

County Hunter News

January 1, 2010
Volume 6, Issue 1

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, 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.

County Hunter Nets run on 14.0565, 10.122.5, and 7056.5, with activity occasionally on 3556.5 KHz. Also, with low sunspot activity, most of the SSB activity now is on 'friendly net' 7188/7185 KHz. The cw folks are now pioneering 17M operation on 18.0915. (21.0565, 24.9155, and 28.0565 when sunspots better). Look around 18135 or 18.132.5 for occasional 17M SSB runs.

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

De N4CD (email: telegraphy@verizon.net)

Notes from the Editor



N4CD Bob USACA #883

1) N4CD Rumbblings - Winter has arrived – there are blizzards on the east coast – big snowfalls, and frigid temps. Mobile activity is way down. Propagation isn't much better despite some encouraging sunspot activity. December has had a few contests on 10M and 160M, and the SD QSO party is the end of the month after publication date. Mobiles were out occasionally, but it's been 'slim pickings' for the later half of the month.

2) Global Climate Hoax – ClimateGate – It seems that over 400 private jets, not including the Air Force One Fleet of 3 747s carrying President

Obama, his limos, the press core - descended upon Copenhagen for the UN IPCC get together. It took over 1200 limos to carry the 'representatives' and leaders from 55 countries to this two week shindig with nearly all of them flying in on private jets or government jets. They had to borrow limousines from Germany and other countries as they needed more than the entire country of Denmark could supply. The amount of CO2 emitted from the jets and cars, just ferrying the 'delegates' around, likely doomed 200 polar bears to a painful death. (the number of polar bears has risen every year for the past 30 years).

www.planestupid.com/

It seems the latest scandal of faked data and cooked books is now called ClimateGate – getting millions of 'hits' a day on the internet search engines. What is more amazing is that while the count on Google seems to be dropping due to them intentionally prioritizing other things ahead of it intentionally, but on the other search engines like Bing, Climate-Gate is still among the top searched topics. It's amazing what folks out to censor the climate debate are willing to do! "Brokenhagen" resulted in essentially nothing after gigatons of hot air were expelled, other than weasel worded statements about grand goals.

3) Mobile Activity in December

Dennis, **N6PDB (and WA6OCV)** took a trip in CA to get to some of the rarer counties. He noted:

"In 2 days, 603 Miles, 14 Counties, 35 40M contacts, 237 20M contacts"

Jeff, **W9MSE** was over in MN – running some counties there where he is good for Natural Bingo, such as Steele and Blue Earth, MN.

Barry, **N0KV**, and Pat, **N0DXE**, took a trip out to California and back via AZ and NM. Barry ran on cw, and both on 40M SSB.

Cliff, **K6JN**, and Nelda, **W6XJN**, headed cross country from FL to CA.

Scottie, **N4AAT**, took a trip to AR. He had some problems:

“As you all know I had a huge problem with the trailer I rented. On my way to AR I had two blow-outs on the trailer and got stuck on the side of the road for almost 5 hours. Because of this I decided to head home, after I loaded. When I got to Memphis, TN, I got sandwiched between 5 or 6 trucks and didn't make the turn I wanted to make so I let the GPS unit guide me back to the right road. Unknown to me, it guided me under a very low bridge and it took out every one of my antenna's. I pulled off the side of the road when I got a chance and collected the rest of my antennas, all bent and broke, and started out again. Lo and behold, I got into MS and I had another blowout of a tire and again I sat there another 4 hours until I got fixed up. This time I had no radio to talk on for company. (No antennas in working order) After I got going again I decided to drive straight home. I turned in the trailer and U-Haul tried to charge me for 5 days rental for the trailer, instead of the two I had it for. I had no sleep since Sunday morning when I started out for AR, until now. Got 2 1/2 hours. Sorry about not being able to run any counties like I had planed to do. Maybe next time, but with no trailer”

Ron, **KB6UF**, was out and about in LA for two days.

Sterling, **WA7JHQ**, headed off to CO from ABQ in NM.

Also spotted out mobile – Jim, N4JT, NT2A, W4HSA, N9JF, K0ARS, W9MSE, WD4OIN, N7IV, WU3H, N9JF, K4YFH.

Silver, **N9QS**, took a trip to southeast MO and back to IL.



N9QS Stone MO

4) **Call Change** – Jim, KB4XK is now N4JT

5) **Dayton County Hunter Forum** – Tim, W8JJ, has advised we will have a County Hunting Forum at Dayton this year on Friday, 4PM. There's a good chance we'll have a county hunting dinner afterwards.

6) **New Award – the “No Star Award”** – details later in the issue

7) **Sixth year of publication** – wow – this started out as ‘the anti-dote’ to the one sided message heard ‘on the net’ and in the ‘chat room’, and getting out the truth about county hunters and county hunting activity. Just like FOX News, we told the stories of what was going on. We now enter our sixth year of publication of the On-Line County Hunter News.

ClimateGate I

<http://newsbusters.org/blogs/noel-sheppard/2009/11/28/climat...>

As a result of the growing ClimateGate scandal, Penn State University is investigating Michael Mann, its high-profile professor on the sending and receiving end of controversial e-mail messages recently obtained from a British Climate Research Unit.

Mann, as one of the originators of the infamous Hockey Stick graph, is the climatologist at the very heart of the global warming myth. It turns out that any data, such as your checking account, when 'tweaked' will provide a graph with a hockey stick ending, and that is exactly what Mann did to arrive at his 'alarming graph'. It has now been totally discredited.

As the creator of "Mike's Nature trick," a particularly damning phrase used in one of the e-mail messages in question, Mann is also a key figure in the ClimateGate scandal.

- - - -

"Global warming warmongers insist that the recently exposed "Climategate" emails, exchanged among climate scientists working for the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), do not change the basic science underlying global warming, so they are no big deal. But they are quite wrong. The data and the arguments now discredited by the corruption exposed in the emails leaves the scientific case against the idea of man-caused global warming overwhelming at this point.

Quite to the contrary, the scientific argument for man-caused global warming was thoroughly demolished earlier this year with the release of the 880-page study, *Climate Change Reconsidered*, authored by the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC). The response to that study can be taken as an admission by global warming advocates that they cannot defend their position in debate.

In sharp contrast, first rate, blue chip scientists are increasingly concluding that humans have little effect on global temperatures, and that natural causes

and temperature patterns continue to dominate. These include Fred Singer, Professor Emeritus of Environmental Science at the University of Virginia, and the founder and first Director of the National Weather Satellite Service, Richard Lindzen, Alfred P. Sloan Professor of Meteorology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Roy Spencer, Principal Research Scientist at the University of Alabama at Huntsville, and U.S. Science Team Leader for the AMSR-E instrument flying on NASA's Aqua satellite, William Happer, Cyrus Fogg Brackett Professor of Physics at Princeton University, Syun-ichi Akasofu, Professor of Physics and former director of the International Arctic Research Center at the University of Alaska, Patrick Michaels, Research Professor of Environmental Sciences at the University of Virginia, and past President of the American Association of State Climatologists, and David Douglass, Professor of Physics at the University of Rochester, among many others. Physics icon Freeman Dyson recently expressed similar views in the *New York Times*. There is no collection of scientists in the world smarter and better than these.

One of the most revealing emails was from Phil Jones, Director of the University of East Anglia's Climate Research Unit (CRU), a fundamental feeder source for the UN's IPCC. He wrote, "I've just completed Mike's Nature trick of adding in the real temps to each series for the last 20 years (i.e. from 1981 onwards) and from 1961 for Keith's **to hide the decline**

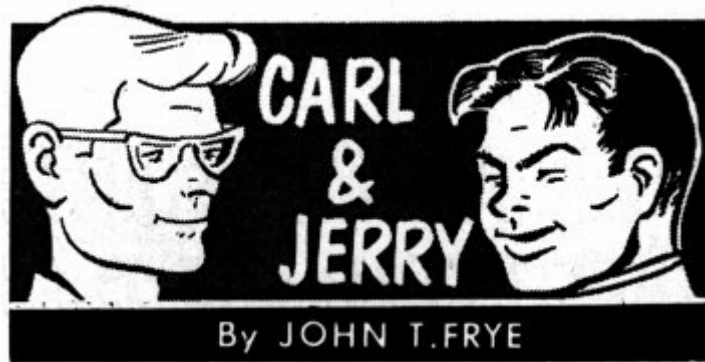
The chart was based on proxy data for temperature in past centuries for which no temperature records are available. (Such proxy data comes from modern studies of such sources as ice cores, tree rings, and growing season dates.) The emails reveal that Jones and his colleagues, including the persistently dishonest Michael Mann of Penn State University, selectively manipulated that proxy data to hide the known high temperatures of the Medieval Warm Period, roughly 350 years starting around 1000 A.D. when temperatures were significantly higher than today. That was necessary to falsely portray global temperatures as stable until recently.

But the problem was that the data set as manipulated then showed a large and steady decline in temperatures in recent decades since 1960. So the "trick" the CRU manipulators adopted to hide that decline, as reported by the *Daily Mail*, was to cut off the proxy data set in the year the decline started, 1961, and substitute the CRU's "actual" temperature readings for those later years showing a large *increase* in temperatures for those years. (In truth, those "actual" global surface temperature readings had been previously

manipulated.) As Phillip Stott, Emeritus Professor of Biogeography at London's School of Oriental and African Studies, told the *Daily Mail*, "Any scientist ought to know that you can't just mix and match proxy and actual data. They're apples and oranges. Yet that's exactly what they did." So the "trick" referred to in the original email was not referring to "the best way of doing something," or to "standard practice," as Davies dishonestly said in trying to perpetuate a cover-up. It was referring to dishonest data manipulation. “

Source: <http://spectator.org/archives/2009/12/16/the-great-hoax>

Carl & Jerry – Pop ‘Tronics



The last book containing the last two years of the famous Carl & Jerry ham radio adventure stories is now available – the fifth volume. For those who grew up with ham radio in the 50s and 60s, Popular Electronics, a monthly magazine, contained a Carl & Jerry story in each issue for 10 years. For many youngsters, they were role models of adventuresome teenagers. They were always using the latest gadgets and technology of the time to catch bad guys, get themselves out of predicaments, or help their YL friends.

<http://www.copperwood.com/carlandjerry.htm>

If you visit the site, you can read about half a dozen adventure stories for free- click on the listings that have a hyper link in the contents of the books at the right. Or you might like to buy a few of the books for your library.

MARAC Awards Update

At the December Board meeting, MARAC approved a new award, and changes to other awards as follows:

USA-No Stars Award (New)

OBJECTIVE: To make **Valid Contacts** with amateur radio operators who have not received the USACA Award and to encourage new county hunters to transmit counties while mobile.

SPECIAL RULES: **Stars** is defined in General Rules and Definitions for MARAC Awards.

Only **Valid Contacts** with operators in **Mobile or Portable Operation** who have no **Stars** may be used for this award. If an operator has one or more **Stars**, only contacts made with that operator before the date that the USA-CA Award was issued to that operator may be counted for this award. All contacts must be made on or after January 1, 2010.

- - - - -

de N4CD – for a long time, new folks starting out county hunting have been complaining that when they are out mobile, often they are ‘good for nothing’ and get few contacts. Well, obviously no one is never not good for something, be it first time around (USA-CA), or USA-CW, or perhaps a bingo by the letters in their call in some counties, or the prefix award or call combo award. There are over 100 ways a mobile can be ‘good’ for something.

Likely one of the hardest prefix combos to get is the 2x3 prefix – so many more experienced hams have upgraded to 2x2, 1x2 and 2x1 calls! New hams often get the 2x3 calls.

Now, for some higher level awards, you need to have completed other awards – granted. For those who get hooked on county hunting, it usually takes 3 to 10 years to get USA-CA under current conditions – some take 20 to 30 years to get it.

Of course, once you get a “star” (meaning you have worked all the counties yourself), you are now a bit more helpful to those seeking Bingo – every county counts – and for the Five Star award where you get them 20% of the way toward the goal for that county you are in.

As a ‘new’ county hunter without a star – now you will have something that those who have a star can’t match – you’ll be good for the No Star award after Jan 1, 2010. So the long time complaint of ‘I’m not good for anything here’ is even less an issue. You’ll be good for an award that the large majority of county hunters are NOT good for!

Note that contacts only starting in 2010 are good! So this is a good reason to plan to go mobile and put out those counties. It might also make state QSO parties more interesting – now non-county hunter type mobiles that go out will be sought by county hunters in droves for their lack of a star. Remember, only mobile and portable contacts count – no fixed stations.

Another good thing about the rules is that it requires **the operator** to not have a star..thus, if you are a star holder, you can’t ‘borrow’ a club call to go run mobile, or give out contacts. That might be a problem for those who have ‘ride along’ club calls like AB4YZ, as W4CA can’t count if the normal operator has a star. Hope the logger program handles that correctly.

It’s also a good way to encourage experienced county hunters to take along a new person without a star – giving out contacts. Maybe we can interest some new folks into county hunting? Take out a fellow club member and run some counties. They’ll be good for no star. You might not be needed for anything! Hi hi. All the fun starts after the New Year begins. Maybe your YL has been reluctant to get a ham license? Or help out? Maybe this will encourage them to get active even if they have no desire to ‘work all the counties’ themselves?

Even more now, we need to encourage newbies on the nets – both cw and SSB – to make sure they aren't 'ignored' or 'run off' for not knowing 'THE RULES', or using phonetics, or not instantly grasping the ins and outs of relays, and similar. Let's see how many new folks we can attract with the no-star award.

This might be a real challenge! We've got to get lots of counties run, everywhere – from Kalawao, HI to Knox, ME, to Dukes and Nantucket (remember, mobile or portable), to New York, NY to Lewis and Clark, MT. It's likely to be harder than Bingo or even MG, and getting newbies to run over to get those LC will be a challenge as well if we don't take extra effort to get them hooked on county hunting!

I suspect those working hard on this award are going to really be major players in the state QSOS parties as well! It should be an interesting year next year.

Who is going to be the first for the No-Star Award? It took five years for the first MG to be earned. It took five years for the first MP to be earned. Any bets on what it will take for the No-Star award? K5GE got top honors earning Number 1 for both those awards. Who is going to get Nr 1 here?

How about on net? Who has run lately with no stars? In December, I count for the first half of the month: K8YJ, WY7ML, N0XYL, KU0A, W3DQT, W4HSA, WY4D, K0RU, W8DCD, W7IN, NT2A, N0ALK, WB5TMW, KC5YTW, K4EXT, WA4RNN, KL2AX, KJ4OHL. And N3MRA.

Of that, many just put out 1 or 2 or 3 counties.

So what can we do to get 'new blood' into county hunting? That is what this award is intended for – to give incentive for newcomers to go out and run some counties – get on the air mobile – join in on the fun – be appreciated by the net controls as 'counting for something'. So how do we get the word out?

If you are a member of a local club, spread the word! Try and get some mobiles to put out their home counties and nearby. Encourage them to go out in state QSO parties. Talk it up at local hamfests. Maybe we need a handout? Maybe we need a web page just for newcomers to county hunting,

that really takes them through the procedures step by step – so they aren't run off, or 'don't have a clue' when they show up? How about relaxing the absolute strict rules that seem to be on 14.336 where one mistake gets you a blistering rebuke, and the second 'offense' can get you banned?

The regular county hunters are going to have to do their part. Take out a newbie county hunting with you on a local trip. Show them how you 'run a county'. Or go mobile in THEIR mobile and help them run a county. Help them get set up mobile and get their installations working. Get them set for the state QSO parties which are a great way – there will be lots of contacts made.

Maybe MARAC needs a special web page for newcomers to walk them through it step by step from a 'newcomer' perspective? One that can be referred to in handouts at club meetings, Dayton hamfest, ham radio magazine articles, etc.

In the past, 'portables' have been frowned upon 'net frequency' but some folks do go portable. I've heard a bunch run off the regular net, with the NC going back to 'any mobile ready to run' for the next 30 minutes with no responses. Yes, mobiles should get first priority, but if you want new blood, you have to take a bit of time to hold their hands, let them make mistakes, use phonetics to get the calls that you know by heart, help them out with busted calls at the end so they can maybe send out MRCs to the right people, etc. We've moved away often from helping newcomers to decidedly running them off, either intentionally or accidentally. Maybe we all need to just 'chill' a bit when a newbie shows up and messes up a bit at first. We all started out that way. A lot of folks had knocking knees and a shaking hand the first time they tried it on net.

Well, enough of the soapbox. The awards committee created the award. Now, the rest of us have to figure out how to get the counties run by no-star mobiles, and hopefully many newcomers will be ENCOURAGED to join the nets, state QSO parties, etc. 3077 counties to go – from mobiles and portables, starting Jan 1, 2010.

Changes to Master Gold Award

The rules for 'net control' time have been modified as follows:

Service to the county hunting community for assisting mobiles. Credit for service is 10 minutes for each mobile run. You must provide all of the following assistance to each mobile:

- Announce the mobile - giving their call and county;
- Post the mobile (if you have Internet access);
- Remain on frequency and assist with relays; and
- Announce the mobile and county at the end of run.

If you use this for part of your 1500 points required, you must submit log information for each mobile assisted, time/date, band/mode, callsign of mobile, and county/state.

De N4CD: Hopefully, this will encourage folks to help out the mobiles with announcements, spotting, and relaying at the end. You can earn 1/6th of an hour for each mobile you help – racking up hours. If you help 12 mobiles a day, that is 2 hours of credit. Do that every day for a year, and that is over 700 hours of credit toward your MG award. With so many bands, the opportunities are there. 40M SSB, 40M CW, 30M CW, 20M CW, 17M CW, 20M SSB, etc.

With current band conditions, many folks keep a radio tuned to one or more frequencies, but with little mobile activity, there is no need for constant 'any mobile ready to run' on most CH frequencies, especially CW – for hour after hour. What is needed is prompt spotting, and when the mobile wishes, relays – and announcements of where the mobile is at the beginning and end of runs.

It doesn't take a 'big station' to help out mobiles. The internet works fine from nearly anywhere. You might not hear all the mobiles well, so help out the ones you do hear well. Many times with current propagation, one NC will not hear all the mobiles due to distance – too close in, or too far away.

For those who complain they either can't or don't want to run counties to accumulate points for the Master Gold award, they now have another viable option to earn those 1500 service points.

Natural Bingo

Natural Bingo has now been elevated to a separate stand alone award. It was noted that with quite a few folks with Bingo II, III and some beyond, it would be a record keeping nightmare to keep track of WHICH bingo a person had received would have the Natural Bingo endorsement. It would be a nightmare for the Logging Program and the Awards Custodian. Now, Natural Bingo will be a separate numbered award.

- - - - -

de N4CD: The question, naturally, is who is going to be the first to get Natural Bingo? It's a toughie. I hit a few counties on the last couple trips where I am good for Natural Bingo (C and D counties) such as Cochran, Collin, Denton, Delta, Dallas, Cooke, Camp, Cass, and have run, well, all of the C and D counties from Dukes to all four Districts in AK – but that doesn't help if you missed me when I was there.

I suspect the old timers who work everyone everywhere might be up near 3000. Ernie, W7KQZ – he's probably far up the list. However, the real challenge is to get the rest – if you need 100, getting a mobile with the right suffix there could be interesting. Loving County TX? That takes a mobile with "L" in the suffix. Zapata, TX? A "Z".

Eddie, G4KHG, hits the top of the list for HI....He's good in Honolulu, Hawaii, Kalawao, Kauai....but not Maui – 4 out of 5! W6TMD also good for all the AK counties(districts). So, most of the 'toughies' are easily possible. Even more of a challenge, the stations must be portable or mobile – so you can't recruit fixed stations! Could this be the 'unobtainium' award? I've heard rumblings along the way that some were approaching 3000 worked toward NB.

So when you take your next trip, you might make extra effort to activate those counties you are good for Natural Bingo in. You need Collin TX? That's my home county – but you'll have to catch me mobile for it to count!

N8KIE is good for a bunch in MI...from Ingham to Ionia to Iosco to Eaton and Emmet, Iron, Isabella, Kalamazoo, Kalkaska, Kent, and Keweenaw. Some, are, sadly good for 'nuttin' if they have only a 'X' in the suffix, but maybe they enjoyed 'being good for bingo' everywhere before they got their first star – so I guess things even out. 2x1 calls only have one shot at it – KM1C is only good in 'C' counties. Same for double letter suffixes – like K8ZZ – good only in the few Z counties in the US – Zapata, Zavala, Van Zandt, Ziebach. In an odd twist, those folks with the longest calls with the strangest letters might turn out to be the 'most needed' mobiles for NB. Those Zs, Qs and Js might be in demand. Or it could be 'O's and "T"s. Only time will tell.

IEA Calls Peak Oil Demand

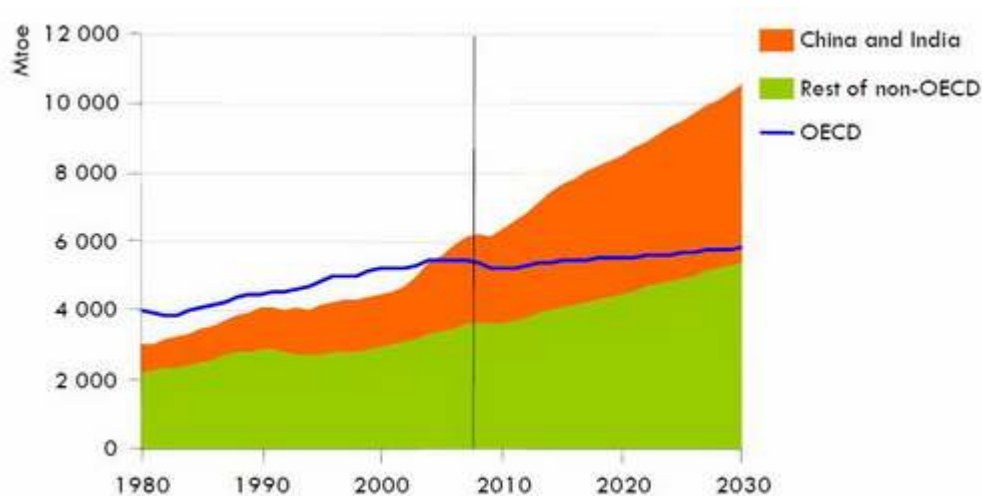
“In World Energy Outlook 2009, the International Energy Agency seems to have dropped a bombshell that has been quietly (and politely) ignored. In their main 'reference scenario', the IEA forecasts that OECD demand has already peaked - it never recovers the levels seen before the oil price spikes and financial crisis unfolded.”

In recent editions of their World Energy Outlook, the IEA has been reducing their forecast for 2030 total oil supply. But forecasting a decline in OECD consumption is a radical shift.

Here at The Oil Drum we see peak oil occurring well before 2030, with production at that point significantly lower than it is now. However, even the IEA's forecast of 105 mb/d allows for only anemic growth for total supply of

1% per year. Since they still see strong demand growth from China and other developing nations, OECD takes the hit:
Oil demand is projected to grow by 1% per year on average, from 85 million barrels per day in 2008 to 105 mb/d in 2030. All the growth comes from non-OECD countries; OECD demand falls.

Unfortunately the IEA does not present this oil situation in a figure, however the one below for total primary energy demand gives us a good impression. China, India and the rest of the non-OECD world keep growing their consumption (IEA forecast, not mine!), while OECD is all but flatlining.



For oil, the situation is worse. OECD share of available oil is constrained so much that it declines. The peak for OECD demand was in the period 2000-2008 and declines by 0.3% per year to 2030.

Let me repeat that.. ***THE IEA* says that OECD oil consumption is in decline, permanently.**

It's also significant that in their report they say Non-OPEC oil supply declines from 2010. So all those arguments about technology, increasing recovery, a new Middle East in the Arctic.. all amount to nothing at least in the entire Non-OPEC part of the world where all those clever western oil companies do their business.

All the peak oil analysis that you've read here still suggests that the IEA's forecast is too optimistic, for both OPEC and Non-OPEC parts of the world. And the IEA whistleblower also claims that their forecasts are inflated. But a peak is still a peak, and the IEA now says that OECD oil demand is in decline and will not recover the levels prior to the financial crisis.

This seems to me like a dramatic statement for the IEA to make. This official forecast from the agency representing OECD nations, now conflicts with just about every one of its individual member's own forecasts (and that of just about every private enterprise). To convince decision makers of the inevitable oil decline facing us, we no longer need to refer to the online analysis by peak oil bloggers. You can simply tell your president, chief, boss and your neighbour: **The IEA says our oil consumption is going down, what are you going to do about it?"**

Source: <http://anz.theoil Drum.com/node/5990#more>

30M Report

A few years back, there was a big push to work all the counties on 30M. It took a few years for the first four to finish up. The band was in fairly good shape. Then we hit the bottom of the sunspot cycle and 30M became pretty flakey, often having the worst qualities of both 20M and 40M for much of the day. Now it seems to be recovering, with some very good runs on 30M by mobiles. It's still not 'short', but one should not overlook 30M. From the center of the country, you can consistently work the coasts and 500-1500 mile contacts. It's probably best from an hour after sunrise to sunset, but at times, it works well into the evening.

So far, 4 people have worked all the counties on 30M. It's better at certain times of the year. Looking at Risto's county challenge award, let's track to see who is closing in. I don't even see needs these days for 30M counties on the K3IMC special needs site – so I'm not sure where this stands on folks priority list. But someone is going to be Nr 5 and Nr6 for the 30M Single Band Award. Naturally, using 30M can get you needed counties you can't

hear on 20M these days, and help with your County Challenge totals and Top List Totals.

Ed, KN4Y, has 2914 counties on 30M now, and Jeff, W9MSE, is at 2933. Tom, K7REL has 2908, and quite a few others are at 2400 or more from their stats on TopList. It's also another band we should be using – just to justify the allocation. Use it or lose it!

On my last trip to west TX, 30M provided from 10-35 contacts a county - so the band is 'there'. It just doesn't seem to be used that often unless someone QSY's there from 20 or 40M.

Most mobiles run in a predictable sequence – starting on 20M – then maybe 17M for a few minutes if they have it- then to 30M, then 40M. Or maybe the other way around early in the day or late and night, starting low and working their way up. It doesn't take much of antenna – many load up an 80M dipole or other antenna to get on 30M. See you there.

Climate Gate II

http://www.norcalblogs.com/watts/2007/08/1998_no_longer_the_...

Steve McIntyre, of Toronto operates www.climateaudit.org and began to investigate the data and the methods used to arrive at the results that were graphed by NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS).

What he discovered was truly amazing. Since NASA does not fully publish the computer source code and formulae used to calculate the trends in the graph, nor the correction used to arrive at the "corrected" data. He had to reverse engineer the process by comparing the raw data and the processed data..

Here is one of his first posts where he begins to understand what is happening. "This imparts an upward discontinuity of a deg C in wintertime and 0.8 deg C annually. I checked the monthly data and determined that the discontinuity occurred on January 2000 - and, to that extent, appears to be a

Y2K problem. I presume that this is a programming error."

He further refines his argument showing the distribution of the error, and the problems with the USHCN temperature data. He also sends an email to NASA GISS advising of the problem.

He finally publishes it here, stating that NASA made a correction not only on their own web page, attributing the discovery to McIntyre, but NASA also issued a corrected set of temperature anomaly data which you can see here:

<http://data.giss.nasa.gov/gistemp/graphs/Fig.D.txt>

Steve McIntyre posted this data from NASA's newly published data set from Goddard Institute of Space Studies (GISS) These numbers represent deviation from the mean temperature calculated from temperature measurement stations throughout the USA.

According to the new data published by NASA, 1998 is no longer the hottest year ever. 1934 is.

Four of the top 10 years of US CONUS high temperature deviations are now from the 1930s: 1934, 1931, 1938 and 1939, while only 3 of the top 10 are from the last 10 years (1998, 2006, 1999). Several years (2000, 2002, 2003, 2004) fell well down the leaderboard, behind even 1900.

- - - - -

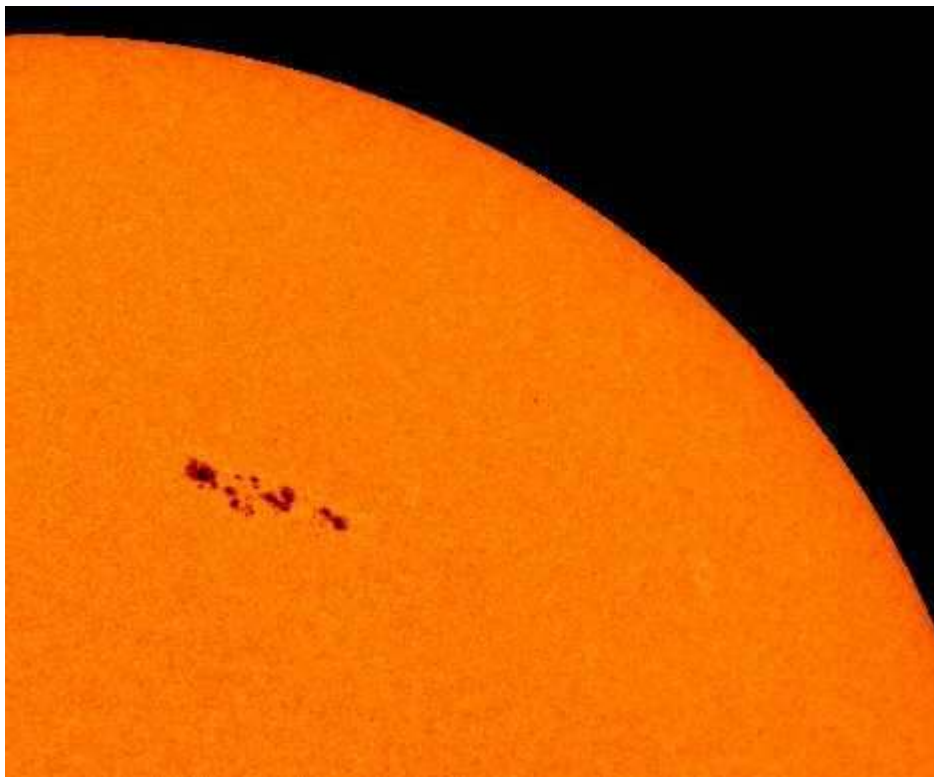
But hasn't Al Gore been telling you that the last 10 years are the warmest in history? That the 'planet has a fever'? That we have year after year of record high temps? Well, we know that Al Gore thinks the inside of the Earth is millions of degrees hot, which would make the surface totally liquid or gaseous— think molten glass and metal, or gaseous and the like. Science fiction. Or truly amazing "inconvenient science non-facts on his part. Al, do you really think the Earth with a core at millions of degrees is having a nuclear fusion reaction just like the sun to get it that hot?

Turns out those claims of 'warmest year ever' is a crock. It looks like NASA messed up their data, never allowed the source code or their work to be peer reviewed, and it took reverse engineering by 'skeptics' to uncover

the, well, basic climate fraud. NASA, of course, had no incentive to actually let others review it, since their 'results' met the political objective of showing 'global warming' so the liberal socialist politicians had justification for 50 trillion in wealth and tax confiscation. (your money). Only when embarrassed with their own data being corrupt did they issue new results with no fanfare.

So once again, "AGW", or man-made warming science fiction theory is shot down scientifically.

Sunspots – Yes we got Sunspots!

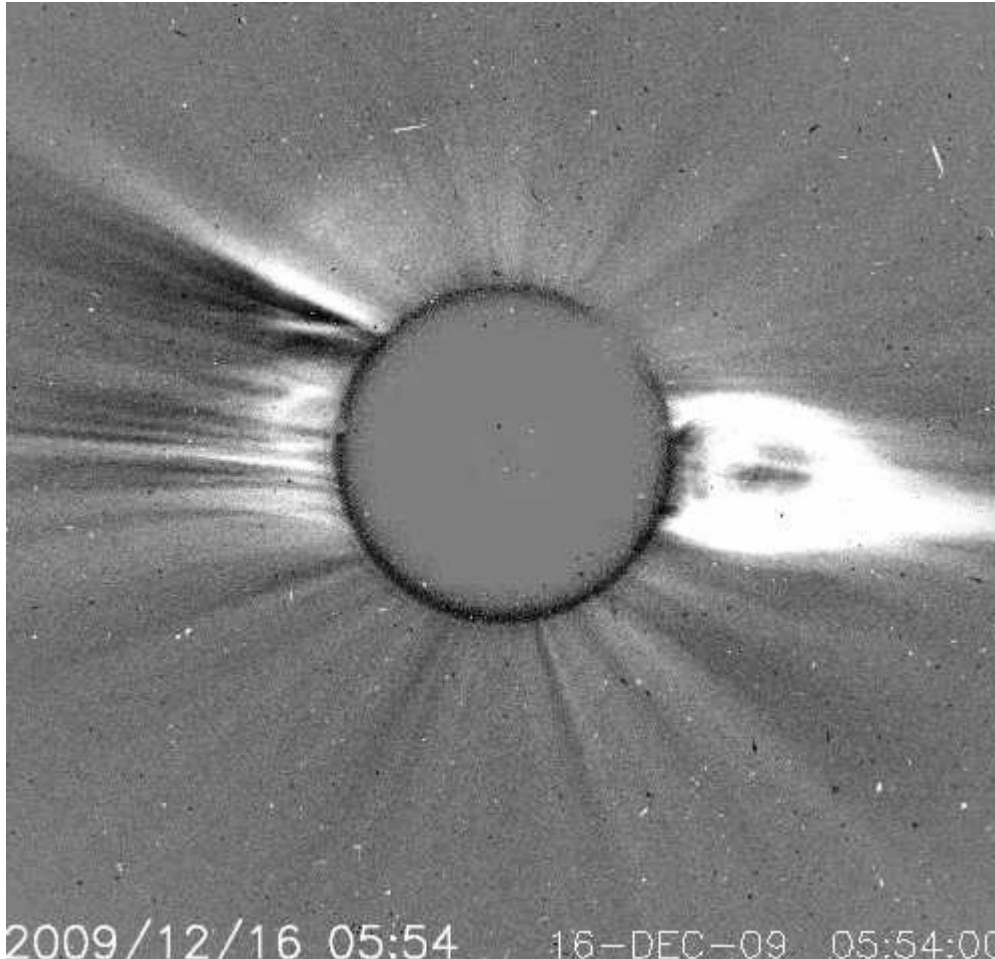


December 16, 2009

December 16 - The solar flux was up to 83 (Cycle 24 record) , and the sunspot number was 38 – that is two groups, with 18 sunspots within them. (the sunspot number is calculated by multiplying the number of groups by

10, then adding in the total number of visible sunspots – in this case, for SSN=38, that is two groups x 10, plus 18 sunspots.

There have been some minor flares as well.



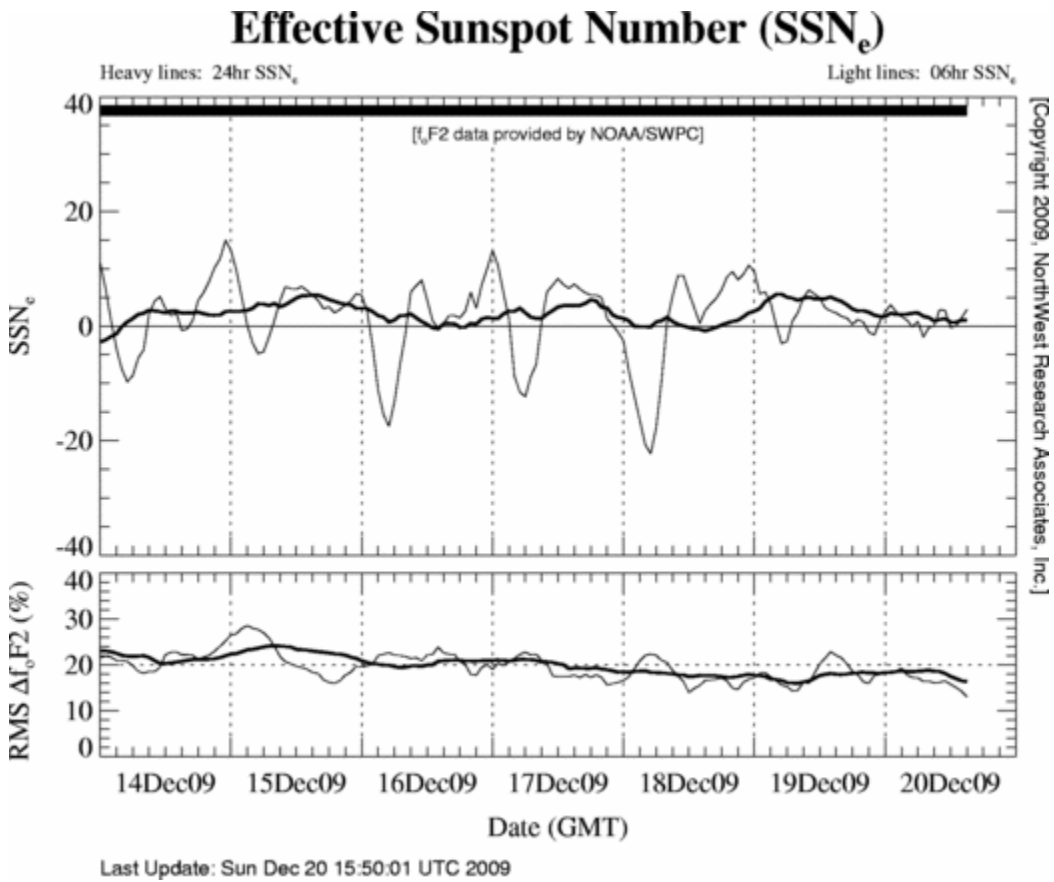
Solar Flare C5.3

It's not a big flare as things go for a sunspot max, but you tend to get big flares (and HF dropouts!) at sunspot max. It's encouraging, at the least.

Later that same week, the flux hit 88.1, another new Cycle 24 record. Let's hope for some real fireworks!

However, don't jump too high with joy yet. The 'effective' sunspot number, which is what you should plug into your propagation modeling program, is

still essentially zero. What that means is, despite having sunspots and a higher solar flux over 80, it doesn't make any difference to propagation!



Source: <http://www.nwra.com/spawx/ssne24.html>

More Pictures



Tony, WA9DLB USACA #983
Dayton OH 2009

2009 Activity Summary

It's the end of the year, and I'm getting my stats for 2009 together to send off to Elwood, KA3MMM, for the annual compilation of CW county hunters and how they are doing toward the USA-CW or Nth time CW. So far, it looks like a pretty good year for cw counties.

I started over in February – so my totals this year are those worked since then. Not bad – the various state QSO Parties – this being the Year of the State QSO Party, spurred all but one state to hold a QSO Party this year. That filled in many, many counties – and some complete states as well.

The New England QSO Party, plus the others up that way, did a decent job of getting those counties – still missing a few here and there. Litchfield CT

always seems to be a hard one to get. Georgia – well , there are just so many there – I still need dozens and dozens. Other states with an active cw mobile also look good. FL got filled in. SC got filled in. The various trips out west by several gave me lots out there, but of course, getting some in ID, MT, OR, UT and less run places are toughies.

I haven't caught up with Second AK on cw – so those will be ones to hunt. All the others were on for various things – DX contests, just working HI stations during runs (KH7C - Maui, KH6G - Kauai).

There are still 1000 to go, with vast needed counties in AR, OK, and TX – most days I can't even hear them if they get run on 30 or 20cw, and 40M is sometimes 'just not there'. It might take some trips with a county hunter buddy to get them! Or being far away when they have their QSO Parties – hi hi. The close in ones are often toughies.

I don't know how many of the 3077 counties got run – maybe 3000 of them? Maybe almost all of them? Kalawao was on. Second AK was on SSB for a very short run, and maybe 2 or 3 got it on CW. KL7HBK was spotted once on cw from 2nd AK (80/160M). (now here's a question for you – KL7HBK's main station is in southern AK – he operates from an existing fixed station in Prudhoe Bay with his call while working there – is he 'portable' for the definition of the no-star award? – It would seem so, but I guess the awards referee will have to weigh in on that one.) Well, first I'll have to hook up with him after the start of the New Year anyway. I need it for Nth time CW.

I don't know how many I put out in 2009...maybe a few hundred? I don't count – but hit a bunch of states from CA to OR to WA to Maine to WI, MN, IA, CO, AR, OH and points in between (NM, WY, AZ, UT, VT, NH, MA, CT, RI, NJ, NY, PA, IN, IL, KY, MO, OK, NE, KS, SD, ND, MT, ID, NC, VA, DE, etc). Ran in a couple state QSO Parties (CO, AR), and put out over 150 TX counties. I needed 90% of the counties I ran this year, too, when I ran them - hi hi. It was a busy year for radio. The car has 25,000 miles on it – and it is 10 months old and only used for county hunting.

Well, we'll carry the Elwood compilation probably in the February issue. So stay tuned. Keep those counties coming.

Geothermal Project in California Is Shut Down

“The company in charge of a California project to extract vast amounts of renewable energy from deep, hot bedrock has removed its drill rig and informed federal officials that the government project will be abandoned.

The project by the company, AltaRock Energy, was the Obama administration’s first major test of geothermal energy as a significant alternative to fossil fuels and the project was being financed with federal Department of Energy money at a site about 100 miles north of San Francisco called the Geysers.

The project’s apparent collapse comes a day after Swiss government officials permanently shut down a similar project in Basel, because of the damaging earthquakes it produced in 2006 and 2007. Taken together, the two setbacks could change the direction of the Obama administration’s geothermal program, which had raised hopes that the earth’s bedrock could be quickly tapped as a clean and almost limitless energy source.

“Some of these startup companies got out in front and convinced some venture capitalists that they were very close to commercial deployment,” said Daniel P. Schrag, a professor of geology and director of the Center for the Environment at Harvard University.

Geothermal enthusiasts asserted that drilling miles into hard rock, as required by the technique, could be done quickly and economically with small improvements in existing methods, Professor Schrag said. “What we’ve discovered is that it’s harder to make those improvements than some people believed,” he added.

In fact, AltaRock immediately ran into snags with its drilling, repeatedly snapping off bits in shallow formations called caprock. The project’s safety was also under review at the Energy Department after federal officials said the company had not been entirely forthcoming about the earthquakes produced in Basel in making the case for the Geysers project.

The results of that review have not yet been announced, but the type of geothermal energy explored in Basel and at the Geysers requires fracturing

the bedrock then circulating water through the cracks to produce steam. By its nature, fracturing creates earthquakes, though most of them are small.

A resident of the nearby town of Anderson Springs, which is already shaken by quakes generated by less ambitious geothermal projects, reacted with jubilation when told it appeared the new project was ending.

“How I feel is beyond anything that words can express,” said the resident, Jacque Felber, who added that an unnerving quake had rattled her property the night before.”

Source: NY Times Dec 11, 2009

The Race for the Gold/Platinum

The Master Platinum is currently the highest award MARAC offers. It's a toughie requiring transmitting from 500 or more separate counties (no repeats for credit), and getting credit for the county by working someone there with a MG award, or working 'from' the county someone else who has MG once they themselves have MG. It takes lots of driving to accomplish. Only 10 or so have gotten there so far.

The Master Gold award requires you to first get your Bingo award – then work someone 'in' the county with a bingo number, or work someone from the county who has a bingo number. You also need to accumulate 1500 service points – from serving on MARAC's board or other position, sponsoring or helping at a MARAC convention, writing the newsletter or similar task. Or helping run the net, or getting points for transmitted counties. A few dozen so far have reached this goal.

The 'race for the gold and platinum' has spurred a massive amount of activity – with folks zipping all over the country putting out counties, getting counties for the other folks. It seems to have been very good for mobile activity.

So here are the current stats of folks closing in on these awards:

From the K3IMC needs page, we see:

Kent, KL1V down to about 100 for Master's Gold – needs posted in 25 states for him to finish up – propagation not always friendly toward AK making it tougher.

Larry, N2OCW, down to just one in AK to get Master Platinum. Anyone headed north to see the aurora soon in Alaska??

Don, K3IMC, needs 59 in 22 states for his Master's Gold. Maybe you can help out? He runs the county hunter web site where the forum and special needs (and trips) are posted.

Hollis, KC3X, needs about 60 for Master's Platinum.

Rufus, KD4HXM needs only six for Master's Gold. Let's get him finished up soon!

Ray, AB4YZ, needs about 60 for his Platinum.

Harry, W6TPC, needs 13 to go for his Master's Gold. Let's get him finished!

Ron, KB6UF, needs about 60 for his Platinum.

Terry, WQ7A, needs about 60 for his Platinum. He does lots of work on the Logger program keeping it up to date and running smoothly.

Alan, KI7WO, needs 22 or so for Masters Gold.

Chuck, AD8W, down to 14 for Master's Gold. Let's get him done!

Paul, WD9EJK, now down to just 5 for MG! Time to get him done!

Bob, KA9JAC, down to 21 for MG. Needs some help from his friends to get done.

Jeff, W9MSE, needs under 30 for his cw only MG.

Dan, KM9X, needs 143 or so for his MP.

Jerry, W0GXQ, still needs 220 or so for MP, but is working hard himself to knock off a bunch.

Ross, N0ZA, needs about 100 for his MP

- - - -

Wow...most of those folks above have put out hundreds of counties in the past few years. Likely they are in your logs hundreds of times. Now is the time to help them to the 'next level' if you can.

Naturally, county hunters always look at the needs to the other awards. Folks won't be working on MG until they get their Bingo – so we need to help those closing in on Bingo get done – so they then need to go out and run more counties for MG and MP! Hey, that sounds like a plan. Also getting folks finished up for USA-CA gives them a star so they can help the folks working on MG, too. There's lots of reasons to go run counties.

And don't forget the USA-CW award. About 100 have done it so far – and more are closing in – some down to a very small number of needs!

AD1C – needs 15 for USACW

KE3VV – down to just 3!

VA3XOV down to just 4!

WB4KZW down to 20 for all cw

K4MF needs only 2!

W4YDY needs about 20 for all cw.

K4YT needs about 100

KI7WO needs about 20

- - - -

Activity is low. Check the needs page at:

<http://www.cquest.com/cgi-bin/flynn/needs.pl>

See if you can't get the last counties nearbymaybe a few hour trip and you'll finish someone off in your state or nearby state – take a detour on the way to grandma's house. Or go mobile with a 'newbie' who will be good for the 'no star' award! Some of the needs are not far from where active county hunters live – so let's help out.

Others have needs posted for prefixes or YLs or five star or others. See if we can get some of the needs whacked off! County hunting is about helping others out with contacts – and having fun in the process.

ClimateGate III

More Liberal Loonies at Work!

“The Climate and Health Council, a collaboration of worldwide health organizations including the Royal College of Nursing, the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal Society of Medicine, believes there is a direct link between climate change and better health.

Their controversial plan would see GPs and nurses give out advice to their patients on how to lower their carbon footprint. The Council believes that climate change “threatens to radically undermine the health of all peoples”.

It believes health professionals are ideally placed to promote change because “we have ethical responsibility.....as well as the capacity to influence people and our political representatives to take the necessary action”.

The Council has been recently formed to study the health benefits of tackling climate change and promotes a range of ideas from reducing your carbon footprint by driving less and walking more to eating local, less processed food. It wants to raise 'health' on the agenda of December's UN Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen.

They believe that offering patients advice on how to lower their carbon footprint can be just as easy and achievable as helping them to stop smoking or eat a healthier diet.

Other proposals include for all developed nations to pay an extra five dollars a barrel on oil and a tax on airline tickets.

Prof Mike Gill, from the University of Surrey, who co-chairs the Climate and Health Council, outlined the plans for the medical journal The Lancet last week.

He said the health service was often “muted” on the subject of climate change and needed to make its voice heard more.

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/climatechange/6683770/GPs-should-offer-climate-change-advice-to-patients.html>

- - - -

de N4CD: So now your doctor is supposed to take valuable time from curing you, and spend five minutes lecturing you on reducing your carbon footprint? Recycling your plastic bottles? Putting in CFLs and carrying your groceries home in re-usable greenie bags? Ya gotta be kidding!

Only in a lib dem socialist world run by lunatics. You want your health dollars going to promoting Al Gore's science fiction? You want to wait in the waiting room while the busy doctor tells others to take shorter showers and change light bulbs and buy a hybrid car and eat less meat, and don't take airplanes?

On the Road with N4CD

The car had been home for two weeks. Hardly any activity was occurring. There was nothing to work on CW. It was winter weather and blizzard conditions across much of the mid section of the country, and temps were down to below zero up north in the Dakotas with high winds. Only one or two mobiles had ventured out and been on each day. (and if I didn't go on a trip, I'd have nothing to write about, either!) It was the ARRL 10M contest weekend, but somehow I didn't think that waiting all day and night to work the 3 locals who might get on for the contest would be all that exciting!

The last trip had cleaned up a few needs for Jerry, W0GXQ and Hollis, KC3X for the MP awards, and gotten some others for other folks. That left a few needed MP counties out in east TX for Jerry and Hollis, and I could get some of them on a day trip. Jerry, K1SO, had some needs posted out in east TX, too. The temp was supposed to start around 40, and eventually warm up to 50. It was 45 outside when I left home. It was totally overcast type cloudy – not a trace of sun. Dreary. Bleak.

The weather was supposed to be rain that was supposed to move out of the east TX area by afternoon – not ideal, but, heck, it was time to run some counties. I loaded up the car and headed out Saturday morning at sunrise (7:20am) headed east. The rain started 15 miles east of Dallas. It then drizzled for the next 7 hours and the temp ran between 38 and 41 degrees as well. Was the sun out? Never saw it all day! I hit Rockwall, Hunt, and on to Rains, TX, needed by W0GXQ. It 'rained' the entire time I was there. However, the county wasn't named for the weather. 20M wasn't open yet – band sleeps in till late these days.

Rains had been run a few days before by K6JN/W6XJN – Cliff and Nelda, but they weren't good for MP, and didn't run on cw, so I had a good run. The bread and butter bands were 30M and 40M CW, with a run on 40M SSB. Later 20M would work, but still not all that many contacts on 20M these days. Only a few DX contacts the entire trip. Don, N5XG, needed most of these, but at 100-250 miles distance to his QTH in the Dallas area, it was just not to be for most of them. Same for me- I can't hear most of the

close in mobiles. Dang. (sounds like a good excuse to go mobile with a county hunter pal).

Of course, many had gotten these counties during the TQP a while back in September, which filled in needs for prefixes, Nth time, combos, etc. These days, there are over 100 different ways a county can count toward an award.

Then it was east to Wood County – and more east to Upshur, then over to Marion for Hollis, KC3X at the county line of Morris/Cass(NB). Most of my route was through the hills and woods of east Texas – usually a nice scenic ride. Today it was just rainy and no scenery to watch other than windshield wipers swishing back and forth.

I ran Morris, then back through Camp(NB), Franklin and Hopkins. As I got back toward Dallas(NB), the rain stopped finally. It was about 50 degrees out when I made it home at 3:30 but still totally overcast and dreary. 330 miles driven, 10.2 gallons of gas (with a half dozen stops with engine running to run counties), and a good day getting folks needed counties. Hopefully we whittled down the list needed in TX and will keep it off the ‘most wanted county’ list. Gas was \$2.40 a gallon here.

Dan, KM9X, was doing NC duty on 40M SSB, and helped to keep the freq as clear as possible on a weekend. Didn’t hear too many mobiles running on 20M, but did hear a “W2” repeatedly trying to check in and not being heard, and a “N4” that didn’t get heard trying to get in. Sad to hear them call for 5 minutes then eventually give up. The mobiles that ran were better copy on 40M in TX, too – signals just not that good on 20M mobile to mobile.

Barry, N0KV, and Pat, N0DXE were out in NM headed toward home. Barry ran on cw, and both put out counties on 40M SSB. N4XML was up in NY, headed back to SC running them on SSB. I worked him a few times on 40M SSB. Jim, N4JT, ran a few in NC on CW, and I heard Jim, K0ARS, a few times in MO. Counties were being run for the folks. It was a good Saturday, but I didn’t get a single new county myself. Oh well. I’m sure someone will run one of the 1000 I need before long! It’s hard not to! I’m an optimist.

ClimateGate IV

Well, the climate stupidity continues. This is the cover of Al Gore's latest science fiction book - Our Choice: A Plan to Solve the Climate Crisis. Now, probably a fifth grader could tell you what is wrong with this picture, which was 'photoshopped' (edited) by some uneducated staffer most likely, but of course, approved by the author. This is what the Earth is supposed to look like some time in the future.

The picture is a NASA picture – with a 'few changes' made to fit AL Gore's agenda.

OK, guys and gals, the question on Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader? - for a million bucks, what is wrong with this picture?



Cover of Al Gore's latest science fiction book

OK...now that you have had time to study it:

- 1) Half of Florida is missing. As is a good part of Central America. Supposedly 'under water'.
- 2) Cuba is missing.
- 3) The polar ice is gone, but you will see snow in Canada and Alaska.
- 4) One of the hurricanes is 'rotating' clockwise off the coast. There has never been a clockwise rotating hurricane in the northern hemisphere. It is impossible.

5) Another hurricane is down by Peru at the equator. No hurricane has ever formed there at the equator. It's a science fiction 'first'.

6) 2008/2009 have seen the lowest number of hurricanes in recent history, too! If you simply extend the trend, as Al Gore likes to do, you might not have any hurricanes in 20 years. The myth of ever increasing hurricanes hasn't born out the past few years.

Other than the minor detail that Cuba has mountains that are over 6500 feet high....and has seemed to disappear – which would mean most of the US would be under water east of the Rockies.....Denver would be under water....and the fact that the polar ice is gone, but the snow/frozen tundra is still there in Canada and the US...well, what can you say? Also, all of the frozen tundra would be 5000 feet underwater, so you wouldn't see most of Canada, or the east half of the US, or the west coast of the US, or Texas, LA, MS, AL, MO, or even South Dakota or MN. And the north half of AK and Canada, so you wouldn't be able to see snow there.

It's amazing what juvenile minds can come up with for the science fiction. I thought global warming was supposed to be 'science'? Didn't you?

If the cover is so screwed up, what's the probability that the inside is equally 'cooked'? The Associated Press assigned 11 staffers to dig into Sarah Palin's latest book. I wonder how many at AP and the New York Times will be 'fact checking' Al Gore's book? Right - you got it – ZERO!

It's hilarious –but remember, global warming is a 'religion', not science. You did know that Al Gore attended seminary school, but dropped out. This is his new 'religion'.

County Lines on Garmin Nuvi Nav Systems

Here's a present to start off your New Year! How about county lines on your Garmin Nuvi nav system sitting on the dashboard of your car?

Lowell, KB0BA, alerted the folks to an add on you can use to install county lines on your Garmin Nav system

<http://www.gpsfiledepot.com/maps/view/10/>

Follow the installation guidelines at the site. One CH noted that you must shut down all other applications to get MapSource to extract the file and install it on your device. Several have successfully done it.

From the web site

“Introduction

The purpose of this map is to provide coverage of the entire United States with state lines and county boundaries. It is a transparent map that overlays any other maps making it very versatile.

Features

- County lines
- State lines

Future features:

- Clearer line delineation between counties.

Coverage

This map covers the entire United States including Hawaii, Alaska, and Guam.

Installation

Two options exist; for windows download and run setup. The map will then appear in Garmin MapSource and can be added to your GPS by selecting it in MapSource and sending it to the GPSr. For Mac download the mac version, extract it and double click the .gmapi file. Map Manager will then install the map for you.

Version 1.1 Released 1 Sep 08

[Download Windows Version \[1MB\]](#) (4278 Downloads)

[Download Mac Version \[1MB\]](#) (498 Downloads)

[Need MapSource? Click Here](#)

GPS Usage

This map can be installed with any other Garmin Maps ([How-To Tutorial](#)). Since this is a transparent map it will show up over any other maps you have installed.”

If you like it you might think about donating a few bucks to support this site which hosts add ons to the Nuvi.

Ethanol Follies Continue

“The ethanol industry appears to recognize that without government mandates there can be no sustainable market, hence the push for 15 percent ethanol fuel. But we should be wary on several grounds. First, many researchers are convinced that 15 percent ethanol in gasoline will cause problems in small engines in everything from lawnmowers to portable generators and boats. Some car engines will most likely tolerate the higher blend of ethanol, but others — especially those in older vehicles — will require costly repairs, a hardship likely to be borne by lower-income Americans.

Second, if ethanol use was really helping the environment, it might be worth putting up with higher costs. But many environmental groups dropped their support for corn-based ethanol after two studies published by the journal Science last February concluded that ethanol production actually increases the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere. The main culprit is large-scale conversion of forest and grassland to corn production. Researchers at Princeton University estimate it would take 167 years of

ethanol use in cars to offset the release of carbon from converting lands to agricultural production.

Third, a 2008 report prepared for the World Bank concluded that “the most important factor” in rising global food prices “was the large increase in biofuels production in the U.S. and the E.U.” High food prices may be a hardship for American consumers, but they are downright deadly in poor African nations.

Last, Washington already protects American companies with a 54 cent per gallon tariff on sugar cane ethanol from Brazil and other countries that produce it at much lower costs than American farmers can. This tariff not only hits United States motorists in the pocketbook, it also leads to other mischief. An entire industry designed to evade the protectionist tax has cropped up in Trinidad and 23 other Caribbean countries that are exempt from the tariff. Trinidadian companies import sugar cane ethanol from Brazil, dehydrate it to comply with the American tariff exemption on products “substantially transformed” in the Caribbean Basin, and then sell it in America.” (where water is added to it to make it ethanol again).

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/28/opinion/28harding.html?_r=1&adxnnl=1&adxnnlx=1259596993-yV6Ny4ZovQ6kcwLKWHN0+A

Year of the State QSO Party Summary

Wow – 2009 was a good year for state QSO parties. Every state but Alaska had a QSO party this year – to help celebrate the ARRL Year of the QSO Party. Iowa and South Dakota and other states stepped up to the plate and sponsored QSO parties so everyone could have fun.

County hunters were out in force with dozens participating in nearly all of them. As in many years past – some were great – CA, TX, TN, GA, MI, IL, FL, IN, PA – with many entries – from 80 to 100 to several hundred in the case of CA. The regional parties (7-land, New England) got many counties on. In quite a few states, every county was on, and many others had more than 90% on this year – with a few missed for various reasons. You also had

portable stations and QRP stations – stations on SSB, digital, and cw or combinations of modes. Folks got ‘clean sweeps’ in several contests – working every county in the state. The spots were going nuts for the CA event...and PA and other states kept the spots page hopping – and anyone chasing mobiles and counties hopping, too! You had band-counties to chase, prefixes to chase, call combos – with all the new awards, at least half the calls were good for some award.

Other QSO Parties were less spectacular, but still gave opportunity to snag some new ones. HI and DE were disappointing – as usual. One mobile in DE could set a record likely – put all three counties on the air in one contest! In less than 1.5 hours. Hi Hi (that’s a hint! – there’s only one county in DE on the interstate out of 3 – and that’s the one I still need! – a ‘green stamp’ county – but lots of traffic).

Some QSO Parties sponsor nice plaques and awards, while others give you nice certificates. In some, it’s quite easy to win for your state – you might be the ‘one’ or one of a handful in a category. It’s a bit more of a challenge to go mobile and win ‘top dog’ honors in some states, but we have a few county hunters who try in various contests each year. You can collect many certificates if you are a ‘paper chaser’ by sending in your logs. With electronic logging on computer systems and software available for logging nearly every state QSO party in the most popular logging software, it’s easy to send in logs. If you are ‘paper log’ it’s a little more hassle.



Wow...N4CD won first place – mobile in OK QP (thanks K5YAA for sponsoring the plaque)

N4CD ran in a few QSO parties mobile – CO, AR, OK....did I miss any? I think W0BH was not in OK, so it was easier to win this year. He's tough competition! I was off this year for the TX QSO Party - that one is a good one to go mobile. I was mobile – but just not in TX – still worked a bunch of counties. I participated in all but one or two this year from home or where I was on the road. There are many stations who only seem to show up in state QSO Parties – working the mobiles – or going mobile for their own state (or nearby state) QSO party, but there are an increasing number of county hunters who join in for the fun – and now hunt the prefixes, call combos, natural bingos, or just need the county for Nth time, USA-CW, bingo, or other award.



A few of the N4CD QSO Party Certificates for 2009

I lucked out – sometimes there weren't too many TX entries – other times I was one of a few 'low power' entries with the main competition in the state

running 'high power'. Others award 'participation' certificates if you log so many contacts, or you might be 2nd place or 3rd place and get a certificate.

Don't forget the MARAC contest where you can 'win' for your state or try to come out 'top dog' overall. (SSB and CW or both). Nice certificates issued.

With the 'no star' award, there will be even more reason to chase mobiles and portables in the state QSO parties. Many of the mobiles who run have no star – maybe they are on the DXCC honor roll, but just haven't gotten into county hunting. Many are superb operators who work 'em and log 'em as fast as possible. We'll see how QSO parties in 2010 work out. The bands should be better with 15 meters opening more. More band counties to hunt – SSB and CW.

Ocean Temperatures

In mid-2003 the Argo network became operational.

The Argo network consists of over 3,000 small, drifting oceanic robot probes, floating around all of the world's oceans. Argo floats duck dive down to 1,000 meters or more, record temperatures, then come up and radio back the results." [1]

And once we started getting accurate data from Argo, global warming disappeared - which explains very nicely why you went for the satellite data so quickly.

The beauty of accurate ocean temperatures is in the fact that the oceans are massive, occupying some 75% of the globe. I am sure you are aware that land thermometers cannot be trusted "because, even in the USA, 89 per cent of them fail siting guidelines that they be more than 30 meters from an artificial heating or radiating/reflecting heat source, and their data is forever being "corrected"" - And the CRU crew loved those corrections - nudge-nudge, wink-wink!

More significantly, the ARGO bathythermographs deployed throughout

the world's oceans since 2003 show that the top 400 fathoms of the oceans, where it is agreed between all parties that at least 80% of all heat caused by manmade "global warming" must accumulate, have been cooling over the past six years. That now prolonged ocean cooling is fatal to the "official" theory that "global warming" will happen on anything other than a minute scale.[2]

[1] <http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=14...>

[2] <http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/orig...>

ClimateGate – Russians say FRAUD!

“On Tuesday, the Moscow-based Institute of Economic Analysis (IEA) issued a report claiming that the Hadley Center for Climate Change based at the headquarters of the British Meteorological Office in Exeter (Devon, England) had probably **tampered with Russian-climate data.**

The IEA believes that Russian meteorological-station data did not substantiate the anthropogenic global-warming theory.

Analysts say Russian meteorological stations cover most of the country's territory, and that the Hadley Center had used data submitted by only 25% of such stations in its reports.

Over 40% of Russian territory was not included in global-temperature calculations for some other reasons, rather than the lack of meteorological stations and observations.

The data of stations located in areas not listed in the Hadley Climate Research Unit Temperature UK (HadCRUT) survey often does not show any substantial warming in the late 20th century and the early 21st century.

The HadCRUT database includes specific stations providing incomplete data and highlighting the global-warming process, rather than stations facilitating uninterrupted observations.

On the whole, climatologists use the incomplete findings of meteorological stations far more often than those providing complete observations.

IEA analysts say climatologists use the data of stations located in large populated centers that are influenced by the urban-warming effect more frequently than the correct data of remote stations.

The scale of global warming was exaggerated due to temperature distortions for Russia accounting for 12.5% of the world's land mass. The IEA said it was necessary to recalculate all global-temperature data in order to assess the scale of such exaggeration.”

Source: <http://en.rian.ru/papers/20091216/157260660.html>

Solar System Global Warming

We are not alone in the solar system in our warming. Can it possibly be the sun we have in common?

MARS

Mars, too, appears to be enjoying more mild and balmy temperatures.

In 2005 data from NASA's Mars Global Surveyor and Odyssey missions revealed that the carbon dioxide "ice caps" near Mars's south pole had been diminishing for three summers in a row.

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2007/02/070228-mars-...>

JUPITER

The latest images could provide evidence that Jupiter is in the midst of a global change that can modify temperatures by as much as 10 degrees Fahrenheit on different parts of the globe.

<http://www.usatoday.com/tech/science/space/2006-05-04-jupite...>

PLUTO TOO !?!!

In what is largely a reversal of an August announcement, astronomers today said Pluto is undergoing global warming in its thin atmosphere even as it moves farther from the Sun on its long, odd-shaped orbit.

Pluto's atmospheric pressure has tripled over the past 14 years, indicating a stark temperature rise, the researchers said.

http://www.space.com/scienceastronomy/pluto_warming_021009.h...

NOT TO BE OUTCOME, NEPTUNE'S LARGEST MOON GETS IN ON THE ACT

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. -- We're not the only ones experiencing global warming. A Massachusetts Institute of Technology researcher has reported that observations obtained by NASA's Hubble Space Telescope and ground-based instruments reveal that Neptune's largest moon, Triton, seems to have heated up significantly since the Voyager space probe visited it in 1989.

<http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/1998/triton.html>

Going after the Wrong Gas?

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2009/12/22/study-shows-cfcs-cosmi...>

Study shows CFCs, cosmic rays major culprits for global warming

From the University of Waterloo press release.

WATERLOO, Ont. (Monday, Dec. 21, 2009) - Cosmic rays and

chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), both already implicated in depleting the Earth's ozone layer, are also responsible for changes in the global climate, a University of Waterloo scientist reports in a new peer-reviewed paper.

In his paper, Qing-Bin Lu, a professor of physics and astronomy, shows how CFCs – compounds once widely used as refrigerants – and cosmic rays – energy particles originating in outer space – are mostly to blame for climate change, rather than carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions. His paper, derived from observations of satellite, ground-based and balloon measurements as well as an innovative use of an established mechanism, was published online in the prestigious journal Physics Reports.

- - - -

de N4CD – So we spend trillions of dollars going after the wrong things, killing economies world wide, transferring untold trillions of 'wealth' from the US and Europe to third world dictator's Swiss bank accounts, with 5% of that money stuck to Al Gore's hands for wheeling in dealing in bogus 'carbon credits'? For solar system wide 'warming' due to things we really don't know with any certainty? For actual sea COOLING? And the 'carbon crap' which won't stop alleged 'global warming' or the 'hysteria' associated with it. Likely a good part of the non-results of Nopenhagen were due to the highly fractured 'science' which doesn't prove anything, other than climates change naturally. New York City was under a mile of ice not that long ago...Oh...those glaciers receded and melted away! Thank heavens. And that has been going on for the past 18,000 years.

Well, maybe someday sanity will rule, but it sure isn't happening now.

Awards

USA-CA #1194	Jim, K4DI	December 7, 2009
12 th Time #1	Jim, KayZed2Papa	December 9.2009
7 th Time #16	me-too, K2JG	December 9, 2009

Activities for County Hunters in January

It's slim pickings in January. There is a North American QSO Party – you might catch some new band-counties or prefixes, a VHF contest – good for counties and 6M band counties toward TopList, and a 160M CQ contest – that's about it other than some QRP, RTTY and other events. No state QSO Parties or similar.

Don't forget the Mini in Weslaco coming up in Feb 2010.

Keep those articles and ideas and pics coming! The more county hunting stuff we have, the less 'fillers' we need each issue! Mobile installations, county hunting pics, visits to other county hunters, operating ideas, etc.

Happy Holidays and a great New Year to All! - de N4CD

Publication date: 12/23/09