County Hunter News

May 1, 2012
Volume 8, Issue 5

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

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

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

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' 7188/7185 KHz. The cw folks are now pioneering 17M operation on 18.0915. (21.0565, 24.9155, and 28.0565 when sunspots better). Look around 18136 or for occasional 17M SSB runs usually after the run on 20M SSB. (21.336 and 28.336)

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

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

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

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

MARAC sponsors an award program for many other county hunting awards. You can find information on these awards and the rules at:
http://countyhunter.com/marac_information_package.htm

The CW net procedure is written up at:

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

There is a lot more information at www.countyhunter.com . Please check it out. Back issues of the County Hunter News are available at www.CHNewsonline.com

Want county lines on your Garmin GPS?

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

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

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

Notes from the Editor

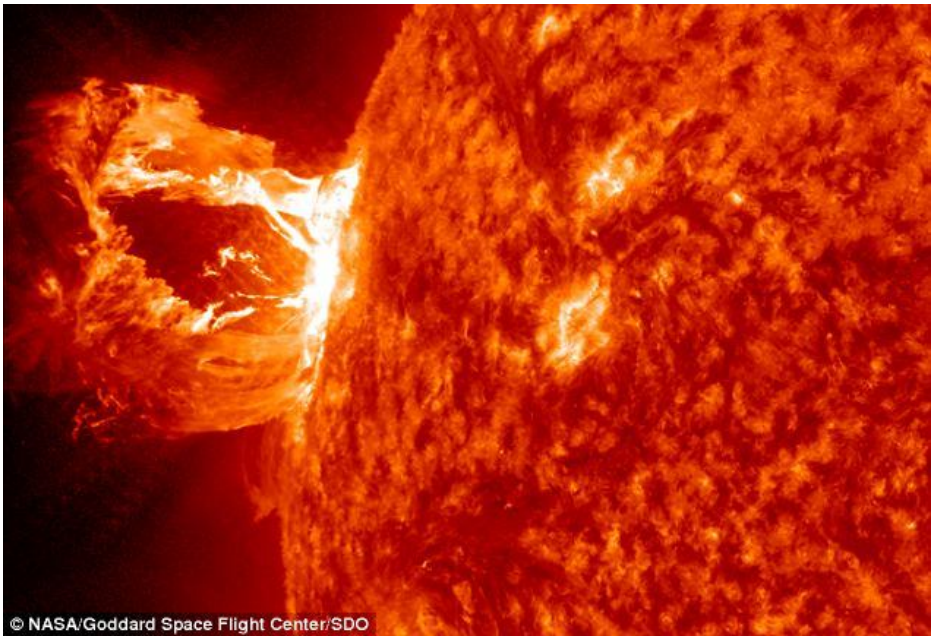
1) The weather was 'interesting' for a large part of the country. Spring conditions, strong weather fronts, and Gulf moisture churned out over 100 tornadoes in April, from TX to MN to the east coast. Fortunately we haven't heard of any county hunters being affected.

On one hand, the weather is good for county hunting with longer days and the real winter weather confined to higher elevations and higher latitudes. AK is still digging out from record snowfalls, and it snowed in NM during the NM QSO Party. In other places it was in the 80s and 90s, with warm temps up and down the east coast and over good portions of the center of the country. The Pacific Northwest continued to be clobbered by weather front after weather front bringing the normal, and maybe even more than normal, precipitation almost daily.

2) The sun continues to disappoint with little progress in the sunspot cycle. Ten meters has been dead other than DX coming through at times, and 12M has seen almost no county hunter activity. 15M has been a bit better with K2HVN and a few others spotted and worked at times

(if you were far enough away). The solar flux has been stuck at below 100 levels for two months. It would be nice if the sun did 'it's thing' and we had sunspot numbers climbing and the solar flux and MUF headed way way up. So far, there has not been much joy.

We have had quite a few solar flares and CMEs(Coronal Mass Ejections). When the eruption is oriented toward the Earth, they can cause degradation of HF bands or even a total HF outage .



This one happened mid April – pretty spectacular and captured by new NASA satellite.

Toward the end of April – the flux was zipping up to well over 100, the sunspot number was headed for well over 100. Unfortunately, the A index was way up there which killed the higher bands as well. Maybe someday things will come together for the sunspot cycle!

Mobile Activity

At the end of March forward

N0KV/N0DXE , Barry and Pat, took a trip down to TX to run about 30 counties there, cleaning up a lot of needs, including a bunch of MG needs to Barry. He was busy on SSB and CW

Tony, **WA9DLB,** headed across IL into IA.

K5TVC, Quent, headed north from south TX up through OK.

Joe, **N5UZW,** headed up to MO to run some.

Paul, **N7JPF**, headed across ID into MT.

Ed, **K8ZZ,** ran the upper part of MI and was out other days in MI.

Ed, **N8OYY,** was out and about in WV.

Jeff, **W9MSE**, was out in WI, then headed over to OH and back.

Silver, **N9QS**, was spotted out in southern MO.

Kalawao was spotted on 17M SSB a few times – a group was there for a week.

Jim, **VA3XOV,** headed to NY and put out some of the rare northern NY counties.

Jim, **ND9M,** headed over from FL to LA. Then back via AR and MS to home.

Dan, **AA0TT**, was mobile many days.

Brian, **NX0X** and Shari**, KB0MHH** were busy running lots of counties in NY and NJ then headed back to WI to run more.

Mary, **AB7NK** and Neil, **K7SEN** headed over to TX and back and put out many on their trip.

Gene, **K5GE**, headed over to SE Texas and pout them out.

Jeff, **W9MSE**, headed over to OH...then back a few days later.

Barry, **W9UCW**, and Joyce, **WB9NUL**, ran counties in TX

Jim, **K0ARS**, was spotted out in OK and MO

Gene, **WB4KZW,** noted in AL and FL

Jack, **K0MAF** was out in AL, GA and MS, AR

Paul, **N7JPF** seen in MT counties.

Jim, **N9JF,** spotted in MS and other states

Terry, **WQ7A** and Jack, **KC7YE** made a trip out to San Juan, WA (you have to take the ferry to get there) and put it out all bands up through 12M.

Jack, **N7IV**, ran a few in ND

Joe, **N5UZW,** headed over to OK and TX putting them out.

Ron, **KB6UF**, headed up to Maine via AL, TN, KY, WV, PA, NY.

Jimmy, **K4YFH** was busy running counties in GA then headed west through Al, MS, LA to Texas. . Then back east putting out lots in GA.

K0LU, Leon, was on 'tractor mobile' in Adams, ND.

Kerry, **W4SIG**, on many days in MS.

Bill, **K2HVN** left FL and ran through GA, SC, NC, and VA.

Jim, **N9JF,** was down in GA putting them out. Had some 'late night' runs going to the wee hours some nights. Then headed back to IL.

Paul, **WD9EJK**, was out and about in IL counties.

Dick, **W3DQT** was spotted out in WV.

Ray, **AB4YZ,** made a run up to WV and back.

Bob, **N4XML** was busy putting them out on data modes in SC, FL and GA.

Dick, **N8CIJ,** spotted out in FL.

Scottie, **N4AAT,** took a trip around NW South Carolina finishing up folks needs.

W4FNW/W8FNW team were about and about in FL and GA.

Duane, **WV2B,** was running counties in NC.

Frank, **AA9JJ**, and Kay, **N9QPQ** headed off on a big trek to the MI Mini- via AZ,NM, TX, OK, KS, MO, IA, IL, IN – and later back via OH to IN to IL, MO, OK, TX, NM then back to AZ.

Mike **KA4RRU** headed to FL and back.

Kerry, **W4SIG**, made a quick trip to TX and back again. He's traveling a lot with his job.

Phil, **AB7RW**, was out and about in OR then headed south to CA, and over in AZ, circling around through UT and back home.

Larry, **W7FEN**, headed east headed toward the mini. .

Matt, **W0NAC,** and Sharon, **N0LXJ,** were headed up to SD, ND, MN, working their way east to the Mini in MI.

Ron, **K2RP**, headed out from CA on a two month trip. Made it through AZ, into TX slowly working his way east.

Jeffrey, **AF3X**, left TN headed west through TX.

Jim, **N9JF,** down in AL, MS and headed back through TN.

Bob, **K7TM,** was out putting out ID counties.

Kerry, **W4SIG,** took another quick trip to Collin County TX. Ran back via the interstate late and night, mostly running 80m CW the entire way.

W7IN was out and about in WA state.

Dan, **AA0TT**, was on from the big rig around the country.

Scottie, **N4AAT,** headed up to NC to Rowan County – the LC WBOW for K5OH for Bingo. Ran a few others while there then zipped back on home.

After deadline time, we expect that:

Dan, **KM9X,** and **Judy**, KB9MGI, will head on up to the mini in MI

Jerry, **W0GXQ** will head across through MN, WI to MI via the UP and then back.

N8KIE, Bob, will be headed to the mini.

K3IMC, Don, will head to the mini

KA9JAC/KB9YVT Bob and Ann, will be headed to the mini.

It should be very busy on the nets!

End date 4/25/2012

Jerry, W0GXQ reported on his North Dakota Trip:

After listening to the bands the past two days, I realize that I was very lucky over the weekend with pretty good conditions.

Some stats: Total contacts 1,572 of which 903 were on CW and 669 on SSB. Twenty meters was the hottest band with 1,095 Q's, but I really had the most fun 17m and 15m CW . . . 293 Q's on those two bands. Only seven on 12m and just 2 contacts on 10m. Not much going on with 40m either CW or SSB.

I ran 25 counties - 22 in ND and 3 in MN. Over the two days, I ran nine counties separately, and eight county lines; so 1,572 Q's was a pretty good rate. I believe there were 15 LC's handed out.

Gas prices averaged $3.80 which is what I pay here in town, but everything else was sky high out near the oil fields ($120 for a room at Super 8). My next trip will be to the Michigan Mini, and that trip will be posted.

Special Event Stations

Usually I don't get too interested in Special Event stations, but if you are starting over, or are looking for some of those harder to get counties, sometimes Special Event stations are one of the ways to snag a needed county. Also these days, at times you can snag some 1x1 calls that only appear in state QSO parties and Special Event operations.

Each month, there is usually some event that triggers a flurry of activity for one group. Sometimes it is submarine activation – where groups go out and 'activate' the various WW2 submarines that are used for museums and exhibits around the country. In the past, there used to be Submarines on the Air annual events (SOTA) but this is now combined with Battleships on the air. Here's a site for them

http://www.nj2bb.org/museum/

The next event is scheduled for June 2.

Several of the county hunters are involved in this, including WD4OIN, Jack. We've written about his quest to obtain the tube needed to restore one of the transmitters on the Battleship North Carolina in a past issue. Ed, K8ZZ, enjoyed his visit to the Battleship Missouri out in Pearl Harbor, and Bob, N8KIE gets by there several times a year to activate KH6BB. It's also on during the Hawaii QSO Party as a separate multiplier (Ford Island).

Sometimes the stations make it on for Field Day and other contest events as well.

During the year, you have the various Lighthouses activated around the USA. You might even get Nantucket and Dukes counties this way as those lighthouses get activated.

In April, there were at least half a dozen Titanic Special Event stations put on the air. This was unusual in that nearly all of them spent most of their time on CW – as opposed to most of the other Special Events seemingly spending most of their time on SSB. You had many of them spotted on the W6RK spotting page (ch.W6RK.com) including GR100MGY, VO1MGY,

KM1CC, K1T, W1S, with excellent cw operators zipping out the contacts. There were shipboard stations on as well – on the two ships headed toward the final spot where the Titanic sunk on April 15, 1912. The Titanic Museum in Pigeon Forge had W4S operating from Sevier County TN – a Natural Bingo and a 1x1 on SSB.

W0S was supposed to be on from the Titanic Museum in Branson but no one spotted it if it made it on the air. I've worked it in the past.

VO1MGY was operating at the Admiralty House in St. John, Newfoundland.

MGY was the callsign of the Titanic. (Great Britain had the "M" prefix then and still does today). GR100MGY was on from the county in Ireland where Phillips, the radio operator grew up.

For those needing confirmations, the good news is that with an SASE, nearly all of the Special Event stations are reliable QSLers. Some ask you throw in a buck or two to defray keeping the special event stations on the air, too.

You have some other oddball events too to track. Each year there is a Route 66 event – with fixed and mobile stations putting out contacts all along the 1000 plus miles of that original transcontinental highway.(well, IL to CA).

Most of the operators for Special Events try and work as many as possible - hello/goodbye type contacts – so you have a chance of getting through any pileup. It helps if folks spot them when they hear them to help others get them.

QST and CQ Magazine list them each month. Some are pretty obscure events like a Apple Festival, but others are multiple activations at a time by multiple stations. When not many mobiles are running, it can be an interesting diversion – and counties are counties no matter how you get them!

Thanks to the spotters who spotted some of these Special Events – I managed to snag a couple of the Titanic ones over the weekend. Also spotted a few as I ran across them. April was the 100th anniversary of the Titanic Disaster.

Some Goodies From Ebay

WRL 84 Duo-Bander 80/40M

WRL Duo-Bander 84: transceiver; 1966 catalog; price $189.00; 80/40 meter (3.8 - 4.0 MHz and 7.1 - 7.3 MHz) SSB (LSB)

300 watts; 2 KHz dial calibration; 2.7 KHz bandwidth crystal lattice
filter (4 pole); sensitivity 1 uV for 10 dB signal to noise
ratio; final amplifier pair 6HF5's;

requires 800 VDC @ 400 mA, 325 VDC @ 200 mA, -100 VDC @ 10 mA,
12 VDC @ 200 mA, and 12 VAC/DC @ 5 A.

Here's another WRL radio

WRL Tech Ceiver 6M QRP transceiver

This was sold in kit form in 1961 for $39.95 as part of the WRL Comet Kit line. It took a $15.95 optional power supply to run it. The first model was a 1 watt crystal controlled AM transmitter, with the A model running 5w input. (It was similar in appearance to the Lafayette HE-35 of the time).

Here's a good web page with pictures of most of the WRL equipment over the years

http://amfone.net/Tech/wrl/PhotoAlbum.htm

On the Road with N4CD I

Jim, N1BY, was down to ONE to finish. Just one for the WBOW for his 5th time, and if I got Trinity and the next one to it, Angelina, that would be another WBOW for Bingo III. Wow....well, you can't not get interested in getting Jim finished off.

Heck, I drove over 487 miles yesterday going west.....it was still a weekend and the car was ready to go again. I could rest up during the week. Plus take the car in for an oil change – it's due.

The weather was great – temps started out in the 60s and were headed toward the low 80s and nothing but sunshine. I woke up at 5am.....and figured it was time to get ready to leave. By 5:30 am I headed over to pick up the Sunday paper, then zipped 7 miles to the Denny's for my normal Sunday "in town" breakfast to read the Sunday paper end to end – a bit early, but by the time I finished, it would be getting light. I enjoyed their $4 Value Meal (two pancakes, two eggs, two slices bacon)....and $1 AARP coffee. Can't complain - $5.41 plus I leave a nice tip. I was headed south on Highway 75 at 7am – still a bit 'dawn' but fine for driving.

For the past two days – Texas had been nice and 'green'. With the inches of rain – all the grass was bight green, the foliage was green. By summer time, a lot of it has turned brown – and we had a real dry few summers. It was good to see everything blooming and everything actually 'green'. The downside is near record amounts of pollen for the allergy suffers – hi hi. Can't win them all.

Not much to report route wise- the plan was to get to Trinity ASAP, head a bit east to Angelina, then head home the fastest way. While that doesn't look far in the coloring book, it's a good day of driving. You can drive around VT all counties, NH, and CT....maybe all 3 for the 420 miles it took – hi hi. Down 75 to I45 out of downtown Dallas, through Ellis, Navarro was the start.

I punched in the city of Crockett, TX for a waypoint. The nice GPS lady wanted me to get off Interstate 45 at route 287 in Navarro County to get to Crockett. GPS said that would put me into Crockett at 9:45 am.

Jonas, LY5A, sent me an email asking for Freestone – one county further south on I-45. I could get to that and take 84 across – with about the same mileage. The GPS lady was not happy. After I passed the turn for 287 headed SE, she kept complaining! Take next exit..make U-turn. I passed it by. The next exit – same thing...EXIT NOW!.....after about 3 more exits....and little roads to get back to 287.....I turned off the nice GPS lady by hitting the STOP.....and headed another 10 miles down into the next county – Freestone.

Then I brought the GPS lady back on line to get back on track to route 84 down to Crockett (the city, not the county) in Houston County. You just hit 'where to' , then pick 'recently found' and it's right there. No need to re enter all the data. Usually I just enter no street, then pick something like First Street or any street that pops up. Gets you on the right route to get there. It would be nice if the first entry that showed up was 'city center' or something like that. When I use the GPS for route planning, I don't want to go to a street address!

Amazingly, the GPS said I'd be in Crockett at 9:44 am. Hmmm...! Faster to ignore the GPS lady. I'm learning to ignore the GPS lady at times. It's just one way to get there! (Usually correct , but sometimes it does make you wonder when it takes you down cowpaths).

I caught Jonas for that needed county. Then over to Houston County via 84, 294 and 281

south. As I approached the town of Crockett, I reprogrammed the GPS lady for “Pennington, TX” just over the border in Trinity County, where I hooked up with N1BY for the LC WBOW for Fifth Time on 20M CW. Success.

LC WBOW 5th Time for N1BY
Next to LC WBOW for Bingo III

Well, dang...this sign said 'Trinity County Line'. Hmmm....all the larger signs seem to say “County Line” on them. Only the older smaller signs don't say it...plus of course, just about every sign in OK _ they just have 'Rogers County' or similar. Same in KS – and those are fairly small most of the time in OK– you have to be looking for them. Maybe I've just read the first line of the county line signs? Hmmm.....

Next it was on to 358 – a small road headed toward 'Lufkin' in Angelina County. You wind up going through the Davy Crockett National Forest – where they don't worry about county designations or even markings on the map. You're sort of just 'in the woods'.

“The Davy Crockett National Forest, named for the legendary pioneer, contains more than 160,000 acres of East Texas woodlands, streams, recreation areas, and wildlife habitat. Located in Houston and Trinity Counties, the forest is centrally located within the Neches and Trinity River basins. The Davy Crockett National Forest was proclaimed a National Forest by President Franklin Roosevelt on October 15, 1936. “

http://www.stateparks.com/davy_crockett_national_forest_in_texas.html

That's 253 square miles.....mostly all trees with a some open spots.

according to wiki

“In fiscal year 1994, 93.8 million board feet of timber was harvested from the national forests in Texas, providing 2,098 jobs and $73,108,000 in income to the surrounding Texas communities. The area is pine-hardwood woodlands with flat to gently rolling terrain. “

You find that 358 ends in another road with a T...and there is a one mile gravel 'Centerville Cut-off' gravel road across the road. Hmm....that is where you have to put some faith in the GPS! I took it, following another car that seemed to know where it was going - and sure enough it wound up on 94 headed into Lufkin.

In this part of TX, other than the forest, you won't go more than 1/2 a mile without a house or farm building. It's well populated. The previous trip out to Foard – well, you can go miles and miles and even more miles before seeing a house. Gigantic ranches...or land so horrible it's nothing but red clay in old river bottoms with terrain so tough it would take you hours to go a mile – washed out gullies almost impossible to travel over. Plus there's lots and lots of giant farms/ranches with not much population other than in the larger towns. The small towns out west are 100-200 people.

You can zip along the rural highways – even faster on two lane – in west TX. Don't try it in east TX. Out west, the speed traps are on the big 4 lane roads....like 287 and 380 near the cities/towns when the speed limits drop. Oh, and DO slow down for towns....I saw one on on Saturday's trip in a town of a few thousand.....they had two “speeders” pulled over and a cop was looking to nail the next one in the 40mph speed zone through town. Going down I-45, Ellis and Navarro Counties had a few pulled over on the interstate – you've got to be going 12 or 15 over to catch their attention. No problems – other than really rural TX, I just cruise along at the speed limit or 5 over in east TX or 'keep up with traffic'. South of Freestone, folks zip along at 80 or 85 for 150 miles through not much of anything on their way to the city of Houston.

There was massive construction along the highway – never saw the sign for Angelina..... or saw it on the GPS. The entire east bound lanes were being redone and traffic was in the west bound lane in 'cattle chutes' that took your full attention to drive. After I passed a town (Hudson) that was well into the county, I could start to run it. Jim, N1BY was on frequency and he got his second WBOW in one day finishing up Bingo III. Serendipity. It helps when your last two needs are right next to each other! It sure beats having one over here and the other 1500 miles away! Hi hi

17M was good at times and nearly dead at other times. Strange. 20M was good nearly all day with the DX coming in. VK4AAR was in there early for while, SP5SA, DL3IAC, LY5A, and YV5OIE were in the log many times.

Ron, N5MLP needed Angelina for an N prefix – one of five in TX – we managed to hook up on 40M SSB through the intense QRM from the CQ WPX SSB contest that was raging. Tough. I had tried it earlier in Trinity – no one was there. Never tried 20m SSB today. Worked 3 or 4 others on 40M SSB but that was tough.....QRM from 7189 and 7185 that was 20-40 over.

Stopped for gas and lunch in Cherokee County – Subway and 8.5 gal of $3.75 gas.

Not much to report..headed up through Cherokee – hit a corner of Anderson again – then into Henderson, Kaufman Dallas, around the beltway with 8 lanes of traffic and 10,000 cars.

Some folks were out of their cars frolicking in the Texas wildflowers seeded along highway 175 in Kaufman County - a massive blanket of blue bonnets for a mile or two. They were taking pictures. It's illegal to pick any of the flowers. Just look.

You would think gas was 50c a gallon with all the cars on the road around Dallas. A car in every lane every 250 feet for 30 miles. Fortunately it was all moving 60-65 mph in my direction of travel with a slow down or two on the 'other side', not my side. This was a Sunday, too! That last part of the long trip around 1/3rd of the beltway might be 2 or 3 hours at rush hour in instead of 45 minutes!

I pulled in the driveway about 3:15 after topping off the tank. $3.85 per gallon at the home Shell station.

Stats:

Miles: 420

Hours driving: 8.5 including about 1 hour stopped to run counties where needed.

Gas: 13.5 gal

Gas mileage: 31 mpg

Cost: don't ask..... I try not to look at the $$$$ going by when filling up....just the gallons... hi hi.

One more county hunter done, and now needing another 3077 counties! I hope I hit something you needed!

Next day, Jim, N1BY received Fifth Time Award#107 and Bingo III #24! Way to go!

The Moon, The Tides, The Titanic

Now a team of astronomers at Texas State University-San Marcos has suggested that the moon can be blamed for the sinking of the Titanic on its maiden voyage 100 years ago.

How the moon caused icebergs to litter the Titanic's path, on April 14, 1912, is really a story about the Earth's tides. What we now know about where icebergs originate and how they travel could have informed the Titanic's crew and perhaps avoided tragedy. But at the time, this science was in its infancy.

The Titanic's captain did not expect icebergs to be a problem -- rarely did ice travel so far south into the Atlantic. Yet contemporaneous warnings from other ships suggested there were an unusual number of icebergs. Passengers reported seeing ice floes, lookouts spotted ice and sounded warnings, and other ships in the area reported fields of ice near the disaster site.

Here's where astronomy comes in: Three months earlier, on January 4, 1912, the closest approach of the moon to the Earth in 1,400 years occurred within one day of the Earth's closest approach to the sun (which occurs once per year), all within minutes of a full moon, meaning the sun was perfectly aligned on the other side of the Earth (this happens every couple of weeks). The odds of all three events occurring at once are, well, astronomical.

This lineup had to have caused unusually high tides in the North Atlantic. Tides are caused mostly by the differential pull of the moon's gravity on the Earth. The pull is strongest on the near side and weakest on the far side, since the strength of gravity, as Isaac Newton told us four centuries ago, falls as the square of the distance between the two massive objects -- in this case, the Earth and the moon.

That is, the moon pulls hardest on the Earth's oceans on the side facing the moon, making a bulge of water (high tide). It pulls less hard on the Earth, but even less hard on the water on the far side, so a watery bulge forms on the far side as well -- a high tide roughly 12 hours out of synch.

The overall strength of the moon's gravity, as well as its differential (tidal) effect, is greatest when the moon is closest to the Earth, as on January 4, 1912.

Now consider the sun. It is much more massive than the moon or Earth but also much farther

away. The absolute pull of the sun's gravity is far greater than the pull of the moon -- that's why we're orbiting the sun, after all, rather than the moon -- but the sun does not exert much of a tidal force on the Earth (that is, a stronger force on the Earth's near side than its far side) because, compared to the distance between the sun and Earth, the Earth's size is miniscule.

Try this analogy (thanks to Veritasium.com): if the Earth were the size of a basketball, the moon would be a tennis ball about 24 feet away, and the Sun would be like a house nearly two miles away. To the sun, the Earth is a tiny speck: its diameter is less than 0.01% of the Earth-sun distance. But the size of the Earth is a few percent of the distance to the moon, which translates to about a 7% stronger gravitational pull on the near side of the Earth than the far side. That's why the moon dominates the Earth's tides.

Still, when the sun lines up perfectly on the opposite side of the Earth from the moon, as it did on January 4, 1912, it increases the tidal effect slightly. And the fact that the sun and moon were particularly close to the Earth at precisely the same time -- well, that made the tidal bulges even bigger.

What does this have to do with icebergs? The University of Texas scientists pointed out that normally, icebergs move south from Greenland in fits and starts, frequently grounding in the shallow waters off Labrador and Newfoundland. But unusually high tides in January 1912 meant the icebergs didn't get stuck. Instead, they kept moving south, arriving in much greater numbers than usual in the path of the Titanic.

Maybe the Titanic's captain had reason to believe reports of excessive ice were wrong -- such conditions were, after all, not the norm. But he didn't reckon on the inexorable pull of gravity from Earth's nearest celestial neighbor. This is the real lunar influence on our lives: gravity and tides, not werewolves and pregnant women.

One thing this new theory predicts: There should be records of exceptionally high tides near Newfoundland and Labrador in January 1912. This is the hallmark of a proper theory: it makes predictions that can then be tested.

Missouri QSO Party

Mobiles were out and running. KI0I, N0AX and KC0M were noted. Conditions seemed pretty decent – and the mobiles and fixed stations were making hundreds and hundreds of contacts. The higher bands, 10 and 15, did not cooperate so few contacts and spots seen up there.

from the3830 reflector:

WD0ECO (MO – fixed) 136 cw 392 SSB QSO

My first MO QSO Party. It was fun being on the 'DX' side of a pileup!!!

Lots of activity on Saturday. Too bad 10 and 15 meters weren't better.

528 Q's but missed NE, HI, and WY for WAS. It was nice to work so many Canadian stations and some DX.

Elecraft K3, KPA500, Mosley tribander and OCF Dipole. Logged with N1MM.

N0AX mobile

Great county run on Saturday - thanks to Ellen KD0PES for driving. We saw lots of cows, a llama, and two camels - one dromedary, one bactrian.

Had DX stations following us around all day - glad to give DL3DXX Howard county at 4 AM his time and also to N3HOO and N4CD. Big fun! See you next year from another mobile ramble around the state.

N4PN (GA)

Biggest percentage of my contacts was with Marc,
KI0I/15 Q's, and Ward, N0AX also 15 Q's followed by
KC0M w/9 Q's.

AB0RX (MO) 13 cw 577 SSB

Portable expedition to the Highest point in Missouri. This was a field day type expedition running off generator power. I accidentally forgot to bring the antenna tuner and CW keying interface cable but got by without them.

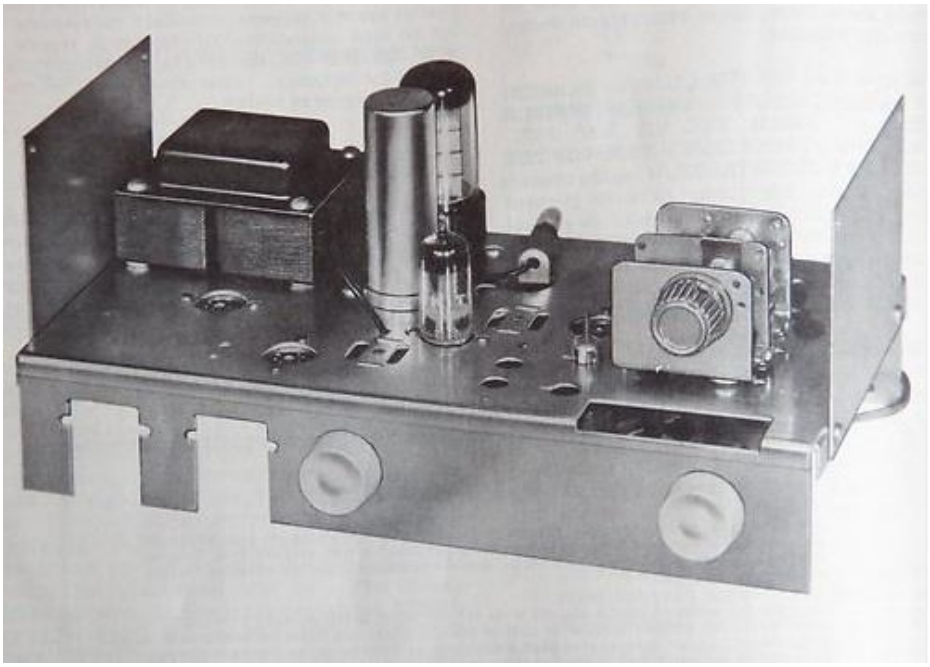
Highlight was working Angola (D2) on 10M.

On the Regen Trail

Another interesting goodie showed up on Ebay this month. It's a Heathkit EK-2A educational trainer – this one was 'unbuilt' and put back into original unbuilt condition.

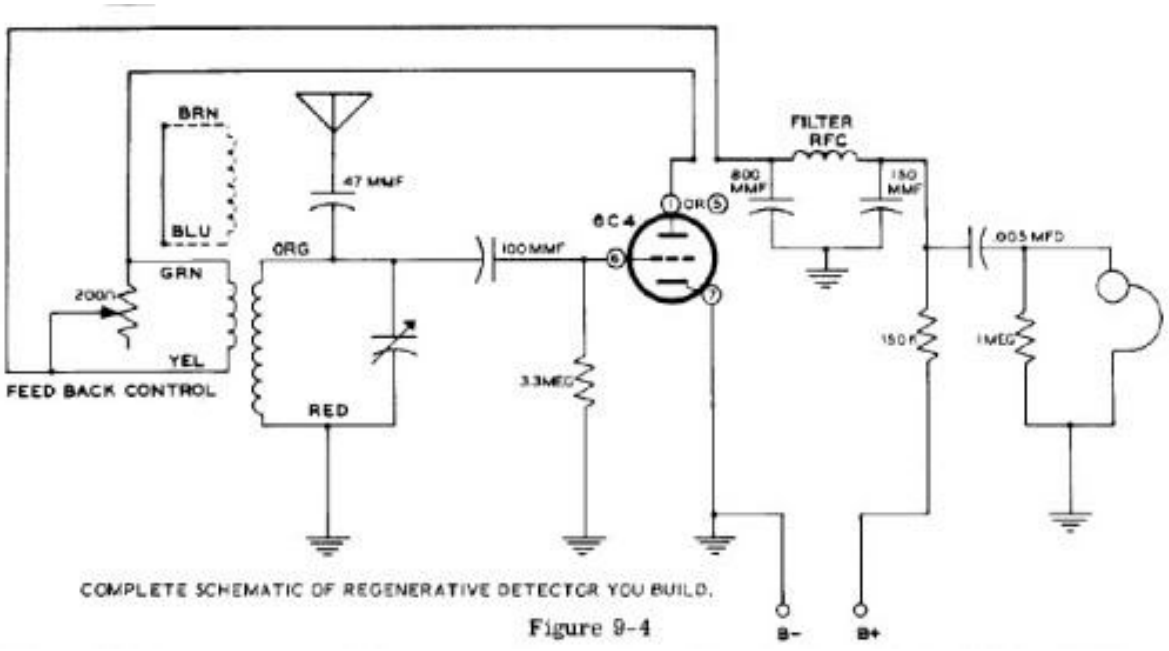
The Heath trainer starts you out building various receivers – from a crystal set, to a diode detector, to a grid leak detector, then finally a regenerative receiver. You can go on to the EK-2B kit, which then converts that into a superhet 2 band receiver with a calibrated dial in several steps.

As you can see, the EK-2A is barebones – one tube plus a 5Y3 rectifier tube, a 6C4 triode, but with a power transformer. Nearly all of the Heathkits had a power transformer. Only the very very early kits made before the 1952 or so era did not in all cases – for example, the Health All Wave set about 1949-1950 which was AC/DC.



The course actually has you starting out building the power supply. Then you build a crystal radio, they a crystal radio with audio amplifier stage.

Then you convert that to a diode detector, then a grid leak detector circuit. After that, you build a one tube, one stage regenerative receiver as below



COMPLETE SCHEMATIC OF REGENERATIVE DETECTOR YOU BUILD.

Figure 9-4

It doesn't get any more primitive. No volume control. Just a regen control. Even the Knight Kit Ocean hopper had an added stage of audio amplification and volume control, and that was bare bones. Of course, you didn't get the Heathkit Course on radio technology, and this unit could be expanded to a five tube(plus rectifier) superhet design by adding in the EK-2B add on kit. The Ocean Hopper was also AC/DC – no transformer.

You can actually find manuals for both of these on-line

The EK-2A manual is here

http://www.scribd.com/doc/64654927/EK-2A-Basic-Radio-Part-1

The unwired EK2A kit sold for $283 on Ebay! Ouch!

The EK-2B manual is here at www.mods.dk You have to register there and can only download one manual per 4 days as a 'member' unless you make a donation.

When you get the EK-2B add on:

The first step they take you through is adding an audio amp stage (6AQ5) to the existing regen

set. Then you add in a triode audio stage (first audio with volume control). Then you unbuilt the regen, and start with a TRF set, and finally adding next the IF transformers and pentagrid converter and oscillator circuits. The final addition is adding a BFO oscillator and wiring in the bandswitch and short wave coils. Interesting kit – I've seen the assembled EK-2Bs go by on Ebay for years but no interest in 'low end' receiver. I"ve never seen just the EK-1 set for sale.

You wind up with a set with a 6BE6 pentagrid converter/osc, a single IF stage at 455 KHz using a 6BA6, a 6AT6 detector/first audio amp, 6AQ5 audio amp, and the original 6C4 used as a BFO oscillator. Plus of course the 5Y3 rectifier tube. This educational set sold about 1961 era for $30 and the second add on kit about the same. The cabinet was an additional option.

Heathkit manuals are harder to find in the US. Someone bought up the Heathkit name and copyright on all the manuals in the US and charges and arm and leg. Fortunately they are available in Europe and many manuals for US made equipment is available at:

http://bama.edebris.com/manuals/

Heathkit manuals here: (but you can only download one every four days)

http://www.mods.dk/manual.php?brand=heathkit

History of Distress Signals

"Wireless Communications' celebrated a milestone in April with the anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic. Here's a bit of history on how CQD – the distress signal of the Marconi Company – and SOS came to be used for the 'Emergency' signal recognized world wide.

Marconi started his wireless experiments in the 1890s and had developed equipment for ships by 1900. It appears the first commercial ship to carry wireless was the German SS Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse in March 1900. Before that, warships, yachts and other craft had carried sets, but only for experimental purposes. Within a year, multiple ships had 'wireless' and it was being used to summon assistance when needed.

By 1904, a number of ships in Transatlantic service were carrying wireless. The British operators were mostly land line telegraphers who had let the railroad and gone to sea in the new field. With them, they took not only their expertise, but also their abbreviations and signals.

One signal, in particular, was the general call – CQ – which was used to attract the attention of all other operators along a telegraph wire. It preceded the morning time signal, and messages

of genera importance. CQ went to sea and became a general call to all ships.

In 1903, a preliminary International Conference for the regulation of wireless telegraphy was held In Berlin but it was concerned mainly with an agenda for the next conference a year later. The Italian delegation brought up the subject of 'international distress signal'. They suggested SSSDDD be used. Every ship receiving this call was to suspend all other communications at once and devote itself entirely to communication with the ship in distress. It was decided to leave this to the next conference. It did result, however, that all ships must give priority to emergency communications.

In 1904, the Marconi company issued instructions to its operators. It noted that CQ did not express the urgency of an emergency, thus recommended that CQD be used by operators. The signal could only be initiated by the Captain of a ship or other officer in emergency situations.

Some later suggested that CQD stood for 'Come Quick Danger', but since CQ had been used, and it meant basically nothing by the letters, that doesn't seem to be the case.

The Second International Conference on Wireless was held in 1906 in Berlinn. Kaiser Wilhem II foresaw the development of radio communications and that is should be protected by international treaty and not become a monopoly or all private companies excluding others. Some thirty nations sent delegates. He US sent Admiral Manney and the American Ambassador Charlemagne Tower. The thorny question of inter-communication between competing systems and the selection of a suitable international distress call were major problems to be settled at the Conference. CHNews readers will recall that there were multiple systems in existence, in part due to patent infringement lawsuits and 'work arounds' to get around them.

At this time in the US, there was chaos on the bands with competing systems trying to use the same frequencies at the same time, and incompatible transmit/receive systems battling it out for dominance. (Sort of like the early days of the PC – where MSFT wound up on top putting nearly all the other competitors to word processing, spreadsheets, and simple graphics programs 'out of business'.)

The Marconi Company, the dominant one, fought this idea of compulsory inter-communication because it would have to place it's far flung worldwide network at its competitors use. N Great Britain, Italy, and several other countries supported Marconi – no surprise- but the American delegation persisted and the broad principle of inter-working was adopted by the Conference.

The delegates then selected an international distress signal. The Germans had been using SOE and suggested it. After lots of discussion, it was felt the final 'E' could easily be lost in static or by a nervous operator not sending it correctly, and finally SOS – used by no one at that time, was selected. It could not be mistaken for anything else, and was deemed to be

attention=arresting and distinctive .

SOS was officially adopted by international ratification in 1908. The older CQD lingered for several more years, especially in the British service where it originated. Jack inns ws to make it famous in the Republic-Florida collision in 1909, and as late as 1912, Phillips on the Titanic used both CQD and SOS to summon help

In 1910, the President issued an executive order requiring all ships entering US Ports to have wireless on board.

The US, generally a laggard in ratifying international standards, did not ratify it until 1912, four years after other nations had ratified the 1906 Conference recommendation. The US might have have even acted without the Titanic sinking where SOS was flashed worldwide.

That's how SOS came to be recognized as used as the International Distress signal.

Reference: SOS to the Rescue, Baarslag, 1931

Montana QSO Party

There was the annual MT QSO party – with about a half dozen fixed stations on. No one spotted the one mobile in eastern MT, and NT7R was the only other mobile spotted. You still had chances for about 10 counties. Not many commented or reported scores on the 3830 reflector.

KC0W/mobile

I took the short drive into Montana from the QTH here in western ND to operate the MT QSO Party Saturday mid-morning. I called, called & then called some more.....Final outcome was a big 17 QSO's. I was running my homebrew 900 watt amplifier in the mobile so I know I had a good signal.

I just wanted to help some of the participants out.

Maybe next year it will be better?

N3RC – fixed MT had 67 CW 79 SSB QSO

N5NA (TX) 9 QSO CW

Thanks to NT7R for 7 of my 9 QSO's!

NB7V – MT – 1475 SSB QSO

“excellent conditions, huge pile ups. Stack worked well except for some brief snow static. operator fatigue towards the end of the contest.

Thanks for all the qso's!!!”

More Oil than Saudi Arabia?

Does the U.S. Really Have More Oil than Saudi Arabia?

by Robert Rapier on April 4, 2012 - 11:16am

The Difference Between Oil Shale and Oil-Bearing Shale

People are often confused about the overall extent of U.S. oil reserves. Some claim that the U.S. has hundreds of billions or even trillions of barrels of oil waiting to be produced if bureaucrats will simply stop blocking development. In fact, in a recent debate between Republican candidates contending for Gabrielle Giffords' recently vacated House seat, one candidate declared "We have more oil in this country than in Saudi Arabia." So, I thought it might be a good idea to elaborate a bit on U.S. oil resources.

Oil production has been increasing in the U.S. for the past few years, primarily driven by expanding production from the Bakken Shale Formation in North Dakota and the Eagle Ford Shale in Texas. The oil that is being produced from these shale formations is sometimes improperly referred to as shale oil. But when some people speak of hundreds of billions or trillions of barrels of U.S. oil, they are most likely talking about the oil shale in the Green River

Formation in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming. Since the shale in North Dakota and Texas is producing oil, some have assumed that the Green River Formation and its roughly 2 trillion barrels of oil resources will be developed next because they think it is a similar type of resource. But it is not.

Although the oil in the Bakken and Eagle Ford is being extracted from shale formations, the term shale oil has been used for over 100 years to describe a very different resource. This has led some to confusion over the differences between current production in North Dakota and potential production in Colorado. The oil in the Bakken and Eagle Ford formations actually exists as oil, but the shale does not allow the oil to flow very well. This oil is properly called "tight oil", and advances in hydraulic fracturing (fracking) technology have allowed some of this oil to be economically produced. (For more details, I discuss resources, reserves, fracking, shale gas, and oil shale in some detail in my new book Power Plays: Energy Options in the Age of Peak Oil).

The estimated amount of oil in place (the resource) varies widely, with some suggesting that there could be 400 billion barrels of oil in the Bakken. Because of advances in fracking technology, some of the resource has now been classified as reserves (the amount that can be technically and economically produced). However, the reserve is a very low fraction of the resource at 2 to 4 billion barrels (although some industry estimates put the recoverable amount as high as 20 billion barrels or so). For reference, the U.S. consumes a billion barrels of oil in about 52 days, and the world consumes a billion barrels in about 11 days.

Like the Bakken, the Eagle Ford formation in Texas consists of oil (and natural gas) in tight formations that is being accessed via fracking. The amount of technically recoverable oil in the Eagle Ford is estimated by the U.S. Department of Energy to be 3.35 billion barrels of oil.

Without a doubt, these two formations are a major factor in the current resurgence of U.S. oil production. But the Green River formation is the source of talk of those enormous oil resources -- larger than those of Saudi Arabia -- and it is a very different prospect than the tight oil being produced in North Dakota and Texas. The oil shale in the Green River looks like rock. Unlike the hydrocarbons in the tight oil formations, the oil shale (kerogen) consists of very heavy hydrocarbons that are solid. In that way, oil shale more resembles coal than oil. Oil shale is essentially oil that Mother Nature did not finish cooking, and thus to convert it into oil, heat has to be added. The energy requirements -- plus the fact that oil shale production requires a lot of water in a very dry environment -- have kept oil shale commercialization out of reach for over 100 years.

Thus, while the U.S. might indeed have greater oil resources than Saudi Arabia, U.S. oil reserves (per the BP Statistical Review of World Energy) are only about 1/10th those of Saudi Arabia. The distinction is important.

Summarizing the Definitions

To summarize, let's review the definitions for the important terms discussed here:

Oil resource -- the total amount of oil in place, most of which typically can't be recovered

Oil reserve -- the amount of oil that can be recovered economically with existing technology

Oil shale -- sedimentary rock that contains solid hydrocarbons called kerogen (e.g., Green River Formation)

Shale oil -- the oil that can be obtained by cooking kerogen

Tight oil -- liquid hydrocarbons that are obtained by hydraulic fracturing of shale formations (e.g., Bakken Formation and Eagle Ford Formation)

Conclusion: Resources are not Reserves, and Tight Oil isn't Shale Oil

It is pretty clear that at current oil prices, developments in the tight oil formations will continue. It is not at all clear that even at $100 oil the shale in the Green River formation will be commercialized to produce oil, although a number of companies are working on it and will continue to do so. Oil shale is commercially produced in some countries like Estonia, but it is primarily just burned for power.

In order to commercially convert the oil shale into oil, a more energy efficient method of producing it must be found (or, one would have to have extremely cheap energy and abundant water supplies to drive the process). I have heard from multiple industry sources that the energy return for producing oil from oil shale is around 4 to 1 (lower than for oil sands production), and that is before refining the oil to finished products. At this sort of energy return, oil sands will continue to be a more economical heavy oil option.

Thus, my prediction is that despite having an oil shale resource that may indeed be far greater than the oil resources of Saudi Arabia (I don't think I have seen an estimate of Saudi's total oil resources), the reserve will continue to be close to zero for the foreseeable future because there are still many technical hurdles to overcome to realize a scalable, commercially viable process.

Finally, I would say that if a commercially viable process for shale oil production from the Green River formation is developed, the environmental blowback will be enormous. The production of shale oil is more energy intensive (i.e., has higher carbon emissions) than for the oil sands, it has a high water requirement in a dry climate, and it is potentially a huge new source of carbon dioxide emissions. The environmental protests that would arise in response to a growing commercial shale oil operation would make the Keystone XL pipeline protests pale in comparison."

source: Oil Drum Discussion Board

New Mexico QSO Party

Activity was limited with not many mobiles compared to the QSO Parties back east. It's a lot further between counties out west! There were a dozen fixed stations mostly on SSB available. With the GQP going, it was tough to find a frequency on 20SSB to operate. GQP attracts lots of high power fixed stations tying up the few not so busy frequencies on a weekend. Plus, your normal , fortunately few, pain in the butt out of state HP stations calling CQ GA and tying up even more frequencies along with the other contest denizens.

I noticed the following stations spotted:

AA5B 40m cw Bernalillo
N5UL Lea NM
WA7JHQ Bernalillo
K5XY SSB Valencia Cibola Socorro
K7IA Carton SSB/CW
K5WO Rio Arriba CW
W5TTE Bernalillo CW
W5IL Sante Fe , Guadalupe, DeBaca, Eddy/Lea, Dona Ana/Otero, Grant/Hildalgo, Luna SSB
KS5Z Roosevelt - SSB
K8TE Harding CW
WA5J Bernalillo CW
KK6MC Bernalillo/Sandoval, Mora CW
K5LRW Otero SSB
KF5UFO Eddy, NM SSB
N3MRA Union SSB

out there but never spotted - K9GAJ on SSB.....

40M QRN in TX was horrendous – and not much in the way of skip to most of NM heard here. N5NA was busy working them from west TX.

K7IA (portable in Catron)

I operate Field Day from Catron County every year as QRP, but since the county name isn't part of the FD exchange, no one knows that "rare" Catron is activated on Field Day. Therefore, with predicted weather looking good (as of two weeks ago) and with a homebrew ground mount to "portable-ize" an old nine band Butternut vertical, it was a natural decision to try to put Catron on the map for the county hunters. Two weeks before the event, wife, Erin, and I made a recon mission to look for a relatively low elevation site that was in the open and with good take-off angles all around. We found a nice one on open range supporting a few dozen head of cattle that kept the grassland mowed down to the nubs--no fire danger in this drier-than-normal season.

We drove the 4WD truck-mounted camper to the site on Thursday and set up on Friday, a beautiful sunny day marred only by 30 knot winds all day--a great test for the B'nut's ground mount. Because the surroundings were so dramatically scenic, we took lots of photos on Friday, especially at sunset.

Good thing, because it snowed (horizontally) all day on Saturday. From many reports, we weren't the only folks enjoying the snow, but I think everyone else was in their (warm) home digs. RV propane furnaces aren't exactly RF-quiet, so I bundled up and looked like the Michelein Man...

K7IA operating site in Catron, NM – 5000 ft AMSL

Our livestock friends were the only intelligent beings on the place--on Saturday they hunkered down out of the wind and snow, while crazy county activators and HF ops made fools of themselves. It was all good fun though! Lots of space here! It's part of the Gila National Forest but is open rangeland where a few ranchers have grazing leases with the Forest Service. We "made friends" with a few steers and calves, and they left the antenna alone.

Note how the Butternut vertical acts like a wind speed indicator. We had 30 knot winds on Friday, a beautifully clear day, and 35-40 knot gusts on Saturday, anything but a clear day. Nr 48 shows K7IA and his Butternut, which was modified for portable ops. Not visible are 32 radials, each a quarter wavelength long, lying on the ground (length follows ON4UN's Low Band DXing and FCC's requirement for AM broadcast stations). Elevation here is just under 5200 feet, and the mountains in the background rise to 9500 feet. Wind is "reasonable" in this view.

All of the taller peaks en route southward to home, an hour due east of Silver City, NM were snowcapped on Sunday, so we didn't feel singled out by the weather. Certainly many other folks had worse than we did! For us, ugly wx has become the norm for our QSO party ops in AZQP and 7QP in the past two years.

K7IA and the Butternut Vertical
32 radials!

Before this writing, I looked at the two dozen or so NMQP posts already on 3830 reflector and was "pleased" to see that I wasn't the only one enjoying poor conditions. QRN was quite high, even between snow flurries, so I couldn't blame "snow static." Erin's ears, far better than mine, detected no T-storm sounds, so all of the QRN must have been coming from the horrible wx in the Midwest and points east.

Many thanks to the ops who chose to give the NMQP a go, given the smorgasbord of events to choose from! At the moment, there's no telling how many NM ops were on the air--certainly not many compared to Georgia's turnout. And it was wonderful how the GA & MT ops accommodated the NM exchanges for "twofers!" Thanks, guys!

There weren't many NMQP posts to look at, and the out of staters reported less than five dozen NMQP QSOs.

Equipment:

K3, N1MM, tiny footprint Acer laptop, Butternut, 900 watt (sea level) Yamaha generator (two gals gasoline total).

Next portable event for K7IA will be as county line portable in Arizona for the 7th Call Area QSO Party. See you then?

73, Dan k7ia

KK6MC Mobile 65 CW 191 SSB

"Virginia and I traveled to six couinties. It was very windy and dusty, at times we had to use out headlights. Propagation was poor in the morning, but improved at midday."

K5WO (fixed Rio Arriba) 155cw 85 SSB Qs

Mostly seemed slower than last year, with everybody jammed up on 20 most of the day. I tried to get something going on 15 several times but no joy.

I operated from a vacation cabin about a mile north of Heron Lake. At 7600 ft elevation it affords a beautiful view of the lake, but not such a hot spot for hamming :-) It's on the south side of a 9000 ft solid rock ridge that blocks much of the low-angle rf from the north and northeast pretty well...sigh.

It was very windy in the afternoon with horizontal snow flurries and high noise level.

73 and tnx for the Qs,

Bob K5WO

N6MU 18 CW 33 SSB QSO

"Conditions poor compared to last year. QRP was a real struggle but I still

couldn't resist the power mult. Thanks to mobiles KK6MC and K9GAJ for being there. 73...:

N2WN 19 CW 31 SSB

The first hour was best here, it was hit or miss later. Thanks to those who moved to 15M. KK6MC (5), K9GAJ (4), K5XY (2) for known mobiles, usually they were pretty solid, but QSB played havoc too. Thanks for the patience and repeats. My best score for the NMQP and Happy Birthday New Mexico!

KK4EIR(fixed VA) 2 cw 8 ssb

Conditions were not very good, almost all of my QSO's were on 20 meters. I made a QSO with every contact that I was able to hear. There just weren't enough runners to keep me busy. It made my day though when I made a CW QSO with K7IA my Elmer friend who lives in New Mexico. I was also able to pick up a few QSO's from Montana and hopefully one of them is on LOTW as I still need that state.

W7KAN (fixed MO)

Thanks to Fred, K9GAJ mobile, I added 5 all time new counties. Good activity on 20 meters this year.

Biggest Obama Fail to Date!

In keeping with the recent trend of so-called green companies going into the red, another solar energy company supported by President Obama's top administration officials declared bankruptcy today.

Solar Trust for America received $2.1 billion in conditional loan guarantees from the Department of Energy -- "the largest amount ever offered to a solar project," according to Energy Secretary Steven Chu -- for a project near Blythe, Calif., but declared bankruptcy

within a year.

Senior officials in Obama's administration had very high hopes for the Blythe project. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar attended the groundbreaking ceremony, which he described as "a historic moment in America's new energy frontier" and "another important step in making America's clean energy future a reality." Chu trumpeted at the time that Solar Trust would prove that "when we rev up the great American innovation machine, we can out-compete any other nation."

Uwe Schmidt, chairman and CEO of the company, also argued that Solar Trust was good for the nation. He wrote last year that "the DOE loan guarantee is a 'win-win' for government and the companies involved and will not only advance the cause of energy independence but will create hundreds of thousands of jobs across the country."

The bankruptcy makes Schmidt's attempt to rebuke DOE critics in the wake of the Solyndra bankruptcy particularly ironic.

"Despite the posturing and finger pointing, the American solar energy industry is alive and well," Schmidt wrote in an op-ed for the Huffington Post, before discussing his company's business plans. Referring to Solyndra, he lamented that "one company's bankruptcy has cast doubt on the credibility of a government program that is otherwise being administered with incredible efficiency."

The list of bankrupt solar companies has grown since Schmidt scolded Solyndra investigators. How many more might go bankrupt? Secretary Chu won't say.

Source: http://campaign2012.washingtonexaminer.com/blogs/beltway-confidential/solar-company-bankrupt-despite-win-win-doe-loan/459621

"The Obama administration's vaunted initiative to catalyze the U.S. clean-energy industry — under attack for betting half a billion dollars on the solar-panel manufacturer Solyndra, which closed last month — has become a case study of what can go wrong when a rigid government bureaucracy tries to play venture capitalist and jump-start a nascent, fast-changing market. Schmidt concluded in early 2011 that the influx of inexpensive flat solar panels was undercutting his company's year-old proposal to use a field of parabolic mirrors that focus the sun's energy to heat liquid-containing tubes. Despite market changes, however, the terms of the federal loan guarantee wouldn't let Solar Trust switch in midstream to flat panels.
What could better illustrate the rampant fraud or incompetence–take your pick–that besets the Obama administration? One of the owners of Solar Trust, a German "industrial heavyweight," refused to put any more money into that company *two years ago*, while the Obama administration was willing to pour $2.1 billion of American tax dollars down the rathole just

last year. And even today, as the solar and wind industries collapse in a sea of unpaid bills, Barack Obama yaps on and on about how taxpayers should invest in “green energy.” The man’s economic ignorance is frankly staggering. “

http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2012/04/a-narrow-escape-for-taxpayers.php

Georgia QSO Party

It was a humdinger with activity for two full 12 hour days. The mobiles were out and running and conditions were, well, not great but still good for most folks east of the Rockies. Many out of state stations were reporting 100+ QSOs, with some over 200 QSOs working GA stations. There were dozens of fixed stations and many 1x1 calls to chase. On Sunday the pile ups on the mobiles got big at times, but they seemed to handle it well.

Not much reported on 15m and nada activity on 10M.

Sandy WB4EVH reports”

Here is a report on the GA QSO party.

Ran multi-multi mobile as normal. Was doing ok until we got to Monroe County. Blowed the drivers on my IC-7000 at 11:15 pm Didn't find this out until we were in Baldwin County at the start of contest Sunday. My extra cooling fan on my laptop died at the same time. I thought the smell was from it!!! Went back to Jones County and installed my old FT-757. Started over in Jones and went back to contesting. Was doing ok. Had lost several hours and about a hundred contacts at this point. Got into Twiggs County and my truck decided to throw a lot of ignition noise and my old radio wouldn't compensate for it. Got to Bleckley, tried to run on battery power. Couldn't get enough juice to power old radio. Battery is getting old. Dave lost the cw interface on his radio and it locked up his transmitter. Couldn't get problem resolved. so we QUIT! Did not work any county hunters who's call i knew. (have not looked at CW log, so there may be a lot of known calls there.) Had ham's who did not understand my call. They tried to add letters to it N4IM (mobile) as a letter and then didn't understand I was mobile. I even said November 4 India stroke mobile. A lot of contesters said we were a dupe!! Had to

explain I don't know how many times when a mobile crosses a county line it is a new station. Conditions were bad to good on Saturday. Sunday seemed to be about the same. 40 Meters on Saturday was a nightmare for me on SSB trying to work other Georgia stations. I worked Canada numerous times on 40 meters but just couldn't work Georgia stations over 50 miles away. Worked 41 states on SSB and 36 states on CW. Some DX and some Canada. It looks like rough score will be 20K. Not bad,but not good, by my standards.

As a side note to owners of IC-7000's. I started getting audio complaints Saturday afternoon. I run with the filters set narrow on transmit. I opened them up and the complaints went away. but several friends said the audio was not me??? Then the drivers just went up in smoke while we were driving along and listening to the band. Temperature indicater in radio never showed being high. I also understand there is several mods out there to help prevent this. I didn't know about them or had not done any research on the radio since I bought it in 2010.

Another thing other users may not see, in the multi-multi function it started to really generate garbage on the other radio about an hour before it died. With only one radio you would not know about the garbage generation. We thought the garbage was due to a filter problem or a loose connection somewhere we couldn't find."

from the 3830 reflector;

AD8J rover 1091 cw 74 SSB QSOs

The equipment in the KW mobile all worked perfectly. I didn't have a driver and really could have used one. It would have resulted in a lot more contacts. I was really beat at the end of the contest and still had a 4 hour drive back to my home QTH in NC. The two "unexpected" items were:

When I had just driven into GA. I was about 12 miles in when I came across a big official looking sign saying "Welcome to NC". That really confused me as I had figured I had made a wrong turn. Shortly afterward, I ran into all sorts of police cars, trailers and mobs of people. It turned

out they were shooting a movie and had constructed the sign for a scene. I don't know what movie but will have to watch for it.

For the last county, I was parked in a closed weigh station parking lot that had enough room for about 20 big rigs. I was right in the middle and it was a great location. A big rig came in and parked about 10 spaces down from me. I figured he was going to spend the night. Wrong! About 5 minutes later a ambulance and fire truck came flying in with lights and sirens. They pulled out the gurney, loaded the driver in the ambulance and went flying out of there. With the quick response, I suspect the driver called for medical help and they arranged the weigh station meeting point.

N4ZZ mobile 3122 CW QSOs!

Many thanks to all those who worked us in the contest. The pileups got a bit crazy at times, but we worked e'm down as quickly as we could, often at 38 and 40 wpm.

Our goal this year was 3,000 contacts (2928 last year), we had 1,432 on Saturday and hit the sack hoping conditions would improve on Sunday. Well they certainly did, and participation seemed up as well. We did not make our last county, WLKR. Traffic Sunday afternoon was terrible, and we hit one red light after another.

We worked lots of DX, most notably again are Laci OM2VL and Dietmar DL3DXX. Laci was often the first station we would work as we entered a new county, right on cue. Both of you had amazing signals, able to bust thru most of the pileups with ease. We were surprised to work Alan VK4AAR Sunday with our little mobile antennas, probably LP. Also worked Dmitry UA3AGW on 20 and 40m.

We worked the following stations the most: OM2VL (59), DL3DXX (58), N9CK (55), W4NZ (52), K5LH (43), KI0I (42), K3ONW (37), and WA6KHK (37). We appreciate you guys following us around.

Special appreciation to our driver Melody, KI4HVY. There are not too may YLs out there that would hang out for an entire weekend, driving around a couple of CW ops for 1200 miles. Your the best, and a good safe driver as well.

Don had the fortune of operating the last 15 mins of the contest, which turned into the biggest pileup of the contest. We have never operated from the Caribbean, but it seemed like we were there, with 50+ stations calling at once. It was great fun.

W4AN mobile – K4BAI operator

KU8E and I have been going out mobile in GQP for years, although last year it was N4DU and myself in KU8E's car with his antennas and rig. Since last year, Jeff has sold the car with the mobile installation. So we planned to each operate at home. Jeff hopes that we will be /M again in time for FQP at the end of this month.

A couple of SSB operators in the local Columbus Amateur Radio Club, Paul, K4ETY and Bryan, N4DTV, planned to go mobile on SSB in the GQP and, when they found I was planning to stay home, invited me to go along. They set up Paul's GMC Yukon with a computer system for two stations, an internet hot spot through Verizon, and two rigs.

I was to run CW with a screwdriver antenna on a trailer hitch on the back of the car and they had hamstick antenna with a base on the front bumper. We got a bit of a late start, but I was making a lot of QSOs from our home county while we went around town getting stuff and getting set up. Bryan tried to make some SSB QSOs, but had interference from the CW station and couldn't hear the SSB signals clearly enough to make any QSOs, so the planned changed and they became driver, navigator, and technical support for my single op CW effort. They did a fantastic job and I thank them. We used the SECC club call, W4AN/M. All QSLs should go to K4BAI. We were QRV in 40 GA counties. A number of adversities were overcome. I damaged or destroyed my notebook computer when a Diet Coke spewed liquid all over me and the computer keyboard when the can was opened. Bryan immediately switched to one he had brought and we hardly missed a beat.

The transceiver had no CW filter and the car was very noisy, as well as a lot of power line noise from time to time. I apologize to those I was unable to hear and log, particularly VK4AAR. I heard him calling but couldn't figure out his call until I was reading someone else's contest report.

When on 80M, the RF seemed to be interfering with the car's computer, so I was able to operate 80M only in the last county Saturday night while we were parked in the parking lot of the IHOP in Valdosta (LOWN county). We seemed to get out OK on 80, 40, and 20 with two Europeans worked on 80. I tried 15 a few time on each day with no QSOs. The rate was so good on 40 and 20 that 15 wasn't needed

to keep up the rate. Maybe next year.

I know working weak mobile is a special challenge for DX stations and want to thank the following for multiple QSOS: DL3DXX (37), OM2VL (31), DL3GA (17), G3XVR (13), HK3Q (14), SP5SA (12), ON4AAC (11), DL6KVA (6), YV5OIE (5), DJ9MH (5), DK2OY (4), UA3AGW (2), DL3IAC (2). Also, a nice surprise caller was VP2MFF from the Montserrat DXpedition team. And old friends OK1CZ, PA3ARM, G3WPF, and VP9KF among others.

Again, great thanks to K4ETY and N4DTV, who made the operation possible and successful. Hope to work you all in FQP and also in CQ WPX CW from NQ4I.

73, John, K4BAI.

W3DYA/mobile – 1239 QSO CW

As always, a very good event in spite of not having a driver. The great weather was a big plus, and my "flying saucer" antenna seemed to perform nicely.

Some information which might be of interest... or not!
Band QSOs: 80 - 1; 40 - 267; 20 - 971; 15 - 14; 10M - 0

Highest call QSO count: DL3DXX 31, OM2VL 23, WA6KHK 21, KI0I 20, with 33 accounting for 10 or more QSOs each.
Lot of good DX with DL3GA and G3XVR at 17 each, PA3ARM at 15, YV5OIE at 14, SP5SA at 12, and DL6KVA at 10, with a total of 189 DX contacts! Of course, I'll be mailing confirmations of DX contacts direct to those working on USA-CA.

This is the first time I've tried to measure operating time vs driving time. Approximate operating time was 9 hours, driving time was 8 hours, total 17 hours. I did not operate the last three hours on Saturday night. I did a little S&P while driving in a couple of counties on the interstate, but except for a few GA contacts, it wasn't very productive.

It's hard to justify driving 1200 miles round trip to participate in GA QP, but I use the excuse that I'm visiting my daughter and family in Pensacola. This time they arranged the arrival of a great-grandson in time for my visit.

Norm sent in the following picture – he met up with Hal after the GA QSO party on Sunday morning in Macon, GA.

W1NN, Hal, with the W3DYA Flying Saucer Mobile

Hal is active in many QSO Parties around the country

K4HYB (at NQ4I contest station) 763 CW 1287 SSB

We had a wonderful time. 11 new ops were indoctrinated to Multi Multi contesting! 12 year old Skylar worked Cook Islands, Australia, New Zealand, and many more on 10m ssb. Boy was he excited. Average rate of 274 per hour for 8 hours! The Pig Farmers on 80m were relentless. We were on the band for 5 hours, but at 7pm they felt they owned the frequency, it belonged to them and we had to leave! They really have the spirit of Ham Radio! Thanks for all that called and worked us. Another successful GQP!

K4R mobile (W5JR operator) 1067 cw QSO

What a blast. Another year with a special events call, this time K4R. Had a great driver on Saturday, Max/N5ZZ. He managed NOT to hit the deer that crossed in front of us after dark. Max also kept track of time so we could stick to the schedule of counties. Next year will be a multi-op - look out N4ZZ crew, hi hi (aren't they amazing!!) The Sunday Q total was not as good due to 4 hours of driving across some of the larger GA counties. Note to self, cover the small counties! Total of 17 on Saturday and 11 on Sunday (7 new ones). Tough not to repeat a few counties when you sleep in your own bed, hi hi.

Hopefully all that needed the "R" for the NFARL certificate on CW are in the log. It was fantastic to work the EU stations on 80 CW mobile.

Radio, antenna, computer and WinKey all worked pretty good except for a few instances where the antenna controller got confused going between bands. I need to set the idle up a bit higher for parked locations with the A/C running.

GMC Yukon, IC-7000, Hi-Q 580/RT, Better RF controller, N1MM, WinKey, Coke Zero and animal crackers.

OM2VL 312 CW 95 SSB

FB condx on 15m, but not many stations from GA on this band. Several time I tried SSB, but it was so hard to running SSB pileup and also check CW segment for Rovers - I lost some CW multis ...

My missed counties: APPL, DADE, ECHO, HARA, HEAR, JFDA, LIBE, LONG, MONT, PIER, PIKE, SCRE, TLBT, TAYL, UPSO, WAYN, WILK.

Total worked 139 counties on CW and 48 on SSB.

Top QSOs with ROVERs:

N4ZZ 60/54 (QSO/different county)
W1NN 43/36
W4AN/M 33/30
K4R 24/19
W3DYA/M 22/21
NE4S 15/12
AD8J 14/13
K4A 5/3
N4I 4/4

W4MY 3/3

My wkng condx:

rig: FT5000DX + OM3500 ampl
TX ant: 80m: 2el Yagi
40m: 3/3 Yagi
20m: 6/6/6 Yagi
15m: 6/6/6 Yagi
RX ant: 180m long Beverage

(Now you know why he has a big signal with 6 el over 6 el over 6 el on 20M!)

N8XX – MI QRP 50 cw 4 ssb

"A great effort in frustrating conditions! Couldn't participate full time, and it probably wouldn't have helped because much of the time the propagation wasn't there. 20 was too long when I started, 40 was too short. The 40 came up for a while, but then went long, but 80 never materialized.

On Sunday about the only stations left which weren't dupes were mobiles, and they were swamped with folks calling them, so it was a challenge for a pipsqoke QRP signal from Michigan to break through the cacophony.

Did work my friend W1NN several times - thanks Hal, for picking me out!"

K6MM (CA) 128 cw 29 ssb

Great job again this year covering the GA counties. Hats off to AD8J, N4ZZ, W1NN, W3DYA, and W4AN (K4BAI) for a tremendous "mobile" performance. These guys did a fantastic job of keeping the contest lively and energetic as efficient County Rovers. Didn't hear any signals on RTTY at all over the weekend and only a few SSB stations operating. And although 15M was open to the West Coast, by and large this was a 20M operation. Congrats to the Organizing Committee for another fine Georgia QSO party. 73, John, K6MM.

N5NA (TX) 130 cw

N4ZZ was EVERYWHERE! Seems like every time I tuned they band they were in a different county!

Mobiles worked and (QSOs) - N4ZZ (35), W1NN (18), W4AN (11), W3DYA (8), and AD8J (4).

AA4LR 399 cw 252 SSB

Just goes to show you can have a lot of fun, and make a lot of Qs with very simple equipment. This contest was from the micro-shack, just outside of Rome, GA in Floyd county.

The TS430S is over 26 years old, but it still put in yeoman service. It definitely does not have the QRM-fighting power of the Elecraft K2. There were a number of times that someone moved in close to my running frequency and I had to slide away, because I just couldn't hear.

I was amazed how effectively I could run on CW on both 20 and 40m. However, I never could get anything going on 20m phone. 40m was the big-time money band, though, with over 2/3 of the contacts taking place on that band. While I started off using the R7000 on 40m, I found the wormburner dipole more effective overall. It really need to be pushed much higher. I can't wait to see how it works way up in the trees.

Several people spotted me -- thanks very much for that. I could tell a few times when it happened with a flurry of callers.

Did have one odd incident on Sunday around 2210z. I had been running near 7042 for nearly a half an hour, when suddenly I was blasted with high-speed, strung-together CW that started off OKNOMORE.... and was laced with profanity. I knew I had a problem when I moved half a kHz and a minute later he followed me. So, I switched to phone for 10 minutes then came back to CW in a different part of the band. I hope this lid didn't bother anyone else.

This is certainly my best GQP score ever, with more phone Qs alone than ever before.

N4TOL portable Fannin County – 83 cw 242 SSB QSO

What a weekend in the hills of Fannin County. Operating from a remote cabin in the mountains with Murphy as a guest.

Initial setup on Friday evening exposed a Vibroplex that wouldn't key. First thought was, oh no! No CW this weekend. A quick check showed bad solder

connection on plug, quickly remedied.

Contest starts on Saturday, with low audio output from headset, with some RF. Quick troubleshooting while contest progresses yields no solution. I have used this headset dozens of times from this locale with no issues. So substitute with hand mike and still a little RF, but adequate audio. Of course, no hands free logging now, so one hand entry for remainder of contest.

No Good Deed Goes Unpunished - - to keep the peace, I break from chair around 7:00 (prime contest hours) to take the XYL down mountain on the gravel road for dinner in Blue Ridge. Heading back up the gravel slope at nightfall we encounter debris/hazard on hill and blow out driver front tire. Able to pull off to driveway of vacant cabin, and XYL and I proceed about a ¼ mile up steep incline with dying flashlight. Back on air at 9:00 and good run of contacts for remainder of evening, almost.

Around 11:30 trusty 'old' laptop freezes. Frantic, begin to log last half hour manually, and trying to decode dupes from memory. Thank you Mr. Murphy.

After midnight reboot of laptop is successful and data transfer is made to new netbook machine carried along as backup (which had logging software pre-loaded as well, Boy Scout training - - take that Mr. Murphy). So we were ready to go on Sunday, albeit with a smaller screen and keyboard.

Sunday in the hills dreams of coffee in the rocker enjoying the view waiting for noon are laid to rest by slogging down the hill to change tire and assess damage. Nothing major and truck makes it back up to site. Showered and ready by noon to hit it again.

It was great to work all the familiar call signs. Highlights were working VK4FD on ten meters, who answered my call which turned into a 10 minute rag chew. Also, following K4R (W5JR) on Saturday night all across the state.

K4L (W4QO operator) 500 cw Q – QRP

I was part of a "team" that used 5 1x1 calls K4N, K4F, K4A, K4R, K4L which are the initials for our local radio club NFARL. I was the user of K4L (CW). I used a K3/10 at 5 watts and a Yagi at 60 feet along with a horizontal loop at 75' fed with open wire line. In addition to the 44 states/prov, I worked 50 counties and 16 DX entities. The highlight of my weekend was when OM2VL answered my QRP CQ on 80M! I rarely get any DX to answer a CQ from me on 80M. In this contest, I can also RUN 95% of the time which I can't do in the larger

contests. I got #500 with 4 minutes to go on Sunday evening. Loads of fun!”

Cosmic Dust – Global Climate

New research links particles in space to ever changing weather conditions

Cosmic dust that fills space could be playing a part in climate change according to new scientific research.

Far from being empty, space is made up of tons of dust caused in part by collisions between asteroids.

So much of space is filled with dust particles in fact it is thought that if all the material between the Sun and Jupiter were compressed, it could form a moon stretching 25km across.

The new research program has been started as scientists try to see how much of this dust enters the Earth’s atmosphere - in a bid to find out how it might affect our climate.

It is believed that an accurate estimate of dust would also help in understanding how particles are transported through different layers of the Earth’s atmosphere.

Professor John Plane of the University of Leeds has already presented the Cosmic Dust in the Terrestrial Atmosphere (CODITA) project after it received a €2.5 million grant from the European Research Council to investigate the dust input over the next 5 years.

The international team, led by Professor Plane, is made up of 11 scientists in Leeds and a further 10 research groups in the U.S. and Germany.

The main sources of dust in the solar system are collisions between asteroids and material evaporating off comets as they approach the Sun.

Satellite observations suggest that 100-300 tons of cosmic dust enter the atmosphere each day.

Professor plane said: 'If the dust input is around 200 tons per day, then the particles are being transported down through the middle atmosphere considerably faster than generally believed.

'We will need to revise substantially our understanding of how dust evolves in the solar system and is transported from the middle atmosphere to the surface,' said Plane.

The CODITA team will also use laboratory facilities to tackle some of the least well-understood aspects of the problem

Plane added: 'In the lab, we'll be looking at the nature of cosmic dust evaporation, as well as the formation of meteoric smoke particles, which play a role in ice nucleation and the freezing of polar stratospheric clouds.

'The results will be incorporated into a chemistry-climate model of the whole atmosphere.

'This will make it possible, for the first time, to model the effects of cosmic dust consistently from the outer solar system to the Earth's surface.'

Read more: http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2125219/Could-dust-fault-climate-change-New-research-links-particles-space-changing-weather-conditions.html#ixzz1rAnwF4iu

Clegg Labs

If you were a ham back in the 50s, 60s, and 70s, you probably were familiar with Clegg Labs. The Technician Class license was created in the early 1950s which sparked a tremendous boom in six meters and up operation. At that time, Novice licenses – good for only one year – also carried two meter privileges.

The large number of GI's who returned after WW2 often went on to trades learned in the GI bill, and electronics was a field in high demand. TV broadcasting had just started again after the war ended and manufacturers were turning out millions of sets full of vacuum tubes. The 'portable radio' became small enough to be popular. Ham radio licenses exploded in the 50s. There was a TV repairman in just about every small town in the US to fix all the electronics. With tube equipment, your TV set might run 2 or 3 years before another failure. It was a good living for a hundred thousand electronic technicians.

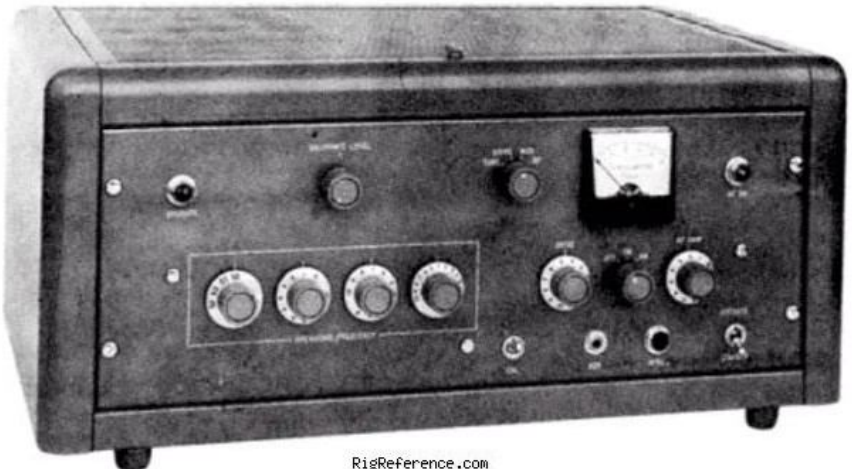
Quite a few small manufacturers jumped into the ham equipment market. Do you recall the names Tecraft (VHF converters/transmitters) or Janel Labs?

CLEGG Radio products came into being in 1950 when Ed Clegg, then W2LOY, formed a small company doing contract development of RADAR equipment, principally high power pulse modulators and regulated high voltage DC power supplies for testing MULTI-KW magnetrons, klystrons, traveling wave tubes .The group was formed by a number of former

KUTHE LAB employees where Ed had been Chief Engineer. KUTHE was the principal developer and producer of hydrogen thyratron tubes. CLEGG Lab customers were ITT Labs, Bell Labs, Sperry, Lockheed Electronics, US Army Signal Corp Labs ,etc.

The operation grew somewhat during the early 50's but had one basic problem: 50% of the work was basic design of "one of a kind" large units. The other 50% required fabrication and installation each unit. There were periods of time when Ed was up to his ears in design work and the handful of technicians, mechanics and wiremen had to sit and wait until the design was finished and the material to start fabrication arrived. No problem! They could keep everyone busy if they had an ongoing and repetitive product line. Ed was an active and enthusiastic ham and what more fun product line could there be than ham radios. Several HF rigs were prototyped at CLEGG LABS but with COLLINS, DRAKE, HALLICRAFTERS, JOHNSON, WORLD RADIO and others satisfying the HF market and very few manufacturers addressing the VHF market the choice was made and the 62T10 11/10/6/2 transmitter was born.

The first product designed was the Climaster produced in 1956. It was a 100 watt radio AM, and 140w CW on 2, 6 and 10 and 11 meters. Hams were about to lose the 11 meter band to the CB craze shortly afterward.



Clegg Climaster 62T10

Clegg made a wide variety of VHF radios for VHF including the FM models for 2 and 220 MHZ. They made one of the few FM radios – crystal control – on 220 Mhz FM. (FM 76). Some of the models of the FM radios were:

22er FM – variable receive and crystal control transmit

FM 27, FM 88, FM DX, and so on. The original rigs were tube type for base station operation, then they moved into solid state on the FM radios. Not so on the AM equipment.

Clegg was a major player in VHF AM radio. They made 5w to 20w transceivers that were affordable for a large segment of the market, and were one of a few 'transceivers' that you could buy for 6 and 2 meters. {The low end of the market was the Heathkit Twoer and Sixer – radios with a super regen receiver that was OK if everyone in town was on the same frequency and the band wasn't open. } Those super regens were useless in major metropolitan areas as six meters was extremely popular back then on AM. (there were probably only a few hundred FM users on the ham bands in the mid 50s till the mid 60s – all using converted commercial two way equipment).

Heathkit also made VHF AM equipment. The Seneca HX-30 was a six and two meter AM transmitter that was popular.

The 22er (and the 66ers) is one of the half dozen AM rigs Clegg produced – VFO receive and crystal control transmit. All tubes.

Clegg 22er Two Meter AM transmitter

There was an optional VFO for transmit sold. The 66er covered six meters, naturally.

They had the 99er – a 5w six meter AM rig – great for mobile operation.

Back then, you either bought a crystal for the frequency that everyone in town was on, or had one or two others – where you'd call CQ and then tune for a reply – likely on a different frequency as they might have other crystals. [Just like on the Novice bands where few were on the same frequency.] On six meters you would call, then announce “tuning 50.2 to 50.3 for a reply!”.

Probably half the equipment was 'homebrew' as the WW2 generation had the knowledge but often not the bucks to buy expensive commercial equipment, and there wasn't much available after the Technician class license was created. (same theory/regs test more or less as the General, but only 5 wpm code test).

Many other suppliers, including Allied Radio and Lafayette, started to offer low end mobile S< transceivers such as the HE-45, A and B, , the HA650, and the Knight Kits for mobile operation as the 1960s rolled around. The HE45 was a 15w AM transmitter, xtal control transmit with built in AC and DC power supplies. It used a vibrator power supply to generate the HV for the tubes.

The top of the line for Clegg was the Interceptor B receiver – which covered 6 and 2m with the 'best' receiver of the day for VHF enthusiasts. You needed big pockets, but it was the Collins of VHF.

Clegg Interceptor B 6 and 2 meter receiver.

You could add a converter in front of it for 220 and 432 as well. It's about the size of a Collins 75A4.

The matching transmitter – 100W of AM – for six and two meters, VFO built in – was the Clegg Zeus. Again, it took big pockets to swing one, and for the AM die hards, they are still in demand and go for big prices.

Clegg Zeus – 6 and 2 m 100W AM Modulated

The power suppply and modulator was a separate unit! These were heavy radios – like 100 lbs plus for both units like a DX-100 Heathkit! And about the size of a DX-100, too!

Clegg sort of missed the boat pm the transition to SSB. They only made one radio for SSB. Heathkit jumped in the market with the SB-110 six meter transceiver – and with the large number of SB-100 series of kits, were able to manufacture sell them – in kit form naturally – at a much lower price point. You could also add a Heathkit SB500 transverter to either the SB-100 or the SB-100 or other HF transceiver and get on 2 meter SSB as well.

This is the one and only SSB radio Clegg made:

Clegg Venus – 6M SSB transceiver

Clegg also made an SSB Linear AMP – the Apollo

Clegg Apollo Six Meter Linear Amp
15w in 375w out

Clegg Labs worked with Squires Sanders at some point – looks like 1963 to 1968 – but the VHF era of AM was almost over. The Japanese FM rigs started to flood the market in the 70s. Folks were no longer interested in Clegg radios despite their great quality and rock solid reliability. Squires Sanders went out of business in 1970. They were a military contractor and made the famous SS-1 receiver.

It wasn't long after before Kenwood came out with the TS-600 for six meter SSB – 10w solid

state – and another for two meters. Yaesu had nice SSB radios for six and two meters. It became very competitive. It was hard to manufacture in the US and compete.

By the 1970s, you'd only find a few diehards still on six meters AM...usually around 50.4 MHz – the AM frequency – still there today. Back in the 1950s and early 60s, six meters was THE BAND for mobile operators (often for 3 reasons – one was that it was popular with the new Tech licenses who squeaked by a 5 wpm test, the second was that it was a fun band for local communications and lots of equipment was available, and the 3rd was – you didn't get TVI complains when you were moving. TV sets were susceptible to interference – they weren't designed as well as later – and when you had Channel 2, it was nearly impossible to run much power at home). In CH 2 areas of high density – many operated 2M from home with some mobile AM activity. For the most part, 2m FM 'hadn't been invented yet' – no inexpensive equipment.

Your run of the mill mobile transceiver, such as the IC-706 and IC7000 and competing models from Yaesu and others now cover six and two meters, and some even 440 MHz with FM, AM and SSB. Not 'contest quality' units, but better than 90% of the radios back 'in the day'. How technology has changed!

Interesting Places to Visit

POPS
660 W. Highway 66
Arcadia, OK 73007
(405) 928-POPS (7677)

In Short:

The brainchild of Chesapeake Energy CEO Aubrey McClendon and designed by architect Rand Elliott, POPS opened in the summer of 2007 and quickly became a tourist attraction. With a 66-foot tall soda bottle adorning the side of the iconic Route 66 highway, POPS boasts hundreds of soda pop flavors and brands in the convenience store area of the gas station. In addition, there is a restaurant that features several cafe food options such as burgers, sodas and shakes.

Location:

POPS is located along historic Route 66 near Arcadia, Oklahoma, just outside of Edmond. From Oklahoma City, take I-35 to 2nd Street in Edmond, also called Edmond Road (Exit 141). Follow 2nd Street east for 5 miles. POPS will be on the south side of the highway.

If you're coming from Turner Turnpike, take the Wellston Exit and travel east on Route 66. After passing through Luther, you'll travel about 15 miles to POPS.

The Pop:

According to POPS officials, the convenience store has over 400 selections of soda pop. But the selection is only one thing at which to marvel. Even better, all of them are refrigerated and ready to drink cold. You can find nearly every brand imaginable. Childhood favorites you thought were no longer around are at POPS. Exotic specialties you've never imagined are at POPS. And there's always something new to try.

From fruit flavors to colas and root beers, POPS has it all. Though some may be unavailable at certain times, see a breakdown of soda pops by type online.

Note de N4CD – I haven't checked it out yet. One of these days my course will take me by it. Sounds interesting. As a kid, I had a Nehi Orange every now and then, but the usual family diet was either milk or Kool Aid.

Michigan QSO Party

This was another good one with probably every MI county on the air! The mobile activity was good, plus many counties activated with fixed or portable stations.

From the 3830 reflector:

K8MAD (K8MM opr) portable Tuscola MI

When I saw that TUSCOLA county didn't have any planned operations listed as of Friday afternoon, I decided to make a quick run up there to activate it. I knew of a small roadside park that I could operate from and I got there about 45 minutes into the contest. After stringing up a G5RV and many weird look from

non-hams, I ran the coax into the car and got on the air. I was having a bit of a problem with RF locking up the keyer on 20 but they went away when I backed down the power to 50W. I only stayed there for a little but and then made my way down to 40M. Forty was in the finest shape its been in for many years for the covering the entire state. Locals, mobiles and guys way up in the U.P. were S9 plus! Lots of guys were glad to get the TUSC mult and they said I was the only one they heard from there. I operated for 4 hours then packed up and came home to operate my station.

K8MR/mobile multi op (K8MR, KG9GH, N9JUD)

"A nice day to drive around Michigan, but apparently not the best day to play radio in the car. We started in the Northern Lower Peninsula, and spent the last 5 hours heading home across the U.P. It started out slow for us and got worse as the afternoon went on. As usual, things came around after dark, and the noise on 80 was better than some years. Thanks to my drivers, Eric, KG9GH and Chris, N9JUD, who did such a great job we were able to add two extra counties to the end of the route. 21 counties was the most we've ever done in MIQP. Thanks to all who called in along the way."

N5NA – TX

"Thanks to the mobiles for the QSO's - K8MR(19), W1NN(11), NE9U(9), K8IR(8), and W8CAR(6)."

OM2VL 111 cw 72 ssb qso

Thanks for the FB QSO Party again. Not so good condx like last weekend during the GA QP. Made a little bit less QSO than last year, but more multis. Final score same as in 2011. On 15m was good condx, but only few station from MI. On 80m HRD few stations, bat was very week - only 3 contact... last weekend during the GA QP made 27! QSO on 80m.

M
BUT! At the beginning of the QP I HRD K7RE/M from SD.... I need many counties from SD, so I began check the frq of stations from SD and made over 40 QSO with SD stations.

TOP rovers:

K8MR/M 36/16 (QSO/CTY)
K8IR/M 26/12
W1NN/8 20/10
NE9U/M 16/11
W8CAR/M 7/5
W8ZZ/M 6/3

Your Tax Money at Work

It would be impossible to trace all the ways taxpayer money ends up in the coffers of solar manufacturers like First Solar. Most of First Solar's money has been made selling panels in Germany to solar plants that, by law, can rape electricity customers with prices 10-15x higher than the market price for electricity. First Solar also benefits more directly from direct subsidies, loan guarantees, "retraining" subsidies and even government Ex-Im Bank loans to sell panels to itself.

While First Solar vehemently denies it is a subsidy whore, it is telling that when Germany began to cut its solar feed-in tariffs, First Solar's stock price fell from over $300 to around $20. Just watch day to day trading of First Solar stock, it does not move on news about its efficiency or productivity, it moves on rumors of changes in government subsidies.

Let's look at one subsidy. In 2010, the Obama administration gave First Solar a subsidy of $16.3 million, ostensibly to help open a new plant in Ohio. But it is interesting that this private company, which apparently could only raise the $16.3 million it needed by taking it by force from taxpayers, had plenty of money to pay its CEO. In the 13 months leading up to its $16.3 million taken from taxpayers, First Solar paid its new CEO $29.85 million!

Rob Gillette, the ousted CEO of First Solar Inc., earned more than $32 million in compensation from the struggling company for his two years of service, according to a regulatory filing Wednesday.

Gillette came to First Solar from Phoenix-based Honeywell Aerospace in October 2009 and was fired by the Tempe-based solar company's board of directors in October 2011….Most of his compensation came in the three months of 2009 that he worked, when his total compensation, including salary, bonus, stock and options awards and other perks, reached

$16.55 million. In 2010 his total compensation was $13.3 million, and last year he earned $2.46 million, which consisted of $763,000 in base salary and a $1.7 million severance.

Yep, they can't scrape up $16.3 million of their own money for a factory but they can find $30 million to give to an unproven CEO they eventually had to ride out on a rail.

Source: http://www.coyoteblog.com/coyote_blog/2012/04/where-did-those-solar-subsidies-go-32-million-went-to-their-failed-ceo.html

First Solar went bust taking hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars down the drain. Another one of the 30 plus major failures of the Obama Administration 'Greenie Energy' half trillion dollar slush cash fund to recycle to his big donors, bundlers of campaign cash, and 'organizers'.

Note: First Solar just announced layoffs of 2000 or more workers in April.

"Blaming a "fundamentally changed" solar industry and plunging business in Europe, panel maker First Solar Inc. is cutting 2,000 jobs and closing a factory.

The layoffs represent 30% of the workforce of the Tempe, Ariz., company, which is the leading U.S. manufacturer of photovoltaic solar panels — the type commonly found on rooftops. The factory being closed is in Frankfurt, Germany. In addition, the company will indefinitely idle four production lines at its facility in Kulim, Malaysia, as of May 1. "

source: http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-first-solar-layoffs-20120418,0,2533030.story

On the Road with N4CD II

The Bell County (Belton TX) hamfest was coming up. I checked the needs on K3IMC. There wasn't anything listed for my normal route down and back - not a one. Jim ND9M, had just run nearly all of my normal route down I-35 (same boring counties) plus the ones on the way back home a bit to the west. Don, N5XG had just run many of them, too. About a month ago, I headed on down I-35 (same boring counties) for the San Antonio hamfest and ran them, too.

The weather was supposed to get stormy. A weather front was getting set to clobber Dallas up through KS and MO by evening and overnight. On Friday there were already tornadoes up in

OK and major hail incidents, so I decided to make a quick trip down Friday, check out the swap meet Friday and early Saturday, then make a quick trip home before the bad weather might start. Just a few days ago, we had an outbreak of 17 tornadoes within 30 miles of the house that took out 800 houses here and totaled over 350 of them in the worst outbreak since 1996. All the local county hunters escaped the fury of the storms.

It's 150 miles down the road. The car got 2 mpg better gas mileage without the big antennas on the car. Hmm? Maybe we need to think about 'streamlining' our antenna systems in the future? I stay at the Motel 6 in Temple ($34). I arrived early at the swap meet and 40 people were selling things already in the flea market. I spent a few hours inside and out, but didn't find anything to buy.

One fellow from MO (W0NKL) was there will all the stuff he had at the Claremore OK hamfest a few weeks ago! Eight tables of stuff that was good stuff, but I really didn't need that Howard receiver! He had jacked up the price by ten bucks, too. Lots of things from estate sales. He buys up collections then sells them off.

After a few hours, I headed to the Cracker Barrel for dinner. I don't have one close by home so when I travel, I often stop at them. Country Ham dinner tonight. Then back to the Motel 6. I was up at 5:30. In Texas, the hamfests start early. After grabbing a quick breakfast at the Denny's next door, it was off to the Bell County Expo center, arriving there at 6:20. I waltzed right in. A few new folks had arrived so I wandered around. It was still dark outside.

When it gets close to 7am, the 'official start time' , they keep folks out – but if you are there early, you get in. The outside flea market was set up already with folks getting there early. Usually it's all over by 10am – it can get brutally hot by then – but it was real cloudy today. After an hour inside, I wandered around the outside. Hmmm...less stuff than Friday afternoon. I think the high high gas prices are going to affect flea markets. Inside was pretty full, but outside was getting smaller and smaller each year. It's hard to justify spending $30 to $100 in gas to get there to sell stuff – you likely won't even get back your gas money unless you have some high dollar items to sell.

I did buy a new ARRL Antenna Handbook for $20 (list price $45) that someone had won as a door prize at another hamfest. Never opened sealed in the plastic wrapper, and also bought a nice 0-50v 1/2 amp Heathkit regulated power supply in 'mint' condition for $15. The other 'find' , maybe, was a 1991 Ramsey DC (direct conversion) ham receiver kit and case. They made them for several bands and I haven't a clue which one this is on, but for $5 I can play with it. The case is worth that much.

On Saturday I ran into Chuck, W5DU. He told me that he had 'finished up' for USACA – working all the counties and was triple checking his cards/counties to be sure he had a confirmation for each one of them. Then he'll get together with Ron, N5MLP and another ham to check the cards. Hopefully we'll be hearing soon about his new number.

Troy, K5OH, was also there, and we yakked a few minutes. He came down from southern OKLA. He has built some of the W9UCW flying saucer antennas and likes them. Maybe we'll hear him mobile checking them out by putting out some OK counties? I see he was spotted all the way back home.

The weather was looking ominous with a good 30-40 mile per hour south wind, total cloud cover moving fast (dark clouds) – and all that 80 degree warm very humid air was going to collide with the fast moving, cold air of the weather front coming this a way. Troy, K5OH, was planning on leaving early to beat the weather too. It was all storm coverage on the Weather Channel on TV.

So I headed back home in less that 3 hours on the busy interstate (4 to 6 and 8 lanes of traffic and lots of traffic, trucks, trailers, and fast moving drivers) back home through the same boring counties. I'd have some time to work some of the GA, NM and MT QSO party stations, too.

Conditions seemed pretty miserable...so maybe it was just as good I left the radio at home. It seemed strange to 'be without radio'! Hi hi

The Nazi Film Titanic

The film you most likely never saw! Or even knew existed!

Titanic is a 1943 German film made during World War II in Berlin by Tobis Productions. The film was commissioned by Nazi Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels and enjoyed a brief theatrical run in occupied Europe starting in December 1943. Goebbels later banned the film, and it did not have a second run. The film used the sinking of the RMS Titanic as a setting for an attempt to discredit British and American capitalist dealings and glorify the bravery and selflessness of German men.

Geobels, one of the Nazi megalomaniacs, managed to get Hitler to commit to a budget that would be 180 million US dollars today. For a country at war, that was a tremendous amount of money, but Germany was at it's peak when this project started in 1941. It was not fighting the US yet, and had not invaded Russia either. Germany wanted to 'outdo' Hollywood as the film production center of the world – the world they planned to rule shortly. It was intended from day one to be a propaganda film, but one that was 'entertaining' to attract an audience. It would demonize those 'rich' British 'capitalists' in the same way Nazi Germany went after the Jews.

The film opens with a proclamation to the White Star stock holders that their stocks are currently falling. The president of White Star Line J. Bruce Ismay promises to reveal a secret during the maiden voyage of the Titanic that will change the fate of the stocks. He alone knows that the ship can break the world record in speed and that, he thinks, will raise the stock value. He and the board of the White Star plan to lower the stocks by selling even their own stocks in order to buy them back at a lower price. They plan to buy them back just before the news about the record speed of the ship will be published to the press. (In reality, this was impossible to have occurred, since at the time the real White Star Line was a wholly owned subsidiary of the International Mercantile Marine conglomerate and was not a publicly traded company.) Even more so, the Titanic was fast but not any faster than other ships of the era – just a lot more luxurious. Goebels and his propaganda machine had the Titanic going almost 30% faster than it could in reality.

The issue of capitalism and the stock market/manipulation plays a dominant role throughout the movie. The hero of the film is fictional German First Officer Herr Petersenon How anyone would imagine a German officer on a British ship is.....well, cinematic license.. He begs the ship's rich and snobbish owners to slow down the ship's speed, but they refuse and the Titanic hits an iceberg and sinks. The passengers in first class are shown to be sleazy cowards while Petersen, his lover Sigrid Olinsky, and other German passengers in steerage are shown as brave and kind. Peterson manages to rescue many passengers, convince Sigrid to get into a lifeboat and saves a young girl, who was obviously left to die in her cabin by an uncaring, callous British capitalist mother. The film ends with the British Inquiry into the disaster, where Peterson testifies against Bruce Ismay, condemning his actions. The epilogue states that "the deaths of 1,500 people remains un-atoned, forever a testament of Britain's endless quest for profit."

The film was shot on board the SS Cap Arcona, a passenger cruise ship, now under military control, which itself was sunk a few days before the end of World War II by the Royal Air Force on May 3, 1945, with loss of life far heavier than that on the actual Titanic. The scenes with the lifeboats were filmed on the Baltic Sea and some of the interior scenes were shot in Tobis Studios. Thousands of much needed soldiers were 'commandeered' for the film as was the ship, badly needed in the war effort. While all of Germany was on bare rations, the film crew and stars lived it up in a five star sea side resort hotel while making the film. No expense was spared. Elegant sets were created at tremendous costs from ultra scarce war materials.

Titanic was the most expensive German production up until that time and endured many production difficulties and delays. The producer got in trouble for calling out the slackers in the German military units....and was suddenly jailed for 'comments against the interests of the country'. He was found hanged in his cell the day after his arrest under 'suspicious' circumstances. Another director had to take over.

The premiere was supposed to be in early 1943, but the theater that housed the master print was

bombed the night before the big event. It was late 1943 before it was ready again. The film went on to have a lackluster premiere in Paris around Christmas of that same year, but in the end, Goebbels banned it altogether, stating that the German people, at that point going through almost nightly Allied bombing raids, with both the Brits/Americans and Russians closing in, were less than enthusiastic about seeing a film that portrayed mass death and panic. There was already mass death and panic with nightly bombings and over 1 million German soldiers already captured or killed in the war effort. The situation had drastically changed.

Titanic was re-discovered in 1949, but was quickly banned in most western countries since it contained large quantities of vicious propaganda. After the fifties, the film went back into obscurity, sometimes showing on German television. But in 1992, a censored, low quality VHS copy, was released in Germany. This version deleted the strongest propaganda scenes, which immensely watered down its controversial content. Finally, in 2005, Titanic was completely restored and, for the first time, the uncensored version was released in a special edition DVD by Kino Video.

The Nazi version of Titanic makes the allegory of the liner's loss specifically about British avarice rather than, as most Titanic retellings do, about general human arrogance and presumption. This fit in with other works of anti-British propaganda of the time such as My life for Ireland and Der Fuchs von Glenarvon; however, the scenes of British and French panic and desperation undermined this effect, while scenes of steerage passengers separated by crew members and desperately searching for their loved ones through locked gates and a chain link fence bore an uncanny resemblance to what was happening in German concentration camps during that time, contributing to its ban by Goebbels.

Some of the fiction created by the German propaganda version were picked up by the US blockbuster movie Titanic of the 90s. That included the inter-class romance, having a hero 'save' someone from lower class decks, etc.

Here's the movie....German film, German voices – English Subtitles

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pwh3LthX2Es

From there you can link to the other parts (9 parts total) for the movie. It's a 'PG" rated movie now. Maybe someday WikiLeaks will find the original uncensored version and put it on the web. You'd probably see some scenes of the Furher ranting and raving mixed in, with Goebels always present clips of rats (tens of thousands) coming out of a basement, ship, building, etc,. , but not in this version. Just PG rated. It's interesting to watch the sets and dress of the era. No computerization back then.

Now you know about the movie Titanic which almost no one has seen!

- - - -

Note: Hollywood was also busy churning out 'War Movies' – the one most famous that most people recognize would likely be Casablanca – early 1940s – about Nazi occupied north Africa – designed to stir up anti-German fervor in the American population and let them know what was going on. During the war, Hollywood and the movie stars churned out a series of war movies, from submarine movies to spy thrillers to other action movies.

Here's a list from Wiki

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_World_War_II_films#Films_made_during_the_Second_World_War

Some of them are likely on YouTube.

After WW2, there were still dozens of movies made about WW2 including such classics as Midway, Run Silent Run Deep and a host of classics. You'll see some of them Memorial Day week/weekend no doubt on the movie classics channels.

Solar Cycle Update

from ARRL Propagation Bulletin 4/20/12

Monday, April 16 gave us moderate solar activity, which was due to an M1.7 X-ray flare from Region 1458 around 1745 UTC. But since then, solar activity has continued at low levels. The daily 10.7 cm solar flux is expected to slightly increase to around 120 during the next several days. There is an extremely small chance of X-Class flares (1%) and a somewhat greater chance of M-Class flares (around 15%).

With solar activity continuing at low levels, the ascent of Cycle 24 noticeably slowed in the past couple months. For example, after a monthly mean 10.7 cm solar flux peak in November 2011 of 153, the next three months saw ever-decreasing monthly means -- 141, 133, and 107 for December, January, and February, respectively. March (last month) recovered a bit with a monthly mean of 115, but April so far appears to be headed for another low monthly mean (through April 18, the 10.7 cm solar flux monthly mean is hovering around 102). As a side note, these up-and-downs in the monthly mean solar flux are

typical of a solar cycle.

But these recent low monthly means have taken their toll on the smoothed 10.7 cm solar flux. Since early 2009, the smoothed 10.7 cm solar flux rose nicely. The recent low monthly means have resulted in the smoothed value pretty much leveling off in the past two months at around 118. This smoothed value is borderline for good worldwide 10-Meter openings (especially East-West), so 10-Meters will be at the mercy of the day-to-day variation of the F2 region.

Does this mean we've reached Cycle 24's peak? Not necessarily -- other Cycles have had similar slow-downs, but then the solar activity picked up again in terms of the monthly means to continue the increase of the smoothed value. The monthly means during the next several months will be interesting to observe, and may give us an early clue as to how high Cycle 24 will ultimately go.

Regardless of what happens with Cycle 24, the time is now to get on the higher bands (especially 12-Meters and 10-Meters) to take advantage of F2 region propagation. If Cycle 24 performs to the nominal prediction from the Marshall Space Flight Center (http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/predict.shtml), we're pretty much there -- and we're not likely to have much mid latitude 50 MHz F2 propagation during this solar cycle (but watch for sporadic E links to the equatorial ionosphere for Trans-Equatorial Propagation).

If Cycle 24 performs more to the nominal prediction of the International Space Environment Service (http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/SolarCycle/), then we should have somewhat better propagation on the higher bands in the next year or so.

South Dakota QSO Part

Wow..this was the year to be around for the SD QSO Party! There was lots of activity with more counties on the air than in the past couple years combined! Several big time mobile operations made all the difference. Maybe it will happen every year now?

KC0W/mobile 101 cw 52 SSB QSO

I took the short drive down to SD Saturday morning to participate in the SD QSO Party & enjoy the scenery along the way. Mapped out the most efficient route for 8 Counties but only ended up putting 3 on the air. (Harding, Perkins, & Corson)

Ran quite a few Europeans on 20 CW but could never get a good run going to make this event a good time guaranteed for all.

KE0G rover

"K-3 Elecraft,5 watts, Rover class, portable setup. Set up out in the wide open South Dakota fields at the intersection of Lake, Moody, and Minnehaha counties. Spent 4 hours out on a gravel road, the only traffic was the mail carrier that drove by. The sunshine and breeze were delightful, until about 2000 Z, when the weather gave way to sunshine and wind ... lots of it! Gusts to 46 mph were bending my PVC/fiberglass 34' pole to the max, so reduced from a 34' vertical, to a low 40' long inverted vee only 18' high. Not as effective, but on the whole, the 4 hours were productive, with 55 Q's X 3 counties = 165 Q points. Thanks for a fun time ! And, I was surprised at 6 EU DX Q's on 20M.

K7RE mobile

Thanks to K0MCM and KS0D for all their work putting together this event.

Activity was very good this time out. Great WX too.
I put in about 12 hours total from the mobile.

Rig was an IC-706 IIG, and ancient Hustler antenna mounted on top of my ancient Jeep Cherokee. I logged with my trusty eeepc netbook using N1MM Logger.

A special thanks to my wife, KD7GLY, for doing all of the driving. We did something over 600 miles in 12 hours.

K0PC Mobile

This was my first outing in the South Dakota QSO Party so I didn't know what to expect. I was pleasantly surprised at the turnout. I knew that the MI QSO Party ran concurrently on Saturday and expected that to provide a crowd. I couldn't believe the turnout on Sunday morning. I had California stations calling in before 6AM Pacific time. My rates were significantly higher on Sunday morning, I had 54 QSOs/hr on Saturday and 83 QSOs/hr on Sunday.

I ran a one-man mobile operation in 25 counties. I originally thought I would do multiple county line operations but changed my mind and just operated while driving. I didn't do any logging but I used the sound recorder program on the laptop to record the whole operation. That meant I had to transcribe the log after the contest. I learned that even though I was alone, I talked to myself a lot. Of course I probably need therapy if I think 14 hours on the road is fun.

I studied the SD highway map when setting up my route, but my definition of a paved road differs from theirs. Some of the roads alternated between pavement and gravel several times in a mile. I changed the route midday on Saturday to preserve my suspension. All in all, I was able to say pretty close to my planned times. I even was able to add one more county on Saturday after an on-air request for a 'last county' in SD.

Now the results. I ended up with 860 CW QSOs (tried SSB once without any luck). The band breakdown surprised me a bit, I knew 20M was the best band but I didn't think it had a nearly 50% advantage over 40M. Band counts were 80M - 11, 40M - 348, 20M - 510.

This was all made possible by those who followed me around last weekend. There were some big efforts by a lot of stations but here is my top ten list.

W4UCZ - Number 1 with a gold star. Mark had 31 QSOs and worked me in each of the 25 counties I visited. He seemed to know where I was going before I got there. When I changed bands he was always waiting. Great job!

N5NA - Alan was a close second to W4UCZ with 30 QSOs in 20 counties
N6MU - 23 QSOs & 20 counties
K7REL - 16 QSOs & 15 counties
W0GXQ - 16 QSOs & 16 counties
YV5OIE - 16 QSOs & 13 counties

I had 227 unique calls in the log.

Thanks to everyone who participated.

73,
Pat K0PC

W4UCW - GA - 61 of 66 possible mults

"Truly cosmic. I worked only mobiles and not a single fixed station.
I work only CW so maybe there were a lot of fixed-station phonies.

Thanks to K0PC(30), K7RE(18), W0ZQ(15), KD0S(9) ... and KE0G for a
tri-county single QSO. That's it.

Unbelievable to get a near-sweep of 61 of 66 counties in a sparse state.
The rules-only spartan website doesn't indicate to whom the credit is due.
But whoever put together and coordinated this adventure certainly deserves
a business/industrial-engineering/military-coordination award about
"how to do more with less". Outstanding!

A really no-kidding, no-fooling thanks and kudos to everyone."

N5NA – TX - 74 cw QSO

Only worked one fixed station. Thanks to the following mobiles for all the
QSO's: K0PC(30), W0ZQ(14), K7RE(14), KD0S(9), KC0W(3), and KE0G(3).

N6MU- CA – 76 cw 29 ssb

Very few fixed stations heard but the four active mobiles kept it interesting.
Top mobile for me was KD0S with 28 Qs followed by W0ZQ(25), K0PC(23),
K7RE(14)and KC0W(5).

Your Tax Dollars at Work

The executives of Willard & Kelsey Solar Group, a struggling solar-panel manufacturer, began lending themselves company funds the same day the firm received $5 million from a group of Italian investors, internal financial records show.

Michael Cicak, Willard & Kelsey's chairman of the board and chief executive officer, received a $40,000 loan that day. Mossie Murphy, chief financial officer at the time, received a $30,000 loan.

The loans to five company executives totaled more than $500,000 from August to October, 2008, records show. In addition, the top five executives also received payments of almost $1 million from November, 2008, through March, 2009.

To date, the company has received a $5 million loan and a $500,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Development and a $5 million loan from the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority.

Tax payer money down a Greenie Rat hole.

Dayton Hamvention Info

From the K3IMC Forum – post by W8JJ

2012 Dayton HamVention CHN Forum Announcement

Friday, May 18, 2012

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. County Hunting Forum – Room 2

Timothy Eklin, W8JJ - Forum Moderator- Welcome & Opening Remarks

Clark Wierda, N8CBW - Speaker #1

Clark will deliver a presentation he has titled, "The Casual County Hunter" that will focus on what he's learned from his occasional involvement as a county hunter. He will discuss methods of participating when other priorities interfere with deeper commitments. Topics include getting started, tracking your progress, operating mobile, and on-line tools.

Timothy Eklin, W8JJ - Speaker #2

Tim will offer a session titled, "Equipment Suggestions for County Hunting Success" focused on a number of items such as vehicle bounding tips, temporary rental car installations, and a review of the versatile SteppIR Big Vertical antenna for fixed station county hunting operations. This low visual impact antenna is ideal for restricted locations and covers all bands/modes competently using one feed line.

Timothy Eklin, W8JJ – Forum Moderator

Introduction of all County Hunters Present & Closing Remarks

5:45 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Annual County Hunter's Dinner Event

Golden Corral Buffet & Grill (5.5 miles from Hara Arena)
6611 Miller Lane
Dayton, OH 45427
(937) 264-3300

Sharon, KJ8F, will coordinate with the restaurant to arrange dinner seating for our group. They do not take reservations, but Sharon will do her best to work with the venue to meet our needs.

Maybe you can plan your trip to hit some of the 'needs' of the county hunters on your way to and from Dayton??

Diamond DXCC Challenge

Something for you to consider when there are days with no mobiles running – or running where you need them! Or for the folks already 'on the honor roll', it's an excuse to fire up the 6 over 6 on 130 foot towers, multi-KW amps, and join in the pileups. Or if 10 or 15m opens nicely for the DX.

You'll have to bone up on your geography and history to work 'what used to be' correctly.

ARRL Diamond DXCC Challenge

2012 is the 75th anniversary of the ARRL's DXCC Award. The world's preeminent DXing award continues to be DXCC, so reaching the "Diamond milestone" is an event that we all want to celebrate. Going back to the roots of the award, and specifically reading the 1937 DXCC List (January 1937 QST, pages 52-53) to learn what countries were counted at the onset led us to create the Diamond DXCC Challenge.

The country list we will use for the Diamond DXCC Challenge is based upon the list of 231 places shown in 1937. We tried to find corresponding entities today that would represent the places listed in 1937, and we were mostly successful. There are a couple of places that were merged, like French and British New Hebrides, and the Papua and New Guinea Territories. In those places, for 2012 if you work a YJ or a P29 (on the main island of New Guinea) you will get credit for working two entities! Many other oddities are sprinkled throughout the list, too. Returning to the air in 2012 will be the Canal Zone (any HP operating within 8 kilometers of the Panama Canal), the Cities of Gdansk, Poland, and Ifni, Morocco and Balochistan. The list is fascinating and leads us to learn more about world history and how geopolitics has changed leading up to today.

As you "check off" these entities during the course of 2012 working DX (which is an achievement even today) using spotting networks, pan-adapters, 200 watt rigs and stacked tribanders, imagine how DXing was different in the early years of radio and DXCC! Working Tibet or Aldabra with 50 watts and crystal-controlled transmitters to simple wire antennas had to be a thrill like no other in that time for ham radio operators.

We anticipate that this award will be very popular thanks to the unique nature of the entities that we will try to put-into the log in 2012. Not only are there traditional DXCC entities, but there are cities, Islands on the Air (IOTA by RSGB) island groups, and various sub-political entities inside DXCC entities, such as the Indian State of Goa, and many States in Malaysia and islands in Indonesia. There are even three individual "countries" that make up today's Yemen (7O --Yemen, Socotra Islands and the City of Aden)! Yes, we would like to have even one of them on the air. An interesting factoid about this 1937 list came via the late Jim Maxwell, W6CF. Jim said the only entity from the 1937 list to be removed without a single QSO being made was Wrangel Island.

For some entities that today consist of multiple countries, you may work any of today's entities to qualify for that single 1937 country. For example, French Equatorial Africa will be considered worked if you log a station in TL, TN, TR or TT in 2012. The Diamond DXCC country tables show the current entity names and prefixes that qualify for the 1937 countries.

The Diamond DXCC Challenge is an “Honor Award” and will not require acquisition or inspection of QSLs or proof of confirmation, although it still will be fun and useful to seek out cards or LoTW confirmations. We will provide forms online to use at your operating position to track what you have worked and forms for applying for awards and endorsements. As the year goes on, we will also provide hints and tips about what is happening with the Diamond DXCC Award and, for instance, who might be on the air from Goa or Gdansk!

The Diamond DXCC certificate will be available for working 100 of the 226 entities, and will be endorsable at 5 levels: 125, 150, 175, 200, and 225. If anyone works all 226, there will be a special award for that remarkable achievement! There will also be awards for the top finishers. We hope to publish award recipients’ call signs online during the year, and identify high numbers.

ARRL Diamond DXCC Challenge Rules

1. The Diamond DXCC Challenge Awards are available to all amateurs worldwide who contact a minimum of 100 countries from the Diamond DXCC List. US amateurs must be members of the ARRL. Generally, the rules for the Diamond DXCC Challenge are the same as the rules for the DXCC Program, except as listed here.

2. Contacts must be made from within the same DXCC entity by the same operator.

3. Contacts must be made during 2012 -- from 0000Z on January 1, 2012, through 2359Z on December 31, 2012. All amateur bands may be used except for 60 meters.

4. There are no mode endorsements or band endorsements. The Diamond DXCC Challenge is considered to be a Mixed-Mode/Mixed-Band award. There are no power categories or restrictions for the award.

5. Confirmations are not required to obtain this award, but HQ will review submitted entries for accuracy and validity.

6. The Diamond DXCC Challenge certificate will be available for working 100 entities and will be endorsable with stickers at the following levels: 125, 150, 175, 200 and 225.

7. Applications should use ARRL-supplied forms available online or obtained by writing DXCC, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

8. The Diamond DXCC Award certificate fee is $12 including shipping within the USA, and $13 including shipping outside the USA.

9. Endorsement stickers are $1, including shipping in the US, and $2 outside the US.

Thanks to W3LPL, IK2UVR, YO3JW and K9JF for their assistance with this project.

http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-diamond-dxcc-challenge

Radio Circa 1922

Interested in keeping up with the latest 1922 technology?

It's amazing what you find on Google Books!

The Amateur Radio Handbook, A Complete, Authentic and Informative Work on Wireless Telegraphy and Telephony
by Collins

http://books.google.dk/books?id=jpMi0V8qoKsC&printsec=frontcover&hl=da&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false

World's Oldest Radio Listener?

Representatives from Pittsburgh's KDKA properties, including the AM station that is often called the first commercial station in the U.S., visited their oldest listener, 106-year old Lucy Treccase.

Ms. Treccase attests that she heard KDKA's inaugural broadcast of the presidential election results on Nov. 2, 1920 between Warren Harding and James Cox.

Trecasse was interviewed by KDKA's Larry Richert and KDKA(TV)'s Dennis Bowman. Segments of the interview were aired on radio and TV programs. Richert and Bowman also presented her with a plaque that read: "Lucy Treccase - In honor of decades of listenership;

November 2, 1920 – Present."

tinyurl.com/kdka-oldest-listener

Source: Amateur Radio Newsline, April 13 issue

Getting Folks Fished up

Quite a few folks are closing in on awards. Travel season is coming up so maybe you can plan to hit some of these as you travel to Dayton Hamvention, the National Convention in Vancouver WA, the 3M re-union get together in Sept, or on vacations or county putting out trips.

Some are these are for USACA – others for USA-CW or higher awards. See if you can help.

K1TKL - USACA using CW - Updated: 04/15/2012
GA: Talbot
WV: Lincoln, Mingo, Wirt

VE1WT - USACA using CW - Updated: 04/15/2012

AL: Coosa
CO: San Juan
IN: Owen
KS: Grant, Greeley
KY: Edmonson, Taylor
LA: Beauregard
MO: Moniteau, Morgan
OH: Fulton, Hocking
OR: Crook
WV: Pendleton

W3CR - MASTER'S PLATINUM using SSB - Updated: 04/18/2012
HI: Hawaii, Kalawao, Maui
KY: Jackson
VA: Fairfax (one county hunter lives 20 miles away!)
WV: Hancock

W3CR - PREFIX-N using SSB - Updated: 04/13/2012
NC: Rockingham* (a county hunter with N call lives less than 20 miles away)

N3HOO - USACA using CW - Updated: 04/01/2012
GA: Clay, Walker
KY: Lee, McLean, Meade, Owsley, Spencer
NH: Belknap
WV: Mason

KA3QLF - BINGO using both SSB and CW - Updated: 03/30/2012
CA: Trinity
ND: Grant
NH: Carroll
NY: Bronx, Fulton, Queens
PA: Montour

KE3VV - MASTER'S PLATINUM using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/13/2012
CA: Calaveras, Mariposa
CO: Crowley, Phillips, Rio Blanco
IA: Washington
ID: Lemhi
KS: Atchison, Bourbon, Jackson, Kiowa, Morris
MT: Mineral

NE: Perkins
NY: Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, Schuyler, St. Lawrence, Tompkins
OK: Haskell
TN: Grainger
VT: Grand Isle
WA: Okanogan
WY: Weston

N4AAT - USACA using CW - Updated: 04/15/2012
AL: Clay
NC: Jackson, Lincoln
NE: Chase, Hayes

N4CD - 4TH using CW - Updated: 03/31/2012
AR: Conway
KS: Barber, Kingman, Wallace
KY: Menifee
MO: Knox
OK: Harmon
TN: Marshall
WA: Chelan
WV: Pleasants

K4EXT - USACA using CW - Updated: 04/19/2012
GA: Marion, Schley, Sumter
IL: Moultrie
IN: Daviess, Delaware, Knox
KY: Fleming, McLean, Menifee
MO: Moniteau
NV: Pershing
NY: Jefferson
WV: Cabell, Upshur, Wayne, Wetzel

KA4RRU - USACA using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/02/2012
KY: Bell, Bourbon, Knox
MO: Ripley, Worth
MS: Neshoba, Wayne
MT: Powder River
TX: Reagan

WA4UNS - 4TH using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/20/2012
AL: Choctaw

GA: Dougherty, Effingham
IA: Fayette
KS: Stanton
MA: Nantucket
MO: Howard
ND: Grant
NV: Mineral
SD: Clark
WI: Langlade

K4YT - USACA using CW - Updated: 04/19/2012
KY: Leslie
WV: Taylor

K4YT - 2ND using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/06/2012
CA: Butte
CO: Ouray
GA: Murray
IN: Washington
MA: Franklin

AB4YZ - USACA using CW - Updated: 04/18/2012
ID: Caribou, Franklin
OR: Sherman
TX: Donley
WA: Douglas, Island, Jefferson, Kititas, Skagit, Whitman
WV: Gilmer, Monroe, Randolph

KG5J - BINGO2 using CW - Updated: 03/27/2012
OH: Lawrence
PA: Northampton, Philadelphia

N5KGY - MASTER'S GOLD using SSB - Updated: 04/06/2012
CA: Santa Clara
WA: Kitsap

N5MLP - MASTER'S PLATINUM using SSB - Updated: 04/18/2012
CA: Amador, Calaveras, Nevada
CO: Washington
KS: Franklin, Gray, Lane
NM: Harding

WV: Mineral

K5OH - BINGO using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/19/2012
NC: Rowan

K5OH - 2ND using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/19/2012
KY: Allen
NY: Madison, Yates
TX: Cochran, Liberty, Llano, Mason, Roberts

N5PR - USACA using CW - Updated: 04/13/2012
AL: Jackson, Marshall
CT: Litchfield
IN: Greene
KY: Breckinridge, Harlan, Marion
OK: Harmon
SC: Clarendon
TN: Unicoi
VA: Lee
WV: Lincoln, Pleasants, Pocahontas, Wirt

KC5QCB - BINGO using SSB - Updated: 04/07/2012
GA: Fayette
IL: Crawford
KY: Estill, Logan, Todd, Washington
MO: Holt, Madison
NJ: Monmouth
NY: Columbia
OH: Clermont, Morrow
OR: Benton
PA: Delaware
SC: Abbeville, McCormick
VA: Westmoreland
VT: Bennington

W5QP - USACA using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/17/2012
CO: San Miguel
GA: Clayton, Oglethorpe, Twiggs
IA: Winneshiek
KS: Clay, Pratt, Trego
KY: Breathitt
LA: Iberville

MO: Chariton
NE: Jefferson, Saline
NY: Bronx
OK: Roger Mills
TX: Anderson, Camp, Irion, Matagorda

KB6UF - 5TH using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/13/2012
IN: Noble, Washington

KL7D - BINGO using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/14/2012
GA: Clarke, Cook
KY: Leslie, Russell
LA: Franklin

W7FEN - 2ND using both SSB and CW - Updated: 03/30/2012
GA: Barrow, Burke, Hancock, Jenkins, Warren.
PA: Berks

W7FEN - BINGO using both SSB and CW - Updated: 03/30/2012
GA: Bacon, Hancock, Jenkins
KY: Lewis

WY7LL - USACA using SSB - Updated: 03/25/2012
GA: Randolph
ID: Bear Lake, Clark
UT: Rich
VA: Pulaski, Smyth

K7VAY - 2ND using CW - Updated: 04/20/2012
ND: Grant

N8CIJ - MASTER'S GOLD using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/17/2012
OR: Benton
PA: Crawford, Lawrence

W8FNW - BINGO using both SSB and CW - Updated: 03/30/2012
AR: Fulton
GA: Pulaski
LA: Union

OH: Lorain, Paulding

N8OYY - BINGO using SSB - Updated: 04/02/2012
NE: Saline, Wayne
NJ: Mercer
PA: Cambria
WA: Klickitat
WV: Tyler

K9AAA - USACA using CW - Updated: 04/01/2012
AL: Perry, Wilcox
GA: Calhoun, Clay, Heard, Jasper, Jones, Macon, Pierce, Quitman
IL: Cass, Christian, Coles, Effingham, Jo Daviess, Mercer, Moultrie, Randolph
IN: Floyd, Harrison, Lagrange, Steuben
MO: Adair, Bates, Benton, Gentry, Mercer, Schuyler
TX: Coke, Loving, McMullen, Mitchell, Nacogdoches, Newton, Sutton, Washington.
VA: Prince Edward

WA9DLB - 5TH using SSB - Updated: 04/10/2012
CA: Colusa
CO: Dolores, Ouray, San Miguel
GA: Hancock
IA: Allamakee, Cherokee, Clayton, Fayette, Winneshiek
IN: Ohio
KS: Sheridan
MN: Kittson, Marshall, Waseca
MT: Fallon, Judith Basin, Treasure
NC: Camden
ND: Cavalier
PA: Crawford

W9MSE - 5TH using CW - Updated: 03/24/2012
AL: Macon
KS: Anderson
KY: Jackson, Leslie, Menifee
MD: Harford
MO: Grundy, Henry, Sullivan, Worth
NJ: Passaic
SD: Bennett
TX: Irion, Matagorda, Schleicher
WV: McDowell

WA9OUE - USACA using SSB - Updated: 04/12/2012
IN: Pulaski
OH: Clinton

N9QS - MASTER'S PLATINUM using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/19/2012
CO: Grand.
MI: Midland, Newaygo.
NJ: Camden.
NY: Kings, New York.
OR: Polk.
WI: Dunn.
WY: Weston.

WB9STT - 6TH using SSB - Updated: 03/27/2012
KS: Kiowa, Pottawatomie
KY: McLean, Meade, Monroe
MN: Waseca
TN: Cannon, Jackson

WØEAR - MASTER'S GOLD using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/18/2012
GA: Bibb, Morgan, Murray
MN: Cook
MT: Glacier
VT: Washington

WØEAR - 6TH using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/19/2012

LA: Lasalle
NE: Arthur, Blaine
OR: Harney
SD: Clarke
TX: Irion, Reagan
WI: Barron, Burnett

WØGXQ - 5TH using CW - Updated: 04/15/2012
AR: Little River, Polk
CO: Phillips, San Miguel
GA: Talbot
ID: Custer, Lemhi
IN: Blackford, De Kalb, Jay, Noble, Ohio, Pike
MO: Gentry, Henry, Worth

MT: McCone, Powder River
ND: Eddy, Sioux
NE: Banner, Brown, Chase, Perkins, Richardson, Scotts Bluff
NM: Lincoln
NY: Jefferson
OR: Wallowa
SD: Brule, Buffalo, Campbell, Clark, Corson, Day, Edmunds, Gregory, Sully, Tripp
TX: Val Verde
WV: Boone, Lincoln, Ritchie

NØKV - MASTER'S GOLD using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/16/2012
AL: Bibb
CA: Modoc
GA: Jackson, Macon
IA: Lyon
KY: Green
MA: Suffolk
MN: Sherburne
MO: Howard
MT: Meagher, Petroleum
NE: Adams
NY: Jefferson
OH: Columbiana, Miami
OR: Union, Wallowa
PA: Cambria, Indiana, Juniata, Mifflin, Snyder, Union
TN: Bedford

WØMU - BINGO using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/08/2012
GA: Baker, Greene, Wheeler
ID: Clearwater, Elmore,
KS: Brown, Doniphan, Nemaha, Rush, Graham, Grant
MS: Stone, Ms
MT: Deer Lodge
NE: Howard
OH: Hamilton
UT: Emery, Grand, Iron, Morgan,
VT: Franklin,
WI: Price

NFØN - USACA using CW - Updated: 04/01/2012
AL: Perry, Randolph
GA: Baker
KY: Menifee

MO: Knox, Worth
TN: Warren

NFØN - MASTER'S GOLD using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/01/2012
AL: Blount
AZ: Yuma
CA: Imperial, Modoc, San Diego
CO: Larimer
IL: Monroe
IN: Fayette, Union, Vermillion
MO: Audrian, Carroll, Schuyler
MS: Claiborne, Lafayette
MT: Powder River
NJ: Warren
NM: Sierra
NY: Sullivan
OR: Tillamook
TX: Irion, Jones
UT: Piute
WA: Kitsap, Okanogan
WY: Platte

NUØQ - BINGO using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/15/2012
GA: Schley.
KS: Republic.
NC: Chatham, Lee.
NM: Curry.
PA: Lancaster.

Note: If you list only partial needs, put a 'comment' in the comments section saying it is only a partial list.

Check the current listings to see if you can help out. Some may have caught needed counties in the mini in MI spurt of activity.

17/15 and Up Activity

The solar flux and sunspot count has been down for most of the month. It seems to be picking up so maybe there will be more activity.

The mobiles out and spotted on 17 this month include:

K2HVN – back on the east coast in many counties. Probably the 'most active' on 17 for the past month. He did a lot of 'self spotting'.

W0GXQ – headed to the Mini and back at the end of the month. Earlier he ran 17m on his trip across ND and back.

KB6UF up in ME after his big trip up there. Nothing while on the way there – not enough time in a county and bad condx. . Before that he was in a few in LA on 17M.

K8QWY in OH was on in a few.

W8FNW/W4FNW back in SC and GA on SSB.

W4SIG in a few and NX4W once on data modes.

KC7YE/WQ7A ran a few in WA on SSB

K5GE put out a few in TX as did N4CD.

W9MSE put them out on his trip from WI to OH and back.

WD9EJK ran some in IL on SSB.

K8ZZ ran a few in MI.

You could find the Titanic Special Event station GR100MGY and the Kalawao group on 17M too.

It was slim pickings for most of the month with poor conditions on 17m most of the month.

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On 15, most of the state QSO party folks were bemoaning the lack of propagation on 15M. For most in the QSO parties it was just a dozen or fewer contacts on 15, and almost nothing on 10M, at least 'stateside'.

On 15m, K2HVN spotted the most , followed by W0GXQ on his trip to ND. W9MSE was spotted a few times on his trip to OH and back. W4SIG self spotted on 15 in MS and TN. Hopefully he got a few contacts.

Kalawao spotted on 12M – the group there for a week was busy on many bands.

Just a handful of stations spotted on 15m in the GA QSO Party and maybe 1 or 2 in the MI QSO Party.

For most of the month, the flux and sunspots stayed below 100. At the end of the month, both are way above 100, so maybe there is some hope for lots of good propagation on the higher bands. It's been a roller coaster so far.

On publication date 4/25.....- flux at 134 (good) , sunspots at 159.(even better) ..but A index at 35! (horrible!).

Latest Awards Issued

USACA #1224	Mike, NC4MO	April 3, 2012
USACA #1225	Ralph, WB4FFV	April 13, 2012
Fifth Time #107	Jim, N1BY	March 25, 2012
Bingo III #24	Jim N1BY	March 25, 2012
Bingo III #25	Dave, KE3VV	April 12, 2012

Operating Events for County Hunters

from the ARRL Contest Corral, ARRL, Newington CT

May 5-6

Ten-Ten Spring CW Contest Call sign, name, 10-10 number, state www.ten-ten.org
May 5, 0001Z - May 6, 2359Z

7th Area QSO Party RS(T)+S/P or 7th-area county code 7qp.org
May 5, 1300Z - May 6, 0700Z CW--40 kHz above band edge; SSB--1.845, 3.855, 7.235, 14.255, 21.355, 28.455.

Indiana QSO Party RS(T) + S/P or IN county, DX RS(T) only www.hdxcc.org/inqp
May 5, 1600Z - May 6, 0400Z CW--1.805 and 40 kHz above the band edge on 80-10 meters, SSB--1.845, 3.820, 7.190, 14.250, 21.300, 28.400.

New England QSO Party RS(T) and S/P or New England county www.neqp.org
May 5, 2000Z - See website Multiple operating periods; CW--3.540, 7.035, 14.040, 21.040, 28.040; SSB--3.850, 7.180/280, 14.280, 21.380, 28.380

Don't forget ! National Convention coming up in July in Vancouver WA. If you don't want to drive...it's getting late to snag some discount airline tickets!

http://marac.org/events.htm

73

That's all for this month.