

County Hunter News

October 1, 2015
Volume 11, 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 it on, and the county lines should appear!

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

Notes from the Editor

1) N4CD Rumblings

The calendar rolled past September 23 indicating we are now officially into 'Fall'. That's the date of the fall equinox. Naturally, the hours of daylight now continue to get shorter and shorter till December Solstice day.

Radio conditions haven't been much to write home about – or even get on enthused about going mobile. Many days have had double digit A index and the K has been busy

from 2-15, even during some of the QSO parties. We've had a bunch of QSO Parties so fall this 'after summer' season, and more to come at the end of September and into mid October. Then it slows down. Lots to report on this month on the QSO Parties in this edition of the CH News.

Up north, the cooler temps are already turning the leaves colors and it won't be long before Jack Frost makes his appearance over much of the country. Still in the 90s in TX but evenings are a bit cooler.. Still waiting for 'fall weather'.

The big 3M re-union is set to occur in mid -October so maybe well have some good mobile activity as folks head there.

So far this end of summer, the N4CD mobile hasn't been inspired too much to be out on long trips. Maybe it's waiting for the modification of the rules to allow second and third time 'Running All USA Counties' awards to happen? Double Diamond award, recently announced but yet not on the MARAC awards page ? Not interesting at the moment. I'm not sure how much I'll work on this but for the few eligible to start work on it..... there doesn't seem to be that much enthusiasm. K5GE did put out some Double Diamond counties. Maybe I'd rather see some new mobile oriented awards. We'll see. Meanwhile temps are dropping into the comfort level and there's still lots of chances for travel before the snow flies. Most weekends there's QSO Parties to keep the electrons flowing at the home QTH.

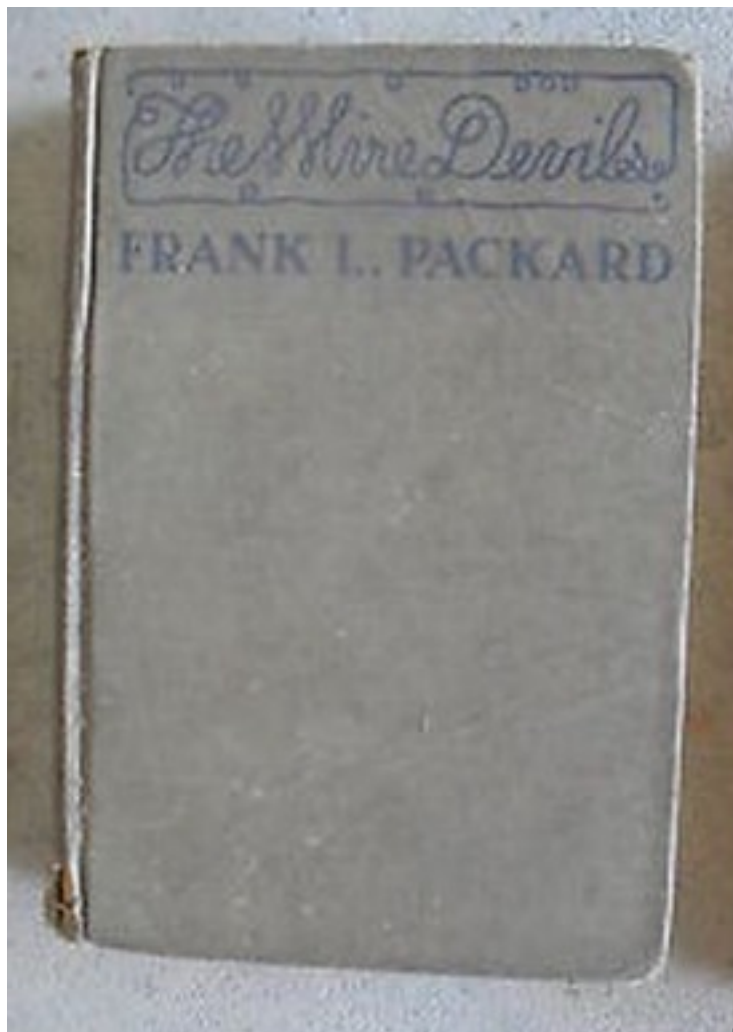
2) No County Sign update this month

Nothing to report – nothing updated. Stuck at 2873 County Signs in the database. We have a few from the end of last month included this issue.

Book Review of the Month

This month we switch from olde radio to the state of the art before radio for communications – the telegraph system. Samuel Morse got the first commercial telegraph system going in 1844 between Washington, DC and Baltimore, MD. From that single less than 50 mile trial system, within 20 years telegraph lines spanned the country and connected most towns on the railroad system of several hundred thousand miles together. It took a while for the railroads to start using it, but once they did, it was indispensable to their operations. Radio didn't get going till 1900.

The Wire Devils, by Frank L. Packard was published in 1918 – 4 years before broadcast radio got started. Wireless was still in its infancy with spark gap transmitters as 'state of the art' – as you may have noted in nearly all the books we've reviewed so far.



The 'wire devils' was a group of nefarious criminals that used the telegraph system of the railroads to steal from the railroad companies and their freight hauling operation. With someone on the inside, the wire devils group seemed to know when and where valuable cargo, such as \$50,000 jewelry items, exhibition material for museums of gold treasures, and large shipments of cash, would be sent, and on what trains and under what security conditions. They knew where the passkeys were and where the combinations to the safe were kept.

The story starts out as another criminal master-mind, the “Hawk”, muscles in on their criminal franchise. Until the Hawk appears, this gang has been successful in dozens of railroad holdups and robberies. They are also printing thousands of counterfeit \$10 bills

that are flooding the country. The feds and state officials so far have been clueless on how to catch them and put them all behind bars. No one knows who the master mind is.

As the story reports,

“Notorious Criminal Released From Sing Sing - Police are warned that man maybe in the this vicinity. Harry Maul, better know to the police as the Hawk, safe-breaker, forger and thief, one of the cleverest 'gentleman' crooks in the country, who is at large again after a five -years penitentiary term, is somewhere in the west. “ The story takes place around Selkirk – and crime has spiked recently – and the Hawk may be in the area.

The Wire Devils are also sending messages over the railroad telegraph system, but in code. They have 'tapped in' to the railroad telegraph line, but when the railroad company attempts to isolate where, the wire devil gang cuts lines in so many places each time that the railroad company decides to put up with the strange messages sent at times rather than have their system down from criminal vandalism for days at a time. The lines have so many splices from years of maintenance it is very hard to find a new tap at a splice along the line.

At the beginning of the story, we find the Hawk breaking the code of the Wire Devils. He can now read their messages, and we find the Hawk is now not only aware of the plans of the wire devil gang, but beats them to the punch time and time again, walking away with the loot the gang was planning on getting.

The story goes on for several hundred pages of intrigue as various parts of the gang take part in each of the activities – but the Hawk always seems to beat them to the prize – from \$100,000 containers of 'radium' being exhibited across the country, to giant payrolls stolen from safes in moving trains. The Hawk is fiendishly effective in using the gangs plans for his own good. He's fiendishly successful in avoiding detection, bypassing security, opening safes, and 'disappearing into thin air' after the robberies. No one has been able to find him – and both the wire devil gang and the railroad security and local police are after him.

Toward the end of the story, we find the Hawk has figured out all the members of the Wire Devil gang – there are an even dozen of them, including two who run a 'newsstand' at a train station who have a way to read all the telegraph messages as they come over the wire surreptitiously. They provide the gang with all the allegedly 'secure' information.

The Hawk one night accidentally finds the tap point in the system nearby that allows the Wire Devil gang to send their coded messages up and down the line to the other members of the gang. (Remember – to send on a telegraph line, you need to 'break' the existing circuit – it's just a big loop). He traces it and it leads to a farm house – now suspected HQ of the gang. Further clandestine investigation to the Hawk reveals it's also where the printing presses are that are flooding the country with phony \$10 bills.

There's one big last 'take' for the Hawk before he decides he'll bug out and find new territory. He's already gotten over \$100,000 in loot. The railroads are employing lots of extra security now – and a 3 ton shipment of gold bars is headed where the gang operates, along with a \$40,000 payroll. The Hawk is going after the \$40,000 payroll shipment as one last job before he finds new territory. The gold is way to much for his simple operational mode. It requires lots of people to move it into a truck somewhere. He packs his bag, buys a train ticket, checks the bag it at the train station, and arranges to be on the train carrying the high value cargo. There's even a decoy train set up, but the wire devil gang has the 'inside scoop'. Same for the Hawk.

The gang is going after the gold and will stop the train at a rural crossing a few miles from the HQ, overpower the railroad security forces, offload the gold, and send the train on. It will take all 12 wire devil gang members to stage the holdup with the extra security and the heavy gold shipment .

The Hawk pulls the emergency brake cord just before the train gets near the rural farm house suspected of being gang HQ and miles before the gang's planned hold up point where they'd move the tons of gold to trucks and disappear. Bullets start flying and the Hawk heads for the farm house and most of the gang members follow. Most of them don't even realize the farm house is the gang HQ with the mastermind inside – he's wheel chair bound but a master criminal. They have never met him. They've always just received orders 'from the boss' via messenger and never gone beyond that.

The police and railroad security round up all the gang members at or near the farm house, including the Hawk. He's handcuffed to a pipe in the basement of the house along with the mastermind, while the police are going after the remaining gang members outside. The Hawk manages to escape from the handcuff using a pick concealed in a pocket in his disguise outfit and then out a hidden tunnel in the house

It's a surprise ending.

We learn that the Hawk is not a notorious criminal. No – he's the national head of railroad security and has been working with the railroad security folks all along telling

them what to do – but they don't realize he's the Hawk. His whole 'persona' as a master criminal was just a fabrication. The whole involvement was learning all the gang members, then setting up a situation where all 12 of them would be required for a large job. By interrupting their plan, at his place of choosing, all 12 gang members were rounded up and sent off to the slammer. The local district railroad folks only know their orders have been coming from the 'head guy' in Washington, DC. Turns out, the head guy is the Hawk.

He sends a note to the railroad saying all the 'treasure' that the Hawk collected is in checked baggage at the railroad station in his valise. He wants to retain the Hawk persona to fight crime up and down the line should the need arise again! He's the anonymous crime fighter, like Clark Kent/Superman, or Batman – long before they were created.

Pretty good read for the 1918 book. It's the type of thriller that entertained folks much like a Clive Custer or Tom Clancy books do today!

Found an original copy for a few bucks and it will be up for sale at an upcoming hamfest or Antique Wireless convention. You can also buy a new copy!

Or better yet, read it online here

http://manybooks.net/titles/packardfother08the_wire_devils.html

or here

<http://muse.jhu.edu/books/9780816685110>

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The University of Minnesota Press has just reprinted Frank L. Packard's mystery novel "The Wire Devils," which the publisher refers to as a "wire thriller" that "uses the booming railroads and telegraph lines of the old West as its backdrop for fast-paced adventure by combining elements from dime-store novels and Packard's own experience." The story was originally published in 1918 and it reflects life in the west a century ago. Frank L. Packard (1877-1942) was a widely published Canadian writer of crime fiction. He was the author of nearly thirty books published from 1914 to 1938 and was previously a civil engineer for Canadian Pacific.

Mobile Activity

Kerry, W4SIG, headed over to the Dallas area and back. Then was busy in MS, then in the TN QSO party

Gene, NT2A, was spotted in Lancaster, PA.

Barry, K2MF, sent me a note. Seems I forgot to mention his trip around NJ last month. He went out with AJ2I and WA2NWN to run all 21 counties in NJ in one day(12 hours) . It's been quite a while since someone has done that. He was also out mobile in NJ in September.

Tony, WA9DLB, was up in WI.

AA8R/W8TAX headed down to IN and OH.

Jim, N4JT, was up in WV putting them out on CW and data modes.

Don, K3IMC was on vacation and ran lots in NE.

Jim, N9JF was noted over in IA, then up north to MN.

Jerry, W0GXQ, headed to IA and back.

Fred, K0FG, ran a bunch in MS and then trekked east. Then was up in NY. Then back through OH and IN and IL.

Bill, K2HVN, headed up through CT and RI. Ran into MA, then over to NY state. Headed out of country and then re appeared in MI.

KJ5PQ, Cheryl,, and Mike, KG5UZ, were busy again on weekends on data modes.

W3DQT was on the road in MD and PA headed west into MD. Later he made a trip down to TN and back.

Jeff, W9MSE, headed over to MN and back a few days later.

Guff, KS5A, put out some in south TX.

Ed, K8ZZ, put out a few in northern MI.

Bob, N4CD, headed up through OK to AR, then ran in AR QP.

Barry, K2MF, was spotted out in NJ.

Barry, N0KV, and Pat, N0DXE, headed east on a six week trip back to the east coast and then later back home to CO. At end of report period, they were in MI/WI area.

Don, K7DM, headed east from the west coast – put out a few counties here and there.

KB0BA/N0XYL team were on the road again in IN and KY.

W8FNN/W4FNN team headed north from FL back to OH.

Don, W0EAR, was spotted on the road in MN and WI.

Gene, K5GE, put out some counties in TX – the first ever run mobile for the new Double Diamond award.

Phil, AB7RW took a long multi-week trip east.

Dave, KW1DX made several runs out to PA from the home QTH.

Kansas QSO Party

By gosh, there was a Kansas QSO Party – despite a rotten weekend of propagation. Every county was on the air! On Friday, the A index was up at 55 with K index up at 4. Not good. Then come Saturday and it was A=44 and K=6, even worse, with a magnetic storm underway. Not good for the mobiles running around, and there were a bunch of them to chase after.

I guess the good news for me was that 20M was so bad that mobiles came and spent time on 40M. Later in the weekend as things improved on 20M, mobiles were scarcer on 40M, and from TX, there was zip on 20M all day Saturday, and just 2 stations worked on Sunday on 20M. It was a good contest and spots on 40M were flying left and right most of the time. On 20M, not so many on Saturday and things improved on Sunday.

I needed about 85 counties in KS, so anything to reduce that would be welcome. As it turned out I worked 101 of the 105 Kansas counties in the QSO Party - all of them on 40M. This was also a 'spelling' bee type deal with a plethora of 1x1 calls. You had to look hard to find a KS station that wasn't using a 1x1 call. All the letters of the bonus words K A N S A S and S U N F L O W E R and Q S O P A R T Y were on the air, with the P and the F hardest to find on cw.

Here are some reports from the 3830 contest reflector. I heard several county hunters in their calling – from N9JF, K8TE, K0DEQ, W0GXQ, W0EAR, NF0N, and there were lots I just didn't hear at all but I knew they were in there on CW when the mobile gave their call. Heard folks calling the mobiles on 20M but that didn't me any good other than get me frustrated when some mobiles only ran on 20M!

Who were the mobiles? Here's a list of those who signed up.

W0L/m - K5YAA Jerry/KU5B Colin - CW/SSB

K0O/m - WY0A Butch - SSB

N0Q/m - NY0T Phil - SSB

N0R/m - N5NA Alan - CW

N0K/m - K0HNC Charles - CW/SSB

W0O/m - W0ZQ Jon - CW

W0R/m - W0SO/Gary and KD0DSU/Stephanie - CW/SSB/DIG

N0A/m - AD0DX Ron - CW/SSB

W0E/m - KI0I/Mark -
N0T/m - K0RU Rob and N0EI/John - CW/SSB/DIG
KS0KS/m - K0RU Rob - CW - also operating N0T/m
W0Q/m - K5CM Connie and N5KW Pam - CW/SSB
N0U/m - NU0Q Bill - CW
K0A/m - W0BH Bob - CW/SSB
N0Y/m - KK6MC Duffey - CW/SSB

from the K3IMC forum:

K0O mobile (WY0A opr)

“Had a great time going mobile through 33 different counties over the past weekend.. I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone that spotted me during my trip.. Didn't have lots of cell service in most of them... I got plenty of gawkers checking my mobile out and was asked lots of questions whenever I stopped for gas. I drove a '95 Mazda Miata with a Scorpion Screwdriver fastened to a trailer hitch. Was a quick set-up as I just traded in my pick-up that I used and was still in the process of installing my new equipment in my Subaru Outback.

Butch K0O/WY0A “

From the 3830 contest reflector:

W0L mobile – K5YAA 1283 cw 414 ssb qso (plus or minus)

I was supposed to go pick up my guest op "Murphy" at the airport but he was waiting for me in the driveway around 11AM on Friday just before my departure toward Guymon Oklahoma for the evening. Colin KU5B could not make it. Seems he has completed his PHD and somebody offered him some kind of work. Seems he decided to report to duty instead of having some radio fun. Colin, you were missed by this OT.

On Thursday I had seen a scrape on the coax feeding my Tarheel so I decided I

should use my spare coax run to replace the worn one. Out came the toolbox, pliers. I started the loosening the PL259. Hand cranking was getting nowhere so pliers at it again. Something ain't quite right here. Oh, I have loosened the adapter and was unscrewing the entire feed point from the base of the Tarheel. Tightened it back up and said to myself I hope I haven't made matters worse because even with the scrape the coax and Tarheel were showing 1.2:1 or less on every band last night. Took the seat and lit off the K3. Dang now 4.5:1 - motor engaged upward. No resonance anywhere. Well obviously I made matters worse. Murph kind of grinned. I planned on using the Tarheel on 80 and 10 only so I reasoned no major loss except for a possible 1/2 hour or so on 80 Saturday night. Certainly not enough to stop the show so, onward. I could, if up to it, replace the entire Tarheel assembly with a spare but that thirty minutes might be better spent on the road right now. Maybe at the motel - if up to it. Turns out 40 was so hot I never needed 80 and of course 10 is in hiding somewhere so a good decision procrastination.

As I pulled out heading for Guymon, OK I whacked our brick protected mailbox with the trailer fender putting even another dent in the trailers wheel cover. The left one this time. Murph grinned again. Some guest op you are I thought. Onward to Guymon for Friday evening which is within close range of Liberal, Kansas (45 minutes) for the Saturday morning start of the KQP. On the way to Guymon I decided to check out the rig. Fired it up and the K3 said "ERROR PTT". Hmmm, was OK last night. Perhaps it's the keyer cable once again as I had trouble with it one other time. Maybe the Enid, OK R Shack has something already made up. \$15 bucks later I had me a nice purple with gold braid cable and 1/8 inch plugs on both ends. Sort of a color coded cable deal, nice. Hmmm, still says "ERROR PTT". Let me remove the small bungy cord holding the Bengali Sculpture in place. Ahhh, no more "ERROR PTT". Upon inspection the metal hooks on both ends of the bungy were shorting the keyer to, I guess the dash side. Problem fixed as I found Velcro strap and used it to hold the keyer in place. Another grin from my guest op *##@%% Onward toward Guymon with 'ol Murph laying back, satisfied for the moment in the passenger seat.

Stayed at the Super 8 in Guymon. As I pulled in probably the best thing that happened all weekend was to have Alan, N5NA with his wife pull up to say howdy. We chatted a bit, checked out phone numbers because we would be traversing similar terrain in Western Kansas during the party. I could call Alan but he couldn't get my phone to ring. Must be in the ionosphere. Wasn't Murphy as he had fallen asleep in the passenger seat.

Super 8 was a good bargain except the TV in room 106 didn't work. They offered me room 112 but I already had my shoes off and probably better get some rest anyway so I watched Trump's Massachusetts shindig on the iPhone and dozed on off after that. Murph just chuckled about the TV not working. About 11PM a train whistle blasted in the room. I had not looked but it seemed the tracks ran right through the parking lot. Until 2AM each 20 or so minutes another train rumbled through the parking lot. Either I finally fell asleep or the train schedule changed because I didn't hear anymore whistles or rumbling after 2AM. I hadn't realized Murphy used to be a train engineer.

At 7AM I arose and had the familiar Super 8 breakfast of either waffles, biscuits and gravy or eggs and sausage. I chose the eggs and sausage because I don't have as much experience with the waffle making device as N4CD does. He is a master waffle maker and eater.

Off toward Liberal, Kansas now for the start of the party. I see in the rear view window a truck with N5NA on the front plate and a lady driving. The second highlight of this particular run. I was gratified to see there are other people just as determined or perhaps just as much of a nut as me. Alan and his XYL stayed on Hwy 54 North to start in Seward I suppose. I was headed for the Seward Stephens county line where I reasoned I would begin by using the laptop and N1MM+ to get my feet wet and to confirm I can still copy CW. My plan was to only use the laptop when I was stopped as it is very hard to type and watch the road at the same time. In Kansas you could likely get away with that but better judgment overruled such operations. The new Samsung I had to press into service, my old trusty Dell finally bit the dust, has a dim screen and at times forgets it has a USB cable attached to the radio. If anyone heard those familiar 4 long dashes it was that Samsung firing back up after I forced it to not update Windows 8.1. Hey Samsung, all I want to do is restart N1MM+ after you cratered it.

I finished a rather terrific start at that county line on CW both 20 and 40. Time now for some 20 meter SSB as I motored on toward Morton county. Being all by myself on this run I was to rely on my little Olympus recording device on both SSB and CW as I moved forward in an attempt to cover all 24 counties I had promised on Saturday. About 20 QSOs into my initial SSB run in Stevens county I looked down and noticed the recorder wasn't on. Hey Murph did you turn that thing off or did I just fail to turn it on when I left that county line? OK, regardless I turned it on. A note in my log says, Hey Bob there are some 20 Qs

missing here buddy. Bob will take care of it I'm sure. Anyone that can find hundreds of used stamps and get a legion of mobiles to come join him covering every Kansas county can surely fix 20 little old missing Qs. I recalled only one call sign out of that missing bunch. WN4AT you are the lucky guy! BTW, what was your state? I forgot that part.

Say, this SSB stuff rocks. Listen to all those unique call signs many said phonetically without prefixes, I guess that's a secret method of SSB operating. Just drop in the suffix to get attention in the pile. I mean what do I know about SSB operation? Maybe I will try that in the future in the CQWW SSB test. Let 'em guess which country I'm in and surprise them with just another Zone 4 Q.

At 1534Z on 40 meters in Stanton county a disgruntled non contesting type ham radio operator fired up a carrier on 7.040 which would last the entire day when I showed up on 40 meters. I hope he burned his finals out and after about three visits to 40 CW I decided to slip on up to 7.040.5 - which worked well for awhile. After a few minutes the carrier showed up there. I worked through all the harassment with good success but I still hope he burned up his finals.

On through Stanton. Next Hamilton with the abbreviation of HAM. I told one fellow in Idaho that asked me to repeat my county, HAM Hotel Alpha Mike, it's where all the hams in Kansas live. We both had a chuckle. Greeley county then Wallace and on into Sherman. For some reason I didn't look at my abbreviation sheet and started sending SHE instead of, what I later found out should have been SMN. N9JF kindly told me there was no way I could be in SHE after just leaving WAL. He suggested I start sending SMN. I said my goof. Jim said carry on. Thanks Jim you saved Bob at least 75 or so corrections. That reliable guest op Murph really got a laugh out of that one especially since I made a strong effort to mark down all the abbreviations knowing I would be hand sending most of my CW. BTW, speaking of hand sending, I am a bug "expert" sender having used one for over 55 years since I was in diapers it seems. Using a Bengali Sculpture for just about the first time because it doesn't rattle with bumps in the road, most of you heard W0RE instead of W0L and had your call sign destroyed with my effort to figure out how long to hold the lever left or right to get the proper number of dashes or dots for virtually every letter in the alphabet. Later in the day I got much better, a relative term, sending with that keyer but by that time my fist was getting tired so SSB became my favorite mode for the later part of Saturday. My Mother would be ashamed. The worse call I destroyed was N4CD it was N4YD N4LD AND N4NND. I had the N4 and the D down

pretty good. A / sign was almost comical at times and of course there was a bunch of those sent.

In Thomas County the line on my printed Streets and Trips sheet showed me turning due South at Brewster. The Kansas map didn't even have a number for the particular road and it wasn't on the Kansas map. I knew it must be the one I needed so since it was asphalt I went merrily down it to the South heading for Logan County. About 8 miles down that road the Kansas State DOT must have run out of asphalt because in front of me was a finely manicured dirt road. Heck, do I want to take the kind of road that WOBH uses to get to those 4 county line places? Too far to turn around. Hopefully only a mile or two of this stuff. On I went dust and all. No washboard so I just slowed down a tad to keep from destroying the trailer I tote behind me. 4 miles into that piece of Kansas property and I hear what sounds like a small bomb go off. Oh know another trailer tire blowout and I didn't have anyone prepare me a spare. But wait, why all the hot air in here. Geeze, the entire back window of the van is blown to smithereens. Never done that before. A rock perhaps but no rocks on the road just dust. Maybe a hunter but I don't think so as I was between two huge fields of maize and sunflowers in the middle of nowhere Kansas. Oh well, no turning back now so onward, dust flying in covering everything. Later in the day it was as if I was riding in a convertible. Murphy could hardly contain himself. Great guest op you are buddy.

Having no rear window did give me the opportunity to sample the air around the dozens of cattle pens that seemed to be on every acre of Western Kansas. Made my pity for the poor animals even greater. A truly sad scene looking at those critters just waiting their turn on the skinning machines. I thought West Texas had a lot of cattle pens but I think Kansas has Texas beat. One particular spot in Wichita county had an ominous white cloud that seemed to go for miles. For sure the smell lasted for miles. Even Murphy was choking.

Continued terrific runs in Kearney, Grant, Haskell and Finney. I found myself almost an hour ahead of schedule so it must be time for a navigational error. I took the wrong highway in Garden City and found my way back to Kearney county. 30 minutes off my lead time and I was back on track toward the Scott and Lane county line. A rest there as I fired up the laptop again and took my time since I still had 30 extra minutes to burn. The navigational error gave my guest op another chuckle as if he didn't already have enough to gloat about. Not to be confused with G0AT which is the name my Georgia buddy and I call each other.

Gove County produced large numbers and I found 40 to be getting much more productive so I stayed with 40 on into the real Sherman (SHE) OK now because I really am in Sheridan no longer Sherman (SMN). On into Hoxie and then East toward Studley, a fitting name I thought for a Big Iron mobile operator. Once in Graham county I pulled over for another go at laptop operations. 30 minutes later the Saturday run time ended. I made a reservation at the Super 8 in Wakeeney, KS. Where do they get these names? This one had a working TV and of course the same breakfast fare so I retired figuring Sunday would be a piece of cake since it was only 6 hours versus the 12 of Saturday. I planned a start on the Trego Ness county line and did indeed get there on time. What a start to the day! The bands seemed much more alive. DX was already rolling in and I made a point to peek at 15 fairly often in hopes of a strong opening into Europe.

After the county line run I went on into Ness using the microphone powered VOX and the trusty recorder. In Ness City, the county seat, the speed limit was 20 MPH through town. I diligently followed that warning crawling through town right past the county seat building. On the edge of town was a bridge and all structures ceased so I punched the cruise control at 40 MPH letting the van pick back up to the 75 MPH I had been moving all morning. I guess somewhere around 50 MPH the local county sheriff decided to clock me. On down the road during a huge 20 meter SSB pileup I look up to see blue lights that appeared to be following me. I began to pull over all the while working 'em. KK4s KJ4s and KG6s etc. cool prefixes by the boatload. The friendly sheriff told me he had clocked me going 50 in a 40 just near that bridge and he also added that he clocked me going 75 in a 65. He accepted my Oklahoma license and asked for my insurance papers which were at home not in the glove compartment where they usually are. He asked what all the stuff was. I told him a bit about ham radio since he had no idea what it was. He looked to be 35 or so and had the Sunday duty so I figured he was a greenhorn. I told him my usual line of "I talk all over the world with this thing." Ham Radio is the original Facebook you see. My description didn't work as 15 minutes later he presented me with the normal stiff piece of paper. He did however give me a number of payment options for the \$162 tab he handed me. I thought that was nice. Multiple ways to pay in support of Ness County. Murphy busted a gut on that one.

Not to be deterred and especially since the bands seemed so much better I went on down the road and shucked off that episode in about a mile or two. I did look back though to be sure I wasn't being followed to the Hodgeman County line.

In Hodgeman DX started rolling in. SP9LJD, LY7Z, SE5L, DL3GA, DK2OY, ON4AAC, OH2BN, OM3DX, M8LRD, IK2OEW, DJ9AO and SM6BZV and others many right after the other. Good day I reasoned.

However, the K3 started reporting "BATTERY LOW" or something like that. It didn't shut down, yet, but was beginning to gripe. I had set the Honda generator on ECO mode which let's the thing run for over 12 hours on a tank of gas and it seemed to be charging my battery bank via the charger just fine. As I found out later in the day ECO wasn't cutting it because charging rate wasn't keeping up with using rate.

Only the fact it was a new set of marine batteries had I been able to run for over 15 hours with satisfactory battery juice for the 75 amps required by the amplifier plus the other good number of amps for the K3 at key down. Later in Comanche County and after I had double checked my connections from the charger to the battery bank did I step up the generator rate. Too late to catch up now though because in the last three counties of Comanche, Barton and Harper I had to do battle with turning the K3 back on and just eeking out a few Qs before the K3 shut off again.

I did manage to log 36 Qs in those three counties which is the same number I logged in just a few minutes in every other county. An estimate would have been 2000 Qs versus the 1697 I logged. I recall at least four or five Qs that got broken up with a shutdown and miraculously I came back online to find the station waiting for my exchange. Thanks to VE5KS, my very last Q of the party for waiting on me. W6RKC and a couple of others were also patient waiting while I rebooted the K3.

Now with 18 hours under my belt and Murphy taking a nap I decided a nice Sunday drive along the Kansas Southern border in perfect weather would be just fine so I took my time going toward Coffeyville and South to home. There is some beautiful countryside in the Southern part of Kansas. I like to think the fact that it is sitting right next to Oklahoma makes it more beautiful and of course friendly.

Thanks to all the callers. This was a good one regardless of the mishaps and in spite of my attending keyer 101 classes. I would list some of the stations but so much has been written already I will forego the accolades except for this one. I worked many Georgia stations. I asked a handful of them, "Do you know that ol boy N4 Papa Novembah?" To my surprise not one knew who I was talking about. I thought everybody in Georgia knew that character. I told most of them, be glad you ain't never met him, you're better off.

Oh, and this last comment or maybe it is a complaint. There were a handful of fixed station operators sitting in the comfort of their shacks using KWs and yagis who apparently did not receive or chose to ignore the emails sent by W0BH asking for cooperation concerning the "Mobile Window". One in particular showed up on my 20 meter frequency and also on the 40 meter frequency of another out of state gas buying mobile. I was able to fend him off a couple of times by creating havoc with my big iron KW mobile but the other poor guy had to put up with, "Go away QRL here." sent by callers waiting to work the station camped in the window. Talk about disregard for visitors that came some distance to join in. I also had some old boy calling said station say QRL QRL to me on 20 meters. Hey buddy, it's about to be QRL. QRZ KQP de W0L and the flood gates opened. For some reason the camper seemed to disappear probably just down one or two KCs on top of another 100 watt mobile. I am suggesting to W0BH that he disqualify that particular station.

Many thanks to Bob Harder W0BH for his untiring efforts to make the Kansas party one of the best in the country. It gets more out of hand each year Bob!

Rig: K3, Skymaster solid state amplifier, Tarheel and three Hustler resonators roosting on the top of a Dodge 2006 van which keeps on hauling sometimes a little too swiftly but always going forward in search of Qs. Now without it's rear window to slow it down. By the skin of my teeth I didn't require a spare trailer tire and the little yellow gas tank gas warning light plus bong only came on three times each time within the guaranteed 30 mile limit after said warning occurs. Only one close call but with 5 miles to spare.

73, Jerry K5YAA

N0R mobile – N5NA - 1473 QSO

This is my third mobile KSQP operation. In 2012 and 2013 Chuck, NO5W, and I ran multi-ops using N0R. In 2014 and this year Chuck had a conflict and couldn't make it. So, this year my wife and I decided to head straight north and do a KSQP road trip in western KS.

On Saturday I thought conditions would be much poorer than they were. Plenty of US stations but I think my only EU on Saturday was DL3GA. Sunday was improved with ON4AAC, DK3BN, SM6BZV, DK2OY, and LY7Z in the log.

Everything went smoothly. No Murphy in our backseat. I think we only made one wrong turn on our route and it was noticed quickly so we didn't drive too far before turning around.

We ran 31 counties.

Thanks to the following for contributing more than half of QSOs: N6MU(31), K2DSW(31), N4CD(29), N4PN(22), NA2X(21), W0GXQ(21), WB0PYF(20), KN4Y(19), N9JF(19), W9EBE(17), AE8M(17), K0DEQ(16), AD4RE(15), VE5KS(15), W0SK(15), WA8DXB(15), W6RKC(15), WA8REI(14), KS4X(13), W5ASP(13), W1DWA(13), N1CC(13), NS9I(13), WC5D(13), N3KN(13), W4UT(13), W9FZ(12), W7GF(12), N2CQ(12), WA9LEY(12), K5TIA(12), K0L(12), N3RM(12), NC6K(12), K0PFV(11), NO5W(11), WC7Q(11), VE7CV(11), W4SIG(10), N3GD(10), W2CVW(10), K0CCM(10), WA8ZBT(9), NU4Y(9), N4RS(9), N4DLR(9), W6KC(9), K8MR(9), VA3ATT(9), K3TW(8), K7ZYV(8), KC0HPM(8), KM4FO(8), VE2FK(8), NW0M(8).

Equipment: Elecraft K3, Dell Latitude D630 running CQ/X logging program, Scorpion SA-680 antenna, Ford F250 Superduty antenna support.

Thanks to Bob, W0BH, for organizing and promoting the KSQP. He does a great job getting 15 mobiles on the road insuring all 105 counties are on the air.

A special thanks to my wife, K5AKS, for driving me around Kansas and keeping us on the route and on time!

N0A mobile (AD0DX) 1102 cw 42 ssb qso

The Kansas QSO Party has come and gone and we had a lot of fun. My wife was my driver and we covered 25+ counties in the KSQP. This was my first time using my Ford Ranger; in previous years I had taken my 2004 Chevy Venture. The Venture is great because it has a large roof. Unfortunately as I put more and more miles on it, the engine noise got worse and worse. It was so bad that in the Missouri

QSO Party this year I couldn't operate while my wife was driving.

Usually I drive east to west in northern KS on Sat and return on Sunday, one county south of Saturday's counties. But this year a number of other operators picked similar routes, ending up in Cheyenne county in the NW corner of KS. Looking at the mobile route map on the KSQP web site about a week before the KSQP, there were a lot of counties not covered at all in the SE corner of Kansas. So I called Bob to discuss route options and decided to change to the SE corner.

My plan was to be in Miami county (south of Johnson County KS) for the 9am start. We left home at 8:15 and were almost through Miami county by 9am. I was thinking that we would stop on the Miami / Linn County line to start the contest. When we got to the county line, there was construction, and we would of had to dodge some orange cones to get there...and I didn't want to star the contest on a bad note speaking with a KS sheriff.

So we skipped Miami but knew we had good coverage there and started in Linn County.

The drive south to Cherokee county was uneventful and I was having a steady stream of qso's. The only hiccup was that another 1x1 station was on my assigned KSQP frequency so I have to move down to find a clear frequency.

I made a small route change and didn't update my web site. I stopped at a 3 county line of Montgomery / Wilson / Neosho when I realized that the 3 county line was available. I had planned two single county stops for MGY and WIL. For some reason, I couldn't get a good pileup going at this 3 county line. I was only working stations after calling CQ / KSQP.

Maybe there was a louder station on top of me that I couldn't hear.

Due to my engine noise in my Venture, I sold my ICOM 7000 and bought a K3. I had used the K3 in the Oklahoma Qso party and the Missouri Qso party already, but feel like finally in the KSQP I was starting to get the hang of it. The K3 has NB and NR features for removing electrical noise and during the contest I was often turning them on and off and adjusting them. I prefer to hear a little static in the headphones; I'm afraid that if I turn up the NB / NR settings too high so that there is no static then I might be missing some stations calling.

I have a K1EL winkeyer, but a few years ago in the KSQP it stopped working, probably due to the 105F temperatures outside and the fact that it was sitting on the dashboard directly in the sun for 8 hours. Somehow I haven't gotten around to checking the solder joints, so I used a combination of the K3 cw memories and sending by hand during the contest. The K3 has 4 memories, and I had them programmed like this;

M1: KSQP KQSP DE N0A/M N0A/

M2: ABC (where abc is the current county, I update this during the contest)

M3: unused

M4: CQ CQ CQ DE N0A/M N0A/M

This works pretty well. I send the callsign of the station I'm working using the keyer, as well as '599 cty'. One trick that Bob W0BH taught me is that the reverse beacon network does not pick up KSQP KQSP, it is only looking for CQ CQ... . So each time I cross a county line or change bands, I use M4 to send CQ again. This seems to really work well, and you can tell the stations that are using the reverse beacon network.

When the bands are open to Europe, often in previous contests when I would cross a county line and call CQ, there would be a European station right there.

Speaking of Europe, not many Europeans worked in the contest. I worked DL3GA, ON4UN and a handful of others. 15mtrs was really hot during the MOQP this year; that was fun too. Sometimes the EU stations were louder in the pileups than the US stations. But even though the bands were not great for DX on the weekend, there were lots of US stations on and more than a few good pileups.

I worked the most Canadian stations ever during this contest; BC, AB, SK, MB, ON, QC, NB. Being a Canadian myself it's always nice to work the motherland.

I had 51 multipliers this year which is not bad. I missed NH / VT / AK / HI / UT / WY in the US.

Anyway, Sat proceeded quite nicely. I had planned a stop at the Elk / Chautauqua county line and this turned out interesting. The road on the map to get there turned out to be a dirt lane, back between the fields. All of a sudden I was glad we were in my Ford Ranger and not the Chevy Venture. After about 4 miles we got back to the Elk / CHA county line. It was very beautiful country there.

My wife is an avid bird watcher so she got out and found that there were a lot of birds. She even saw a new 'life' bird (one she had never seen before). I had planned on a 20 min stop but the weather was great, the birding was good, and I had nice pileups on 20 and 40, so we stayed more like 45 min there. Plus the 15 min drive to get in and out, and we lost some time here, but it seemed like it was worth it.

Our next stop was Timber Creek Lake in Cowley. It turns out you have to pay to sit beside the lake, and it was getting late so we just sat at the entrance and made contacts for 20 min or so.

By now it was getting late, and we started heading towards Wichita and then the QTH of Bob W0BH who had offered to let us stay the night (thanks Bob and Lorna!). So we're driving in the dark on a narrow road heading towards Wichita with everyone else going home from the lake, when I start to notice a slight burning smell. Hmm. No flames, but something doesn't smell right and it smells like something is burning... just a little. Unfortunately it's very dark and there are no shoulders and it's 8:40pm and the contest ends in 20 min. So my wife keeps driving and I keep making contacts. Then right at 8:58 the voltage display on the K3 changes from 13.9v to 11.1v. Hmm... I power my radio from a 100AmpHour deep cycle battery and use a voltage booster to keep the voltage at 13.9 at the radio. This battery is 5 years old and I've used it in previous contests all weekend and never had a problem. It turns out that the voltage booster had switched off and was displaying the 'low battery' warning.

At Bob's we found out the battery was at 20% and Bob was kind enough to charge it up overnight. I'm not sure if it was due to the high heat in my garage this summer or the fact that the battery is 5 years old and I don't use it very often (mostly qso parties).

On Sunday morning, Bob suggested that I visit the HAR / MAR / MCP 3 county line. This turned out to be fairly active and I spent 40 min there. So already Sunday was behind schedule.

Things were going well up to Manhattan KS. We had stopped at the WAB / GEA county line for 20 or 30 minutes and this was a busy stop. After that my wife was tired so I drove into Manhattan KS and was planning on taking Hwy 24 east. With my wife asleep and being a little tired myself, I missed the turn to Hwy 24, and ended up on Hwy 18 instead. Then I found that Wabaunsee is a wide county and since I had already operated the WAB / GEA county line just kept driving

east. This turned out to be a bad decision. I think we lost 40 minutes there. Finally I ended up for the last 45 min of the contest at the POT / SHA county line.

All in all it was a great KSQP. Thanks to everyone for all the qso's and for your patience during the contest. Thanks for your patience too when I didn't respond very quickly. Once during the contest after calling CQ I looked up and there was a car coming around the corner towards us, in our lane. And I was also the navigator (maybe I should get a GPS) so I was looking at the Delorme maps between calling CQ at times.

Thanks to Bob W0BH for organizing a great contest and to Bob and Lorna for letting us stay overnight.

See you next year,

Ron, N0A/m, AD0DX

K0A – W0BH operator 905 cw 472 ssb qso

It was a year of change this year. XYL Lorna/k0why and I bought a "new" '05 Chevy Astro with 64,000 miles to replace our aging '91 Astro with 296,000 miles. The old Astro still runs fine and talks and listens like a dream, so I wanted to make sure the new one would perform comparably before retiring it. The Astro body was the same, so I positioned the three triple mag mounts (plus 2m/440) on the huge metal roof in exactly the same position as the other van. Instead of the IC706MkIIG (still in the old van), I installed an IC7000 plus other electronics in an upside down milk crate behind the driver's seat. A fan on the side of the crate provided additional cooling, and wires were hidden for a really clean installation. Connections are on the outside of the milk crate, so I can easily take out the installation and move it to another vehicle if needed.

Did it work? Almost. 80m CW, which tested fine with the antenna analyzer, had an infinite SWR when transmitting. After the usual tests, all negative, I swapped out the mag mount. In the process and before hiding the feedline with all the other wires, I draped it over the seat and tried it that way. Perfect.

So I hid the wires and it went back infinite SWR. To make a long story short, I finally ran the feedline along the roofline and down and it worked, no tuner needed. I had my Hustler antennas switched from 80(CW)-10 on both CW and SSB. As it turned out, I didn't have time for 80m this year, but it's now ready.

This year, Lorna volunteered to drive both Saturday and Sunday. I was so busy coordinating routes with the other mobiles, that I finally put my route together on Thursday night. All 105 counties were already covered several times over, so I concentrated on filling in the Saturday and Sunday gaps. That gave me a northeast route on Saturday and a north/south route on Sunday. I usually go west, so many of the counties were new for me during the KSQP. My route also ended up being 10 counties shorter than last year which felt a bit unusual, but it was certainly less hectic.

You might have noticed that we had surprise company as the SSB Sprint moved to our weekend this year. Alan/KO7X from WY was SK a few weeks ago. It's a contest tradition to honor the passing of a contester by using his name during a contest. I've known Alan for many years and visited him in Wyoming a number of times, so I planned to be home several hours early to operate at least part of the Sprint in his memory.

Saturday

We got off a few minutes late on a cloudy, cool (for August) morning. I always start on 40CW and a few CQs later, my first Q with N9JF in IL was in the log. That turned out not to be a fluke, as 40m was in solid all day with the same gang finding me almost immediately from each county. Eager to smoke test the rest of the bands, the rig and the antennas, I worked K3DQB first on 20CW, K0DO first on 40SSB, and N5MLP first on 20SSB. All worked great. We're in business!

We have a four-county line about 30 miles north which I've never operated from, so we headed there first. You never know what you're in for in Kansas as you travel back roads, and this line was no exception. A road which was on my GPS seemed to be covered up by a nice pasture with fences and other assorted impediments to mobile radio contesting. Detour time, but we finally got there and commenced a terrific US/VE one hour run on both CW and SSB. That also turned out to not be a fluke. Conditions on both bands held, but unfortunately so did the lack of DX and 15m. I read later that some DX was worked out west by mobiles, but very few made it into my log, and most were ESP contacts except for Mexico.

After finishing the line, we headed east into the beautiful Flint Hills. Hilltopping was fun, but lots of QSB along the way. Signals would go from strong to weak in seconds, and that also turned out to be the rule for the day. Looking at my notes for Saturday, I really didn't have any because nothing notable happened except lots of QSOs with lots of great ops. That's the way you like it, but it doesn't make for a very interesting report.

When requested, Lorna got on with K0WHY/m and enjoyed working ops who followed us along. She also had her binoculars and went bird watching as stop time permitted. We had one 45 minute stop scheduled at Tuttle Creek reservoir in Pottawatomie county. It turned out to be a very nice, very large park and campground. Unfortunately, it was the wrong time of day for good bird watching, but the runs were excellent! Might have to head back there for some camping sometime.

As we were on the backstretch heading for home on I-135, John/N6MU called in to report 101 counties (out of 105) already worked. He still needed Lincoln county which we could have provided by heading west, but he knew I was going there on Sunday and I thought another op was due to go through there yet on Saturday, so we both decided to keep with the plan. As it turns out, John missed only Lincoln on Saturday so I'm kicking myself for not going, but he and Paul/n4pn both got the county sweep on Sunday. John's comment about missing the Saturday sweep? "It just gives me something to shoot for next year!" Maybe we can put them all out on both Saturday and Sunday next year. I can dream, right? Congratulations to Paul for earning his first Worked All Kansas, and to John for doing it an incredible five years in a row!

I also worked ten SSB Sprint contacts from the mobile on the way back. We arrived home about an hour and a half early and quickly unpacked the van. I fired up W0BH and put Kansas and the KSQP on the air for the Sprint gang. I heard some of our fixed stations working Sprinters as well. It was very special to use the name Alan and remember good contests and good times with KO7X. I missed him (and I missed WY) this year in the KSQP, and I suspect many of you all did, too.

Ron/AD0DX and his XYL/driver Kathy were planning to work the three county line just three miles from my house and then stay overnight, but they got slowed down south, so they rolled in about 10:30 pm. Lorna and Kathy chatted about birds until late, and Ron and I chatted about mobile contesting. Believe it or

not, there are a number of similarities between the two hobbies! Both of us get excited about rare finds, we think nothing about going to out-of-the way places for reasons most people would probably use as excuses to stay home, we keep lists, we'd love to have some of that really expensive equipment, etc, etc. But I digress. At days end we had 418 miles on the van and 1085 Qs / 54 mults in the log in not quite 10 hours of KSQP operating time. A good day.

Sunday

Sunday dawned cool and almost foggy. I reloaded the van and Lorna and I enjoyed breakfast with Ron and Kathy. Ron uses the long Hustler masts on his mobile mag mounts, so his antennas are truly impressive. Coming in last night he somehow made it under my overhead feedline which was sagging a bit, but heading out he snagged it while I was videoing rather than watching. Fortunately, my breakaway strain relief worked, so no damage done to either antenna system, but we had to take the feedline down before I could get my van out. We had both our vans parked in the grass while were working with the feedline and I saw a nice photo op. I got my feet wet in the really wet grass, so wet socks to start as I didn't take time to change. The pictures, however, were worth it.

Once again, 40CW was terrific at the start, so I ran a bunch before going to 20CW. I noticed right away that the SWR was much higher than it should have been. After checking all the obvious things, I decided that the 20m resonator coil was probably damp since I'd left the van outside and there was lots of moisture on the windows and metal. I went to 40SSB which worked fine, worked some more 40CW, then tried 20CW again and everything worked fine. That turned out to be the only radio problem during the trip.

It's always a challenge to fit between all kinds of nets on Sunday. One gentleman came on my 40SSB run frequency of 7238 (they never seem to identify themselves) and suggested I move because a net was soon starting up on 7245. I said, "what frequency was the net?" "7245". Guess my mobile must have picked up about 10kW somewhere. I made a few more contacts and it was time to go to CW anyway.

Sunday always goes too fast in the mobile. As we headed to our last three-county line of Mitchell, Osborne, and Lincoln, the roads went from gravel and sand to dirt. Definitely not the place to be after a rain. The line was really out there in the middle of nowhere, a perfect place to park! As I was enjoying the pileup, a big RV rig came bumping down the road. He stopped in

front of the van and Lorna got out to chat. It turns out he was looking for the geodetic center of North America and wondered if we knew where it was. I'd seen it as a dot on the Kansas map and knew it was only a few miles away, so Lorna showed him what we knew. I personally knew we were at the geographic center of MIT/OSB/LCN (well, not really :-), but I had to look up "geodetic center." Turns out it's like Zulu time for map makers, a reference point from which all measurements in North America were taken.

Because we got off a bit late and stayed too long at the last line to accommodate all the callers, we drove fast and made it to Ellsworth County, but didn't make our last county. Fortunately two other stations did so it wasn't a disaster, but it's been awhile since I haven't made all my promised counties. We'll try harder next time, and we're already looking forward to next time. Hope you are, too! We finished the party with almost the same score as last year (more multipliers this year) even though we operated two hours less, so it was a good year. We couldn't do it without you all looking for us, so from both Lorna and me, a big THANKS for the fun!

Stats

We operated 15.7 hours, 1639 combined Qs, 493 unique calls (up from 458 last year) 32 dupes, one radio. I'm guessing most of the dupes came from ops reworking us on Sunday for the Sunday Plaque.

States not worked ----- : AK WY

VE not worked ----- : NS NT NU YT PE NL

DX worked (17 countries) : DL ON XE

K0A/m overall rate : 106/hr (last year 115/hr)

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

46 N6MU - Congrats on the 5th County Sweep in a row, John!

37 N4PN - Congrats on your 1st Worked All Kansas, Paul!

26 VE7CV - Nice work from BC, Pete!

21 K2DSW - Bob worked 21 of my counties, all on 40m CW!

20 AD4RE N4CD N9JF W4UT

14 K0DEQ K0IP N3RM N8NA W0GXQ W7GDK
16 K7IA K8MR
15 NA2X NU1O W1DWA W6KC
14 K0DEQ K0IP N3RM N8NA W0GXQ W7GDK
13 K7SEN N1API VE3HED WC7Q WX4G
12 KN4Y
11 NO5W WA8DXB WA8REI
10 AB7NK N3KN NW0M VE5KS W2CVW W5ASP W6RKC W7OM

W0BH Award Winners - First Place - Very Honorable Mention

Most overall Qs ---- N6MU/46 ---- N4PN/37 ---- VE7CV/26
Most CW Qs ----- N6MU/25 ---- K2DSW/21 --- N4PN/N4CD/20
Most PH Qs ----- N6MU/21 ---- N4PN/17 ---- VE7CV/14
Most counties ----- N6MU/25 ---- N4PN/22 ---- K2DSW/21

There are lots of people to thank for the 2015 Kansas 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 have three Kansas school stations (Emporia State, Kansas State and Kansas University) to thank as well as our non-1x1 Kansas stations. Our mobiles and fixed stations were out there with our best county coverage yet. I also know we had several very enthusiastic Kansas Rookies joining us. We hope you come back next year!

Special thanks to our out-of-state mobiles Jon/w0zq, Jerry/k5yaa, Bill/nu0q, Alan/n5na and Andrea/k5aks, Mark/ki0i, Connie/k5mc and Pam/n5kw, and Duffey/kk6mc for visiting our state. We also have Alan to thank for the wonderful color-coded map of activated counties he made with CQ/X software by NO5W. We had a surprise mobile as K0PY took a break from operating fixed and put W0W/m on the air. That gave us a record number of mobiles (16) this year including Lorna who made some contacts with her own call as we drove along. THANK YOU THANK YOU to all. 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, 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. Special thanks to new club sponsor Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club. We added a 23rd plaque, the Sunday Sunflower plaque and it will be interesting to see who wins that one. I know a number of you were working on it! If you do win a plaque, be sure to thank your plaque sponsor, and thank our corporate sponsors with a shopping visit if you get the chance. Thanks in advance to Ron/ad0dx for his help in log-checking. Thanks to Lorna for safely negotiating the Kansas roads for me. And finally, thanks Kent/kb0rwi, for your great job on the KSQP web site. I know you're extra busy right now recording incoming logs.

This year was unusual in that it was a fifth September weekend and not the Labor Day weekend. We usually share this weekend with the Ohio QSO Party and the Hawaii QSO Party, so I would also like to thank Jim/k8mr, the chair of the OQP for promoting us in Ohio this year. We all enjoyed the Ohio visitors to Kansas in our logs! Next year we'll be back sharing bandwidth again, but we've managed that well in the past and I'm sure will do so again in the future. The OQP and HIQP exchanges are now the same as ours (Ohio changed theirs this year), so that will make logging between parties easy. Thanks for that one, too, Jim!

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 2016 Kansas QSO Party, or comments about this one are always welcome ... !

73, Bob/w0bh/k0a (and Lorna/k0why)
2015 KSQP Coordinator

W0O mobile – K5CM – 1366 cw qso

W0R mobile – with W0SQ and KD0DSU Ops - 793 cw 90 ssb qso

W0SO: Good party again, condx fair. We had pileup contacts stolen from us several times by another station in the mobile window. As always, many thanks to Bob W0BH for his super organization of the Party !

KD0DSU: While it was a shame that conditions weren't better we still had lots of fun and were glad to help activate counties that didn't have coverage. We

tried a new route this year and I think it went well. We had to laugh on Sunday handing out "jackpots" as we were on the Jackson (JAC) and Pottawatomie (POT) county line. Congrats to those of you that won a "JAC/POT" from us! (Hi !)

Sadly, it seems there was/were someone(s) that didn't show their "amateur courtesy" toward the mobiles. Bob, and many others, have worked very hard to make the KS QSO Party one of the most anticipated and popular state parties and it would be a shame to have a few poor sports ruin that good reputation and spoil it for everyone. I am hoping next year is a return to the polite operating good amateurs are known for. Thank you to all who cooperated well in the spirit of good fun and camaraderie. Until next year, 73.

KDØDSU

N0U mobile - NU0Q Opr 1066 QSO

Another great party! We made fewer stops for sight-seeing this year resulting in more QSOs. Still, we took a total of 4 hours off for lunch, dinner, gas, etc. We were way ahead of schedule on both days, so we improvised at the end of each day and worked in a few more counties. Didn't work any DX on Saturday, and only 1 DX QSO on Sunday, so maybe my signal is a little weaker than others. Also, only 1 QSO (Arizona) on 15 meters, also on Sunday.

Smoke from wildfires out west made the full moon very red Saturday night, and then dense fog on Sunday morning slowed us down at first, but otherwise the weather was great.

I'm not using the TurboTuner anymore, so I don't have to slow the serial port down to 110 baud between the radio and the computer anymore, which made the logging software much happier. I did have to reinstall the serial port driver for the Winkeyer, and that caused a bit of a late start on Saturday, but once everything was working, it was great! The best moment was giving N4PN his last county (Sumter) for the sweep. I appreciated all the QSOs, and thanks to everyone for following us around.

N1CC – Fixed – North TX 150 cw 48 ssb qso

“Challenging exercise! Saturday 60+ K-Index and 10+ A-Index with intense Solar noise made 20 Meters pretty "sad" here in North Texas. 40 Meters was the money band. Sunday K-Index of 9 and A-Index of 3 made for better 20 Meter conditions, and most 20 Meter contacts were made then.

Note, both days, I lost ALL ability to work into Kansas on 20 Meters from about 1700 UTC until after 2000 UTC. What I observed both days is that I could HEAR the KS stations by pointing due East during that afternoon period, actually pretty strong. They were not able to hear me calling. I presume this was some kind of sporadic E propagation, and with the huge F2 Layer signals from the East Coast possibility of using that to an advantage did not happen for me.

With any of the close-in states, working stations during the day becomes hard. 40 held up well, and the short darkness period limited contacts on 80 Meters, in part because the higher bands were full of signals for the Kansas crowd! You go where the contacts are!

I Worked a LOT of mobiles! Feel good about hitting the 83 county level, there were only two other counties that I heard that I wasn't able to work as their pileups were too severe - did try! Without more night time operating time I don't know if getting all 105 counties can be done at this distance.

My part of North Texas is 640 miles from Cheyenne County and 340 miles from Cherokee County ... so this is all pretty clearly short-skip and potentially back-scatter on the higher bands. It would be nice to see if its possible for Kansas, and other states, to have a concurrent "too close for all" award for the folks who are distance-proximity challenged!

Mobile Report: 120 of my contacts were PROBABLY mobiles. Leading the pack was N0R with 15 QSOs, then W0E-14, N0K-14, W0R-11, K0A-9, N0A-9, W0L-9, W0Q-9, N0U-8, W0O-7, N0T-6, N0Y-6, and W0N with 3. That is the highest percentage of total for a state QSO Party for mobiles for me! “

W0S – fixed KS – Thomas County (opr K0BJ) - 519 cw 1202 ssb

Condx seemed baddish before the start, but it proved to be good for stateside,

if not EU. Sunday improved a bit for DX. The N0T/m guys overnighted with me Friday. They had various issues at the start but I see from APRS they forged ahead.

Always fun to bump into friends. I got at least 31 of our 1x1 calls in the log.... may have missed marking some on my tally sheet. Last year I had WAS and 58 mults. This year I failed to log RI but still had 58 mults.

This is my best QSO total for the KSQP. I didn't really expect to go hard, but in the end I held to ~20 minute lunch breaks, and just a handful of ~5 minute off times.

K0N – (K0VXU oper) – fixed KS 472 cw 1028 ssb

Bands were very poor. Even on Sunday with the solar numbers getting somewhere back to the normal range the signals to Europe were down. Lots of QSB and the low bands were very noisy Saturday.

That said, this was my best effort so far in the Kansas QSO Party. Still, not enough to beat Bruce, K0BJ (W0S). Losing the first 2 hours Sunday morning was a killer. Still got 58 mults, same as last year. But didn't work AK, PE, or NL as I did last year. I notice that Bruce missed RI and I must have worked a dozen. UT and SD were my last finds Sunday afternoon. And worked only one NE and that was on 20 meters no less.

KN4Y – fixed FL - 170 cw 91 counties

Mostly a 20 and 40 meter QSO party for me. Plenty of mobiles, what a blast.

WB0PYF - fixed – MO - 137 cw 9 ssb 87counties

N6MU- fixed Ca 300 cw 116 ssb 105 counties

“W0BH advertised that all 105 counties would be on Saturday. I tried to prove it but never heard LCN. However, I did get the other 104! K0O/m gave me LCN early Sunday morning for the Sweep. Thanks, Butch! Congrats to Paul, N4PN, who also got a Sweep. It ain't that easy folks, hi.

There were 16 active mobiles which makes for a fantastic Party. I love the challenge of tracking all of them. The mobile CW frequency assignments really helped again this year. Thanks for using them.

Top mobile for me was K0A with 46 Qs followed by W0L(39), K0O/N0R(31), N0A(28), N0U(26), W0Q(25), N0K/W0O(23), N0Y/W0E(22), K0WHY(20), N0Q(10), W0R(8), N0T(7) and W0W(4).

Thanks to the myriad of fixed stations that hung in there the whole time as well. Never heard a signal on 15 but 20 kept me plenty busy.”

On the Trail Of Regens

One of the rarer items to show up on Ebay recently was the Allied Radio “DX-er” or “Lil Hopper”. This was sold in the early 50s and didn't stick around long. It's the first and only I've ever seen on Ebay. It was described in a Popular Electronics issue in March 1952 and Radio TV Experimenter in same year..



It's missing its knobs but they or similar ones can be found. There was one big pointer knob (2-3 inches) and two smaller pointer knobs below.



Rear View – Allied DX'er

It uses two 1S5 tubes – one a regen detector with the pentode 1S5 hooked up as a triode for the regen stage – with a pot controlling voltage to the tied together plate/screen to control gain (ie, regen) plus a pentode audio stage driving headphones. It ran off a 1.5v battery and 90v battery. As you can tell above, it came with plug in coils.

It looked better after I cleaned it up a bit. Will still need a few caps replaced – golly, the original ones are 65 years old now!

The controls were regen, bandset, and main tuning. This seems to be sold along with the octal tube Ocean Hopper – and just before the big switch to the 7/9 pin based Ocean Hopper that has become the cult item in the mid-late 50s. One of the original octal tube Hoppers sold for near \$300 on Ebay in excellent shape.

There's a article on it in Electric Radio – March issue of 2005 but it doesn't add much to the history, origin, or sales of the unit. That's a subscription only magazine put out monthly and dealing with fixing up and restoring old boat anchors.

You can also read up on this unit in Radio TV Experimenter – 1952 issue – online here – page 141 by their count – page 139 in the compilation of articles.

<http://www.americanradiohistory.com/Archive-Radio-TV-Experimenter/Radio-TV->

[Experimenter-1952-Vol-2.pdf](#)

It was added to the N4CD collection :)

If you want a trip back on the 'way back' machine, you can read Popular Electronics on Line at:

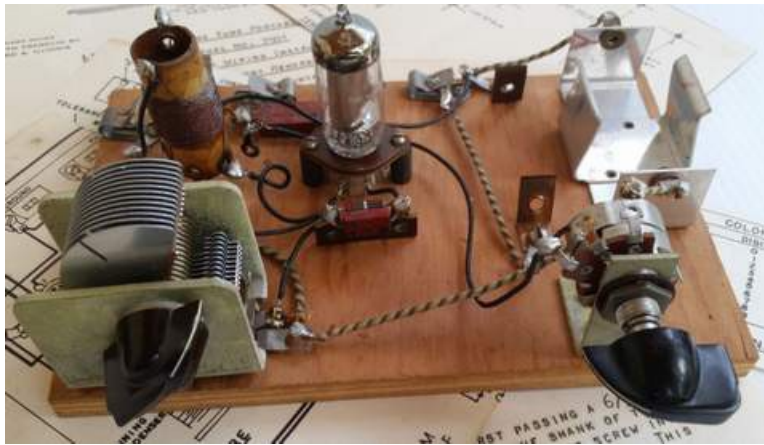
<http://www.americanradiohistory.com/Popular-Electronics-Guide.htm>

Unfortunately for me at the moment, it only goes back to 1954,not 1952.

Lots of good reading from way back at those links and hit the 'main site' to get to literally hundreds of back issues of those mags! Heck, in the same issue, you can learn how to make “A Plug in Atomic Bomb Radiation Detector” - to let you know when to go to your basement 'fallout shelter'. You can connect this Geiger counter to radio speaker system to detect radiation after an atomic blast!

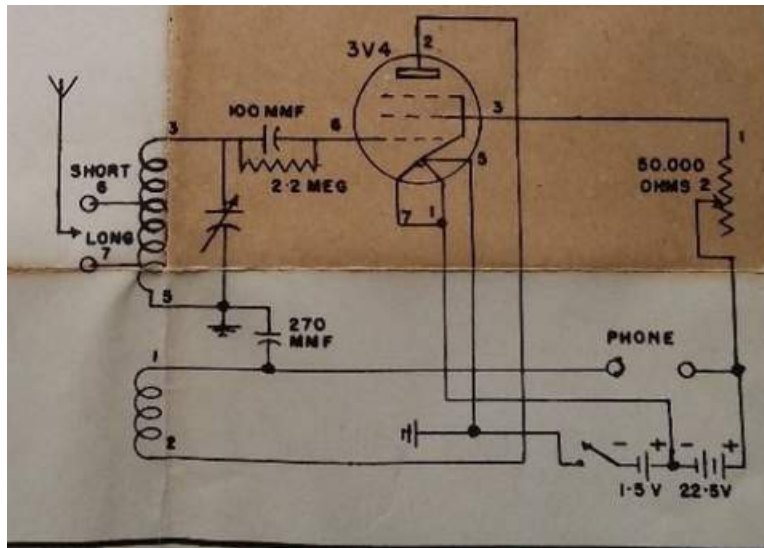
- - -

Another interesting item from the early 50's showed up. It's the Philmore Little Wonder kit radio – two tubes from the 50s. Likely it was targeted at the Boy Scout and youth market of the day. Simple regen using a 3V4 pentode tube that ran off batteries. 1.5v for the filament, and 22.5v for the B+. Yep, they made batteries with 22.5v (mostly for hearing aids and similar devices – and 45v and 67.5 and 90v and 135v batteries back then. They weren't cheap but you'd only pull a few milliamperes from them for a radio like this so they'd last 50 plus hours.



Philmore Little Wonder

Here's the schematic of it



It doesn't get much simpler than this for a regen. No RF choke in the plate lead – just a cap to ground. Feedback coil off the plate. Regen controlled by adjusting the screen voltage.

Most the radios like this probably got used a few times – then the novelty wore off and they were relegated to the scrap heap in a decade or two. This one came with the original box for the kit, the assembly instructions, etc.

Colorado QSO Party

There was a CO QSO Party going on. Murphy did not cooperate – the A index was double digits all day here in TX and zero propagation to CO - from 600 to 1500 miles the whole day. Saw things spotted – usually by DX – but NIL here. Later on 40M in the evening things picked up a bit. Meanwhile the CW Open was going on and I noted lots of county hunters working it- N4PN, KM4FO, WN4AFP, and others. Might as well grab a few new counties in the process of searching for CO stations. I did manage to find AF0S, the 'bonus station', on 40M in the evening.

From the various reports, it seems there were a handful of stations on cw, maybe 15- 30 max on cw in CO on the air.

From the 3830 contest reflector:

K8TE – fixed – NM 21 cw 33 SSB 8 cw mults 8 ssb mults

Where was everybody? Operating from North, Central NM, I heard nobody on 20. But there sure weren't a lot of CO stations on 40 and 80/75! I got a lot done in the shack while N1MM called CQ. Not having propagation 20 really hurt my QSO rate.

73, Bill, K8TE

N1CC – fixed – TX 28 cw 28 ssb qso 17 cw mults 15 ssb

Lower score than 2014, pure state of the bands. As with other closer states limited to 80-40-20. No signals heard from almost anywhere on the other bands. The Indices were better than last weekend, still not very good.

Few mobiles: (3) W0ZA-8, N0LP-7, and AA0JD-4 for 19 contacts.

WN4AFP – fixed – SC – 4 cw 4 mults

“Finally able to work a few COQP stations. It was tough on 40m. 73s Dave WN4AFP”

K4SX/QRP – fixed TN 5 cw 13 ssb 5cw mults, 10 ssb mults

Qrp 5 watts conditions bad here. only had a couple of hours to play.

N6MU – fixed – CA 46 cw 21 ssb 21 cw mults 16 ssb mults

In years past I made around 100 CW Qs but only 41 this year. Only heard one CW mobile (W0ZA) and one SSB mobile (N0LP) which made it a really looong day. I usually do CW only but lack of activity prompted me to go mixed just to keep the action going. Had 18 Qs with W0ZA/m and 9 Qs with N0LP/m. 73...

John, N6MU

County Sign Database Project

Gary, K4EXT, updated the database with new pictures. Here's some of the contributions this month. Last update 8/28. None after.

WY0A added a dozen more in AL and FL. Here's one of them.



WY0A - Lamar, AL

Charlie, N2JNE, added one in NY and one in VA. Here's one:



Rensselaer NY - N2JNE

Jon, W0ZQ, sent one in



Rice, MN W0ZQ

WA2NWN sent another in -



Burlington, NJ WA2NWN

Jerry, W0GXQ, on his latest trip, caught yet another one in ND:



Ransom, ND by Jerry, W0GXQ

Ed, KN4Y, snagged another one in GA



Jeff Davis, GA by KN4Y

Unusual Things From Ebay



TecRad Receiver LRR-5

Technical Radio Company was founded in San Francisco, California in 1937 by Clayton Bane and George Weiss. Bane was an assistant to Frank Jones at Western Wireless, Ltd. (1932 to 1934) where he helped install the first two-way radio system at Alcatraz Federal Prison. Many of Bane's crew at Western Wireless went onto work at Eitel-McCollough (Eimac) but Bane went on to form his own company called Technical Radio Company. TecRad (as it was sometimes called) became a prime contractor for the U.S. Navy building high quality shipboard entertainment receivers and a couple types of small transmitters. Only a few companies built Navy acceptable shipboard entertainment radios since there was a strict requirement that no more than 400 pico-watts of LO leakage was allowed on the antenna. TecRad claimed that only 100 pW was present on the antenna with their receivers. Scott Radio Laboratories built the SLR and RBO receivers that are the most common of the "low radiation" WWII shipboard entertainment receivers but TecRad also produced their versions during the war designated as "LRR" with numeral suffixes from 1 up to 6 (LRR = Low Radiation Receiver.) The TecRad receiver shown is the Model LRR-5 from May 1945.

The LRR-5 is typical of the WWII shipboard entertainment receivers in that robust audio is delivered to selectable multiple output impedances (six impedances from 16 ohms to 800 ohms) since many ships had various kinds of audio loads depending on the size and layout of the audio distribution within the ship. A front panel speaker switch is

provided to allow disconnecting specific speaker lines depending on how the ship's speaker system was wired. Most systems probably had the speaker switch wired to allow the local radio room speaker to be disconnected while the ship's audio system remained on. 15 tubes are employed in the LRR-5 including an 0C3 voltage regulator and push-pull 6V6 audio output tubes. Also, a 6E5 cathode ray tuning indicator tube is provided. The frequency coverage is typical of shipboard entertainment receivers with the AM-BC tuned with Band 1, Band 2 tuned from 2.0mc to 6.5mc and Band 3 tuned from 6.5mc up to 18mc. Also, a very accurate logging scale is provided. Single preselection is used along with two IF amplifiers with three selectivity bandwidths available. A phonograph input is also provided. Like some of the Scott Radio Labs' SLR/RBO receivers, a BFO is included - just in case the receiver might be needed for CW reception and a Send-Receive switch is provided - just in case the receiver had to be used for two-way communications. Unlike the Scott receivers, the LRR-5 includes separate RF and Audio Gain controls thus when the BFO is tuned on, the RF Gain must be reduced and the Audio Gain increased for proper CW reception.

Performance of the LRR-5 is impressive. The audio is high quality and with push-pull 6V6 tubes in the output there seems to be quite a bit of power available. Bass response is very good and Shortwave Broadcast stations that are playing music sound incredible. AM-BC sounds very good with plenty of sensitivity available - after all, you might be trying to "pull in" an American AM-BC station while in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Although only a single RF stage is provided, images are not apparent in normal reception above 15mc as would be expected. Alignment of the front end provides L and C adjustments for all three bands and the IF transformers are permeability tuned. Strategic shielding is used to keep the LO leakage down so there are a few shielded boxes in the receiver's front end. High quality Peerless transformers (Altec-Lansing) are used in the LRR-5. One has to also note the perhaps intentional resemblance that the LRR-5 has to receivers built by Mackay Radio and Telegraph Company around the same period.

Tennessee QSO Party

The mobiles were out and running and many fixed stations were on the air. At the N4CD QTH – with the not so great conditions, the skip on 20M was too long for most of TN – going right over it, and 40M was 'too far' during the daylight hours. I watched as spots rolled by and that was it. Not much going in the log. Later in the evening 40M skip lengthened out and it was fun time for a couple hours before the TN folks moved down to 80M. Managed to put 80 contacts in the log and fill in a bunch of TN, but still need half the state – hi hi . Sometimes you are in the 'right spot' for the propagation – other times things don't work out. The upper bands (10 and 15) didn't do much.

From what I can tell, the mobiles did well – lots of Qs – so overall it was definitely a success. Someone please fix the propagation! Hi hi.

From the 3830 reflector:

N4ZZ – mobile – multi op 1147 qso

This was our 6th time running mobile in the TNQP. Our score was not quite as good as past years (1174 Qs last year), probably due to poorer band conditions and a slight reduction in participation. Nevertheless, we had a very enjoyable time driving thru the beautiful Tennessee countryside, and working the pileups as we entered each new county.

The 2000 Montana Van, radio equipment, N1MM Logger, antennas, and the 380 mile route all worked perfectly. Unfortunately, we heard nothing on 15m, and 20m got weak and long early. So we swapped out the 15/20m hustler antenna with the 80m antenna rather early at 6:30 pm local. We worked a total of 229 unique calls this year, which was less than the 249 worked last year.

We appreciated everyone who worked participated in this contest, and making the 2015 TNQP another success. Thanks to TCG Greg K4KO for pulling this contest together. And of course, thanks to Melody for once again driving two OM safely on another ham radio mobile adventure.

Hope to hear you all next year in the 2016 TNQP.

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

W4NZ mobile - 1003 QSO

I missed going mobile in the TQP last year but this time Gary K4VIG and Jeff K4BP signed on as for the adventure. Jeff was our designated driver and did a yeoman's job, driving the whole route. Thanks, Jeff! That left Gary and I to do the operating. We had planned to cover 25 counties but ran a bit short on time. Even at 23 counties, our route covered just over 450 miles so perhaps 25 counties was a bit ambitious. This year for the first time we used my Chevy Trailblazer as the vehicle. We had two Hustler antennas mounted on the roof, one forward and one aft. The radio, an Icom 756ProIII, has two antenna ports so band changing was almost instantaneous. Conditions on 20m were spotty. We had some good rates but only for short periods. Skip was long with lots of QSB and it seemed to play out early. 40m was the money band. It got really good around sunset and held up with good signals right up to the end. 80m was also good after sunset but we got there a bit late (40m was still very productive). This made for some very active pileups. There are some really good operators in these parties because they stayed right with us as we cranked up the cw speed to get everybody in the log.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who took the time to ride along and give us a call making this a really fun experience. See you next year!

73, Ted W4NZ (for Gary K4VIG and Jeff K4BP)

WN4AFP – fixed – SC 71 cw 19 ssb

Tennessee QSO Party activity was off the charts! I started late on this one... The mobiles was exceptional... N4ZZ, NY4N, W4NZ, W4SIG, K4ZGB and K3IE.

N1CC – fixed – TX - 86 cw 17 ssb

Conditions marginal, very little propagation on 20 Meters to TN. 40 Meters was better, however, suffered from storm line between TX and TN that introduced severe QRN and crashes. Money band, for once, was 40-Meters. 3X last year's

score was possible.

Mobiles RULED: 53 contacts - over half! W4NZ-13 leading, N4ZZ_10, W4SIG-7, NY4N-7, K4ZGB-3, and N2WN-3

80 Meters opened early, N4ZI, K9IL, and W4DTA made it into my log before I hung my gun belt up for the evening ... well before sundown here. Only one contact using RTTY, and I called during the +10 and +20 periods each hour.

K5LK – fixed – TX 159 cw qso

Heroic contest in poor conditions. Nothing doing on 10, 15 or 160 meters from here. Signals unusually weak with QSB and often a flutter or an echo. Mobiles carried the day as usual (QSOs): N4ZZ (25), W4NZ (24), W4SIG (17), NY4N (15), K4ZGB (11), N2WN (2). Oddly, mobiles only accounted for 49.7 percent of contacts, even though their presence felt overwhelming. Still improved my score over those of previous years. Thanks for all the QSOs and also to the organizers.

KN4Y -fixed – FL – 110 cw qso

“WOW six mobiles running from county to county keeps a person awake and drinking water to avoid dehydration from the QSO intensity. Never heard the bonus station on CW, not sure if it was. My proximity to TN makes it a 40-meter operation with a short run on 80-meters after the sun went down.”

On the Road with N4CD

The time had come for another road trip. The N4CD mobile had been sitting in the garage for a few weeks with no miles accumulating – so it was time to head on out for a two day 'weekend'. There's a small hamfest up in AR – at Mena – in Polk County. Maybe a few hundred people show up each year. You never know what goodies will show up and there's usually a fine collection of various boat anchor type radios up for sale. It's held at the Queen Wilhelmina State Park 'high up' along the Talimena drive

up in 'scenic' western AR/eastern OK. There's some hills there – they call them mountains – but after flat land in Dallas, those 'mountains' are welcome! Hi hi

I loaded up the car for a two day trip – and had to pack some cooler weather gear as the forecast included a 'cold front' moving through. When I left it was well over 90 in TX at 10am on Friday – headed for the mid 90s. There were two counties in OK not run for the 3rd time yet, so the route zipped up through Pushmataha County on the way up there – about 250 miles including a nice stretch along the Talimena Scenic Byway (47 miles along the ridge top from OK into AR – mostly all of it in state parks/state forests with no habitation). The weather was clear and the views great. You don't make good time but it's nice to have the ups and downs and twists and turns - sort of like the Blue Ridge Parkway toward the southern end. Of course, here you are running along ridge tops up 1500 to 2000 feet – half of what you have the Blue Ridge. Still, for us 'flatlanders' it's a nice change.

You proceed along OK Route 1 – they don't do much snowplowing or other road maintenance during the winter – signs warning you 'Travel at your own risk in winter!' Motorcycle groups came along by the dozens. At one point, there was a slight slowdown as the police (3 cars) were directing traffic around a wrecker pulling a car that probably was going too fast for the windy road and managed to head off the road (no shoulders) into the forest. Vehicle looked in bad shape but didn't have time to gawk. No ambulance so it must have happened - likely overnight and they were just removing the wreckage.

After five hours of putting out counties, I arrived at the hamfest site up on Rich Mountain – the second highest point in AR at 2670 feet AMSL. Normally, the temps are a few degrees cooler up on the mountain top at the hamfest site. There's a great lodge there – many stay there (\$109 plus per night). The hamfest folks set up two giant tents – probably 50 by 120 feet each – for the vendors – and some flea market spots – and there are another 50 cars usually with stuff behind for sale. Things start mid day on Friday. I've never found any 'real steals' but you never know what will show up each year. I've been there a few times before – every couple years I get inspired.

Folks come to this hamfest to 'get together'. You can camp in the campground right next to the hamfest site and there are dozens of RVs sitting around. There's the smell of BBQ cooking everywhere. There's lots of yakking and this is one of the friendliest hamfests around anywhere in the country.

Did not find any goodies to spend my money on. There were old Hallicrafters and National receivers – by the dozens. One nice Heathkit SB104 and power supply and

accessories, some nice Johnson rigs from the AM days (heavy heavy stuff), and the usual 2M equipment were up for sale. They have two major vendors selling new stuff. Temps were in the 70s and it was nice up there on the hilltop.

One nice thing about this hamfest is the AR QSO Party is the next day – so you can go off and run some counties on the 'long way' home. I'm not really that big on state qso parties but I get around to doing two or three a year – OK, AR, and TX plus the MARAC contest – for most of a day. There's not enough at this hamfest to keep you there for more than an hour or two. They do have a dinner in the evening for the folks. The various net groups get together. One of the nets I saw an ad for was the 'pre breakfast net' on 3723 that meets every night from 2am to 4am. Hmmm. Don't think you'll find me checking in to that one! No way!

After 2 hours at the hamfest I headed over to the town of Mena AR 11 miles away down off the mountain. Twisty road! Reminds one of eastern KY. This year I stayed at the Lime Tree Motel (\$71 – no breakfast included). There's no Super 8 in town but if you want Super 8 quality here – stay at the Sun Coast Inn – been there but it's now \$99/night. The Lime Tree is likely an old Holiday Inn or Ho Jo's from the 50s or 60s. Not bad at all. Nice in fact. The lot was full of other cars with antennas and call letter license plates. Mena is a town of about 5000 people.

They have a nice buffet each night at the restaurant at the motel – and the town folk head there for chow. Partook of their Friday night seafood buffet – all you can eat. (\$10) – not bad - Went out and gassed up the car for the next day – and read the second half of one of those 'olde tyme' radio novels from the 20s. Report will be coming up in a future issue. Hit the hay about 9:30pm. Slept well. Nice and quiet.

The alarm in the cellphone rang at 6am. Time to get up and get going. The breakfast buffet at the motel starts at 5:30 in the morning – plus they have menu items. Over at the restaurant at 6:30 and elect to just have their 2-2-2- special of 2 eggs, two pancakes and two slices of bacon for \$4.50. Otherwise the buffet is \$9 plus tax. Pancakes filled me up nicely. Then it was time to get mobile and up to the hamfest. It was 60 degrees outside in Mena. Having done this before, I know it would be chilly up on the mountain top – so I had on the long pants and flannel shirt, and had the ski jacket in the back of the car. Sure enough heading up there the thermometer dropped down to 50 degrees as I wound up the twisty windy road to the top of Rich Mountain. Arrived at 7:30 and 52 degrees outside with nice breeze. The sun was up. Maybe 200 folks were already there- most had camped overnight or stayed in the nearby lodge. Parking is easy – 100 feet away from the hamfest.

Not much new was added. Wandered around and checked things out. I was done by 9am and that's when the AR QSO Party started. Right at the hamfest N5PHT was operating – 60 over S9 so had to move a mile away before I could put out Polk County. Worked about 20 then headed to Scott County – the next on the route. I would do a circle and come back around to Texarkana, in Miller County, then head on home leaving AR about 5pm. It's 2 1/2 to 3 hours from there to home depending upon how fast you drive.

Remembering that Jerry, K5YAA, had recently collected souvenir paperwork from the local gendarmes up in KS, where they give you tickets for 5 over, I did the usual thing of watching real closely for speed limit signs, especially entering small size towns where they could afford a cop car and radar gun. I didn't need any new paperwork. Things went well, and I wandered along slowly over to Montgomery. What's this making my radio jump up and down? 60 over S9? Why it's W3DYA putting out the county line of MTGY and HSPR. I zip on past him sitting at the county line in his white car – and head to the next line for GARL/HSPR 8 or 10 miles up the road. I'd already run MTGY on the run. Didn't hear him again until 5 hours later!

K5YAA was north of me. Heard him a bunch of times real real weak.....but he wasn't hearing the weaker stations. QRN on 40M is a big problem along lots of roads. Well, gave up after 10 tries. Heard him once or twice on 20M but no joy – he's right at the noise and he's running high power. He had KI0I along.

Now AR QSO Party has some weird rules. One of the applies to “rovers' and “portables'. For them, you can be within 3 miles (changed from last year's 2 miles) of a county, and run it as a county line. In fact, you can find yourself a location where you are at a location that you can cover 3 or 4 counties in a 3 mile circle and run all those counties. That happened in the SW corner as AA5AR ran a 4 way line – likely from about a mile away – as close as you could get without a boat as the four way line seems to be right in a lake there.

AR has lots of 'wet lines'. This rule applies only to rovers – which cannot operate 'on the run' between their operation sites and to portables – who are expected to set up 'base station like' antennas. That makes it really hard to know what counties you should count for your USCA and MARAC awards as you have no clue as to actually where these rovers and portables are. Use your own judgment as to what you should log. Other QSO Parties are a bit loose with what they consider a 'county line'. One you had to be 'within 300 feet'. (PA).

For mobiles, I guess they are expected to 'be on the line' as I didn't hear too many wet

lines being put out by mobiles – they know better. At least the cw ones did. Didn't listen for any 'SSB mobiles' if they were out there – I think one or two were. I think norm was stopping to run his counties. N4CD stopped about half the time and ran the rest on the run. K5YAA had a driver so no need to stop. Not sure about K5CM/m. Or WA5BDU/m.

The other rule is you can give out 2 or more counties with one contact. Need to log it as two or more contacts for contest credit if you keep track. Good for mobiles as it makes things move faster.

Late in the afternoon, a bit of DX comes through. What's this call? YV5OIE? It's been a long time since I've heard that call! Wow. Otherwise, DX was absent along with much of the country on 20M. It was tough working N6MU - only got him in half the counties. New England was fading in and out, and with the central location, much of the country had no 20M propagation. 40M was just fair. Later toward evening it got better.

Well, not to worry. I put out my counties and got around to the SW corner of AR about 30 minutes behind schedule at 5:30pm. Weather was good – 80s – roads were clear – no accidents slowing things down – so it was time to head on home. Caught maybe a dozen AR counties.

The speed limit on I-30 is 75 mph and traffic moves at 75-80 mph+. Worked a few more stations in AR as mobiles were still going there. K5YAA seemed to finish by 5pm. Not heard after that, but W3DYA and K5CM were still going.

I was home at 7:30 – stopped at the local Boston Market for dinner and home by 8pm.

660 miles total on the road. Another 'double header' with the hamfest and AR QP.

Double Diamond Award

At the September meeting of the Board of Directors, a new award – The MARAC Double Diamond Award – was voted in. There's been rumors of this floating around for quite a while. This is now the highest level award for folks to work towards – above

Mobile Diamond. The rules are similar to the Mobile Diamond rules with a few tweaks. Starting date is Sept 15, 2015.

Only those who have earned a MD award can work toward this award.

The objective is to work all US counties with a Mobile Diamond (MD) mobile.

The mobile will get credit for his county if he works another MD while he/she is in the county.

Anyone looking to get this award must run 500 counties after they have their MD award. In each of those 500 or more counties, they must make six contacts, with 3 of them on one band, and 3 more on any other bands.

As of September, there are seven MD holders – N5UZW, K5GE, N4CD, N4AAT, N8KIE, WQ7A, and N9STL.

Now there's a reason for N8KIE and others to go and put out counties! Who is going to be the first to earn Double Diamond? How long will it take?

As of 9/22, no update to the MARAC Award Rules.

Arkansas QSO Party

The mobiles were out and running, and a dozen fixed stations kept things lively despite the not to great propagation. With a large invasion of mobiles from out of state, the western and southern part of OK was well represented with mobiles in every county. From OK, K5CM and K5YAA with KI0I came. From TX, W3DYA and N4CD visited AR. AR managed to get a few 'rover' and 'portable' stations out, and one mobile on CW – WA5BDU, and maybe one or two on SSB.

This contest has some flaky rules. For example, for 'portable' or 'rover' stations to be on 'a county line', they only have to be WITHIN THREE MILES. Hmmmm.....not exactly kosher by normal county hunting rules. Much of AR has wet lines – rivers – that make many lines to be run unless you are on a boat or a very remote bridge with no traffic.

Probably most of the counties in the state were on if you are 'bi-modal'. :Maybe 75% of

counties on cw, and less on SSB. If you ran both modes, maybe you'd miss about 15 of the counties as no activity was spotted from them.

From the 3830 contest reflector:

K5YAA mobile – with KI0I - 704 cw 34 ssb qso

First, let me thank Mark KI0I for joining me again this year. Having a partner makes for a much more enjoyable run in one of these things. Mark's willingness to grab a wrench is much appreciated by this OT.

I told Mark I built us a laid back route this year. A route that would let us smell the roses of Arkansas' early Fall season. A good decision as the WX was perfect in the upper 60s, sunny with mild breezes that let us enjoy some of the most beautiful countryside around. Our route took us through the Ozarks off the beaten Interstate path and within eyesight of some terrific mountain ridges and valleys. Only a head of about a dozen goats were the only critters that crossed our path. A very good day, as both Mark and I are country at heart and appreciate the beauty and comfort of the countryside.

As it turned out the WX was also helpful in our efforts to keep Murphy pinned on the mat. Fairly early on the battery source for the K3 and amplifier began to fade even though I had made efforts to see that it was charged for a 12 hour run. I am suspecting a set of marine batteries that simply don't want to recharge. Bought at Wally World and usually satisfactory these simply seem to be duds.

K8TE reported via email with an audio file attachment to support his claims of twangy CW, our CW tone was not particularly good. Caused by the diminishing battery power source, Mark suggested we might run the K3 "direct" to the van battery because without the battery up to par the K3 was out of business like it was in Kansas. Additional receive noise was a concern but after a skillful routing of the already long power leads on the K3 under the floor mat, out the side door and into the motor compartment where Mark attached the two terminal lugs to bolts on the battery leads we fired up the van and no added noise was apparent. Let's roll with this setup was our decision. That was in CLEBurne county under the shade of an Oak tree that was

as old as our combined age.

So, for the rest of the day we were Tuna Can powered in the mobile. 100 watts out of the K3. Now and then for external excitement we would turn on the amp and drain what few generated joules had collected from previous miles. Only a handful of HP QSOs now and again but power out didn't seem to diminish our ability to work folks even DX that finally showed on 20 mid afternoon in Yell and the counties following Yell.

Possibly the best spot we stopped at was a very crowded country store near Petit Jean State Park. There must have been 50 or more motorcycles there for some sort of charity run. I put the van under a metal roof covering the gas pumps, went inside as they didn't have new fangled credit card purchasing available pump side and Mark kept going on 20 with 100 watts that isn't enough to upset diesel relays, credit card readers and other electronic assistance equipment like found by the amplifier in Texas and Missouri. Actually I don't think even HP would have done any damage because the pumps were "old fashion" with no widgets attached just a hose. You even had to stay pump side as the switches on the hoses didn't work to stop the flow.

When we pulled away from that store Mark said, here comes the noise again. I think he would have been happy to sit under that awning the rest of the day. He had one of his best runs under that cover.

Other Murphy attacks included the SamSung Windows 8.1 laptop which decided to rid itself of a cursor never to be found again. The old Dell's battery pack is DOA but does still run on AC so up it came to the front seat to take over for the SamSung. The only problem then was to hope the generator would keep plugging along better than it had all day. It's time for a bit of servicing on the Honda gennie as it wants to stop running unless sitting still or motoring along on a smooth road. Railroad track crossings and pot hole strikes stop it most of the time only to cause a pullover and rope yank. Probably a dozen times all day but amazingly, after the AC only Dell was put in place, only one time did we have to "restart" after the gennie stopped. By the time we made it to Scott County via back roads that I thought would get us to the Scott/Sebastian County Line we were so laid back and mellow I don't think much would have troubled us. Like I said a very enjoyable day motoring around in the country.

Later in the evening we figured a try at 80 might be worthwhile. One of the

main decisions to retreat to 80 was the CW Sprint had cranked up at 7PM. Even though the participants seemed to respect my CQ ARQP the rate on 40 diminished. I did get a sort of kick out of having 6 or 7 Sprinters call me at which time I gave them a 5NN and the county abbreviation. What? Huh? at which time I sent a serial number, JERRY and AR which seemed to make them happy. I would have liked to have a screen on the K3 to see the puzzled looks on those fellows faces. N9RV and K3LR were two of those "unlucky" Sprinters. To both of you guys, I logged you in the ARQP and if necessary can prove that you did indeed work an AR mult in the Sprint. A special thanks to W9RE who figured out 7.041 was my frequency on 40 and kindly slipped out of the way to do his CQ NA on some other frequency. I hope you got an immediate caller Mike. 80 surprised me. 100 watts shook 38 Qs out of the woodwork. There were a couple of pileups on us at times. Amazing, I thought you needed a KW to venture lower than 40 meters.

Mark and I want to thank all of you that followed us during day. Many call signs. Even though the crowd was much smaller than the Kansas Party, all the same we enjoyed the party and the rates fit nicely with our deliberate effort to smell the roses. The DX that called in was a treat as the bands were not very cooperative again this weekend. DK3BN, G3XVR, HA8IB, YV5OIE and F5FJ were the sum total of our 15 DX QSOs. 1

5 meters garnered only 4 QSOs a benefit from John N6MU who must have looked dozens of times at 15 for an opening. When down there, finally making contact with John, VE7SL called in so the band was at least open briefly to the West. 40 states worked and rather sadly only two Canadian provinces VE3 and VE7.

Mark got to work every one of the 15 DX Qs. An allowance by me for him bringing a full tub of home baked, made from a scratch recipe, brownies whipped up for our snack stash by his Dear wife Janet. I had told Mark to see if she would favor us again this year with her talent. Delicious. Mark said to me via text at 5:30 AM prior to both of us rolling toward Arkansas, brownies packed. He said something about a piece of gear and a cooler I think but knowing the brownies were on the way I forget exactly what else he mentioned.

Don Banta K5DB is to be commended for his efforts at stirring up the action and advertising the Arkansas Party. Thanks Don for your invitation and a special thanks for the weather you dialed in for us. An enjoyable ride in your state for sure.

73 all for now, Mark KI0I and Jerry K5YAA

Rig: The Big Iron Mobile aka Oklahoma Land Rush Mobile with a K3 and Skymaster Solid State Amplifier feeding three HP Hustlers and a Tarheel. A Samsung Windows 8.1 driven laptop that needs tossing and an old Dell laptop that still has some life in it after 4 years of mobiling around the country.

W3DYA mobile - 469 cw qso

Activated 16 Arkansas counties, worked bonus station AA5AR once. Operating time includes about 50% driving, 50% stopped to operate.

K5CM Mobile - 969 cw qso

Operated in 27 counties

N5PHT portable - Polk County AR

Set up portable at the Queen Wilhelmina State Park. Hamfest here today so was a bit distracted hi hi. Band conditions very poor but still a lot of fun. Stopped early when the NA Sprint started.

WN4AFP - fixed - SC 40 cw 7 ssb

Score includes 6 Qs with AA5AR. The bands weren't cooperating with us today. Very few contacts on 20m and the rest on 40m. Sigs were very weak into SC on 40m until 0000z, then the Sprint started. Thanks to the mobiles K5YAA, W3DYA and K5CM for the many multipliers.

KM5PS - fixed - AR - 300 QSO - CW

I had a great time again this year. Thanks to everyone how gave me a call. Bands could have been better, but better than they have been all week. I was really dreading the contest if the bands didn't improve. I was happy to be able to use my new stack pair of Tribanders this year. I was able to turn the top to the west and leave the bottom on EU. I got my stack match built this week so was able to use both at the same time. This was the best score that I have ever

gotten on the AQP. My best was 32,000 and beat it by 11,000 points this year.
Great for me!

N1CC - fixed - TX 45 cw 28 ssb

Arkansas is between 140 and 450 miles from this location. 40 Meters was the working band. I could not work any of the weak signals heard on 20. There were a few 80 Meter contacts, all very strong, but no one was around by the time the band opened for us here.

Mobiles worked: K5CM-9, W3DYA-7, K5YAA-6, N4CD-4.

W1END - fixed - NH - 36 cw qso

Good activity. Probably missed some during my usual early afternoon propagation slump. Signals picked up quite well in late afternoon and evening. The NA Sprint kind of took over after 0000z so I went to bed and read a book. The mobiles kept the activity rolling along. They sure get around. Many thanks to all especially the organizers of this bash.

FTdx5000 and Butternut HF6V. The antenna is almost 30 years old and falling apart but I'm still in one piece.

Eldon - W1END

N6MU – fixed – CA 90 cw 37 ssb

Conditions really up and down. Couldn't hear the mobiles for hours at a time. 80% of my Qs were with the five mobiles when I could hear them, hi. Top mobile for me was K5CM with 30 Qs followed by K5YAA(20), W3DYA(12) and N4CD & WA5BDU(5).

15 was open early afternoon but not much action. Thanks to the handful of fixed stations who hung in there. 73...

John, N6MU

KN4Y – fixed – FL 92 cw 58 counties

The out of state mobiles touring the pot hole roads made operating a CW experience just above dull. Maybe more fixed Arkansas operators will lean CW and let the fun begin, wishful thinking? Probably. At the bewitching hour of zeros another contest took over the frequencies

(de N4CD – heck 92 cw contacts and 58 counties isn't too bad, Ed)

CW County Hunter Contest Results

Norm, W3DYA, runs the CW County Hunter Contest by himself. He has released the following results. Dennis put them up on County Hunter Dot Com.

First the mobile scores:

The line reads across: Call, score, fixed QSOs, DX QSOs, Mobile QSOs, Points, Multiplier, State and # of counties run by the mobile. If a mobile ran in two states or more, the total score is listed as well as the score for each state.

CALL	SCORE	FIXED-DX-MOBILE	QSOs	POINTS	MULT STATE	# of COUNTIES Run
W0GXQ	1,058,058	776 47	206	1,029 4,011 258	ND	30
NU0Q	489,960	542 46	130	718 2,722 180	TOTAL	39
WC5D	365,680	332 25	138	495 2,527 140	TOTAL	19
KN4Y	364,536	497 53	82	632 3,992 183	TOTAL	31
K7TM	348,537	361 0	134	495 2,371 147	TOTAL	16
W3DYA	312,040	542 46	92	680 2,152 145	TX	35
KI0I	301,305	465 46	80	591 1,895 158	TOTAL	16
WC5D	271,064	256 15	117	388 2,168 124	TX	15
N4CD	259,017	339 18	94	449 1,837 141	TOTAL	13

NU0Q	250,290	334	22	94	450	1,854	135	NE	25
N4CD	249,228	336	18	92	446	1,806	138	OK	12
K5CM	204,404	412	36	60	138	1,440	119	OK	13
KN4Y	160,089	261	19	59	339	1,241	129	GA	18
K7TM	138,345	213	0	66	279	1,203	115	ID	9
KI0I	137,475	325	32	46	403	1,175	117	KS	10
KN4Y	86,955	198	27	46	271	1,023	85	FL	12
NU0Q	84,196	208	24	36	268	868	97	IA	14
KI0I	67,680	140	14	34	188	720	94	MO	6
NF0N	60,095	145	9	27	181	595	101	NE	12
K7TM	43,848	93	0	46	139	783	56	WA	5
KJ9C	41,440	85	2	43	130	740	56	TOTAL	3
KJ9C	32,212	62	1	34	97	577	56	MT	2
WC5D	17,040	76	10	20	106	426	40	OK	4
K7TM	14,630	55	0	22	77	385	38	MT	2
KJ9C	4,890	23	1	9	33	163	30	WY	1
N4CD	93	1	0	2	3	31	3	TX	1

Where you see 'total score' that means the mobile ran in two states or more and that is the combined total. They will be listed later for each state they ran.

Fixed Stations

The line reads call, score, fixed stations worked, DX worked, mobiles worked, QSO Points, multiplier, final score, state and county of fixed station.

Keep in mind mobiles and DX counted 15 points, while fixed stations 1.

CALL	SCORE	FIXED QSOs	DX	MOBILE	TOTAL	MULT STATE	COUNTY
WA2VYA	1,365,958	217	14	267	498	4,292	319 TX BASTROP
K5YAA	666,571	213	55	156	424	2,828	235 OK ROGERS
N6MU	643,104	92	5	177	274	2,772	232 CA ORANGE

NA2X	477,276	31	3	168	202	2,566	186	NY	MONROE
W8FNW	381,136	31	0	151	182	2,296	166	OH	DELAWARE
K8TE	286,770	255	11	60	326	1,210	237	NM	SANDOVAL
K5KPE	275,520	75	6	109	190	1,740	148	AR	BENTON
N1QY	257,009	77	9	101	1,878	1,637	157	MA	MIDDLESEX
W2CVW	223,512	48	12	100	160	1,608	139	NJ	MIDDLESEX
AD1C	196,973	66	4	93	163	1,481	133	CO	ADAMS
W7OLY	189,666	371	1	100	138	1,542	123	WA	THURSTON
KM4FO	187,224	24	0	106	130	1,614	116	KY	HOPKINS
K4BAI	119,966	112	23	45	180	902	133	GA	MUSCOGEE
K4AMC	102,564	64	7	55	126	924	111	TN	DAVIDSON
K3WYC	65,588	23	0	56	79	863	76	AZ	MARICOPA
N8CIJ	62,524	17	0	53	70	812	77	OH	ASHLAND
KJ4IWZ	61,400	79	5	34	118	614	100	TN	BRADLEY
W1EQ	55,981	59	3	37	99	629	89	CT	WINDHAM
AB7RW	48,708	18	0	48	66	738	66	WA	CLARK
K1BV	44,717	96	10	21	127	461	97	CT	TOLLAND
N4VA	37,996	19	5	40	64	644	59	VA	FAIRFAX
W9MSE	29,121	16	0	37	53	571	51	WI	FOND DU LAC
WE7G	28,529	7	0	40	47	607	47	AZ	MOHAVE
K8MP	21,167	47	3	19	69	347	61	OH	DELA & VINT
KB3LIX	20,400	50	4	18	72	340	60	PA	WASHINGTON
K7ZYV	21,120	15	0	31	46	480	44	MS	JACKSON
K0PFV	18,468	6	0	32	38	486	38	NE	DOUGLAS
AD4RE	18,960	9	0	31	40	474	40	FL	COLUMBIA
NS8O	17,766	39	4	18	61	329	54	OH	MEIGS
N2CQ	17,055	24	5	23	49	379	45	NJ	GLOUSTER
K2HVN	11,118	12	0	21	33	327	34	DE	KENT
W7GF	4,040	7	0	13	20	202	20	OR	LANE
N7JPF	1,176	9	0	5	14	84	14	OR	WASCO
K4GM	730	8	7	2	17	73	10	VA	CAROLINE
K6CSL	484	9	1	2	12	44	11	CA	STANISLAUS
W8JPF	3,300	10	1	10	21	165	20	OH	FRANKLIN
KI6OY	182	6	1	1	8	26	7	CA	ALAMEDA
NU4M	36	6	0	0	6	6	6	GA	LANIER
KB5XM	25	5	0	0	5	5	5	TX	BEXAR
AI6DO	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	CA	LOS ANGELES

DX stations – CW

CALL	SCORE	FIXED	/M	TOTAL	POINTS	MULT	COUNTRY
VE5KS	635,060	65	173	248	2,810	226	CANADA SK
DL5AWI	220,585	55	90	145	1,405	157	GERMANY
OK2EC	64,954	61	42	103	691	94	CZECH Rep.
VE1OP	17,732	46	16	62	286	62	CANADA NS
DK2OY	1,274	8	6	14	98	13	GERMANY
VA7JC	715	10	45	55	55	13	CANADA BC
SE5L	465	16	1	17	31	15	SWEDEN
UA3AGW	144	12	0	12	12	12	RUSSIA
JA9CWJ	49	7	0	0	7	7	JAPAN
HG6IA	9	3	0	3	3	3	HUNGARY

Soapbox comments submitted (along with scores) to Norm, W3DYA:

WC5D, Van: I always enjoy running in this contest! Thanks to Norm W3DYA for being contest chairman for the US County Contest. Many mobile stations were on for the 2015 contest: W0GXQ, W3DYA, NU0Q, K7TM, KN4Y, KI0I, K5CM, N4CD, and more. I drove solo onto County Lines in NE TX and S OK. Temperature for most of both days was 100F/37C! I ran with the IC-7100 worked great and love the touch screen! Also added the BIG Coil to the BuddiStick.

BUT, on day two, all went to MURPHY and ended in Flames! Had to QRT 1843Z. For the full story see WC5D on QRZ.com!! Also, Bob N4CD has a copy for his monthly newsletter. CU in 2016.

SE5L, BEN: VERY POOR CONDS UNFORTUNATELY, BUT A NICE TEST. RIG IC-76 ANTENNA FB53 5 EL BEAM, PA IK-FA APPROX 600 WATTS.

N7JPF, PAUL: Attached is my poor results of the CW QSO party, 2015. Very difficult conditions here in the Pacific NW this year. I did get a few however. Thank you for your effort in putting this together again.

K6CSL, BERT: Always fun. Wish I had more time to put in. Bert, K6CSL

W8JPF, JOE: First time participating; wish I could have heard and worked more.

AI6DO, RYAN: Saddest summary sheet ever is attached.

DK2OY, MANFRED: Poor Condx.

DL5AWI, GERD: Dear friends from Germany! That was very hard work for my ears this year :-) poor condx, very noisy band, IOTA contest, expedition VK2SSI, RI1PT-pile up around 14050 here in EU and QRL early on Monday. Some new counties for me - thanks to the mobile operators!

K5YAA, JERRY: The base station performed well. Decided not to get out and to stay close to home. Will get the results of last week's tests tomorrow and hoping for only a surgery versus chemicals. Thanks for your efforts again this year.

K3WYC, ANDY: Log was edited and contest re-scored to fix QSO for which the county exchange was not accepted by N1MM. Just a suggestion - Please make the use of a standardized county abbreviations mandatory for the contest. This is my first CH contest. I entered the contest hoping to pick up the last 4 states I need for CW WAS and triple play. I have not been a county chaser, but maybe I am now. It was fun to work W0GXM/M as he toured ND as ND was one of the states I needed.

KN4Y, ED: The band operating conditions were so close to bad I almost shut down and went home and mowed the lawn. Calling to dead air gets boring after a millisecond. A plus, the weather was great and the traffic light to lighter. 15-meters was open but no one knew it except me. Hi.

AD4RE, GREG: Attached is my log for this past weekend's contest. Only was able to do one day but had loads of fun. Thanks for running the contest and thank YOU for the counties!!

N1QY, RON: Very hard work this year, but I did pick up quite a few new ones.

K5KPE, BOB: Great to work you this weekend. Weird condx. One minute W0GXQ is booming in on 20 from ND & the next you are booming from TX & Jerry K5YAA from OK HI HI.

JA9CWJ, YOSHI: I heard two mobile station, but no QSO hi.

K0PFV, JOHN: I wasn't really in the contest, just chasing counties, just here's my log anyway.

N4VA, LARRY: I had a lot of fun with the limited time available this weekend. Great job, mobiles! And a big thank you to Norm for keeping this contest alive. I'm looking forward to the results and to next year's contest.

HG6IA, TOMI: I have worked only 4 USA stations, and three counties. Sorry, very poor propagation between North-America and Europe. I worked with YAESU FT-950 and dipole.

K8TE, BILL: This was my first time in this contest and it was certainly an interesting event--thanks! Lots of folks didn't know their county abbreviations. That list of counties really help--thanks again!

W2CVW, ED: Conditions have been generally poor here. QSB is my enemy, also, on CHN! The regulars, including yourself, know my call by now and that helps. Some of the QSOs are almost what I call imaginary!

W0GXQ, JERRY: The bands were in pretty bad shape, but everyone hung in to follow the mobiles. With W9MSE and K5YAA missing, the multipliers were down this year. Forty meters was almost a bust, and very few contacts on 15 meters. Eighty-three percent of my contacts were on 20 meters! Hand-logged this year which makes transcription easier (and faster) than using the digital recorder.

NF0N, MIKE: Bands were not good but did make a few. I had a trip planned to a Ham get together in Victoria Springs in Merna, NE, so combined that with the CH CW Contest. Had a good time.

Peak Oil Update

from the Peak Oil board – interview with Chris Martenson(Host) and Jeffrey Brown:

Despite the attention-grabbing economic volatility that is grabbing headlines, it's important to keep our eye on the energy story firmly in focus. This is especially true as the headlines we regularly read about Peak Oil being dead " are "manifestly false" according to this week's podcast guest, petroleum geologist Jeffrey Brown.

As concerning as the fact that global oil production has plateaued over the past decade, despite trillions invested in trying to goose it higher, are Brown's forecasting model for oil exports. **His Export Land Model shows how rising internal consumption can swing (and has swung) countries from major exporters to permanent importers within a dizzyingly short period of time:**

The crucial issue to understand about what has happened after 2005 is that we've had a very large increase in global gas production and natural gas liquids, but a much slower increase in crude plus condensate. **So, what I think has happened is the actual crude oil production has basically flatlined** while the liquids associated with natural gas production, condensate and natural gas liquids, have continued to increase. So, we ask for the price of oil, we get the price of Brent or WTI; but when you ask for the volume of oil, you get some combination of crude, condensate, natural gas liquids, biofuels. So, the fact is that substitution has worked and is working in that they're bringing on alternative substitutes, but they're only partial substitutes. **The actual, physical volume of crude oil production has probably been flat to down since 2005.** Over the past ten years, it has taken us trillions of dollars, basically, to keep us on an undulating plateau in actual crude oil production. What happens going forward?

So, basically, the conventional wisdom is the fact that we've seen an increase in liquids production, seems there's no evidence of the peak in sight. And, I think in regard to crude oil production, that argument is manifestly false. **I think that we've probably seen a peak in actual crude oil production,** 45 and lower API gravities, despite trillions of dollars of upstream capex expenditures.

I started wondering in late 2005 what happens to oil exports from an exporting country, given a production decline and rising consumption. And, so I just started, I just constructed a simple little model. I assumed a production of about two million barrels a day or so at peak, consumption of one, and assumed production falls about 5% per year, basically what the North Sea did, and assumed consumption increases to 2.5% per year. What the model showed was that exports, net exports would go to zero in only nine years, even though a roughly modest production decline. So, the easy way to state it is giving an ongoing, inevitable decline in production, unless an exporting country cuts their domestic oil consumption at the same rate as the rate of decline in production, or at a faster rate, it's a mathematical certainty that the net export decline rate, what they

actually ship out to consumers will exceed the rate of decline in production. And, furthermore, it accelerates.

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There are two other things even more powerful than simple production that we have to know about. One, of course, is the energy return on energy invested, or EROI, but that's not the topic of today's discussion. The other thing is how much oil is available for export. After all, if you're an oil importing nation (and most are), then all you really care about at the end of the day is whether or not you can import as much affordable oil as your local economy needs. If so, great. If not, you're in deep trouble.

It was in early 2006 Jeff Brown first proposed a simple, mathematical model for oil exporting countries called the "export land model," or ELM

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First, as someone on the front lines of the oil story, how obvious is it to petroleum engineers and geologists that the age of cheap and plentiful oil is behind us—or is it?

If you look at liquids production, I think a critical issue is to separate crude oil from crude condensate, natural gas liquids and biofuels. When people ask for the price of oil, what you get is the price of actual crude oil, which is most commonly West Texas Intermediate, WTI, or Brent, and that's got an API gravity, American Petroleum Institute gravity in the high 30s average. The dividing line between crude and condensate is about 45 API gravity. The higher the gravity, the lighter the liquid. Now, condensate is basically natural gas lean, and it's a useful product, but it's got very little diesel component.

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The analogy I've used is it's like asking a butcher for the price of beef, and he gives you the price of steak. If you ask him how much beef he has on hand, he gives you total pounds of steak, plus roasts, plus ground beef. So, I would argue that if you're—the quantity of the item you're pricing should relate to that item and not to the quantity of partial substitutes.

So, the condensate and natural gas liquids can be used as transportation fuel, and condensate is basically natural gasoline. So, they're certainly useful products, but the key point is that the cornucopians are arguing that there's no evidence of any kind of

peak in sight, that liquids are going up in perpetuity. And, I'd argue that that's manifestly false in regard to actual crude oil production.

But, the point is if crude oil production has flatlined, despite trillions of dollars in upstream capex, it's when, not if, that natural gas and associated liquids, condensate and natural gas liquids also peak. So, it's simply the crude oil peaked first. But, the fact we're seeing still rising combination of crude and condensate and then a large increase in natural gas liquids, cornucopians argue there's no evidence of a peak in sight. I'd simply argue that whether it was peaked first is actual physical crude oil, and all the refiners can process some condensate, although it's basically, just generates gasoline. But, they need the crude oil, actual physical crude oil to provide the complete spectrum of refined products. And, I suspect the U.S. refiners probably hit the limit late last year of how much additional condensate they could take.

Reuters had in their article earlier this year where refiners are actually rejecting what they call these "dumbbell crudes." They were blends of a barrel of condensate and a barrel of heavy crude that had the high 30s average API. But, it was critically deficient in distillate content. So, they called it a toxic blend that didn't meet their output requirements. So, refiners are basically increasingly rejecting condensate, 50% condensate, 50% heavy crude volumes.

And, hence, all the calls to export oil from the United States. Those are really, mostly calls to export all this condensate we've got, because we're swimming in the stuff, more than we need. It doesn't quite serve our energy needs, but it happens to come out as a consequence of certain wet shale gas efforts and other things like that. So, we're swimming in one, just one cut, if you will, of the kind of oil that we've been living on all this time.

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It actually may be a global phenomenon. If you look at global numbers, the best database we've got for an approximation of global data is OPEC. They report crude only, and EIA has crude plus condensate so you can subtract the two, the OPEC crude from EIA, crude plus condensate, you got an implied condensate number. And, so basically all the increase in OPEC crude plus condensate production since 2005 has actually been condensate. There are widespread reports that Iran's got tens of millions of barrels in oil flooding offshore, but it turns out that the bulk of that is reportedly condensate, and they're actually having difficulties getting rid of it.

This is where the complexity that's actually involved in the oil story is so important. And, what we get is really cartoonish headlines in the media. One of the things I say all

the time is that the closer you follow the media on this story, the more likely you are to be misled

I started wondering in late 2005 what happens to oil exports from an exporting country, given a production decline and rising consumption. And, so I just constructed a simple little model. I assumed a production of about two million barrels a day or so at peak, consumption of one, and assumed production falls about 5% per year, (basically what the North Sea did), and assumed consumption increases to 2.5% per year. What the model showed was that net exports would go to zero in only nine years, even though a roughly modest production decline. So, the easy way to state it is: giving an ongoing, inevitable decline in production, unless an exporting country cuts their domestic oil consumption at the same rate as the rate of decline in production, or at a faster rate, it's a mathematical certainty that the net export decline rate—what they actually ship out to consumers—will exceed the rate of decline in production. And, furthermore, it accelerates.

So, you look at exponential declines in oil production and hyperbolic—hyperbolic just means that the decline rate slows with time. Well, this is an accelerating decline rate. So, it'd start out like at 5% and then 10% and then 15% and 25%. Then if you further look at actual case histories, I summed the production consumption and net exports from six exporting countries that hit or approached zero net exports from 1980 to 2010, excluding China. I excluded China because they became a net importer prior to production peak, because their consumption grew so fast. But, in any case, the six countries basically showed exactly what the model predicted, and after a fairly modest production decline, they hit combined zero net exports in only 12 years once their net exports peaked.

Now, one of the stunning things about what I call net export math is depletion. If you look at that six-country case history, their net exports peaked in 1995. Their production actually was still increasing, but because the rate of increase and consumption exceeded their rate of increase in production, their net exports fell. But, in only four years, from 1995 to 1999, their production went up by 2%, their net exports fell, but they shipped more than half of their post-1995 cumulative supply of net exports. So, of all the cumulative net oil they would deliver to the global import market, they'd already shipped more than half in only four years after the net export peak

As far as net export peak, what I looked at, my global database, is the top 33 net exporters in 2005. I just simply update that database year-by-year as we get additional EIA data. Off the top of my head, roughly 20 out of 33 have shown a decline in net exports since 2005. In aggregate, they fell from—their combined net exports fell from 46 million barrels a day in 2005 to 43 million barrels a day in 2013. We don't have complete annual data for the 2014 consumption yet.

BP has some partial data out. For example, Saudi net exports fell from 9.5 million barrels a day, total petroleum liquids in 2005, and they fell to 8.4 million barrels per day in 2014. And, this is with them pumping near 10 million barrels a day. Now, they're showing a year over year increase for 2015, so we'll have to see what 2015 shows. But, I seriously doubt if they're going to exceed the 2005 net export rate. I think it's very likely that Saudi Arabia will show ten straight years of net exports below their 2005 rate.

It'd be like if you had ten million gross income, two and a half million expense, it'd be an income to expense ratio, four to one. If that ratio's declining, if the production's falling and consumption is flat or increasing, the ratio falls, or if the rate of increase in consumption exceeds the rate of increase in production—which is where we've seen Saudi Arabia—the ratio falls. But, in any case, you can extrapolate that ratio out to where it's 1.0. So, it's where production equals consumption, or it would be 1.0 income to expense ratio, where income equals expense. So, it's at that ratio of 1.0, net export equals zero, net income equals zero.

The key point of the depletion is it's front-end loaded, so roughly, a rough rule of thumb is about one-half are shipped one-third of the way into the decline period. So, taking 30 years to hit zero, by the ten-year mark, you have already consumed half of cumulative net exports. Now, when you extrapolate that decline ratio out based on Saudi data for 2014, it suggests that they're already approaching the 50% depletion mark. I suspect that Saudi Arabia may have already shipped close to half of all the cumulative net exports of oil that they will ever net export.

And, in 2014, I read that China became the largest net importer of crude oil, and I just read, I think it was just yesterday that China's use of gasoline was up by a stunning 17%

in the first months of 2015 as compared to the same period in 2014. So, how long would it be at current rates of import growth before China and India are essentially consuming 100% of what you would determine are the globally available world crude exports?

Well, you can do the same thing, what I call available net exports, which is global net exports less China and India's net imports. That metric fell from 41 million barrels a day in 2005 to 34 million barrels a day in 2013. So 41 to 34, and again, we don't have complete data for 2014 yet, but the pattern, apparently, continued in 2014. And, by all available data suggests it's continuing in 2015.

Now, the math is quite similar. The problem is given an inevitable decline in global net exports, which we have seen since 2005, unless China and India cut their net imports at the same rate as the rate of decline in global net exports, the resulting rate of decline in available net exports to other importing countries—other than China and India—will exceed the rate of decline in global net exports and the rate of decline in available net exports will accelerate.

Now, for example, the observed rate of decline in global net exports was 0.8%, slightly less than 1% per year from 2005 to '13. But, the rate of decline in available net exports was almost 2.3% per year, three times higher than 2005 to '13. So, it's a mathematical certainty that the only way that the volume of oil available to importers other than China and India will not show an accelerating rate of decline is if they cut their net imports at the same rate as the rate of decline in durable net exports or at a faster rate.

Well, they're not going to do that willingly, obviously. No country would. India's already on record saying, "Hey, you Westerners had your run at this energy story. We still have a big chunk of our population without electricity, without cars. We'd like to get them access to that. Then we can talk about these other issues you might want to talk about." But, what you're saying is that available net exports are declining by, what, 2.5 percent per year, rounding a little bit, and so if we just follow that math out, how long is it before just China and India are consuming 100% of available world exports?

If you extrapolate, what you can do is do an ECI ratio, but it'd be the global net exports divided by Chindia's net imports. I call it the GNE over CNI ratio. If you extrapolate that out, they would be theoretically consuming 100% of global net exports around the year 2032. So, basically 17 years from now.

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Obviously, that's not going to happen. I think other countries would have a say in that, because, obviously, Europe, very heavily dependent on oil imports. The United States is, too, to many people's surprise, to discover we still import a lot of crude oil in this country. And, of course, by 2032, I think we'll be importing even more if we had our

druthers, EIA reports of massive and steady oil output until then notwithstanding. So, it seems likely what you're saying is that there's this idea that exports really matter if you're an importing country. Almost all countries are importing countries, and somewhere between here and 17 years from now, we're going to have to find a new way of divvying up the oil that is available. Otherwise, what, conflicts? I mean, this either gets resolved through price or by some other form of rationing.

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What cuts consumption is the fall in demand. So, the question is: what calls the demand to fall? It's inability to afford it, and that's... There's a *New York Times* article from years ago that looked at what caused people to actually curtail gasoline consumption in the first half of 2008. And, basically, to a 90% probability, it's they reduced their gasoline consumption when they were physically no longer able to afford to buy it. So, as economists accurately argued, demand is what you want *and* what you can afford to buy. So, people want a lot of things, but they can't afford to buy them all. So, the fall-off in demand would certainly reduce consumption. But, it's got to be either inability to buy it because they don't have the money, and/or basically the price is too high. So, it's basically two sides of the same coin. They just basically can't afford it. And, the only way to do that, of course, is with much higher fuel consumption taxes.

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Probably the most illustrative comment was a meeting a group of peak-oilers had with senior EIA personnel and Department of Energy personnel, I guess, I think it was, it was either 2012 or 2013. I gave a very brief export presentation and asked the question: Is anyone at the EIA modeling future exports globally, assuming a gradual decline in demand and gradual increase in consumption in the oil exporting countries? And, the answer was: no. I think it's a question that they don't want to ask, because they don't want to see what the answer is.

Yeah, well, it's, if you don't want to know the answer to the question, most people tend not to ask the question.

Politically, there's no Plan B that's been floated yet to say what we would do if we got that answer. Plan A is: we're clever, there's a lot of shale oil, we'll be able to get as much from that as we want for as long as we want, and that's our plan. And, at least that's what I saw under the last two presidents, and I would be surprised to see any difference under the next one. It seems to be the state of things at this point.

Let's even use the EIA's data. They were saying that shale oil was going to peak in the year 2020. I think it's going to cause an overall net decline in global crude plus condensate with virtually all the decline coming on the crude side. And, I would think that, probably not 2015, but probably certainly 2016, we're going to see an overall net decline in crude plus condensate.

And, that's simply because of projects that were deferred, delayed or otherwise not prosecuted and so A.) we have depletion going on, or decline I should say, well, both. We have decline going on, and output from existing fields, many of which are aging, that has to at least be offset by new discoveries. And, then if we want output to grow, of course, we need even more than that. , I think you're going to have refiners really start scrambling, trying to get sufficient crude oil supplies and they're going to have to start bidding the price up. And, so the problem is the bulk of the stuff being produced in the U.S. is 45-plus. I think the EIA estimated that the increase from 2011 to '14 was a million barrels per day of the increase is actually just condensate and the rest was a small increase of 45 or lower, or actual crude oil.

So, for people listening who are not versed in this, it just, again, you explained it, Jeff, that this 45 and above is very light stuff, it's like natural gasoline, which explains why when these trains that are carrying this stuff, say from the Bakken formation, when they derail, why they explode so violently. It's not, they're much more combustible than your standard train full of crude oil. It's actually kind of hard to get crude oil lit on fire. You can do it, it's not easy. Gasoline, totally easy. So, that's what's happening, that's the direct reflection. We're seeing this really, really light stuff coming out of those shale plays, Bakken in particular, Eagle Ford as well, and that, at least, in part explains the exploding train car phenomenon.

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I think with all the world stuff going on with China and the emerging market disasters that are unfolding, this idea of oil gets lost in the shuffle, particularly given what I'll call the marketing campaign—as generous as I can be—to convince us that the world is awash in oil, there's nothing to worry about. I'm really worried about the steep decline in capex that we've seen in the oil business. I know that we're, in a couple of years, that's going to bite us in terms of supply. And, that's coming right at the same time that we have a number of other issues coming up, not least of which is this idea that decline and overall depletion of existing reserves is ongoing.

<http://peakoil.com/consumption/to-understand-the-oil-story-you-need-to-understand-exports>

South Carolina QSO Party

By golly, there was a SC QSO Party with at least most of the SC counties on the air if you were bi-modal. Choice was a lot less if you were CW.

The propagation gods did not shine upon the SC QP – things started out OK, but half way through the day, 20M just seemed to drop out – at least from this QTH. Others were doing a bit better – just depended where you were. By late afternoon, the A and K were headed up.

Most folks found about 10 contacts on CW. Many more were on SSB but it was still limited there.

I heard one mobile/rover – N4FP – and snagged him in a couple counties – missed him in at least one.

At the same time as this QP, there was a European contest going on, the NJ QP (not too active) and the Washington State Salmon Run.

From the 3830 reflector:

N4FP mobile - 253 CW contacts

Had some rig and antenna issues during 1st hour that got things off to a slow start. Made 86 contacts in first 2 hours, then only 33 contacts during the next 3 hours. Noise level was very high on 40 and 20. At 1900Z we decided to cancel our room reservations in Hardeeville and revised our route from 15 to 11 counties. Terminated our operation in Hardeeville at 2215Z and headed for Florida, arriving home in The Villages about 0245Z. No sooner had we canceled

when conditions started improving, and I made 125 contacts in the next 3 hour block, but we stuck with our decision to quit early. I had several spurts of 8 contacts in 3 minutes, but couldn't keep it going. Our first county, Horry, was the best, with 47 contacts, and our last, Jasper, was 2nd best with 36 contacts. Flex 6300, 100 watts to horizontally mounted Hustler antennas atop a 3 ft mast above a 3 magnet mount on roof of our Kia Rondo, allowing instant band switching. N1MM+ with integrated keying.

Special thanks to my xyl, Marty, WB2VYK, for her skillful driving. Overall a fun time, frustrated mainly by the midday high noise level.

N4IQ rover - 194 cw 120 ssb

Multi (2 ops) Multi (two mobile rigs/vehicles). Operated from ALLE BAMB BARN HAMP COLL counties.

Mobile 1 (CW only) = IC706 MK2 100W, 20M 12ft Outback Outreach whip and 40M quarter-wave wire at 30 degs from horizontal.

Mobile 2 (SSB only) FT857D + Ameritron ALS500 @ 350W, 40M Windom @ 7 ft horizontal. Logging - N1MM+ T

Mobile Counties Activated = + 5

W4CAE multi op - fixed - SC - with W1TEF W4SJD KM4JSY W8NYK N4BQQ W4TFX W4FSV W4DMC

32 cw 265 ssb qso

Tough start to the day. Limited operating space, intermod/desensing issues, bad band condx, failure of the digital station, finally got rolling. We went through a lot, but we got it going eventually under adverse operating conditions. I was proud of my guys as they stuck it out and did the best they could with what they had. The end results ain't too shabby given the circumstances.

However, bad as it was, everybody had a blast - a really good time goofing around and sometimes speaking in "pirate" as it was International Talk Like A Pirate Day.

Have some ideas for next year, but we'll wait for the smoke to clear.

Tom, W1TEF/4

AD8J fixed NC 7 cw 7 ssb

Couldn't hear much from SC during the day as I'm too close. Then didn't hear much in the evening on 75/80 because it didn't seem like many SC stations were around. If it wasn't for the WW4SF bonus points, I'd have close to zilch.

NN4F - fixed - SC 560 ssb

Not bad, better contest now that the rules were changed... Worked 18 other SC counties, and 48 States, and a bunch of DX...

Equipment: FTdx3000, Alpha, Mosley Ta-63/Wires

Paul - NN4F

WA6KHK - fixed - CA 15 cw 13 ssb

Worked Cherokee and Union counties to finish off all South Carolina counties. Only 26 counties to go for all US counties for the second time!

N1CC - fixed - TX - 19 cw 50 ssb 3 digital

The unusual conditions continue. 20M was the workhorse, but from about 1630-1730 the band went dead, and huge amount of solar noise. Afterwards wasn't as good as earlier but recovered by nightfall. Noise on 40/80 pretty darn high.

N4PN - fixed - GA - 31 cw 87 SSB

Thanks Dave, WN4AFP, and others for organizing the SCQP...
It's was great...thanks to the mobiles...lots of good ops
running around...no Q's on 20...never even heard one on back
scatter...40m had to be the band from here...80m was open and
not very noisy, but not that much activity...listened several
times on 160m but never heard anyone from SC...

WW4SF - (WN4AFP opr) - Greenville, SC - 151 cw 65 ssb

I ran WW4SF/GVIL a Swamp Fox Contest Group Bonus Station during the SCQP. I was
an honor to be on of the many WW4SF Bonus Stations in the SCQP. I lived on 40m
for 8 hours... Thanks for coming to the party! See y'all next year!
73s Dave WN4AFP

K5YAA- fixed - OK 32 cw 28 ssb

To the mobiles, N4IQ and N4FP thanks for your gas and mobilization. Good to have the
new mults at each crossing.

A special thanks and congratulations on an outstanding effort by Dave WN4AFP
for his drive and effort at getting out the participation and especially for
his attention to detail. I even got a name tag to be worn during the event.
Novel idea Dave. Keep up the good work and I'm sure the SC Party will grow in
stature. Your web page display is one of the best I've seen on the State QSO
Party circuit. Very nice indeed.

73 - Jerry K5YAA

K4BAI - fixed - GA - 19 cw 37 ssb

I did the SC QSO party twice in the "old" days when the contest was run by old friend, Jeanie Jones, K4RHU, now a SK. Once from my aunt's home in what was then Ocean Drive Beach (now North Myrtle Beach) in Horry County and once from the shack of K4SGA, also now a SK, in Gaffney in Cherokee County.

WN4AFP and his supporters did a wonderful job building on what had been accomplished in revised rules the past two years or so. Congratulations.

73, John, K4BAI.

KN4Y - fixed - FL 13 cw

My fears have been confirmed. Most of the Palmetto State CW operators left and moved to Florida. This was a 40-meter QSO party and perhaps this was the culprit, the SC operators were on 20-meters. Worked 2 mobiles and one was a bonus contact. My expectations were dashed by reality.

SpotMe Spotting Info

from Dave, KW1DX via the K3IMC forum:

Please use the following link to use SpotME: www.kw1dx.com/ch/spotme.htm?callsign=KW1DX replacing KW1DX with your callsign.

Salmon Run QSO Party

Band conditions were not great. In fact, they were downright miserable on Saturday and worse on Sunday. I did manage to put a few dozen in the log, and probably got the

worked all King County award.....but didn't hear most of the other counties and never heard a mobile. In fact, there were rarely spotted – think one or two spots for WW7D and N7WA who normally have dozens of spots.

15M provided a handful of contacts – to the same stations I had worked on 20M. Was busy for 15 minutes then died. There wasn't much action there and zip heard on 10m. Worked a few more on 40m later in the evening – but most of them were the same stations worked on 20M. Could have been a lot better.

Many of the big guns put in lots of hours out there but it was “ESP” type copy on the regular stations and no copy on the mobiles here with the R5 vertical. Well, maybe next year.

from the 3830 reflector:

K7TQ mobile - 500 cw qso

Jay, WA0WWW, and I activated all 20 counties east of the Cascade divide. We had several regular customers who followed us around both days. Five stations, N6MU (CA), WA2VYA (TX), K2SSS (NY), KE0G (MN), and K9CW (IL), caught us in 10 or more counties. BEN along the Columbia River was especially tough because the high power transmission lines from McNary Dam made for S8+ noise. I'm sure we missed several there. Next year we'll take a different route through BEN.

It sure is more fun to operate from flat-ish wheat field country like GRAN and LIN than the mountainous, signal eating country like FER and KITT. Stations would be S9 plus when they called and gone by the end of us sending our exchange. More lost stations, but we'll be back in those tougher counties next year.

The log shows 201 calls worked us over the two days. Thanks to all who stopped by and especially the regulars whom we could count on when we entered a new county.

K7TQ County Expedition to Kittitas 386 cw 280 ssb

The weather was decent and the road was in good shape. It got into the 30's

Friday night and it rained and warmed up Saturday night. At 2:00 pm on Saturday afternoon I heard a loud crash and found a large tree had fallen across the road and it was 30 feet away from my tent. It wasn't knocked over by wind but just broke off at ground level where the roots had rotted. I didn't have a chainsaw but was able to get around the fallen tree by going cross-country.

Conditions were fair on Saturday. Sunday it was starting to get boring and I pulled the plug at 11:00 am and came home to watch the Seahawks game.

KN4Y - fixed - FL - 84 cw qso (20 on 15m)

The multitude of fixed stations somewhat compensated for the few mobiles and portables operating in the Salmon run. Band condition not great into this station. Missed a clean sweep by 29 percent. High point was a nice 15-meter opening.

WN6K - fixed - CA 102 cw 241 ssb 11 digital

I missed Ferry and Pend Oreille and had to quit a few hours early on Sunday.

The bands were up and down and mostly down on Sunday.

Thanks for all the Salmon swimming into our net...

N1CC - fixed - TX 89 69 ssb

With dramatic conditions I did not expect to come close to last years score, and made a 30% improvement ... the conditions limited what could be worked. Solar noise was peaking towards 7-Land and that made afternoon conditions worse. County count was much better than last year, still no sweep.

K5YAA - fixed OK - 141 cw 36 ssb

Quite a number of Salmon swimming upstream much of the time. A flare out on Sunday afternoon put pressure even on the 6el 20 mono yagi looking right at WA.

I didn't see a limit on how many you could catch.

Nice to work Rod W7OM. When I asked SSB he accommodate me and we even tried 15 CW. No joy and no signals all weekend on 15 either WA, SC or NJ. Just wouldn't open but 40 surprised in all parties with signals midday from each.

WW7D/m is fast on the SSB moves thanks Darryl. 5 seconds even on winding roads

Thanks to the Western Washington DX Club for sponsoring the run. A good one each year.

73 - Jerry K5YAA

KI0I - fixed - MO 105cw 37 ssb

Wow, we tried hard on that one. Many qso's were almost imaginary , as poor propo and severe qsb made for many calls to be heard and repeats of exch info. My thanks to the great ears out there who kept trying along with myself to get some qso's made. W7DX worked all three modes, there was a loud rtty signal on 20m almost constant from the W7DX gang. 1500 bonus points was appreciated. The mobile ops K7TQ, WW7D and N7WA did a great job thru the extremely poor bands to provide many Q's and mults for us needy points seekers! Biggest HOOT was working the Who Dat Radio Gang ! I had to tell my Dad (also a Ham) and he chuckled and said "You need a QSL from them", I agreed! WH0DAT...who'd a thunk it.

Thanks to the salmon Run organizers for putting on a great QSO party.

73 Mark KI0I

N6MU - fixed - CA 192 cw 66 ssb

Missed CLAR for the Sweep. Never heard WW7D/m when he was there and KT7G was on for a few minutes Sunday morning CQing in our faces and then suddenly disappearing. Guess it wasn't meant to be this year. Oh well.

Only made 32 Qs on Sunday. Dismal conditions and few new stations. Thanks to the mobiles for keeping it somewhat interesting when I could hear them, hi.

Kudos to the many fixed stations who hung in there the whole time. Loved working WH0DAT on 80! 73...

John, N6MU

K4BAI -fixed - GA - 137 cw 43 ssb

Pretty bad band conditions generally and I guess that reduced participation. Good 15M opening on Saturday, but not many WA stations took advantage of it. No signals at heard on 15M Sunday except for the Mexican station commemorating 30 years since their big earthquake. 40 and 80M were pretty good and not much QRN. But I didn't stay up late enough to take full advantage of the low bands. Counties missed were: CLAR, GRAY, and PEND. Thanks for all QSOs.

73, John, K4BAI.

New Jersey QSO Party

This year there were a half dozen fixed stations on 20M. Supposedly there were mobiles out there but NIL in TX – nothing heard here – although I think W2GSA was out mobile and supposedly K2AA – but not a peep on 20M and no spots by the county hunters.

Toward evening I saw spots on 40 and 80M but no joy from TX – just lots of QRN and high band noise here – plus the SR stations on 40M.

Conditions on Saturday were fair. On the Sunday part of the contest – well, the bands were dead. 'Poor' propagation on all bands was the banner – with A of 16, K of 5 and a minimum geomagnetic storm underway. Not a single signal on the entire 20m cw band at 9am local time. Later things got a bit better with 2 NJ stations and a few from Washington SR coming through. Finally caught the K2TD bonus station. On 20 CW. Think there was more 40/80m activity in the afternoon/evening but not much spotted.

From the 3830 reflector:

AK2S - fixed – NJ - 97 cw qso

My first NJQP. We need more NJ stations to become active.

N2MM- - fixed - NJ - reported 251 CW and 918 SSB contacts from Burlington County

KI0I - fixed - MO 13 cw 4 ssb

Very bad condx but better participation this year than last. Nice to hear more NJ calls on. Hope the bands are better next year! 73 Thanks Mark KI0I

N1CC - fixed - TX 17 cw 27 ssb

Very few NJ stations on. Propagation not good to NJ from Texas. Other contests took priority as they are more populated with their county operators.

Mobiles few and most of the time too weak to hear in the conditions we had.

KN4Y - fixed - FL 13 cw qso

Conditions on CW were not good to the East coast. I used N1NN logger for the first time and when trying to load the program back up on Sunday I deleted the program. I had a few notes and was able to reenter some data into Writelog. Three QSO parties reduced nap time drastically.

Awards Issued

USA-CW #145	Dietmar, DL3DXX	8.24.15
3rd Time #247	Paul, N5PR	9.11.15
5-Star #72	Tom, N4RS	8.28.15
5-Star #73	Randy, AA8R	9.8.15
5-Star #74	Jack, WD4OIN	9.13.15
USA Call Combo 2x2 #2	Hollis, KC3X	9.11.15

Events for County Hunters

It looks like October should be a good month for QSO Parties with several big ones coming up – CA, IL, IA, AZ, SD, PA – lots of counties up for grabs and the CA folks go whole hog with major 'county expeditions' to get everything on the air - usually with good signals. Usually one or two mobiles in there too. Who knows on 1x1s this time?

Then it's pretty much over till the spring time with few QSO parties in the winter. However, you've got the Sweepstakes, the ARRL 10M contest in Dec, and a bunch of other things going on.....so it should be interesting. VHF contest in Jan if that's your thing – and counties count regardless of band.

From the ARRL Contest Corral, courtesy of ARRL, Inc, Newington , CT 06111

October 3-4

California QSO Party

1600 z Oct 3 to 2200 Oct 4

Serial, county or SPC

<http://www.cqp.org/Rules.html>

October 10 -11

Pennsylvania QSO Party

Oct 10 1600 to Oct 11 2200

Serial, county or section

<http://www.nittany-arc.net/>

Arizona QSO Party

Oct 10 1600z to Oct 11 2359z

Serial, county or SPC

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

October 17 – 18

Iowa QSO Party

Oct 17 1400z Oct 17 2300z

RS(T), county or SPC

<http://www.wa0dx.org/IAQSO>

South Dakota QSO Party

Oct 17 1800z Oct 18 1800z

RS(T), county or SPC

<http://www.kb0wsw.com/SDQP>

New York QSO Party

Oct 17 1400z to Oct 18 0200z

RS(T), county or SPC

<http://nyqp.org/wordpress>

Illinois QSO Party

Oct 18 1700z to Oct 19 0100z

RS(T), county or SPC

<http://www.w9awe.org/ILQP.html>

County Hunter 3M - October

3M – Mini in Murfreesboro The MMM will be held in Murfreesboro, TN October 8-11. Hotel will be the Clarion (previously Holidome) at 2227 Old Fort Parkway.

Cracker Barrel next door plus other places for meals.

The 3M folks will gather in Murfreesboro, TN October 8-9-10-11 for several days of world class rag-chewing and eye-ball qso's.

Info available from KA3DRO, N8EMV. This event is NOT sponsored by MARAC.

Hope to see a lot of you there. STEVE AND WILLA K 5 K D G - - -

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Let's see if we can reach 100 people there! The Clarion is likely full but you can check for cancellations. Many motels nearby. Mary Bo-Bos is all booked up at this point. We have the atrium for meeting/greeting.

That's all folks – see you next month – 73 de N4CD

