

# County Hunter News

October 1, 2013  
Volume 9, Issue 10

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For general information FAQ on County Hunting, check out:

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

MARAC sponsors an award program for many other county hunting awards. You can find information on these awards and the rules at:

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

The CW net procedure is written up at:

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

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

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

Want county lines on your Garmin GPS?

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

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

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

## Notes from the Editor

### 1) N4CD Rumblings

Fall has arrived – officially and actually here in TX. The 100 deg days have ended and now we have some rain, some nice cooler evenings, and nice days where the windows can stay open 24 hours a day – at least for a couple weeks.

Band conditions have gone from decent to miserable with high A and K indexes on many days, but thousands of contacts are being made. Every now and then, ten meters opens or people actually go there to find it is open.

This month we have continuing coverage of the KS QSO Party, plus the events that took place in September – ARK, WA state SR, SC.

There were a few nice trips by mobiles in September. In some areas of the country, Mother Nature cut loose with floods that devastated entire counties, so it is time to watch the weather and adjust routes accordingly.

We've got our additional articles on misc radio topics this month and some other stuff thrown into this issue, so I hope you enjoy reading it.

## **2 ) From the K3IMC Forum – by Jerry, K5YAA**

In the future if you need a K5YAA/M 20 Meter SSB County

Look for me where I spot myself or am kindly spotted by others. I let the first 5 insults roll off my back but this last one was the straw that broke the camels back. I simply was helping KC3X know that KIE had turned it over to him by simply saying "Go Hollis". That got me insult number 6 about anarchy. Enough is enough. I will finish my USA-CA on CW if I have to. I need less than 700 counties having worked over 600 the past 4 months. I already had many from all my 54 years in ham radio and am certain I can get the rest without being insulted on the air. It's no wonder there are few new folks on the CHNs.

Once you here a tirade on 336 about how to operate you simply hit the dial and go elsewhere. I find most of the County Hunters to be swell people and willing to help out but this one grump is a rotten apple for sure. If I was looking for insults on the radio I would go to 80 meter SSB, which according to one G3 I worked - is the "armpit" of Amateur Radio. Well I have news for the G3. Another "armpit" exists on 14.336. Like I said - if you need a K5YAA/M county that I am running then look other places besides 14.336. I have plans to run many counties in the next few months but they won't be run on 14.336.

## **3 ) Summer Trip Follow Up**

The last issue was sort of rushed and I left out a few nifty things. And a gremlin or two snuck in. We usually throw in a typo or two just to let folks find them – NOT – hi hi Spell checker doesn't always work.

a ) - NYC area - When you leave Nassau – it looks like you are in Queens for a few miles before you go over the bridge to the Bronx...and there is tons of traffic to deal with plus changing routes once or twice to get to where you want to go. The GPS lady keeps you busy and the traffic occupies all your time in that neck of the woods. That's why we missed running

Queens on the last trip.

b ) At the Museum in Huntington, WV – they had many nifty and RARE items – including some console radios that were made in 1942-44 using existing car radios. When the war started, all production of 'consumer radios' ceased. Some manufacturers had stocks of car radios – but cars could not be made – so they got special permission to assemble them into console radio cabinets (with the speakers already part of the car radio kit) using 6v power supplies which they were allowed to build. They're rather rare units – but from the front look like any other console radio. The difference is inside – with the normal oval speaker and a power supply hooked up to the car radio! From the front, it appeared normal to the average person. Consumer electronics during WW2 were next to none. Civilians could not even buy a new tube! None for sale! You had to hope your friends had one in the junk box if your radio quit on you. Of the dozen or so TV stations on the air, they were limited to 4 hours of broadcasting a week! Not many folks had receivers (less than a few thousand).

The museum also had one of the Aurora 2 transistor Boy Scout radio kits – a model I've never seen in before – other than in ads. Aurora had a 1 transistor radio – and a 3 transistor radio as well. Those on a low budget bought the 1 transistor one – those with money bought the 3 transistor one – and almost no one bought the 2 transistor one. They had one on display, along with dozens of other electronic kits/toys from the 50s and 60s including the Gilbert Erec-Tronic sets.

It's really worth stopping by this museum. A++++

C ) At the AWA museum – in NY State - did I mention they had working spark gap transmitters? A full reproduction of the Marconi room of the Titanic? Early working spinning disc TV sets? Lots to see if you're in the neck of the woods of both museums! Worth planning a visit.

#### **4 ) Noise in the Shack**

Sam, WE5EE, noted that he had high noise on 40 and 20m in the shack. I suggested he look around for any new computer stuff or similar. Sure enough, he noted:

“found it !!!

I had a HB1B qrp rig which I used to track down the noise . . . was worst at my radio desk . . . turned out to be the 12V charger for the HB1B. I wasn't even using it !!!

I unplugged it & the noise dropped drastically”

## **5 ) Reader Feedback from Bill, W8LVN**

“Reading your newsletter and in particular Conrad, Montana, caught my eye. First, I was there about a week before, as you might already know, but that is where I grew up. I also stayed at the Super 8, which is pretty much the only viable alternative in Conrad, other than my relatives. The drive-in there is fun, and is a long-standing institution. The best pizza, in my opinion is at the Keg at the other end of town.

I had the advantage of having gone through there a week before the crowd did. My favorite route these days is along state 5 in ND as well as Montana, with a hop across the line to the northwest corner of MN. This catches the northern tier of both states, although after the first couple of counties us2 is just as good once you draw even to Wolf Point.

Several years ago I was there, and ventured onto sideband and was told that my pronunciation of Pondera county was incorrect, that it really was Pon-dur-ah. My reply was that my dad was the second person born in that county, and our family pretty well knows how to pronounce it: Pon-der-ay (from the Native American Tribe Pend Orille, apparently).

Sounds like the convention was fun. I'll try going one of these years.

Bill”

## **6 ) History Again**

If you've never read the story of how the USACA program got started, you might enjoy reading the January 2007 issue of the CHNews where we explore how the USACA program started....and of the first person ever to earn a USACA award.

<http://chnewsonline.com/County%20Hunter%20News%20-%20January%202007.pdf>

## **7 ) N7BKW – Dave – Silent Key**

Dennis, KK7X, put the obituary of Dave Vig, N7BKW up on the County Hunt Facebook page. In case you haven't heard:

“David Harvey Vig passed away September 7, 2013 at his home in Careywood, Idaho at the age of 74. David was born November 11, 1937 in Coeur D' Alene, Idaho to Harvey and Nona Vig. David was the third child of five children. As a child Dave grew up in Dalton Gardens.

On November 29, 1955 he married his childhood sweetheart Patricia Newcomb and raised six children. They built their first home in Dalton Gardens and moved to Careywood, Idaho in 1970. He spent many hours farming his eighty acres with his family.

Dave was employed by the United States Forest Service for over twenty-five years. He was a drill master for the Satellites women mounted horse drill team. Dave was an avid sportsman who enjoyed fishing with his wife and hunting with his two sons. Dave dedicated many years to ham radio and traveling around the country, county hunting and achieved running every county in the United States. He was President of the Northwest Access Alliance Inc. promoting and preserving access to public lands.

David was preceded in death by his parents, sister Doris Baillie and brother James. He is survived by his wife, Patricia, and children,

- - -

de N4CD

Dave was very active during the 70s, 80s and 90s, running the net for hours on end with a big signal out of Idaho. I had the pleasure of meeting him at a mini in Oklahoma in the 1990s.

Dave was the second person to receive the Five Star Award and third to earn the Masters Gold award. After finishing 7<sup>th</sup> time, Dave decided that the new 'net control' tyrant on 14.336, who 'occupies' the frequency much of the week, running off folks left and right, made county hunting no longer fun and became inactive on the nets.

## **Mobile Activity**

Jeff, W9MSE, headed over to OH from WI ...and later back

Barry, N0KV, and Pat, N0KV, headed over to the WV, PA area for a several week trip. Lots of SSB counties and a few on cw when not pulling the trailer.

Rick, W5QP, was busy putting out counties in OK many days and weekends helping folks finish up on OK counties. .

Tony, WA9DLB, was up in MN putting them out.

Pete, N4AKP, was spotted in VA.

Jim, N4JT, ran in NC and VA.

Dave, KE3VV, put out some in VA and WV.

Mike, KA4RRU, was busy during the month – first on a trip to FL and back. Then around in VA.

Bob, N8KIE, took a big trip back east – NY, PA, NJ, - thousands of miles and a hundred counties helping N5UZW and WQ7A with Mobile Diamond counties.

KB0BA, Lowell, and Sandra, N0XYL, headed east on a big trip.

Karl, K4YT, was up in NJ and NY.

N1QY was active in MA putting out rare Suffolk and others.

Bill, K2HVN, headed east from WA state back to the east coast putting them out along the way.

Paul, WD9EJK, was out and about in WI.

Kyle, WA4PGM, noted out in NC.

Jerry, K5YAA, headed over to AR for the QSO party and put out the counties on the way there and back.

Ron, KB6UF, showed up in MS and took a trip to AR and ran Franklin, LA for LY5A

Rick, AI5P, was off playing “DX” and popped in on cw net frequency a few times.

N7IV returned from a long trip back east to home in ND.

Kerry, W4SIG, was on from TN, MS, AL and GA putting them out.

KC7YE was busy up in the PNW – ran in the Salmon run and busy putting others out. Lost his 20M antenna along the way.

Karl, K4YT, was running some in NC for the folks.

# Kansas QSO Party Late Entries

These came in just after the deadline last month. There's always good reading from NO5W and W0BH and others – so I will share their comments with you.

From the 3830 contest reflector:

## **N0R mobile – N5NA and NO5W ops**

...the main difference however, is we did a lot more eyeball socializing in 2013. In 2012 we made a leisurely drive to Joplin arriving late afternoon and after checking into the motel we went out for dinner with more hashing and rehashing of our plans for the KS QP. Then around 8:30pm we wandered over to Walmart to gas up and discovered that there was a ham fest going on. Oops, it was winding up for the night at 9:00pm so the best we could do was to put attendance at the Joplin ham fest on our list of improvements for 2013. And that's what we did, arriving at the ham fest this year just after it started with many of the non-commercial vendors still setting up.

After looking around for a couple of hours we had one of our more memorable encounters, but definitely not a socializing one, when Alan spotted a roll of RG58C/U, still wrapped tightly on the spool, with a seller-claimed length of 100 feet, being offered at \$30.00. Seemed like a pretty good deal and although Alan is a good-natured sort of guy he understands that part of the ham fest experience, especially in the flea market area, is to engage in a little back and forth bargaining. So he asked, in a good-natured sort of way, "Would you take \$20?". That brought an almost instantaneous response from the XYL, "Don't you understand F-I-R-M?". So Alan countered, again in that ham-friendly sort of way, "How about \$25?". By that time the OM had arrived and had begun unpacking his other wares and commented, in a rather unfriendly sort of way, "If you make another low ball offer I'm going to raise the price to \$40". It seemed like a strange way to engage in friendly negotiations but the OM was having no part of it so Alan plunked down the \$30 and we left wondering if the OM would mellow any as the fest went on. We also wondered how much cable was on the spool.

We didn't stick around to find out the answer to either question as we had better things to do including a nice eyeball QSO with Bill-NU0Q and his wife who had come down from Des Moines to take in the ham fest before operating KS



QP as N0U/m. We had emailed and QSOed with Bill many times, including answering some questions and responding to feedback generated from his use of CQ/X, but we had never met. So it was fun to meet and to discuss KS QP routes as well as attempt to answer a few probing technical questions regarding CQ/X internals. After that we left for dinner and more hashing and rehashing of our plans for the KS QP but also including several comments regarding the non-negotiating experience and what the length of cable on that spool might be. We both agreed that overall the ham fest was quite good with a good venue, several commercial vendors, and some good stuff in the flea market, including the Butternut HF6V, used but in very good condition, that Alan picked up for \$50.00. If the day before the KS QP ever finds you in the Joplin area be sure to drop by to check out the ham fest. And be sure to stick around and operate mobile in the KS QP where, as we found out, you'll find even more socializing opportunity.

Our KSQP route on Saturday was an ambitious one of 630 miles, made even more so because we had dinner plans at 9:00pm in McPherson with Bob-W0BH and Jerry-K5YAA and, due to a hasty Subway lunch, we were anxious to find food. After leap frogging with W0BH on I-70 east of Hays and on over to I-35 south to McPherson we knew we would arrive for dinner about the same time but what about Jerry who was pulling his KW rig with trailered generator?

Exiting I-35 at McPherson just as the Saturday session closed there were K5YAA and W0BH with Aaron-N0QD already exchanging high fives on the side of the road. After a quick discussion it was off to Montana Mikes for dinner and some good QSO party conversation: "Did you work that OM2VL, wasn't he loud"; "What about the VE's, all seemed to be there except for VE3's and VE2's"; "Who had the consistently loudest signal, wouldn't that include K8MFO, and N4PN. Yep, yep and they always had much appreciated quick and snappy exchanges"; "Wonder if N6MU will make the sweep three years in a row? How does he do it with only 100 watts and a vertical?"

After dinner it was out to the parking lot for a closer review of the mobile setups and some photo-ops with the K5YAA trailer receiving most of the attention followed closely by the inside of Jerry's van including the amp, bug, and K3 and redundancy in almost every component -- about the only non-redundant items being the vehicle and trailer! It sure was good to see Jerry back on the road, on the air, and enthusiastic as ever about ham radio in general and mobile contesting in particular.

Several weeks before the party when Bob discovered from our published route that we planned to spend Saturday night in McPherson he invited us to crash at his place which is only about twenty minutes southeast of there. So after dinner we headed on down to the farm where he and Lorna grow beverages,

prairie grass, and normal farm crops and have a very nice solar-powered home where solar generates enough power to send some to the local co-op from time to time. Since both of us were headed out for more KS QP early on Sunday morning, it was a short, but thoroughly enjoyable, stay. Thanks Bob and Lorna for letting us crash at your place and for the hospitality, it certainly reminded us of one of the main reasons we enjoy this thing called Ham Radio and contesting in particular.

Driving up from Arkansas our easiest access to the KS QP is via the southeastern counties: Cherokee, Labette, Crawford, etc. So those counties were on our route again this year. For different scenery and to support the goal of activating all 105 counties, we decided to go further west this year and to not turn north until we reached a line of counties (Commanche, Kiowa, Edwards, Pawnee, Stafford, Barton, Rush, and Ellis) that were unclaimed at the time we planned our route. In the end additional stations signed up for some of those counties but we remained the only announced CW action in Commanche and Kiowa. So if you were trying for a CW sweep we hope you caught us in those two.

Here's a few stats on the thirty-six counties we covered arranged by days and sorted in decreasing order of number of QSOs. Each day is short one hour of operating time due to stops for gas, lunch, and/or bio breaks. The length of Saturday's route, about 630 miles, required a gas stop of about 20 minutes but we sprinted through lunch at a Subway and also sprinted to several bio breaks. On the other hand Sunday's route did not require a gas stop but we got caught in the church lunch crowd and even though we ordered the meatloaf special we spent nearly 45 minutes on lunch.

It is often said, and certainly true, that mobiles make the party since the prospect of chasing a large number of mobiles around a state generates lots of excitement and tends to attract the fixed stations.

So it was an outstanding party with lots of mobile and fixed station activity and, at least in our case, several opportunities for eyeball QSOs with other participants, including a ham fest thrown in for good measure. Thanks to Bob-W0BH for an outstanding job of leading the task of putting on a fun QSO party, including awards with an interesting philatelic flavor. If those pesky gas prices maintain or drop back from current levels look for us again in the 2014 KS QP.

**N0K K0HNC**

I got to all the counties that I scheduled and put on QRZ, so felt good about that. Also was happy to provide N6MU some needed counties for his 3rd consecutive sweep. Amazing accomplishment and hearty congratulations to John.

I planned to make the best use of the 2 hours before the Ohio QP started by finding two county line locations close together and spending an hour at each. What I didn't plan on was the local farmers driving by to see what I was doing, so to stay on good terms with them, I took valuable operating time to explain about the QSO party and visit about the very dry weather in NW Ks and how their crops were doing. This happened at both stops.

It was hot (mid 90s) very windy in west KS both days. On the way back from one stop, I passed a cattle hauler semi that had been blown off the road into the ditch where he hit an embankment. Fortunately, he was empty.

Biggest problem at the county line stops was the flies. Trying to send CW with flies biting your arms and legs is a challenge! I ended up rubbing on a liberal amount of insect repellent to keep them away. Closing the windows and running the AC would have been a cumulative 10 or 11 hours of idling with the AC on, so I chose to fight the flies.

The only "nice" motel near the area where I needed to spend Sat night was already booked full a month ahead of time, so I had to settle for a "low cost" motel in Hugoton, KS. When I checked in and went in the room, I was greeted by...more flies! I guess they had the door open during the day for cleaning and it filled with flies. I spent an hour with a folded wash cloth fly swatter getting rid of them so I could eat my pizza in peace.

If that wasn't enough, when checked my credit card statement Wed morning, I found that I had been charged twice for the room. After some phone calls, the guy said he mistakenly used my card number instead of the one for person renting the room the next night, and that he will send a refund check. We will see.

Band conditions seemed good to the states and Canada, but not much from Europe as in prior years. Worked OM2VL, whose signal was as strong as stateside stations, several times and one DL.

I ran an APRS cell phone app that seemed to work the whole way, so I hope some made use of it.

Thanks to everyone for all the contacts, and see you next year.

73

Charles N0K/K0HNC

### **OM2VL 154 cw 59 ssb QSO**

It was a awesome Party for me ...

As usually, the beginning of the contest was very poor for me - very weak signals from mobile's, extremely high QRM from EU contesting stations on YODX (and other EU's calling CQ on mobiles frq)

Luckily I stay on QTH and made unbelievably numbers of QSO and 92!!! county. (heard another 8!!! ,but no lucky in the BIG pileup from USA).

15m: was excellent, clear, and FB signals from the USA, but unfortunately on this band was only very few stations.

20m: QQQQQQQQRM, but here worked with a most of my QSO's. Thank you for the patience of all KS stations, when I called through the USA pileup.

40m: QRM from EU, but nice QSO's with KS mobiles. I try sometimes call on SSB around 7190, but nobody answered me :) ... all stations was over 7200 (I heard some), but here I can't transmit there.

80m: I was shocked, when I HRD at 01:10Z K0N, 01:41Z W0S on my simple dipole. I called him about 10-15 minutes, but they' did not copy my call.

1 x 1 stations:                      Worked total 34 .

The strongest mobile was W0L.

73 Laci OM2VL

## W0BH mobile as K0A

The 2013 Kansas QSO Party by W0BH as K0A/m

It's hard to top the last two Kansas QSO Parties, but it feels like we did!

Last year, we spelled KANSAS and SUNFLOWER with 33 1x1 calls, this year we added QSOPARTY for a total of 45 1x1 calls. With just a few days to go, we were still signing up ops. I didn't actually think we could field 12 additional calls, but when we were down to two with no more ops in sight, my drivers Aaron/n0qd and XYL Lorna/k0why got their own 1x1 calls to fill out the roster. Thanks to China Chaney at ARRL, the last five calls were approved on Thursday before the party, and we were good to go.

As we were collecting mobile routes, I noticed that Chuck/no5w (from Louisiana) and Alan/n5na (from Texas) had planned their last county as McPherson which is my home county. Since I hadn't met either of them, I looped my route back home on Saturday, then invited them to stay at W0BH overnight. We planned a Saturday evening supper in the town of McPherson, about 20 miles from home. Jerry/k5yaa (from Oklahoma) was also mobile and arranged his route to be there, too. Now we could look forward to both the QSO party and after the QSO party!

In the weeks before, central Kansas had been deluged with rain, and many back roads were a mess. A week of hot weather took care of that problem for the most part, but I still planned a route on major roads just in case. We all checked the internet for road problems, and a number of mobiles rerouted because of what they found. The major roads got us to counties early and it was easy to make up time. The down side was having fewer county line operations.

Saturday

Saturday morning dawned clear and "relatively" cool as Aaron and I headed west to 22 of our planned 35 counties. I wasn't quite sure how we would run both calls from the same radio since my plan was made before the added 1x1s, so we changed up the plan right off the top by heading out early and driving to the first county crossing. I ran the two-county line, then let Aaron run the second county as I drove through. It worked, but what worked better after a little experimenting was to have Aaron tag calls that came in for me .. ie I'd make the contact, then Aaron would also make the contact. At first it was by request, but after awhile, everyone expected the second contact and the second letter, so we gave it to them unless I had a big pileup. After the pileup went down, ops would come back asking for Aaron. No way to get bored!

Saturday conditions weren't the greatest. At first, both 40 and 20 were weak, then 20 started coming in and rates improved (but weak DX). A number of ops tried moving us to 15, but signals there were poor or non-existent. Many many 15m CQs went unanswered. This year with 15 mobiles, we tried a Mobile CW Window well below Ohio QSO Party frequencies. Reports during the day said that it was an overwhelming success. Our fixed stations stayed out of the Window, and everyone who took the time to check the Mobile Routes link on the KSQP web site knew right where to look for each mobile.

My favorite part about operating midwest QSO parties is the county line operations, something I really miss when going to states where line operations aren't allowed. I'd planned a full hour at the Hodgeman/Ford/Edwards three-county line stop, and we approached it a few minutes early. We sometimes stop at a three-county line near a hog farm which is unpleasant when the wind is wrong. Not this one. Few flies and a nice breeze kept us at least not hot in the '91 Chevy Astro with no air conditioning. Signals were also loud, so the best kind of fun! After the pileups settled down, Aaron took over while I ate lunch, and he had his best rates of the day as N0P/m, the P in QSOPARTY. Just as we were scheduled to leave, a farmer stopped by, so I took some time and explained why we were exactly here and what we were doing (nope, not storm-spotting!). He left with a smile and so did I.

About 4pm, we turned on I-70 for the fast return back to McPherson. We had several jogs to sit on northern county lines, the first of which was Sheridan and the second Graham. We had good but quick runs there before continuing on. As we cruised homeward, a very loud N0R/m called in on CW from Ellis county. We were also in Ellis, as it turned out about two miles behind Chuck and Alan. They later stopped at a rest area to work the "short" county. Then we stopped at a different rest area for the same reason, and I actually saw them go by. We were on schedule!

As the sun went slowly down, I got out the headlamp and turned down the screen brightness on the GPS and logging computers as we made our last county. In the counties where Chuck and Alan were, I concentrated more on SSB, so Aaron also got lots more contacts. We crossed into McPherson county on schedule with just a few minutes to go. As we got off the exit, there was Jerry/k5yaa by the side of the road pounding out Qs with his unmistakable kilowatt Oklahoma Land Rush Mobile and trailer with big Tarheel and running generator. As we pulled in behind, I avoided his frequency since I still needed a front-end for Sunday! As the clock turned 0200Z, we both got out and said hi. Jerry said he had waved at Chuck and Alan a few minutes before, so we all made it through day one. The meal and conversation at Montana Mikes was great, then we took a few pictures,

and headed back to the farm. Aaron and I finished the 12 hour day with 1497 combined Qs in the log.

## Sunday

After a too short night and a good breakfast, Lorna and I watched Chuck and Alan head down the road to their first county about 45 minutes away, the same place we'd started the day before. Today was Lorna's day to drive and to activate W0Y/m, the Y in QSOPARTY. With only 6 hours of operating time, we started 30 minutes into Marion county on an ambitious 13 county run through northcentral Kansas. Most of the counties were also new for us in the KSQP, so we were looking forward to checking out new scenery.

With the first CQ answered by W7GVE, I knew it was a new day! Signals on both 40 and 20 were booming in, and our "riders" from yesterday were there waiting. Lorna tagged my call like Aaron did yesterday, and the new letter was especially popular. She quickly got comfortable with the more rapid exchange and we both settled in for a run.

Lorna has gotten to know a number of your calls over the years, so whenever Paul/N4PN (who she met in GA a few months ago), Jeff/N8II, and John/N6MU came on, extra words were often exchanged. After this weekend, many more of you are now also familiar to her! John was especially excited because he saw a possible Sweep emerging, and Jeff knew he would be close. As the day went on and John picked off more counties, it appeared that he would need our last county, Ottawa, for the Sweep. In fact, it seemed everyone needed us in Ottawa!

We stayed on schedule, even a bit ahead of schedule at times and the day went quickly. It was just too busy to take a break, so Lorna ate lunch at a county stop while I worked another pileup. You all were absolutely great! Big pileups are very manageable if everyone works together. One characteristic of QSO party pileups is cooperation (unlike many DX pileups), so we get things done and you all get in the log. With about five minutes to Ottawa county, I was on SSB taking a list to try and minimize the inevitable pileup. When John called in, I put him at the top and called him first when we crossed the Ottawa county line. SWEEP .. congratulations for a third year in a row, John! It was especially fun to be the one to give it you you, and lots of ops heard you get it. How you do that with low power and no beam from a California city lot no longer surprises me, but the word "amazing" still come to mind, right along with "preparation," "timing," and "persistence." You earn it, my friend!

After the dust settled, Lorna and I found 1059 combined Qs in the 6 hour Sunday

log. That works out to 176/hr .. FB in any book from one radio (an Icom 706MkIIIG with Hustler verticals)! It took awhile to figure out my own operating rate, but I calculated that I personally worked just a bit over 12 of the 18 hours since most of the 888 contacts Aaron and Lorna made were tagged so they didn't have to call CQ. You can see those calculations below.

And Jeff/n8ii .. great effort missing only Sheridan! Not sure how we failed to connect there since your signal always booms in. You worked me in Gove at 2122 and I started running Sheridan at 2125. I normally try to tip ops off about my next county if I'm getting close, so if I didn't do that, I'll take some responsibility (if that helps :-)! I also have to give a tip of the hat to OM2VL. Laci reports working 92 counties, and he heard but couldn't break the pileups in 8 more. He also worked 34 1x1 ops including Aaron and Lorna, and 21 contacts with me. I'd say that's a good "days" work from the Slovak Republic!

In actual fact, none of us could do it without you all looking for us, fixed or mobile, so we can't say thank you enough. And Lorna and Aaron want to add their thanks to you for figuring out our sometimes call-confused operation! Next year, anyone?

#### Stats

We operated 17.7 hours, 2556 combined Qs, 409 unique calls, 13 dupes, one radio

#### Afterwards

There are lots of people to thank for the 2013 QSO party success. The Santa Fe Trail ARC once again ran KS0KS (the perfect Kansas call) as our BONUS station and "wild card" in the spelling competition. We also had a number of non-1x1 Kansas stations on the air to thank. Our 15 mobile and 30 fixed 1x1 stations came together to really light up the airwaves. A number of them were new this year, and we hope they'll be back! It will be fun to see how many of them each of you worked as we process the logs and get set for the gift certificate drawing.

Special thanks to our out-of-state mobiles (some who traded fives for zeros for the weekend). Thanks Chuck/no5w and Alan/n5na, Jon/w0zq, Jerry/k5yaa (first time), and Bill/nu0q for visiting our state.

I know we were also appreciated beyond the Kansas borders. Thanks to those of



you who spotted the mobiles on the traditional spotting networks. Those spots, and our customized spotting network link, once again set up by Richard/k0rcj, allowed a number of you to find that last letter needed to spell KANSAS, SUNFLOWER, or QSOPARTY and grab an antique amateur stamp or two for your certificate. Thanks to Bruce/ki5te for his help with the stamps.

This year, our sponsors (see the KSQP Sponsors link on the KSQP web site) came through once again to provide the funding for our operations. Our 19 plaques were all sponsored, so if you win a plaque, be sure to thank your plaque sponsor, and thank our corporate sponsors with a shopping visit if get the chance! Thanks in advance to Ron/ad0dx for his help in log-checking. Thanks to Aaron and Lorna for safely negotiating the Kansas roads for me and putting two more 1x1 calls on the air. And finally, thanks Kent/kb0rwi, for your usual terrific job on the KSQP web site.

As before, the best part of this was getting to meet or exchange emails with many of you as we all tried to make this work. With your help, we did. Keep in touch. Any new ideas for the 2014 Kansas QSO Party are always welcome ... !

73, Bob/w0bh/k0a  
2013 KSQP Coordinator

## **N0U (NU0Q op)**

My goal for this year was to transmit from all of the counties in southeast Kansas and to provide the "U" suffix for as many as possible. My XYL Karen drove us around to 20 counties. We planned to end our 2-week vacation with the Kansas QSO Party and a visit to Karen's parents. As it turned out, a funeral for a good friend of ours was scheduled for Saturday in Harvey County, so we rearranged our schedule so we could attend. Consequently, we were off the air for much of Saturday afternoon. Nevertheless, I was able to transmit from all of the counties in the southeast part of Kansas, either in the QSO Party or the day before.

We arranged to stay in Joplin on Friday night so we could take in the hamfest. We ran into Chuck (NO5W) and Alan (N5NA) at the hamfest and had an enjoyable chat. To make sure we kept on schedule, we started early on Saturday so we could start in Labette County. We crossed through the Flint Hills in Chautauqua County and stopped for lunch at the Subway in Winfield. Afterwards, we could hear N0R (NO5W and N5NA) catching up with us before we headed north. Later in the afternoon, we headed east across the Flint Hills again, this time

along US 50, to our hotel in Ottawa. We stopped an hour early to try out the famous ribs at Guy and Mae's tavern in Williamsburg. Wow! If you like ribs, check this place out on Google and add it to your bucket list. Afterwards, there was just enough time left to find a Hawaii station to add to the mult count before we got to the hotel.

On Sunday, we started out on time and made it to Linn and Bourbon Counties before heading west again on US 54. After lunch in Allen County, I noticed a nearby signal swamping my IC-706MkIIG and found N0R getting louder. I gave them a quick call as they went by heading east. Then, with plenty of time left and not many counties left on our route, we detoured around Toronto Lake and ended up on gravel roads in Greenwood County. Eventually, we got back to US 54 and stopped in Eureka, where Karen checked out the mural on the wall inside the post office. (We had checked out the depression-era murals in a few other Kansas post offices a few days earlier.) Finally, we crossed the Flint Hills one more time, ending the party in Butler County. From there we stopped in to visit the in-laws before heading back to Iowa the next day.

We started on time on Saturday, but it was really slow. It took several minutes before we made any contacts at all. Activity seemed to pick up in Chautauqua County. QSO rates on Sunday seemed to be much better, with more DX also.

I've read a lot of comments about how 15 meters was open, but few stations went there. I went to 15 meters three times on Sunday, but only worked one or two stations each time. Even though the band was open, it wasn't as productive as staying on 20 meters where most stations seemed to be. I did make sure I went to 40 for a few minutes in each county because there were a few stations that were almost always there when I called.

I had good intentions of making some SSB contacts to make sure the "U" suffix was available to all. However, I had a high noise level, in part due to the laptop computer that usually isn't running outside of the QSO party. I did try to find an empty frequency, but every time I asked, the frequency was busy. So, I ended up being in the CW-only category. I'm glad that the other "U" stations came through for the SSB folks.

I think the assigned frequencies for CW mobiles worked well, although perhaps not everyone was aware of the plan. There were times when the frequency was occupied by Ohio stations, a Kansas fixed station once, and an east coast station calling CQ Kansas (briefly).

There are 200 unique callsigns in my log.

Thanks again to everyone who hunted me down and made a contact. I hope I added a few counties to your multiplier count or helped you with USA-CA.

Bill  
N0U/NU0Q

### **W0W/K0PY mobile**

This year was challenging to say the least, but I did not have vehicle problems like last year.

I had a PC with a good battery this time mobile, but I could not make it send the CW correctly. So I sent the whole contest by hand.

So I did all the sending by hand and wrote them down as the contacts came in. Then after the run I hand typed them into my PC with the clock set back about 10 minutes. So I asked the contest loggers to go easy on my times.

Also this year I noticed an intermittent power problem the first day in the AM. That was a first for this rig and antenna setup as I have operated quite a bit of mobile CW, guess it was my lucky day.

While sending on Saturday the power would drop to 30 Watts and then back to 100 Watts. I stopped on the road and disassembled the screwdriver antenna and cleaned up connections and all I could think of. The setup just refused to work on 40M so after that I pretty much just stayed on 20M.

Sunday AM before the contest resumed I put on new grounds and more. Sunday it was a little better, but it still sometimes had a power loss.

All in all we had a good time handing out the county's on CW, and enjoyed the KS scenery out east because it has been a while since we have been out there.

The KS QSO party was loads of fun, and its extra nice using the 1 by 1 call. I only forgot once or twice and sent K0 then corrected to W0W.

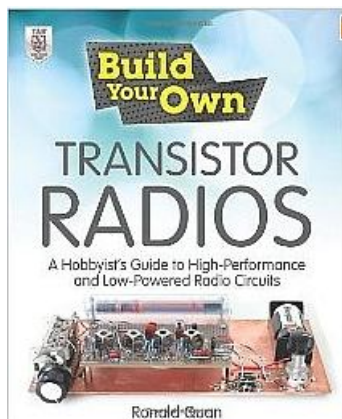
Thanks for the contacts and hope to catch you next year.

73, Mike K0PY/W0W

# Build Your own Transistor Radios by Ronald Quan KI6AZB

This is a current book unlike most we have reviewed!

A DIY guide to designing and building transistor radios Create sophisticated transistor radios that are inexpensive yet highly efficient. Build Your Own Transistor Radios: A Hobbyist's Guide to High-Performance and Low-Powered Radio Circuits offers complete projects with detailed schematics and insights on how the radios were designed. Learn how to choose components, construct the different types of radios, and troubleshoot your work. Digging deeper, this practical resource shows you how to engineer innovative devices by experimenting with and radically improving existing designs. Build Your Own Transistor Radios.



covers: Calibration tools and test generators TRF, regenerative, and reflex radios Basic and advanced superheterodyne radios Coil-less and software-defined radios Transistor and differential-pair oscillators Filter and amplifier design techniques Sampling theory and sampling mixers In-phase, quadrature, and AM broadcast signals Resonant, detector, and AVC circuits Image rejection and noise analysis methods This is the perfect guide for electronics hobbyists and students who want to delve deeper into the topic of radio. Make Great Stuff! TAB, an imprint of McGraw-Hill Professional, is a leading publisher of DIY technology books for makers, hackers, and electronics hobbyists.

A do-it-yourself collection of innovative, high-quality projects for electronics enthusiasts Build Your Own Transistor Radios pushes the envelope of DIY radio designs. Ronald Quan, an

electronics engineer with more than 65 patents, presents a range of projects, suitable for advanced beginners and more experienced engineers, that go far beyond the standard crystal sets of the past. This book covers traditional radios -- TRF (Tuned Radio Frequency), reflex, regenerative, and super-heterodyne topologies as well as front-end circuit designs for SDR (Software Defined Radio), the emerging future standard for radio technology.

Using widely available materials and the book's easy-to-follow plans, you can make radios that run for years on a single battery (even an organic potato battery or minimal solar cell array). Other projects include simple TRFs with enhanced reception performance; reflex radios that amplify both audio and radio frequency signals in a single unit; a "green" superheterodyne receiver, comparable in quality to commercially manufactured sets, but with vastly extended battery life; and other high-performance, low-power-consumption designs. Provides practical circuits for the hobbyist that use easily available off-the-shelf parts Bridges theoretical knowledge with intuitive explanations and practical examples Presents explanations of circuit designs and an introduction to signal theory--no advanced math training necessary!

Gives alternative circuitry choices and recommended parts hacks Covers fundamental radio circuit design principles you can apply to other radio types, such as ham, shortwave, and longwave Comprehensive coverage: Overview of Various Radio Circuits; Calibration Tools and Generators for Testing; Parts and Improvised/Hacked Parts for Building the Radios; Building Simple Test Oscillators and Modulators; A Low Power TRF Radio; Reflex Radios; Low Power Regenerative Radios; Superhet Radios; A Low Power Superhet Radio; Exotic Superhet Radios; Inductorless Radios; Software Defined Radio Circuits; Oscillator Circuits; Mixer Circuits and Harmonic Mixers; Sampling Theory and Sampling Mixers; IQ Signals; IF Circuits; Detector/AVC Circuits; Amplifier Circuits; Resonant Circuits and Band Pass Filters; Image Rejection; Noise

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N4CD review: Starts out real basic, quickly gets into some real math for serious circuit designers. Not much in the way of actual do it yourself projects (a few). But if you are a serious receiver designer, or want to get into the math – this is a good book for you. Otherwise, save your money. It's full of math and complicated circuits you won't build on your own.

Available from ARRL for about \$50 or Amazon dot com for \$33, or even in Kindle versions.

# County Sign Database Project

This month another 50-60 additions were made. NA8W sent in some of his recent trips. Here's one of the NA8W in Menominee, MI. He sent in others from UT, MO, and MI.



NA8W mobile Menominee, MI

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**Rick, W5QP, has been running all over OK, trying to finish up folks, and adding county signs to the database. Here's him at Harper, OK. Oklahoma is in great shape with ALL of the 77 county signs now in the database. It is the first 'big state' done. So far, the ONLY other state done is Delaware – all 3 counties.**

Congrats to Rick for finishing off a 'big state' in the database!

Many other states are in pathetic condition. GA, IL, NJ, CT and CA just to mention a few.



W5QP Harper, OK County #71 of 77

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WY is close with 21 of 23 now in the database. WA has 32 of 39 as of 9/14/13. South Dakota as 61 of 66 – just a few left. Even MT has 52 of 56 done...while states like PA are in the 10 out of 67 range!

Heck, even if your 'smart phone' is out of range, use it to take a picture of a county line sign when you get there! Snap the other one on the other side of the road, too, so you get a 'two fer'.

FL, GA and AL are in sad shape, too! Let's keep K4EXT busy with additions. Who's going to get the 'last county' sign award for their state/nearby state? Hi hi

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Here's WY0A in KS, who sent in some this month



WY0A Ness, KS

Bob, N8KIE, with N8RLJ along, took a couple thousand mile trip, and snapped some county signs for the database. Here's the N8KIE mobile in Harford MD





N8KIE – Harford, MD

Join the fun. Send K4EXT some county line pictures.

Gary has set up a needs page for county line signs at:

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

Check your home state/nearby states to see if you can help out!

## Things from Ebay

Here's another early wireless goodie that showed up on Ebay. It's a General Electric Type D **crystal** receiving set for medium and long wave (probably 30 KHz to 1000 Hz or so).



General Electric Type D Receiver

On the front panel (about 18 inches high) are 3 large rotary switches with 30 contacts each – taps on coils. The crystal detector is on the lower left.

Here's what the insides look like



General Electric Type D crystal set insides

The coils are large – six or more inches in diameter. No variable capacitors in his era of radio.

This is state of the art in 1917! Probably used on ships in WW1. Starting bid was \$2000 on Ebay.

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From the 1930s....a Breting Model 14 receiver – used 14 tubes in a superhet design. This had a chrome plated chassis and a crystal filter – an excellent receiver for the time frame. “Double preselection’ was a claim. You could use the audio section of the receiver as a modulator for your transmitter.



Breting Model 14

During the Great Depression, there were few that had to bucks to spring for one of these! This one sold for \$258 on Ebay! Ouch! Not even cheap today when it is 70+ years old.

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Maybe you went county hunting back in the 50s? There's a good chance you'd power your rig with something like this:



It's a Pioneer Gen-E-Motor, type EA3 on the right hand side. It takes in 12v at 11 amps and puts out 350v at 225ma, intermittent operation. To the left is a Mallory VibraPak- which supplied the low B+ for the receiver. Up for bid and asking \$150. Good luck! You'd be lucky to get \$25 and that if it was in working condition!

## Greenies Gore Tax ayers Again

The Energy Department said Friday it will lose about \$42 million on a loan to a now-shuttered Michigan company that made vans for the disabled.

Vehicle Production Group, or VPG, suspended operations in February and laid off 100 workers. The company had paid back \$5 million of a \$50 million federal loan this spring, and the remainder of its debt was sold at auction this week to Humvee manufacturer AM General, which paid \$3 million to buy the Energy Department loan.

VPG, of Allen Park, Mich., received a federal loan in 2011 under the same clean-energy program that provided a \$529 million loan to electric car maker Fisker Automotive Inc. Fisker had received \$192 million before a series of problems led U.S. officials to freeze the loan in 2011. The Obama administration has seized about \$28 million from California-based Fisker, which has laid off three-fourths of its workers.

An Energy Department spokesman said sale of the VPG loan was a last resort.

“After exhausting any realistic possibility for a sale that might have protected our entire investment, the department determined that auctioning the remainder of VPG’s loan obligation offered the best possible recovery for the taxpayer,” spokesman Bill Gibbons said in an email.

The VPG loss and the potential loss of more than \$160 million in the Fisker case would be the largest losses of federal loan money since the 2011 failure of solar panel maker Solyndra. That company’s collapse, which came despite a \$528 million loan from the Energy Department, has triggered sharp Republican criticism of the Obama administration’s green energy program.

Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, chairman of a House Oversight subcommittee on economic growth and regulation, has called the loan program “one of the most disastrously mismanaged and corrupt programs in U.S. history,”

<http://www.boston.com/cars/news-and-reviews/2013/09/06/energy-department-loses-loan-van-maker/Qd1GXTSdkIJzMnUM92aXHO/story.html>

more

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The Department of Energy (DOE) will likely lose tens of millions of dollars on a loan extended to a green vehicle company with ties to a top fundraiser for President Barack Obama.

DOE’s relationship with VPG came under scrutiny in 2011 after it was revealed that James Johnson, the former top executive at federal mortgage giant Fannie Mae and a major Obama fundraiser, chaired an investment firm, Perseus LLC, with a stake in the company.

Johnson bundled between \$200,000 and \$500,000 for Obama’s 2008 campaign. His financial support for Obama dates back to 2003, when he donated \$1,000 to his U.S. Senate campaign.

Johnson helped Obama court Clinton supporters in 2008 after a bloody Democratic primary.

He also sat on a three-person vice presidential selection panel for the campaign, though he stepped down after it was revealed that he received sweetheart mortgages from predatory lender Countywide Financial.

<http://freebeacon.com/doe-to-lose-tens-of-millions-on-electric-car-company/>

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Why is it that most of these 'greenie' projects reek of sleaze from the democrat side?

# Colorado QSO Party

A few mobiles were out and running on cw. A few more showed up on SSB. A surprise was N0KM/m showing up in Hinsdale – needed by a few CH for a last county. Band conditions were decent and the QSO Party crowd was on for the Saturday of Labor Day Weekend.

At the N4CD QTH, I managed to snag Hinsdale, one of the 3 I needed but no luck on the other two as no one ran them. It looked like maybe 75% of the CO counties made it on the air this week.

As usual for my QTH...some counties were 'too far' for 40M and 'too short' for 20M, meaning I could hear folks work 'em, but couldn't hear them either band. So it goes. 30M would have been great – but no contesting there.

From the 3830 contest reflector:

## **K0EU mobile**

Decided to try and maximize the mobile score this year rather than cover a lot of counties. Score is approximate as I logged everything with pencil and paper and have to get them into Excel. QSO totals are roughly correct, mults are the approximate average between the two county line logs. Since scores must be calculated on a county by county basis, it is not possible to post them here on 3830.

Many thanks for the 100's of out of state participants that took the time to work the in-state ops. Conditions could have been better, but had some nice runs on 20 meters. Worked one single Floridian on 15 meters. Got no response to CQ's for a ten minute period with a little over an hour to go, so packed it in at that point. Probably need to have an 80M antenna for that last hour.

Snagged a few Colorado counties for mults, mostly from W0ETT/M. Got Eagle county from W0HXB/M. Best catch was Custer county on 20M SSB backscatter with K0IZ. Thanks K0AE, N0AC, N0HF, AD1C, W0RIC, W2UP, K0FX, W0CO, N0TA, KT3M and a few other fixed ops for additional mults.

Rig was a K-3, two MFJ hamsticks for 20 and 40 meters mag-mounted on the roof, and a hustler 15M whip on a trailer hitch mount. Rigged up a back-seat operating position on the right side, similar to what KOMF and I used last year. The Setup was useable in motion (with a separate person driving), but I chose to only operate from two fixed locations, both of which were county lines.

**N6MU 89 42 mults**

Mainly waited for the mobiles to change counties. Not much other action. 73...

## On the Trail Of Regens

Some interesting items showed up this month.

### **Grebe Model 18 CR**

Last month we showed a nice Grebe CR -18 that was on display at the AWA museum in NY. That is one of the earliest 'shortwave receivers' made – covering 10-180 meters. One showed up on Ebay this month – a CR-18 'special' with 3 tubes in it – two audio tubes and a regen detector. Most of the CR-18s only had the regen detector and one stage of audio. Needless to say, the 'special' version is even more 'rare' than the regular one, which is 'rare'.

So, what if you can't afford \$1400-2500 or so to buy it on Ebay in mint condition (minus the antenna link coils)?

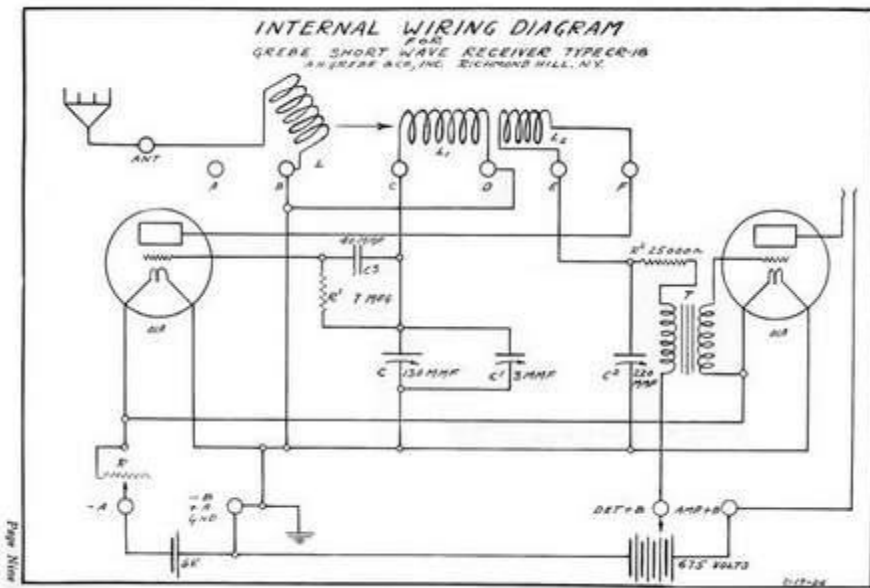
Why, clone a version of it - make your own! That's what one collector did!

Here's the clone link



<http://www.sparkbench.com/homebrew/grebe/cr18.html>

Here's the schematic of the radio – nothing unusual except they manage to get the 01A tube up to 20-30 MHz – depending upon your particular tube and vintage of the tube it might get up there.



Things you might not normally recognize:

The antenna coil is a 'swing link' on top of the radio, and the coils plug in on top of the radio and are 'in line' horizontal from left to right. You 'adjust' the coupling by hand with a lever. That's really a good way to control signal level into the detector. Ideally, you want the least amount of coupling to get a copyable signal – and that gives you the highest selectivity and best overload protection from adjacent strong signals. Some 'modern' designs use the same swinging link if they don't have a RF stage in front of the detector.

The 'gain' is controlled by a resistor in the regen stage in the filament circuit and one for audio gain in that tube's filament circuit which is pretty much the standard in the era of the '01A tube. It's a good way to control gain, to preserve battery life, and preserve the tube by operating things at lowest possible power consumption. Remember, these tubes took 1/4 amp at 6v supply (5v @ 0.25amp at the tube socket) each. They were small 'light bulbs' when turned up to full brightness.



You hook your headphones to the plate of the last tube to B+.

It takes about 67v to make the audio tube happy and 18-27v on the regen detector tube. Plus, 6v at half an amp for the filaments.

Here's the whole manual – available on line for this 1916 era 'shortwave' receiver

[http://www.eht.com/oldradio/arrl/2007-01/CR18\\_Manual.htm](http://www.eht.com/oldradio/arrl/2007-01/CR18_Manual.htm)

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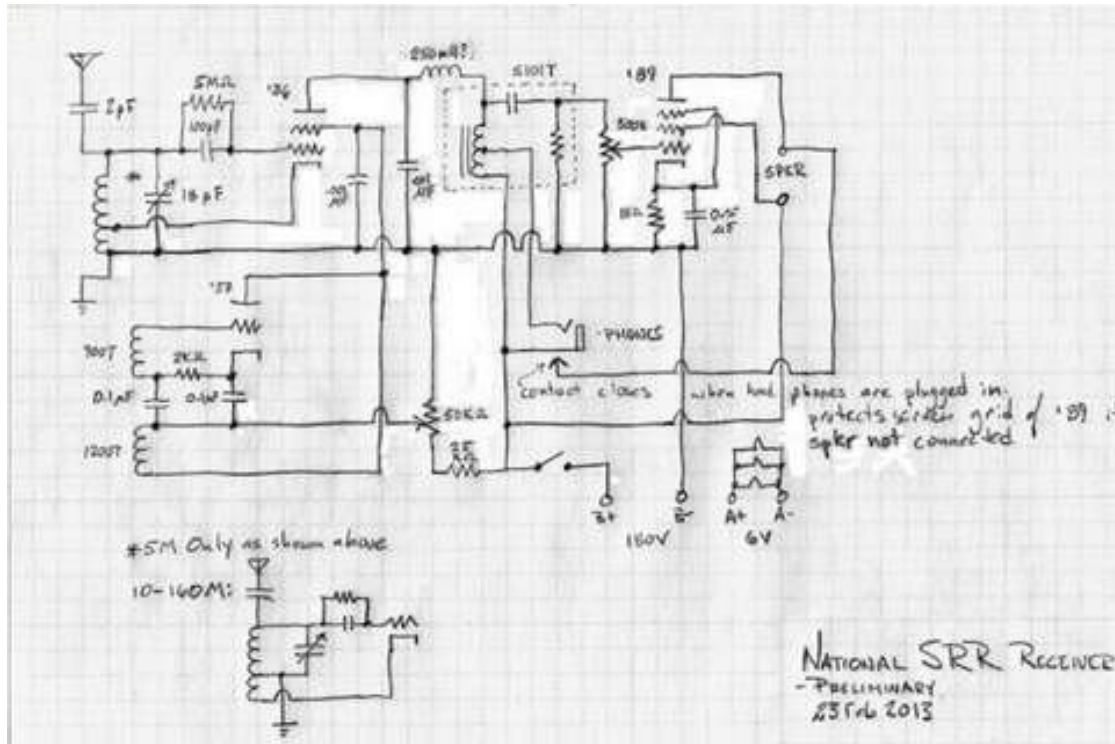
### **National SRR – Five Meter Receiver**

Here's another 'way back' goodie from the early 1930s that appeared on Ebay. It's a National SRR (super regen receiver) that appears to have been their first 5m receiver.



National SRR 5M Receiver

It's the same size as the National SW-3 HF regen. In addition to five meter coverage, which used a separate quench oscillator, by disabling the quench oscillator (pull the tube) you could use it as a straight regen for 80-10m coverage. Here's the schematic.



Note the separate tube for the 'quench oscillator' that ran at several tens of kilohertz. In a somewhat unusual arrangement, the audio inductor S-101 was tapped. When you plugged in your headphones, it would disconnect B+ from the audio amp tube as well. You needed an external power supply to run this radio.

Nice page with more info on it about this receiver:

<http://retrotechnologist.blogspot.com/2013/02/the-national-companys-srr-receiver.html>

This sold for \$147 on Ebay.

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## 1928 QST Clone Radio

Here's another interesting item. It was built from an article in the 1928 QST's. It's an early regen using an untuned '22 RF amp, a '22 regen detector, and two '01A tubes. The screen grid tube was 'new'. This was a recent recreation – likely in the last decade or two using many parts from the 20s and 30s including the tube sockets, transformer, etc. It comes with an 80m coil. Here's top view of the back of it.



1928 Style Regen Reproduction

The '22 tube ( 222) had the grid contact come out the top. They ran out of pins – the base only has 4 pins and they needed another way to connect to the elements in the tube.

The receiver was similar to but not identical to High Frequency Receivers for the Coming Year by Hull in Nov 1928 QST, p 9 (which if you are an ARRL member you can read on line)

Incredibly, it sold for \$338.33! It's a recent 'replica'. Amazing. It didn't even have a '20s era vernier dial on it (had a 50s vernier).

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### **Reinartz 2 kit radio**

This is 'down under' 80s vintage radio that was a kit – and designed to look like and work like a 1920s type set. It was advertised in Australian magazines and a few have appeared on Ebay in the past couple of years.



Reinhartz 2 Australian Kit

This kit was made from WW2 and before surplus items, including the tube sockets (4 pins), the tubes – VT-50s, and other parts. It used a nice vernier tuning dial on a small capacitor, and the coil was a 'spider web' deal. You could plug in 3 different coils. It was a basic regen detector and audio amp. To run it, you needed a 3v power supply and a 90vDC supply. Oh, and high impedance headphones and a good outside antenna and ground.

The VT-50 is a triode tube – used primarily in the UK and Australia – not much different than the 201 triode ('01A) in the USA. However, the tube base is the “Mazda” base and not compatible with US tubes.

# Tennessee QSO Party

## **N4ZZ mobile team**

This was our 4th mobile operation in the TNQP. We did not score as high as in previous years, but we sure had fun. This year we were better prepared (additional grounding), and ran an improved driving route (27 counties this year).

As usual, signal conditions improved as time progressed. We had many big pileups, which sure made it exciting. I read some of the previous posts on 3830, and appreciate the nice comments made about all the TN mobile stations this year. Don and I were sending 40 WPM at times, and you all seemed to copy us with no problem. This contest draws fantastic CW operators, we appreciate all of you. Don and I switched operating about every 2 hours. Don had the highest hourly rate of 174, obtained during the last hour of the contest while running 80m and 40m.

In hindsight we should have spent more time on 15m. OM2VL moved us there a few time, and I requested a few moves, which resulted in 6 multiplies (mults ended up worth 8.5 QSOs). We could have had many more, 15m signals were good.

Tom KV8Q gets top honors with 33 QSOs, way to go, you followed us everywhere it seemed. He sent 'say hello to Melody' once, which she appreciated. Tom knows who is the key person on our team. And for DX, Laci OM2VL had 27 QSOs. Laci, you have a most amazing signal, often breaking the pileups with ease. You are a FB CW operator as well, hope to keep working in these mobile contests.

A big thanks to Melody for being our trusted driver and navigator. You really help make this a fun and safe event for Don and I, it is much appreciated.

The N4ZZ/m team is already looking forward to TNQP 2014, hope to see you then.

73 - Jim (AD4EB), Don (N4ZZ), and Melody (KI4HVY)

## **W4NZ mobile**

Sunday started with having to install the antennas on the van between rain showers, not a good sign. Fortunately the rain moved out of the area and we encountered only a few showers along our 482 mile trek. We covered 23 counties this year which works out to an average of just under 24 minutes each.

I had installed a 15M antenna in hopes of working a few stations there but we ran into RF problems which locked the keyboard and computer. Apologies for not being able to accommodate some requests for that band - we'll have it fixed before next time.

Conditions (and the rate!) improved as we got closer to sunset. In the daylight hours we tried to spend a few minutes on both 20 and 40m as rate allowed. Thanks to our European friends for following us, especially OM2VL,DK2CF,DK3BN,DL3GA,DL5ME,DK2OY,G3XVR and PA3ARM.

Thanks, everyone, for the QSO's and taking time to make our party a special event.

for the W4NZ/m team (K0EJ, Maegan - chief navigator, W4NZ)

73, Ted W4NZ

## **N2WN mobile**

Tried a couple different counties this time: SEVI and JEFF as well as starting in those before moving back home. Figured it would give some a better chance at working different counties. It probably helped some of the DX as little was heard at the start except short haul. Three stations managed to work me in all the counties: K5LH, VE9AA and W0GXQ. Congrats!

Several managed four: N4DW, N4UF, OM2VL, VE7CV, W1END and W4DIT. Nice to have some close in folks catch me so many times. No AC in the truck, plenty of road noise with the windows open, storms all over the place but managed to miss them all. One inquisitive local wanting to know what I was up to. Bested last years QSO and multiplier totals in less time, same set-up so guessing conditions were a bit better. Thanks for digging me out and coming along for the ride.

## **AD8J mobile**

No thunderstorms in the part of the state I operated from. Everything worked FB in the KW mobile. One operator error when I stepped in a pile of dung just prior to the contest. Ended up putting my shoes and that floor mat in the trunk and operated the whole contest barefoot. Only became a problem as I made the switch from the driver's seat, around the car and into the passenger's seat at each operating location. Tried making the switch a few times over the console but that was a bit much for this OM after sitting and operating for an hour. In hindsight, I should have moved some stations to 15 meters for additional mults. Just hated to leave the pile and the good rates.

## **NY4N mobile**

Murphy struck before the contest even began. My laptop, which was 15+ years old, finally died as we were getting ready to start. No logging and no keying. I was ready to bag up and go home, then I realized I had stuck a set of paddles and a legal pad in the van before we left home. Needless to say, we operated the entire contest with manual keying and paper logs! It IS possible to key paddles with a pen in the same hand.

Using paddles on flat roads is tough, but on bumpy highways, it can be a headache. My apologies to all that though I was a LID and couldn't send very well. Thanks again for following me around and put up with my non-sense.

OM2VL was strong all day. I can't remember all North American stations who hung in there, but KV8Q, VE7CV, K4BAI and WB8JUI were in the log several times. N4DW, in Sullivan County, Tennessee, was also in the log plenty.

I would also like to brag on my driver, Becky, AF4QB, also my wife. She is a 15 year veteran driving me all over the 18 States we have operated in so far. Give her a map and a highlighter, she is good to go. She never misses a road and never gets lost. That is a big comfort to me. All I have do is operate. I could not do it without her.

That is it from here. If you need a County confirmed, drop me a card. I am slow as I wait till I get a few before filling them out, but I QSL 100 %.

**VE9AA 137 cw 33 ssb**

And the clock struck midnight and it was over...and at the same time I turned 50 years old/young !...that makes about 36 yrs a ham.

What a great lil' party. N4ZZ was a freakin' machine.(24 times in the log!)

My thanks to all the mobiles...AD8J, K4ZGB, N4ZZ (WOW!), NY4N, W4NZ (another WOW), W4OQG, I know I am forgetting someone and I hate that.....one of these days I'll get a program that'll give me a count on all these multiple Q's.

COndx were el-stinko @ the start of the test. Mobiles were basically in the dust and if you could get one to hear you, they'd fade out on the exchange sometimes. I found all had really very good ears. There were a couple home stations that did not however. ;-)

All in all a good time and my first SERIOUS effort in this contest. N1MM shows 8 hours, but in reality it was less due to phone calls, knocks @ the door, short coffee and bio-breaks and also made supper for the family, 2 minutes @ a spurt.

I wasted a lot of time tuning 10m & 15m ( I did hear one very weak N4 working W7's but couldn't get his attn.) and also listening for RTTY ~14.085 @ 10mins past the hour most hours. Does anyone make ANY digi QSO's in this party? heh heh

**K5LH – fixed TX – 142 cw qso**

Score includes 300 bonus points for working K4TCG. Lots of activity, lots of QSB, and much switching of bands. Special thanks to the mobiles for handling those pile-ups and activating rare counties. Worked these: W4NZ (27), N4ZZ (20), NY4N (16), AD8J (11), N2WN (5), K4ZGB (3), W4OQG (2). Had fun.

**OM2VL 145 cw 32 ssb**

My first TN QSO party. At the beginning of the Party many weak signals, and sometimes unfortunately I couldn't break the pileup, and missed some multipliers.

My last QSO on 15m was at 21:26Z, on 20m at 23:27Z. My first QSO on 40m was at 22:38z.



On 80m unfortunately I had only dipole - 80m Yagi is down because of the preparation ... :( . Thanks a lot for the patience during this 3 QSO on 80m.

K4TCG BONUS station worked 6 times: 80m CW, 40m CW/SSB, 20m CW/SSB, 15m CW.

Total worked 75 different counties.

Most QSO's with:

N4ZZ/M 27/21 (QSO/CTY)

W4NZ/M 21/19

NY4N 13/12

AD8J/M 13/6

K4ZGB/M 9/9

K4OQG/M 5/5

Thank you very much!

73 Laci OM2VL

**KS5A – fixed – NM 94 cw**

My vote for the Best Ears in the TNQP?" The Mobiles. Simply put " WOW! If you thought you heard 'em, call 'em, and they would ensure you got the exchange.

Top Dogs in Mobile Q's " N4ZZ (16), W4NZ (11), NY4N (10), K4ZGB (9), AD8J (3), W4OQG (2).

QSO Parties with Multipliers counting on each band definitely entice multi-band ops. Both near and far stations benefit at the same time of the day. Other QSO Party sponsors would do well to note this fact. It maintains interest throughout the party not just a day/band only or night/band only party based on your location.

From AZ and my impressions, 15m was possibly under utilized (open to the West most of the day) with nothing heard on 10m. Local noise degraded my 40m and 80m ops.

The TN fixed stations did their part by frequently moving from band to band. Each time I was at the rig, there was always someone to work.

Hats off to the TCG for another great TNQP.

## Warmists Panic

Die Welt Veteran Journalist: “Ignoring Warming Stop Would Be Ridiculous”, Missing Heat “Perhaps Just Doesn’t Exist”

By P Gosselin on 1. September 2013

Kulke\_Achgut Veteran journalist Ulli Kulke at German national daily Die Welt has a commentary at his Die Welt blog about the upcoming IPCC report. IPCC. He starts:

According to News Service Bloomberg it is currently being discussed whether to mention the ongoing 15-year pause in global in the 5th Assessment Report“ (AR 5) to be released in late September, or if perhaps it would be better to simply ignore it in order not to unnecessarily supply so-called ‘climate skeptics’ with ammunition.”

Alarmist scientists find themselves in a dilemma and aren’t sure what to do. They are eager to argue back against skeptics’s claims that the warming has stopped, yet are petrified of bringing it up. Some are saying it is simply best to ignore the pause in warming. But Kulke writes:

The attempt to keep the warming pause out of the ongoing discussion surrounding the upcoming AR 5 would be ridiculous. Semantic and formal splitting of hairs would not stick because it cannot be denied that also the In-group of the IPCC scientists have acknowledged the stop in warming - at least internally – and view this as the biggest problem. It is “a travesty” they cannot explain. That quote comes from Kevin Trenberth, a lead author of the 2001 and 2007 IPCC reports. [...] In the meantime Trenberth suspects, according to his models, that the missing heat is somewhere in the depths of the oceans. But this is not certain in any way; perhaps it just doesn’t exist.”

Scientists in a jam

Kulke then adds that the IPCC also will not be able to downgrade the warming pause to a mere weather event and claim that it has nothing to do with overall climate:

Just because it is still in the range of weather and has not yet reached the time span that one uses to discuss climate, ignoring the warming stop would also be outrageous because it would mean you couldn't mention any weather event that is not at least 30 years long."

If increasing frequency is the test that alarmists like to use, then it's tough to get more frequent than every year over the last 15. You can't claim a team is in a slump-trend after it has just won 15 games in a row.

For the alarmist IPCC scientists, it's a damned-if-you-do, damned-if-you-don't situation. Bringing up the warming stop surely will be ammo for the skeptics, but so would ignoring it. Should we feel sorry for them? I don't think so. It was they themselves who maneuvered their own jewels between the jaws of the vise. Last chance to pull them out!

## County Maps

From a post by [redacted] on the K3IMC website

Here are two excellent maps that I've found.

The first one is for great for county hunters. If you click anywhere on the map it will tell the name of the county and give the outline of the county so, (for example), if a mobile says I am in Meriden, CT, (my home town), and you click on Meriden it will tell you that it is New Haven, CT and outline the county borders. (See my own response to this message for further discussion on Kalawao, HI).

Here is the link to this map: <http://maps.huge.info/county.htm>

Next an excellent weather map. This is one that is used by a TV meteorologist that I know and it has many features that are used in TV WX predictions. The great thing about this map is you can go full screen in presentation mode and with the exception of the ID bar on top it looks like what you would see on the TV weather broadcast. Here is the link to this one:

<http://www.wunderground.com/wundermap/>

The nice thing about both these maps is they default to your QTH as defined by your computer or home location you have set by your ISP.

Enjoy, I hope that you find them useful, (and fun).

AI - N1API

## China and Energy

The Energy Information Administration (EIA) recently released its International Energy Outlook 2013 (IEO2013). While the EIA doesn't have a sterling track record for predictions, many organizations make decisions at least partially based on EIA projections. Therefore the organization's forecasts are worth reviewing.

Of particular interest to me were the agencies forecasts about China's energy demand. Over the past decade, China has become the world's largest energy consumer, as well as the world's largest emitter of carbon dioxide. Chinese coal consumption is up 157 percent since 2002, and they now consume over 50 percent of the world's coal. Their oil consumption rose by 5 million barrels per day (bpd) in the past 10 years, to nearly double the level of 2002.

But according to the EIA, we haven't seen anything yet:

By 2040, China's Energy Use will Double!

In order to attempt to meet this demand, China truly has an "All of the Above" energy strategy. Renewable energy advocates like to point to China's huge investments in that sector as if to say

that China is leading the way toward a clean energy future. But China is making major investments across their energy sector, including investments in many new coal and nuclear power plants. (China is expected to account for 40 percent of the world's new nuclear power capacity over the next three decades).

I know a lot of people who would say that the forecast is silly, because there simply won't be enough energy to enable that sort of growth. A friend recently said to me "It's a zero-sum game." I wouldn't go quite that far yet, but to the extent that the global acquisition of energy does become a zero-sum game, that means there will be fierce competition — much more so than we have seen to date — for the world's energy supplies. The last decade saw \$100/bbl oil as the new norm. How high might oil prices go if China grows their consumption by another 5 million bpd?

Source: <http://www.energytrendsinsider.com/2013/09/04/prepare-for-the-chinese-energy-juggernaut/#more-15089>

## Arkansas QSO Party

This was another good one this year with several busy mobiles running about 75% of the counties in the state.

from the 3830 reflector:

### **KI0O rover**

Had a good time running to the county lines thru some beautiful country. Arkansas has some spectacular scenery and views from the high ground. I had a goal of 100 q's per county line but a longer than expected drive to the MTGY/YELL line left me only 15 mins logging time.

My setup used Hamsticks on mag mounts on the roof of my old Honda Civic(38 MPG). So each line I had to attach whips then restart logger(N1MM)and setup the countyline(easy with N1MM) then reprogram the memories in my Logikeyer K-1(not so easy with a couple of bad buttons hihi). Load up the IC 706 with LDG tuner. Then it was off to the races with quick pileups right off the bat. Surprising how fast every one can find you then in a flurry of reports its over and a string of empty CQ's takes over.

It was good to hear all the QP regulars out there and the DX that joins in on the fun. I had a couple of callers that I just cud not make out(SRI) but remember ,we are out there in the field at the mercy of the noisy powerlines that always seem to inhabit the county-line-spot. Once I put the Hamsticks(2 or 3) on the car I'm stuck there. I knocked one off on a tree limb as I tried to follow the shade of a tree!

We were lucky to have perfect WX for the ARQP. Driving around with the windows down(no AC anyway) was superb.

Had two close encounters of the rover kind,W3DYA/M was on the same road as me and must have passed by as I sat off the side of 71 hwy on a logger trail. Would have enjoyed an eyeball Norm! I know running in a QP is a busy time tho ,usually with plans laid out.

I came onto a truck parked at an intersection in MTGY county and found it was Connie(K5CM)and Pam(N5KW) working QP pileups. A brief chat with Pam and a howdy to Connie,who was busy , and off I went to my next line. Great to meet u both! Well I took in a lot of ARK. scenery in a 940 mile round trip that finally ended at 6AM Sunday morn after a couple hrs nap in Jasper,MO at Walmart parking lot because the road got too fuzzy to make it home hihi..

Thanks to everyone who comes out to make some contacts in these qso parties.Without a good crowd the Mobile/Rover gig can be pretty dull.

73 Mark  
KI0I/R

### **K5YAA - mobile**

Thanks to all for the many QSOs in the Arkansas QSO Party. 40 SSB was fun and signals were good all the way to the east coast for much of the day. I even used phonetics on the freq. and no one said a word. Refreshing.

Joe N5UZW was moving around in eastern Arkansas and I got a few new ones from him along with a few new ones from Connie K5CM. Worked Norm W3DYA only once on Saturday AM and he gave me Sevier - another one I needed. Several QSOs with K5KDG and other natives.

First - a short story about the little critter that buzzed in front of me on the

road to Stone County. He was a woodchuck of some sort I think. Too large to be a rat and too small to be a beaver. He had to go to the other side of the road I guess. 15 feet in front of me he made a dash with all four feet spinnin'. I was traveling about 60 MPH and he made it across before I moved 5 feet! I think I saw smoke coming from the asphalt he moved so fast. I suspect he had little capability to judge traffic so he just hauled 'em across as fast as he could with the hopes of not getting squashed. That little animal kept me chuckling most of the day. He was the only animal that crossed my path in Arkansas which surprises me as the woods were plentiful in the hills. Arkansas is a beautiful state.

I drove through a town named Bird Town - looked around and didn't see one feathered creature. Saw some individuals that needed feathers but not one bird in Bird Town.

Now for the rest of the story. The bands were good and 15 was open to Europe and Japan plus stateside for much of the day. N6MU kept hollerin at me to go to 15 so I did and we had many QSOs there including SSB. OM2VL showed up down there and we had SSB QSOs also. What a signal that guy has. He worked me on 40 SSB and CW sounding like a local. 20 was iffy much of the day. I made more Qs on 40 meters than 20. Looked at 10 once and it was quiet as a mouse or maybe a fast woodchuck...

Thanks to all for the QSOs. The hills kept me from making all 20 counties I had listed. I made 15 of them and the generator ran out of gas in the last 5 minutes in Conway county. I'm sure some ops wondered where my signal went those last few minutes.

### **K5ZZR mobile – SSB only**

Began in Pope county then operated in Yell, Logan, Johnson, Franklin and finally Crawford. Great scenery and was lucky enough to find a nice hilltop free of most trees at a convenience store in Logan County. I could sure tell when the Arkansas football game was over as the bands got crowded afterwards. Hi. Many thanks to the kind Arkansas hams who expressed their gratitude to us mobile operators that traveled to Arkansas for the QSO party. Looking forward to next year. I'm sure the Texas QSO party will also be fun in two weeks where I'll be SSB only in the panhandle. 73's..... Russ K5ZZR

## **K5CM mobile**

Activity and conditions were good this year. I think it must be like ships passing in the night. I know they were out there, but the only one we saw was Mark, KI0I. Thanks for spotting us and stopping to say HI !! Jerry, K5YAA and I did manage to cross paths a few times on the air. We made an hour and half stop for lunch at Mt Magazine lodge. What a view. Other than that, we stayed very busy with QSO the rest of the QP.

Thanks to the many ops for following us around the state this year. Even a single Q is appreciated, but a few op's worked the most were:

N6MU - 70 always there waiting hi hi  
OM2VL - 52 (Over 8000 km)  
WA2VYA - 28  
N8II - 25  
WA6KHK - 24  
K2DSW - 21  
KS5A - 17  
AA4FU, VE7CV, N4CD - 16  
W8CAG, W7GF, N2CQ - 14  
K5LG, AD1C, - 13  
N5NA, KB4FS, KA5KPE - 12  
WI7N, WB0PYF, W1DWA -11  
W8POF, W0GXQ, K9GDF, DK3BN - 10  
SP5SA, N9QS, K0DEQ AE5GT - 9  
DL5ME, G3XVR, OK2EC, ON4AAC -7

73,  
Connie, K5CM

**N6MU – fixed – CA - 119 cw 67 SSB 40 mults**

“Pleasantly surprised to see mobiles W3DYA, K5CM and KI0I show up unannounced. They made a big difference in activity although most mobiles seemed to go through the same bunch of counties so the county count is pretty low.

Top mobile for me was K5CM with 70 Qs followed by K5YAA(43), W3DYA(17), WA5BDU(15) and KI0I(10). Thanks for all the QSYs!! 15 was wide open all day but never heard a peep on 10. 73...”



**OM2VL 113 52 42 mults**

“My first AR QP. Nice condx on 15/20m. Unfortunately I didn't find K5DB/R on 20m - I think he was on 40m and here no condx a this time. (I missed his 8 first county and also the last 2).

Only few times I tried CQ on SSB because of the EU contesting stations on WAEDC SSB. Despite of the BIG QRM I was surprised with my 50 SSB QSO and especially 19 on 40m ...

My BIG thanks to mobile stations for the many QSO's / QSY's to other band or mode.

K5CM 50/19 (QSO/CTY)

K5YAA/M 28/14

KI0I/M 22/12

W3DYA/M 15/12

WA5BDU/M 12/5

N5UZW/M 5/5

K5DB/R 4/4

## Peak Oil Update

### **ANALYST: Something Remarkable Must Happen If We Don't Want The American Oil Boom To End**

It's had a great run.

But US oil production is on the verge of an inflection point, according to Alliance Bernstein's Bob Brackett.

In a new note, he observes that while total production may still be rising, the rate of growth is decelerating. And barring an unexpected surge at the end of the year, 2013 will have seen lower a lower production rate than 2012.

This does not mean the shale revolution is over.

Rather, he says, the whole shale complex has now matured.

He writes:

We continue to believe that the rate of year-on-year production growth will slow. We believe that slowing (or as we term it, the inflection point at which the market realizes that production growth rates will be lower than the previous year) is a 2013 event. Exhibit 5 shows our logic. It plots US oil production by week in green and then shows the year-on-year growth.

The red shaded area corresponds to the growth that would be required to avoid inflection. It implies that the remainder of the year would need nearly 800 KBOPD of growth (with the first 63% of the year achieving only ~500 KBOPD). Given flattish rig counts and modestly rising efficiencies, we don't believe such back-loaded growth will be possible.

Here's his chart, with our annotations:



All this is further evidence, he says, that shale oil production will not lead to a global price collapse, and that WTI-traded crude will have hit at least \$100 by 2015.

## Yet Another Greenie Failure

ECOTality, the electric car-charging company that operates more than 600 charging stations in Arizona, may be about to close its door. Last month, the company disclosed a myriad of problems with the SEC. In that filing, ECOTality released the following statement: “Although the Company is currently exploring options for a restructuring or sale of the entire business and/or assets of the Company, the Company may need to file a petition commencing a case under the United States Bankruptcy Code as part of any such process or otherwise in the very near future.”

ECOTality was heavily involved in the federal government’s EV Project, sponsored by the Department of Energy. The goal of that program was to install charging stations and electric vehicle infrastructure throughout the United States. In all, ECOTality says it installed more than 13,000 home and commercial charging units. The EV Project reimbursed the company for many of those installations, paying out nearly \$100 million. In the filing, the ECOTality says the DOE stopped making payments to the company. It also claims that its charging stations are not making a profit.

Additionally, the report says ECOTality has had trouble finding additional funding. It has also had to pay \$855,000 in back wages and damages to settle Labor Department claims that it violated the Fair Labor Standards Act and Davis-Bacon Act. A spokesperson for the company says no final decision on its future has been decided, but that could happen in the next 10 days. ECOTality was based in Arizona until 2010, and is now headquartered in San Francisco.

Source: <http://www.breitbart.com/Breitbart-TV/2013/09/17/Millions-Tax-Payer-Dollars-Lost-to-Another-Bust-Obama-Green-Energy-Co>

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de N4CD

As always, this was interned to be a massive progressive liberal 'jobs' porkulus program. It required the 'highest prevailing wages' be paid.(Union scale in big city) while one department of the US treasury handed out 'porkulus gifts' , others were busy attacking the company for this

or that. Stupidity in action, and you paid for it.

## South Carolina QSO Party

This year was very good. Most years have only seen limited activity with maybe one mobile out mostly on SSB. This year, there were several good mobiles out – including AA4XX who zipped all over the state and AD8J who put out a bunch. Throw in a dozen fixed stations and you pretty well covered the entire state.

The bad news is either that the 20M band really died in the middle of the day, or the mobiles stuck on 40m for about 4 or 5 hours in the middle of the day, and ran through many counties that the mid and west parts of the country were looking for!.....no spots on 20m for SC mobiles for over 3 hours and it took 5 hours for the activity to start again. Dang. There were spots on 40M for all those counties. (ah, there was a reason AD8J 'disappeared' off 20m)

### **AD8J mobile**

#### **BATTLE DAMAGE:**

Just under two hours into the contest, the 20 meter Hamstick burned open. I've been expecting this for some time as I run a KW into an antenna rated for 300 watts and the black covering had cracked away and had been replaced with shrink tubing. The resulting high SWR burned and melted the base that feeds three Hamsticks. It took about 45 minutes to make a temporary repair so I could continue to operate but without an antenna for 20 meters.

Note to self: When you smell something funny and stations mention signal problems, stop and check the antenna!

So for the last 7 counties, it was a 40 meter operation. In addition to the antenna meltdown, there was some real heavy rain during the afternoon. Luckily there were no thunderstorms in the areas I was operating.

The most worked stations were the OM2VL Super Station with 18, the N4JF QRP

station with 16 and WA4GQG with his dipoles had 15. This only goes to show that any station can do well in state contests if you spend time in the chair. Look for me as AD8J/6 in the CA contest. I'll be operating portable from rare Alpine County running barefoot to wire antennas.

### **WN4AFP – fixed – SC 187 cw qso**

This was my first SCQP! I worked 26 SC stations along with 35 other states mainly on 40m. Thank you to all the mobiles out there running the counties in rainy conditions. Looking forward to next year! 73's WN4AFP Dave

### **KN4QD – fixed SC - 162 cw 313 SSB**

Couldn't put in a full effort in my own state's QSO party owing to a wife out of town and having both little ones for the weekend. Still a fun effort!

Activity seemed to be increased over last year and hopefully that will continue. I know I had a couple nice runs on 20, 40 and 80 but couldn't scrounge up much activity on 10 or 15. And finally a special nod to OM2VL whom I worked 9 times on more band/mode slots than I can recall on 10-80 meters.

73 and thanks again on behalf of all the SC ops and mobile-ops for all the Q's.

### **N4XL – fixed – SC - 163 cw 283 ssb qso**

Thanks to all the people who heard my plea to work "Anybody, anywhere. Just give me a call and give me some points." Many took the time to do just that and I am appreciative.

Took a couple near lightening strikes a couple years ago and my rig hasn't been right since. Really acting up this go round. Needs an alignment bad. If it wasn't for my feeling we needed more SC people to support the contest I would have called it quits early on. Constant juggling of IF shifts and carrier insertion points the entire time. And receiver performance degradation in the presence of strong signals gave me a bad headache. Often times fiddling with the menu system in the FT1000MP or trying to read up on things that I might try to fix it when people came back. Seems like every time John, K4BAI, called me

that's what I was doing and I ended up putting his call in the wrong field of N1MM. Sorry to break your rhythm John.

The voice keyer quit too. That wasn't too bad as I have been wanting to spend more time on CW.

Switched back and forth between the contest and DX logs in N1MM to give a station SC on WARC bands and that caused a logging glitch. Also took time to do a couple short normal non-contest qso's to promote good will.

Had fun -- which is the whole point!

### **W4ANT – Fixed Dorchester SC – 121 ssb qso**

Limited to 40 meters due to antenna arrangement at the new QTH which really limited the multipliers. Most contacts in the 200-400 mile range on an NVIS antenna and no surprisingly nothing west of the Mississippi. Worked phone only as an operating class strategy, so we'll see how that works out.

### **OM2VL – DX**

“My first SC QSO Party. Thanks for the QSO's / QSY's to other band or mode.

My BIG thanks to Paul/AA4XX and John/AD8J for many QSO's  
Most QSO's:

AA4XX 29/20 (QSO/CTY)  
AD8J 18/6

Unfortunately the other 2 mobiles (N4LDL, W4RWL)I found only 1 time from 1 county.

73! Laci OM2VL

# Yet More Greenie Corruption and Sleaze

Remember Solyndra, the solar-panel maker that received a more than \$500 million loan guarantee from the Department of Energy only to eventually go belly-up and leave taxpayers on the hook for at least several hundreds of millions of dollars? ... That was so 21012, Democrats might sputter angrily, and Republicans should really just get over it already and stop making such a hysterical fuss over such a trifling amount lost only in the name of an unquestionably noble cause.

Hmm. That might be passable advice, I suppose, if Solyndra had been a one-off instance of the federal government awarding generous subsidies to the renewable “investment” projects of their ideologically- and not market-driven preference, except that the continually steady stream of now failed ventures that have been victims recipients of the Obama administration’s largesse rather belie that dismissal.

But don’t you think for one moment that Obama’s Department of Energy feels any kind of obligation to more carefully steward taxpayers’ money. They’re going to keep awarding loans and grants and subsidies whenever they damn well please — and to whomever they please, too. Ahem, via Lachlan Markey at the WFB:

The Department of Energy recently awarded a multi-million dollar contract to a green energy company financed by a major Democratic Party fundraiser and supporter of President Barack Obama.

**The \$4,000,000 award for biofuel company LanzaTech came just months after one of its chief financiers and public advocates hosted the president at his Portola Valley home for a \$32,400-a-head fundraiser for the Democratic Party.**

The fundraiser took place in June. DOE announced the award for New Zealand-based LanzaTech, designed to support a gas fermentation system developed by the company, on Thursday.

<http://hotair.com/archives/2013/09/20/oh-rapture-electric-car-charger-manufacturerdoe-grant-recipient-goes-kaput/>

# Salmon Run

The mobiles and portables were out, and many fixed stations were on. Nearly all of WA was on the air- a few counties not spotted but most were. Not only was 20M doing OK, but 15 and 10 meters were open with dozens in the log here on those bands and many county hunters were heard on the higher bands. The SC QSO Party started out early – and it seemed like SC disappeared when the SR started and they all went down to 40M. At the same time, there was some EU contest going on on 20M creating lots of QRM likely back east.

There were some mobiles/portables out. N7WA zipped through over a dozen counties. WW7D was spotted on county lines.

## **N7WA mobile**

There is one thing to describe doing a contest as a mobile... It's never boring. If the Q's are slow, the scenery is always changing. Then there are those moments when something unexpected seems to happen. Sometimes good, usually bad <grin>.

We had our share of the bad things this trip. RF in the cab of the truck was problematic this year. It required me to reboot the computer a number of times in the middle of a run. At the very end of the test, I couldn't run more than 2-3 Q's before a lockup so I just switched to manual logging and keying for the last hour. The antenna had a few fits and starts. The motor in the coil housing wouldn't move a couple times for several minutes, then came alive. RF was getting into that controller as well. I had changed whips, going to one with an eggbeater for the first part of the trip. I never felt things worked as well and on the ferry over the Columbia River, I switched back to the straight whip (which I fortunately brought) and I honestly believe things were better from then on.

Good things happened too. Our trip this year took us clockwise around the eastern part of the state. The roads were great, we didn't need to backtrack across any counties, and things timed out very well. I helped one gentleman get Ferry County. He was down to his last 6 counties for working them all. Now it's just 5. I was worried about the lack of DX, but it all started coming in once I



changed that whip (or was it my imagination). I made my first 80M Q's as a mobile and I kept my word that I would attempt 40M in every county this time around. (I know there is one very happy VE5 who got me in most of them.) I guess I missed out on 10M. Didn't even bother trying.

We had a great visit and dinner with Steve K7AWB and his wife Peggy W7PEG in Spokane. They were our mid-trip hosts and gave us a place to crash after a long first day. I can't thank them enough.

The score is down slightly. We had 10 more Q's but a couple fewer mults. There is always room for improvement and I'm already working on some changes. The total trip was 1020 miles this year. I highly recommend driving it even if not in a contest. As a die-hard Western Washington resident, there is some amazing country on the east side and it's worth the time to check it out during the Fall season. Thanks to those who followed us. K5LH came out on top with 21 Q's (weaker than well-water sometimes) and N6MU was there pretty strongly for 20.

Last but not least, Jim K7ND came with me and drove me all day Saturday on his birthday. He doesn't operate but he gets me there and back safely and is great company along the way. Maybe again next year?

cheers  
dink, n7wa

### **WS7L – County Expedition**

Amazed at the activity level in this one! Had great time while on a beach vacation in Ocean Park, Pacific County.

The only perplexing thing was the near utter lack of RTTY activity. I CQ'ed several times on several bands and came up mostly dry. Just got those 5 on 20 meters. Two of those didn't even seem to know what a QSO party is, and unleashed their macros of doom on me as soon as I answered them. But I got my only NE multiplier there so I guess I oughtn't complain.

High point was finally getting KD7JB for my only Asotin as my last QSO, finding that he needed Pacific. Only missed one county, Benton.

I vacation here every year and I think I'll keep on timing it to coincide with Salmon Run, unless I end up joining an expedition to one of the really rare counties. Too much fun to miss!

K-line + R7 vertical for 10-40 + 66 foot wire thrown over a branch for 80-160

73 & thanks for the Q's,

Carl WS7L

### **K7SR County Expedition - Island County**

We started setting up about 1:30 on Friday; we were on the eastern shore of Camano Island, on Iverson Spit. We had two Steppir BigIR verticals, one Steppir 2 element beam, a 75m dipole and 80m dipole. Rig complement was two Elecraft K3s.

The start of the contest greeted us with a S5-S8 noise level on various bands; we believe it was power line noise, as it seemed to vary depending on rain, sunlight, and wind, was prevalent on all antennas. This noise continued throughout the contest, lessening at night. The noise blanker on the K3's were able to knock it down quite a bit, however we still were not able to hear all the stations that were calling us. Sunday at 4am seemed like a good time to bring the beam to a lower level, as the winds were very strong from the south. Waves were splashing over the top of the sea wall around 8am. We stopped a few hours before the end of the contest, as none of really wanted to fight the noise any longer, and perceived that the weather was getting worse. See you next year in the Salmon Run!

### **K5LH – fixed – tx – 197 cw**

Conditions generally

poor, except for 10-meter opening on Saturday afternoon. Missed CHE, DOU, PEND, SAN, SKAM. N7WA/m never moved my S-meter needle, but we had 21 fine QSOs. WW7D somehow disappeared early Sunday afternoon after 15 solid QSOs.

N6MU – fixed CA – 181 cw 107 ssb

First ever Salmon Run Sweep! Only needed FRA after Saturday and got three of them Sunday. Had two single Q counties: THU(W7MBW/m) and SKAM(WW7D/m).

Top mobile for me was WW7D with 36 Qs followed by N7WA(20) and W7MBW(16).

As usual things really slowed down Sunday. Mainly waited for the mobiles to change counties. Excellent showing from all the fixed stations who hung in there.

**W1END – fixed – NH – 86 cw**

Nice to have an opening on 10 meters Sunday afternoon. Might have been open on Saturday but I don't remember checking it. Bonus station K7DX was everywhere. Rough copy on mobiles so missed some of the less populated counties. I need to get my TH6 antenna back in operation. It has been in the cellar too long being rebuilt. Works better on a tower. Thanks to all the salmon for a great time.  
Eldon - W1END

# While the Sun Sleeps

## While the Sun sleeps

**Henrik Svensmark, Professor, Technical University of Denmark, Copenhagen**

**“In fact global warming has stopped and a cooling is beginning. No climate model has predicted a cooling of the Earth – quite the contrary. And this means that the projections of future climate are unreliable,” writes Henrik Svensmark.**

The star that keeps us alive has, over the last few years, been almost free of sunspots, which are the usual signs of the Sun’s magnetic activity. Last week [4 September 2009] the scientific team behind the satellite SOHO (Solar and Heliospheric Observatory) reported, “It is likely that the current year’s number of blank days will be the longest in about 100 years.” Everything indicates that the Sun is going into some kind of hibernation, and the obvious question is what significance that has for us on Earth.

If you ask the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which represents the current consensus on climate change, the answer is a reassuring “nothing”. But history and recent research suggest that is probably completely wrong. Why? Let’s take a closer look.

Solar activity has always varied. Around the year 1000, we had a period of very high solar activity, which coincided with the Medieval Warm Period. It was a time when frosts in May were almost unknown – a matter of great importance for a good harvest. Vikings settled in Greenland and explored the coast of North America. On the whole it was a good time. For example, China’s population doubled in this period.

But after about 1300 solar activity declined and the world began to get colder. It was the beginning of the episode we now call the Little Ice Age. In this cold time, all the Viking settlements in Greenland disappeared. Sweden surprised Denmark by marching across the ice, and in London the Thames froze repeatedly. But more serious were the long periods of crop failures, which resulted in poorly nourished populations, reduced in Europe by about 30 per cent because of disease and hunger.

It’s important to realise that the Little Ice Age was a global event. It ended in the late 19th Century and was followed by increasing solar activity. Over the past 50 years solar activity has been at its highest since the medieval warmth of 1000 years ago. But now it appears that the Sun has changed again, and is returning towards what solar scientists call a “grand minimum” such as we saw in the Little Ice Age.

The match between solar activity and climate through the ages is sometimes explained away as coincidence. Yet it turns out that, almost no matter when you look and not just in the last 1000 years, there is a link. Solar activity has repeatedly fluctuated between high and low during the

past 10,000 years. In fact the Sun spent about 17 per cent of those 10,000 years in a sleeping mode, with a cooling Earth the result.

You may wonder why the international climate panel IPCC does not believe that the Sun's changing activity affects the climate. The reason is that it considers only changes in solar radiation. That would be the simplest way for the Sun to change the climate – a bit like turning up and down the brightness of a light bulb.

Satellite measurements have shown that the variations of solar radiation are too small to explain climate change. But the panel has closed its eyes to another, much more powerful way for the Sun to affect Earth's climate. In 1996 we discovered a surprising influence of the Sun – its impact on Earth's cloud cover. High-energy accelerated particles coming from exploded stars, the cosmic rays, help to form clouds.

When the Sun is active, its magnetic field is better at shielding us against the cosmic rays coming from outer space, before they reach our planet. By regulating the Earth's cloud cover, the Sun can turn the temperature up and down. High solar activity means fewer clouds and a warmer world. Low solar activity and poorer shielding against cosmic rays result in increased cloud cover and hence a cooling. As the Sun's magnetism doubled in strength during the 20th century, this natural mechanism may be responsible for a large part of global warming seen then.

That also explains why most climate scientists try to ignore this possibility. It does not favour their idea that the 20th century temperature rise was mainly due to human emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>. If the Sun provoked a significant part of warming in the 20th Century, then the contribution by CO<sub>2</sub> must necessarily be smaller.

Ever since we put forward our theory in 1996, it has been subjected to very sharp criticism, which is normal in science.

First it was said that a link between clouds and solar activity could not be correct, because no physical mechanism was known. But in 2006, after many years of work, we completed experiments at DTU Space that demonstrated the existence of a physical mechanism. The cosmic rays help to form aerosols, which are the seeds for cloud formation.

Then came the criticism that the mechanism we found in the laboratory could not work in the real atmosphere, and therefore had no practical significance. We have just rejected that criticism emphatically.

It turns out that the Sun itself performs what might be called natural experiments. Giant solar eruptions can cause the cosmic ray intensity on earth to dive suddenly over a few days. In the days following an eruption, cloud cover can fall by about 4 per cent. And the amount of liquid water in cloud droplets is reduced by almost 7 per cent. Here is a very large effect – indeed so great that in popular terms the Earth's clouds originate in space.

So we have watched the Sun's magnetic activity with increasing concern, since it began to wane in the mid-1990s.

That the Sun might now fall asleep in a deep minimum was suggested by solar scientists at a

meeting in Kiruna in Sweden two years ago. So when Nigel Calder and I updated our book *The Chilling Stars*, we wrote a little provocatively that **“we are advising our friends to enjoy global warming while it lasts.”**

In fact global warming has stopped and a cooling is beginning. Mojib Latif from the University of Kiel argued at the recent UN World Climate Conference in Geneva that the cooling may continue through the next 10 to 20 years. His explanation was a natural change in the North Atlantic circulation, not in solar activity. But no matter how you interpret them, natural variations in climate are making a comeback.

The outcome may be that the Sun itself will demonstrate its importance for climate and so challenge the theories of global warming. No climate model has predicted a cooling of the Earth – quite the contrary. And this means that the projections of future climate are unreliable. A forecast saying it may be either warmer or colder for 50 years is not very useful, and science is not yet able to predict solar activity.

So in many ways we stand at a crossroads. The near future will be extremely interesting. I think it is important to accept that Nature pays no heed to what we humans think about it. Will the greenhouse theory survive a significant cooling of the Earth? Not in its current dominant form. Unfortunately, tomorrow’s climate challenges will be quite different from the greenhouse theory’s predictions. Perhaps it will become fashionable again to investigate the Sun’s impact on our climate.

## Awards

Bingo #353	Ed, N8OYY	September 4, 2013
Five Star #67	Karl, K4YT	Sept 18, 2013

# Operating Events for County Hunters

## **California QSO Party**

Serial and state/prov/"DX" or CA county

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

Oct 5, 1600Z - Oct 6, 2200Z

## **Arizona QSO Party**

Serial and S/P/C

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

Oct 12, 1600Z - See website

CW--1.812,3.548,7.048,14.048,21.048,28.048,50.048;

SSB--1.848,3.848,7.189,14.248,21.348,28.448,50.148,146.48 MHz

## **Pennsylvania QSO Party**

Serial and ARRL/RAC section

[www.nittany-arc.net](http://www.nittany-arc.net)

Oct 12, 1600Z - See website

CW--40 kHz above band edge and 1.810;

SSB--1.850, 3.825, 7.200, 14.280, 21.380, 28.480 MHz

## **Iowa QSO Party**

RS(T) and IA county, state/prov, or "DX"

[www.wa0dx.org](http://www.wa0dx.org)

Oct 19, 1400Z - Oct 19, 2300Z

## **New York QSO Party**

RS(T), NY county, state/prov, or "DX"

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

Oct 19, 1400Z - Oct 20, 0200Z

CW--1.820, 3.550, 7.050, 14.050, 21.050, 28.050;

Phone--1.870, 3.825, 7.200, 14.290, 21.350, 28.400 MHz

## **Illinois QSO Party**

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

[www.w9awe.org/ILQP.html](http://www.w9awe.org/ILQP.html)

Oct 20, 1700Z - Oct 21, 0100Z

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Contest weekend to not go mobile on SSB!

CQ World Wide SSB Contest

RS and CQ zone

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

Oct 26, 0000Z - Oct 27, 2359Z

That's all folks!