spent all my money (\$\$\$\$), so it was time to rest up for the trip home on the following Sunday.

Continued in Part III – on the way home.

Jammer Caught by FCC

04/22/2014

A Texas radio amateur has agreed to turn in his Amateur Extra class license as part of an agreement with the FCC to settle an enforcement action against him. The FCC earlier this year issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) to James R. Winstead, KD5OZY, of Coleman, Texas, after determining that Winstead “apparently willfully violated” FCC rules by interfering with Amateur Radio communications. The Commission had proposed a \$7000 fine. The action was in response other radio amateurs’ complaints of intentional interference on 7.195 MHz.

“Mr Winstead has admitted that his actions violated the Commission’s rules and agreed to voluntarily relinquish his amateur license

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, gave kudos to the Enforcement Bureau “for bringing the matter to a prompt conclusion.”

Last January 21 an agent from the Commission’s Dallas Office used direction-finding techniques to positively identify the source of interfering transmissions as Winstead’s address. After monitoring the transmissions from the station for about a half-hour, the agent heard Winstead “replay multiple times short sentences or conversations that had just been transmitted, and occasionally speak the word ‘George.’”

“Mr Winstead replayed recorded conversations so frequently that other licensees were unable to complete their conversations,” the NAL stated. The agent estimated that Winstead disrupted approximately 20 minutes of conversation over a 30 minute period by making up to 15 minutes of short transmissions. The agent subsequently inspected Winstead’s station, observing that his radio equipment was tuned to 7.195 MHz.

“During the inspection, Mr Winstead showed the agent how he recorded and retransmitted other amateur licensees’ communications,” the FCC said. “He also admitted that he intentionally interfered with amateur communications on 7.195 MHz and had an ongoing disagreement with another amateur licensee named George.”

Source: ARRL Newsletter

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One can only hope that the jammer on the CH frequencies gets an even more severe penalty from the FCC. Say one in FL? It looks like the FCC is set to do it. The new DF equipment they have lets them pinpoint a station to within 300 feet or closer...from their monitoring stations around the country.

K5YAA Dayton Trip Report

from the K3IMC forum on Monday:

“Back from Dayton - drove straight through. The closer I got to home the more I decided I could make it before the sun came up again. Made it home at 2:30 AM and fortunately didn't see one deer along the Interstates. I did put out a signal in Illinois and Indiana but only briefly and in counties along I70 which don't count anymore! I had a couple of folks excited about maybe some southern Indiana counties and others off the Interstate they needed but after three days of the convention and needing to prepare things here at home for workers coming to help me with my base station improvements I opted to come on home.

After all my travels this year, I was beginning to wonder what home looked like so I figured I would go see right quick. I had a terrific time at the Dayton Convention. That's the best word I can come up with to describe my time there - terrific. I made the County Hunter Forum on Friday afternoon (15 minutes late) and even though I had bought a ticket to the DX Dinner I decided to skip it in favor of going to the Golden Corral with all the County Hunter characters for dinner. I'm glad I did because I caught N4CD feasting on various items and then topping everything off with a bowl of banana pudding. I looked at Bob and said, "I ain't seen banana pudding on your recent list of acceptable eats!". He just grinned and finished scooping out the last little bit from the bowl.

I did indeed enjoy meeting many CHers all of which I had a QSO with this past year or

so. I won't list all the CH call signs but there was quite a sizable group at the Forum and the dinner afterwards. Several XYLs in the crowd too.

To make my visit a double duty thing I stayed with my Aunt and Uncle in Troy, OH. I am 69 years old so you can do the math and they are in their 80s now. The last Uncle I have living and he is a carbon copy of my Dad who passed away in the early 90s. We had great conversations before, during and after breakfast each morning about family and things around us. They were very good listeners while I talked about this hobby of ours. So, I had 5 star accommodations within 20 minutes of Dayton. I don't think I could have planned anything better than that. My first trip to Dayton so I have to say - why did I wait so long to go? Other ham gatherings in the country are good but they don't compare to the crowd and friendships at Dayton. Operators from all the world were there and it was my personal pleasure to meet so many of them. I will be busy now for the next few weeks building my base station. I may make a run again this year in the Alabama QSO Party - have to check the oil in the van and the oil in me! “

County Sign Database Project

We continue with additions to the County Sign Database. It's approaching 2500 at this point as Gary, K4EXT adds them as folks take the pictures.

K0MAF, Jack, added more than six more in FL plus a few in MS. Here's one of them filling in a 'need'



K0MAF Escambia, FL

Ron, KA3DRO added more in FL



KA3DRO, Ron, St Johns, FL

KD8MQ sent in some from OH. Here's one with him and another with his mobile



KD8MQ
Carroll/Columbiana, OH



KD8MQ Mobile
Antenna driver side rear luggage rack
Screwdriver

KV4DQ sent in one from KY – Hancock



KV4DQ Hancock, KY

Here's Butler, PA, courtesy of Bob, WA3QNT:



WA3QNT – Butler, PA

Lowell, KB0BA and Sandra, N0XYL, added two more in MI

Ed, KN4Y added more in FL. Jim, N4JT, sent in one in NC, and Jerry, K5YAA sent in one from NE.

Ed, K8QWY, continues to add missing signs in OH.

Kerry, W4SIG, added a few in TN and half a dozen in AL. Here's a pic of Warren, TN with his rig showing



W4SIG Warren TN

Thanks to everyone contributing this month!

Peak Oil Update/News

You can read the news` you hear on the 'media' in several ways. Or if you read the Economist or surf the oil web sites like the peakoilbarrel.com or other news sources, you'll get different 'interpretations' of where we are in the world.

My 2 cents:

You notice increases in oil prices have stalled. If you believe in the 'Demand Driven Model', where expanding capacity comes at ever higher and higher marginal cost, as we

go offshore in Alaska, in Siberia Russia, and other not so friendly places – often drilling down five and seven miles to reach the remaining ever smaller pockets of oil. Yes, we are not running out – but if you look at what is happening, things are not as rosy as they look.

In the last year, most of the major oil companies (Shell, Exxon, Total, Chevron, BP) have cut back significantly on their spending on the search for new oil. Or I should say, they are cutting back on the rate of increase – they are currently spending THREE TRILLION dollars a year, and not finding a whole lot of 'new' oil or adding to world capacity. Most of that is coming from smaller operations in the oil shales of the US. In fact, ALL of the new production has come from that, and the rest of the world has peaked out in conventional oil from conventional reservoirs! Were it not for shale oil and 'natural gas liquids' that come from natural gas well drilling (and will run out faster than normal oil sources), we'd be well over the peak of 'peak oil' and declining.

You'll recall, if you've been a CH Newsletter reader, that each year conventional fields drop 3-4% in production each year. They get tired. The water inflow increases, meaning you pump ever more a higher percentage of water in what you pump out of the ground. So each year, those majors have to find and add a LOT of oil just to stay even. Same for the world as a whole. First you replace the declining sources, and then by adding even more, you add to 'new' supply.. That's only 'eeked up' barely a percent a year for the world.

So what are the major oil companies doing? They are selling assets in a big way to raise cash to maintain their expenditures and still pay their dividends. They are spending TRILLIONS still (cut back by 20%) just trying to keep production equal. They are running faster and faster and beginning to fall behind the curve. Now they are selling assets (which will, of course, not allow them to produce as much in the future) simply to have the cash. As someone ten years ago said, 'the majors will reach a point where they are basically liquidating themselves bit by bit'. So what does this say for future oil supply? Not so good. The assets are being sold at firesale prices to hedgefunds and private equity - and only a few can afford them at 10 billion a pop. Half of them are FOREIGN owned including Russia and China. Hmmm.

Now we have a situation where growth of GDP usually increases demand for oil. In the past, a 3% growth in GDP required a 1% growth in oil production to 'fuel it'. You don't get GDP output increases from manufacturing, farming, or goods without the energy to make, transport, sell them Or the raw materials (plastics, paint, etc) to make them.

That's not happening. Even in the US, we are using less and less oil each year, despite

producing more and more. That results in less need for imports, which allows the rest of the world to have that oil. The total number of cars on the road and miles driven in the US drops year after year. The peak was 2005.

It seems rather than a Demand Driven Economy....where folks are willing to pay the marginal price for a new barrel of oil, and oil prices rise as producers struggle, invest and produce it at higher costs – we are in a Supply Driven Economy, where supplies are now constrained.

People are not willing to spend more to consume more. They are cutting back big time. The unemployment in the US is really about 20% at this point. Of the 18-38 age group, half don't have a drivers license. 80% of them don't have a full time job, either. Other than a few big cities like NY, Washington, DC, Boston, San Francisco, you have a hard time being productive without a drivers license. What does that say for the future of this country as youth find they can't 'afford ' to buy mobility?

What else happens in a Supply Limited world? Your producer countries, like Russia, Venezuela, Mexico, Nigeria, - long used to hundreds of millions of dollars – find out that they can't increase prices. Consumers won't pay for it. They'll buy smaller cars that get better gas mileage, drive less miles, or simply do without a car. That also doesn't increase supply either as there is less incentive to spend lots of money and not make more money. The rate of return on capital invested in plummeting. Those countries who export will be suffering as their populations go up, but their revenues don't. The per capita expenditures must decline. Less subsidies for everything. Just look to the current situation in Venezuela as a prime example. For decades, Chavez raided the oil companies to fund a gigantic welfare state which is now collapsing.

So far, the oil majors and the others have managed to incrementally increase the oil supply just a bit each year, but 1.5 billion Chinese and Indians are chomping at the bit to buy their first cars and consume away. The amount of money spend to find a 'new barrel' of oil, or even a 'replacement barrel' – where nearly 3 million NEW barrels are needed just to stay even – is skyrocketing – and shortly, the oil companies won't be willing to invest even more money each year just to stay even IF they can' increase the price per barrel. If consumers won't buy....or consumers in the US won't buy....and cut back instead....the price of oil will stay about the same. Yet, the price to find of a new barrel will approach the current price they get for it.

It's going to get real interesting real soon. This is a neat video (about 40 minutes long) that goes into more details. He don't go into the future, but the handwriting is on the wall.

Already , the US economy was staggered by high oil prices – and they haven't come down. They stayed up all during the 'recession' and likely contributed to it dragging on for years and years and years. The economy can't get going. Tourists aren't touring. People aren't driving. Less mobility and near 20% actual unemployment/under employment. Ten million forced out of the workforce, record low 'labor participation rates are what we have. Your politicians won't tell you that. The era of the 28 hour part time work week and near minimum wage has arrived. Food prices up, gas prices up, cost of living up – but wages stagnant or actually falling behind in purchasing power. It's likely to get worse.- a lot worse.

Peak Oil Video - Demand vs Supply Side Economics of the Oil Industry – where we are

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLCsMRr7hAg>

On the Trail of Regens

The usual stuff showed up on Ebay this month, plus a few unique items not seen before.

He's a 'short wave converter' complete with coils. You'd use this as the 'front end' of your short wave radio, and plug the output into your regular TRF type radio in place of the detector tube. You'd use the amplifier section of your radio, plus 'borrow' the filament power and B+. This likely only took less than 1ma of HV for the single tube.

With one of these, which sold for less than a brand new radio but still not cheap back then, you could get in on the craze of shortwave listening, which really took off at the end of the '20s and into the 1930s in a big way. (sold on Ebay for \$203).



Dresner Short Wave Converter/Coils

Here's a Pilot Wasp K-101 kit that someone built - badly. Can you tell what is wrong? It's built into a wood cabinet with hinged top and with an internal power supply just to the left.



Pilot Wasp Kit – Badly built

You don't have to be a 'whiz' in tube type radio construction to see almost instantly that this radio would have major operational problems. Let's review what is wrong in the 'build'. While all the parts are there and may even be hooked up right, there's a major 'build' flaw. Can you see it? Let's figure out what went wrong. It looks pretty. Pretty doesn't make it work!

A) You see the 'shielded compartments'? Notice the 'top cover for them? How tightly does it fit? Duh! The top 'cover' is on the wood hinged door. Likely it will barely make contact with the side walls of the shielded compartments if at all. You don't have effective shielding. The top covers for the two compartments (the RF amp and the regen detector) should be very tight fitting. No just lying on top. It basically has no effective shielding that will keep signals in each compartment and not allow them to reach the other. Indeed, the single top plate may actively couple signals from one to the other! (if it were a mil spec type unit, you'd have finger stock and about 50 screws holding the top down very tightly.

B) Worse, there is a common vertical wall between the two compartments that will couple RF currents from one into the other. This radio does not have a metal 'chassis'. It is built on a fiber board with point to point wiring with a metal frame around the periphery. The design and instructions clearly show TWO separate compartments separated by 2 inches or so. Not in this radio! You've got RF currents just dying to give you incurable squeal, feedback and instability.

C) Regen detectors are extremely 'hum' sensitive. You really don't want your power supply in a 1930s vintage radio (without a metal chassis) right next to your RF and AF circuitry. That's a recipe for disaster and incurable hum. You really want you power supply a couple feet away. It looks nice, it's all in one box, and it's pretty. I doubt it would ever work right.

The seller on Ebay seemed to think she had a 'gold mine' and that this would sell for a regular K-101 kit built to the instructions. It did have all the coils (10 coils – 5 sets) with it. Reserve is set north of \$300. Not worth it other than for parts at half the price. An original Pilot Super Wasp kit built right works very nicely.

The next item I've never seen before is an Air Champ Short Wave Amplifier Kit. Huh? Well, apparently Air Champ made this kit for their 1 and 2 tube kits (that were built into the box they came in) – sold to the Scouts in the 1950s. This had a tube/tube socket and coil assembly and gave you coverage of the shortwave bands. I've never seen one or knew this 'kit' existed.



The seller on Ebay noted:

“Here's a really nice NIB/NOS 1950's Unbuilt AIR CHAMP Type AC-SW2 Shortwave Amplifier Kit that's in its Original Box with Instructions. Tunes from 2 - 20 MHz when connected to the AIR CHAMP One or Two Tube Radio and Electronic Kits. “

The same seller also offered a 1946 never built Artone Two Tube Radio Kit (regen of course). Here's what it looked like:



The radio would be built on a 9x12 inch board using clips – no soldering required. Even the batteries were included in the kit



Wow...that's going back 68 years – to the year I was born! Flashback.....but at age 0, I wasn't into 'radio yet'. That took a few years – hi hi This kit sold for over \$400 on Ebay. Ouch!

New England QSO Party

The bands were great on Saturday – well, 20 and 15 meters with signals filling up the bands and the spaces between the 7QP stations. Lots of very big QSB fades in and out all day. Lots of activity with some LOUD stations in some of the rarer counties – especially in NH which seemed well represented. Nantucket was non-existent for most with K2LEK just making a few

contacts. Also I didn't hear the big guns from Dukes as in past years. The rest of MA was well represented and a few mobiles were out.

WA1Z/m and NZ1U/m were in the log here. In addition, W1AW was on from several CT counties. Alas, didn't hear Litchfield again this year on cw – that's a tough one to get on 20M. Nor did I see Grand Island, Addison, Chittenden and a few others in VT spotted on 20M and it's very hard to get through the 'wall' on 40M even when there is propagation. I still got 1 of the 2 that I needed up there so it was a 'success'.

15M was good on Saturday and nearly empty on Sunday! Never heard a peep on 10M from either NE or 7QP folks.

Many of the big guns in New England racked up 2 thousand or more QSOs – some mostly on cw, even more on SSB. Many were 'guest ops' at big stations. Sunday the activity plummeted after a morning sprint. Conditions seemed way down and during the day there was very little activity on that made it to Texas. Just before the contest ended a few new folks got on and had big pile ups. You could fill in a lot of New England counties in just one weekend!

Sunday morning saw a big Class X solar flare that killed the bands for an hour or two – and it slowly recovered. 15 and 10M really never did.

WA1Z mobile

Although I discovered a problem with my car's AUX stereo jack in the center console a day before the event, between what we could get out of one of the speakers and the K3's own speaker we were still able to pump enough audio into the car for Kurt to listen in to the action. There was a lot of ignition noise (or fuel injectors) on 40m. Kurt would keep the accelerator down while I was transmitting and let up if there was a weak signal calling so I could get the call and report! Twenty and 15 were completely quiet.

Kurt and I were moaning and groaning most of the day Sunday - " it felt like a nearly unbearable slog most of the day. After a record-breaking 2013 effort in the NEQP, the score contracted a bit this year. I kept trying to keep in mind that the NEQP is notoriously a slow starter on both days. Aside from 15 Meters being seemingly open without activity Saturday afternoon at the start, we were still on a record pace after the first operating period with 637 QSOs and 67 Multipliers, so we felt really good Sunday morning.

We headed up to Orleans VT immediately Sunday morning before turning west to Lake Champlain. I had visions of a massive pileup for a county in high demand when we got there. We spent 33 minutes and got 21 QSOs out of it. :- (Same thing happened in Grand Isle. Nothing seemed to be working and our only hope was that we'd have the normal Sunday afternoon "crescendo" to the end of the contest when activity/rate tend to steadily increase (at least this is my experience as a 9-year mobile veteran)

We started to sense the rates improving around 2000z, but we were still grouching how weak signals were and that we couldn't get a really good rate going. But I kept giving Kurt an update on QSO totals about every 50 or so and before we knew it I was saying a fairly big number. We started to grouse less.

In the last 1.5 hours, the 60-minute rate finally broke 100/hr. It stayed above 100 until the end of the contest, peaking at 117 and settling back to 115 for the last hour. Now we were in a good mood. :-) Originally the plan was to finish at the border of CHEshire and HILlborough county with no activity in HILNH. But Kurt cut SULNH short and raced through CHENH so we could spend the last 20 minutes in HILNH which proved to be a good idea as the rate on 40m was phenomenal (compared to all day on Sunday).

There were a lot valleys with high terrain right next to the road. Kurt and I both think that roving in Vermont is more difficult than Maine for this reason. Besides propagation and activity the terrain was definitely a factor in a lower QSO total. Very happy with our totals.

I was reminded by folks far smarter than I that signing /M in a CQ transmission is a BAD idea in these QSO parties. RBN/Skimmer doesn't help "alert" CW operators who use that god-forsaken, um, Thing (tongue-in-cheek folks ;-) that I changed counties; I should've sent the county designation after / instead. Lesson learned....

It's nice having a buddy along for the ride in these things. I couldn't imagine doing mobile contesting alone again (Now if I could just get Kurt to operate... :-)

Elecraft K3 running off car battery
Two Hustler MO-2 Masts (braced by homemade harness attached to car roof rack)
on Comet antenna mounts. Monoband Hustler RM-series coil/whips on top.

Thanks to everyone for all the QSOs!

73,

Bob WA1Z/M uh... /ROCNH

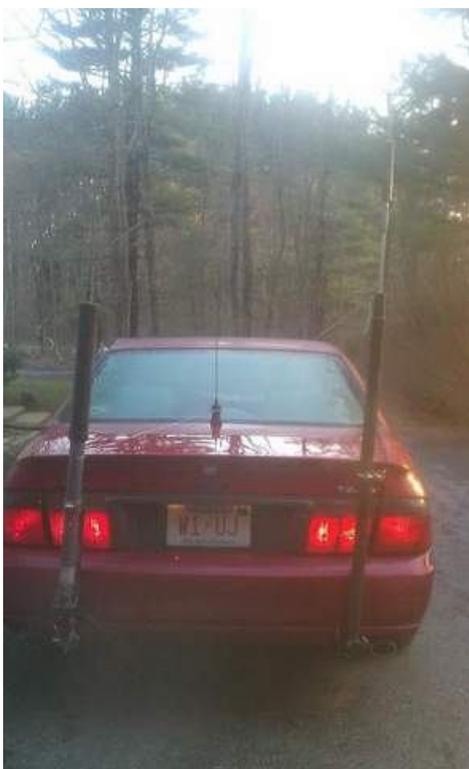
NZ1U mobile

A fantastic time with good friends. KB1SBC Drove most of the way, N1WK navigated, W1UJ operated. Was in northern ME where we have never gone before. 1200 miles in 24 hours

K3/100 with a motorized High Sierra antenna and a Hy-Gain mast with changeable resonators.

2003 Caddy SLS turned 38k miles on the trip.

Used N1MM for logging and CQ/x for county warnings. 2 networked laptops with N1MM and navigation software/streets and trips 2010. Wireless LAN in the car to network the PC's and connect the 'operating' laptop to the Rig for CAT, keying and GPS with a Control serial-Ethernet appliance on the LAN.



The NZ1U mobile

Headed off-track to give out SUFMA after a couple of requests. 2 lucky QSOs in NORMA with a short corner of that county.

We did this in 2012 with good results and a better score, The conditions seemed to be poor but steady, thanks for the 'regulars' chasing us through the counties.

Some Photos;

<http://w1uj.net/NEQP-2014/>

Notes for next rover effort-

-Pass counties! Advertising to the guys that constantly call from each county change deserve to know when that is!

-Pass QSOs to other bands. But fun "shooting the breeze" with nav and driver too!

-Have better notifications to the navigator on county changes.

Band	Mode	QSOs	Pts	Mul
3.5	CW	72	142	2
7	CW	140	278	11
14	CW	696	1392	58
14	USB	2	2	0
21	CW	4	8	2
Total	Both	914	1822	73

The following counties were activated with indicated number of QSOs:

Penobscot(132)
WashingtonME(74)
Hancock(66)
Somerset(60)
Piscataquis(54)
MiddlesexMA(47)
FranklinME(43)
Lincoln(41)
Suffolk(38)
Waldo(38)
Rockingham(35)
Kennebec(34)
Aroostook(34)
Worcester(33)
Oxford(32)
York(31)
EssexMA(30)
Androscoggin(27)
Cumberland(25)
Knox(24)
Sagadahoc(23)
WindhamCT(17)
Norfolk(2)

N4PN – fixed GA 265 271 67 mults - Sweep!

As always, without the mobiles, it would have made for a long, long weekend...missed K1KI who was at home this year...(new car that had not be equipped for mobiling)..

Bob, WA1Z, led the way with 22 Q's, followed by NZ1U with 18... NZ1U and company called at 2034 from SUFMA for the sweep.... Bob, WA1Z, got some of the last ones along with Brian, NJ1F, using the W2PV call.

Fixed stations K1RO and NN1N (Dave and Sean, KX9X) each gave me 8 Q's..others, W1XX, NE1QP, K1BG w/6 Q's. K6ND, K1LI, W1AW/1, and K1ZZ with 5 each....many with 2, 3 and 4 Q's...thanks a million.

Lots of good friends in this one....and a real pleasure to hear from Marty, K1PIG, who called in for new one KENME along with his friend, AA1XD...

Biggest surprise was being called by Mike, K2LEK, again this year for NANMA....he said he was only on for a minute, as he had to finish a project...

Thanks again to all...
73, Paul, N4PN

K1RO – fixed – Sullivan NH 859 cw 446 ssb Q

First time I've operated this one seriously. Should have spent more time on 15 meters on Saturday when the band was better. Though I'd do a lot of 15 on Sunday - ha! Also should have spent more time on CW in general. Hard to keep a clear SSB frequency with low dipoles... Decent opening to W6/7 for a while on 10 meters Saturday evening and strong close-in signals but not a lot of activity.

WN4AFP – fixed – SC - 99 cs 55 ssb

This was my FIRST NEQP! It was a blast! Band conditions were great on Saturday and a bit iffy on Sunday. During the last few hours, I was trying anything to

work some new 1-land stations. I was shooting for the South Carolina state low power record of 14k. I'm thankful for each Qs. Enjoyed working the mobile stations of NZ1U and WA1Z. I also worked Hiram in 3 CT counties. Looking forward to next year's NEQP.

Running a vintage IC-730 (75w) to a 40m dipole at 20 feet - MM-1 Keyer with Brass Racer. Look for me in the South Carolina QSO Party in September. 73's
Dave

Greenie Fraud Caught Once Again!

A top US academic has dramatically revealed how government officials forced him to change a hugely influential scientific report on climate change to suit their own interests.

Harvard professor Robert Stavins electrified the worldwide debate on climate change on Friday by sensationally publishing a letter online in which he spelled out the astonishing interference.

He said the officials, representing 'all the main countries and regions of the world' insisted on the changes in a late-night meeting at a Berlin conference centre two weeks ago.

Three quarters of the original version of the document ended up being deleted. Prof Stavins claimed the intervention amounted to a serious 'conflict of interest' between scientists and governments. His revelation is significant because it is rare for climate change experts to publicly question the process behind the compilation of reports on the subject.

Prof Stavins, Harvard's Professor of Business and Government, was one of two 'co-ordinating lead authors' of a key report published by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) earlier this month. His chapter of the 2,000-page original report concerned ways countries can co-operate to reduce carbon emissions.

IPCC reports are supposed to be scrupulously independent as they give scientific advice to governments around the world to help them shape energy policies – which in turn affect subsidies and domestic power bills.

Prof Stavins said the government officials in Berlin fought to make big changes to the full report's 'summary for policymakers'. This is the condensed version usually cited by the world's media and politicians. He said their goal was to protect their 'negotiating stances' at forthcoming talks over a new greenhouse gas reduction treaty.

Prof Stavins told The Mail on Sunday yesterday that he had been especially concerned by what happened at a special 'contact group'. **He was one of only two scientists present, surrounded by '45 or 50' government officials.**

He said almost all of them made clear that 'any text that was considered inconsistent with their interests and positions in multilateral negotiations was treated as unacceptable.'

Many of the officials were themselves climate negotiators, facing the task of devising a new treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocol in negotiations set to conclude next year. Prof Stavins said: '**This created an irreconcilable conflict of interest.** It has got to the point where it would be reasonable to call the document a summary by policymakers, not a summary for them, and it certainly affects the credibility of the IPCC. The process ought to be reformed.'

He declined to say which countries had demanded which changes, saying only that 'all the main countries and regions were represented'. Some deletions were made at the insistence of only one or two nations – because under IPCC rules, the reports must be unanimous.

He revealed the original draft of the summary contained a lot of detail on how international co-operation to curb emissions might work, and how it could be funded.

The final version contains only meaningless headings, however, with all details removed.

His comments follow a decision two weeks earlier by Sussex University's Professor Richard Told to remove his name from the summary of an earlier volume of the full IPCC report, on the grounds it had been 'sexed up' by the same government officials and had become overly 'alarmist'.

Prof Judith Curry, the head of climate science at the Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, said that between them, Professors Tol and Stavins had shown the process was ‘polluted by obvious politics’.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2614097/Top-climate-experts-sensational-claim-government-meddling-crucial-UN-report.html#ixzz306F5IUz0>

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de N4CD” Scientific fraud across the whole spectrum. Only alarmist claptrap left in, most details removed. It's a useless political document designed to justify trillions of dollars of carbon taxes to micro manage your life, and give the politicians trillions of dollars to slush out to their crony, 3rd world tyrant's Swiss bank accounts, and fund the life style of the Greenie investors like Al Gore – who want us to throw yet more trillions down greenie ratholes where he wins and we lose.

K8QWY Input

Hello Bob

With the fine help of my neighbor I have the New Antenna Mount on the Van including the Breedlove stuff (great stuff). We found that the luggage rack was sort of honey combed and he added some bars where the bolts go in on the inside of the Rack bar so it won't bend in while tightening it down.

Should work better than my old Mag Mount but will still use it on 30 meters stop the resonator interaction.

73

Ed K8QWY



Here's the web page for Breedlove mounts. They make some real nice heavy duty stuff for just about every application

<https://breedlovemounts.com/>

Germany Admits Defeat on Green Energy

Vice Chancellor Stuns, Declares Germany's 'Energiewende' To Be On 'The Verge Of Failure'!

Angela Merkel's Vice Chancellor Stuns, Declares Germany's 'Energiewende' To Be On 'The Verge Of Failure'!

The green energy orgy in Germany is over. The music has stopped and the wine that once flowed freely has long run out. The green energy whores and pimps can go home.

In a stunning admission by Germany's Economics Minister and Vice Chancellor to Angela Merkel, Sigmar Gabriel announced in a recent speech that the country's once highly ballyhooed transformation to renewable energy, the so called Energiewende, a model that has been adopted by a number of countries worldwide, is "on the verge of failure".

Speaking at an event at SMA Solar, Germany's leading manufacturer of solar technology, Gabriel even dropped yet another admission bomb:

The truth is that in all fields we under-estimated the complexity of the Energiewende."

Gabriel was once the country's environment minister and a devout believer in global warming and in Al Gore's Inconvenient Truth.

In the speech Gabriel tells the audience how the energy transformation is on the verge of failure:

Those who are the engines of the transformation to renewable energies, that's you, you don't see how close we are to the failure of the energy transformation."

The solar energy audience reacts with dead, stunned silence (3:03). That can't believe what they just heard.

The mood at SMA Solar, which has been a huge benefactor of the renewable energy

subsidies brought on by Germany's EEG feed-in act, was somber and shock and Gabriel delivered the reality. Many in attendance seemed unable to fathom what Gabriel was unloading: the heady days at the green energy feeding trough are over – live with it.

The European Institute for Climate and Energy (EIKE) here writes:

The responsible persons in attendance at the Hessen-based photovoltaic SMA Solar and all the other profiteers of the EEG feed-in act saw their jaws drop when this late and blunt admission was made.”

That Gabriel would make such comments can only tell us that the situation and the costs surrounding the Energiewende must be far more dire than most of us realize.

Germany's renewable energy gravy train has derailed for good. Other countries take note!

- See more at: <http://notrickszone.com/2014/04/27/angela-merkels-vice-chancellor-stuns-declares-germanys-energiewende-to-be-on-the-verge-of-failure/#sthash.EhEoxriA.dpuf>

de N4CD: Germany has spent 140 billion dollars, a massive amount of money for a country its size on 'green energy subsidies', allegedly to reduce its carbon footprint over the last 10 years. Germany, now needing massive backup to the solar farms, which only average 5-6 hours of daily production year round, with large periods of near zero during winter storms, now requires burning even more coal than ever and emitting MORE CO2 than when the 'green revolution' started. Rather than reducing CO2 output, the 'green revolution' has INCREASED the CO2 emitted!

So what we find out – after 140 billion in 'taxes and fees', that NONE of it went to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Not one single Euro. It was all a sham to take money from consumers in the form of tripling electric rates, and giving the money to well connected cronies, selected 'producers' of questionable energy sources, and general political slush funds. That's what all 'carbon taxes' wind up being. Giant political slush funds for redistribution with no real goal of reducing carbon emissions.

Got it?

What are their plans? Of course, the politicians now need to 'double down' and tax and spend even more! They aren't done yet destroying the German economy! Plus, they

want to spread the misery everywhere else on the planet to 'level the field'. That is, make everyone else equally miserable with more massive redistribution and no real reduction in CO2 output.

Global Warming BS

With the release of the UN IPCC report, new levels of scare tactics are now in use by the eco-whacks. Yes, we have drought in the west and it is bad news for many states. Is it due to CO1? You decide after reading the following news, too:

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Tree rings reveal nightmare droughts in the West

If you think the 1930s drought that caused The Dust Bowl was rough, new research looking at tree rings in the Rocky Mountains has news for you: Things can get much worse in the West.

In fact the worst drought of this century barely makes the top 10 of a study that extended Utah's climate record back to the year 1429.

With sandpaper and microscopes, Brigham Young University professor Matthew Bekker analyzed rings from drought-sensitive tree species. He found several types of scenarios that could make life uncomfortable in what is now the nation's third-fastest-growing state:

- **Long droughts:** The year 1703 kicked off 16 years in a row with below average stream flow.
- **Intense droughts:** The Weber River flowed at just 13 percent of normal in 1580 and dropped below 20 percent in three other periods.
- **Consecutive worst-case scenarios:** The most severe drought in the record began in 1492, and four of the five worst droughts all happened during Christopher Columbus' lifetime.

“We’re conservatively estimating the severity of these droughts that hit before the modern record, and we still see some that are kind of scary if they were to happen

again,” said Bekker, a geography professor at BYU. “We would really have to change the way we do things here.”

Modern climate and stream flow records only go back about 100 years in this part of the country, so scientists like Bekker turn to Mother Nature’s own record-keeping to see the bigger picture. For this study, the BYU geographer took sample cores from Douglas fir and pinyon pine trees. The thickness of annual growth rings for these species is especially sensitive to water supply.

Using samples from both living and dead trees in the Weber River basin, the researchers built a tree-ring chronology that extends back 585 years into Utah’s natural history. Modern stream flow measurements helped them calibrate the correlation between ring thickness and drought severity.

As Bekker and his co-authors report in the [Journal of the American Water Resources Association](#), the west’s climate usually fluctuates far more than it did in the 1900s. The five previous centuries each saw more years of extremely dry and extremely wet climate conditions.

“We’re trying to work with water managers to show the different flavors of droughts this region has had,” said Bekker. “These are scenarios you need to build into your models to know how to plan for the future.”

Bekker collaborated with researchers from the U.S. Forest Service, Columbia University and Utah State University. The team is currently working on a climate reconstruction based on tree rings that date back more than 1,000 years.

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/02/worst-drought-of-this-century-barely-makes-the-top-10/>

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You'll hear hour after hour of how the CO2 is now causing 'record drought'. It's not. It could and probably will get a LOT worse than their worst nightmares. And, of course, there was no CO2 in 1492 (only sail power for Columbus), nor in the next decades. That drought and likely this one is not due to CO2.

So when you hear you hear your liberal media connecting 'drought' and 'global warming' together, you just say “BS”. Simple. The climate changes – and has – in hundred year cycles. Once upon a time, north Africa was a green savannah. Now it's the Sahara Desert. Just a tiny shift in the tilt of the Earth (25,000 year cycle) and it went from warm and wet to bone dry over a few hundred years. Drought happens. It's not the CO2.

10-10 Contest

In addition to the 7QP, the Indiana QP, and the NE QP going on at the same time, the entire weekend was also the 10-10 CW contest weekend lasting 48 hours. From here, 10 meters was mostly 'dead dead dead' but I had two openings. One to FL where KN4Y and another station made it through – each in there for about 30 minutes. Ed was in and out several times from his home in Wakulla FL. I also caught two stations in Cumberland County NC and that was it. Listened every now and then – tuned across the band – and other than one or two birdies – nothing there each time I tuned on by. Usually there's a Caribbean station or one in South America that makes it through, but nothing heard this year. The sunspots didn't cooperate.

Since you have to be a dues paying member of 10-10 to 'enter' the contest with a log, many just show up (like me) and exchange their 10-10 numbers, but you won't see too many results on the contest reflectors as casual people don't bother to send in their scores. I've got a 10-10 number but I'm not a 10 meter fanatic – just check the band every now and then for new counties – but with the usual skip – it's to the same places far far away that I've worked before when the band opens...the far northeast US, the far NW USA, etc. Maybe you caught a few in the contest. I posted Ed, KN4Y, when he popped through but likely only other than some locals in my neck of the woods, not many other CH were hearing him at the time.

Ed noted on the K3IMC forum:

“Thanks to all the county hunters who took time to find me on ten meters in the 10-10 Spring CW contest. Friday and Saturday was slow butt steady, Sunday was a disaster rate wise. “

by email, he noted:

Ten meters was not hot, nor warm nor cold but was more like a puppies nose. Friday night 17 QSO's, Saturday 17 QSO's mostly DX. Sunday was mostly stateside and made 43 QSO's for a total of 77. So far I have submitted the highest score. I did get my shack vacuumed and straightened up. Should be good for a few weeks. I get help with my wife on weekends so I can work QSO parties and contests. I plan to be mobile in the AIQP, give me a few contacts.

73

Ed KN4Y.

Your Unsustainable Financial Future

Federal Reserve Chairman Janet Yellen, referencing the Congressional Budget Office's long-term budget projections, told the Joint Economic Committee of Congress today that **under current policies the federal government's deficits "will rise to unsustainable levels."**

In the 10-year budget projections it released in April, the CBO estimated that the federal government will run \$7.618 trillion in deficits from 2015 through 2024. At the same time, the CBO projected that the federal government's debt held by the public would rise from \$11.983 trillion at the end of fiscal 2013 to \$20.947 trillion by the end of 2024.

The debt held by the public is the part of the U.S. government debt that is not held by the federal government itself. It primarily consists of marketable Treasury securities, including bills, notes and bonds. It does not include what the government calls "intragovernmental debt," which is the money the Treasury has borrowed out of the Social Security Trust Fund and other government trust funds to pay current expenses.

The total debt of the federal government at the end of fiscal 2013--including both the debt held by the public and the intragovernmental debt--was \$16.719 trillion. **The CBO estimates that by 2024, the total debt of the federal government will be \$27.159 trillion**—of which \$20.947 trillion will be debt held by the public.

If that projection holds up, the federal debt held by the public in 2024 would be more than four times the \$5.035 trillion federal debt held by the public at the end of 2007.

Yellen made her statement about unsustainable deficits when she was questioned by Sen. Dan Coats (R.-Ind.)

Yellen: "That progress has been made over the last several years, in bringing down deficits in the short term, but that a combination of demographics, the structure of entitlement programs, and historic trends in health-care costs, we can see that over the long-term deficits will rise to unsustainable levels relative to the economy."

Coats later said to Yellen: "You join a long list of very responsible Americans who have the experience and the expertise to give us some warnings about what may happen in the future and our inability to act over the last several years now in addressing these major problems that are going to have significant consequences on the economy of this country

and on future generations.

“I don’t know what it is going to take for us to summon the will to do what we all know that we need to do,” said Coats. “But I appreciate your adding your name to that long list saying you have a responsibility up here and you’re not fulfilling that responsibility.”

According to the CBO, “mandatory” federal spending will increase approximately 58 percent over the next ten years, rising from \$2.32 trillion in 2015 to \$3.664 trillion in 2024. Over that decade, total federal “mandatory” spending will be \$29.737 trillion.

That will include \$8.25 trillion on Medicare, \$4.55 trillion on Medicaid, \$9.9 trillion on Social Security, \$1.78 trillion on disability insurance, and \$728 billion on food stamps.

Source: CNS News

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When you have 'unsustainable' deficits and debt....something will happen. It usually isn't pretty – like the collapse of the entire country, or hyper inflation of 30-50% or more a year as no one wants to own US debt any longer.

Socialism always fails when you run out of 'other people's money' at that time is coming.

Quick Quiz: Which President, elected in 2008, re-elected in 2012, has quadrupled the exiting debt? Which one is now responsible for the trajectory leading us to 'unsustainable' debt/deficit levels? Which one has yet to actually pass a budget in the US Congress? Which has failed to reform entitlement programs? (Hint: He has a “D” party affiliation).

You got it.

When things are 'unsustainable' – they usually end badly.

On the Road with N4CD III – Headed Home

After the hamfest – Sunday

The hamfest would go on another day – probably the weather would be great but it was time for me and most of the others to get on home. Many with long trips might have left on Saturday afternoon if they had to be back at work. For me – well, being retired – you can take your time. Sunday would be busy on the bands with mobiles jammed up – all trying to run at the same time as they passed through new counties, plus a few others were out on trips around the country.

I intended to run a handful of the rarer KY ones – so it was on the road at 6:15 AM eastern time. Not many around but a few were on 40M CW. Other bands not open other than to contact other mobiles leaving Dayton. There would be a bunch on today, both CW and SSB.

It was down I-75 to Cincinnati and around to Louisville – same boring counties but you never know if someone needs them. The highways are in great shape other than some construction zones – and it was Sunday so I zipped through them with no grief. The highway system was all 65 and 70 mph speed limits these days – all the way to TX. (other than about six traffic lights in Obion County, you can drive from Dayton to within five miles of my house without another stop sign or traffic light! Isn't that amazing?)

The I-69 corridor, while not yet complete, has prompted new speed limits and road improvements. There's no longer a hodge podge of 60 here, 65 there, some stretches of 70, slowing down for 45 in some 'towns' etc. It's pedal to the metal at 70 just about the whole way to TX – and then it's 75 mph! If one had to, one could probably drive the 980 miles straight through in 13-14 hours stopping once or twice for five minute gas and 'pit stops'. Not me! Not now.. When I was 25? Sure!

However.....I was about to get off into the KY boonies after Jefferson, KY (Louisville). I headed west in south IN, then dropped into Meade KY and hit Breckinridge, Hancock, and Daviess (for N9STL – cw) and of course, a bunch of others. Whew – they were 'popular'. Then it was ask the GPS lady for the fastest way home, and that's where the car went. Stopped for a second breakfast of a 'garden omelet' and coffee at a Huddle House in Obion County TN – and kept on driving after that quick stop – the same route back as I took up there. Those folks at the Huddle House are pretty quick at getting the food out. The veggie omelets are good.

Let's see..Doug, WA4UNS put out a few on cw – and lots of digital – and N2OO, KA4RRU, NT2A, and others were keeping cw humming along with those on trips like W7FEN, K4YFH, AB7RW, and others. Busy – and mobiles 'down 2' at times even on 17M. On SSB – well, there was a 'list' for a change with a good half dozen moving

along plus the half dozen on trips like Mary, AB7NK and Neil, K7SEN, driving all over TX. Didn't spend much time even listening on SSB – too busy on CW. Jim VA3XOV was running some northern NY ones. He apparently ran Wayne, but no one spotted it.

Hmmm.....comments on the forum about thanking him for running it, but they were too lazy to spot for the others – and didn't hear him. Jim had some antenna problems to work around. Maybe only 40M? Others needed it too, but never saw it spotted. What a shame.

I was too far away then. Well...could have used it – one of the 2 I need in NY. When you are mobile, you're at a disadvantage but of course you get to work more on 40M close in – I wouldn't hear any of them from TX in PA or NY in the middle of the day. And Fayette PA was run, but nobody spotted it, so those looking for it didn't get it either. What's up with the lazy folks jumping in there to work them, and not spotting? Then posting comments later about 'how it was run' when others commented they never saw it spotted? Not good!

It got to be getting late but I still had a bit left, so I drove to just past Little Rock AR – about 800 miles that day of fairly easy interstate mostly at 70 mph. There's a nice Super 8 in Saline County – I called ahead and got a room. \$55 including tax but no big waffle maker. Otherwise good. Dinner – well, it was Sunday night, so I had a little personal pan pizza at the Pizza Hut.....and a giant plate of salad.....carrot sticks and a good dozen large cherry tomatoes, probably half a cucumber and a giant pile of lettuce. Headed back to the room and hit the hay early. I had gained an hour...so it was really 'later'. Let's see..started at 6:15am EST or so. Drove to 7pm - CDST that's about 14 hours with maybe a total of 30 minutes for stops. Whew. If I had a co pilot we could probably drive the rest of the trip – another 5 hours or so – in one stretch. Those back roads of KY eat up time in your schedule.

In bed at 9pm....up early for breakfast (cereal) – then time to get on home. Ate an orange in the room. On the road at 6:15. GPS lady said home by 11am - so I headed home. Once you get to TX, the speed limit on I-30 is 75 mph. Propagation was fair, but the ground wave was good. I was copying Mary, AB7NK, on SSB from 200 miles away on 20M. I was in Dallas County and she was running Bexar – San Antonio – a good 200 miles away.

Hmm...and also Cliff and Nelda were in there – 150 miles away or so. Of course, you've got to be in a real quiet location, and have zero engine noise yourself to do that. They were audible but weak.

Home by 10:54 – beat the GPS lady estimate by a few minutes – but I was running 82 mph most of the way through TX keeping up with traffic. Then it was time to kick back for a while and enjoy the 85 degree temps in TX, take a dip in the pool, put on the shorts....and put another successful trip to Dayton in the record book. Yep, it was a good one....chilly...but good.

Next year, someone please arrange for 'nice weather'! Hi hi hi – at least the driving on the way back wasn't too bad – clear sailing.

As usual, it was great seeing the hundred county hunters that show up. That's the reason you keep going year after year. That, and the few goodies you find in the flea market if you're lucky.

German Folks Back to the Stone Age

If you're going down to the German woods today, beware of a big surprise.

Although it won't be cuddly Teddys with well-stocked picnic baskets and wonderful games to play – chances are it'll be a power starved German armed with an axe, looking to filch a pile of timber to cook his bratwurst and warm his home.

The Germans launched into massively subsidized wind and solar power with power prices rising 80 per cent in real terms in little over a decade. **Unable to pay skyrocketing power bills, 800,000 German households have been disconnected from the grid – with that number growing by 300,000 each year. In addition, almost 7 million German households are suffering “fuel poverty” – forced to choose between eating or heating.**

Always a resourceful lot, power-starved Germans have grabbed their axes and have headed back to the woods in an effort to obtain that which their insane renewables policy denies: affordable energy.

With energy costs escalating, more Germans are turning to wood burning stoves for heat. That, though, has also led to a rise in tree theft in the country's forests.

With snow blanketing the ground, it's the perfect time of year to snuggle up in front of a fireplace. That, though, makes German foresters nervous. When the mercury falls, the theft of wood in the country's woodlands goes up as people turn to cheaper ways to heat their homes.

The problem has been compounded this winter by rising energy costs. The Germany's Renters Association estimates the heating costs will go up 22 percent this winter alone. A side effect is an increasing number of people turning to wood-burning stoves for warmth. Germans bought 400,000 such stoves in 2011, the German magazine FOCUS reported this week. It marks the continuation of a trend: The number of Germans buying heating devices that burn wood and coal has grown steadily since 2005, according to consumer research company GfK Group.

That increase in demand has now also boosted prices for wood, leading many to fuel their fires with theft.

With hundreds of thousands of (former) German power consumers with no power at all – millions struggling to pay for power – and no relief in sight – German foresters are fighting a losing battle. Deprive people of the basic necessities of life and they will do whatever it takes to replace them with the closest thing available.

Cooking a meal and warming a home were – until pretty recently – matters which Germans, no doubt, largely took for granted. Thanks to the insane cost of their renewable policy – for a substantial and growing number of German households – these basics are now beyond reach.

As we have pointed out before, the costs of wind power fall disproportionately on the poorest and most vulnerable in society (see our posts [here](#) and [here](#)).

What might make a few inner-city lefties feel good – for the few moments in their day (if ever) that they consider energy policy – carries with it the social cost of deprivation and exclusion that is a form of unjustified punishment. Access to affordable power is a matter of social equity: but social equity is now running a poor second to “green” ideology, as – thanks to the exorbitant cost of wind power – electricity has been turned into an “aspirational” good for those at the bottom of the socioeconomic heap.

With Australia following Germany's lead on wind power policy, we're well down the

track to a return to the Stone Age. Australia's "wind power capital", South Australia (population 1.6 million) has more than 50,000 homes disconnected from the grid because they can no longer afford to pay their power bills – with more being cut-off daily. These people have taken to lighting their homes with candles – and cooking on wood stoves and barbeques. South Australians suffer the highest power prices in the world .

So, unless Australia scraps its insanely expensive, totally ineffective and, therefore, unsustainable Renewable Energy Target – like the Germans – we'll be sharpening our axes and heading off on Stone Age timber gathering adventures of our own.

Source: <http://stopthesethings.com/2014/04/22/wind-power-costs-send-germans-back-to-the-stone-age/>

New Band in Canada

Canadian Radio Amateurs Gain New 472-479 kHz Band

As of May 1, radio amateurs in Canada have a new allocation at 472-479 kHz. The 7 kilohertz sliver of spectrum is available to hams there on a secondary basis. Delegates attending the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-12) approved a secondary allocation between 472-479 kHz for the Amateur Radio Service, and telecommunications regulator Industry Canada subsequently proposed numerous revisions to its Table of Frequency Allocations, including the new MF band. Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) announced the band's "official implementation" on May 3.

"Canadian amateur operators have recently secured two new segments of spectrum, thanks to the very hard work of RAC volunteers," the announcement said. "The 60 meter band allocation was made official a few month ago as well."

MF and LF experimenter Joe Craig, VO1NA, "discovered" last week that the long-awaited new 630 meter band had become available, after he checked the Table of Frequency Allocations. Craig said it didn't take long for him and his wife Michelle, VO1RL, "to get our feet wet" on the new allocation. She stayed at home, while Joe tossed some gear into the car and drove to a park for their first contact on the new band (at 473 kHz on CW).

Last fall Industry Canada issued an experimental radio license to Craig's club, the Marconi Radio Club of Newfoundland (VO1MRC), endorsing experimental station VX9MRC to conduct transmissions on 472-479 kHz on December 14 and 15, to call attention to the potential new Amateur Radio band there and to the role ham radio plays in emergency communication.

Going mobile on 630 meters involves some preparation: VO1NA/m. [Courtesy of Joe Craig, VO1NA]

The ARRL in 2012 petitioned the FCC to carve out the same band for US hams, but the Commission has not yet acted on the League's request. The ARRL-sponsored WD2XSH experimental operation in that region of the spectrum continues, with Fritz Raab, W1FR, as the coordinator. Other experimenters also operate there from time to time.

By international agreement, the maximum equivalent isotropically radiated power (EIRP) of amateur stations using 472-479 kHz may not exceed 5 W (or 1 W EIRP in some locations).

Craig believes the new band will appeal to a broader group of hams than do more-demanding LF allocations. He has predicted that transatlantic contacts, while challenging, "should be fairly common using conventional CW and digital modes

Courtesy of ARRL Newsletter, May 2014

Sugar Sugar and More Sugar

As the debate rages on in the US about what is most to blame for the nation's obesity problem, a new film is claiming the real danger behind the epidemic is sugar.

Fed Up, a film released in the US this week, predicts 95 per cent of Americans will be overweight or obese in the next two decades, unless something is done to tackle the so-called hidden sugars which appear in everyday foods.

Producer Laurie Davies - who was also behind the 2006 film Inconvenient Truth which studied the myths surrounding global warming - warns in the film that one third of adults will also have diabetes by 2050, as our brains become increasingly dependent on sugar

Dr David Kessler, a former Food and Drug Administration commissioner, goes one step further, predicting that the obesity crisis fuelled by sugar will end up as 'one of the greatest public health epidemics of our time'.

But the truth about how damaging this can be for a person's health has remained hidden behind supposedly-healthy food labels - because manufacturers need to rely on sugar to make their food, the film claims.

According to Gary Taubes, an author interviewed for the film, blaming willpower for obesity - as has been the way for several years - is a 'crime'.

Instead, the film claims that obesity could be started by the human brain's reaction to sugar.

The human brain 'lights up to sugar just as it does with cocaine and heroin', according to one expert.

It means people who are unwittingly eating sugar will become addicted to the ingredient.

According to the film, the problem means early-onset diabetes - a condition associated with exposure to cane sugar and corn syrup - will be a medical condition in one in three Americans by 2050, if current rates continue.

In two decades, 95 per cent of Americans will also be overweight or obese, according to the film.

The idea that sugar, rather than fat, causes both obesity and diabetes has been gaining support among diet and health experts for the past few years.

In January, an alliance of doctors and academics described sugar as 'the new tobacco', blaming it for a range of health problems and early death.

DOES SUGAR CAUSE OBESITY?

Fructose is found in fruit, sucrose (table sugar) and in high fructose corn syrup. It is a simple sugar and is sweeter than glucose.

Sucrose (the sugar that we commonly add to food) is made up of 50 per cent glucose and 50 per cent fructose.

High fructose corn syrup (containing more fructose than glucose) commonly replaces sucrose in the US food industry because it is both sweeter and cheaper.

Because it causes a lower blood sugar spike than sucrose or glucose, and therefore has a low glycaemic index, manufacturers are allowed to claim that fructose is 'healthier' than the other two.

But some scientists claim the problem with fructose is twofold.

Firstly, there is no hormone to remove fructose from our bloodstream (unlike glucose, which stimulates insulin production).

It is therefore left to the liver to remove it.

When the liver is overwhelmed it converts fructose to liver fat, which ups our chances of developing insulin resistance (a precursor to diabetes), hardened arteries and heart disease.

Secondly, fructose suppresses the hormone leptin, which tells you when you're full. In other words, your brain lets you consume it without limit.

Mark Bittman, a columnist for the New York Times, supports this point, telling the film how junk food companies are acting like 'tobacco companies were 30 years ago'.

The claims about sugar come after some scientists say illnesses that typically show up in the obese are also apparent in those who have average weight.

But efforts to curb the sugar industry have largely failed.

In the US, the Bush administration threatened to withhold funding to the World Health Organisation in 2003, if it published nutritional guidelines which suggested no more than 10 per cent of calories per day should come from sugar.

Campaigners are now calling for health warnings on some foods, as well as equal advertising time to marketing fresh fruit and vegetables.

They also want voluntary agreements to reduce sugar content.

The problem is particularly apparent in low-fat versions of foods such as yoghurts, fizzy drinks and spreads, in which natural sugars are swapped for sugar substitutes.

The film, produced by Laurie David, former wife of Seinfeld creator Larry David, is narrated by TV journalist Katie Couric. It was released this week in America.

Source: UK Daily Mail

Diet Discussion

Always Hungry? Here's why

As it turns out, many biological factors affect the storage of calories in fat cells, including genetics, levels of physical activity, sleep and stress. But one has an indisputably dominant role: the hormone insulin. We know that excess insulin treatment for diabetes causes weight gain, and insulin deficiency causes weight loss. And of everything we eat, highly refined and rapidly digestible carbohydrates produce the most insulin.

By this way of thinking, the increasing amount and processing of carbohydrates in the American diet has increased insulin levels, put fat cells into storage overdrive and elicited obesity-promoting biological responses in a large number of people. Like an infection that raises the body temperature set point, high consumption of refined carbohydrates — chips, crackers, cakes, soft drinks, sugary breakfast cereals and even white rice and bread — has increased body weights throughout the population.

One reason we consume so many refined carbohydrates today is because they have been added to processed foods in place of fats — which have been the main target of calorie reduction efforts since the 1970s. Fat has about twice the calories of carbohydrates, but low-fat diets are the least effective of comparable interventions, according to several analyses, including one presented at a meeting of the American Heart Association this year.

A recent study by one of us, Dr. Ludwig, and his colleagues published in JAMA examined 21 overweight and obese young adults after they had lost 10 to 15 percent of their body weight, on diets ranging from low fat to low carbohydrate. Despite consuming the same number of calories on each diet, subjects burned about 325 more calories per day on the low carbohydrate than on the low fat diet — amounting to the energy expended in an hour of moderately intense physical activity.

Another study published by Dr. Ludwig and colleagues in *The Lancet* in 2004 suggested that a poor-quality diet could result in obesity even when it was low in calories. Rats fed a diet with rapidly digesting (called high “glycemic index”) carbohydrate gained 71 percent more fat than their counterparts, who ate more calories over all, though in the form of slowly digesting carbohydrate.

The popular emphasis on calorie balance reinforces the belief that we have conscious control over our weight, and that obesity represents a personal failure because of ignorance or inadequate willpower.

In addition, the food industry — which makes enormous profits from highly processed products derived from corn, wheat and rice — invokes calorie balance as its first line of defense. If all calories are the same, then there are no bad foods, and sugary beverages, junk foods and the like are fine in moderation. It’s simply a question of portion control. The fact that this rarely works is taken as evidence that obese people lack willpower, not that the idea itself might be wrong.

Two studies that did this — one by the Direct Group in 2008 and the other by the Diogenes Project in 2010 — reported substantial benefits associated with the reduction of rapidly digestible carbohydrate compared with conventional diets.

It would mean that the decades-long focus on calorie restriction was destined to fail for most people. Information about calorie content would remain relevant, not as a strategy for weight loss, but rather to help people avoid eating too much highly processed food loaded with rapidly digesting carbohydrates.

Source: NY Times weekend section

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De N4CD: Out with the sugars. Out with anything with 'added sugar' like breakfast cereal (80% sugar), fruit juices, packaged stuff and dinners, bread and most pasta. Out with the pizza. No more chips and sodas of any kind. Beer? Heh.... look at the calories and carbs.... they don't call them 'beer bellies' for no reason. Hi hi. Well, it turns out that 'low fat' is bad. Low fat food is food with added sugars most of the time. They stick in carbs and sugars instead of some fat which is the wrong thing to be doing. It's chopping the carbs down to under 70 a day and staying there if you want to eat healthy. Easy if you put your mind to it, and spend most of your shopping time in the 'grocery isle' of the supermarket buying fruit, veggies, and other healthy food not in can or package. And a calorie is not a calorie is not a calorie when you eat them. We've been over that time and time again.

County Challenge Top List

Many county hunters are tracking how many counties they have worked on which bands. Some likely for the MARAC five band award, others just for the heck of it. Also, you can track all the counties – any mode.....or by SSB, CW, digital. See who is leading the pack this month

The latest version of the County Challenge Top List is available here

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

ARRL Report on Dayton

ARRL Celebrates its Centennial at Dayton Hamvention® 2014

Dayton Hamvention 2014 already was a Regional ARRL Centennial Event, but May 18 -- Hamvention's last day -- was the 100th anniversary of the League's founding.

ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, told the Asunday gathering, "The Second Century is up to us," and expressed the hope that in another 100 years, the Amateur Radio community would reflect on the League's first century with respect and admiration.

"The weather was not so hot, but the atmosphere at Hamvention was as warm as ever," Craigie observed post-Dayton. "People were in a buying mood, both at the ARRL Expo and at the Hamvention in general. I talked to several vendors who were quite pleased."

Hara Arena was shrouded in fog as Hamvention opened on Friday, and cool, rainy weather -- including some hail -- prevailed initially, but by Saturday afternoon, the weather turned clear and brisk. While attendance numbers won't be available for a few weeks, some observers said the crowd seemed to be about the same size as last year's -- which was about 24,500. Others said the crowd seemed to thin more rapidly than in past years.

"People were thrilled to be there," said QST Managing Editor Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY. "Happy to be seeing old friends and making new ones, excited about seeing new gear, and, of course, seeing what kinds of free goodies they could pick up."

Crowd estimates notwithstanding, opening-day traffic was excellent at the ARRL Expo.

This year, the League Store switched to checkout via iPad. The top seller was the 2014 ARRL Field Day shirt. Other hot items were Travel Plus and the softcover edition of the ARRL's 2014 Handbook. The League received more than 1000 applications for memberships and renewals at the show, including eight Life Member applicants. Central Division Director Dick Isely, W9GIG, presented Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, with the 2013 Bill Orr, W6SAI, Technical Writing Award.

Equipment dealers did well, by most accounts. Several major manufacturers remarked that sales were going very well, for both in-stock and on-order items. One smaller vendor reported that sales were four times greater than last year's.

On Friday afternoon, the ARRL presented the 2013 Bill Orr, W6SAI, Technical Writing Award to Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA. The ARRL Foundation selected Luetzelschwab for his article "The Sun and the Ionosphere," which appeared in the March 2013 issue of QST.

New products seen at Hamvention included the TEN-TEC Patriot, Model 507, a dual-band (20 and 40 meters) SSB/CW QRP transceiver that modifies easily for custom applications. It runs on an Uno32 microprocessor, and uses Arduino-compatible software. Yaesu's new offering, the DR-1X repeater, a follow-up to the DR-1 that was beta-tested last year. FlexRadio debuted its Flex-6300, a software-defined radio for 160 through 6 meters.

Other new products included the TeleSense remote site monitoring system from Sierra Radio Systems; it offers station, repeater, and site monitoring via a web or cell phone interface. Hendricks QRP Kits had its new MBDC multiband CW transceiver on display.

Two Saturday ARRL forums -- "Getting Started With Antenna Modeling," with Ward Silver, N0AX, and a second showing of "ARRL at 100: A Century of Ham Radio" -- were standing room only. The Hamvention Youth Forum attracted some 70 attendees and featured presentations by young hams.

Silver returned to the speaker's podium Saturday afternoon for "Impedance Matching 101," which drew a capacity crowd. The popular ARRL Member Forum began with the awarding of the 2014 William R. Goldfarb Memorial scholarship to Padraig Lysandrou, KC9UUS. After that, attorney Fred Hopengarten, K1VR, spoke on "Amateur Radio and the Law," followed by remarks from President Craigie.

Craigie said this week that visitors were especially enthusiastic about the ARRL Centennial operating events -- the W1AW/x portable operations and the associated Centennial QSO Party. As for Hamvention?

"I'm ready to go back and do it all again next year," she said.

Hamvention Awards

Saturday evening, Hamvention's sponsor, the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA), held its annual awards dinner at Dayton's beautiful Carillon Historical Park.

This year's four honorees were Georgia's Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society for Club of the Year; Fldigi creator David Freese Jr, W1HKJ, winner of the Technical Excellence Award; ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, winner of the Special Achievement Award; and ARRL President Emeritus Larry E. Price, W4RA, who was honored as Amateur of the Year.

More pictures at:'

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152190699752408.1073741848.20069212407&type=1&l=6f63516627>

Courtesy of the ARRL Newsletter, ARRL,Newington,CT

Oops....Shale Oil Reserves Plummet

Dream of U.S. energy independence was just revised away

Opinion: Most of the shale oil we were counting on doesn't exist

The U.S. shale oil “miracle” took a major hit Wednesday, when the federal government announced a hefty downward revision of its estimate of the amount of recoverable oil in the No. 1 shale reserve in the U.S.: the Monterey formation in California.

A recently as this week, the much-publicized Monterey formation accounted for nearly two-thirds of all technically recoverable U.S. shale oil resources, standing at a world-class 13.7 billion barrels. But on Wednesday, that estimate was downgraded to a mere 600 million barrels, or 96% lower than the day before.

You read that right: 96% lower. This takes the Monterey from one of the world's largest potential fields to a play that, if all 600 million barrels thought to be there were brought to the surface all at once, would supply the U.S.'s oil needs for a mere 33 days.

Yep. 33 days.

And along with that oil come tremendous water demands, environmental, and infrastructure damages.

The reasons for the downgrade are easy enough to understand. The initial estimates were mere guesses that relied on company statements and not actual results. Now with enough wells in play the Energy Information Agency can calculate the potential of the Monterey play and it's obviously a lot less than originally thought.

With that, California's dreams of 2.8 million new jobs from the Monterey shrank to 112,000 and the hoped for \$24.6 billion in tax revenues withered to \$984 million.

More importantly, the U.S. shale "miracle" turned into a pumpkin overnight with overall U.S. reserves shrinking from approximately 24 billion barrels to approximately 11 billion barrels.

This is not surprising at all to anybody following the shale story with a critical eye. We always knew that the best plays were being prosecuted first for obvious reasons; it's human nature to go after the easy stuff first. And this is especially true for the folks in the oil patch.

The best plays were tapped first, not by some accident of technology or lucky holes plunged into the ground, but because they were cheapest to prosecute. The remaining shale deposits are less rich, more costly to explore, and the profitable pockets much harder to find.

Your main take-away is this: the U.S. has a lot less shale reserves on the books today than it did yesterday. Look for future downward revisions as the other remnant shale plays are poked and prodded and found to be wanting.

Taken as a whole, the independent petroleum producers in the U.S. will spend \$1.50 drilling for every \$1.00 of revenue they get back this year. That same spend-more-than-you-get dynamic has been in play since 2010. After four years of spending more than they get back, the free cash flows (FCF) of these companies have been quite negative.

How have they plugged the gap? With financing, of course, which is where Wall Street and the investors come into the story. But four years into the shale miracle is plenty of time to ask the obvious question: When will all these shale drilling efforts finally generate positive Free Cash Flow?

For the U.S. as a whole, the Monterey write-down should squelch any talk of the U.S. needing to export any of its oil because we still import more than 7 million barrels per day, and it was unlikely that we'd ever entirely plug that gap. The "loss" of the Monterey oil from our reserve count only makes the dream of oil independence that much less likely.

Given how much hope and political posturing rested upon the shale oil miracle in the U.S., the Monterey write-down is one the biggest news developments on the wires right now.

Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/story/dream-of-us-energy-independence-was-just-revised-away-2014-05-22>

Awards

USA-PA A Prefix #6	N9STL	05.14.2014,
USA-PA K Prefix #28	W0EAR	05.17.2014,
Bingo III # 30	W0GXQ	5.7.14,
CW #135	VE1WT	05.07.14,
CW II # 32	VA3XOV	4.27.14,
2nd Time #426	N8OYY	5.12.14,
2nd Time #425	VA3XOV	4.27.14

Events for County Hunters

June 7

Alabama QSO Party

1600 UTC (11:00AM CDST), Jun 7th, 2014 to 0400 UTC (11:00PM CDST), Jun 8th, 2014. All stations may operate the full 12 hours contest period.

<http://www.alabamagsoparty.org/2014/2014Rules.pdf>

June 14

West VA QSO Party

1600z Saturday, June 14, 2014 through 0200z Sunday, June 15, 2014

<http://www.qsl.net/wvsarc/wvqp/2014wvqsorules.html>

National Convention
See MARAC page for details

July 10-13

Visalia California

There are no QSO Parties scheduled for July – summer lull

Note: The July issue of the County Hunter News will be 'late'. N4CD will be off traveling in June, so that issue will be showing up late. (like July 10th).

73 de N4CD