

County Hunter News

October 1, 2014
Volume 10, 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

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

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

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

For general information FAQ on County Hunting, check out:

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

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

find information on these awards and the rules at:

http://countyhunter.com/marac_information_package.htm

The CW net procedure is written up at:

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

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

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

Want county lines on your Garmin GPS?

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

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

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

Notes from the Editor

1) N4CD Rumblings

We're headed into fall, although it is still quite warm in TX. Same for much of the US with 80s. The north part of the US had a 'cool' summer. Fall has officially arrived with the autumnal equinox September 22. The swim season will be over for most and it will be time to break out the jackets and hats before long.

It's been a busy month with QSO Parties in CO, AR, TN, OH, the Salmon Run out in WA, and with many of the rarer counties on the air. Propagation has been decent although many days had A index way over 8 leading to spotty conditions and not much

fun for the DX stations. Some days it was over 30. The sunspots continue to amaze, although it is still one of the weakest 'maximums' in the last 100 years. There's been very limited action on 10M, but 15 has been good for the longer distant QSOs at times, and folks are making good use of 17M while it is with us. The folks back east have been making lots of contacts on 40M and one should expect the activity to grow there as we head into the sunspot minimum in a few years.

More and more folks wander over to CW these days. Let's hope that continues.

The snow was flying up in the Northwest/North with some 20 inch snowfalls already! The rest of the country was enjoying an extended summer with moderate temps in mid September, but fall is just around the corner. WalMart has the pumpkins out and the Halloween candy. Now it's football on Sunday afternoons, and soon the leaves will fall and we'll be getting set for 'winter weather'. The sun rises later in the day and there are fewer hours of daylight to be out county hunting. I'll miss those long days.

So on to a newsletter packed with QSO Party reports, mobile activity, trip reports and the usual stuff thrown in for your enjoyment.

2) MARAR Awards

After the article in the last issue of the County Hunter News about the 'few minor details' of the 'rules' for USA-CW and for Ran all (State) USA award, Jerry, W0GXQ also mentioned that the CallCombo Award could use a 'tweak' as well.

He noted that according to the rules:

“Only U.S. amateur call signs may be used for this award.

Each separate combination of call sign prefix and suffix letters (1x2, 2x1, 1x3, 2x2, and 2x3) is a separate category”

With the popularity of the 1x1 calls in the state QSO parties – where hundreds of counties are available each year with them, there is no official category listed for 1x1 calls in the rules. While it doesn't exclude them and sort of says 'each separate combination of call sign prefixes and suffix letters...is a category, when it comes to list them, the 1x1 is nowhere to be seen. Maybe this will be addressed at the same time as the other tweaks to the other rules – or maybe be done by the time this newsletter makes it to your inbox.

3) Last Month's Article on Welfare

Seems that one fellow out in AZ took umbrage at the article in the last issue of the County Hunter News which noted that roughly 55% of the US was now receiving benefits of some sort from the government, including Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Veterans Benefits, and of course, the large part welfare programs including food stamps, and more than 200 other programs of trillion dollar give aways.

We've got a follow on article. Maybe our county hunter in AZ has been watching too much MS-LSD TV and reading the HuffPO for his 'content' sources. I won't call them news outlets because they aren't. They are propaganda outlets. Nuff said. There is no money fairy and if the system can't afford all the promises it has made, something will give. Often catastrophically.

4) First No Star Award Issued

Scottie, N4AAT, is now the first person to earn the No Star Award. Recently created to give 'newcomers' the incentive to go and run counties, until Scottie filled in all 3077 with no star mobiles, no one else had done it. Scottie did it the 'right way' by eliminating contacts from the log with W4CA and other 'club calls' that were 'operated' by folks with stars while mobile or portable. For example, W4CA might show up in your Logger for No Star, but it is usually (other than FD) by Ray, AB4YZ who has a slew of stars. By the rules, the OPERATOR must have no stars. Scottie removed all those contacts from the Logger program in the No Stars section. N0U, run by NU0Q in the recent KS QSO party, doesn't count either for No Star. It's a challenge to figure some of them out. But any mobile call run by W0BH counts (K0A recently) since he has no star. It's easy to see W4CA can't count. The 1x1s are a bit trickier.

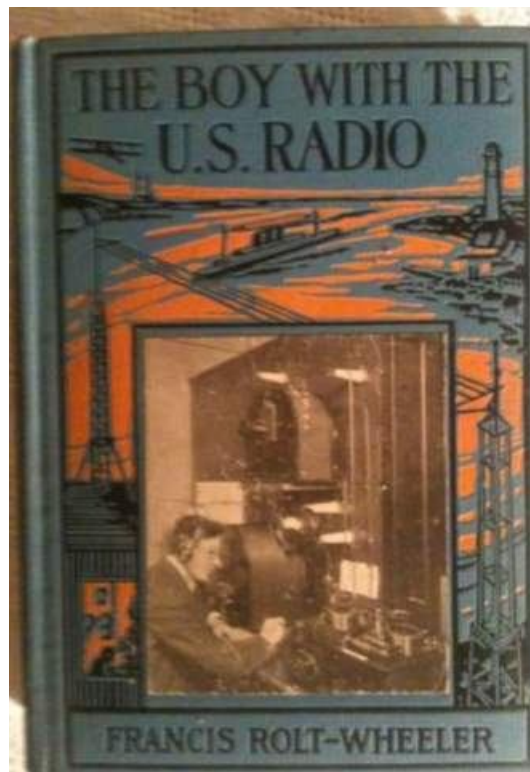
Congrats Scottie on being the the first to earn No Star. You beat Gene, K5GE who is likely working hard to get it.

4) K3IMC Needs Page

If you list your needs on the K3IMC page, and don't 'update' them once a month, they will 'disappear' after a month. Simply go to the needs page and click on the 'update needs to current date' icon and they will re appear! Only the needs of folks who keep them current show up.

Book Review of the Month

We're getting to the bottom of the barrel. This month the book is *The Boy with the US Radio*, by Francis Rolt-Wheeler, published 1924. We've covered all the good series and now into 'strays' that are almost unknown, and for good reason- they aren't all that good. However, in the interest of covering all the juvenile fiction having anything to do with radio/wireless in the days of old, here's my take on the book. I haven't found a copy on line yet.



Rolt-Wheeler wrote a whole series of books from the 1910 era on, all in the theme "The Boy with the _____", such as *Forest Service*, *Submarine Service*, *US miners*, *US Diplomats*, etc. Probably all equally bad, but the one on 'radio' was really not worth reading. But since I paid a few bucks for it...I read it.

It starts out with the main character, who lives in KY in the Appalachia region, trying to

learn. His family and all the town folks shun education. School, if the crops are good, might be 8 to 10 weeks a year in the winter time if the town folks can afford the school tax to hire a teacher. He tries to teach himself to read, then to learn some basic math. He goes on to experiment with static electricity...and over the next 250 pages, goes step by boring step through very basic science, and experiments, mostly from the 'science' of the 1850s to 1890s. At the end of the book, he actually builds himself a primitive wireless set.

It's super 'elementary' so maybe a 7 or 8 year old would find it interesting, but it sure missed the mark for the 'youth market' or even an adventure tale for them. You haven't heard of it for a good reason – it's not worth the paper it's written on, and even if you find it free, don't waste your time. There are dozens of better more entertaining books than this one.

However, in the interest of being 'thorough' I actually read through most of it waiting to get my oil changed and the car inspected at the Toyota dealer....and it managed to kill an hour and half. That's about all I can say about it. Bad. Third grade level at best.

Mobile Activity this Period

Ron, KB6UF, ran some counties in LA.

AB4YZ was mobile up in PA then OH and IN.

K0FG headed from the east back to the midwest

W0GXA put out some in IA on CW.

N9JF was zipping around on various trips. IN, IL, down to TN,

N5MLP was out putting out lots of TX and LA.

AB7RW, Phil, headed east from the west coast on a long trip back east.

Karl, K4YT, was mobile from Kauai.

Terry, WQ7A, took a day trip to get some WA counties.

Bill, K2HVN, headed up to New England to run Dukes and Nantucket MA and the surrounding counties.

KB0BA/N0XYL were off once again running counties in the mid west then into WV and KY.

Dave, KE3VV, was up in NY, MA, RI, and PA, then headed on down to FL later in the month.

Jim, N9JF, was running counties down in KY and TN, then IN and IL and as far west as KS.

WC5B was spotted in WI

Jim, N4JT, has been busy putting out much of NC on digital modes as well as on cw/ssb at times.

Kerry, W4SIG, has been active in TN putting them out.

Doug, WA4UNS, spotted in DE and NJ

Several 1x1 calls participated in the annual week long Route 66 event.

Jerry, W0GXQ, was out in MN over to IA.

Gene, NT2A, spotted out in NJ and PA.

KE4TTS spotted out in MO

AC0B noted in MN counties.

Ed, KN4Y, spotted out in FL and GA.

Darl, NA8W, headed to KY for a nice run.

Jeff, W9MSE, was mobile in WI.

Jeffrey, AF3X, was busy in VA and TN putting them out.

N9AC was busy in WI, then headed to south MO later in the month.

Terry, WQ7A, ran a few counties in WA for the folks.

K8OOK/N8IPG were noted out in WI

Kansas QSO Party – Later Comments

KI0I as W0E - mobile – 986 cw QSO

Wow what a hot qso party! Really! the hottest wx of summer so far! This was my 2nd year in KQP and upped the score by almost 50k! And solo! Sat. went smooth and as planned ,even got ahead one county on my sked. But Sun. was a stress test. Left the home QTH with a half-baked plan and at the first stop on the Linn-Bourbon line, good old Murphy froze up N1MM while on 15m. Worked perfect the day before....what the heck? So I avoided 15m and more freeze ups and it cost me my goal of 1000 q's as i had hoped . Looked possible by Sat. nite and I came close , but not to be.. I have yet to break 1k qso's in any contest. Maybe another time. I tried some fone cq'ing but my patience is poor so when five or ten calls goes unanswered I tend to move on. So this time all CW again. Another fine job of coordinating by Bob (W0BH) as he has done in the past. Heard a lot of qso's going on while i motored from site to site. I couldn't help but think a lot of op time was being wasted ,but that's solo- rover life! Most of the county line stops I found had power lines overhead so I had trouble with lighter signals and I'm sorry for that. Those power poles are hard to see on Google maps hihi..I searched out each stop and pinned it on my iphone and that worked really well. Even gave me the E.T.A. to pinned site. Our age of electronics is amazing but when your

PC freezes.....oh well. Hey I hope everybody had a good time , will be fun to read all the soapbox stories! 73 til next time

Mark W0E/ KI0I

W0O – W0ZQ opr – mobile – 1093 cw qso

I had two visits from Murphy. The first occurred on Friday afternoon while driving down from Minneapolis. Somewhere in the middle of Iowa 20m sudden became very quiet, ... was there a flare? Also, the tuner suddenly changed its settings. Hmm. Antenna problems. At the next rest stop I discovered that I had a dead short across the coax. I did bring along a second coax run so I switched out the feedline but to no avail, still a short. Hmmm. Well these things are just not that complicated so I detached the feedline from the antenna and measured right at the feed point and it still read a short. How can that be. Out came the wrenches and 3/8 to SO239 was disassembled. What I found was that the small star washer had physically moved and was shorting out between ground and the center feed-through on the 3/8 to SO239 assembly. Some quick mechanical modifications with my Leatherman and it was good as new again. Better to find these things now than during the contest.

My second visit from Murphy came Sunday morning. I had drove from the hotel to my jumping off spot in RIL, had everything powered up and ready to go, was enjoying my cup of coffee from a scenic spot, noticed that it was 8:58 am and just two minutes to go to the start of the contest, and suddenly noticed that N1MM on my computer was set up for the Minnesota QSO Party. What! A quick inspection of the available logs did not show my KSQP log from yesterday ... where did that go ?? Instead of burning time looking for Saturday's log I reconfigured N1MM for the KSQP as a new log. That was the fastest that I had ever done that. OK, set up and ready, but no, the CW Macros are all wrong. OK, reset those. Oh, I messed up and sent W00, not W0O changed that and now we were off and running and just three minutes late. However, in the back of my head all day long I was wondering what happened to my Saturday log?

That was it for Murphy. Both days were hot with highs hitting 101 degree on my car thermometer and not a cloud in the sky. Unlike the Minnesota QSO Party, a well stocked cooler is mandatory equipment for the KSQP. On the other hand I

didn't need my snow boots.

My goal for this contest was to beat my score from last year. On Saturday I was about 40 Q's ahead of last year's pace, a good sign. However on Sunday I fell behind and ended up with about 26 less total Q's and two less multipliers compared to 2013. In looking back at my log I am unsure why this happened but it looks like Sunday afternoons propagation cooled off a little. I also noticed that 40m did not produce like last year. 20m was the band for me with 851 of 1093 Q's, the remainder worked on 40m. DX stations accounted for 140 of those 851 20m Q's, or 16%. Post contest, once home, I did find my Saturday log. For some reason it was not showing up in the N1MM file directory but it did show up using Windows Explorer.

I only had two visitors stop by while I was operating. One was a local who was just checking me out and told me I was in the "highest spot in the county" and that it should be a good spot for playing with my radios. The second guy was actually a ham himself who was amazed to see another ham. I hope that I recruited him for next year's KSQP.

A big tip of the hat to Bob, W0BH, and his team for putting on a great party.

73, Jon
W0O/W0ZQ/m

K0A mobile (W0BH)

Hot! That was the operative word this year. As the 2014 KSQP got closer to kickoff, I kept looking for those cooler temps we had the week before (and now the week after), but the weather reports kept saying 100+ temps. On Thursday evening, I decided to switch operations from the perfectly radio-tuned Astro van to the not-so-perfectly radio-tuned Mazda van with one major redeeming grace - air conditioning!

It took about 5 hours to make the switch, and I finished up on Friday in the cool(er) morning air. Somehow the IC-7000 and antennas worked. The only band that didn't tune well was 10m SSB. One of these days I'll talk about the "fun" of tuning up twin Hustler vertical triple stacks mounted close together on a van top. I couldn't get 15m to work (like it does on the Astro)

until I put 15m on a third mag mount normally used with 80CW. I tested CW, SSB, headset, computer keying, computer logging, GPS navigation - all good.

Like last year, Aaron/n0qd drove Saturday and xyl Lorna/k0why drove Sunday. This year, Aaron also operated W0T/m at times, and Lorna operated K0Y/m. They often tagged my QSOs to give out those rarer letters, but I took a break from operating on Saturday during a long county and drove for Aaron for awhile while he put W0T/m on the air.

Another last minute change was my route. I knew I'd be going west, but as the other mobile routes came in, I saw that we could once again put all of the counties on both CW and SSB if I picked up a number of far southwestern counties on CW. I planned 23 western counties on Saturday and another 13 northern counties on Sunday, finally posting my route Thursday night. Our last-to-post mobile sent me his route at about 11:30pm on Friday night, so I got that on the web site with a big smile because we now had all the mobiles and all the counties and all the 45 1x1 calls good to go. Couldn't do it without you all!

Saturday

In order to get to far southwest Kansas and back to W0BH for the night, we headed out at 7:30 am for the Reno/Stafford county line and the 9:00 am start. The GPS said 71 miles. As we drove into Reno county on highway 50, we ran into road repaving and single-lane traffic. Then we saw the first of 50 downed power poles, the tall ones, some of which fell down on top of other local power and telephone lines. A storm the previous night had blown the first one over and that took the rest of them down. Luckily, they blew away from the road, but there were at least 10 power trucks there getting ready to work on the lines. Again, we made it through. Instead of starting at STA/REN, we started in REN on 40CW. After a number of CQs, N5DO, KO7X, and K2DSW appeared, then nothing for the next two minutes. Where is everyone? So I tried 20 and found VE9AA, N6MU, and NT2A .. regulars we mobiles can't live without! We hit the REN/STA line at the time I'd planned to leave it, so we were right on schedule. Game on!

After a nice CW run , I tried SSB for the first time. There was N6MU. How John does that, I don't know, but he does it over and over again. Then I worked N8II. Jeff told me my audio sounded like I was in a tunnel a long way off and I started to have a sinking feeling that I'd forgotten something. I unplugged the 2nd mic that Aaron would use, and sure enough, no transmit audio using the

headset mic. I'd forgotten to swap out the correct mic adapter from the Astro, and I had no spare. My Friday morning test worked because the hand mic sitting on the seat was picking up my audio, not my headset mic! Did I really do that? After digging through my audio box, I decided the noise-cancelling headset was worth the pain of swapping a hand mic back and forth for the day. We'd be home to fix the problem for Sunday, so that's what we did. It turned out to work well with a bit of practice and we had lots of practice. This year, we gave out Aaron's call on every SSB QSO unless there was a really big pileup with not much time left in county.

This year we once again we used a Mobile CW Window well below Ohio QSO Party frequencies. Our fixed stations (and Ohio's) for the most part 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 CW mobile. Band conditions seemed off from last year with almost no 40m activity. On the bright side, the DX activity from Europe was amazing on both 20 and 15. Last year's winner, OM2VL, was missing (and missed!), but SP9LJD made up for it with a reported 96 Kansas counties worked. Last year I worked 3 DX countries, this year 17.

My favorite part about operating mid-west QSO parties is the county line operations, something I really miss when going to states where line operations aren't allowed. Because of the length of the route this time (638 miles on Saturday), we couldn't schedule as many, but we did have one four-county line I'd used before. This time we approached it from the west since we were on the way back from Morton county, the furthest southwest county in Kansas. Not a good idea. It looked fine on the GPS, but the two mile lead-in road was a two-rut track with dry grass in the middle. Aaron kept out of the ruts to avoid setting a grass fire with the catalytic converter. At least it wasn't muddy! We had to go down a draw and cross a dry creek, and on the way up, the dirt road was literally cracked down the middle of the road. On TV, I'd just seen that huge crack that opened up in Mexico ... :-)

We made it to the line. In fact, the line was on a good road and easy to get to, just not the way we came in. As we used the GPS to find the exact spot, we saw a pickup parked close to where we needed to go. Since it was the only vehicle we'd seen in quite some time, we both thought that it might be another mobile. But no, it was a farmer who just happened to be there working his field. We explained what we were up to and he left with a smile.

The Mazda has a circuit breaker that blows if I don't keep the engine running

while transmitting. It was at or over 100 degrees out, so we kept the A/C running as well. Right in the middle of the 4-county run, the breaker tripped anyway. I got out to reset it and realized how hot it was under the hood, so I left the hood up and had no more problems. We had to leave the line way too soon in order to make the rest of our route.

I also want to apologize for our computer crashes. It's not the logging software, it's RF getting into the level converter. As long as I didn't transmit SSB and Enter a QSO at the same time, all was well. But sometimes while one-handing the mic or operating a line, I'd forget. Usually I got away with it, but four times it crashed (twice on Saturday and twice on Sunday). When that happens, I have to reboot and load a new blank log which takes about 30 seconds, or I have to rebuild the log which takes about five minutes. The first two times I took the 30 second route but lost my call history which is really important in marginal conditions. I rebuilt the log on Saturday evening at home. This doesn't happen in the Astro, so I'll have to do some more shielding and grounding before using the Mazda again. I normally don't lose any contacts, but it's really annoying.

I usually have several logging computers loaded and ready, but this time I only took one since my home station was loaned out to two more 1x1 ops. The computer screen got loose, didn't want to stay up, and kept falling backwards when we hit bumps. I had some blue masking tape which I used to tape the lid into position, but it was paper and kept tearing as I tried to adjust the computer screen angle to reduce glare. It was more funny than anything, but on Sunday I swapped the masking tape out for duct tape and had no more problems. I know, I know, get a new computer :-)

The day continued and we made it to highway 56 and the long run east. No storms, but the south wind kept Aaron on his toes. We pulled into McPherson (the county and the town) right on schedule and met Jerry/k5yaa and Colin/ku5b for supper as we relived the day. Great fun and great company! We ended the day with 1330 Qs in the combined log which I didn't know until I got home and rebuilt it. I guessed wrong, Jerry .. sorry!

Sunday

Morning came all too quickly after a short night's sleep. It didn't take long to install and (properly) test the correct headset adapter, and we were good to go. I reworked my posted route slightly by starting out in Harvey county, then

drove straight to Butler county to sit on the BUT/MRN/HVY line. It was definitely a new day. Good signals right from the start.

Lorna took a few minutes to get used to her "new" call. K0Y/m was popular all day long and she did a great job tagging my SSB contacts while navigating and driving. We stayed pretty much on schedule the entire ride. Westbound on highway 24 in Cloud county, we saw Ron/ad0dx heading the other way. Other than two more computer crashes, the run was just fun. The computer lid no longer flopped, I had my headset boom mic back, lots of folks to talk to, and it was cool inside the van! 20m did drop out at one point, but 15m picked up the slack until it came back. Still almost no 40m activity.

When we hit I-70 south of Salina, we took the freeway west to the Lincoln/Ellsworth county line. Lincoln was a new county for everyone, I think, and I knew John/n6mu was getting close to the Sweep. He's usually right there waiting for me when I cross a line and lots of ops were, but no John. I found out later he heard me just fine, but signals to CA were really dropping off on both 20 and 15 and he couldn't get through on SSB. I had a great SSB run at the line while Lorna had a late lunch and took a well-deserved nap. I switched to CW with about 30 minutes to go. John finally got through for his 104th county, then off he went to find 105.

We finished the party with a combined Sunday count of 817, down from 1059 last year, but very satisfying nonetheless. We couldn't do it without you all looking for us, fixed or mobile, so we can't say thank you enough. Thanks from Lorna and Aaron as well. See you all again next year!

Special thanks to the following ops for 10 or (way) more contacts:

78: N6MU - Reported a Sweep for the 4th year in a row!
52: VE9AA - A terrific effort from VE-land!
49: W4UT
46: NT2A - Reported 104 counties. Hope you didn't miss one of mine!
45: N8II
42: N5DO
36: SP9LJD
25: K7IA
24: KN4Y
22: KS4X

16: K7TM KG4IGC KQ3F VA3GKO
15: KJ4LTA OH6NIO W1END W8PO
14: KM4FO W7GF
13: K5WP ND4V NS9I W0PAN
12: DK3BN G3XVR KC3X
11: K7MJF UW7LL W5MF WA4WKL
10: DK2OY K1TKL K7ZVY KC0ZVN N6ENO W0OGH W2GN W7GDK

W0BH Award Winners - First Place - Very Honorable Mention

Most overall Qs ---- N6MU/78* ---- VE9AA/52 ----- W4UT/49
Most CW Qs ----- N6MU/46 ----- NT2A/41 ----- VE9AA/36
Most PH Qs ----- N6MU/32 ----- W4UT/20 ----- N8II/17
Most counties ----- N6MU/35 ----- NT2A/34 ----- W4UT/31

There are lots of people to thank for the 2014 QSO party success. The Santa Fe Trail ARC once again ran KS0KS as our BONUS station and "wild card" in the spelling competition. We also had a number of school stations and non-1x1 Kansas stations on the air to thank. Our mobiles and fixed 1x1 stations seemed especially enthusiastic this year. If you were new this year, we hope you'll join the rest of us again next year!

Special thanks to our out-of-state mobiles Jon/w0zq, Jerry/k5yaa and Colin/ku5b, Bill/nu0q, and Mark/ki0i for visiting our state. 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 and Kent/kb0rwi (who fixed the link for Sunday), 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. We added a new plaque, Kansas Mobile Unassisted, and all our 20 plaques were sponsored. 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 suggestions for the 2015 Kansas QSO Party, or comments about this one are always welcome ... !

73, Bob/w0bh/k0a
2014 KSQP Coordinator

NU0Q as N0U mobile

Another fun time in Kansas. This year, my goal was to transmit from the counties that I hadn't been to yet, and we managed to get to them all. They must have been rare ones, because it sounded like they were in demand, and I gave out a lot of 'last counties'. Those western counties are in a drought at the moment, and they were flat, dry, and dusty. We saw a lot of milo up close on some bumpy dirt roads trying to find short cuts, which made typing and sending CW quite a challenge at times.

My mobile antenna didn't always want to tune on 15 meters, but when it worked, there were usually plenty of folks there to work. I tried to check 40 meters in each county to work the close-in stations who usually seemed to be waiting for me. But most of the QSOs were on 20m. Propagation was good except for early Sunday afternoon.

The suggested frequencies worked well, although I had to find an alternative frequency a few times. At one point, I found KH6LC on my usual frequency, and I knew I wasn't going to have that frequency back for a while. Loud out-of-state CQing stations in the mobile window can cause problems, especially for mobiles that have noise blankers and DSP running. Fortunately, that was a rare occurrence.

We had extra time on Saturday, so we headed east on the interstate to find some bonus counties. We had pulled off of a side road in Trego County to sit and run for a while when a friendly highway patrolman stopped to see if we were OK. We explained what we were doing, and he said "you'd probably have even more

fun if you weren't interrupted". What could I say? Sorry if you missed Trego when I disappeared for a few minutes.

Thanks to my wife, Karen, who did all the driving. She doesn't like to drive after dark, so it was good that we stopped overnight in the northwest corner of the state, where the sun sets 30 minutes later than in the southeast corner. As part of the deal, she gets to stop and take pictures of anything remotely interesting, like courthouses, post office murals, and flowers. We also visited the geographical center of the continental US in Smith County on Sunday afternoon. But we didn't bother to stop at Mount Sunflower (the highest 'point' in Kansas), and we skipped the biggest ball of twine in Cawker City. Maybe next year.

73,
Bill
NU0Q/N0U

Hawaii QSO Party

HI QSO Party - this held prior to the N4CD visit to the islands - the last weekend in August.

The group from Oahu went over to Kalawao for a volunteer mission, and to give VE tests. They were active during the QSO Party and spotted several times giving out the rare Kalawao. We wrote about it in great detail in the October 2011 issue of the County Hunter News. They operated from the peninsula (Kaluapappa) down below. Lots of pictures and descriptions in that issue.

<http://chnewsonline.com/County%20Hunter%20News%20October%202011.pdf>

If you want to visit Kalawao, 'down below', you can arrange to be there for a few hours- but you must take the 'tour' and the only place to make reservations is Damien Travel. You can fly in (about \$300) from Molokai airport or Honolulu, walk down (\$188) and back, walk down and fly back (\$250) or take the mule ride. The path is 2.9 miles long down...about 29 miles back up. They will 'meet you' and give you a 4 hour tour and lunch. Then you have to leave. Only invited 'work crews' and 'relatives' get to stay

overnight. Other than working a friend on 2m, it's not conducive to ham radio operations. Maybe a handheld HF QRP rig with a small portable vertical would allow you a contact or two.....like the Yaesu 5w hand held QRP – and you might be lucky to make a contact or two.

KH6LC – Hawaii - 2148 cw 1993 ssb qso

We hope you enjoyed the 2104 Hawaii QSO Party as much as we did. Even though our numbers were down by roughly 30% from last year, it was still a lot of fun. 20 and especially 15, was the place to be. Thanks to those who struggled to work us. Many 10 meter contacts were at ESP levels. Stan AH6KO joined us for the first time and really did a super job. Welcome to the KH6LC Contest Group! After dealing with Hurricane Iselle, we weren't sure we were going to make the show. Curt AH6RE and myself put a lot of effort into making this one happen.

We barely made the starting bell and never looked back. No problems once we got started. Thank you for all your contacts. We know it wasn't easy at times.

Vy 73 & Aloha, de KH6LC, AH6RE, KH7Y, AH6KO Mahalo!!!

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Also spotted were KH6CJJ – Maui, KH6CE – Honolulu, KH6NX – Honolulu, KH6PO – Maui, KH6DE – Hawaii, KH6BWG – Kalawao, KH6J – Honolulu, WH7W – Honolulu, NH7NJ – Kauai. I suspect a lot more were on but not spotted.

WA4UNS goes for the WBOW

Doug, WA4UNS, fired up the mobile and went to Surry County, VA, the LC WBOW for Sandra, N0XYL for the Second Time.



WA4UNS Surry, VA
LC WBOW for N0XYL
Genuine Percy Picture

On the Road with N4CD

Getting set to go

The time had come. After several years of effort running all the counties for the second time that you can easily drive to – and ones not too easy to get to - including day trips and car rentals for Dukes and Nantucket, MA, and then a big trip to Alaska in June of this year with some plane hops – the only remaining counties for second time transmit were an airplane flight away- 4000 miles from Dallas heading west to the Hawaiian Islands.

About 15 years ago, I finished up the five counties in HI on a month long trip right after I retired. I still had more to do back then, but at some point, you bite the bullet and

head west. The last county for Ran All USA, first time, turned out to be Bear Lake, ID. I won't forget that. Ran it on SSB. Back then, I was mostly on SSB, with cw on the side. Now it's the other way around. Of course, the AK and HI counties had to be in the 'log book' already by then.

This was a repeat of the first Hawaiian island hopping, but in half the time. Last time I spent a month there and did just about all the 'touristy things', visited county hunters (WH6DY, KH6G) and had a fun time seeing HI for the first time. This time would be just two weeks with less sightseeing time. Once you've seen 'em, you've seen them and I'm not one needing to 'get away' from work or one that sits on a beach soaking up sun and sand for days at a time.

I tried to arrange eyeball QSOs with some of the island county hunters. John, K1ER was off on the mainland. Missed him last time too. Merv, K9FD, would meet me in Molokai for an eyeball. I never heard back from Clarence, KH6G in Kauai. That didn't work out. We don't have a resident county hunter on the Big Island. With propagation the way it is, you wouldn't expect to have too many HI county hunters.

Joyce, N9STL, and a few others needed the HI counties for Mobile Diamond. Bob, N8KIE had run them a while back, but others had missed some/all of them. Kalawao always is needed by someone and is only run about once a year or less. A local group, who had been there 3 years before, once again activated Kalawao for the HI QSO Party this year that was at the end of August. The station was spotted several times and workable on 15m cw. So – Kalawao was still needed for higher level awards (Bingo, MP, MD, etc) and it was one of the last remaining five I needed to run. That's why I was planning on being there! It's definitely off the beaten path. Kalawao was also N4CD's last county WBOW for the first time USA-CA 19 years ago (K1ER ran it then in 1995), so it was definitely a 'special place'.

Hawaii is sort of like AK. In AK, half the population lives in Anchorage. In HI, half the population or more live in Honolulu (the city and suburbs). Of course, HI is tiny area wise compared to AK. You can drive around any of the islands in a day. In AK, you can drive all day and barely get out of a county by evening. Honolulu has lots of traffic and congestion. I planned to avoid as much of it as possible. Tens of thousands of tourists a month head to Waikiki for the beach and being 'tourists'.

There's more than twice as many people in the Dallas-Ft Worth area than in HI and AK combined! I don't need to travel 4000 miles to find 'congestion' and city traffic.

So.....after gathering all the 'transportable mobile setup' again in two suitcases, weighing

in at about 60 lbs total - one carry on with the IC 706 radio, key, mic, camera, spotting pad, log, shaving kit, and morning pills, and the check bag with the mag mount, antenna mast sections, resonators, tools, MFJ Antenna Analyzer, and clothes, it was off to HI.



Antenna Set up

The above picture shows 4 20 inch long mast sections, 3 resonators and the triple 3 inch magnet mount. Hat for size comparison. Everything fit nicely into a standard carry on size suitcase, but with the 'sharp' things, the tool bag with pliers and cutters and screwdrivers, it had to go checked baggage. You can supposedly now carry on tools no longer than 7 inches, but no knives or 'hammer like' devices. I'd bet the mag mount would not go carry on these days. Nor the collection of mast sections that would make a good club.

I brought along a small ruler so I can measure the resonator tip length. They had to be shortened to less than 22 inches to fit diagonally into the suitcase. At each operating location, I'd have to adjust the tips - 19 inches out on 20m, 15 inches on 17 and 15m. I put a small ribbon on the ends of the resonator tips in case they fell off so they would be easy to spot. Of course, with that precaution, nothing would fall off. - Murphy's Law. (I didn't want to lose another resonator tip like I did in AK on the 17m antenna.) I did one thing at a time in HI. . Take off resonator, put in trunk, get another resonator and put on. Then put mast back on top of car after wiping down magnets. You have to use some paper/plastic on the ground to put the mag mount on. On HI, the dirt is magnetic and sticks to the magnets - and can scratch the car, plus not give a good ground as the magnets won't get close to the car. The dirt has to be gone or not collected on the bottom of the magnets, or the tuning will change. Use a newspaper to plastic bag on the ground. You might need to weight it down with something (dirty laundry bag works fine) if the wind is blowing. Same in AK.

Heading west to HI

I headed out on September 3. You can fly direct to Honolulu – about an 8 hour flight, from Dallas but a long 12-14 hour or longer day – door to door. American flies a Boeing 767-300 with lots of seats. It was 85% full. It was the usual TSA routine of taking off the shoes, going through the DFW terrahertz body scanner with your arms up, and having to take the radio out of the suitcase deal.

Hawaii has five 'radio counties' – they are the larger of the islands (4) plus the little teeny peninsula of Kalawao located on the island of Molokai. The Hawaiian islands run from southeast to northwest. There's a hot spot on the floor of the ocean that creates volcanoes. As the plates shift, the hot spot stays the same so new islands are formed. Kauai is the oldest of the islands – it is weather worn and green all over. The Big Island, Hawaii, still has erupting volcanoes and is the newest. Much of the island is not that weather worn and has a crusted appearance. It takes millions of years to wear down the surface and create good top soil all over. For county hunting, you've got to go to Oahu (Honolulu County), and Molokai (Maui/Kalawao), the Big Island (Hawaii County) and Kauai (Kauai County). You can skip the island of Maui and the smaller islands like Lanai. Well, 4 islands is enough to keep you busy for a while.

In 10,000 years, a new island is forming off the Big Island will break the surface and who knows what county it will be in? It's coming up from the bottom of the Pacific now, slowly. Molokai was once part of Oahu but broke away 100,000 years ago.



Map from Lonely Planet dot com

You get in to HI in the late afternoon. The American gate is as far away from the baggage area as can be - it's a hike. I hustle over there, dragging the 28.6 lb wheelie bag, but it's a 45 minute wait for the baggage to arrive. The checked bag made it there safely. It's already dark in most of the USA so there is no propagation on 20M. I took the hotel shuttle bus to the Best Western Plaza close to the airport..

The first day in HI I just chilled, and played tourist getting over the long flight and the 5 hour time difference jet lag and recovering from a 16 hour travel day. I stayed at the hotel close to the airport and didn't rent a car.

Now what are the chances of running into a county hunter 4000 miles from home in a hotel in Honolulu? Not very big, right? Well, who steps off the elevator in the hotel lobby, wearing an Elecraft hat? Why it's Stan, AC0W! He's on his way back from a

DX pedition to Fiji, where he and 3 others made 12,000 plus contacts. He's on his way home with just one night spent there. Wow! Met his DX'pedition friend from OH, yak for five minutes and then we go our separate ways. I tried to hook up with John, K1ER, in advance but he was off on the mainland doing the RV thing that he does every year about this time of year, too. He says someday he'll get back on mobile.

Off to Pearl Harbor

One of the things I missed on the first trip was a visit to Pearl Harbor. Next day, I hopped on a Number 20 bus (\$1.25 senior fare) and rode over to the Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor. They distribute 4000 'free' tickets a day to ride over from the shore to the Memorial accessed by ferry. First there's a 40 minute film you watch, then the ferry trip.

There are thousands of tourists. Thousands. Busy Place. Pearl Harbor is where WW2 started with a sneak attack by Japanese forces that killed thousands of US personnel and civilians. Nearly all the planes on the island were destroyed and most of the ships in the harbor were sunk or put out of action. The USS Arizona took a direct hit in the ammunition magazine and blew up. Today, it and the other sunk ships are a memorial to the war dead in the Pacific.

Later in the day, I took the free shuttle over to Ford Island and visited the Pacific Air Museum. It's pricey with a limited number of planes. After you've seen the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, the Wright Patterson National Air and Space Museum, and the one out in the Northwest with the Spruce Goose (not far from the MARAC annual convention a year or two ago), it takes a lot to impress. I wasn't overwhelmed. However, they do have some rare planes so you might add it to your list of things 'to do' if you are in HI. It's supposed to be one of the 'top 10' aviation museums in the country.

Most of the tourists head right to the 'beach area' at Waikiki. I avoided that all together. It's full of hundreds of tourist resorts/hotels, places to eat and 'dine', and of course, ten thousand laying on the beaches soaking up sun and 'recreating' then headed out for dinner. It's also full of traffic congestion, high daily parking charges, and lots of hassles with a rental car.

(However, you can snag some good package deals for two at hotels here at Waikiki with airfares and get a rental car for a few days. Adding on more days is usually a problem but sometimes can occur to do some other island hopping. There are no package deals for single travelers).

Honolulu was having 'warm days' and it's humid. Still summer there and it was on the high side of normal temps. You get worn out quickly – at least I did. Then it was back to the hotel on the bus to prepare for the main radio adventure to begin.

Heading to Molokai

There are two really hard to get to counties in the US. Ones you just don't 'pop in' on for a short run. The first is the Second District of Alaska. You have to really want to go there and spend a couple hundred bucks, once you are IN Alaska, to get there and run it. If you go camping and ultra low budget, maybe just \$100 in gas round trip, if you are lucky with no broken windshields or flat or ruined tires – after you get to AK. There's no cheap way to do it.

The second is Kalawao – located on the island of Molokai. First you have to get yourself to Hawaii. Then, it's at least \$250 just to run it for the day for the plane ticket, including \$50 in checked baggage, and rental car charges, and more if you stay overnight and run it at optimum times. This year would be a double header, hitting the Second in June 2014 and now heading to Kalawao in September. The credit card would get lots of use.

After two nights in Honolulu, I would be on to Molokai – the island which has the Kalawao/Maui County Line you can run. I originally had a 7am flight, but Hawaiian Airlines moved it up to 6am. Yawn! That meant I had to be at the airport by 4:30am or so for the hop over to Molokai. Fortunately, I was wide awake at that time due to the time difference. 4 am HI time in the morning is 9am Dallas time. The internal clock was still on Dallas time. It takes about one day per time zone to equalize. I was there with time to spare at the airport. Didn't want to miss that one. The hotel has 24 hour shuttle service.

The plane to Molokai is a smaller one – there isn't much room for carry one. Turbo-prop. If you have a normal carry on bag, they'll 'gate check it – just before you get on the plane – and keep it separate – been there and done that before. I don't like to let the radio go, but it goes into a separate luggage space and will be right at the ramp when you get off. You pick it up. Then head to baggage claim 100 feet away for your checked bag in Molokai. Get set to pay lots of \$25/bag check bag fees per flight. This plane doesn't use jet ways. You climb up the stairs into it.



The Plane to Molokai

The plane probably holds 40-45 people max. Before you know it – maybe 40 minutes, you're landing in Molokai at the airport. Think small. Two gates side by side. Smaller than Nae'au which is small. You get off, the luggage is 100 feet away, the car rental place is 30 feet from there. It's Alamo Rent a car. Period. There's no other option. They had a car for me! Good. At least a dozen others were in line to rent a car. Without a car, you are 'dead' as far as radio operations go.

The first order of business was getting up to the 'overlook' where the county line is located. You head out on 'highway 460'. That reminds me of central VA where route 460 is a main thoroughfare from points east, through Campbell County, and over to Bluefield WV through the back woods on VA. A few miles on highway 460 gets you to 470 which takes you up to the overlook for Kalawao (Kalaupapa to the locals). You climb and climb slowly. That peninsula is on the north side of the island, isolated by very steep cliffs. The overlook looks down from the top of the steep cliffs, some of the steepest in the world. It was chosen for its remoteness and isolation.

Kalawao is 12 square miles and has a population of about 90 at the current time. (2010 stats)

Kalaupapa Peninsula was specifically chosen back in the 1850s to be where people suffering from Hansen's disease (Leprosy) would be sent to live out their lives away from everyone else. Back then, before a medical treatment to arrest the disease and make folks unable to pass on the disease, the only way to stop the spread of the disease

was to completely isolate them from society. Otherwise, they would spread the contagious disease by contact. After the 1930s, they found the sulfone drugs that arrested it, and made it non-contagious.

So the health folks in Hawaii simply dropped the suffers off the ship for over 80 years, off the peninsula (no harbor there), where they had no way to escape. They had to swim to shore. Until a mule trail was cut a few decades ago, there was no escape route up the cliffs, and certainly none by sea as the currents are strong.

Fortunately for county hunters, the county line extends up to the top of the cliffs. You don't have to go 'down below' to run the county. North is at the top of the picture below. Green is Kalawao County. The White area is Maui County.



Google Maps

The 'upland' areas of Molokai, like most higher elevations in HI, gets lots of rain. It's very tropical with dense vegetation.

The overlook parking lot is right about where the '470' on the map above is located...to the left edge (west) of the diagram. The overlook is a short walk from there – and it is what you see in the County Sign Database for Kalawao county.



Kalawao/Maui HI
Genuine Percy Pic

The moment of truth had arrived. Here I was at the top, and the question of the day – was everything there for the mobile setup to work? Did I pack everything needed? Did everything make it? I unpack things and assemble them. Hmm.....20 and 15 don't want to play together. Didn't have that problem at home. So I tune them separately and change resonators to change bands. The suitcase held resonators for 14, 18, and 21 MHz. Now I wished I had taken 24.9 MHz – 12 meters - it was probably open. The giant clip leads worked fine to attaching to the battery. The car had near zero noise.

Conditions weren't the best as the A index was up at 15 or so. There was barely cell phone service there – it would come and go – not there in the mornings with all the wet vegetation around but there later in the day – and only from certain spots in the parking lot, too! No data service. I called Joyce, N9STL, and asked her to spot me. That's how the fun began. Merv, K9FD, had a big signal from 10-15 miles away.

I ran 20cw and then on 20 SSB around 14260 KHz. Folks like AA9JJ and N9QPQ and others aren't going to come to CW. Then up to 17 and 21 cw and ssb after a short delay to change resonators. Changing resonators was a pain, but it guaranteed a near 1:1 match and full power. It's 4000 miles to the center of the USA, 5000 miles to the east coast. For 20m, that's at least double hop, and to the east coast, triple hop propagation. Those with big antennas up 60 feet had the advantage.

I was using a smaller 3 magnet mount (about 3 inch diameter magnets). I had gotten a work out hauling the bigger one with five inch diameter magnets all over Alaska and vowed not to do that again any time soon! I had 70 lbs of 'stuff' in AK. This time it was 12 lbs less.

After the runs the first time, Merv, K9FD, comes up for a visit. He was on his way to town to get some groceries in 'the town'. I run the county again a bit later, then we head off for a long /breakfast lunch at the Cook House a few miles away. It's as Hawaiian as it gets. We yak and yak for a long time. Merv is originally from central IL. He and Ted, K9HUH, did many, many field days together. He wound up in Hawaii, and who knows where he'll wind up next? He lives on the west end of the island.



Merv, K9FD



The Cookhouse restaurant

According to Merv, Molokai becomes less and less ham friendly each year. The passed a law limiting total height of any structure to no more than 30 feet. That includes buildings, cell phone towers and ham radio towers. You won't be doing much radio work unless your beam is up 50-60 feet as it's 2000 miles to anywhere and you need a low angle of radiation to work anyone. It seems the island is intent to going back to 1800's living standards. Today over 70% of the island population are on 'benefits' of one kind or another. Basically 'moochers'. Lots of 'takers' but few 'makers'. Also there are rampant drug problems. (Meth)

Later, I headed in to the Hotel Molokai. There aren't too many places to stay on the island any longer. Most of the tourist industry shut down with the big conflict with the Molokai Ranch and it's shut down in 2008. It's a funky little eco-oriented hotel consisting of two story A frame type buildings. No A/C. You've got flow through room ventilation and a big fan to keep you cool. It's right on the south shore, but there is no beach to swim. Electricity rates are sky high in HI – think 37c/kilowatt or 2-4 times the US rates. So every bulb is a eco-bulb and often small wattage. That's true on every Hawaiian island.

Gas was over \$4/gal the entire trip. On Oahu, it was \$4.08 and higher on the other islands. Molokai had sky high gas prices over \$5.50/gal. Ouch!



Hotel Molokai

<http://www.hotelmolokai.com/>

They claim it is an 'Authentic Hawaiian Experience'. Not a bad place. You don't have too many choices on the island. It's the only hotel. You can rent condo rooms, but usually for longer periods of time, not a day or two. Every room comes with a DVD player and they have a library of DVDs you can borrow. Not much else going on there in the evenings. . The bar opens for happy hour from 4-6pm. That's it. Friday the bar has 'live music' from 4-6pm - a guitar/singer. That's it as far as I can tell for the whole island.

There is a B&B or two there that offers lower cost options if you're on a tight budget. If you're headed that way for a few days, you might want to check them out.

I wanted to run Kalawao on a weekend day – not every county hunter is retired yet. That worked out OK. Of course, the other islands would happen when they happened now – usually during the week.

The restaurant at the hotel (which I ate at 15 years ago), burned down 4 years ago. They are still in the process of rebuilding it and it might be open in another year. Things move very very slowly on Molokai. Fortunately, with a rental car, you can go a few

miles down the road to the nearby 'town' and you have a choice of a BBQ restaurant, Pizza/Burger Place, Molokai Burger, and one or two other places to eat. One night I had the BBQ 1/2 chicken at the Pizza Cafe, and the next night some delicious lasagna with salad.

One of the local specialties is Moco Loco. Here's how you make it. I never tried it. If you like rice, you can get rice for breakfast, rice for lunch, rice for dinner. Even if you don't like rice, just about everything comes with it! Scrambled eggs and rice. Etc.

Loco moco is a meal in the contemporary cuisine of Hawaii. There are many variations, but the traditional loco moco consists of white rice, topped with a hamburger patty, a fried egg, and brown gravy. Variations may include chili, bacon, ham, Spam, kalua pork, linguica, teriyaki beef, teriyaki chicken, mahi-mahi, shrimp, oysters, and other meats. Loco Moco is also the name of a Hawaiian-based restaurant chain that serves Hawaiian rice bowl dishes.



Loco Moco

From Wiki:

The dish is widely popular in Hawaii and now on the menu at many Hawaiian restaurants in the mainland. In keeping with the standards of Japanese cuisine, rice is used as a staple starch, finished off with the hamburger, gravy, and fried eggs to create a dish that does not require the preparation time of bento. Loco moco can be found in various forms on many Pacific islands from Hawaii to Samoa to Guam and Saipan, and is also popular in Japan.

The loco moco was also featured on a Honolulu-based episode of the Travel Channel

show Man v. Food. The host, Adam Richman, tried this dish at the Hukilau Café, located in nearby Laie.” - Usually gigantic proportions for Man v. Food – like five pounds or more. Hi hi.

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Some how a burger, with a fried egg or two sunny side up, on top of a pile of rice, drowned in gravy, doesn't appeal to me at breakfast time, but it's wildly popular and on every menu. Nor does it appeal to me at lunch or dinner time. Apparently it started after WW2. Oh, and don't forget spam is still a 'main dish' in HI. They consume 50% of the world's production of spam there. Oh, and macaroni salad seems to be the 'main vegetable' offered up with meals. You can get it instead of rice at half the places.

In Hawaii, it's not press 1 for English, and 2 for Espanol. Half of Hawaii now is of Japanese heritage. A large number of visitors are from Japan. You'll see advertising in Japanese. Didn't see a single 'press 2 for Spanish' on the island and you'll see Japanese language folders with the tourist brochures. There's Japanese audio tours at the tourist venues, not Spanish. If you ride the bus, announcements are in English and Hawaiian, the two official languages of Hawaii.

The Hawaiian alphabet has 13 letters, five vowels (long and short) and eight consonants, one of them being a glottal stop (called 'okina in Hawaiian). The okina is like an upside down apostrophe. If a word has one (or two) it is pronounced differently. With only half the letters available, a lot of the Hawaiian words get to be very long.....four or five syllables.

Things are not cheap there and gas is \$5.77/gal. On Molokai I hit the local food market. Ouch! Prices like Nome, AK, with just about everything double or triple what you pay in Texas – for veggies, fruit, boxed goods. Oranges - \$2.79 each. Bananas \$1.79/pound. I stocked up on a few things to try and keep me on a decent diet. There was a Subway sandwich place but it shut down (failed). Where was I going to get my lunch salads? Not on Molokai. In the only 'town' of Kaunakakai. Their idea of a salad was a small plate full of lettuce.

The hotel has a pool. I think the hotel was 2/3rds empty judging by the parking lot. Not a lot of folks rush to get to Molokai. It was also 'the lean season' between summer and the winter rush. You can sit by the ocean but there is no beach. You can see right across to Oahu not that far away. It was still 'summer' in HI with temps pushing 90 degrees for highs, and lows down near 70 in the mornings. You had lots of sunshine.

There are just a few hours of good propagation from HI to the USA on 14-21 MHz – and that starts at sunrise HI time (6:30am local lime) and ends about sunset USA time (or noon time HI Time). It's five hours difference to TX, six hours to the east coast. So you need to be on several times during that five to six hour window. If 10M opened you might have worked HI stations.

Merv is a regular on the cw net, and lives in Maui County. At the moment, he doesn't have a mobile set up.

I fill up the log book page , and repeat it the next day for more contacts. Each run produces fewer and fewer contacts. After the second day, it is time to head out to Kauai, the next destination in the morning. I spent two nights at the Hotel Molokai.

Sundayu, I check out of the Hotel, turn in the rental car, and walk the 500 feet back to terminal building. Same routine with the carry on bag and it is efficient. Hawaiian Airlines is very prompt at getting the luggage delivered. It will be there about the time you hustle there. Well, the check bag went straight on through to Kauai (only had to pay 1 checked bag \$25 fee). When Island hopping, just about everything requires a connection in Honolulu. No problem. Within a few minutes of running around in Honolulu, I'm on the plane headed for Kauai.

Off to Kauai

I arrive and there is plenty of time to get to the hotel, check in, find a spot to run the county, and get that one 'in the log' for second time transmit before noon HI time. The car is a Nissan Altima – nice. I avoided eco-boxes this trip – the premium wasn't much over the teeny cars – just a few dollars a day or less. Sometimes the exact same price. It was Dollar rent a cars except on Molokai. Dollar is owned by Hertz. Alamo is everywhere too and popular.

The hotel was the Aston Aloha Beach Resort which is five miles or so up the east side of Kauai from the airport – five minute drive. It's an older place – not 'delux' by any means, but it worked out fine. After checking in, I immediately broke out the gear and set up to run the county. At the end of the parking lot you overlook the ocean. It was quiet noise wise, as long as the A/C on the car was off. What a noise generator! S7 noise when the A/C was 'on'. Otherwise under S1 with the engine running. You need all the 'quiet' you can find with WEAK signals for the most part from state side stations. Even S1 noise buries some signal so at the end, I turned off the car and there were some weak ones in there. The audio gain was wide open. The battery sagged quickly but I

could get in a few more that way. That run was a later in the day run and worked well.

The Aloha Beach Resort is a decent older hotel. It's a hike to the beach, but it's a great swimming area. Even better, the parking lot is wide open, about 100 feet higher than the ocean and 300 feet or so from it. It doesn't get much better. You roll out of bed, head to the parking lot and set up, run the county, disassemble things, run the county, and then head back inside for breakfast at the restaurant. Of course, it takes about a good 15 minutes to CAREFULLY set up. You don't want to break anything, lose anything, strip or cross thread something. Carefully. No time for mistakes or rushing. After the initial set up, the resonator tips are set, everything is laying in the back of the car in the trunk, other than the radio that goes in every night/afternoon to the room. The mast is half assembled and ready to go, so 2nd and 3rd and 4th runs are a bit quicker. You've still got to be real careful about not screwing up!



Kauai HI 3075 of 3077
Genuine Perch Pic
Overlooking the Pacific

If you don't stay here, stop in the parking lot, or right behind the hotel is Lydgate Beach Park – where I ran the last time 15 years ago. . You can park 100 feet from the ocean in a nice parking lot there but watch out for weekends – it's mobbed. There's restrooms and showers there if you want to get into the surf and swim.

The next morning I was up before sunrise. I moved the car over to where I expected the sun to rise.....and was treated to a nice spectacular sunrise around 6:30 am while I operated cw and SSB on 20M. Yep, it doesn't get much better for an operating position and you don't have to drive more than 300 feet to get to the 'best' spot to run the county!

After a good set of runs, I went back inside and had breakfast. Good restaurant at the hotel, and more places just a mile or two north. I found a food store and bought some fruit (bananas, oranges) to steady the diet. Never did find a Subway but didn't look too hard.

Next – the Big Island – Hawaii County

Well, after many good runs on Kauai, it was time to head on to even more fun on the largest HI island. The next destination was the Kona coast of the Big Island (Hawaii County) - back through Honolulu to Kona. It was another early morning flight but easy. The Kauai airport is small and the car rental places dump you right at the necessary gate. Hawaiian Airlines again. Fly to Honolulu then onward. The same plane went on to Kona, so I didn't even have to change planes. Serendipity. Before you know it, I was on the Big Island.

The KONA airport is totally 'open air'. It's fairly small. You sit outside waiting for your plane to come (under a roof). The breeze blows through. It's sort of strange. Of course, you have the necessary TSA screening at every entry point. Once in HI, you get "TSA Prescreened" boarding passes so you don't have to do the 'take off the shoes' routine on Hawaiian Airlines. Things still go through the Xray machine. American seems to always give you the 3rd degree, through the terrahertz scanner with the shoes off and hands over the head....no matter how many flights you've been on. Then again, terrorists aren't likely to try and blow up a 50 or 100 mile Hawaiian airlines flight. Less hassle on Hawaiian.

I had a choice between a Nissan Altima and a Dodge Charger. I chose the Charger. If you have this choice, **don't Get the Charger!** It's a noise machine that produces S3 plus noise at idle. A/C on or off. Bad. Don't rent one or buy one. I headed off immediately to find a spot to run. I headed north of the airport. That seemed to be where I had run before. I took a really bad road west to a 'state part'. You could do about 5 mph on that road that was basically falling apart. I went in about 2 miles, set up on the side of the road, and ran the county. On the Big Island, Kona is on the west side. You need to get back from the mountains from the east to have a good shot over them. Seemed to work OK. The other option was flying into Hilo on the east side. I've never been there but you have no mountains between you and the states. The cruise ships come in there and it's more of a tourist haven. I tend to avoid those type places when I can.

I set up and it worked out OK. It was a late run as half the day had gone by. Found the

Subway on the way back to the hotel and had my salad for the day.

I'd be back on the air in the early morning hours the next day for the usual couple runs. The Subway opened at 6am so I could grab breakfast and go, and still be set up by 6:30 am sunrise time. The Big Island went into the log, leaving only Honolulu as the last 'transmitted county'. I spent 3 nights on the Big Island. The second day, it dawned upon me where I had found the best spot 15 years ago. That's down the road to the Hawaiian Energy Lab. You follow the road down a few miles, it turns and runs along a beach area with lots of parking, a good shot over the hills to the east, and even a rest room if you want to spent hours and hours there. You've got a daily five hour window from sunrise till about noon time HI where you want to make several runs normally.

IF you've got extra time, head to Volcanoes National Park – about 60 miles away – for an even better QTH to run from. Been there and done that, so I skipped it this time. Things worked fine from the operating spot I found, and it was 5 miles from the hotel.

(Seaside Hotel, Kona-Kileau <http://www.konaseasidehotel.com/our-hotel.html>).



Hawaii County, HI
Genuine Percy Pic
3076 of 3077 – getting close

The big mountains (hills) are in the distance but you are far enough back to have a small angle to get over them. While I was there, the largest volcano on the Big Island was

spewing lava out a vent and it was headed toward a homestead area with houses and would, if it didn't stop, cut off a main road on the island. When I left Hawaii on Sept 17, it had reached the edge of the subdivision and was still flowing, moving forward at 1000 feet or so a day, destroying everything in its path. Not good. They were quickly trying to put in some escape routes out of the subdivision on dirt roads.

Last time 15 years ago I stayed in this neck of the woods in Kilauea Iki. The 'tourist strip' near the hotel looked familiar. No beach here but a good pool. I was up early the next morning to catch the sunrise and early 20M good propagation burst at sunrise from the spot by the Energy Lab. Later in the day I took the one hour tour of the visitor center. I played tourist for a day and just goofed off.

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From their website:

“NELHA’s mission is to develop and diversify the Hawaii economy by providing resources and facilities for energy and ocean-related research, education, and commercial activities in an environmentally sound and culturally sensitive manner. The State of Hawaii has invested over \$100 million since 1974 to create HOST Park, a unique outdoor demonstration site for emerging renewable and ocean based technologies. Three sets of pipelines deliver deep sea water from up to 3000 ft depth as well as pristine sea surface water. Solar insolation is among the highest for coastal areas in the United States. The innovative green economic development park is administered by NELHA, a State of Hawaii agency administratively attached to DBEDT. After three decades, NELHA is well on track to fulfilling its mission as an engine for economic development.

“NELHA holds a unique place in the Pacific for energy and distributed energy applied research, demonstration, test and evaluation, and deployment of clean energy technologies. NELHA possesses an extraordinary combination of physical infrastructure and access to natural energy resource. (...) This strategic location makes NELHA the ideal clean energy R&D through deployment test bed on Hawaii Island”.

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They use the difference in temperature (40 degrees) of the seawater at the surface and 3000 feet down to run a refrigeration cycle to produce electricity. So far, just on a very small scale, but they are looking at ramping it up to hundreds of KW output. The Japanese maybe the first to go commercial on this.

The lab is also funding work on sea farming and preserving species such as sea horses.

With the high price of imported oil, HI is very urgently seeking solutions to energy needs. It leads the country in percent renewables of generated power. On the big island, a good half of the power comes from geothermal. The downside is that while I was back in Honolulu a few days later, they were begging customers to cut back, as the wind was dying from 5-9pm due to Kona winds, solar was naturally off line at that time, and one of the oil fired plants was down. They were close to rolling blackouts.

There are lots of restaurants and touristy things there. You can go for a submarine ride, or surfing or skin diving trips. Dinner cruises and just about everything else were available, with dozens of places to dine. Parking is tight at the hotel but it worked out OK. It was \$5/day for parking. It seems, like many tourist areas, that 'eating out for dinner with a few drinks' is a main activity after you soak up sun all day long for the tourists. There are a dozen high priced dinner places along the 'tourist strip' including Bubba Gump Shrimp Company, the Fish Hopper, etc with \$27 and up dinners.

The last time I was here, I dropped by a used paperback book store as I had lots of spare time to kill in the evenings. The store owner suggested Sue Grafton books. That started me on a reading the Sue Grafton murder/mystery series of books: A is for Alibi, B is for Burglar, C is for Corpse, etc. Great series of books. It's up to W now. This time I picked up a paperback at the Hotel Molokai to fill in some hours – Jonathan Kellerman – title: Billy Straight. He's written a dozen or more NY Times best sellers. Read another one by him – Victims – while waiting around for flights or in the evenings. The last one I bought at an airport shop was Zero Day by Dan Baldacci. That's another good murder/mystery tale that made #1 NY Times Best Seller list. They make good reading while waiting around for planes to arrive, too, or for killing a few hours on those 7-8 hour flights. The last one was The Hard Way by Lee Child, one of the Jack Reacher series. One of these 300-400 page books will keep you occupied for six or eight hours.

After 3 days, I turned in the QRN generator Dodge Charger. I had to make most runs with the engine off....and a chirpy CW signal. Then it was a quick hop back to Honolulu.

I arrived on Oahu – Honolulu County - and rented (Dollar) a nice super quiet Chevy Impala. GM seems to take rf noise generation seriously. I headed over to where the

motel was – this time I downsized a bit – the Castle Pacific Marina Inn. \$50 less per night than the Best Western, free parking thrown in, a better traffic situation. Just a few miles from the airport. The downside was no full menu restaurant – although the Best Western had alternating nights where it's restaurant was open, and the sister restaurant a mile away was open – with a free shuttle between, them. The Pacific Marina Inn had a Chinese restaurant – I ate there twice. Large servings and you got 40 minutes worth of chomping with the Chicken and Broccoli for \$7.50. Enough food for two. Lunch every day at the Subway a few miles away and breakfast at the Original Pancake House 4 miles way. Not a single waffle on this trip! Jerry, K5YAA will be heartbroken.

I found a park nearby – set up – and put out transmitted county #3077. Woo Hoo!



Honolulu County HI
3077 of 3077 Second Time Xmit
Genuine Percy Pic

The Impala had zero noise, and the location wasn't too bad with a decent 'up angle' to get over the distant hills. I filled in the log pages. Success. 350,000 miles of driving,

plus big airline travels to AK and HI.....and now done. After 12 years , **second time transmit was complete.** First county hunter to ever do it! Yippee! Whew....it had all worked out OK. No last minute disasters. No days of total HF blackouts. Folks have to be crazy to do things like this.

(Attention K5YAA: I did celebrate finishing all 3077 with a big pizza at the Big Kahuna Pizza place)

The ideal spot to run Honolulu county is probably along the east shore – but that was a bunch of miles and it seemed to work fine from near the hotel, so I didn't head there. If you stay in Waikiki, you'll need to get out of town to have low noise. Last time I ran up near Haunama Bay and points north. Your choice. It was quiet enough (zero noise) by the hotel in the park.

I sent in for RAN ALL Hawaii to Bob, KC6AWX, MARAC Award Custodian, and the certificate for Second Time was issued promptly. That was the 50th state. . It won't show up in the database since all the RAN ALL XXX state Second Time are now 'unnumbered' and won't show up in the database any longer (they did until mid August – then vanished). That was the last state for me. As of mid September, all the Ran a State Second time have vanished. Gone. Guess that doesn't count for anything any longer. No one will ever see that W1TEE ran 44 states for the second time any longer. Gone. History wiped out. Good thing I printed out things while I could. Or checked. Now there is no way, other than if you have access to the MARAC database itself, and who knows, maybe they don't even enter those new awards any longer? Just spit them out and that is it.

Guess being mobile and getting awards doesn't sit high with the database folks or the 'MARAC' powers that be? Once upon a time, MARAC was the MOBILE awards club. Now, it seems that you get a listing for working all counties 16 or more times, but get no listing for putting out a state (and spending money for gas and motels and car wear) a second or third time. To work all counties the 17th time probably costs you \$15 in electricity and that's about it to run the rig for two years. Is having one county hunter work all counties 27 times (and being listed) more important to be listed than mobiles being on the road and putting out the counties? (16 for papa and 11 for junior, same station, same operator, total 27).

There is currently no award for RAN ALL USA Second time. Actually, there is no official award for first time either....you just wind up with a trophy after you transmit from all of them, but no award. (see last month's issue for the low down on that). Now, I didn't run any state a second time before I had run them all a first time.

You can run a state many times consecutively. I just figured it would be easier (and I kept a separate 'coloring book' record for second time) to just run them all a second time after I finished totally the first time.. I applied for the Ran All XXX State awards as I finished them off. I've probably run half a dozen states a third and fourth time, but did track or apply for those awards. I've just been plodding along on Second time xmit.

Now I can work on the third time. Second is done. Well, at least I can think about doing it. That's a BIG challenge to finish them just once, no less 3 times.

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During the trip, I set the keyer speed down at 22 wpm. The usual is up around 27. I think that helped – there was long QSB – fading up and down every five seconds or so. For weak signals, the somewhat slower speeds helped. Did that on the AK trip too.

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finishing up the trip

I'd run the county at 'sunrise' the next morning and once after. Bob, N8KIE, spends winters there in Honolulu county and puts it out, and there are loads of stations in Honolulu. It's probably the least 'rare' of the HI counties.

Before I left on the trip, I tried to arrange a visit to the USS Missouri, KH6BB, radio room. John, K1ER hooked me up with WH6Q, and the Saturday was set for a meet date at 12 noon. I drove over to the parking lot for the Arizona Memorial/Bowfin Sub & Museum, and Ford Island shuttle. Bought the ticket for the Big Mo tour. I had lots of time so I went through the Bowfin Sub Museum. Interesting if you are into submarines. Good museum and you can go onto the sub.

Ford Island is still an active military base, so you have to take the tourist shuttle to get there.

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from their website:

“USS Bowfin (SS-287) is a fleet attack submarine that fought in the Pacific during WWII, and helped to make famous the term, “Silent Service.” Bowfin was launched on

7 December 1942, exactly one year to the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor. She was nicknamed the Pearl Harbor Avenger, so it is fitting that she is permanently homeported at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

<http://www.bowfin.org/>

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Around 11:15 I wandered over via the shuttle to the USS Missouri entrance, and met John, WH6Q, at 12 noon on the quarterdeck. He had 2 others meeting him there that day.

We headed to 'radio central'. The KH6BB crew are trying to restore the ship to the condition it was in when it was decommissioned in the '90s right after the first Gulf War. At that time, it would be full of teletype and data type equipment. They did have a few receivers from the WW2 era in a different section. The radio room is large – with dozens of racks of equipment.



KH6BB – circa 1980-1990

In two separate corners are operating ham rigs able to be on different bands at the same

time. I'd put out KH6BB and hopefully get into lots of logs of county hunters. I could self spot from there using W6RK.com

Ford Island is right in the middle of downtown Pearl Harbor and the station has very high noise level – like S9 on 20M SSB and close to that on 15 meters. I fire up the rig and put out a call on the CHNet. Work just a few county hunters on 15 cw even with a spot. You've got to be strong to get through. It was after the optimum time – after 2230z. I tried CQ'ing a few times on cw – busted the pile for W1AW/5 in TX. Otherwise, not much action. Four contacts in the log in 2 hours. The A index was way up there. So was the K index. The other op on SSB managed to make only 3 QSO in two hours trying 20, 17, 15m. It wasn't a good propagation day and folks didn't need KH6BB. Or we couldn't hear you! Oh well! I was there. The Big Mo is impressive. If you're out that way, take a tour. Maybe you'll have a better propagation day. The noise level unfortunately is VERY high at this QTH.

If you want, they'll let you make a call or two with your own call if you need an 'official contact' from Honolulu county – if you should wind up there with no HF radio on a vacation.

Here's some pics of the radio room of the Missouri

<http://kh6bb.org/photos1.html>



Main operating position KH6BB

The battleship was commissioned in June 1944 and saw action in WW2 and Korea. The official surrender of Japanese forces took place on the deck of the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, ending WW2.

After action in Korea, it was mothballed for over a decade. During the Gulf War I, it was put into service once again for a short while to pound the shore defenses of Iraq and give the impression of an amphibious landing by sea. It fired Tomahawk missiles as well as several hundred rounds of 16 inch diameter shells. Then it was decommissioned once again in the early 1990s.

In reality, the era of the giant battleships ended prior to WW2. Japan spent tons of money building battleships that would fight the US battleships (hopefully almost none after the sneak attack at Pearl Harbor) and give them a dominant position in sea power in the Pacific. As it turned out, the Japanese aircraft carriers/planes were the ones that sank the US battleships in the sneak attack, there never was a confrontation between fleets of battleships in large battles, and the war at that point was fought at longer distances by aircraft carriers and planes, and submarines. Battleships played almost no role fighting each other compared to the 'air war'. That was 'yesterday's war' (WW1 and prior). The US sank Japanese battle ship after battleship – by air.

I goofed off for another 2 days. Went to the Dole Pineapple Plantation and rode their mini-train 2 miles around the pineapple fields. It's a toursity trap thing. It's worth a visit if you are in central Oahu. They'll give you the run down of the pineapple industry in HI. Worth the visit.



Interesting. <http://www.dole-plantation.com/>

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Hawaii Railroads – a tangent -

Hawaii is rich in rail history albeit little of it remains in place today. While the islands have never had a large railroad presence they were served by a number of common-carrier railroads over the years, including dozens of private sugar plantation railroads. Today, the State of Hawaii has no operating freight or passenger railroads and its only functioning railroad services are tourist lines. Hawaiian railroads have a history that is a bit complex due to the fact that most of the islands had some type of railroad operating on them at one time or another.

Hawaii's earliest history with railroads is often credited to the Island of Kauai, whose first system opened in 1881 on three miles of narrow-gauge track at the Kilauea Plantation to haul sugar cane. By 1915 the island boasted over 200 miles of track, all of which served several sugar plantations on the island, although by the 1950s most of the island's railroads were abandoned. Today, Kauai once again has an operating railroad, the 2.5-mile Kauai Plantation Railway, a tourist railroad that operates seven days a

week.

The Island of Oahu's railroad history dates back to 1889 when the Oahu Railway & Land Company opened its 12-mile line between Honolulu and Aiea. Over the next roughly 20 years the railroad continued to expand and grow, mostly serving sugar plantations, local industry and hauling passengers.

In the railroad's final form it stretched all of the past Waimea Bay and Sunset Beach to Kahuku, where it served a sugar mill there, including an 11-mile branch to Wahiawa to serve local pineapple fields. After World War II the railroad's infrastructure was almost entirely worn out after heavy use during the war to transport material and troops. (Then the tsunami came and did it in)

The Island of Maui's railroad history dates back to 1890 when the island's large Pioneer Mill, which harvested sugar cane, built a short railroad to better move its product to market. The railroad lasted until around 1950 when trucking and mechanical farm machinery was more cost effective than railroads. However, the railroad did not disappear. In 1969 A.W. "Mac" McKelvy partnered with the Makai Corporation and began the Lahaina-Kaanapali & Pacific Railroad, better known as the *Sugar Cane Train*. The railroad has become extremely popular over the last 39 years and currently operates six miles of track

The large Island of Hawaii's railroad history is best remembered with the Hawaii Consolidated Railway, one of the state's only standard-gauge railroad operations. The railroad was originally chartered as the Hilo Railroad on March 28th, 1899, to connect the Olaa sugar mill with Waiakea, a distance of eight miles. As the years progressed the railroad made numerous extensions, which included lines to Olaa, Kapoho (17 miles), Hilo itself and later a 12.5-mile line north of Olaa to Glenwood, although the latter was later scaled back in the early 1930s. The railroad continued to grow in the 20th century with a 33.5-mile line up the Hamakua coast.

This extension was extremely expensive with numerous tunnels and bridges which forced the railroad into receivership in 1914. It emerged as the Hawaii Consolidated Railway and continued moving people and goods through World War II (its Hamakua Division was very popular with tourists). As was the case with the Oahu Railway & Land Company, however, the massive and devastating tsunami on April 1st, 1946 destroyed numerous bridges and washed out the right-of-way in several locations instantly forcing the railroad to shutdown. Today, the Hawaiian Railway Society has rebuilt over six miles of track on the Island of Hawaii, with future plans for further extensions with excursions offered over the railroad. The society is also home to the

state's most extensive collection of railroad equipment.

Courtesy of <http://www.american-rails.com/hawaiian-railroads.html>

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Headed home

Then I chilled the next day getting set for the trip back home. I was set. The mission had been accomplished. Most folks got their counties. Conditions weren't great but with help from N0KV, Barry, for relays and other helpers, most got through. (one or two didn't get the memo about ONLY 22s on relays. When you are 'at the noise ', don't be confusing me or make me strain too hard to decipher whether you are sending tu-tu or three three. From AK and HI, if you NEED a relay, you are TWO TWO! OK?). With QSB going up and down two or 3 s units, one second you're copyable and the next two seconds you're in the noise. TWO-TWO!

The American Airlines flight left at 4:45pm on the Wednesday. It was a red eye and the flight time was 7 hours. Of course, it was more than 12 hours door to door travel time, and I had spent a bunch of time at the airport after turning in the car, so it was a long day/night. I landed at 5:10 am Dallas time, waited for Super Shuttle and was home a bit after six am. Didn't get much sleep that 'night' but I'll catch up in the next few days. There was a five hour time change. Normally it takes about one day per time zone change to get you back to 'normal'.

Bottom Line: There are 3077 counties. It's fun to visit all of them the first time. It gets to be a chore to do it a second time as the count gets up there and the counties are further and further from home. Also gets more expensive! Ouch! By 2008, I had run over 2500 counties the second time in six years. The last 500 took six more years! It was a goal I set and finally met. Initially thought I'd be the second to do it, but it turns out N4CD is the first and (only) at this time to have done it. (now, with the disappearance of all the Ran A State Second Time awards listing, no one will have a clue if anyone is closing in on Ran All USA a second time – or third time). Oh well, might be time for more awards from the County Hunter News this year! Heh heh! Awards for MOBILE OPERATION, what MARAC was supposed to be!

Time to start running them for the third time? Maybe. No hurry! It took 12 years the second time....don't know if I'll ever finish a 3rd time. And two cars wore out getting there. I'd be an octogenarian. Maybe they need to create a 3rd Time Ran All USA award to get me motivated? Hi hi.

Hope you caught me in the ones you needed. It was a bit tough with the conditions, but many calls made it into the logs. Other than spending weeks waiting for near zero A index conditions, there's not much you can do to work around the solar cycle and hit optimum times for the path length.

Aloha Y'all!

On the Trail of Regens

Two issues ago, in the July issue, we showed a picture of two regen receivers in the back room of the Fire Station where the Juneau Radio Club set up for Field Day. I dropped them a note to inquire about the two receivers and how they got there. The response:

“Hi Bob,

We may have met at the Juneau Radio Club field day event. Another ham, Glen Sics, told me you were inquiring about the regen receivers I brought for a display. So, here's the dope:

The transistor regen is a Charles Kitchin design known as "a simple regen radio for beginners". A board is available from Far Circuits for about \$6.00. I wound the coil for the broadcast band using partly educated guessing. I originally built this radio to try to receive weather reports from broadcast stations while moose hunting in a remote location. A regular portable radio I had tried just wouldn't do the job. This little radio pulled in the station crystal clear! It's amazing what such a simple radio will do.

The other set uses a 6bf6 tube, and came out of "The Boys' First Book of Radio and Electronics" by Alfred Morgan. I got the book when I was about in 6th grade, and had built the set then, but had mixed results in operation, probably because of the used parts I scrounged. So last winter I decided to rebuild the radio and use it as a test bed for a home built "vernier drive". I got the idea from someone on the internet, so I just

developed it a bit, with some machined parts, and I am pleased with the result. It's a smooth feeling tuning reduction drive without backlash. I hope to use it with a more worth while circuit someday. There are several tube regen circuits online that are claimed to be very good, and I'd like to try one. The 6bf6 circuit works but not as well as the transistor model. These two are my only experiences with regen radios, but so far I like them

Maybe we'll meet at another field day.

73,

Ron
WL7ZN

“Radically Transforming America”

He promised, that if elected, he would 'radically transform' the United States. He is doing it.

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“40% of U.S. on Welfare; Obamacare Expands Welfare by 23 Million; More on Welfare Than Full-Time-Employed

As a result of Obamacare Medicaid expansion coupled with means-tested Obamacare assistance, I estimate welfare rolls expanded from 35.4% of the population in 2012 to about 40% in 2014.

Let's go through the math to see how I make that estimate.

The latest welfare statistics are from year-end 2012. Those figures show 35.4 Percent: 109,631,000 on Welfare.

109,631,000 living in households taking federal welfare benefits as of the end of 2012, according to the Census Bureau, equaled 35.4 percent of all 309,467,000 people living in the United States at that time.

When those receiving benefits from non-means-tested federal programs — such as Social Security, Medicare, unemployment and veterans benefits — were added to those taking welfare benefits, it turned out that 153,323,000 people were getting federal benefits of some type at the end of 2012.

Subtract the 3,297,000 who were receiving veterans' benefits from the total, and that leaves 150,026,000 people receiving non-veterans' benefits.

The 153,323,000 total benefit-takers at the end of 2012, said the Census Bureau, equaled 49.5 percent of the population. The 150,026,000 taking benefits other than veterans' benefits equaled about 48.5 percent of the population.

In 2012, according to the Census Bureau, there were 103,087,000 full-time year-round workers in the United States (including 16,606,000 full-time year-round government workers). Thus, the welfare-takers outnumbered full-time year-round workers by 6,544,000. (The workers paying in were only 2/3rds of the number receiving federal benefits).

Breakdown by Category

- 82,679,000 Medicaid
- 51,471,000 Food Stamps
- 22,526,000 Women, Infants and Children Program
- 20,355,000 Supplemental Security Income
- 13,267,000 Public Housing or Housing Subsidies
- 5,442,000 Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
- 4,517,000 Other Forms of Federal Cash Assistance

Population Estimates (2013 estimates)

- California 38,332,521
- Texas 26,448,193
- New York 19,651,127
- Florida 19,552,860

Those four states have a population of 103,984,701. Those on welfare nearly totals that amount.

BLS figures show 115.735 million "usually" working full time at the end of 2012. There are currently 118.489 million "usually" working full time.

Obamacare Welfare Expansion

Inquiring minds may be asking "How did Obamacare effect welfare numbers?"

Let's take a look.

Anyone making up to 400% of the federal poverty minimum is eligible for some assistance. That's about 17 million according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Also note that 28 states expanded Medicaid under Obamacare: AZ, AR, CA, CO, DE, DC, HI, IL, IA, KY, MD, MA, MN, MA, NH, NV, NJ, UT, NM, NY, ND, OH, OR, PA, RI, VT, WA, WV.

On June 4, the US Department of Health and Human Services reported Medicaid Enrollment Shows Continued Growth in April.

"As of the end of April, 6 million more individuals were enrolled in Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) as compared to the period before the initial open enrollment under the Affordable Care Act started."

In addition to regular expansion of welfare, it's safe to conclude Obamacare expanded the welfare rolls by at least 23 million.

More will come.

Welfare vs. Full-Time Employment

Let's take the 2012 welfare total of 109,631,000 and add the 6 million Obamacare Medicaid expansion and the 17 million who get Obamacare subsidies and you have a minimum of 126 million receiving some sort of means-tested welfare vs. 118.5 million who "usually" work full time.

Welfare vs. Population

The 2013 US Population Estimate is 316 million.

Using 316 million as a rough estimate of the 2014 population (it would likely be higher) and 126 million on welfare (that number is also higher, perhaps way higher), about 40% of the country is on some form of means-tested welfare, up from 35.4% at the end of 2012.

Over 50% of the country gets welfare or some other form of non-means-tested assistance. I estimate about 56% or so.”

Read more at <http://globaleconomicanalysis.blogspot.com/2014/08/40-of-country-on-welfare-obamacare.html#UaYLkLyxeHm5UOJW.99>

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de N4CD:

Some will argue that they 'paid in' for Social Security and Medicare. Sorry, folks, Congress borrowed and spent that money as soon as they got their hands on your payments while you were working. There is no pot of money, just a giant vault filled with IOUs. The only way those IOUs can be redeemed is for the government to borrow even more money to pay for them, and hope that somehow someone will be able to pay the interest on tens of trillions, later 100s of trillions of debt. Don't count on it.

In addition, Obama continues to run up 4-7 trillion additional liabilities a year, every year, in unfunded liabilities – money promised to be paid in the future, but not set aside now. The unfunded liabilities are approaching 100 trillion dollars, way beyond what the US will ever be able to afford to pay or borrow.

It all will come crashing down in less than 20-25 years. Taxes will double, payouts will fall, and there will be means testing for Social Security and Medicare, with reductions in what you get based on what other income you have. That's the 'best case'. The worst case is just total collapse of the government finance machine and 'bankruptcy'.

The math doesn't lie. When more are taking out than putting in, the outcome is obvious. When you will need to tax people at 50% of their incomes, to pay benefits to others.....they won't. People will revolt. Things will collapse. When, between the state and the feds, and your local real estate taxes, the sum approaches 70-75% of your paycheck, folks will revolt. It won't end nicely. That's the situation in Europe now, and those economies are stalling – soon to go into depression.

Hey, but the folks in Washington will tell you 'all is fine'. They aren't going to 'steal' your benefits or SS or reduce them. The 'Money Fairy' will provide. Right. And with a trillion dollars a year in 'help the poor' programs, poverty has been eliminated, no one goes to bed hungry, there are no drug problems, crime has been eliminated, and everyone has a job after getting a good education. We are still borrowing a half trillion each and every year just to 'run' the government. Dream on.

Colorado QSO Party

Yes, the stations were on and there were some mobiles to chase around the state. Most folks reported making about 20 QSOs on CW into CO. The CO stations made 200 contacts or so. Not quite the activity like OH and KS QSO Parties but several 'rare' counties were on the air for the county hunters.

from the 3830 reflector:

K0EU portable CO 148 cw 542 ssb

A new rule this year prompted me at the last minute to enter as a portable instead of a mobile. On Friday, I ginned up a 40M inverted L which consisted of a 33 foot wire supported by a 20 foot fiberglass mast which lashed to the side of my Pathfinder. The new antenna showed promise vs the hamstick, and I thought it could be a "secret weapon" to garnish additional county multipliers from the mobiles (W0ZA, W0ETT, KO7X) on 40M during the day. As it turns out, I didn't get very many multipliers on 40M. Most came from QSO's on 20M CW and there were zero QSO's with any SSB mobiles. Probably my fault for not checking often enough.

I operated from a location on a 9400 foot high ridge between Idaho Springs and Blackhawk, Colorado on the county line of Gilpin and Clear Creek. Operating as a portable allowed me to give out two counties for the price of one QSO, which is a huge advantage score wise. The site has a nice view of the Colorado plains

to the east, and a clear shot to the west. Seemed like at least half of the Q's were from AZ/CA/OR/WA/BC so the QTH was a good choice.

I planned to get to the site just after 6 AM, and figured maybe 10 minutes to get the 40M L up. In reality, I arrived at just before 7 AM. Although I had pruned and tested the L at my home the day before, the antenna was resonating at about 7500 Khz. I figured it was due to differences in ground effects. I ended up adding about 3 feet of extra wire to get it resonant. I then discovered that the 20M hamstick was getting detuned by the 40M L. I finally had to move it to the hood so it was broadbanded enough to do CW and SSB. All of the retuning took a lot more time than I had planned on. I was burning BIC time!

Finally got going at 7:30 AM local time, which is 90 minutes after the official start of the contest. Things started out slow. Prop appeared to be down compared to last year. I think it was W7GKF that told me in an SSB QSO that the A index was 21 and the K was 3. Not a good sign. I plugged away, though. I did quite a bit of passing mults from CW to SSB and vice-versa. Many thanks to all the ops that cooperated, especially the one phone op that pulled his dusty key out of a drawer!

Maybe the altitude affected me. I forgot the fact that CW QSO's are worth twice the points of SSB QSO's. CW seemed slow, and I concentrated on working numerous 2 by 3 callsigns KB6aaa through KK6zzz. Phone rates were decent at around 50-60 per hour. When I switched to CW, there was an initial burst of QSO's followed by the inevitable slowdown. In all, I spent about 5 hours on CW and 9.5 hours on phone. Only breaks were to "water" the aspen grove nearby. I bested my mobile score from last year (which was for operation from two different county lines) by about 1.5 percent.

Had several storm fronts move through, with heavy rain and wind. Thankfully, there wasn't any lightning and I didn't have to shut down. By 9:30 PM, with 30 minutes to go in the contest, the rate slowed to a crawl. I decided to throw in the towel. In pitch black darkness and the temp down to about 40 degrees, I disassemble the 40M antenna and packed up for the drive home.

Thanks to all the Colorado ops that turned out for this one, especially the mobiles, and thanks also to the hundreds of casual ops that stopped in for a contact.

A funny side note: I used the voice recorder of the K-3 *A LOT* and it was a real life saver. My CQ mentioned "all I need is your name and state". At least a half dozen times during the contest, someone would come back and say "This is Joe in California". No callsign, just their name and state. I about busted a gut every time this happened!

73

Randy(Ken) K0EU

KO7X mobile - 153 cw 15 ssb QSO

I operated from 10 counties on a 270 mile route from Sedgwick county in the northeast corner to Larimer county north of Denver. I spent about 5 hours driving, and 5 hours on the air. Excellent weather except for a short rain shower in Boulder county. No mishaps, everything worked, but the propagation was poor. Most of my QSOs were on 20 CW. 15 never opened - I tried a few times. Lowest score - Sedgwick, 144; highest score - Boulder, 4320. DX QSOs - 4. Thanks to OM2VL, UA3AGW and HA9RE who somehow pulled me out of the mud. Yes, it was that bad. Thanks to all who called in.

KN4Y – fixed FA 51 cw QSO 27 mults

I was hoping for some potluck operating CW, but it was not in the leaves. There was some mobile activity and some fixed stations on CW. Mostly a 20-meter activity, except for some 15-meter openings that only a few realized. The bands got noisy late in the party so quit and went in to watch the FSU football game.

K0UK – fixed – Mesa CO 146 cw 204 ssb qso

HAD A GREAT TIME. IT WAS GOOD TO MEET OTHER GMCC'ER AND A FIST FULL OF CALLS THAT WERE NEW TO ME.

THANKS TO THE PORTABLES AND MOBILES THAT MADE THE TREK TO SUPPLY US HOME STATIONS WITH MULTIPLIERS.

BILL UK

N6MU – fixed CA 100 cw 34 mults

N0TA – Jackson CO portable 12 cw

Did a QRP SOTA activation in Jackson county (Independence Mountain). Thanks for the Q's!

AD1C fixed CO 153 cw 110 ssb

Nothing on 15 meters except for K0MT in Adams. N6MU tried to move me. He heard me weakly, but I heard nothing from him.

I worked at least one new CO country since moving to CO (Alamosa), but there could have been others.

Thanks to all the mobiles and fixed stations for getting on the air, and to all those across the country and across the world who called in.

W0RAA fixed CO - 87 cw 100 ssb

I don't know what it was like in other parts of the country, but band conditions were really lousy here. I think it was one way propagation. Guys were telling me that I was S9 plus, and I could barely hear some of them. Maybe something is haywire with my receiver. I don't think so, but who knows? Ten meters was dead, 15 was the same, 20 shut down early, and 40 shut down early evening. I didn't hear anything on the low end of 80. Heard a lot of RTTY stations in the SCC RTTY Contest. Had a lot of guys ask me if there were many Colorado stations on. If so, they were not hearing hardly anybody from Colorado. Go figure. Thanks to those who had the patience to hang in there with me. It was still fun.

Failure of Big Government Economy

Despite assurances from politicians and most economists of Keynesian persuasion, not only did the biggest and most rapid increase in our federal debt burden [in the six years ending June 2014] since WW II fail to boost the economy, it coincided with the weakest recovery in history—growth of only 2.2% per year on average. This is not a problem of not spending enough, it is a failure of ideology, and arguably the most expensive such failure in the history of the world.

Here's the failure in a nutshell: The government can't stimulate the economy by borrowing from Peter and sending a check to Paul, because that doesn't create any new demand—it's like taking a bucket of water from one end of the pool and pouring it into the other end; the level of the water doesn't change. And the government can't stimulate the economy by spending more, because the government is notoriously inefficient (not to mention the fraud, waste, and incompetence that surround most major public initiatives); the private sector is far more likely to spend its money wisely and productively than the government is. Growth only happens when an economy produces more from a given amount of resources—when productivity rises. And productivity only rises when people work more, smarter, and more efficiently, and that takes hard work and risk. You can't just dial up productivity, you have to work for it. We can't "spend our way to prosperity," as the late and great Jude Wanniski told us.

Here's my interpretation of what really happened in a nutshell: the private sector generated \$8.9 trillion of profits in the past six years, and the federal government borrowed 83% of those profits to fund a massive increase in transfer payments, income redistribution, bailouts, subsidies, and a modest increase in infrastructure spending (only 8% of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act went to transportation and infrastructure).

What happened to all the profits? Almost all of the most incredible surge in profits in modern times was squandered by our government, flushed down the Keynesian drain.

The past six years in effect have been a laboratory experiment to determine whether Keynesian economic theory is valid. The result? Keynesian economic theory is (or should be) officially dead. It doesn't work. Government can't boost the economy by borrowing or spending more money. Politicians will be unhappy to hear this, of course,

since they would prefer that we think they can dispense growth and prosperity on demand. Those who insist in perpetrating this myth should be voted out of office.

Source: <http://www.aei-ideas.org/2014/08/past-6-years-have-been-a-laboratory-experiment-in-keynesian-economic-theory-result-it-failed-and-is-now-officially-dead/>

Tennessee QSO Party

from the 3830 contest reflector:

W4NZ – fixed

This was the first time since 2007 that we were not able to run the mobile for the TQP. Last-minute mechanical difficulties with the vehicle caused us to stay home. Apologies to those who were looking for some of the rare counties we planned to activate. This party was fun even from home. But it's REALLY fun from the mobile. :)) I envy N4ZZ, NY4N, W4SIG and the others. They did a great job.

Special kudos to Kirk K4RO and crew for hosting the K4TCG bonus station and Ned K1GU and all the gang who put W1AW/4 on the air.

Thanks to everyone who called in to say hello. See you next year/m.

N4ZZ mobile – 1174 cw QSO

This was our 5th mobile operation in the TNQP. We did not score as high as last year (1247 Q's, 146 Mults). It seemed as though participation was down, and conditions were not as good as they were previously. Many of the expected regulars (domestic and DX) unfortunately were not active.

As usual, signal conditions improved as time progressed. There were some really huge pileups during the last hour of the contest. If the full 9 hours had the rates of the last hour, Don and I would be exhausted by the end. The high

rates are what makes it fun for us, thanks all for hanging in there as we tried to work everyone. We went to 15m quite often, but only worked a few stations up there like N6MU (12 times).

We had to make some route changes on the fly because of construction, so we to skip a county to stay on schedule. We always try to stay close to our published county line crossing times, which we put on QRZ.com before the contest under AD4EB or N4ZZ. Some of you may wonder why we left 20m so early. We have to take down our Hustler 20/15m traps when we put our 80m top hat and 80m trap. It is important for us to get the 80m multipliers. This is something we need to work on.

Chris K5LH gets the most QSOs award with 32 contacts. Way to go Chris, you were always 'there' and a great operator. And for DX, we worked Leszek SP9LJD 18 times. Nice job and good signals Leszek, hope to see you in the contest next year.

Here are the top 20 stations for the number of QSOs, thanks for helping to keep us going:

K5LH(32)
N6MU(29)
VE3KZ(26)
K4MM(25)
K3TW(23)
NT2A(23)
KQ3F(22)
K2DSW(21)
N4PN(19)
N4UC(19)
SP9LJD(18)
NU0Q(17)
W1END(17)
K4DJ(15)
K5CM(15)
K6MM(15)
KE0G(15)
KI0I(15)
K4BSK(14)
KN4Y(14)

VE3KP(14)
W8POF(14)

Thanks again to Melody for being our trusted driver and navigator, you are the best. She also wants to thank Tom, K3TW for the hello during the contest.

Hope to see you all next year in TNQP 2015.

73 - Jim (AD4EB), Don (N4ZZ), and Melody (KI4HVV)

N2WN mobile QRP – 180 cw qso

Another QRP mobile run under the belt, conditions were only so-so. Missed many of the QP "regulars", but happy to work a bunch of new folks.

Added new counties this year, one on request, which was great as it turned into my second best county.

Started in Knox, SEVI, JEFF, HAMB, COCK, GREE, HAWK, GRAI, UNIO and covered a couple twice. GREE was a major disappointment, had a great spot up high and in the clear, but only managed 3 QSOs, on the other hand Cocke was down in a narrow valley with power lines... go figure hihi.

K2DSW worked me 8 times for top spot, K5LH 6, VE3KZ 5, NU0Q 5, W4SIG 5. KI0I 4 and had some hopes of making a 15M Q with him, but no go. No one worked me in all of 'em.

I worked more TN mobiles this year, W4SIG had a consistent solid signal, N4ZZ was either LOUD or just copyable. TX, NC, IA, FL and OH were the most common multipliers. I never heard anyone past NM. Good to work a nice variety of Canadian Provinces with VE2FK, VE3KZ, VE5KS and VE9AA. DX was a bit sparse but SP9LJD, SP5SA, OK1CF and UA3AGW all managed a contact.

My setup was based on a 1997 Toyota Tacoma with a HB bumper mount for the Hustler with 80, 40 and 20 resonators this trip. The rig was an Elecraft K3 (which evidently I haven't touched in a very long time, some of the settings were for a demo I had done, and for the life of me, I couldn't recall where to change them to something more mobile friendly. Left my preferred CW headphones

with the adapter on the table, so had to use the Heil headset, not the best range for my hearing to dig out weak CW signals.

Thanks to all who came out to play and who pulled my signal out of the mud.

72,
Julius
n2wn

SP9LJD – DX

Thank you very much for the run TN mobiles. I worked N4ZZ/M (the strongest and quickest) 19 counties, NY4N good signal and op. 13 counties, N2WN (I thought he is not TN, and I see after contest he was QRP, so I miss few possible QSO's with him) 3 counties, W4SIG only 40m 2 counties, NS2X 1 counties all CW. On Phone I KJ4BIX from 4 counties. On SSB I have to fight with heavy splatter from AA contest and no possibility to work TN guys all were about 7200 not allowed for EU. On CW 7040 with heavy EU splatter. I stopped 2 hours before the end at 3.00 am local time beacuse I have had important meeting early morning few miles away.

I love this game all QP are became my favorite contest this year.

W4UX portable

K3/100 - 88 ft. doublet fed with open wire in inverted vee fashion about 35' high.

Operated portable from Watauga Lake in Johnson County near Butler.
Had a good time but too many distractions at the lake to divert my attention.

CW County Hunter Contest Results

This year, MARAC did not sponsor an annual County Hunter Contest. Norm, W3DYA stepped up and announced, promoted and scored the CW County Hunter Contest. It was sponsored by the CW County Hunter Net. Here's the results he sent out.

Top scorer was K5YAA, who activated 27 counties in OK. Right on his tail was W0GXQ in Minnesota. Jerry, W0GXQ, and Jeff, W9MSE, NU0Q, KN4Y ran in two states and there is a combined total for them. (So did N4CD). However, by the rules, you enter for each state.

There were 26 mobile entries (with 5 of them listed in 2 states for 31 submissions).

On the fixed category there were 53 entries from the US, and 16 DX entries.

from Norm, W3DYA

MOBILE						COUNTIES
CALL	SCORE	QSOs	POINTS	MULTS	STATE	ACTIVATED
W0GXQ	1,422,556	818	5,009	284	Total	29
W9MSE	1,280,032	1,030	4,706	272	total	41
K5YAA	1,261,000	1,140	4,850	260	OKLAHOMA	27
W0GXQ	942,585	648	4,011	235	MINNESOTA	22
N4CD	804,440	586	3,640	221	TEXAS	27
NY4N	764,439	983	3,459	221	KENTUCKY	41
W3DYA	636,577	723	3,517	181	TEXAS	32
W9MSE	570,392	686	3,034	188	WISCONSIN	28
K7TM	534,990	859	3,147	170	IDAHO	28
WC5D	531,060	626	3,340	159	TEXAS	28
NU0Q	506,800	580	2,800	181	TOTAL	35

KN4Y	344,488	528	2,312	149 TOTAL	22
NU0Q	168,336	337	1,503	112 IOWA	18
NU0Q	140,690	239	1,279	110 ILINOIS	16
WA2MUA	169,299	127	1,447	117 TOTAL	4
KN4Y	125,130	258	1,290	97 GEORGIA	10
W0GXQ	95,808	170	998	96 NORTH DAKOTA	7
KN4Y	86,870	270	1,022	85 FLORIDA	12
AG6V	77,770	75	1,111	70 NEW YORK	2
W9MSE	73,062	196	902	81 IOWA	7
N4CD	53,613	117	777	69 NEW MEXICO	3
WA2MUA	52,780	70	812	65 NEW YORK	3
W5PR	47,523	205	651	73 COLORADO	14
AB7RW	46,413	117	573	81 WASHINGTON	12
WA2MUA	35,560	57	635	56 OREGON	1
K2RP	26,390	63	455	58 CALIFORNIA	2
W9MSE	19,404	82	396	49 MINESOTTA	3
W9MSE	9,554	45	281	34 MICHIGAN	2
N5XG	1,938	24	102	19 TEXAS	2
W9MSE	1,488	21	93	16 ILLINOIS	1
K1TKL	3,384	20	188	18 CALIFORNIA	2
NU0Q	72	4	18	4 WISCONSIN	1
TOTALS	10,834,443	11,704	58,358	3,831	482

FIXED

CALL	SCORE	QSO's	POINTS	Mult's	State	County
N8II	2,313,256	542	5,962	388	WEST VIRGINIA	JEFFERSON
NT2A	2,107,876	484	5,518	382	NEW YORK	RICHMOND
WA2VYA	2,027,214	489	5,363	378	FLORIDA	LEON
N6MU	1,423,968	380	4,564	312	CALIFORNIA	ORANGE
KC3X	1,375,878	357	4,879	282	NORTH CAROLINA	GREENE
K2DSW	990,045	387	3,143	315	IOWA	WARREN
K5KPE	826,184	282	3,386	244	ARKANSAS	BENTON
W0EAR	774,435	277	3,037	255	MINESOTTA	RAMSEY
N1QY	536,855	205	2,497	215	MASSACHUSETTS	MIDDLESEX
AD1C	364,872	209	1,983	184	COLORADO	ADAMS
W2CVW	245,840	162	1,756	140	NEW JERSEY	MIDDLESEX
K4XI	240,792	128	1,896	127	FLORIDA	ORANGE
N7JPF	225,425	133	1,775	127	WASHINGTON	YAKIMA
N2JNE	186,147	113	1,443	129	NEW YORK	ULSTER

KM4FO	133,900	110	1,300	103KENTUCKY	HOPKINS
N4VA	131,460	114	1,252	105VIRGINIA	FAIRFAX
N5NK	118,776	112	1,176	101TEXAS	MILLS
W7GF	100,810	94	1,186	85OREGON	LANE
W2RR	93,612	145	807	116NEW YORK	ERIE
N1API	92,640	80	1,158	80CONNECTICUT	NEW HAVEN
WA7JHQ	80,028	97	1,053	76NEW MEXICO	BERNALILLO
N6PDB	69,696	72	968	72CALIFORNIA	SANTA CRUZ
K7ZYV	65,860	78	890	74MISSISSIPPI	JACKSON
K1BV	63,438	130	654	97CONNECTICUT	TOLLAND
N4BAI	54,112	118	608	89GEORGIA	MUSCOGEE
WO4O	50,058	106	618	81FLORIDA	LAKE
KO7X	44,019	87	603	73WYOMING	LARAMIE
W9ILY	43,120	82	616	70ILLINOIS	GRUNDY
KA3QLF	42,166	63	727	58PENNSYLVANIA	LACKAWANNA
WB0CFF	40,986	78	594	69MINNESOTA	SCOTT
K2UFT	29,705	91	457	65GEORGIA	DE KALB
N8CIJ	27,636	47	588	47OHIO	ASHLAND
W5ASP	27,115	61	493	55TEXAS	HARRIS
WIWMU	21,735	87	315	69MAINE	WASHINGTON
N9QS	19,512	38	542	36ILLINOIS	MADISON
K2MF	15,873	33	481	33NEW JERSEY	ESSEX
WN4AFP	15,555	53	305	51SOUTH CAROLINA	GREENVILLE
NS8O	14,928	55	311	48OHIO	MEIGS
K2RP	10,912	33	341	32CALIFORNIA	SAN DIEGO
K0RC	5,408	26	208	26MINNESOTA	CHISAGO
K4XU	5,130	31	171	30OREGON	DESCHUTES
N5XG	4,900	21	245	20TEXAS	TARRANT
N2UU	4,161	23	219	19NEW JERSEY	CAMDEN
KV4QS	2,860	25	143	20FLORIDA	MIAMI-DADE
N2SO	2,610	16	174	15NEW YORK	RICHMOND
W6TPC	2,171	13	167	13CALIFORNIA	SAN DIEGO
KI4MZC	940	10	94	10GEORGIA	LEE
AD0BI	380	10	38	10IOWA	WARREN
K6CSL	324	18	18	18CALIFORNIA	STANISLAUS
N3NZ	288	6	48	6PENNSYLVANIA	PHILADELPHIA
NI4NN	204	6	34	6FLORIDA	OSCEOLA
KK7X	128	4	32	4IDAHO	KOOTENAIE
K8FZY	16	4	4	4OHIO	TUSCARAWAS

W0JWR	16	4	4	4	WASHINGTON	ISLAND
TOTALS	15,075,975	6,429	66,844	5,468		

DX

CALL	Score	QSO's	POINTS	Mult's	Location
VE5KS	1,226,016	323	4,257	288	CANADA
DL3DXX	221,000	132	1,700	130	GERMANY
YV5OIE	202,154	131	1,657	122	VENEZUELA
SP5SA	68,607	79	891	77	POLAND
DL8USA	58,893	67	879	67	GERMANY
DL6KVA	42,448	58	758	56	GERMANY
OK2EC	33,611	61	551	61	CZECH REPUBLIC
SM6VR	21,760	40	544	40	SWEDEN
DL5ME	17,340	34	510	34	GERMANY
OK1VD	13,056	34	384	34	CZECH REPUBLIC
PA3ARM	5,704	24	248	23	NETHERLANDS
SM5ALJ	5,440	34	160	34	SWEDEN
HB9ARF	3,528	28	126	28	SWITZERLAND
SM6BZV	350	8	50	7	SWEDEN
JA9CWJ	288	6	48	6	JAPAN
HG6IA	144	12	12	12	HUNGARY
TOTALS	1,920,339	1,071	12,775	1,019	

Here's what the award certificates looked like:



Thanks to Norm, we had a US QSO Party this year! (round of applause, please!).

Twilight of Abundance

The Twilight of Abundance
By David Archibald

Baby boomers enjoyed the most benign period in human history. The superpower nuclear standoff gave us fifty years of relative peace. We had cheap energy from an inherent over-supply of oil. Grain supply increased faster than population growth. And the climate warmed due to the highest level of solar activity for eight thousand years. All those trends are now reversing. We are now in the twilight of that age of abundance.

My new book, The Twilight of Abundance, had its beginning almost a decade ago. In 2005, I was asked to replicate the work of a German scientist in climate. When I set out in climate science, I thought if I made it to the US Senate, to give testimony or the like, that would be as far as I could ever get and I would be happy. Thanks to Myron Ebell of

the Competitive Enterprise Institute, I made it to the US Senate in 2011 to give a lecture on climate in a Senate hearing room.

Some progress was made in climate science on the way. In essence, my generation has known a warm, giving Sun, but the next will suffer a Sun that is less giving, and the Earth will be less fruitful. There will be less fruit from the fruited plain and fewer amber waves of grain.

It was also in 2011 that I was introduced to Doctor Chodakiewicz, at The Institute of World Politics, who kindly said that the Institute would welcome a lecture from me any time I was coming through Washington again. I couldn't keep giving the same lecture over and over again but help came in the form of the Arab Spring. That brought up the fact that Egypt imports half its food, a situation that could only end in tears.

That fact started me down a line of enquiry that became a lecture entitled "The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse". That lecture found temporal form in this book.

Who are those four horsemen? A severe, solar-driven cooling is one. Over the next twenty to thirty years, we are going back to the climate of the early 19th century as the best case outcome, or the climate of the late 17th century at worst. Here in the mid-latitudes of North America, growing conditions will move three hundred miles south from their current position. The United States will be producing twenty percent less grain by 2030, taking the United States out of export markets. Grain prices will return to 19th century levels in constant dollar terms.

The second horseman is the fact that a number of countries, but particularly those in the Middle East, are playing a big game of musical chairs. One day the music will stop and there won't be enough grain to feed everybody. This outcome will be brought forward by the climate-driven reduction in grain supply.

The consequent population collapse will take the Middle East back to the population levels of the Napoleonic era. Every grain importing country is at risk to some extent. As Yemen or Afghanistan or Egypt tip over into collapse due to starvation, there will be an immediate bidding war on the world's grain markets for what stocks are available. It will all be a big surprise when it happens.

The third horseman is our energy supply, starting with oil. In short, the oil price has tripled over the last ten years but oil production is no higher. It hasn't responded to the price signal because production is physically constrained by geology. Soon oil production will tip into decline and the price rise will resume and accelerate. We can

solve our long term energy supply problem by commercializing the thorium molten salt reactor. There are literally hundreds of designs for generating nuclear power, but thorium in a liquid salt is the safest with the least waste generation. Commercialising that reactor is absolutely necessary if we are going to maintain a high level of civilization going forward.

The fourth horseman is the Pakistani nuclear bomb program. Not so much their current stockpile of nuclear weapons but the fact that they keep on building more reactors for making weapons-grade plutonium. They have three operating and they are now building their fourth. This is a country with a literacy rate of 55% and frequent power blackouts. Let's not descend into cultural relativism by suggesting that they don't have their priorities right.

The Pakistanis must really like making nuclear bombs. They will still be making nuclear bombs while taking their last breath before the country becomes a failed state. And the completed stockpile will seek a new home. Then things might get really interesting.

Socialism is an archaic and regressive behavior that we left behind in evolutionary terms with the development of agriculture ten thousand years ago. It all has to do with the enormous amount of effort needed to take human babies and infants through to adolescence. That led to group food pooling behaviour in our Palaeolithic forbears. Everything was shared and nobody got ahead no matter how hard they tried. It seems that our species was once hard-wired for socialism.

Fortunately, group food pooling behavior was superseded by the storable surpluses from agriculture and civilization blossomed thereafter. This was the beginning of private property, capital formation, division of labor and all the other good things that led to the level of civilization we now enjoy. Thus conservatism is a more evolved state than socialism.

The main purpose of this book is to prescribe the strategic energy plan that the United States should adopt. Because, if we don't get energy right, we don't have much of a future as a civilization. In short, we should develop the thorium molten salt reactor for power generation. The coal we are currently burning for power generation should be used for making liquid fuels.

Humanity has been given a perfect planet to inhabit. The proportion of ocean to land is just right to sustain a mild climate. Tectonic processes have brought to the surface ore

bodies that contain all the elements we need for advanced civilization. And the atmosphere has the ideal composition and thickness. We were given enough fossil fuels to kick off modern civilization and show us what was possible. We were given the nuclear match to light the fire that will sustain that high level of civilization during the post-fossil fuel eternity.

We lit that match, U235, but haven't yet gone beyond burning the match itself. It is irresponsible of us not to move beyond U235 to thorium, the nuclear fuel that is six hundred times more abundant and safer, cheaper, and cleaner. Our standard of living is directly proportional to how cheap and abundant we make our energy supply. Comparative advantage between nations will also be based on relative energy costs.

All the problems that are coming towards us over the next score of years -- mass starvation and population collapse, climate cooling, nuclear proliferation, Chinese aggression -- will be compounded if our own energy costs are not as low as they could be.

As Admiral Rickover said to the Minnesota State Medical Association almost sixty years ago, a century or even two is but a short span in the history of a great people. It is the responsibility of this generation of that great people to honor the generations who preceded us by preparing for the generations who will follow.

David Archibald, a Visiting Fellow at the Institute of World Politics in Washington, D.C., is the author of *The Twilight of Abundance: Why Life in the 21st Century Will Be Nasty, Brutish, and Short* (Regnery, 2014).

Source:

http://www.americanthinker.com/2014/04/the_twilight_of_abundance.html#ixzz3BvflgEVH

Ohio QSO Party

from the 3830 contest reflector:

These folks don't file too many soapbox comments! Most scores are submitted directly to the OH QP Party webstie.

K8MR mobile 648 cw 206 ssb

Still fun to hit the road. This year we again did the Rover category, stopping to operate with a real antenna (the "33 Ft. HamStick) from 4 of the rarest counties, Carroll, Harrison, Monroe, and Morgan. Most of the SSB QSOs were while stopped in these four places. In the first three I had decent though not great results while parked, but in Morgan county I had a very good run on 40 SSB. Combined with good CW while driving, we had 121 QSOs from there, likely a single county high in my mobile/rover operations.

Conditions were pretty good, especially on 40 meters where propagation existed to most of the state for most of the contest. The higher bands were decent, though not much activity. Most of the 15 meter contacts were QSYs with Uli, DM5EE. Too bad we did not first connect until half way through the contest.

The missing hour was spent operating W1AW/8 on 40 CW from Monroe county, perhaps the rarest county in the state. Results with that were disappointing, not much different from what they would have been with a less prominent call. I guess the other W1AW/8 ops in Ohio had fulfilled the need and demand for W1AW/8 on that band.

Thanks to my driver, AC8E, and all those who followed us and took part in the 2014 Ohio QSO Party.

73 - Jim K8MR

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de N4CD:

from what I can garner, the following stations were out mobile:

K8O	Mobile
AE8M	Mobile
W8UE	Mobile
AB8M	Mobile
WB9CIF	Mobile
AK8H	Mobile
K8MR	Rover

Over 150 others filed scores, but almost no one did on the 3830 reflector – and thus no comments or soapbox other than K8MR!

Darl's Kentucky Trip by NA8W

I was getting antsy to do something before the fall harvest season arrived on the farm and decided to go to Kentucky and wander around the hills. We left the afternoon of 9-11 and drove to the Ohio Kentucky line for the night so we could get a good start going through the hills on Friday morning. I had researched and found many counties needed in Kentucky and most in counties where the sun doesn't shine. I had a spread sheet with each county and the list of hams that needed something in each county. It came in real handy.

We got a little late start Friday morning and all day we were moving pretty fast to get to our motel we had reserved for Saturday night just beyond the Red River Gorge in Powell County.

The pileups were tremendous especially on 40 which was the best band for the entire trip. The solar flare did cause some issues on 20 meters but all in all there were a lot of contacts made on all bands that I tried.

I had been working on my code speed during the last few months and I had made up my mind that I was going to try cw on this trip. SM7ZDI had contacted me via e-mail for a cw request and low and behold my first ever mobile cw contact was made with Vic on 17 meters. I made several other cw contacts with him before I was done. Several others also were the recipient of my bad sending before my key broke. I was pulling off the road to a gravel area to run a county and hit a rut that was deceiving in depth. My key bounced off my console and onto the passenger floor and broke two wires in the process and that was the end of my cw on the trip. I found two things that I need. A go-box for tools and repair items to take on my next trip and I need to do lots more sending practice. OK confession time, I use a keyboard at home hooked to a K1EL keyer to do most of my sending. I'm sure that was obvious to most people after my first contact from the mobile. Yes Mom I will practice more with my key.

After that most of the trip went well. We were sitting on an entrance ramp to the Interstate when a semi blew a right trailer tire while beside me. The sound of a couple sticks of dynamite going off in my left ear caused a heart flutter and a slight pause in the run. That night we stayed in Bardstown Kentucky the Bourbon capital of the world, fitting after the day.

We were visited by three people while stopped in wide spots along the road. One lady was checking on us near her building and was friendly. At another spot a man drove up and checked on us. Not much of a smile so we left soon. Another on Sunday morning while parked half on the road on the county line of Monroe and Cumberland told us he was a ham and we talked for a short while. No guns were shown from anyone and no revenuers and no coppers on this trip. We spent a little time looking at the hole that swallowed the corvettes (I have a 1973 convertible) and we also visited Dale Hollow Lake where we boated for 20 years instead of county hunting. I have not begun to put 45 pages of logs in Logger yet but I know I got several last counties for people. Also part of this trip was a thought to figure up how much this hobby is costing me. We went a total of 1284 miles in 5 days, put out roughly 60 counties, and 981 contacts. The cost per mile was 54.7 cents and cost per contact was 71.5 cents. I also took bunches of county signs for the database and have already sent them in. All in all a very gratifying and fun trip.

Darl NA8W and Pam KA8JQP

Arkansas QSO Party

from the 3830 contest reflector:

N5NA mobile

I purchased a new truck the day before heading out to AR and only had time to install the antenna and a couple of ground straps. It appears the engine is tuned to 20m as the noise is terrible. On 15m and 40m I didn't even need the noise blanker but 20m was another story. So, I apologize to the callers I couldn't hear through the noise.

Thanks to all the callers. A special thanks to the following stations for contributing more than half the QSO's: N6MU(32), KN4Y(28), NT2A(27), OM2VL(21), K2DSW(20), W4ANT(19), N3RM(19), SP9LJD(19), KS5H(18), KC3X(18), N2CQ(15), W8WVU(14), KQ3F(14), KG4IGC(12), W1END(12), W5QP(11), K2HVN(10), KJ4LTA(9), N4JT(8), W8POF(8), W8OP(8), and VE3LMM(8).

A special thanks to my wife, K5AKS, for driving!

Please look for me in the SCQP next weekend!

73, Alan N5NA

K5YAA mobile 904 cw 136 ssb

For this Party I had the pleasure of having Mark KI0I, with me as a driving and operating partner. We had a good time as we are both talkers about our hobby and both enjoy being on the radio. A side benefit of having Mark with me was his preparations as far as having items to nibble on during the party. I never saw so many little bags of chocolate covered, cheese based niblets, dried fruit and the best thing, a dozen or more of his wife's chocolate

brownies she made up for us. I put several of those down. We decided to set our alarm about half an hour earlier on Saturday morning than I had planned and I was glad we did as it took several extra minutes to transfer all the snackins to the van! Mark made the suggestion to add that extra half hour. I decided he knew what he was doing after our getting ready in the morning. We left the home QTH about 7AM, gathered gas for the generator and then made a quick stop at McDs for a couple of to go breakfast sacks. Mark and I both like a breakfast before a party, I think Mark likes a breakfast before any day begins so that was a good start for our run over to Benton County to get the party going.

A ride in the Ozarks is good for the radio soul. This year's rain in this part of the country has kept everything that grows green and as beautiful as I have seen it in all the years I have lived in this part of the country. Not a single animal showed it's face during our run through the hills. After only seeing a couple in last year's ARQP I'm beginning to wonder if everyone of the critters have been run over or shot already. We were prepared for encounters with a few deer but not one showed up. It could be the animals are smarter in Arkansas than other states. Don't know but something kept them hidden this year.

A good run with pretty good band conditions. 40 produced much better than even in the Kansas QSO Party. 10 only peaked at us for three QSOs and no DX there. 15 moved along pretty well during the afternoon. Some great signals on 15 from Europe and as usual very good operators on the air from over there.

We had mapped out 21 counties for our day. Finally after many great trouble free runs in the mobile a mechanical problems raised it's head. Very high SWR developed on 40 CW with the Tarheel when we were in Jackson County. Nothing we wiggled or tapped on (K5YAA methods of repair) would "fix" it.

Well, we started doing a little troubleshooting after pulling over to the side of a country road. A decision to replace the Tarheel assembly was made after inspection of the teflon or plastic grommet that insulates the SO239 center conductor from the ground side of the Tarheel body. It was loose and looked quite worn from the whacking it has taken riding on the trailer the past few months. Seemed logical so we went to work to put the second Tarheel on the mount. With Mark's FB mechanical capabilities the change was done in

less than 15 minutes. Now for an SWR check. Hmmm, same readings. Putting the coax direct on the K3 showed no problem with the Tarheel. Not much left in line except the Alpha Delta 4 position antenna switch, the amp and a few pieces of coax. A look at the 80 amp fuses in line with the amps DC power and we saw what looked like black ashes. Yep, a continuity check showed both fuses to be blown. Reached in the box of spare items and pulled out a new set of fuses. Another 5 - 10 minutes and the fuses were changed. Amp fires up now but still a problem with SWR. Not wanting to have a second set of amp fuses blow we proceeded with caution. Moving the Tarheel direct, bypassing the Alpha switch, the SWR was prefect. Turns out the 40 meter position on the antenna switch had kind of blown like the big fuses. So, now to decide how to keep 40 available to us as it was producing quite well. Since 10 was it's regular self we just moved the Tarheel feed to the 10 meter position on the switch. Things were now looking up. We were back in business losing only ten meter capability. No big loss. The only other "nuisance" was the 20 meter position on the Alpha Delta. It needed a bit of wiggling to get it to make a good connection. Once wiggled correctly it worked well so having defined and "repaired" the problems we took out the map and decided to cut off our stop in Crittenden County by taking Hwy 49 on down South to Hwy 64. Only a loss of one county but a savings of at least 45 minutes maybe a full hour on the road time clock. As it turns out that was a good decision as we were able to add two more counties to our run in the evening making a total of 22. Crawford and Sebastian both got action because we showed up in Franklin much earlier than originally planned and moved on I40 through Crawford into Sebastian where we had rooms for the night. So, the problem was not a losing proposition after all.

I don't remember when we ate a handful of those delicious Missouri prepared brownies but Mark downed some of his Cheezits as we diagnosed our problem in Jackson County. Activity was so good we never reached in and opened up the several other "bags" of goodies Mark had packed for us. The dried fruit might keep for next year's effort!

Only one very small navigational problem. A loss of two miles when we made a Northerly pass on Hwy 25 near Batesville instead of a more direct drive on Hwy 230. Signs were sparse and we took an unneeded turn. Two miles, no problem. Steve K5KDG, a long time county hunter from Baxter County, told me about Hwy 235 that was our short jaunt into Marion County off of Hwy 65. Steve said, just as you get into Marion there is a good pullover stop that has an old store sitting there. Boy, old is an understatement. The thing

was wooden, had many of the planks falling down and looked like something Model T drivers would have frequented back in the 1920s. The shelves were empty but a landmark it was and Steve was right on with his description of a good place to pull over and stop. The weather in Arkansas was absolutely perfect and at the two pullover stops we made we rolled down the windows to enjoy the fresh air.

Now for a few comments about our on the air activity. This year's ARQP seemed to have more callers than last year. Only a handful of times did we have to move to SSB to keep the log filling and those were times across a couple of the larger counties. 20, as in most of these, was the main producer with 40 and 15 both showing signs of life when we moved to them. Nice to have three bands available. Mark had some very good runs on 20 SSB and I had the pleasure of some snappy CW pileup operations on all three bands in several counties.

We had a number of ops follow us for the entire 12 hours. Thanks to each of you for your QSOs. I've said a number of times they make our efforts in these parties all worthwhile. DX was again a fun part of the run. 16 countries were worked. DL, F, G, HA, I, IT9, OK, OM, ON, P4, PA, SP, UA3, UR, YO and YV. Stand out stations were SP9LJD, OM2VL, DK3BN, HA9RE and I1EIS. Perennial county hunters DL3IAC and DL3DXX called in several times. Thanks to all the DX who called us and to those that stayed with us the entire 12 hours. Another late night of work for European callers.

Canadians were again slim in numbers but we did work VE3, VE4 and VE7. VE7CV called in many times as did VE3LMM, thanks for the many QSOs.

US stations that ran with us the whole 12 hours were numerous. N6MU, KC3X, K5WP, K7REL, K5KDG, KM5PS, KN4Y, WA4WKL, K2DSW, N9QS, N9JF, K0HNC, KE0G, WB0PYF, N4JT, W1END, N2CQ, W2CVW, NT2A, WA7JHQ, KQ3F, N3KR, N3RM, KG4IGC, W4ANT, WN4AFP, K5GE, KS5H, and W5QP. Most of you followed us from start to finish. Thanks for your efforts. You helped us fill our log day. Many new call signs to the QSO Party circuit, too many to list. Thanks also to each of you who gave us a call.

That's our report on the 2014 Arkansas QSO Party. Both Mark and myself commented on the good fun we had. This radio stuff, like I have said many times, is good for the soul. The only problem with these parties is they are over almost as fast as they begin. The operating intensity makes

them go by way too soon. Oh well, there are other ones to enjoy. Now to look over the mobile, make a few device corrections, and a tightening down of all the connections that make up such a ham station.

I want to thank Mark KI0I for his companionship and consideration. He is improving his skills with each run he makes. I enjoyed watching him work the keyboard in the same fashion as I do. His effort made the run well worthwhile for me. His XYLs brownies made the no stop for lunch bearable.

Thanks to the organizers of the Arkansas QSO Party especially Don K5DB for his efforts at getting out the activity in the state. Thanks again too to those of you who endured the pileups. I'll borrow a statement from the Gator, N5RZ. Thanks for putting up with our bumfoosling around on the keyboard. The hunt and peck method of typing makes it a challenge to get the letters from the brain to the little box in N1MM.

73, Jerry K5YAA and Mark KI0I

The rig: That Oklahoma Land Rush Mobile running a K3, solid state amp, Tarheel on 40 and HP Hustler resonators on 20/15 and 10 meters. We ran out of time and never made it up to 80 meters for this one.

W3DYA Mobile – 446 cw qso

Good contest, as usual, but conditions not very good. County-line rule was modified so I could send C/L in one exchange. Very helpful for mobile without a driver stopping to operate.

SP9LJD – DX - 81 cw ssb 13 54 mults

Tnx fer another good race sorry but after 00 UTC I lost comletly propagation on 20m called K5YAA/m from FAUL for 5 min without result so I gone QRT. Most of the QSO's with K5YAA and N5NA, earlier K5CM who I lost later, also WA5BDU and AA5AR (very difficult one) thanks for all your efforts. GL to everyone from AR and all my competitors.

Second time on AR QP. Last year more QSO, but fewer multiplier.

At the beginning of the contest very low signals on 20m, but on 15m excellent condx. I tried several times CQ on SSB - nice pileups, but nobody from Arkansas, only stations in WAE Contest.

On 10m I also HRD some very strong USA station and several times I moved here Connie K5CM, but unfortunately no pipe to Arkansas ...

Last QSO on 15m was at 21:00Z with N5NA/M
Last QSO on 20m was at 00:34Z with K5YAA/M
First QSO on 40m was at 22:18Z with K5YAA/M

On 40m SSB I had also nice pileup, but only 1 station from AR. Others in WAE contest. I gave the OM multiplier also for 3 VE stations - they'r moved me on 80m ... :)

My special thanks:

K5YAA/M Jerry - for many quick QSY to SSB or other band
K5CM/M Connie - for many quick QSY to SSB or other band
WR5P - to move from 15 SSB to 15 CW and also from 7213 to 7199 (I can't operate over 7.200) - thanks Bob W0GXA for QSP! and at least move from 40m to 80m.
for ALL mobile stations to give me new counties
and of course to ALL for the QSO's.

73 Laci OM2VL

N6MU – fixed – CA 160 cw 62 mults

As usual the mobiles are key to most Parties. Top mobile for me was K5YAA with 46 Qs followed by N5NA(32), W3DYA(29), K5CM(16), AA5AR(9) and WA5BDU(5).
Kept
checking 10 meters with W3DYA and made it three times. The other was K5YAA once.

KN4Y – fixed - FL 92 cw 58 mults

The imported mobiles ran from county to county at breakneck speed and made the CW activity a success, otherwise it would have been boring. I even worked both bonus stations on CW, one mobile and one who was fixed. The bands went kaput the last hour. Heard mobiles on 15-meters but they could not hear me, a bummer.

I wonder if the potholes are fixed, when I was in Arkansas I was told the potholes were made by craw fish escaping to Texas.

Formal CW Net?

K7INA posted on the K3IMC forum:

“The lack of activity on CW is bothering me. Lots of CW ops hang out on SSB and very rarely show up on CW. Why? I am willing to open a discussion about having a CW net on 14056.5 complete with a NCS (I volunteer to get things going) at least for a few hours a day. Maybe not all week, but something to generate some interest. I am sincere about this. I just asked on 056.5 for any mobiles QRV and was greeted with an unidentified station sending "HI". I asked "why are you laughing?" and of course there was no reply. Maybe that's my answer - No one cares. Comments please. “

From the thread that followed, some selected comments:

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W4SIG:

As a very active CW mobiler I have a few thoughts.

First of all I really appreciate any discussion on any topic as long as we are all trying to make things better. So, thanks Russ for bringing this up. The goal is more CW mobile activity, so lets explore what incense a mobile to want to run on CW...

1) First off, if I run a county on CW and very few contacts are made I am likely to be discouraged and not return or go out of my way to run on CW, at least on that particular

band. If I get a nice long list of qsos then I feel like it was worth my time, it was fun, and I'll be back. How do we ensure that a mobile thinks the run was worth his time?

SPOT!!!! It is no mystery that when a mobile is spotted that the number of qsos increases 5 fold. If not spot, you may be lucky to get a handful of contacts. Regardless of how it was like in "the good ole days without spots when everyone had to actually sit and listen" it isn't that way much anymore. Technology has (for better or worse) changed things. This is why I have upgraded my cell phone to where I spot MYSELF on every band, every mode, before I call QRZ. It ensures that any county hunter who is either listening in, or has their pc on, can know that I've started running a county.

Remember...no spots means few qsos, few qsos mean a not-so-fun experience for the mobile. I know that the reason that a lot of potential CW mobilers start on 14336 is that they will be almost guaranteed a spot there. Imagine when they get this SSB spot, work a lot of contacts, then go to CW with NO spot and work two stations; they are likely to stick to SSB of course.

2) NCS...In the 70s and 80s we almost always had mobiles standing in line to run. THAT is when a NCS is invaluable. You don't want more than one mobile running at the same time, you need to move mobiles off frequency, etc. Unfortunately, we really aren't at that quantity of mobiles at the current time. However, at the end of each run it SURE would be nice to have someone always offer to QSP. THAT is what would benefit a mobile the most in regard to NCS duties.

So to sum it up, I think a constant NCS is extremely valuable. However, until we get a longer list of mobiles running I don't really think it is necessary. The main thing is we need EVERYONE to spot and EVERYONE to be willing to offer relays, no matter what the CW speed. It is all appreciated.

3) Once we ensure that all CW mobiles are spotted and we offer relays at the end of each run then we are fulfilling what most mobiles need to guarantee the best experience possible. After doing those two "NCS-type duties" its simply up to propagation and the number of county hunters that need the particular county. And, again, when the mobile run was fun I can assure you the CW mobile will be back.

4) SUMMARY: Until we get a longer list of CW ops ready to run, a formal NCS duty schedule wouldn't do much to increase mobile activity. BUT if we ALL 'spot' and offer relays when a mobile does run then things will steadily improve.

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K1TKL:

I agree, with one comment on QSP and QNF.....

I only offer QSP to the mobile if I hear a station calling that the mobile does not respond to his call. Too many times I have heard stations offering and then asking for any stations for QSP help (for several minutes) with the mobile with no response. Another issue that comes up is when a mobile asks QNF? The response (my personal preference) should be GA (go ahead) or AS (wait) if the frequency is busy. I have heard some stations send R. Now does that mean Roger the frequency is busy, or Roger proceed with your mobile operation? It threw me the first time I heard that response while being mobile. I have heard mobiles go away and not start transmission due to the R response.

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N9JF:

Thoughtful response and I agree on all counts

I sometimes have to spot myself in order to get even one contact from a county, but once I work certain people I know I will be spotted. Technology is what it is. Hurray for those who frequently monitor the CH frequencies but not everyone can, and I welcome contacts from the spot-watchers. Face it, when we are mobile, we can only listen on one band at a time, and if we're running, we often miss counties we need on another band. The spots help the mobiles get the counties they need, too!

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K5KDG:

It would be a major undertaking to have a formal net with assigned Net Control Station... Most of you know of the YL SSB System. That takes lots of people tied to the radio several hours a day. It would just help if you have cw ops listening on the cw freq and they would help run the freq as long as they were there. At present my beam is stuck on Europe but I have always QSP for the EU stations. Most of them I copy a good 559 all the time. Also, to make a net work good, you need two stations, one east coast and one west coast. 99% of time we are doing fine. Sometimes, due to one mobile not hearing the other mobile we have duplicates running but WE CAN HANDLE THAT.

South Carolina QSO Party

At least two mobiles were out – AD8J and N5NA. N5NA seems to have lost the 20M antenna – never heard on 20M. The A index was up at 30 so that didn't help one bit, either. Several other fixed stations showed up for the annual SC QSO Party. Pretty quiet from TX. Didn't need any so didn't 'miss' any.

From the 3830 reflector:

AD8J mobile 460 cw 58 ssb

Activated 10 counties as a single op mobile. It was tough going with several contests sharing the same freqs. 80 meters wasn't very productive for me. I was calling CQ with a KW and wasn't getting answers. Maybe it had something to do with what I suspect was a solar flare that disrupted a few hours of the contest. During that event, signals had deep QSB and were fairly weak. The final score wasn't as high as last year but considering the above and spending more time trying to hit more counties, I can't complain. Thanks to all the stations that followed me around

N4IQ – fixed – SC – had 231 CW QSOs

KG4IGC 34 cw 3 ssb

I hate to say it, but I am very disappointed with the SCQP. It makes no sense why we cannot use the counties for multipliers like what has been done in the past. I have entered 3 times in the QRP category in the past (2003 when the Sumpter ARC ran it, 2005 & 2006 with the Columbia ARC) and relied heavily on the counties to supplement my score. Now, there seems to be no incentive for SC stations to even work it. What fun is it chasing the mobiles and working SC stations just for a single point? I also find it hard to believe that DX is not even counted as a multiplier. I really hope enough noise is made about this that perhaps some changes will be made to the rules. I

have decided to send my log in as a check log, as it is really not worth much more than that.

Rig: Yaesu Ft-DX3000

Power 5 watts

Ants: Hex and Horizontal Loop

W4IX – fixed – Spartanburg County SC 216 cw 472 ssb

Thanks to all that called in. The bands were open most of the time, activity seemed slow on CW, but 20M SSB seemed to have an endless pit of callers, thanks guys! Tried RTTY several times, only a handful of replies. Had some local storm noise on the bands but the NE & NW beverages were excellent with some weak signals. Thanks to K4BAI for moving to several bands, thanks to W4OC for sweeping 10-160 CW and thanks to OM2VL for Q's on 10-80. 73's to All!

W1END – fixed – NH - 27 cw 15 mults

More than half of my QSO's came from AD8J and N5NA; thanks guys. This party turned out to be better than I had expected - almost doubled my qso count of the last two years. SC is alive and well. Thanks to everyone.

KN4Y – fixed – FL - 33

Low turnout of fixed stations on CW, the majority of my QSO's are with the two mobiles challenging the hills. Need more mobiles.

County Sign Database Project

More additions continue to be made. We are now approaching 2660 county signs that folks have sent in. That means the 'end' is in sight.

Here's some selected new additions to the database. N7JPF, KC7QOP, and W5QP were the big contributors recently.



W5QB/mobile Courtesy W5QB (2014)

W5QP – Warren MS



Dickinson MI by KC7QOP



Franklin, WA by N7JPF

Here's where the county signs are located:

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

Here's where the 'needs page' is for the county signs

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

Climate Science

from the Wall Street Journal: (by Dr Koonin)

The idea that "Climate science is settled" runs through today's popular and policy discussions. Unfortunately, that claim is misguided. It has not only distorted our public and policy debates on issues related to energy, greenhouse-gas emissions and the environment. But it also has inhibited the scientific and policy discussions that we need to have about our climate future.

Detailed technical discussions during the past year with leading climate scientists have given me an even better sense of what we know, and don't know, about climate. I have come to appreciate the daunting scientific challenge of answering the questions that policy makers and the public are asking.

The crucial scientific question for policy isn't whether the climate is changing. That is a settled matter: The climate has always changed and always will. Geological and historical records show the occurrence of major climate shifts, sometimes over only a few decades. We know, for instance, that during the 20th century the Earth's global average surface temperature rose 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit.

Nor is the crucial question whether humans are influencing the climate. That is no hoax: There is little doubt in the scientific community that continually growing amounts of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, due largely to carbon-dioxide emissions from the conventional use of fossil fuels, are influencing the climate. There is also little doubt that the carbon dioxide will persist in the atmosphere for several centuries. The impact today of human activity appears to be comparable to the intrinsic, natural variability of the climate system itself.

Rather, the crucial, unsettled scientific question for policy is, "How will the climate change over the next century under both natural and human influences?" Answers to that question at the global and regional levels, as well as to equally complex questions of how ecosystems and human activities will be affected, should inform our choices about energy and infrastructure.

But—here's the catch—those questions are the hardest ones to answer. They challenge, in a fundamental way, what science can tell us about future climates.

Even though human influences could have serious consequences for the climate, they are physically small in relation to the climate system as a whole. **For example, human additions to carbon dioxide in the atmosphere by the middle of the 21st century are expected to directly shift the atmosphere's natural greenhouse effect by only 1% to 2%.** Since the climate system is highly variable on its own, that smallness sets a very high bar for confidently projecting the consequences of human influences.

A second challenge to "knowing" future climate is today's poor understanding of the oceans. The oceans, which change over decades and centuries, hold most of the climate's heat and strongly influence the atmosphere. Unfortunately, precise, comprehensive observations of the oceans are available only for the past few decades; the reliable record is still far too short to adequately understand how the oceans will change and how that will affect climate.

A third fundamental challenge arises from feedbacks that can dramatically amplify or mute the climate's response to human and natural influences. One important feedback, which is thought to approximately double the direct heating effect of carbon dioxide, involves water vapor, clouds and temperature.

But feedbacks are uncertain. They depend on the details of processes such as evaporation and the flow of radiation through clouds. They cannot be determined confidently from the basic laws of physics and chemistry, so they must be verified by precise, detailed observations that are, in many cases, not yet available.

Beyond these observational challenges are those posed by the complex computer models used to project future climate. These massive programs attempt to describe the dynamics and interactions of the various components of the Earth system—the atmosphere, the oceans, the land, the ice and the biosphere of living things. While some parts of the models rely on well-tested physical laws, other parts involve technically informed estimation. Computer modeling of complex systems is as much an art as a science.

We often hear that there is a "scientific consensus" about climate change. But as far as the computer models go, there isn't a useful consensus at the level of detail relevant to assessing human influences. Since 1990, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or IPCC, has periodically surveyed the state of climate science. Each successive report from that endeavor, with contributions from thousands of scientists around the world, has come to be seen as the definitive assessment of climate science at the time of its issue.

For the latest IPCC report (September 2013), its Working Group I, which focuses on physical science, uses an ensemble of some 55 different models. Although most of these models are tuned to reproduce the gross features of the Earth's climate, the marked differences in their details and projections reflect all of the limitations that I have described. For example:

- **The models differ in their descriptions of the past century's global average surface temperature by more than three times the entire warming recorded during that time.** Such mismatches are also present in many other basic climate factors, including rainfall, which is fundamental to the atmosphere's energy balance. As a result, the models give widely varying descriptions of the climate's inner workings. **Since they disagree so markedly, no more than one of them can be right.**
- Although the Earth's average surface temperature rose sharply by 0.9 degree Fahrenheit

during the last quarter of the 20th century, it has increased much more slowly for the past 16 years, even as the human contribution to atmospheric carbon dioxide has risen by some 25%. This surprising fact demonstrates directly that natural influences and variability are powerful enough to counteract the present warming influence exerted by human activity.

Yet the models famously fail to capture this slowing in the temperature rise. Several dozen different explanations for this failure have been offered, with ocean variability most likely playing a major role. But the whole episode continues to highlight the limits of our modeling.

- The models roughly describe the shrinking extent of Arctic sea ice observed over the past two decades, but they fail to describe the comparable growth of Antarctic sea ice, which is now at a record high.
- The models predict that the lower atmosphere in the tropics will absorb much of the heat of the warming atmosphere. But that "hot spot" has not been confidently observed, casting doubt on our understanding of the crucial feedback of water vapor on temperature.
- Even though the human influence on climate was much smaller in the past, the models do not account for the fact that the rate of global sea-level rise 70 years ago was as large as what we observe today—about one foot per century.
- A crucial measure of our knowledge of feedbacks is climate sensitivity—that is, the warming induced by a hypothetical doubling of carbon-dioxide concentration. Today's best estimate of the sensitivity (between 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit and 8.1 degrees Fahrenheit) is no different, and no more certain, than it was 30 years ago. And this is despite an heroic research effort costing billions of dollars.

These and many other open questions are in fact described in the IPCC research reports, although a detailed and knowledgeable reading is sometimes required to discern them. They are not "minor" issues to be "cleaned up" by further research. Rather, they are deficiencies that erode confidence in the computer projections. Work to resolve these shortcomings in climate models should be among the top priorities for climate research. Yet a public official reading only the IPCC's "Summary for Policy Makers" would gain little sense of the extent or implications of these deficiencies. These are fundamental challenges to our understanding of human impacts on the climate, and they should not be dismissed with the mantra that "climate science is settled."

While the past two decades have seen progress in climate science, the field is not yet

mature enough to usefully answer the difficult and important questions being asked of it. This decidedly unsettled state highlights what should be obvious: Understanding climate, at the level of detail relevant to human influences, is a very, very difficult problem.

Policy makers and the public may wish for the comfort of certainty in their climate science. But I fear that rigidly promulgating the idea that climate science is "settled" (or is a "hoax") demeans and chills the scientific enterprise, retarding its progress in these important matters. Uncertainty is a prime mover and motivator of science and must be faced head-on. It should not be confined to hushed sidebar conversations at academic conferences.

Society's choices in the years ahead will necessarily be based on uncertain knowledge of future climates. That uncertainty need not be an excuse for inaction. There is well-justified prudence in accelerating the development of low-emissions technologies and in cost-effective energy-efficiency measures.

Any serious discussion of the changing climate must begin by acknowledging not only the scientific certainties but also the uncertainties, especially in projecting the future. Recognizing those limits, rather than ignoring them, will lead to a more sober and ultimately more productive discussion of climate change and climate policies.

Dr. Koonin was undersecretary for science in the Energy Department during President Barack Obama's first term

Washington State Salmon Run

K7TQ mobile 451 cw

This was WA0WWW and my first mobile attempt. We got lots of pre-contest help and encouragement from Mike, N7WA. Our goal was to activate 15 eastern WA counties and we accomplished that. N6MU, John, in CA was able to catch us in all 15

counties! Eastern WA varies from riverside to forested mountains to harvested wheat fields and channeled scablands. It was a fun time and we look forward to next year.

N1CC – fixed – Texas 58 cw 69 ssb

Good contest. Did better than last year, however, 10 Meters never opened to WA from here. Limited time operation as I did the SC QSO Party and the ARRL Centennial Challenge during this period of time also.

Wish there had been more stations on RTTY and overall more activity as I was constantly running out of people to work on "my" open bands.

73, and see you ALL during the TQP next week

WA7PRC – fixed – WWA - 177 cw 277 ssb

Each time I checked, 10m was D-E-A-D. 160m late at night was also NG. This wasn't the best I've done but, it's also far from the worst I've done.

WS7L – portable 251 cw 132 ssb

Lower score mainly due to less chair time than last year because hey this is a beach vacation too and the weather was spectacular. You don't get many 80 degree (F) days in Ocean Park but Saturday was one of them. Probably would have beat last year if it had been rainy. Again worked all but one county. Went into the last couple hours missing four but picked up Ferry, Douglas and Mason in short order late in the game. Never found Jefferson. Very good DX condx with quite a few good EU signals on 15 and 20 from DL, G, I, OK, OM, SP, plus one OM on 40. Also picked up JA (of course) plus HL, LU, KH6, KL7, KH2, KP4.

I didn't even try any digital, which was a total bust last year. Maybe I'll check on RTTY next year and see if anything's happening ...

As before it was a huge amount of fun. I'm not truly rare here in Pacific County but there are only about three other stations here and I get the pleasure of hearing "thanks for the new one" very often. Once in a

while on 40 phone my "last ten" rate meter hit 300, which is always fun.

I decided not to enter the expedition category this year, even though I technically meet the conditions as I am using portable antennas at a rented cottage that I scheduled specifically to be here for the SR. But I'd rather those honors go to the ops who bring up the truly rare counties.

73 and thanks for the Q's.
Carl WS7L

W6SZN/7 397 cw 675 ssb

First time from WA after many times from Northern California--a very different contest. It seemed strange to be on 40 at noon and early afternoon local time but that's where the multipliers were. Got the sweep of the 39 WA counties with 17 minutes left in the contest (Ferry County). Conditions seemed just OK but the great activity made up for it. Somehow managed to keep to just two the number of net "leaders" who chased me off "their" frequency. Thanks to all for the QSOs.

KN4Y – fixed – FL - 61 cw

Fighting fish fought for first CW contact and one was mobile. Salmon swim up-stream so there should have been more mobiles out, so just another Washington State QSO party. Worked most

W1END – fixed – NH - 56 cw

What a struggle. Saturday was rough copy and I thought Sunday should be better. It wasn't. Spent a lot of time turning the knob and listening to noise. I barely made the goal of 50 qso's - many thanks to WW7D/M who was there often and certainly has very good ears. There's always next year.

Awards Issued

Second Time # 427,	Rick Henry, W5QP,	August 27, 2014
Second Time #428	Sandra, N0XYL	9/6/14
4th Time #164	Mike, NF0N	9/13/2014
Sixth Time #68	Jim, N4JT	9/13/14
Bingo #358	Bob, K7TM	Sept 19, 2014
BINGO # 359	Rick, W5QP	: September 20, 2014
BINGO 3 # 31	Ron, N5MLP	September 20, 2014
Call Combo 1x3 # 15	Jerry, N5KGY	September 12, 2014
Call Combo 1x3 #15	Tony, WA9DLB	Sept 19, 2014
Five Star #68	Al, N1API	9/13/14
No Star #1	Scottie, N4AAT	9/10/14

Upcoming Events for County Hunters

Texas QSO Party

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

www.txqp.net

Sep 27, 1400Z - See website

CW--20 to 50 kHz above band edge;

Phone--25 kHz above edge of General segment

October 4

New Jersey QSO Party

RS(T) and NJ county or S/P or "DX"

www.k2td-bcrc.org

Oct 4, 1600Z - See website

California QSO Party

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

www.cqp.org

Oct 4, 1600Z - Oct 5, 2200Z

October 11

Arizona QSO Party

Serial and S/P/C

www.azqsoparty.org

Oct 11, 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 PA county or ARRL/RAC section

www.nittany-arc.net

Oct 11, 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

October 18 - 10

Iowa QSO Party

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

www.wa0dx.org

Oct 18, 1400Z - Oct 19, 2300Z

New York QSO Party

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

www.nyqp.org

Oct 18, 1400Z - Oct 19, 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

South Dakota QSO Party

RST and SD County or S//P/C

http://www.kb0wsw.com/SDQP/page_home.html

http://www.kb0wsw.com/SDQP/page_home.html Oct 18 1800z - Oct 19 1800z

Illinois QSO Party

RST and IL county or S/P/C

www.W9awe.org/ILQP.html

Oct 19, 1700 to Oct 20 0100z

That's all for this month. See you next month. 73