

County Hunter News

September 1, 2006

Volume 2, Issue 9

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

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

The County Hunter News will attempt to provide you with interesting, thought provoking articles, articles of county hunting history, or about county hunters or events, or provide news of upcoming events.

We hope you will enjoy the new 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.

County Hunter Nets run on 14.0565, 10.114, and 7038.5, with activity nights on 3556.5 on Tuesday evenings around 8-9pm Eastern Time. Folks are beginning to use 10.126 as well as a secondary frequency on 30 meters.

You can see live spots of county hunter activity at ch.w6rk.com

De N4CD (email: telegraphy@prodigy.net)

Notes from the Editor

August has been a good month. There have been some very bad days for propagation, though. It started out fine with some trips to OKLA by N4CD to give out the western counties – I ran a bunch on CW and SSB – and the following week went to ARK and ran a bunch on CW and SSB. Nice friendly net with lots of folks helping out. The weather was hotter than

blazes with temps at or above 100 – folks in the middle of the country roasting, and the east coast sizzling with ‘heat waves’. Forty days with temps over 100 degrees, and night time temps down to 82. Ah, summer. Gas at \$3/gallon, making trips more expensive all the time. Now you can go through \$50 or \$60/day in gas – unless you are K2NJ in the motor home which can use hundreds in gas every day! Ouch – and Bill has gone cross country from NJ to CA, and then back. 8000 miles!

There were quite a few county hunting trips. K8CW joined up with KC0JG to run WV, KY, and VA counties, and W0QE took a long trip to VA from CO, going through many tough ones. That’s one way to get some of the counties you need! Go there with friend and second rig and work them – one of the fun things allowed in county hunting. Unfortunately, if you are a solo county hunter, you miss the counties you need when you run it! (well, it counts for MG or MP if you work someone with the right qualifications from the county). Not all bad.

N4CD was getting close to finishing on 30M. W0GXQ had worked them all on 30 meters. W0QE was second to finish. I was down to a handful. First, I headed to northwest OK, to get away from Franklin, MS. I had missed it at least twice – too close for propagation on 30m to my house. Solution? Head 300 miles or more NW! So a county hunting trip to OK was planned. KB6UF ran Franklin, MS, and we had a good QSO at that distance.

AL, KG5J, took a trip over to Woodruff, AR. We had short skip that day – worked out fine – “A” index was up at 35! Flakey propagation in most directions, with mobiles not getting many contacts.

Kyle, WA4PGM ran two in VA that I desperately needed. Ron, KB6UF made a second trip the next weekend to get Bolivar and Benton, MS. Charlie, W0RRY was out that same day, headed toward Madison, AR. (I had just been in northern AR in that county the week before, but could not find anyone around to give me a contact! – It seldom does work out.) I headed 300 miles southwest to get away from them. And that was it – done on 30 meters now! K8CW almost done with 2 to go!

Several others are closing in on ‘all 30m’ as well. K8CW now done. Ross, N0ZA made special trip to WY and MT to get his last counties. HE is number 4 to do it all on 30m (and he has done it all on 20 and 40cw as

well!). It's been a great band. In about 2 years, all counties have been spotted on 30m, and several managing to 'work them all' on the new band for county hunting! Who knows in 2 or 3 years, as sunspots pick up? Maybe it will be like 40m then, only used as a secondary band, as activity heads to higher frequencies? Or a place to go when there is contest activity on 10, 15, 20 and 40M?

To be sure I would hear those mobiles in the last 3 counties for WBOW, when skip is usually longer than those distances, I headed south by 250 miles to southwest TX. Otherwise, it could be like past times, where folks ran the counties, but I couldn't hear them – too 'close' for 30M. Besides, it was an excuse to go mobile and give out some counties. The 2001 Buick is going to need new brakes...144,000 miles on the original brakes – I guess I can't complain. Too much fun! Almost time to buy a 3rd set of tires, too. They seem to last about 75,000 miles. And I just got done changing antifreeze after 5 years, and changing the transmission fluid. The miles pile up quickly when you head out mobile.

Texas is hot this time of year – 100 degrees in the shade, and not much shade in western TX. Here in Dallas, it is dry as a bone. Out west in El Paso, they have near record floods! However, the counties were needed, so it was down to Kerr, TX for the night, then over to Real and Edwards, always in demand, and around through Uvalde, then back up the interstate to home after making those last 3 contacts on 30M. There are 254 counties in TX, and I run about 150 or more of them every year. There aren't too many cw mobiles in Texas unless there is a convention going on!

Several 'DX' operators finished up recently, with Alan, VK4AAR getting done (and actually now working mobiles on 30M in the mornings), and Kent KL1V getting done to have an 'extra star' when he heads to NE for his September trip. Tough to do from far away in the sunspot minimum, especially with so much of the activity on 30 meters. The DX stations have been working mobiles on 20 meters lately, too, LY2ZZ, OH3JF, DL6KVA.

Of course, KA3MMM, Elwood, now back in full force working on next time around on CW. He needs 'everything' again. Working toward the Nth time CW – territory where no one has gone before.

It was suggested that two people have worked all counties “YL” – K9DCJ, Arnie, 9/22/1997 and KC5UO, Mary, 9/19/1998. Not too many on CW there days – AB2LS, KD8HB, but the others have faded away it seems.

There really are ‘two club’ issues – the first, should ‘clubs’ be ‘allowed’ to apply for MARAC awards – and we address that in a proposal that would ‘allow’ true club efforts to apply for MARAC awards, if there really are any ‘clubs’ out there interested in a ‘club effort’ approach. Likely, there are none that would ever bother to apply for MARAC awards.

The second issue is should ‘club’ calls count for the prefix award, which currently they do not qualify for under the rules, and how much of a problem is it really, other than ‘borrowed club calls’ going mobile to currently scam the system and give out bogus contacts? How many ‘clubs’ does the average county hunter work in a year, other than sham contacts on net? If it weren’t for the bogus ‘ride along club calls’ it really wouldn’t even be an issue. But since AB4YZ and W0MU continue to give out bogus contacts, with ‘ride along club calls’ that don’t count according to the rules, it remains an issue.

Currently, it is only the prefix of the **operator** according to MARAC rules – not the prefix of the ‘station call’. We examine that issue in detail. As of now, if nothing is changed, and there doesn’t appear to be much reason for change, ‘clubs’ cannot join or receive awards, and prefixes of ‘callsigns’ which are not the operators assigned call cannot count for the prefix award.

I don’t have a problem with that. The only reason I can see to change is to allow some to ‘borrow’ callsigns and give out counties, surely skirting the intent of the rules as they were developed. Once you start letting folks run with ‘borrowed calls’, then you invite massive abuse as ‘everyone’ piles on with ‘ride along calls’ to give out every prefix and award. It should have never started. Now is the time to end it.

Lloyd, NX4W, took some great pictures at the convention in Appleton. Visit the website at: <http://members.cox.net/lsmith146/> to see them.

Risto, W6RK, has proposed an exciting new award – the County Challenge Award Toplist. He’s kicking it off himself, but offered it to MARAC as an award that they might wish to consider. More on this later in the newsletter!

Bill, K2NJ, has talked about “Natural Bingo” before. He again posted an idea on the K3IMC forum for a new award – more in the newsletter later on this. With folks working on ‘bingo Nth time ad nauseum’, maybe it is time to put the ‘challenge’ back in the award process.

Bill, K2NJ finished up his 8000 mile trek from NJ to the west coast and back in the motor home – running counties the whole way! Tough from out west. If you spot a 40M resonator lying by the side of the road, it started out on his antenna mast, but fell off somewhere out west. Otherwise, it seems only a few minor radio problems that were worked out, and he was ‘radio active’ most of the way out and back – often only on 30M CW and occasionally 20M cw when conditions cooperated. At 7.5 mpg in the motor home, it took a few \$\$\$ in gas to keep that motor home wandering the back roads of the west.

The first sunspot of the new cycle was noted. Each cycle the polarity of the sunspots reverse. A brief appearing sunspot had the opposite polarity – but was short lived. Likely, as predicted, the ‘bottom’ is still 5-6 months off, with likely 2 years before good conditions again return to 20 meters. Meanwhile, the lower bands, especially through the winter months, should provide good opportunities for counties and DXing. However, from ARRL August 26 propagation weekly newsletter:

“Regarding progress of the current sunspot cycle and the decline toward solar minimum, this ftp site (which you can view with a web browser) shows the predicted minimum slightly later than recent projections. The projection we've been watching, which is updated infrequently, is in the back of some issues of the Space Environment Center's Preliminary Report and Forecast, which comes out weekly. The most recent issue with monthly sunspot number predictions was the August 1 issue:

<http://www.sec.noaa.gov/weekly/pdf/prf1613.pdf>

It shows a smoothed sunspot number for August through December 2006 of 11, 20, 9, 8, and 7, then dropping to a minimum of 5 for January 2007, then 6 for February through April, and 7, 8, 10 and 11 for May through August 2007. This would bring us back to where we are now, and rising, in August of next year.”

Errata

Some gremlins snuck in the last issue of the CHnews–

Mark, W9OP was the Vice President when the picture of him, included in the CHNews, was taken. However, he did not run for re-election, and Chuck, AD8W was elected Vice President of MARAC. He is another county hunter heard often on CW.

N8KIE was the 2006 CHOTY as noted, and KF4KW was the Best Mobile of the Year – SSB – for 2006. Congrats to both. Dave had antenna problems in August, but will get his Hustler system replaced with screwdriver antenna.

Other stuff

The Best Net Control SSB was not reported in the last issue – Since the recipient was not present at the convention, it was not given out. Then again, this is a CW oriented newsletter– apparently there were errors in the MARAC home page initial listing on this, since awards are only given to individuals and **to members of MARAC**.

The MARAC RULES FROM PAGE 28:

“OBJECTIVE: To recognize **members of MARAC** who have made a significant contribution to county hunting by **operating** as net control operator for a **Net Operation** that supports contacts among county hunters.

SPECIAL RULES: The recipient of each award is determined by a quarterly ballot of the MARAC membership. The annual recipient in each category (SSB/CW) is the MARAC member who receives the highest total of votes from all quarterly ballots each year. The same person may receive this award more than once.

Each voter and **recipient must be a member of MARAC in good standing**, as evidenced by current payment of dues.

Of all people, KZ2P and his fans should be well aware of this rule, as he used the ‘member in good standing’ clause to put MARAC into three months of paralysis about 2 years ago now. Why should it not apply to him? The alter ego, “K2JG”, has never been a member in good standing. “It” is

not even eligible to join MARAC. Never paid dues – not allowed. “It” was erroneously co-listed as having received NC of the Year by one of the Club fans, W0MU, on the MARAC website.

First, it was listed as “KZ2P/K2JG”. After it was pointed out to the webmaster that K2JG was not eligible, he ‘changed a word’ – then it was “KZ2P op K2JG”. Still not correct, nor relevant. KZ2P is only one of the ops at the Atlantic Club station. W0MU was also an op at K2JG. Who knows who else? So?

If you check the MARAC page, K2JG is not a dues paying member in good standing. K2JG is not eligible for any annual MARAC award, or any award at all. Or any mention for an ‘annual award’. More than one operator gave out contacts using the ‘callsign’ K2JG. “It” (an entity) is not eligible to receive or be Net Control of the Year. Anymore than that ‘entity’ can drive a car or push the push to talk button on the radio or log data into a computer or speak.

This problem/error was pointed out to the new webmaster, W0MU, and his response was to bury his head in the sand and say ‘it’s not my responsibility’ (to follow the rules). (Busy collecting ‘baddie points’?) He follows only the rules he likes? After many days, the MARAC web site was finally corrected to list it as given to a single individual who is a MARAC member.

Did you notice the club and ‘club station’ suddenly decided to up move to South Carolina? Changed its address at the FCC. When was the last time YOUR radio club decided to move to another city?

New County Challenge Top-List Award

Just when you figured that the folks had ‘invented’ every combination of things you could ‘work’ for an award, Risto, W6RK, comes up with a new idea for county hunters. Borrowing from the DX community, Risto has started a new ‘top list’ web site, where folks can list their counties PER band and mode, including the WARC bands. Many have likely ‘worked all counties’ on 20 meters, the main band for county hunting, or come close. Maybe they made a few contacts on 40m, and that was it. Then they work them again, and again, and again, and again – for a long time, that was the

only thing to do. Then, folks came up with Bingo, Master's Gold, Master's Platinum, which are tiered awards – you become 'more valuable' as a mobile as you yourself earn various awards, and thus can give out contacts for the next highest awards to others.

So many just 'sit' on 14.336, waiting to work 'someone' 'somewhere' good for an award they are working on – sometimes not getting many 'new ones'. Risto's new idea is for folks to list their total counties (either combined SSB and CW counties, or SSB only, or CW only, or total of SSB and CW counties) on a web site, so you can see how you stack up against others, either on a per band basis, or overall. In a few years, the upper bands will be perking along again – until then, 40 and 80 and 160 meters will be good places to work new counties and run up your county total there.

The new award includes all bands 160 through 6 meters, excepting 60M, which is only 5 'channels' and not really designed for intensive use at this time. Maybe it can be added later if more of a band is granted in the future. In the past two years, 30 meters has been great, some days 20M perks along, and in 3 or 4 years, 17 meters and 15 meters will be humming again. Then 12 and 10 meters. It might be good to stimulate activity again on 10 and 15 meters as the sunspot cycle improves as mobiles QSY up there to put out counties, especially as 20 meter net fills up with 10 minute runs, and 3 minutes of 'move a mobile' between runs' as activity there picks up in a few years. Remember the days of 20 mobiles on the list, and they all come back when called? And it takes 3 hours before you run again if you don't move off frequency?

Of course, if you have no interest, or just want to track a few bands, that is great, too – you can see how you stack up vs. others on just those bands as well. In many QSO parties, you can work stations on 80-10M. Some include 6 meters as well (but not WARC bands). Of course, with 30M, folks have worked all 3077, and many are well over 2000 counties worked on 30M.

It's also an award DX stations can work for. They have better chance of racking up counties on 12 meters and 10 meters than, say, someone in IL, due to the skip much of the time. But there are days when everyone hears almost everything on 10 meters! So everyone can join in, even there.

Risto wrote this up, and submitted it to MARAC for their consideration. It's a little bit different than current MARAC awards, and as of now, Risto is still working on 'paper awards' and the levels that might be used. However, you can submit your totals for listing on his website now:

<http://www.w6rk.com/ccatoplist.htm>

If you have additional input, on either the award, or the listings, get in touch with Risto, W6RK! If you think MARAC should sponsor this, let your Director know. One Director indicated it 'could be years' before MARAC gets around to it, but there is always the possibility of picking it up, improving it, and issuing 'paper awards' that could happen IF MARAC should decide that it has interest in this.

It might get folks to find a way to 'unstick' the dial from 14.336, and QSY to 40M to work mobiles, or keep a net running there, or help out on 21 MHz or 28 MHz. When I went to HI back in 1999 timeframe, many of the QSOs were on ten meters. In AK, a year later, there were many on 15 meters as well. The 'good times' will return.

A Review of History – an N4CD Editorial

Way back when, during the Revolutionary War, the colonies (13 states) formed a very weak central government, held together with Articles of Confederation. There was only "Congress" and the government lacked any power to tax. Nothing could be accomplished the way it was set up.

In 1787, twelve of the states sent representatives to Philadelphia, PA, to try and fix the government. The assembly chose to rewrite, from scratch, the existing document, and chose that only 9 of the 13 states had to ratify it for it to apply to all. The new government came into being effective March, 1789.

The authors of the Constitution were aware that 'Amendments' might be required from time to time, as circumstances changed, and put in provisions to allow future representatives to modify the Constitution. There are two ways to modify it, one by calling a Constitutional Convention (never done) or one by action of Congress, with the required 75% of all state legislatures

then ratifying the change. There have been state ‘Constitutional Conventions’.

The Bill of Rights consists of the first ten Amendments to the Constitution, and these were passed written and passed by 1781. All are related to LIMITING the power of government.

The First Amendment addresses the right of Free Speech and of a Free Press, as well as prohibiting the creation of a government religion, and providing for religious freedom.

Our forefathers were well aware of abuses that were rampant in governments around the world. They wished to provide for a framework where citizens would be free to speak, free to criticize in speech and in the press that which they opposed, allow political speech, and allow a free press where the government was not permitted to ‘censor’ the news simply to keep folks ignorant of what was occurring. When ‘electronic means’ were created, they too were covered – radio – TV – internet.

The other Amendments address major issues – and hopefully everyone had some civics in high school that covered all this – otherwise, without knowing how the government works, folks are ‘led around’ by politicians selling any ‘ilk’ in the guise of “ ‘ ‘ Let me tell you what to do! (and the heck with your rights) ”

So now we get to some of the details. As noted previously, there have been at least two attempts to shut down the County Hunter News. Seems just two folks, for the most part, and their fans, have repeated attempted to shut down any criticism of their actions. Sweep misdeeds ‘under the carpet’ never to be learned about.

Folks are routinely ‘banished’ from either operating on 14.336, or from being in the ‘chat room’ for the least bit perceived negative or even neutral comment on net operation that doesn’t meet the ‘approval’ of the Net Mullah or his cronies. Now, we recall a shameful incident of a few years ago.

At one of the 3M Conventions in Murphreesboro, Don, K3IMC was requested to go to a certain room by some MARAC officials. In there were, well, the Net Mullah and some of his cronies.(members of K2JG – the

“Joisey Gang”) He had no clue why he had been ‘invited’ to go there. Soon, it became very obvious.

They were VERY UPSET that Don had ‘allowed’ comments on the County Hunter Forum that didn’t meet the ‘approval’ of the Net Mullah. The Net Mullah and cronies didn’t want anything critical of MARAC or the 14.336 net to be ‘allowed’ to exist on the forum. They wanted Don to immediately remove anything they didn’t like. They would tell him what to remove, and he should remove it. No questions asked – they complained, he was supposed to censor the news to their liking. NOT!

For a long time, they ‘grilled’ Don, trying to intimidate him into ‘complying’ with their wishes. After all, they were “MARAC”. It was the Net Mullah and his henchmen, many against just one. Naturally, Don resisted, and said that folks put comments under their own name, and that he wasn’t going to play censor for the Net Mullah and his cronies.

We live in a country with freedom of the press that allows reporting of news. It allows people to express their opinions. Those in power don’t get to ‘censor’ what is printed and distributed, as much as they would want as little ‘dictators’ in their own respective ‘worlds’. T

Today you will continue to see comments, on various issues, on the K3IMC forum. And News of what goes on in the County Hunter News. And news in World Radio Magazine column on county hunting, now with KK7X Dennis as the column writer, previously with Ace, N3AHA, as column writer. Of course, Don does have full ability to remove ‘offensive’ comments or threads on the forum, and will do so if things get ‘out of hand’, but that seldom happens.

That all is traced back to our freedoms and rights allowed under the Constitution and the Bill of Rights (first ten Amendments), plus the additional Amendments. Enjoy them. Relish them. Use them responsibly. Along with ‘rights’ come ‘responsibilities’.

It is what makes us different from Iran or North Korea, or the Communists regimes in the USSR, Red China, Cuba, and elsewhere around the world. Where governments do/did control the press, the radio, the television, and magazines. Where outside broadcasts were jammed, and mail censored, and only government created and approved programs were available. Where

they ‘burn books’, censor the internet and postal mail, and kill or imprison dissenters.

And, of course, the easiest way to not receive attention in the CHNews, the K3IMC forum, or World Radio, about ‘misdeeds’ or similar, is to not DO THEM. Then there wouldn’t be anything to report!

Natural Bingo – Idea by K2NJ, Bill

It seems many county hunters are ‘in a rut’. They work on awards that their computer tracks, or is ‘easy’ to track, like Nth time, or similar. After they finish an award, they do it again – Nth time, Nth plus one, Nth plus two, etc. Ten times doing exactly the same identical thing, over and over again, day after day, week after week, month after month.

In the past, probably before the ‘computer logging era’, folks would get tired of ‘the same old thing’. They would realize it isn’t much of a challenge to get Bingo Nth time, or 6th or 7th or 8th or whatever time. Some would change the rules for themselves, maybe only working USACA holders to get the next time around. Or only working calls that are in the right call area, like a ‘4’ in KY, and an “8” in OH.

The first USACA awards took years and years – now, it is not unusual to see many people doing it every 18 months to 2 years. Time and time again. Not really that much of a challenge if you can spend a lot of time on the air.

The first Bingo took years and years – not many had USACA – equipment for mobiles was expensive and bulky – and there were no vanity calls, with “X” or club calls. Only a few had an FCC issued ‘X’ call by the luck of the draw. Now, folks are completing Bingo about the same time as they complete USACA!.. really! It is not the challenge it was, with the vanity personal X calls or requested callsigns (WG6X, AF3X, KM9X, NA7XX, etc).

However, not to upset the apple cart (Don’t panic folks), no one is proposing to change the current Bingo rules. Bill, K2NJ is proposing a NEW award.

From the K3IMC forum:

I brought this up at the convention, and people said it was either “Great idea” or “dumbest thing I ever heard”.

Now let me go public with it... I propose to the Awards Committee to come up with a NEW award... you can work on it ONLY after you complete Bingo-1.

NO WILD CARDS.... Thus someone with an X in their call don't mean squat... (sorry X-men).... and USACA Holders... don't get huffing... ... you must work Bingo with what you have dealt to you... No wild cards, no nonsense... you need an **A** in the call to work Atlantic, NJ... a **B** to work Bergen, NJ etc... “ (and hopefully no ‘club calls’ or borrowed calls allowed to be used – mobile uses his/her FCC assigned call only).

If you think this is a good idea, get it touch with Bill, so he can write up a proposal for the new award, and send it off to his Director, with a copy to the Awards Chairperson. (follow the procedure). Of course, your current computer program might not track this easily – but many still track things by hand, or in other logging programs that don't understand Bingo. Actually, it might not be too hard to back out the ‘wildcards’ from the existing software – or be able to turn them off.

Other comments from the forum:

AE3Z: “I love it...!! Finally a real, legitimate award...!!”

Peak Oil News

From public record testimony given by Dr Bakhtiari, retired Senior Advisor from the Iranian National Oil Company, in an address to the Australian Senate committee. Link: <http://www.energybulletin.net/18506.html>

“At present, worldwide crude oil output is stagnant at around 81 million barrels a day, give or take one million barrels. OPEC’s 11 member countries are now limited to a maximum of 31 million barrels per day, having produced only 29.35 million barrels in May 2006, and the so-called non-OPEC countries, which represent the rest of the world, are capped at 50 million barrels per day. Thus the world now produces and consumes some 30 billion barrels in each single year.

Most of the world’s major producers are struggling to keep oil production on an even keel, especially both the OPEC and non-OPEC champions—that is, Saudi Arabia and Russia—which are both producing some nine million barrels a day at present while facing almost insurmountable problems to avoid declines in the near future. Moreover, most of the world’s supergiant oilfields are now getting old and some of them have entered terminal decline. Suffice it to mention the three largest ones: Saudi Arabia’s Ghawar, Mexico’s Cantarell and Kuwait’s Greater Burgan oilfields, which are surely but steadily going downhill. The last supergiant to be discovered was the Kashagan oilfield in the north Caspian Sea offshore from Kazakhstan back in 1999, and it is now scheduled to begin initial production in 2008-09.

Not only have discoveries of supergiants dwindled to nil in the 21st century but yearly oil finds have plummeted to between four and six billion barrels a year. There is little hope that this trend will be reversed in the near future because most of the planet’s petroleum provinces have now been explored for petroleum and there is only one last frontier area remaining—that of Antarctica, with its pristine wilderness and its population of some 20 million penguins.”

“...They tell us that in Ghawar today there are 220, roughly, horizontal wells. The great danger of the horizontal well is that when the water reaches the well it is dead. So one day in the future at Ghawar, the water level will eventually reach the horizontal well...

When it happens on a large scale then Ghawar is going to collapse and you will have a cliff in the production of Ghawar. When you have a cliff there, the whole Saudi production system is going to fall apart. If that happens, we will start hearing bells ringing all over the place, and the price of oil is going to go through the roof...”

“Most reviews of the reserves of the major Middle Eastern countries today, especially the BP Statistical Review of World Energy, mention reserves amounting to between 600 billion to 700 billion barrels. These are official reserve figures—in other words, the countries involved say that they have so much oil reserves available. The Oil and Gas Journal and BP take these reserves at face value. As you mentioned, in the 1980s these reserves were revised upwards. For example, in 1988 Saudi Arabia, which had reserves of 160 billion barrels, suddenly took these up to 260 billion barrels. Since 1989, it has kept this number of 260 billion barrels; there has been no change to it up to this day. So, for 17 years, it as if they have not produced anything. In Dr Campbell’s opinion—and it is also my personal opinion—the reserves of the Middle East are roughly one half of what is officially said and presented. In other words, there should only be between 300 billion and 350 billion barrels of oil. This is the best figure I have come up with...”

“The decline of global oil production seems now irreversible. It is bound to occur over a number of transitions, the first of which I have called transition 1, which has just begun in 2006. Transition 1 has a very benign gradient of decline, and it will take months before one notices it at all. But transition 2 will be far steeper, and each successive transition will show more pronounced declining gradients. My WOCAP model has predicted that over the next 14 years present global production of 81 million barrels per day will decrease by roughly 32 per cent, down to around 55 million barrels per day by the year 2020.

Thus in the face of peak oil and its multiple consequences, which are bound to impact upon almost all aspects of our human standards of life, it seems imperative to get prepared to face all the inevitable shockwaves resulting from that. Preparation should be carried out on individual, familial, societal and national levels as soon as possible. Every preparative step taken today will prove far cheaper than any step taken tomorrow. “

Other rumors circulating are putting the 'water cut' at 60% percent for Ghawar. That means for every 2 barrels of oil the well produces, it produces 3 barrels of water. 60% of what comes out of the ground is water! It all has to be removed from the ground, and processed to extract the oil from the oil/water mix. If you need to produce 6 million barrels of oil a day, you need to then pump down into the ground nine million barrels of water, which forces up 9 million barrels of oil/water mix. To put that in perspective, that is 252 million gallons of water a day that must be pumped down into the ground, to remove the 6 million barrels of oil a day. Ninety Two Billion Barrels of Water a year. In a land with very little precious water. Half of the equipment the oil company owns is to process and inject water at very high pressures into the ground (hundreds of psi).

Oil companies resort to horizontal wells when the 'oil column' in the ground becomes so narrow and thin that conventional wells no longer work. They aim for the remaining areas of oil. The well goes down thousands of feet, then turns horizontal, to wind up in the thin layer of oil (maybe 100-300 feet in height. At some point, the water table comes up to this level, and the well produces 100% water. With a water cut of 60%, most of the oil is gone – now you are removing water, stained with oil, from the reservoirs – and it continues to get worse. More and more effort is required to extract less and less oil. Each year, more water pumped down, and you wind up with less and less oil produced. Each year, water intrudes upon more wells, making it useless.

At some fields in the USA, still producing, nine barrels of water are produced for each barrel of oil. Naturally, not that much oil is produced, but it is still economically viable with the high prices to pay the energy charges to run the pumps (in the USA most reservoirs are pumped to extract oil, rather than having water injected to 'flood out' the oil). Those fields peaked 30-40 years ago. Of course, your pump pumping 10 gallons a minute, which used to produce 10 bbl of oil a day is now doing one, and if you had 5 times as many wells, you still only produce a fraction of what you did at peak.

At some point, you might see almost no oil produced – from most of the wells- When that happens at Ghawar, Saudi output will drop by 50%. We may be at the point now...or rapidly approaching it.

Dr Bakhtiari's prediction of a decline from 81 to 55 million barrels of oil a day, combined with an increase in demand from 81 to 120 million barrels a day, leaves a tremendous gap. Think about where all the oil to fuel all those new cars in China is going to come from! Those billion plus people expect to join the 21st century with automobile ownership, plus the other 'energy consuming devices' like refrigerators, air conditioners, microwave ovens, and computers.

Uranium Prices Going "Nuclear"

From BusinessWeek, July 31, 2006

Not only is oil setting record prices (over \$75/bbl), the price for uranium, the source for nuclear power, is way up. The price jumped to a high of more than \$45 a pound on the spot market, up from \$10 in 2003. Demand seems to be outpacing production. Some 27 reactors are under construction in Asia and Europe, with 38 more of them planned. People are looking at alternatives to coal power plants.

In the US, no one is building new reactors, but even here the demand for uranium is increasing, thanks to capacity expansion. Companies like Excelon, a big atomic energy operator, using 8.5 million pounds a year, will see price increases in the future. Merrill Lynch is predicting prices will rise to near \$30/lb soon, and to \$45/lb in 2010. It was \$8.70 in 2001. Look for higher and higher electric bills.

Cantarell has 'cratered'

Well, the CHNews has been telling folks about the world's second largest oil field, Cantarell. Pemex had predicted oil output would be down 6% this year, after it reached its 'peak production'.

From Bloomberg, the latest figures are in for July, 2006:
(http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601086&sid=aGLn091nIGio&refer=latin_america)

“Aug. 1 (Bloomberg) -- Mexican crude oil output at the nation's largest field, Cantarell, fell in June to the lowest in more than four years.

Cantarell, which accounts for half of Mexico's oil production, yielded 1.74 million barrels a day in June, a 13 percent decline from a year ago, according to data on the Energy Ministry's web site.

Petroleos Mexicanos, the country's oil monopoly, estimated this year Cantarell output would decline 6 percent this year to average 1.9 million barrels per day. “

Instead of a gentle 6% drop, it has dropped double that – get set for an even bigger drop. And that is only half way through the year. The worst is yet to come in the second half! The years and years of boosting production with secondary and tertiary methods, that maintained the ‘peak’ a few more years, will now likely cause an extremely rapid drop in production – and the worst case predictions of a 70% decline in 3 years is possible. This is now more than half of Mexico’s oil exports – simply vanishing.

Today, the billions in revenues fund most of the gov’t social programs. Anticipate a new government, now taking over after the hotly contested elections, suddenly finding their ‘cash cow’ isn’t delivering the big bucks any more. It isn’t going to be pretty in Mexico. Pemex has been starved for funds to maintain, explore, and develop other smaller resources.

Venezuela is headed in the same direction, although slower. It is next on the list to see the ‘cash cow’ start to have trouble.

What else can go wrong? How about a 1.5 million barrel/day pipeline in the Ukraine going off line for a month, as a major spill took place in the leaking, aging pipeline? With already tight supplies, that doesn’t help. Rebels knocking out pipelines continuously in Nigeria? Iraq going nowhere fast in oil output? Iran still rattling sabers? Corrosion shutting down Prudhoe Bay?

A Story with a Twist -

A bit of history that might have been different – from Energy Bulletin at <http://www.energybulletin.net/8303.html> - from the days of early oil exploration in Pennsylvania, where oil was first produced in the USA.

“The Dramatic Oil Company”

“It was less than a year after Edwin Drake had brought in the world's first commercial oil well south of Titusville. People were making grand returns on their effort, particularly considering that it all came from a hole in the ground. Yes, for the favored souls upon whom fortune smiled, there was plenty of oil and plenty of money to go around. Or so it seemed....

They were, truth be told, a group of stage actors who thought that they could make more money in the oil business, about which they knew little, than by acting in stage shows, about which they knew much. It was, then as now, a common misconception about investing outside of one's field of knowledge or expertise. These ambitious troubadours named their venture the "Dramatic Oil Co." In some respects, it was not a bad name for a hit-or-miss proposition like drilling a hole in the ground for oil.

The Dramatic Oil Co. drove the Wilhelmina well into the Earth in late 1863 and early 1864. Fortuitously, the well hit oil-bearing sand and produced at a consistent, though somewhat undramatic, rate of about 25 barrels of oil per day. The partners, however, who had expected more return from their investment, thought that this level of production could be increased. Hence in mid-1864, they hired a man, called a "shooter," to detonate an explosive shot down the hole. Unfortunately for the partners, their shooter promised more than he could deliver...and had promised them a ‘quick fix’ and more oil and more riches.

After cleaning out the down-hole debris from the Wilhelmina No. 1, the well still did not produce any more oil. Adding insult to injury, the well had stopped yielding even the original 25 barrels per day. By detonating an explosive charge in the hole, the partners had irreparably damaged their well. The Dramatic Oil Co. -- and its partners -- was financially ruined.

By September 1864, broke and bitter -- and having lost what funds he had invested in the Pennsylvania oil fields -- one of the Dramatic Oil Co. partners climbed aboard a wagon and headed west to the railroad junction at Meadville. From that small town, he rode northeast by rail to Montreal, of all places. There, he would meet other partners and pursue other ventures.

This man from the failed partnership, who had invested his savings and lost his fortune in a hole in the ground, was named John Wilkes Booth. And you probably know that this stage actor, who had met financial misfortune in the oil fields of Titusville, found his destiny elsewhere when, on April 14, 1865, he assassinated President Abraham Lincoln at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C.

It is tempting to speculate upon the outcome for John Wilkes Booth, and for the United States of America, if he and his partners in the Dramatic Oil Co. had employed a different method of cleaning out their oil well, whether a chemical solution or a nitroglycerin torpedo. But as an old Chinese proverb states, "There is no armor against the arrows of fate." “

Even today, oil wells are plagued with ‘paraffin’ build ups and use chemical methods or steam to ‘rejuvenate’ them after they clog up. Not much changes.

Prudhoe Bay Oil Production Curtailed

The story of early August is the shut down of much of the oil production in Prudhoe Bay due to corroded pipes. What comes up from the ground is several hundred degrees and contains all sorts of contaminants that eat away at steel pipe. While designed to resist corrosion, the high temperatures and highly corrosive raw oil eventually eat away at the pipes. Throw in some of the harshest environment in the world and you have a combination that leads to big problems. The Alaska pipeline has now reached is planned obsolescence. It was designed to last 25 years, and it is 30 years after the installation of this system. Now extra maintenance and rebuilding of many parts may be required to keep it going for another 10 or 20 or 30 years. Each year, less and less oil flows through it (Prudhoe Bay has peaked) and the government has prevented opening up other areas which could feed oil down the pipeline. Over 400,000 bbl/day of production will be offline for months, about 8% of USA oil production, but a much higher percentage of oil for the USA West Coast. Speculation suggests it could be the better part of a year, if BP decides that now is the time to do much needed deferred maintenance on the entire pipeline infrastructure.

It appears that sulfide reducing bacteria are the cause of the Prudhoe Bay pipeline deterioration – and the problem became more severe as oil flow continued to drop (Prudhoe Bay peaked many years ago). There is less oil

flowing in the pipeline, meaning colonies of bacteria can form and pit the walls of the pipe. In addition, sea water is now being used for 'water flood' in an effort to get out more of the remaining oil (secondary recovery methods) and this helps the bacteria grow. Also, the extra amount of water also dilutes the anti-corrosion agents that are added. Over 16 miles of distribution pipeline will need to be replaced, and that could put half of Prudhoe Bay production off line for months – maybe six months. There is a tight supply of oil pipeline, plus the logical problems of shipping there, then installing it in that unfriendly climate. (If you recall, W6TMD reported temps at 32 degrees on the 'pipeline haul road' in late June!).

Who knows what other problems will be found, that will delay this? Already folks are scrambling, trying to keep the lesser quantity of oil traversing the main pipeline from having major problems due to the slow transit speeds. At the other side of the world, much of the oil infrastructure of Russia is held together with rust. There have been major spills continuously there from leaking pipelines that no one bothered to maintain. Who knows if they can hold everything together to get the oil from their fields in harsh climates, too?

According to Matthew Simmons, "We'll look back on this event as the Pearl Harbor Day in energy," said Matthew Simmons, chairman of energy investment bank Simmons & Co. International in Houston. The chance that the leaks and corrosion found at Prudhoe Bay by BP, Europe's second-largest oil company, are an isolated occurrence is "zero". He is now writing a book on aging oil infrastructure.

Much of the oil infrastructure was installed in the 1970s and 1980s, and is now approaching 'end of life' – either requiring extensive annual repairs and replacement, or simply reaching a point where it is uneconomic to keep it going. Over the next 30 years, tens of trillions will be spent on obtaining the needed oil. Guess where that tens of trillions is going to come from? You'll be contributing every week with your gas fill ups and winter heating oil fill ups! Plus everything else in the country involves oil or energy (other forms of energy rise in step with oil prices!).

W7LQT – Ken - Little Quiet Tiger – SK

With regret, the County Hunter News reports that Ken, W7LQT, became a silent key in August, 2006. Active as a county hunter for over 30 years, Ken often ran the 20M mobile net, gave out hundreds and hundreds of counties and enjoyed county hunting and all the great people involved for many years. Scottie, N7AKT, sent in the following picture from the 1973 County Hunter Convention –



Club Nonsense Continues

W0MU continues to whine that ‘some’ county hunters might miss a county for MARAC awards if ‘club **callsigns**’ don’t count. Indeed, as history shows, ‘callsigns’ change. Susie, W5UGD had USACA – good for Bingo everywhere. When it was ‘re-assigned’ to another, it lost that ‘status’ and was no longer good for Bingo or the Five Star award. The award is issued to the person (Operator) who applied for it. Not the ‘callsign’.

The same for the ‘**callsign**’ K9DCJ. When re-assigned, it was no longer good for Master Platinum, and had far fewer stars. And many other calls as well in the past have changed.

When folks change their callsign, the awards follow them, not the callsign. When AA4FF, Fred, changed to W4DI, his USACA number followed him, not the callsign. Someone getting AA4FF is NOT good for Bingo or stars, until that operator gets those awards him/herself.

Yet, W0MU whines he wants to ‘borrow’ a callsign and give out credit for MARAC awards. You can’t do that. The awards belong to the operator who got them, not the ‘callsign’. Almost all MARAC awards require you work an ‘**operator**’ who has the required status (holds USACA, stars, Bingo, MG, etc). Not some ‘callsign’. The same for the prefix award – you must work an operator whose own callsign has that prefix letter – not a ‘borrowed callsign’. Simple, no? He doesn’t get it.

He wrote me a while back. He said “I don't believe a motion to eliminate clubs would carry”. **He doesn't get it. Clubs don't count NOW!** It would not only ‘take a motion’, it would take a full Amendment of the Bylaws to issue awards to ‘clubs’, and change allowing ‘things’ to give out contacts. No one is going to ‘eliminate’ clubs. You can’t eliminate that which isn’t even eligible. That is like saying you are going to eliminate the right to vote for 17 year olds – huh? They don’t have that right. He just doesn’t get it!

He wrote: “Yes a club could be an entity or individual.” Really, a ‘club’ an individual? Well, I guess for the Clubs of One, K9MOT, W4CA, NA7XX, K2JG, W1BQL, with all contacts made by one individual, it might seem that a club is an individual, but by FCC requirements, a club is a GROUP of at least four, and usually is an ‘entity’ of some form (legally speaking) and has to have a structure to get a club license from the FCC! The FCC does not

assign Club station licenses to individuals. To get a club station call, you need to submit your roster, and the bylaws of your club, with a listing of officers and a 'structure'. A club cannot be an 'individual'. Maybe he thinks that NA7XX is an "individual", and K2JG is an 'individual'. Then would he be guilty of 'identity theft' if when he used the 'individual' callsign K2JG to give out a county? Does he think that 'clubs of one' are a part of a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde type personality or what? He just plain doesn't get it!

He wrote: " Lets keep the awards process as simple as possible for the sake of the awards guy". Mike, you think the rules are simple for Bingo? For Master's Gold and Master's Platinum? For 5 star? Folks can understand the rules. Not a problem. Oh, he wants everyone to count for Bingo, with a X in their own call, an earned star, or by scamming folks with a 'borrowed club call'? Yes, that makes the Bingo rules easy. Everyone is good everywhere for Bingo. You might as well give it out with USACA then. Would that be easy enough for him?

We make it simple. No 'club calls' running mobile with operators using anything other than ONE call per county. No using 'club calls' for mobile runs by county hunters (anyone applying for MARAC awards) unless there are two unrelated members of the club present (to rule out 'family club stations). Isn't that simple? No 'borrowed' callsigns. What could be simpler? No 'clubs' applying for or receiving MARAC awards. Easy solution!

He suggests that a mere 'word change' from 'operator' to 'station' would solve that. Really? It would 'gut' the entire awards process. Now, you 'borrow a callsign' good for five stars, that holds Bingo, and MG, and from day 1, a 'newbie' can give out contacts for the highest awards? A newbie can 'borrow' a A,K,N, and W club call, and give out every prefix in every county with 'callsigns'? You just borrowed a 'station call'.

You work one ****person**** who is suddenly 'good for every award' almost with a few contacts? So now if 20 people do that, suddenly people get USACA, Bingo, Master's Gold, the prefix award, the Five Star award in 18 months? Of course, at home you use a 'borrowed' call good for Bingo yourself, so you can start on MG from day 1 yourself. Heck, that mere 'word change' would totally gut the awards integrity.

So getting and ‘borrowing’ and ‘lending’ ***callsigns** good for awards is helping making county hunters look good? That is what WOMU is asking for, by this ‘word change’. You ‘borrow’ a club station call – then give out a ‘K’ prefix, for example. Or you apply for a ‘club of one’ type call with an “X” in it, to give out Bingo contacts when the op is not yet good for Bingo in most counties? Or give out wildcard prefix counties? Sure sounds like more than ‘bending the rules’. Why? What’s with this club ego business?

MARAC has ‘tiered awards’. You get USACA, you (the operator, not the callsign) are good for Bingo, and give folks credit for a star for 5 star. You get a second star, then you give out 2 stars. You get your Bingo, then you can start on MG, and give out contacts for MG. Not before. Not using a ‘borrowed callsign’. When you get MG, you give out contacts good for MP. Simple, no? Same as 10-10 with VIP numbers, and other organizations, where you first have to get an award, to be able to give others credit for the next highest award. Nearly everyone understands that.

He also seems to ignore that fact that CQ and ARRL do not issue ‘tiered’ awards, so this is not an issue to them. You get DXCC once. You are no more valuable to anyone in the world if you have DXCC or WAZ or WAC or WAS. That is NOT true in county hunting. It is the basis for most MARAC awards – working qualified ‘operators’, not qualified ‘callsigns’. As we have shown, callsigns change, but the awards do not follow the callsign.

He then whines about ‘how hard it is for most to check whether a call is a club call’? What planet does he live on? Nearly all county hunters either have access to the internet, where QRZ.com, the MARAC database, the FCC database, and other listings CLEARLY show club calls. Not only that, old callbooks, the HamCall CD ROMs and the QRZ.com CD ROMs all clearly show which calls are ‘club calls’. Remember, we are talking experienced county hunters, going for MARAC awards, not CQ, which does accept club calls for the USACA. Folks working on MARAC awards likely have already received their USACA. The fact that some logging programs may currently have ‘issues’ with club calls is no reason to change the rules!

That makes as much sense as trying to tell the police officer you don’t deserve a ticket because your speedometer is broken! Nor to the logging programs log ‘prefix’ contacts correctly – the prefix must be that of the operator, not of the ‘borrowed club callsign’. So again that is a logging

program error. The easiest way to solve that is simply not run 'club calls' on net. Period. Or one call per run – YOUR OWN!

For most MARAC awards, the 'operator' must have the qualifications, not the 'callsign'. Really, if you have to look up the county for K0AB, which likely never gives the county out in a DX contest, you find it is in Jefferson, CO, and it is a club. Is that hard? Hardly! You had to look up the county. The information is right there on the same page!

However, both CQ and ARRL issue awards to individuals. Let's say W5UGD, Susie Hoyt, gets USCA number #719 in 1991. That is assigned to the operator. When that callsign becomes vacant, and someone else takes over that callsign, they don't hold USCA anymore. CQ operates the same way as MARAC – issues it to an individual, not a 'callsign' When John, the new W5UGD finishes working all counties, he gets #1103 in 2004. Now, does the 'callsign' have two USACA numbers? Does that 'station' that identifies as W5UGD have two USACA numbers? No – the awards are given to the 'operator'. If John should change calls, he would still retain the award.

Where the main difference is, is that MARAC has no provisions for 'clubs' to either receive awards, or give out 'credit' for contacts for any MARAC award. Nor do 'stations' give you credit for prefixes, MG, or MP. Chiseled in stone in the Bylaws. MARAC gives awards for individuals, not 'entities', and requires individuals (operators) , not 'entities' or 'callsigns'to make contacts with their own FCC assigned callsign. Simple, no? That is mainly since MARAC has a 'tired award' system of working operators for higher levels. It is entirely necessary for the system to work! You change the wording from 'operator' to 'station' and you gut the entire integrity of the awards process. Make it a sham. Now, folks can 'borrow' a station callsign and instantly be good for the highest awards.

Otherwise, it is no different from a new novice operator, who passes his FCC Novice test and then 'borrows' an Extra Class club call so he can operate on 20M with 1.5 KW out the next day. He isn't qualified as an operator to do it, even with a 'borrowed call'. The same for county hunting. Someone who has not earned a star cannot 'borrow a call' (or take one over like W5UGD) and give out stars for the five star award before the operator has earned stars.

Then WOMU whines about how normal folks have no idea about a ‘club station’ they randomly work. Huh? Likely they have to look it up in QRZ.com or Hamcall to find the county. Right there it says whether they are ‘clubs’ or not. No problem. That is also a lot different than the issue of running ‘club calls’ and ‘borrowed calls’ mobile. Just how many ‘club’ calls have any stars? (2?) Likely only one or two that you will ever work in a contest – so out of a half million USA operators, that is pretty tiny! Miniscule. Nearly one in a million. So that leaves only the issue of ‘prefix’ to be resolved. That can be addressed – for fixed stations. Almost no ‘clubs’ run mobile other than on the CH nets.

He goes on about his occasional operation at the Mile High DX Club which operates in DX contests, and complains that folks in the DX contest might work him, and it wouldn’t count for the ‘prefix’ award for a “K” in Jefferson, CO. Right, for MARAC awards, the operator must have a “K” not the callsign. Besides, K5VYT lives in that county and is very active on SSB, and K0ZT on CW, and mobiles go through there all the time. Nearly all the ‘DX’ stations working on county hunting awards are working toward simply the USACA. Really, now, how many DX stations are chasing ‘prefixes’? You won’t need more than a finger or two to count them, if that many. Big issue? No! Little issue. No. Teeny weenie issue? Real teeny weenie. Enough to overturn the entire awards integrity issue? No way!

He doesn’t seem to realize that ‘club’ calls are good for CQ Awards (USACA) and for MARAC Nth time and for MARAC Bingo – if they have the right letters in them. (that is an ‘artifact due to others having issued them first with different ‘wording’ for their rules). They are not good for any other MARAC award, including stars, prefix, Polaris, etc. Nor can they give Bingo contacts, even if they have a star as a wildcard, unless the operator has a star.

He then states: “Fortunately most reasonable people can understand the intent of the bylaws and **will choose to count those contacts that they want to count**” (K3IMC forum post)”

Really? He thinks most people are going to cheat? They count what they want to count, regardless of what the rules say? That county hunters have no integrity? That they are **so desperate** they count anything? That they log things, even though the rules don’t permit it, because they ‘want to count it’? I bet a lot of County Hunters are glad they have a new Director in the SC

district! It's like a six grader not doing any work in math class, but saying 'I want to pass because I want to pass, and you can't fail me! I just won't count that test I didn't pass – you shouldn't either!'"

You really don't get to choose which laws you want to follow or not – you drive drunk, you pay the price – either wind up killing someone, or go to jail or pay a big fine or lose your license. You speed, and if you get caught, you pay the fine. You don't get off because 'you don't like that rule' or you decide you don't have to follow that rule.

It is exactly the 'intent' of the bylaws with the tiered award system, and operators having the qualifications that W0MU fails to understand and appreciate. He seems so busy trying to justify his use of his vanity club of one type call that he ignores the rules AND wants everyone to 'turn a blind eye' to the rules, so he can still run counties with it. Why? Is he that desperate? Or that desperate to collect 'baddie points'? He wants everyone else to 'cheat too'? Or count "W4CA" for a "W" when it doesn't count?

He seems to think that MARAC Bylaws should be tossed aside or conveniently ignored when they don't please someone. The Bylaws state MARAC issues awards to individuals. How he thinks a club of at least 4 or more individuals suddenly is one, is beyond me. By law, they must have at least 4. Some clubs have hundreds of members. Or how 'someone' can testify on the application for a MARAC award that they personally made all contacts with a callsign issued to them personally by the FCC is beyond me for a 'club'. They can't, since club calls are not 'assigned' to a person, but to an entity. A group. For CQ, that is not a problem. For MARAC, the Bylaws (Constitution) doesn't allow it.

Or he is so desperate to 'help out' someone needing a prefix contact, he'll not only bend the rules, but encourage others to count the contacts when they clearly don't count?

For 40 years, folks have enjoyed the 'tiered award' system. It gives them incentive to work toward the next highest award. To suddenly 'change a word' so 'everyone' can give 'everyone' credit for 'every award' with 'every contact' is a JOKE, no? Not to him it seems. He wants it, and he wants it now!

If he is so hung up on this club business, maybe we should suggest he do exactly what he tells others to do. If he is not happy the way things are

run with the current rules of MARAC, (like his comments about leaving 300 folks leaving 14.336), let him LEAVE and start his own County Hunting Organization that issues awards to ENTITIES. Why not? His six 'club fans' can start their own group - Maybe the 'Short Cut – Gotta Have 'Em Quick' Who Really Cares Awards Club"? In his fantasy, everyone who can 'borrow' a call or two or three is good for every award from day one! Those folks go mobile, and they are able to give out all four prefixes, MG, MP, Bingo, and 5 stars to everyone in every county you go through! Then, you get your USCA, and MARAC issues you all the other awards the same day, since every mobile contact was 'good for everything'. That's what he seems to want! No kidding!

When a 'few' started running 'clubs of one' to give out the "X" letter allowing an operator who had not earned a star to give out Bingo contacts, suddenly it went from 2 or 3 to over a dozen real fast. Everyone figured they'd jump on the bandwagon. We had "7" call mobiles with a "7" club call. A "0" call with a 'club call'. An '8' call with a mobile 'X' club call. Everyone wanted to become a 'club of one' type mobile – to be more valuable. Give out those Bingo contacts, even without having a star themselves. It spread like wildfire, until folks realized what was happening, and the CHNews brought this silliness and ultimate result (everyone good everywhere) to the attention of the County Hunting community. Then it came to a screeching halt. Well, other than NA7XX vanity club of one call, by who else, NA7XX. Now, he wants to start it all over again, but now for the more difficult awards (prefix, MG, MP). Let 'everyone' be 'good' for 'everything' in 'every county' with 'borrowed' calls. NOT!

If you change just one word, from 'operator' to 'station' in the MARAC bylaws, you then justify having 100 or more 'club calls' or 'borrowed calls' showing up in the next few months, where 'everyone is good for every award everywhere'. We have seen it with the 'X' vanity club calls. They vanished for the most part once folks realized it.

Now, folks have to restrain the small, but vocal minority, that '**only**' want a word change. That 'word' change changes everything. It should **NEVER** happen.

What's a mere word change? From "All men are created equal" to "Some men are created equal?" One word. Or "No men are created equal". Or "Some men **aren't** created equal". Or "All **books** are created equal" (a

thing, not a person). He wants a person, ie, “operator”, to be replaced by a ‘thing’. Big difference! Are you interchangeable with a ‘thing’?

Actually, Bill, K2NJ sums it up nicely. One operator, one call sign. No multiple calls per operator while out running a county, or while working a county. No duplicate contacts – no ‘clubs’ working ‘clubs’ taking up net time, when they don’t count for anything, nor can they apply for or receive MARAC awards.

Operating Events in September

Quite a few this month! Looks a good one for CW ops!

September 9-11

North American Sprint -- CW, 0000Z-0400Z Sep 10 (see Feb *QST*, page 99 or www.ncjweb.com).

Get some counties on VHF for the TopBand Listing- on 6 meters here!

ARRL September VHF QSO Party -- 1800Z Sep 9-0300Z Sep 11 (see Aug *QST*, p 88).

Tennessee QSO Party -- CW/Phone/Digital, sponsored by the Tennessee Contest Group from 1800Z Sep 10-0100Z Sep 11. Frequencies (MHz): CW -- 1.815, 3.540, 7.040, 14.040, 21.040, 28.040; SSB -- 1.855, 3.900, 7.240, 14.280, 21.390, 28.390; Novice/Tech -- 3.700, 7.130, 21.140, 28.140, 28.390; VHF/UHF -- 50.195, 144.195, 146.55, 223.5, 446.0. No repeater or digipeater QSOs. Exchange: RS(T) and TN county or S/P/C. QSO points: HF Phone -- 2 pts, HF CW -- 3 pts, HF digital -- 3 pts, VHF Phone -- 4 pts, VHF CW -- 6 pts, VHF Digital -- 6 pts. Score: QSO points × TN counties (TN stations add S/P/C) counted only once. One bonus multiplier for every five additional QSOs with the same county. TN mobiles may claim as a multiplier any TN county from which they complete at least 10 QSOs. For more information: www.k4ro.net/tcg/tqp/tqp06_rules.html.

September 17

Washington State Salmon Run -- CW/SSB/Digital, sponsored by the Western Washington DX Club from 1600Z Sep 16-0700Z Sep 17 and 1600Z-2400Z Sep 17. Frequencies: 160-6 meters. Categories: SO (CW, SSB, Digital or Mixed Mode; QRP, LP, HP >200W), MO-ST (WA Club, WA Non-club, Non-WA), Mobile (SO, MO), WA County Expedition. Exchange: RS(T) and S/P/C or county (for WA stations). QSO Points: SSB - 2 pts, CW/Digital -- 4 pts. Work Expeditions and Mobiles from each county, log county line QSOs as 2 separate QSOs. Score: QSO points × WA counties (WA stations use S/P/C + WA counties) counted once only. QSOs with W7DX add 500 bonus points for each mode, up to 1000 points. For more information: www.wwdx.org

South Carolina QSO Party -- Phone/CW/Digital, sponsored by the Columbia Amateur Radio Club (CARC) from 1300Z Sep 16-2100Z Sep 17. Frequencies (MHz): CW -- 1.805 and 50 kHz from band edge, Phone -- 1.845, 3.860, 7.260, 14.270, 21.370, 28.370, 50.125, 144.200, 146.58, 223.50, 446.00. No repeater or crossband QSOs, work mobiles again from each county. Categories: SOAB, SC Mobile. Exchange: serial number and SC county or S/P/C. QSO points: Phone -- 1 pt, CW -- 2 pts, Digital -- 3 pts. Score: Total QSO points × power multiplier (<5 W ×5, <150 W ×2, >150 W ×1) × SC counties (counted only once) × SC counties activated (SC Mobile only). 300 bonus points for QSO with N2ZZ or KF4GHC. For more information: www.kf4ghc.net

September 23/24

Texas QSO Party -- CW/Phone/Digital, sponsored by the Northwest Amateur Radio Society (NARS) from 1400Z Sep 23-0200Z Sep 24 and 1400Z-2000Z Sep 24. Frequencies (MHz): CW -- 40 to 60 kHz above bottom of band, Phone -- 25 kHz above edge of General segments and 28.300-28.500, VHF -- 50.2, 144.2. Categories: Fixed Stns -- SO-Mixed (HP and QRP <5 W CW, <10 W Phone), SO-CW, MO; Mobile (Texas Only) -- SO-Mixed, SO-CW, MO. Exchange: RST + TX County or S/P/C or MM region. QSO points: Phone -- 2 pts, CW/Digital -- 3 pts. Score: QSO points × TX counties (TX stations add S/P/C). Multipliers counted only once. Add 500 points for every 5 counties from which a specific TX Mobile is worked. Texas mobiles add 1000 points to final score for every county activated with five or more QSOs. For more information: www.txqp.org

September 30

Arkansas QSO Party -- CW/SSB/PSK31, sponsored by K1ARK, from 1600Z Sep 30-0600Z Oct 1 and 1800Z Oct 1-0200Z Oct 2. Frequencies (MHz): CW -- 50 kHz above band edge; Phone -- 3.980, 7.260, 14.260, 21.360, 28.360, 145-147; PSK -- 3.580, 7.070, 14.070, 21.080, 28.120. Categories: SO and MS (HP/LP, QRP, Mixed, CW, Phone), Mobile, PSK. Work mobiles in each county. Exchange: RST, state or province, DX stations send DX, Arkansas stations send county. QSO points: PSK -- 3 pts, CW -- 2 pts, SSB -- 1 pt. Score: QSO points × AR counties (AR station count states, provinces and AR counties). For bonus points and more information: www.arkan.us

In addition, there are several FIST events, a SOC CW contest, YL contest, and other opportunities to snag counties! It should be a good month! See the ARRL contest corral at: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/months/sep.html> or the weekly contest calendar at: <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>

A Club Proposal

W0MU wants 'clubs' to be able to apply for MARAC awards. Well, lets make this a **'true club'** award if he wants to 'change the rules' to allow 'clubs' as 'entities' to apply. It would be quite a hassle to make this happen. Let's just see where this would take us.

James, KZ2P tried to slip this change through with one proposal he submitted, allowing 'entities' to apply, especially his beloved "Club of One" call. "Entity" is a 'substitute' word for 'club calls' (often corporations or other legal 'groups' formed to allow them to apply for an FCC station license). He tried that 'word substitution'. Fortunately for the integrity of the awards, it was spotted and 'rejected'. For the past 30+ years, only 'individuals' can apply for awards or **RECEIVE** them by the ByLaws. The board rejected this idea of 'entities' being permitted to 'apply'. (It really had no choice – the Bylaws don't allow it).

Of course, even if 'clubs' can apply, they cannot **receive** awards under the current Bylaws! Awards are **only** given to individuals. So let's see what would likely happen IF the Bylaws were to be changed! A 'club' station submitting for an award should be a 'club effort', just as an 'individual' submitting for an award should make all the contacts him/herself! Logical? Of course! By definition, a club is at least 4 people! Not ONE as some would lead you to believe.

Since a club **MUST** have at least 4 members by FCC rules, why don't we simply say that for a 'club' to submit a valid application, no one member may make more than 25% of the contacts? Or maybe 33% or 50%? For example, K2JG has likely a dozen members. We know it has at least KA1JRP, W2NWL, W5UGD, W0MU, and the founding members are all in the club, at least 4, and who knows how many others. For the Motorola Club, they likely have dozens of members, and over the years, likely hundreds! If a 'club' wants to apply, then let it be a 'club effort' of the club membership, not the efforts of a single individual.

That would make it a 'true' club effort, not 'just one' wasting lots of net time making all or nearly all of the contacts from his/her home station at the same time he/she works the mobiles for their own awards, with their own call, no? Require it to be a **CLUB EFFORT** if it is a club submission! (and the rules are changed to allow 'clubs' to apply and receive awards).

In addition, the other 75% or whatever percentage of the contacts must be made by other club members using club equipment at the same location, or at a valid club event where 3 or four unrelated club members are continually present, such as Field Day, or a Contest Entry. No 'borrowing the club call' and running it from home stations the same as ONE operator's. Let it be a club effort with common club equipment used by **MANY** club members. I recall W2SZ, The Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute club station. We had a club station with lots club equipment and antennas, for use by all the club members, and the call was/still is used portable for VHF contests by many club members and club alumni for over 30 years. The club has had over a 1000 members over the past 80 years. There are boxes and boxes of QSLs from contacts made by hundreds of ops on ten thousand different days.

My two local clubs go out on Field Day each year – dozens show up to operate. Many companies here in “Telecom Corridor” have club stations – Alcatel, Northern Telecom, etc. Lots of ‘member participation’.

If WOMU whines so much about 'clubs' being 'disadvantaged', let's make the rules so it has to be a club effort, not merely someone getting a 'club call' to waste a lot of time on net, or someone making duplicate contacts for the sake of 'their local club' when the rest of the club has not participated in the activity of attempting to get the MARAC award! Or someone ‘borrowing’ their local club call, and using it at their home station while they county hunt as well. WOMU belongs to the Mile High DX Club, with at least a half dozen members, maybe dozens and dozens. If K0AB wants to get a MARAC award, great! Let the multiple MEMBERS make nearly all the contacts, not an ‘individual’ making most, or, for some of the “clubs of one”, ALL of them. Same for W4CA, K9MOT, NA7XX.

This really isn't a 'big deal' as he makes it out. Only two 'clubs' so far have received MARAC awards (other than the MARAC club itself). Both of them are 'clubs of one' with ONE operator making all the contacts for the awards, from their home stations, using the exact same equipment and antennas and logging equipment as their personal calls. . "Club effort"? Hardly. One person making all contacts. Just a sham. **Time wasters.** Duplicate contacts. And the rules don't even allow those ‘clubs’ to have received those awards! They got through when no one was looking.

Only ONE other club is working toward a MARAC award, K9MOT. Why? I don't know, unless it is simply boredom, or deciding to waste net time with contacts that don't count. Or playing ‘me too!’ From the same station, with the same equipment, without the benefit of ANY participation from other club members, as the one person making double contacts. Simply another ‘club of one’ type effort? Stupidity at work! The ‘club’ is not eligible to get an award, plain and simple. Why is the ‘club’ wasting net time? Wasting the mobile's time?

Let's make it a 'club effort' requirement if we ‘allow’ clubs to ‘apply’ and ‘receive’ awards. For an individual, you must make all the contacts. For a club, the club members (at least most of them) each should make some of the contacts, and no one should make more than a designated percentage of them. Otherwise, it is simply a big joke on the county hunting community. And ham radio. One op, two callsigns???? Why?

Or maybe that isn't what WOMU intends? Just wants clubs Motorola Amateur Radio Club (K9MOT), the Atlantic Radio Club (K2JG) and the Seacoast Club (W1BQL) to have all their contacts made by one person each, WA9DLB, KZ2P and KA1JPR was they work, allegedly, toward MARAC awards????? To continue the idiocy? To justify whatever the Club of One wants, simply 'because he wants it'? Or it is 'his' interpretation of what the Bylaws say, not actually what they do say?

This change, even 'allowing clubs' to apply, but hopefully with the requirement it has to be a **real club effort**, would, of course, require the Bylaws be changed with a full Amendment - passed by the Board of Directors, then approved by vote by the entire membership - simply to appease 0.5% of all the county hunters out there. Why the other 99.5% should be bothered is hard to fathom. Would it change anything?

Likely after this change was passed, **NONE** of those clubs would ever bother to apply for another award, **because they aren't 'club efforts'**, but mere shams of 'clubs of one' or equivalent. In WOMU's mind, any 'criticism' of "Clubs of One" get a "some off the wall mumbo jumbo about denying clubs and stations the opportunity to participate" comment. If he really wants 'clubs' to have the opportunity to 'participate', let's first require they are really 'Club' efforts, and not a sham effort of ONE person to make the majority or ALL of the contacts for that 'club'. Logical? Of course.

Would those clubs ever mount a 'club effort' to do anything else? Not likely. Somehow, I can't imagine many operators at the Atlantic Radio club, manning a non-existent club station for the necessary number of hours, with many actively participating in county hunting activities for the hundreds and hundreds of hours required, each contributing significant numbers of contacts, **using the same equipment and antennas and station location (or at an organized 'club event' with many unrelated members present), doing it.** The same for the "Seacoast" Wireless Club. Or the Motorola club. Do you think they would? If not, why bother with a change to allow 'them' to apply, if they never will apply?

So why bother to change them in the first place???? There really is no reason. **All the whining would instantly vanish if folks had to have a real 'club effort' to get a 'club award'.** Really! So is there is no reason to even consider changing the rules in the first place!!!!!! NO!

Awards

USA-CW V #2, KA3MMM, Elwood, July 24, 2006
Fifth Time #81, KA3MMM, Elwood, July 24, 2006
Single Band – 30M #1, W0GXQ, Jerry, July 23, 2006
USAPA – K #12, KC0JG, Silver, July 17, 2006
USAPA – K #11, N4UJK, Ed, July 11, 2006
USACA #1142, W1IBS, Bob, July 26, 2006
USACA #1143, N9FR, Walt, July 29, 2006
Single Band – 30M #2, W0QE, Larry, July 31, 2006
Second Time #362, VK4AAR, Alan, July 31, 2006
Second Time, #364, KL1V, Kent, August 6, 2006
Bingo #283, K0EH, Maurice, August 3, 2006
Second Time #363, VE1WT, Phil, August 3, 2006
Third Time #195, WA5OPO, Ray, August 17, 2006
Single Band – 30M #3, N4CD, Bob, August 17, 2006
USA-CW #85, KW4V, Les, July 24, 2006
USACA #1144, KE5AY, Charlie, August 14, 2006
Bingo #284, VE1WT, Phil, August 22, 2006

Picture Gallery – September 2006



KA3DRO, Ron, Ben Hill, GA
Last County Whole Ball of Wax –WBOW- for W1IBS



The mobile club station – RK2FWA – some DX
Folks go mobile in other countries – Oblasts, anyone?



Charlie, W0RRY, Perkins, NE – his last WBOW Fifth Time
Worked N4CD/QRP on 30M for his last contact



N4CD/m Comanche, KS – last county WBOW for K5VYT



Jim, VD9DH/NE9DH, at the Convention in Appleton, WI 2006
(Frequently heard on 20/30/40 meter CW)



K3IMC, Don, at the Convention in Appleton, WI 2006
Don runs the County Hunter Web site
Often heard on 30 meter CW

And that is it for the September issue of the County Hunter News. See you next month!