

County Hunter News

September 1, 2009
Volume 5, 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, 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 nights on 3556.5 on Tuesday evenings around 8-9pm Eastern Time. 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

It's been a sizzling summer in Texas. Naturally, what's a county hunter to do when it is pushing 100 deg and sunny? Go south to hot and dry south Texas of course – for counties the folks need. Others were out and about up 'north' in MN, WI, ND, where it is cooler, and plus others were on summer trips here and there from WA to CA to ME to FL.

The propagation has been up and down. The SFI was bouncing around 67-68 for much of the month, with no sunspots in sight. The A index got up into the teens many days making for flakey propagation on 20M – good in some directions, not so good in others. Still thousands and thousands of

contacts were made, and tens of thousands miles driven by county hunter mobiles.

1) CW Mobile Activity in August (starting 7/25)

a) Ed, **K8ZZ**, reported on his trip from MI to MT and back

12 days..7 States..158 counties

Contacts by band:

17 meters: 382,

20 meters: 1184,

30 meters: 527,

40 meters: 612,

80 meters: 63

Total: 2768.

Amazing – more than 10% of contacts were on 17M!

b) Dan **KM9X** reports on his (KM9X/KB9MGI) SSB post-convention July trip:

“We headed Northeast to Maine getting counties I needed for MP, 3rd time, and Judy's Bingos. Here is a rundown.

3625 miles

Most contacts in a county: Armstrong, PA 43 total on 20 and 40

Ran 159 total counties, all on 20 and 40, cw on request in a few

I ran 129 new ones for my 500 required counties for Master Platinum (now at 442 ran)

I picked up 53 new MP and 8 new for 3rd time (343 left for MP and 39 for 3rd time)

Judy got 156 new ones for 2nd time, 14 new Bingo needs and 51 new YL counties”

c) Mark, **KM6HB**, sent me a note after the last issue - He was disappointed that I didn't include his short trip up to northern California in July where he ran Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, Kern and Los Angeles. With current conditions, it's rough trying to put out counties in the western US. Hope you caught him.

d) **W0QE** Trip Report

Made it to North Carolina. Ran 65 different counties (49 were new for me) on 9 different bands and made just under 3000 contacts. Biggest day was Saturday when I made 1188 contacts or 91 per hour. Bands were pretty good but I didn't work much DX. I worked K5WAF on EVERY band and mode in one county and he was S9 everywhere. My antenna worked great on all bands except 12m (didn't add 7th resonator part way up mast).

Most all bands/modes were run in every county but sometimes the frequencies were already busy with another mobile. Announcing "W0QE down 2" or skipping to an out of order band was usually not successful or resulted in only a contact or 2 since so many people are watching the computer and not listening to the radio (not my loss). Running a predictable band order with no other mobiles to bump into and with the spots can result in very high QSO rates but any deviation from what is expected seems to be unsuccessful as very few listen or copy if I announce what is next. I believe everyone who phoned or texted me did get the needed counties on the bands they wanted. The number of 17/15/12/10m contacts was higher than on any previous mobile trip which was nice. Getting spotted on 17m was usually good for 10 to 15 contacts. It is just really hard to squeeze in all bands in a county without having to stop. The most contacts were made on 40m CW followed by 40m SSB and only 2 contacts were made on 6m. Any suggestions as to which couple bands to skip in the small counties would be appreciated.”

On the way back, he pulled a loaded trailer – hit hail in western KS...but made it home safely – ran many counties heading back home.

More from Larry, W0QE

151 unique counties

80m CW = 307 contacts

40m CW = 1108

30m CW = 619

20m CW = 941

17m CW = 367

15m CW = 214

12m CW = 11

10m CW = 34

40m SSB = 1011

20m SSB = 975

Total = 5587 contacts

CW = 3601 contacts = 64.4%

SSB = 1986 contacts = 35.6%

82 counties were run on all 10 band/mode

17 counties had at least 1 contact in every band/mode combination

109 counties had contacts on both 40 & 20m SSB and 5 or more CW bands



W0QE in MO –CO to NC and back

e) AI5P Report

“Enjoyed the trip running all NV and a few in AZ and CA. Poor to not-bad condx for the trip. About 3K miles roundtrip. Enjoyed seeing Scottie's Castle (Death Valley), Reno, Nevada State Museum (the old Carson City Mint), and Virginia City. Rode on the Virginia and Truckee RR and the Nevada Northern. Also visited the NV State RR Museum in Carson City and Boulder City as well as the East Ely RR Museum. Highly recommend the Radio Museum in Virginia City (didn't know it was there till I happened upon it). Collection of Henry, W7HTR (See www.radioblvd.com).

f) Other activity – mainly cw

KD5JWC, Dave, was out mobile again in MS and LA. Jim, **W4HSA** mobile again in NC and VA. Jim, **K0ARS**, is on during trips out and back from his home in MO. Out to CO. Down to TX.

Kent, **KL1V** was running around in WI, IA, IL, IN, and MN. He noted:

“Had a great time ran 333 counties, 7300+ miles on the rental car and finished up my MG in IA,MN,WI,IL,IN”

W8GEJ/W8FNW headed across IN, IL, MO and west, then later back east through KY.

Bill, **K2HVN** ran over to MN then headed west to MT. **W8JJ**, Tim, was in OH.

Gary, **K4EXT** and Justin, **KG4VBK** ran a few on cw over in AL.

Sterling, **WA7JHQ**, made a run from NM up to ID and back – ran on 20M and up. Snagged him a few times on 17M.

Larry, **N2OCW**, was out ‘running for the gold’ trying to fill in his Master Gold needs, Also seen spotted on 17M SSB a few times, as well as 3901. Across the middle of the country, up to OR and WA, then circling back home in a 5000 mile plus trip!

Hollis, **KC3X**, made a few contacts on CW on his recent short trip. Jim, **N9JF**, was off a few business trips running counties. Jim, **K0ARS**, continues to occasionally get radio active on trips for the folks.

NT2A put out some NJ and NY counties on cw.

Jim, **N9JF** was over in GA and SC.

Jerry, **W0GXQ** ran down to IA from MN via SD counties. Ran counties with NF0N in IA. Band didn’t cooperate here – just a few contacts above 20M. Caught him once or so on 17M.

K4YFH headed west from NC – out in MO.

Bill, **KM1C** went over to TN and KY to run some for the folks. Caught him a few times on 17M. Folks further west, like **KB6TAL**, worked him on many bands in many counties.

Scottie, **N4AAT**, was over in GA putting them out – not too many on CW, though. Mostly SSB.

Ron, **KB6UF**, took a short trip to TX – OK going up, but band conditions were not good and the weather didn't cooperate on the way back either.

Art, **N4PJ**, took trip all around FL. Headed off to MS to run it.

Jeff, **W9MSE**, ran over to OH for the QSO Party then back.

NN9K headed west – in SD, ND, MT and still going.

Bill, **K2HVN**, headed to MN, then west to MT and beyond.

2) Gremlin Report

It seems a few gremlins get into the County Hunter News.

Correction: The Team of the Year is **N0KV/N0DXE**. If you hear them on, give them a hearty congratulations.

3) Transmitted Counties

An enquiring County Hunter asked on the **K3IMC** forum:

“Fellow CH'rs I just finished my first CH trip. I ran 62 counties in 13 states where I initiated calls and answered calls from 12 additional counties where another mobile initiated the call. I learned that operating as mobile CHer is much different than fixed operation, The pace is much faster, the RF noise varies wildly, paper logging even as a passenger is more difficult and my hearing while mobile is bad. My hat is off to you CH Guru's.Now for my question. Can I claim credit for putting out all 74 counties or just the 62 I "ran"? “

N4CD answer:

There is no minimum number of contacts required for a 'transmitted county'. p11 of MARAC Award rules states:

"Transmitted Counties are the counties where a mobile operator is located when making a Valid Contact"

and a Valid contact is -p12 of rules:

"MARAC Awards require valid two-way radio contacts with other licensed amateur radio stations. A Valid Contact must be made in accordance with all applicable rules of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) relating to amateur radio (such as Mode, licensing, and operating procedures). A Valid Contact requires an exchange of information between two amateurs."

Therefore, a single Valid Contact from a county gives you credit for a "Transmitted County". You can 'put out' the county and work from 1 to 1000 people, or you can work a mobile who is running, or you can exchange reports with a net control station,, as in - "You're 59 if you need a contact for XYZ" or similar two-way exchange.

Even if you 'put out' the county, you might only work 1 or 2 or 3 depending what time of day it is. And conditions. On 20M SSB, some days folks work 3 people the entire five minute run.

Now, if you feel you only want to count counties where you made a ton of contacts, or some minimum number, or didn't 'transmit' the county for a 'run', by all means do so. I've been in counties where I called for 20 minutes on all bands and no one came back - -- bands died. I wound up having to go back another month or year and run them, sometimes 1000 miles from the house. I've been in counties where I struggled to get ONE contact after 30 minutes of calling. Fortunately not too many, but we haven't had too many multi-hour HF blackouts lately. Those occur more at sunspot peaks! Before I got on cw, there were quite a few counties where at 7-8am in the morning it was a struggle to work anyone between the broadcast, the Classroom net or Rotten Apples, and others filling up the 40M SSB band. In a few, the contact consisted of checking in to the classroom net and exchanging signal reports with the NC station. Well, that is past history – we've moved off their frequency.

So even if you made just one contact, and didn't 'put out' the county, by the rules you can claim 'transmitted county' status. Of course, nearly all county

hunters try to ‘transmit from’ all the counties they hit and work as many as possible, but that isn’t always going to happen. Sometimes you are only in a county for a few miles, and your turn is not up, or you can’t hear the mobile to move yourself, or you literally make a few contacts before running out of the county – it still legally counts. It’s all up to you to decide when you count a ‘transmitted county’. One is “enough”. Some want to transmit SSB/CW on multiple bands before they are satisfied and claim a transmitted county. Your choice.

Some will even work a partner on 2M and count that as a ‘transmitted county’. I think that is not in the spirit of county hunting if most of your transmitted counties come that way – but for the few counties you run when you try and try to ‘put out’ the county on HF, with no success, it wouldn’t bother me if 2% of your transmitted counties only had that. However, no one would ever get any awards if that was the ‘norm’!

On CW, when I’m really up early – I’ve resorted to a random HF contact in a county or two – answering a CQ or calling CQ after spending lots of time on normal CH freqs. Right now, we are lucky in that there are almost no HF blackouts – they tend to happen more at sunspot peaks.

4) Call Change

Larry, NA7W is now W7FEN. He held W7FEN many years ago.

5) Code and Hams

Did you realize that all hams are now either “NO CODE” hams/ “KNOW CODE” hams?

6) MRCs – multiple contacts per county

Some folks when they send MRCs to mobiles as they work on first time around include all the contacts – for multiple bands and modes. You only need to confirm contacts on one band – any contact confirmed is good for USA-CA. There is no need to send MRCs for each and every contact on two or three or four or five or six different bands! That makes it hard for the

mobiles to have to check each contact - takes time and effort - and it isn't needed. I'll get MRCs from people with 40, 30, 20, 17meter cw contacts and if I ran on SSB, maybe 20 and 40SSB as well! Not needed! For USACA you only need one single band/mode confirmed! Some mobiles run 8 or 10 band/mode combinations. They really don't want to see MRCs full of every band and every mode!

For all MARAC awards, you do not need confirmations. Simple logger data is sufficient. Help the mobiles out – don't fill out card after card full of contacts for counties with EACH band and mode. Save yourself postage and help save the mobiles time by not asking them to check redundant contacts! If you are working on all cw – MARAC USA-CW, it is a non-confirmed award. No one will ever look at your MRCs. Same for single band such as 30M.

The County Challenge Award does not require confirmations – just log data. So unless you are one of a very few working on confirmed endorsements for USA-CA via CQ Magazine, such as Alan, K8CW, now working on confirmed 17M endorsement on his USACA, it is not necessary to confirm each band or mode. Not one single MARAC award requires a confirmation. USA-CA needs only one contact per county confirmed the first time around.

7) Who has Stars?

An inquiry on who has stars and how to find out appeared on the K3IMC forum.

Q: “Any call with at least one star can be used in any county for BINGO. Does any call with USA-CA automatically have one star, or must that "star" come from a MARAC award? What's the easiest way to identify who has stars? I looked at the e-mail list, but is there a faster, more certain way?”

N4CD answer: “Anyone who has received the USA-CA award from CQ Magazine is good for a 'star' for any MARAC award. (Bingo, Five Star)

The easiest way to check is go to the MARAC database - located at:

[MARAC database page](#)

Type in the call. Then you will see if they are a USACA holder.

If you are a member of MARAC, and buy the Logger Program, it automatically tracks 'stars' and gives you credit for Bingo when the mobile has a star (or more), and for the Five Star award. In addition, it knows the rules for other mobiles without stars that count for Bingo (by having the right letter in the right place) or having a "X" in the right place.. It also updates itself frequently to pick up new 'numbers' when they are issued.

.Many have tracked Bingo and other awards by hand (manually) , using a coloring book, CQ USACA record book, or other computer program.

8) QSY on 20CW

When you need to QSY off net frequency on 20M, the normal convention is to go DOWN 2. If down 2 is busy with another mobile, go down 4.

We have an informal agreement with the FISTS folks who operate around 14.0585. They tend NOT to QSY down or go much below that, and we stay away from 'their' frequency.

Every now and then you hear a mobile, for some reason, going QSY up 2. Please keep in mind that the normal convention is QSY down on all the bands.

9) Misc stuff – Well, this month we've probably overdone it on a few articles about global hysteria – but now is timely for it. Draw your own conclusions. Not too much else happening, and I've been digesting some interesting books this summer on the subject.

USA-CW

One of the toughest awards for many county hunters to earn is the USA-CW. There are maybe 30 'only cw' only operators out mobile in any given year, and maybe 150 or so regulars on the CW nets working on cw awards. It's only been a few years since MARAC created the USA-CW award. Before then, only an informal list was kept of who had done it all on cw, or folks had their awards endorsed 'all cw' but no one really kept track of it for many years officially.

With the addition of the MARAC USA-CW Award, there are many more now pursuing this difficult award. The numbers issued are now up to over 100 for working all 3076/3077 counties. Quite a few are working on getting it as demonstrated by the activity on the bands. The addition of the spotting networks has brought many over from SSB who shift over to cw to get a needed county, or continue working on the USA-CW, even though CW is not their preferred mode.

One nice thing about CW is that we have more bands to use – 20 and 40, plus 30M which is limited only to cw and digital, and now 17M and up with mostly ‘weak’ signals that often work for cw, but are too weak for good SSB work. That gives you more options for time of day, distance, to find the optimum band. In addition, some CW folks operate on 80M.

Most state QSO parties are mainly CW oriented – since mobiles can easily find CW frequencies in a busy band, but finding and keeping an SSB frequency from a mobile is very challenging. On the other side, during the normal month, more counties are often run on SSB – there are simply more SSB mobiles running than CW mobiles. So you have some advantages and some disadvantages.

The first part of this year has seen quite a few new USA-CW awards issued. Joyce, N9STL, received hers. Scottie, N4AAT, finished up, along with Larry, N2OCW, and Ed, K8ZZ, Randy, AA8R, and Ray, WA5OPO, Aaron, W8CE, and Steve, AK8A. Many others are closing in.

Like USA-CA, you can do it over again, or simply sit back and enjoy having it. We’ve added at least half a dozen new CW ops to the regulars this year as more join the fun on CW. Some days are quite busy on CW – others are quiet if the cw mobiles are not out headed somewhere. Mobiles like W0QE, KL1V, N9JF, K0ARS, W0GXQ, N9JF, W9MSE, and N4CD – and on trips like W6TMD, KB4XK, KL1V, etc.

Some work on other awards ‘all cw’. Ed, KN4Y, recently got Masters Gold, done all cw! Probably it’s the first one done that way. Jeff, W9MSE is trying for the same and closing in. Who will be the first to Platinum ‘all cw’? Good question!

Each year, at the end of the year, Elwood, KA3MMM, publishes the current CW status of those working on awards – who, what award, and how many counties they are up to. It's interesting to watch the progress. Don, K3IMC, also allows folks to list needs for 'cw' in the special needs page.

Also, Risto with help from ND9M, updates the County Challenge page to show who has worked how many counties on each band on cw (as well as other modes). It will be interesting to see how those band county totals swell as we use 17, 15, 12, and 10 meters more.

AD1C is down to about 33 to go – cw. OH3JF needs about 50 or so. VA3XOV needs about 9 to go! K4AMC also needs only 9 to go! WB4VFN needs only 6. W6RLL needs 9, and KI7WO is around 40 to go. NU0Q needs 11 to finish.

There are quite a few close to finishing for 2nd, 3rd, 4th time all cw. If you can manage a cw contact if you are not a 'regular' you might be able to help them out off the SSB frequency to get a cw contact. Otherwise, cw mobiles – please check the needs list and let's get these folks finished up. It's good traveling weather.

Unlike DXing, county hunters try hard to get others finished up by needing them what you need. When is the last time your 'DX Buddy' volunteered to get you that P5(North Korea) you still need? That is what makes county hunting special.

MIT Professor on Bad Science of AGW

Recent papers in the peer-reviewed literature, combined with streams of data from satellites and thermometers, now provide a complete picture of why it is that the UN's climate panel, the worldwide political class, and other "global warming" profiteers are wrong in their assumption that the enterprises of humankind will disastrously warm the Earth.

The global surface temperature record, which we update and publish every month, has shown no statistically-significant "global warming" for almost 15 years. Statistically-significant global *cooling* has now

persisted for very nearly eight years. Even a strong el Nino – expected in the coming months – will be unlikely to reverse the cooling trend. 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. Not only in the oceans but also in the tropical upper atmosphere, real world measurements are showing up the scaremongers’ computer models as useless. All of the models predict that at altitude in the tropics “global warming” should have happened at thrice the surface rate. But half a century of measurement has shown that that warming has not happened either. That, too, is fatal to the “official” notion.

A recent study by Paltridge *et al.* tells us *why* the tropical upper troposphere is not warming at thrice the surface rate. The modelers had told their X-Box 360s to predict that “hot-spot” because the Clausius-Clapeyron relation – one of the very few proven results in climatology – mandates that the space occupied by the warming atmosphere will carry near-exponentially more water vapor, which, by its sheer quantity in the atmosphere, is many times more significant than CO₂ as a greenhouse gas.

However, Dr. Paltridge’s paper demonstrates that subsidence drying carries the additional moisture down to lower altitudes where the water vapor has less effect because its absorption bands are already saturated there. Subsidence drying allows far more outgoing longwave radiation to escape unimpeded to space than the models predict: obsessed with radiative transports in the atmosphere, they tend to undervalue non-radiative transports such as subsidence drying.

We not only know *why* the outgoing radiation is not being trapped as predicted – we now know *that* it is not being trapped. Professor Richard Lindzen of MIT has just published a paper – arguably the most important ever to be published on “global warming” – that plots real-world changes in outgoing long-wave radiation, as measured by the ERBE satellite system, against real-world changes in global mean

surface temperature. See the startling graph on page 4. Observed reality is entirely different from what 11 of the UN's models predict. Instead of 6 F warming in response to a doubling of atmospheric CO₂ concentration, only 1 F can be expected, because nearly all the radiation that should be trapped in the atmosphere is escaping into space. The scare is over. “

“If for no other reason than this: the IPCC assumes that the concentration of CO₂ in 2100 will be 836 ppmv (parts per million volume). However, current graphs based on real data show that CO₂ concentrations will only be 570 ppmv in 2100, cutting the IPCC's estimates in half right there.

Another nail in the coffin of Global Warming is the observed rate of temperature change from 1980, which is observed to be 1.5 degrees C per century. The IPCC modeling calls for a range of 2.4 to 5.3 degree increase per century, which is far above what is observed in real data collected between 1980 and 2009.

“As significant as the above results are, it is not the Pièce de résistance. What is - the curious minded what to know? It is the ERBE results. The Earth Radiation Budget Experiment with 15 years worth of data. The ERBE result is absolutely devastating to the entire Global Warming Theory.”

“The ERBE results, which are factual data from real measurements made by satellite, show the exact opposite result from the UN/IPCC Projections (computer models which are not real data). As seas warm on earth, the earth releases more heat into space and the satellite results prove it.”

“All of this data leads to the conclusion that the UN/IPCC models are not only wrong, they are so far off the mark as to be laughable. The satellite and bathythermograph data clearly do not match the IPCC theory, which means that the theory is incorrect.

What this data does tell us is if CO₂ concentration should double, global temperatures will not rise by the devastating 6 degrees F the UN predicts, but by a completely harmless 1 degree F. The ERBE data shows an Earth system that is radiating more heat into space as sea surfaces warm, in other words a system at equilibrium, and is clearly demonstrated by observed data. The UN theory of Anthropogenic Global Warming is dead wrong.”

“Either the world has been misled by scientists working for the UN and IPCC due to faulty science, or faulty science has been deliberately used in a global scheme to generate tax revenues for the Governments instituting Cap and Trade Taxation policies.

Either way, the world has been the victim of some very bad science. The results of which can be seen in drastically reduced GDP in countries with the Cap and Trade laws in place, as well as a 5 - 10% decrease in standard of living for those citizens living there, all with little or no effect on emissions globally.

Perhaps this will finally end the attempt by the Obama Administration as well as congress to tax a substance that trees need to survive, the very air we exhale thousands of times a day.

Thank you Professor Richard Lindzen, Dr. Ferenc M. Miskolczi, Dr. Miklós Zágoni, Dr. Mike Fox here in Oregon, and a great many other Scientists the world over, who decided to look at facts, instead of playing with models. Science is based on data, facts not theories. They took the facts, and let the theory write itself. The IPCC took theories and tried to cherry pick only the details that fit, and in the end failed to do even that.”

<http://www.examiner.com/x-7715-Portland-Civil-Rights-Examiner~y2009m8d18-Carbon-Dioxide-irrelevant-in-climate-debate-says-MIT-Scientist>

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/originals/co2_report_july_09.pdf

Going for the Gold/Platinum

If you read through the mobile activity summary above, you'll see a common thread among the 'real county putter outers'. Larry, N2OCW, went off on a gigantic coast to coast trip – trying to finish up his Master Platinum. He hit all his needs but one – Third AK! Kent, KL1V, ran hundreds of counties, and finished off his MG requirements in many states. Dan,

KM9X, was off on a big trip in New England – finishing off his MP needs, and working toward 500 separate transmitted counties qualifying for Platinum. That’s a key point to keep in mind.

The current awards ‘incentivize’ active mobiles to go out and run counties – by the hundreds – to qualify for higher and higher awards – Master’s Gold, which now over 35 have achieved, and Master Platinum – up to seven awarded at the moment. Many of the big trips are EXACTLY for that reason – hitting counties the mobile needs, running up transmitted county totals!

When mobiles ‘reach the top’ – well, there is no more ‘challenge’ to try to get to the next level. Last issue we wrote about the need for something ‘Beyond Platinum’. To continue the ladder of awards – and give incentive for mobiles to keep running those counties! Hopefully MARAC will respond in a timely way with a new challenge for the mobiles!

You’ll note one of the main themes driving mobile activity is working toward Gold/Platinum. What happens after there are 20-30 MP holders? And 60-70 Gold holders?

With the change of Awards Chairman and a shakeup in the Awards Committee, we can be hoping for good things to come! Let your director have some input – keep those mobiles out running!

State QSO Parties

This was an interesting month – 3 sleepers – and one really good one (before pub date of 7/25). NJ and MD and HI – you could goof off the entire weekend and not miss much. OH – wow – those folks know how to throw a party.

MARYLAND QSP PARTY

Not much down here for the MD QSO Party – just not that much activity on 20cw, and only a bit more on 20 SSB. Mark, KO1U, spotted many(15-20)

on 40M and 80M. No joy from TX on those bands. No mobiles out. NIL on 15 and above. They sure picked the WRONG weekend with a EU contest that blew away any possibility of low power stations keeping a frequency. It was 'TEST TEST' on every frequency on 20 and 40M. Very bad planning. Worse, not even much activity on 20M in the first place.

From the 3830 Contest reflector:

WY3P Carroll MD: "2273 Mults = 115 Total Score = 340,515 – Potomac Valley Contest Club

Comments:

The Maryland/DC QSO Party was run concurrently with the Worked All Europe CW contest this year and I elected to run the QSO party.

The action and activity was good, and steady. A steady stream of USA callers made 20 meters a lot of fun, and many folks were good sports and allowed us to pass them back and forth between 20 and 40.

The ability to run Europeans and work DX countries as multipliers really makes this a fun contest.

Congratulations to Chuck, N3WZR and Joe, N3YIM for helping break the highest MD/DC QSO party score I am aware of.

W1UJ (Mass) – 2 QSOs CW-Digital

W7KAN (AZ) : 12 Phone QSOS, Mults = 8 Total Score = 560

Saturday was fine, Sunday was terrible. Worked 6 club stations for 54 bonus points and 1 mobile for 4 bonus points = 12 qso's plus 58 bonus points = 70 X 8 counties = 560 score, all on 20 meter phone.

WA4SM (TN) : 15 CW QSO , 2 phone QSO, 11 Mults = 9 Total Score = 1,125

N3ALN (MD) : 428 Phone QSO, Mults = 55 Total Score = 36,245

KS4X (TN) 20 Phone QSO, Mults = 11 Total Score = 1,012

K9EU (IL) 23 CW 53 Phone Mults = 15 Total Score = 5,400

A majority of the contest seemed to be on 40/80M.

New Jersey QSO Party

This was another 'sleeper'. I found exactly 3 stations on 20/40cw to spot – worked them. Nothing seen in the way of spots on any other band or mode! What a shame. There are tens of thousands of hams in NJ. I didn't see any other spots either!

From 3830 Contest reflector:

W4UCW reported 3 cw contacts in NJ for the QSO Party

WA4SM reported 5 cw contacts and one on phone!

K4BAI: "Couldn't find any NJ station in the QSO party on 20M except N2CQ.

N3ZL reported one phone contact.

K8MR worked 2 phone stations in the NA QSO Party and sent in a log for the 2 NJ contacts.

KC2TA: "Not a whole lot of activity. Only worked KC2TA.

N2MM in NJ: 45 CW 484 SSB 61 Mults - he was 80% of the total activity in the NJ QSO Party

Here, I worked a grand total of 3 stations. It's pretty pathetic when the top out of state station worked 3 of the 21 NJ counties in the New Jersey QSO party. One mobile could have put out all the counties in the weekend – just one mobile – maybe a club effort? Come on NJ...you know how to do better!

OHIO QSO PARTY

Wow – another good one. I was out in the mobile and worked 50 OH stations, mostly on 20M. Then got home and worked another 9. One can't complain if you can snag that many contacts in between running 20 counties on multiple bands, hunting for county hunter contacts from the other mobiles, and searching for OH stations and mobiles. Lots of strong fixed stations were on with enough mobiles I could hear to make it interesting. In fact, I could have used a narrower filter than the 500Hz filter in the IC-706 when stations got too close to each other!

There was a fair amount of SSB activity with some out of state stations reporting over 100 contacts on SSB – mainly 40 and 80M.

From the 3830 Contest reflector:

Many stations outside OH reporting 50 to 100 to 150 contacts with OH stations on the contest reflector. Near zero contacts on 15M. Just one reported on the contest reflector!

NO5W(TX) : 131 QSO – 61 mults – “Band conditions were much better into Houston this year than last. That together with great participation on the part of the OH operators made this a really fun contest. It was fun chasing the mobiles from county to county including K8MR(13), W9MSE(9), W8TK(8), W8CAR(6), W1NN(5), and K8RYU(4). The best ears award goes to K8MR who managed to pull my signal out of the 80m QRN, usually on the first call.”

K9NW (Butler OH) : 214 CW, 101 SSB – “Good fun! Limited op time but tried to sneak in 15-20 minutes here and there during the day. A bit more time in the evening.” He ran 100w to a 40M dipole at 25 feet.

K8O (Butler OH): “437 CW, 369 SSB - Wow, that was fun. Thanks to my host N0FW for letting me operate. Broke the low power record by a wide

margin, but there were some other big scores out there that might be LP and do even better.”

K5WAF (TX) - 114 CW QSOs

KS5A (NM): 45 cw 8 SSB QSO : “20 meters had is its normal mid-day blahs to the mid-West. Frequently, one had to use just the right timing with the deep QSB to affect a contact. Thanks for digging us out. Checked 15 and 10 several times - nada.Hats off to the sponsors, and some big "atta-boys" to all the mobiles and portables who definitely command a following!”

K8CC (MI) - 86CW 113 SSB mostly 80M. He did get one contact on 15 and one on 10M - groundwave.

“Once again, OhQP turned into essentially an 80M single-band contest for me after my 40M CW QSO with N8BJQ at 1705Z. I suppose this shouldn't be a surprise considering my QTH is only 45 miles from Ohio, and reflects the realities of domestic contesting during the sunspot minimum. However, I don't remember it being so bad during previous cycles.

Activity seemed pretty good. I could attract answers to CQs most of the time on 75M phone and occasionally on 80M CW. Another fine job by the mobiles, particularly considering that almost all of my QSOs with them were on 80/75.

Here are my QSO counts with the mobiles and portables (18% of my QSOs):

K8MR (9)
N9AG (6)
KJ9C (4)
W8TK (4)
K8RYU (4)
W8CAR (2)
W9MSE (2)
W1NN (2)
AE8M (2)”

W0BH (KS) 73CW 63 SSB QSO : “Conditions were excellent whenever I was on with signals S9+ on both 20 and 40 to at least parts of Ohio most of the day. Even 80 was relatively QRN-free. Really wish I could have put in the full 12 hours! Even so, I worked 55 unique counties including some I missed the last several years. Thanks to the mobiles, fixed stations and sponsors for another job well done!”

K4BAI (GA) 131 CW 81 SSB : “20M was too long for many QSOs into Ohio during the contest period. 40M was open all day, but signals seemed weaker than usual during the daylight hours. QRN was bad on 40 and 80. A few Ohio stations seemed relatively loud, but couldn't hear me early on. The mobiles did a fantastic job. ”

N9AG/R (OH): 235 CW 79 SSB : “The words for the day: rain, wind and chill. Rover operation with an FT920, a card table, a mobile antenna and a generator. Rain in Logan county smeared my log sheet, wind in Hardin blew them around and the wind and the temperature in Auglaize (62 deg) made the garage at home look awfully attractive for the last stop.

Many thanks to Christian AA8VL for all his help. We got the set-up and tear-down of the station down to about 5 minutes by the time we were finished.

QSOs by County (CW/SSB/Total):

LOGA 36/9/45

HARD 84/27/111

AUGL 47/26/73

DARK 68/17/85”

KV8Q (Franklin OH): 493 CW QSO – didn't hear a peep on 10 or 15.

KN4Y(FL): 100 CW QSO: “Plenty of CW, both fixed and mobile, to keep the fingers warm. Great party.”

K8T (OH Jefferson - multi-op) – 558 CW 913 SSB QSO!

W8CAR/m(OH) 568 CW – 16 SSB: “We generally had good condx but the Tom Tom had other ideas about navigating. It kept trying to take us to points south but Dennis, W0JX, quickly discounted its advice. Lots of line noise so we kept to many back roads early on-later traveling up 66 the noise was better. AS is usual the W8CAR mobile didn't hit ssb enough but we checked 3545 in every county and had more success than ever on that band. “

KZ4G (multi-op Clermont including AA8HH) “The group operated from the QTH of K8DV in Clermont county. The station worked as desired without any failures during the contest. Good signals on 80 all day it really paid to have a radio tuned to 3.545 most of the day.

Special thanks to the mobiles, rovers providing all the county activity.”

AE8M/M 306CW 22 SSB : The number of Qs and multipliers were up significantly from last years results. Thanks to all who called. Special thanks to VE3KZ (7 Qs), KU5B (6 Qs), and to the following for 5 Qs each: N9AUG, K4BAI, K4LTA, NT2A, N9HDE, K0IO, KN4Y, K4ZGB. A host of others gave me 4 or less Qs and really kept it exciting.

The rig was a K2 on the passenger seat with a 100W amp and tuner in the trunk. I used Lakeview Hamsticks and two antenna mounts; one mount on the roof and one on the trunk lid of a Honda Accord. Much time was spent swapping 4 antennas between the two mounts.

I must park to operate. This cuts down on the number of counties that can be visited and the score, but it does not decrease the fun.”

K8MR/m 766 CW 122 SSB: “It was a good day to drive around Ohio - pleasantly warm, no rain.. John, AC8E, filled in as designated driver and did a fine job.

Conditions seemed mediocre, never getting any big runs on 20 or on 40 during the daylight hours. But with more 80 meter daytime activity, including a new mobile "mini-window" at 3545, I had 80 meter CW contacts from every county except TUSC, and at least five from every other one except GUER (1). After sunset, 80 meters went crazy, with huge pileups

and great rates. In the last hour, jogging along the county lines of WYAN-MARI-CRAW-MORR-RICH, I had 120 qsos, which included some time spent on SSB.

This was also the first time in any state party that I've had more qsos on 80 CW than on 40 CW.

I worked more in state mobiles than I probably have in all other state contests combined. Several were ones in nearby counties, but also some were in other parts of the state when we worked.”

AA8HH/m with AA8MC 88 CW 162 SSB: “ Had a great time again this year. Murphy showed up late in the contest and let all of the smoke out of the my antenna relay box. This required crawling around in the dark and making a temporary fix to keep on operating. Took a long break in the middle of the contest to visit with the KZ4G crew and riding with K8CR mobile. We ate K8CR's famous spiced shrimp, corn on the cob, seven layer salad, sticky beans, burgers and beer... Pretty good chow! Great gang and decent scores... Not a bad way to spend a late summer's day”

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N4CD: 59 QSO CW - I sent in my logs for all 3 QSO Parties so I can put those three stickers on my ARRL YSQSO Party certificate!

HI QSO PARTY

Hello? Anybody home?

The 3830 contest reflector showed exactly four entries listed from the US.

Just for the fun of it, we'll list them:

AB4GG	1 cw	1 mult
KE7DX	1 cw 2 ssb	1 mult
K7FA	3 cw 2 ssb	1 mult
KE7WDJ	2 cw	1 mult

I didn't see a single spot on W6RK for HI. There are quite a few world class contest stations there. Heck, on some weekends, I've worked more multipliers in 3 hours in HI.....when KH6G and KH7C are on the air. Hi Hi. This was a pretty poor showing for HI. NJ wasn't any better – size wise compared to the number of hams in NJ – but at least 2 or 3 active stations were on for hours in NJ. Same for MD. HI? Didn't even see a contest entry from any HI station listed on the contest reflector!

Germany not so hot on AGW

“More than 60 prominent German scientists have publicly declared their dissent from man-made global warming fears in an Open Letter to German Chancellor Angela Merkel. The more than 60 signers of the letter include several United Nations IPCC scientists.

The July 26, 2009 German scientist letter urged Chancellor Merkel to “strongly reconsider” her position on global warming and requested a “convening of an impartial panel” that is “free of ideology” to counter the UN IPCC and review the latest climate science developments. “More importantly, there's a growing body of evidence showing anthropogenic CO2 plays no measurable role,” the scientists wrote.

The scientists declared that global warming has become a "pseudo religion" and they noted that rising CO2 has "had no measurable effect" on temperatures. The German scientists, also wrote that the "UN IPCC has lost its scientific credibility."

This latest development comes on the heels of a series of inconvenient developments for the promoters of man-made global warming fears, including new peer-reviewed studies, real world data, a growing chorus of scientists dissenting (including more UN IPCC scientists), open revolts in scientific societies and the Earth's failure to warm. In addition, public opinion continues to turn against climate fear promotion..

<http://www.climatedepot.com/a/2282/Consensus-Takes-Another-H...>

Sunspots Different This Cycle?

An interesting paper suggests that the sunspots this cycle are a bit unusual compared to what we have been used to seeing. With new instrumentation, it is possible to look at the composition of sunspots and make some 'new finds'. What it means to humans and the sunspot cycle is still unknown.

“But something is unusual about the current sunspot cycle. The current solar minimum has been unusually long, and with more than 670 days without sunspots through June 2009, the number of spotless days has not been equaled since 1933. The solar wind is reported to be in a uniquely low energy state since space measurements began nearly 40 years

Because little is known about what causes a prolonged dearth of sunspots, scientists are combing through recent solar data in efforts to find some clue to the Sun's unusual behavior. In 2005, scientists from the U.S. National Solar Observatory (NSO) examined solar measurements made over the previous 13 years by the observatory's McMath-Pierce telescope at Kitt Peak, Ariz. These measurements included data on the infrared intensity, temperature, and magnetic fields inside sunspots. They use the most sensitive probe of sunspot magnetic fields currently and represent the longest time sequence of such observations.

The same data were later ...and the observations showed that the magnetic field strength in sunspots were decreasing with time, independent of the sunspot cycle. A simple linear extrapolation of those data suggested that sunspots might completely vanish by 2015. These observations caused researchers to wonder whether the characteristics of sunspots are different now than in other solar cycles.

Yet although the Sun's magnetic polarity has reversed and the new solar cycle has been detected, most of the new cycle's spots have been tiny “pores” without penumbrae.

What could be happening? Clues can be found in the McMath- Pierce's infrared magnetic measurements, which are able to calculate the total

magnetic field strength directly in the umbrae. These measurements also have the advantage of observing the sunspots in the infrared spectrum, which guarantees the reduction of telescopic scattered light, a factor especially important while observing small sunspots.

Recent observations of small spots suggest that throughout the time period covered by the infrared data, the relationship between umbral magnetic field strength and infrared intensity (measured at the darkest position in individual spots) has remained constant. This reveals that sunspots seen currently are not independently getting more intense in the infrared; sunspots today still follow the same infrared intensity and magnetic field strength relationship seen in previous years.

Instead, magnetically weaker sunspots are seen more frequently now in conjunction with high infrared intensities. Indeed, recent using data from the NSO Kitt Peak Vacuum Telescope suggests that slight changes in the average sunspot umbral radius during the past 11 years can explain much of the observed magnetic and intensity changes.

A Future Dearth of Sunspots?

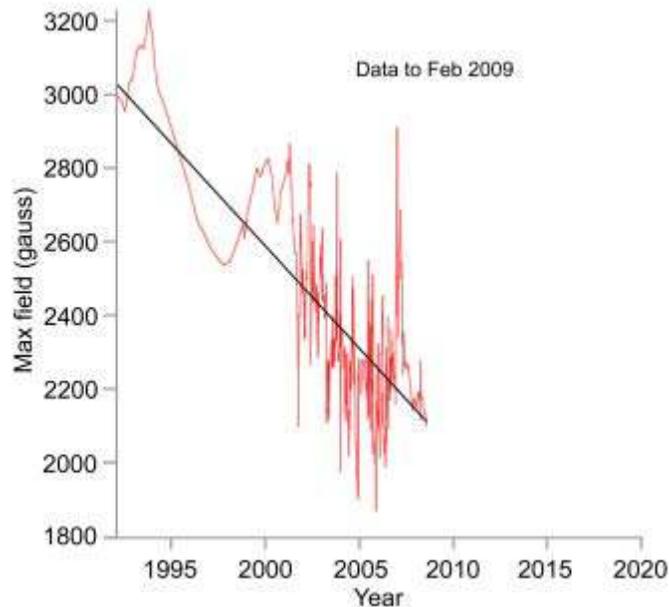
Four years after the first draft paper, the predicted cycle- independent dearth in sunspot numbers has proven accurate. The vigor of sunspots, in terms of magnetic strength and area, has greatly diminished.

Figure 3 shows the decrease in field strength now found with respect to time (1992–2009), which still shows a linear trend independent of the solar cycle. Because of the nature of the observing program, the earliest measurements in this plot are probably skewed toward higher magnetic field values (larger sunspots); nonetheless, the linear trend in the magnetic field value is clear even excluding all pre- 1995 data. The data show the same spots..... the mean infrared intensity of sunspot umbrae is also increasing with time.

Whether this is an omen of long- term sunspot decline, analogous to the Maunder Minimum, remains to be seen. Other indicators of the solar activity cycle suggest that sunspots must return in earnest within the next year.

Because other indications point to the Sun experiencing an unusual period of minimum solar activity, it is critically important to measure the Sun's

magnetic activity during this unique time. Scientists will continue to observe the Sun using infrared diagnostics at the McMath- Pierce telescope with keen interest.”



“The maximum sunspot field strength is plotted versus time, during the period from 1992 to February 2009; a 12- point running mean is shown, and a linear fit to the data is plotted. Apart from a few measurements, the linear trend has been seen to continue throughout this solar minimum.”

Source: <http://www.leif.org/EOS/2009EO300001.pdf>

Australia Rejects Carbon Tax and Spend

“Australia approved a mandate to use more renewable energy but set aside a debate over capping its greenhouse-gas emissions, signaling the tensions that face governments around the world in tackling climate change.”

“Lawmakers Thursday approved legislation that would require 20% of Australia's electricity generation to come from renewable sources by 2020.”

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125073836592845291.html>

Australia passed some nice ‘we’ll do some renewable energy goal’ legislation and soundly rejected any ‘cap and trade’ or ‘cap and tax and tax and tax’ bills. They are a lot more sensible when it comes to killing their economy and laying big taxes on business and individuals in a ridiculously futile greenie agenda to control economies worldwide, and cede control to some mythical magic UN committee somewhere.

On the Road with N4CD I

July was steamy in Texas. Two weeks had gone by since I arrived home after the National Convention – it was ‘cool’ up north. We had 15 days over 100 degrees this summer so far, and that is somewhat above the normal. It could be worse – San Antonio and Austin and south central Texas is in a MAJOR draught – severe water rationing down that way and day after day of blistering heat and no rain. The lakes are near bone dry – some down 30 feet! Reservoirs are down to 50 to 70 year lows already and the summer isn’t over.

I managed to miss quite a few of the hot days, being up north for the National, but now I was getting ‘house fever’. You tend to stay inside too much when it is real hot and humid outside. I checked the TX needs – most were way out west, way down southwest, or just scattered here and there. Of course, folks starting over, like me, need 200 or 240 in TX, so anything is new. Others need 20 or 40 and don’t list them yet – too many for the needs page. Tim, W8JJ, send me a copy of the TX map book with the counties he needs colored in. That makes trip planning easier – connect the dots! He included OK for good measure in case the car needs more exercise I suppose! You never know where N4CD will wind up. I could hit some of Tim’s needs.

After a leisurely breakfast while reading the Sunday Dallas Morning News from end to end, I decided on the spur of the moment to put the antennas on

the car and head down to Limestone, TX, one of Joyce, N9STL's two needed counties – for the WBOW. Joyce needed only two to finish up her 6th time, and one was 2 hours away. I checked with her to be sure she would be around. She said yes, and not only that, but KD4POJ was going to get her Kiowa, KS, later that afternoon which would finish her off. He wouldn't get there for many hours – so I'd get her 'next to last' county first, and he could have the fun of giving out a LC WBOW. The weather was going to be in the 90s with clouds which would help out a bit. I think I have as many next to LC WBOW as WBOW. Somebody has to get the 'next to last' for the folks!

The trip was down I-45, then off on the interstate to Mexia (mə-HAY-ə), TX which is in Limestone. I ran the counties on the way down, running 20cw, then 17m, then 30, and if time, 40cw – down 5. The usual cw group was on, plus a few others that just passed by. You get some folks just looking for a contact (conditions weren't all that great) to get a signal report and finding out their radio still works. You never know – I might need their home county, too – I just started over in Feb. I'll take all the passer-by folks, work 'em and log 'em.

Conditions were half decent – working 20-40 contacts per county only on cw, with from 2 to 18 contacts on 17M. When I got to Limestone, I called Joyce, N9STL, on the cellphone and suggested we do it on 17M. She mentioned she had only made one other 17M contact, but, what the heck, let's try it. She loaded up her 40M dipole, and by golly, it was 339 both ways on 17 for her last county in TX, and the next to last WBOW. That's the sixth or seventh LC I've given on 17M. Fun. Even better, I needed her home county on 17M! She also got me 599 on 20M. One of these days they'll be a WBOW on 17M.

After I ran the county on the bands, I scratched my head. It was too early to head home - only 11 am. Folks always needed Madison and Houston, so I headed that way. Back to I-45, down I-45 for 70 miles to Madison. I passed by "OSR" – the Old San Antonio Road – for a long while I thought it was the "Old Stage Coach Road". It probably was – and it is not, repeat, not a good road to be on. They made it back in 1600s-1700s, and it isn't much better today other than they threw some asphalt on top of it a few decades ago. It's 'crowned' – you have to fight to stay 'on the road' as the car wants to go off the road unless you ride down the center of the road, and it's rough. I took a regular 'new highway' east to Houston County.

The power lines were humming away – the temps were up in the 90s and the juice was flowing to keep those air conditions running. The humidity was also up so the insulators arc even better. Fortunately, there were enough stretches of road that were quiet to allow most to get through. Not much was happening on 40cw.

After Houston, it was back north through Anderson and Henderson, with a short jog over to Van Zandt, then into Kaufman and home. 435 miles was the tally – not bad for a spur of the moment trip of a little over 8 hours. The car got about 31 mpg including stopping a few times to run the counties with the a/c going. Lots of driving at 65-75 mph on good highways put the miles on.

On the way back, I heard Joyce work KD4POJ in Kiowa, KS on 40M SSB with 44 reports both ways – that was her last WBOW. The day was successful all the way around. She’s been finishing up awards left and right (Platinum, CW, 6th time).

During the trip, 17M was open to WA, CA, NC, ME, WI, MN, CO, MO, IL, MI, FL, SC, NE, AZ, and a bunch of other states – sometimes 599 (N0ZA), many 339 and 449. I was home by dinner, and because it was Sunday, that is pizza night at Cici’s Buffet to celebrate another county hunter finished up for an award. It doesn’t get any better.

However, now I’ve got county hunting fever again, so more trips coming up. Folks need some TX counties. The county hunting car is five months old and is up to over 10,000 miles.

Paging Al Gore...Paging Al Gore

[http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20090810_julystats....](http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20090810_julystats...)

“The July 2009 temperature for the contiguous United States was below the long-term average, based on records going back to 1895, according to a preliminary analysis by NOAA’s National Climatic Data Center in

Asheville, N.C.

The average July temperature of 73.5 degrees F was 0.8 degrees F below the 20th century average. Precipitation across the contiguous United States in July averaged 2.90 inches, which is 0.14 inches above the 1901-2000 average.”

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Where is AL Gore when you need him? Flying all over the world emitting carbon by the megaton to make some bucks off phony carbon credit trading?

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Climate change report urges cut in costs

www.ft.com/cms/s/0/3ee23e1c-8849-11de-82e4-00144feabdc0.html...

Avoiding a global temperature increase of more than 2 degrees Celsius, which scientists regard as the safe limit, will be prohibitively expensive, while a far less ambitious target would produce a more cost-efficient result for the world economy, according to a new study. The report, published Friday by the Copenhagen Consensus, a group of economists brought together by a Danish academic, Bjorn Lomborg, is at odds with the prevailing view that large sums should be spent over the next decade to ward off climate change.

Mr Lomborg, long known as a climate change skeptic, told the Financial Times last week he now believed questions over the science “have been answered pretty unequivocally” and that an agreement at the next UN climate change meeting in Copenhagen in December would be crucial. However, he believes the measures being considered are unnecessarily costly....

The cost of stabilizing atmospheric carbon dioxide at 450 parts per million – the level thought necessary to avoid the worst effects of climate change – would be 12.9 per cent of global gross domestic product, Mr Tol says that **scenario would cost \$50 over the course of the century for every dollar saved**, Mr Tol argues.

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“High-resolution (≈ 11 km) regional climate modeling shows total annual precipitation on the Greenland ice sheet for 1958–2007 to be up to 24% and surface mass balance up to 63% higher than previously thought. The largest differences occur in coastal southeast Greenland, where the much higher resolution facilitates capturing snow accumulation peaks that past five-fold coarser resolution regional climate models missed.”

<http://www.agu.org/pubs/crossref/2009/2009GL038110.shtml>

My Antenna Tuner Resonates My Antenna

The amount of mis-information on antenna tuners and SWR that hams have as ‘common knowledge’ is mind boggling. Many still believe that ‘reflected power’ magically winds up being dissipated in the finals of the transmitter, and therefore a high SWR is bad because it might ‘burn up’ your transceiver with ‘reflected power’. More strange beliefs occur because of ‘antenna tuners’ and how they operate. You’d be amazed at what folks thinks happen with ‘reflected power’ and where it goes! Even more people worship at the ‘altar of 1:1 VSWR’.

If you would like to really get up to speed on this, check out Walt, W2DU’s, books called Reflections, now up to version 3.0. You’ll be awakened on the mechanics of SWR and antenna ‘tuning’.

Did you know that when you use an antenna tuner to be able to ‘tune’ your antenna, with SWR more than 1.1, down to a low SWR to the transmitter, that you are actually resonating **the antenna system** to the frequency you are on? Most people think that the ‘antenna tuner’ is only providing a ‘impedance match’ that allows your transmitter to deliver full power into ‘the load’. In reality, the tuner is really ‘tuning your antenna system’ to resonance. It is providing a non-reactive match to the transmitter, at the optimum source impedance. If we have ‘zero reactive’ component that the transmitter sees (where you have ‘matched out’ the existing complex impedances), it is by definition ‘resonant’ and if the remaining resistive part of the antenna /feedline impedance is matched to the optimum source impedance, that is exactly what you want for maximum power transfer.

Now wait a minute! You use your 80M dipole, cut to 3.5565 on 3903 where the SWR measures 6:1 on the SWR meter. You now adjust your antenna tuner to ‘match’ the load of the ‘feedline and antenna’ to the transmitter. What you have really done is ‘resonated the antenna system’ at 3903 KHz.

The magic is in the conjugate match that the antenna tuner provides.

“One of the articles of the Conjugate Match Theorem is that a conjugate match exists whenever all of the available power from the source is being delivered to the load.”

OK. That is the first thing to drum into your head. Very important! The load for your transmitter consists of a) the tuner b) the feedline and c) the antenna – which together are ‘the antenna system’.

“A conjugate match exists throughout the entire system, and all the available power will be delivered by the source, when the output impedance of the source is made equal to the resistive component of the line-input impedance, and when all reactance components in the source and line-input impedances are canceled to zero by a matching network, which can be either the pi-network tank circuit or a separate matching network such as an antenna tuner.

In this condition the entire *system* is resonant, including the output circuitry of the amplifier. All available power from the source enters the line, and reflections from any terminating mismatch or other line discontinuities are compensated by a complementary reflection, which cancels the original reflection at the matching point in the matching device. Such a reflection is obtained by introducing a non-dissipative mismatch at the match point. This non-dissipative mismatch is one which, if placed in the system by itself, would produce the same magnitude of reflection, or SWR, as is produced by the mismatched line termination.

The result is a precise and total re-reflection of the arriving reflected wave.”

OK....so far so good?

“When a matched RF power amplifier is actively supplying power when the reflected wave returns, the reflected wave encounters total re-reflection at the match point appearing at the input terminals of the pi-network tank circuit, and the reflected power is entirely conserved because it never sees the source *impedance* of the amplifier as a dissipative terminating load, but not because the source impedance is *non-dissipative*.”

This is because the source and reflected voltages and currents superpose, or add (in phase) at the match point, just as if the reflected power had been supplied by a separate generator in series with the source. The phasor sum of their voltages yields a net current flow which is always in the forward direction. The reflected power thus adds to the source power, deriving reflection gain which compensates for the reflection loss suffered at the mismatched termination.”

OK? You on board? Your ‘reflected power’ isn’t eaten by the antenna tuner or the ‘finals’ in your transmitter. What you think ‘comes back down the feedline’ is 100% reflected back to the antenna by either the pi-network in your old style tube transmitter, or in the antenna tuner.

In the days of tube output transmitters, you would have a pi-network or similar output matching circuit to allow your transmitter to operate into a wide range of antenna system impedances – yes , ‘antenna system’ impedances – since the feedline and the antenna as a ‘system’ will present a different impedance depending upon ‘the resonant frequency’ of the antenna, and the ‘length of the feedline’ and the impedance of the feedline. You would tune the ‘antenna system’ comprised of the feedline and antenna to deliver maximum power – tuning the ‘antenna system’ to resonance.

When solid state transceivers came along, they used fixed tuned output networks designed to operate into a very narrow range of matching of impedances. Now, let us digress.

What is “SWR”? It is the voltage standing wave ratio measured at some point. What does that mean?

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standing_wave_ratio

“In telecommunications, **standing wave ratio (SWR)** is the ratio of the amplitude of a partial standing wave at an antinode (maximum) to the amplitude at an adjacent node (minimum), in an electrical transmission line.

The SWR is usually defined as a voltage ratio called the **VSWR**, for *voltage standing wave ratio*. For example, the VSWR value 1.2:1 denotes a maximum standing wave amplitude that is 1.2 times greater than the minimum standing wave value”

OK...so now we know that as SWR increases, the voltage increases. If you have high SWR, that means that voltages on the feedline are ‘higher’ than normal. What does this mean to you and to the designer of your transceiver?

Solid state parts (like the final transistors in the power amplifier) have a ‘break down voltage’. They typically operate on 13V. When delivering 100w, the voltage swing might be plus or minus 15 volts – or 20v peak to peak when matched. Maybe the breakdown voltage is 75V or 100v. Hmmm? If we try to run that transmitter into a 10:1 VSWR, we suddenly have r.f. high voltage that might cause those transistors to give up the ghost – quickly. How to we protect those expensive power transistors? Yes – we build a circuit that automatically folds back the power output as the VSWR increases, limiting the r.f. voltage swing to a ‘safe level’ to keep those transistors from heading to the Happy Hunting Grounds. Try and run your IC-706 into a 10:1 VSWR, and it will likely only put out 1 or 2w.

If you have ever built an antenna tuner, you’ll note that to get the performance you want – to match a wide range of VSWR, you must use capacitors with wide spacing – to handle the high voltages they may see – otherwise, they might ‘arc over’. Right?

So what do we do if we want to run on 7056.5 and 7185? County hunters could use two antennas, or have an antenna tuner capable of ‘matching’ their antenna – resonating it – at both frequencies. Now, the tuner will have to have components in it that are capable of withstanding ‘high voltages’ that will appear on the output side at high VSWR. Back in the tube days, your Johnson Matchbox used thousand volt breakdown design (many thousands of volts for KWs!).

So just where does that ‘reflected power go’ and should you worry about ‘high SWR’ on your feedline? Will reflected power blow up your tuner at 10:1?

All power reflected from a mismatched line termination that reaches the source is re-reflected and returned to the load, as part of the forward or incident wave. The only reflected power lost is that from line attenuation during its return to the source and once again during its return to the load. The higher the line attenuation, the less reflected power reaches the source to add to the forward power. Thus, the lower the line attenuation, the higher the allowable SWR for a given loss because of SWR. No reflected power is lost in a lossless line, no matter how high the SWR, because it all ultimately arrives at the load.”

Now, some hams out there will be bashing their heads against the wall, saying “I’ve got to have low VSWR” or things will ‘blow up’ or they ‘won’t get out’. Not true. The only power lost in a high VSWR situation is the line loss. Have a low line loss, like 15 feet of RG8U, and it is trivial. The breakdown voltage under high VSWR of the components must be higher – VSWR means higher voltage that the tuner must handle, and the feedline must handle.

Now, low VSWR or high VSWR says nothing about the efficiency of your antenna, nor how well designed it is, or if it radiates in the desired direction, or if your power is going into ground losses. SWR is a tool, nothing else, for evaluating ‘antenna resonance’ . Ground losses, radiating element losses, and other losses are not considered – and they play a major role in how well your power is radiated (and where).

“The radiator of an antenna system need not be of a self-resonant length for maximum resonant current flow, the feed line need not be of any particular length, and a substantial mismatch at the junction of the line and the antenna does not prevent the radiator from absorbing all of the power available at the junction.”

“If a suitable matching network cancels all the reactance developed by a nonresonant-length radiator and a random length feed line which is mismatched at the antenna feed point, the antenna system is resonant, the mismatch effect is canceled, maximum current flows in the

radiator, and all the power available at the feed point is absorbed by the radiator.”

“Adjusting the matching network, or antenna tuner, for maximum line current creates a perfect mirror termination for the reflected wave, causing it to be totally re-reflected on arrival at the input end of the line.

The tuner provides the proper reactance to cancel the equal but opposite reactance between the source and reflected wave at the input. This causes the reflected wave to add *in phase* to the source wave to derive the total incident, or forward power, which is the sum of the source and reflected power.

Total re-reflection of the reflected power at the line input is the reason for its not being dissipated in the transmitter, and why it is conserved, rather than lost.

So, the next time you hear folks telling you that ‘high SWR’ means that ‘reflected power’ is ‘heating up the PA’, or it’s the reflected power that blows up your transmitter when run into high VSWR, you’ll know the right answers. Older solid state early vintage transceivers did suffer from ‘fragile transistors’(low rf breakdown and inadequate protection circuits). Newer ones have effective ‘VWSR protection circuits’ to cut back power to protect the finals from voltage breakdown. As long as the components in your antenna tuner can handle the voltage/currents involved in providing a conjugate match at high VSWR, you won’t ‘blow up your antenna tuner’ with high VSWR, either.

Lots of good reading at:

<http://w2du.com/Reflections2.html>

You might think about buying the book for your library, too.

When you hit that ‘auto tune’ button on your antenna tuner these days – that is exactly what you are doing – tuning your ‘antenna system’ to resonance!

Liberal Crackpots at Work

The outgoing leader of Greenpeace has admitted his organization's recent claim that the Arctic Ice will disappear by 2030 was "a mistake."

Greenpeace made the claim in a July 15 press release entitled "Urgent Action Needed As Arctic Ice Melts," which said there will be an ice-free Arctic by 2030 because of global warming.

Under close questioning by BBC reporter Stephen Sackur on the "Hardtalk" program, Gerd Leipold, the retiring leader of Greenpeace, said the claim was wrong.

"I don't think it will be melting by 2030. . . . That may have been a mistake," he said.

Sackur said the claim was inaccurate on two fronts, pointing out that the Arctic ice is a mass of 1.6 million square kilometers with a thickness of 3 km in the middle, and that it had survived much warmer periods in history than the present.

The BBC reporter accused Leipold and Greenpeace of releasing "misleading information" and using "exaggeration and alarmism."

Leipold's admission that Greenpeace issued misleading information is a major embarrassment to the organization, which often has been accused of alarmism but has always insisted that it applies full scientific rigor in its global-warming pronouncements.

Leipold said later in the BBC interview that there is an urgent need for the suppression of economic growth in the United States and around the world. He said annual growth rates of 3 percent to 8 percent cannot continue without serious consequences for the climate.

"We will definitely have to move to a different concept of growth. . . . The lifestyle of the rich in the world is not a sustainable model," Leipold said. "If you take the lifestyle, its cost on the environment, and you multiply it with the billions of people and an increasing world population, you come up with numbers which are truly scary."

What is ‘truly scary’ is listening to folks like this who say we have to be in permanent recession or depression to meet their ideas and ‘demands’ of a ‘greenie’ world.

12/17 Meter Report

In August, the following mobiles were spotted on 12M: KM1C, K8ZZ, , W0QE, W9MSE, W0GXQ, and W0NAC

In August, the following mobiles were spotted on 17M: W0GXQ, W0NAC, KB6TAL, W9MSE, W0QE, KM1C, AB7RW, N4CD, and WA7JHQ.

There were also spots on 15M and 10M.

Sunspots are not cooperating, but the bands pop open occasionally and you can work a mobile on multiple bands – turn the bandswitch and listen as mobiles QSY up the band – some days you are pleasantly surprised!

NASA Solution to Climate Change

Scientists have found an unusual way to prevent our planet overheating: move it to a cooler spot. All you have to do is hurtle a few comets at Earth, and its orbit will be altered. Our world will then be sent spinning into a safer, colder part of the solar system.

This startling idea of improving our interplanetary neighborhood is the brainchild of a group of NASA engineers and American astronomers who

say their plan could add another six billion years to the useful lifetime of our planet - effectively doubling its working life.

'The technology is not at all far-fetched,' said Dr Greg Laughlin, of the NASA Ames Research Center in California. 'It involves the same techniques that people now suggest could be used to deflect asteroids or comets heading towards Earth. We don't need raw power to move Earth, we just require delicacy of planning and maneuvering.'

The plan put forward by Dr Laughlin, and his colleagues Don Korycansky and Fred Adams, involves carefully directing a comet or asteroid so that it sweeps close past our planet and transfers some of its gravitational energy to Earth.

'Earth's orbital speed would increase as a result and we would move to a higher orbit away from the Sun,' Laughlin said.

Engineers would then direct their comet so that it passed close to Jupiter or Saturn, where the reverse process would occur. It would pick up energy from one of these giant planets. Later its orbit would bring it back to Earth, and the process would be repeated.

In the short term, the plan provides an ideal solution to global warming, although the team was actually concerned with a more drastic danger. The sun is destined to heat up in about a billion years and so 'seriously compromise' our biosphere - by frying us.

Hence the group's decision to try to save Earth. 'All you have to do is strap a chemical rocket to an asteroid or comet and fire it at just the right time,' added Laughlin. 'It is basic rocket science.'

The plan has one or two worrying aspects, however. For a start, space engineers would have to be very careful about how they directed their asteroid or comet towards Earth. The slightest miscalculation in orbit could fire it straight at Earth - with devastating consequences.

It is a point acknowledged by the group. 'The collision of a 100-kilometre diameter object with the Earth at cosmic velocity would sterilize the biosphere most effectively, at least to the level of bacteria,' they state in a paper in *Astrophysics and Space Science*. 'The danger cannot be overemphasized.'

There is also the vexed question of the Moon. As the current issue of Scientific American points out, if Earth was pushed out of its current position it is 'most likely the Moon would be stripped away from Earth,' it states, radically upsetting out planet's climate.

These criticisms are accepted by the scientists. 'Our investigation has shown just how delicately Earth is poised within the solar system,' Laughlin admitted. 'Nevertheless, our work has practical implications. Our calculations show that to get Earth to a safer, distant orbit, it would have to pass through unstable zones and would need careful nurturing and nudging.'

Source: Guardian UK

No- this isn't the April 1st issue. This is real story. Maybe in StarDate 2900

More pictures from the National

Here are a few more pictures I took at the National Convention in MI - 2009



Jerry, WB8FBJ USA-CA 1058



Bill, WB8JZN USA-CA #886



Dale K0KY



Ed, K8QWY USA-CA 1119



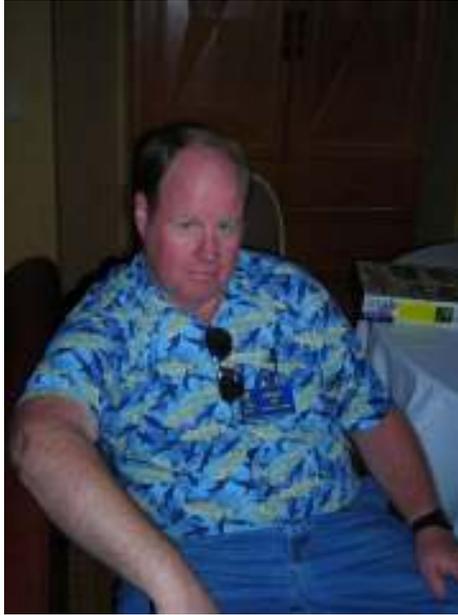
Lloyd, NX4W USACA #958



John, N8OR USA-CA # 587



Kirby W8DCD



Jim, KB4XK USACA #468

Climate Stupidity

In a USA Today article:

*“Over 350 new species including the world's smallest deer, a "flying frog" and a **100 million-year old gecko** have been discovered in the Eastern Himalayas, a biological treasure trove now threatened by climate change.”*

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/TECH/science/08/11/eco.himalayas.new...>

This cracks me up. What irony.

So, small scale climate change is threatening a **100 million-year old** gecko?

This gecko species has probably gone through hundreds of deep ice ages, periods of prehistoric heat that far surpasses even the most cataclysmic alarmist projections of warming, violent episodes of plate tectonic upheaval, ancient atmospheric CO2 levels that were 10 times the level of today, vast volcanic eruptions, periods of high sulfuric acid, thousands of giant comet/meteor strikes on earth that produced nuclear winters for decades, etc.

Yet, this robust 100 million-year old gecko that survived ice ages, the extinction of the dinosaurs, is threatened by our tiny influence on climate?

You have to wonder if any of the global warming alarmists even begin to have the basis of a normal evolved human brain!

KK7X Web Calendar

Dennis, KK7X, has created a web calendar for County Hunters. Interested parties can post events such as minis, national conventions, state QSO parties and other contests relevant to County Hunting (or maybe to know to avoid them). Then, you can go there to see what is coming up and when. Nifty!

Go to <http://countyhunter.com/webcalendar/month.php>

You might wish to bookmark this page, but I'm sure they'll be a main link off the Countyhunter.com main page so if you have that page bookmarked, you're all set. Now to remember to check it occasionally for upcoming events and contests!

Global Cooling at Work

First, some stats. 1,044 daily record low temperatures have been broken this month nationwide according to NCDC -- count record "low highs" and the number increases to 2,925, surely to pass 3,000 before the end of the month.

Blog reader Tim points out "Water temps at Frying Pan Shoals (off Cape Fear) fell to 78 degrees a few days ago; NDBC historical data shows this occurs only 0.3% of the time in July!"

http://www.accuweather.com/mt-news-blogs.asp?blog=weathermatrix&partner=&pgUrl=/mtweb/content/weathermatrix/archives/2009/07/1000_low_temp_records_set_this_july.asp

OHIO QSO PARTY CONTROVERSY

I received the following note from Steve, AA8HH, about the OH QSO Party for 2009 which took place in August. The CHNews sent out this in late July after folks were notified of the arrival of the current issue of the CHNews.

“There has been a little controversy this year, and here it is in a nutshell...

N8VW has been responsible for scoring the contest and maintaining the website in the past... oqp.us...

The Mad River Radio Club has always been the sponsor of the contest since it was reintroduced back in the 90's. N8VW got "out of sorts" with the folks at Mad River when they complained about how long it was taking to get the scores published (almost a year)... So, Mad River decided to replace N8VW with folks that were still actually club members...

N8VW got "stinky" and decided to try to take over the running of the contest... He changed a bunch of rules, and is supposedly giving away a netbook computer... N8VW is calling himself "Independent Contesters Club" or something like that.

Since Mad River had entrusted the web site to N8VW, they were not able to stop him from making these changes and trying to take over the contest. Mad River Radio Club has been "locked out" of the website!

However, MRCC is regaining control ... so far they have been contacting club groups and the ARRL, etc. The rules have not changed...Digital QSO's do not count... There are no extra points for QSO's about 14mhz. The only thing that has actually changed is that the club website for the Ohio QSO Party is now located at www.ohqp.org.

Also, all logs should be sent to the new website. There is also a new mailing address for paper logs.

I have contacted a handful of CHer's to let them know what is going on, but you might be a lot more effective than me since you have a real mailing list!!!

Please pass on the word!

Thanks and 73... Steve - AA8HH”

British Food Police Again

You can't believe the insanity on the other side of 'the pond'. It shows what happens when you have 10,000 government bureaucrats sitting around trying to justify their existence, and their obsession with controlling everyone's life in the name of 'carbon emissions'.

“Supermarkets' buy-one-get-one-free offers should be scrapped and replaced with half price offers, ministers have said. The measure would be one way of slashing the amount of food binned in the UK every year.

So-called BOGOF offers and loss leaders - where supermarkets sell products for less than they pay for them to get customers through their doors - **are contributing to an increase in carbon emissions.**

Banning such offers and repackaging food in a variety of sizes to cater for single people as well as couples and families would also promote healthy living and improve the nation's diet.”

“Yesterday Environment Secretary Hilary Benn launched a series of reports entitled Food 2030, which contained the proposals.”

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1205427/Environment-Secretary-Hilary-Benn-says-British-farmers-consider-growing-GM-crops.html>

Of course, stores often offer 2 for 1 deals to get rid of excess inventory, or get inventory moved out by the 'sell by' date. Or to entice shoppers to stop by the store. And who wants to pay 50% more for 'single serving' packages?

* * * * *

Not to be outdone, the ultra lib greenies in the USA are trying this in the "health care reform act" – you did know this, right? You read through the 650 plus pages of Senate porkapalooza, right?

"Titled the Affordable Health Choices Act, the Senate draft bill amends the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to require food nutritional disclosures at fast food restaurants, similar to the disclosures currently required on packaged food. Under section 325 of the Senate bill (starting at p. 399), any fast food chain with 20 locations and a standardized menu would have to display "in a clear and conspicuous manner" nutrition and calorie information. The information must be "adjacent" to each menu item

But what about drive through windows? The information must be displayed on the drive through menu board. Salad bars and buffets? The information must be placed next to each item.

owners of 20 or more vending machine bill have to post signage with the nutritional and caloric content of every item in the vending machine"

Here are some of the requirements of the bill, its actual language, from around page 399 and going forward.

Fast-food menus

"a succinct statement concerning suggested daily caloric intake, as specified by the Secretary by regulation and posted prominently on the menu and designed to enable the public to understand, in the context of a total daily diet, the significance of the caloric information that is provided on the menu;"

Drive-thru menus

"(II)(aa) in a **nutrient content** disclosure statement adjacent to the name of the standard menu item, so as to be clearly associated with the standard menu item, on the menu board, **including a drive-through menu board**, the number of calories contained in the standard menu item"

Happy Meals

"The Secretary shall establish by regulation standards for determining and disclosing the nutrient content for standard menu items that come in different flavors, varieties, or **combinations, but which are listed as a single menu item**, such as soft drinks, ice cream, pizza, doughnuts, or children's combination meals, through means determined by the Secretary, including ranges, averages, or other methods."

Vending machines

"In the case of an article of food sold from a vending machine that does not permit a prospective purchaser to examine the Nutrition Facts Panel before purchasing the article or does not otherwise provide visible nutrition information at the point of purchase; and is operated by a person who is engaged in the business of owning or operating 20 or more vending machines, the vending machine operator shall provide a sign in close proximity to each article of food or the selection button that includes a clear and conspicuous statement disclosing the number of calories contained in the article."

http://help.senate.gov/BAI09A84_xml.pdf

Can't you just imagine a menu board at a McDonalds having to list all the calories, the sodium level, the vitamins and percent RDA, of each and every item on the menu? And at the drive through window, too! Idiots, one and all. Folks get fat because they feed their face with supersize – oops, we can't have that now – fries, quad burgers, etc. Or have the Big Gulp for \$1.39 – 32 or 40oz of soft drink with 800 calories.

They might as well put signs outside restaurants – caution – eating too much is hazardous to your health. As if anyone would read them. You really think smokers read the labels on the cigarette packages? You really think folks will read the calorie count on their next fast food meal?

Oh, but 100 or more ‘green jobs’ will be created in the Obama administration to come up with all the silly rules, penalties, fines, details, and prosecutions for violation of the silly rules. It will be a total waste of tax payer money and a least two or three new agencies, department heads, and worse that will exist forever to police your eating habits. After fast food, what next? Store food?

On the Road with N4CD II

It was still summer sizzling heat in TX, but a bit cooler weekend was predicted. Austin TX has had 30 days over 100 degrees by the end of July. Scottie, N4AAT needed 4 in south Texas for all cw. Leo, WY7LL, had just given him Crook, WY, another he needed. It was time to get those counties for him. He was closing in on all CW and down to 5, and 4 of them were in south Texas – Dimmit, Zavala, Kinney and Maverick. Why do folks always need the ones far from home? I can drive to TN and back with less miles through 2 states. Or up to NE and back! Texas is a big state. There aren’t too many cw mobiles.

I loaded up the car early on Friday morning - early, like 5:30 am early. Dark outside. Very dark. You have two choices when you have to go through Dallas on a weekday: Before rush hour (before 6am) or after 8:15 or so. Otherwise, you sit in horrible creep and crawl traffic for 2 hours. There was no problem getting through the ‘metroplex’ early in the morning headed down I-35 all the way to San Antonio, putting out the counties as they came up. By noon, I was in the San Antonio area 250 miles down the interstate and kept on heading south down I-35 – then west to get Dimmit and Zavala. When you get to seldom run counties, the pileups are good. Fun!

Conditions were so-so. At times good runs – at other times, maybe only 10 or 15 contacts on all bands combined. 17M worked – sometimes 3 contacts,

sometimes 12 or 15. This was an all CW trip as I was moving fast. I often stop to run SSB when I'm putting out on both modes.

Everything went very well till I got to Dimmit – then suddenly ahead there was a lot of lightning flashing – storms rolling across the normally very dry areas. Constant lightning flashes made it interesting to watch – from a distance. (and constant S9 crashes on the radio). South TX is very flat – like KS and NE – you can see storms 20 miles away and know exactly what lies ahead. It wasn't long before the rain poured down and speeds were down to 40mph instead of 70-75. The speed limit on the interstate down there is 75, and the two lane roads are 70 mph. One of the rare towns along the road had water everywhere on the roads – you splashed through most of the small town – things overloaded the drainage system. It's hard to get rid of water when everything is perfectly flat!

I got to highway 393, and turned north a few miles to run Zavala/Dimmit, then zipped over to Eagle Pass in Maverick. It was only mid afternoon, so it was quickly up through Maverick to Kinney – the last one down there that Scottie needed. Did it on 17M, of course.



N4CD Kinney/Maverick, TX

Then I turned the car toward home and headed north - Up through Val Verde and Edwards zipping along at 70-75 mph.

When I got to Sonora (Sutton County) , I checked the Nav system. Hmm. I could be home in 5 ½ hours getting in at 11 pm or so if I didn't stop. Not this time. No thanks. It had already been a long day with lots of miles driven. N4CD had been on the road for 12 hours, 650 miles, so it was time to crash at a Day's Inn. No Motel 6 in this town. There was a not so great looking budget motel for \$28, but I decided to pass that up and move up a few notches in quality. Dinner next door at the Steak House – Chicken Caesar salad. It was early to bed, early to rise. I had to wait for the restaurant to open at 6am. I was hungry. Pancakes, two eggs over easy, bacon and a couple cups of coffee.

I was on the road by 7am just after sunrise. This is deer territory – small 90 lb deer, but they can do you in, too. I'm not a fan of driving in the dark. No problems today. The trip went up through Schleicher then NE to home. The CW NAQP was set to start at 1800Z, and there was no sense to be out fighting the hordes on cw taking over frequencies, so the goal was to be near home by that starting time. I pulled in the driveway a bit after 1pm – 963 miles – about 32.5 mpg in the car. Tons of contacts and most counties 'put out' on 17M. WA7JHQ was headed to ID, and I caught him in some new ones on that band.

The radio was flakey when the temp was up near 100. At one point on Friday, I had r.f in the car. I had tweaked the antenna a bit, and put the 17M antenna another foot forward. Suddenly, the radio locked itself up in a mode where it tried to send a dit, shut down, sent the dit again. Pressing power off did nothing. Trying to change frequency did nothing. Pulling out the key did nothing. Hmmmm..... I pulled the power cord. Then I re-arranged the coax cables (2) coming into the car, and that seemed to fix it. I need to put the radio in permanently. It's also not happy (gets chirpy) when the outside temp is above 95 or so. I think that is battery voltage problem, but the radio seems happy and putting out 100w. Oh well. Time for a permanent mounting and better grounds. Also I'll put in fat power wire. Right now, I can't shut the car down and run – it gets chirpy and power output is down significantly as soon as the power is off.

40M CW was poor – too 'far' to anywhere from south Texas, and the QRN down south was heavy. The afternoon T-storms were generating constant

S5 to S7 noise level with crashes at S9 plus. Along the interstate – lots of power lines are noisy from Dallas to San Antonio in many counties – all built up. There weren't many worked on 40M. 30M was a bit better with good runs at times. 20M worked all the time from 7am to 6pm – but not to 'everywhere'. Early in the morning it was DX and east coast. Late afternoons propagation was mainly to the west.

It was a good 1 ½ day 'sprint'. I had to 'fit it in' – it's still best to run on weekends if no contests are going on – but any day is better than 'no day' for a trip! Hope you caught me in a few you needed. The car is five months old with over 11,200 miles on it now. County hunters have to be nuts. Too bad I didn't have a clunker to get a free \$4500 from Uncle Sam. Instead, my taxes are paying for someone else's purchase. Good old 'wealth redistribution'.

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However, that's not the end of the story. Scottie still needed one more. He 'reserved' Delta for the whole ball of wax, so it would be 'close by'. Well, it was – but first I had to get the other 4 in 963 miles of driving out of the way before Delta! Hi hi.

Sunday morning came, the Saturday afternoon thunderstorms at home were over and headed east, the weather was hot and humid (85 deg) early in the day, and cloudy (good), and it was time to get him the last one. I loaded up the car with antennas (20/17/30/40 and 40SSB) and headed out after reading the Sunday paper. It wasn't too far to Delta – 67 miles – but about 40 traffic lights the 'short way' – 2 hours plus of driving. I ran my home county - Collin/Hunt county line. I'm good in Collin for the Natural Bingo award – so I guess I should put it out now and then. Then it was over to Delta. I'm good for NB there, too. Serendipity – but of course many have caught me there the two dozen times I've run it before. Others are just beginning to track NB and find they need it.

Bill, K2HVN, was on a trip to MN – running on cw. W8GEJ/W8FNW were in IN running on SSB/CW. Tim, W8JJ put out some, and Kent, KL1V was up in MN. It was busy on cw!



N4CD/m Delta TX – Last WBOW for N4AAT USA-CW

Scottie and I hooked up on 17 meter CW- he was a good 599 signal at that time of day, and he finished USA-CW with that contact. Naturally, I ran the counties for everyone else. Judy, KM9MGI needed that for Bingo – she needs one other in TX and I ran through it, but she was probably at work on Friday. I brought the 40M SSB antenna to catch her on SSB. She occasionally gets on CW when she needs a county – but not often. I was in no hurry today.

Likely this is the first ever WBOW done on 17 meters!

It was still only 11 am, so rather than head back home, I went east to Lamar, Red River, Franklin, then circled back through Hopkins, and Rockwall. So that's how 67 miles one way turns into 253 miles for the Sunday expedition. 17M was fairly good with about 10-15 contacts per county, and 20 was decent most of the time with 10-20 contacts. Clarence, KH6G, and Jonas, LY5A were coming in – not strong but workable. Not much happening on either 40SSB or 40CW – just a handful of contacts on SSB, and fewer on CW. The car pulled into the driveway at 3pm, and the temp was heading toward 100 degrees. Time to hibernate inside for a few hours.

Later it was off to Cici's Pizza Buffet to celebrate that another county hunter finished up for an award! Can't get any better.

British “Food Police”

There’s no end to the left wing radical lunatics in Britain!

“Chocolate bars could be cut in size to help fight the obesity epidemic. The Food Standards Agency wants the average bar to be reduced by up to a fifth to reduce daily calorie intake.

It has drawn up plans for confectioners to make ‘voluntary’ changes to the size of their snacks.

By 2012 the watchdog wants all confectionary to weigh no more than 50g - currently Mars bars are 58g and Bounty bars 57g.

Manufacturers have also been asked to sell bite-size bars as single items rather than as part of multibags.

By 2050 up to 60 per cent of Britons will be obese and the cost to the National Health Service estimated to reach more than £8.4 billion.

The plans, drawn up in an FSA consultation, also propose that within six years, fizzy drinks should be sold in 250 ml containers instead of standard 330ml for most brands

Gill Fine, from the FSA said: 'We are not telling people what to eat. We want to make it easier for people to make healthier choices “

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/food/article-1202898/Calls-chocolate-bars-cut-size-help-fight-obesity.html>

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Not only are they trying to tell people what to eat, but how much they can eat, and what size ‘servings’ they must downgrade to. Smaller portions mandated (voluntary, no way), smaller bottles, less sugar per bottle. The

‘food police’ at work. Now, how soon before ‘the government’ here tries to do the same?

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Don’t think the lunacy won’t happen here?

“The consequences of obesity are affecting more than our health. The time is ripe to reconsider the much-maligned "Twinkie tax."

The concept was pioneered 10 years ago by Kelly Brownell, director of Yale's Center for Eating and Weight Disorders. He proposed that revenue from junk-food taxes be used to subsidize more healthful foods and fund public-awareness campaigns. A national tax of 1 cent per 12-ounce soft drink would generate \$1.5 billion annually, he estimates. Revenue also would be generated from taxes of 1 cent per pound of candy (\$70 million), chips (\$54 million) and other snack foods or fats and oils (\$190 million).

The idea hasn't gotten much traction, but it was revived last year when New York Assemblyman Felix Ortiz proposed taxes on junk food and entertainment contributing to sedentary lifestyles to fund nutrition and exercise programs.

The Twinkie tax has been deemed preposterous by people who believe that our pants size is none of the government's business.

The food industry has skewered Twinkie tax proponents. A recent print ad by the Center for Consumer Freedom, a non-profit coalition of restaurants, food companies and consumers, featured the headline, "You are too stupid to make your own food choices," and it made a scathing reference to the "food police" proposing fat taxes on foods "they don't want you to eat."

http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/editorials/2004-12-01-obesity-edit_x.htm

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But wait...what are the UK folks up to now?

“The Children’s Secretary set out £400 million plans to put 20,000 problem families under 24-hour CCTV super-vision in their own homes.

They will be monitored to ensure that children attend school, go to bed on time and eat proper meals."”

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Don't you dare eat that junk food! Big Brother is watching! Or watch the 'wrong' TV show. Who do we monitor next by TV 24/7? People overweight? Anyone who signs up for the government health plan? Or welfare plan? Big Brother and Big Government are just around the corner. First – take over the banks, then the car companies the oil companies, the insurance companies, the drug companies, the food industry - your company.....there is no end in sight. Then, big brother will watch inside your house! What you eat. What you watch. When you do your homework. Bedroom next? Bathroom? Only approved things there? When will it stop?

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Australian Eco-Loonies don't give up

SHOPPERS face a jump in grocery prices of up to 7 per cent under Labor's scheme to reduce carbon emissions, prompting calls for the Rudd government to come up with a compensation package to help low- and middle-income families.

Big retailers have warned the government that the proposed emissions trading scheme would add between 4 and 7 per cent to shopping bills in what would be a de facto tax on food.

Reserve Bank assistant governor Philip Lowe last week told the House of Representatives economics committee that the ETS would add 0.4 percentage points to the Consumer Price Index measure of inflation in its first year of operation.

However, the Food and Grocery Council believes the increase in grocery prices would be much higher, about 5 per cent.

Large retailers are understood to have also done modelling showing similar results, including a rise in food prices of as much as 7 per cent should Australia adopt the 25 per cent target on emissions reductions by 2020.

"The government has said it will cost consumers \$1 a day, but that fails to accurately calculate the retail price impact on consumers, and there's no real handle on what it's going to cost consumers in the end," he said."

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,25939108-601,00.html>

So far, the Australian Senate has failed to pass any cap and tax legislation. But the left wing loonies keep trying!

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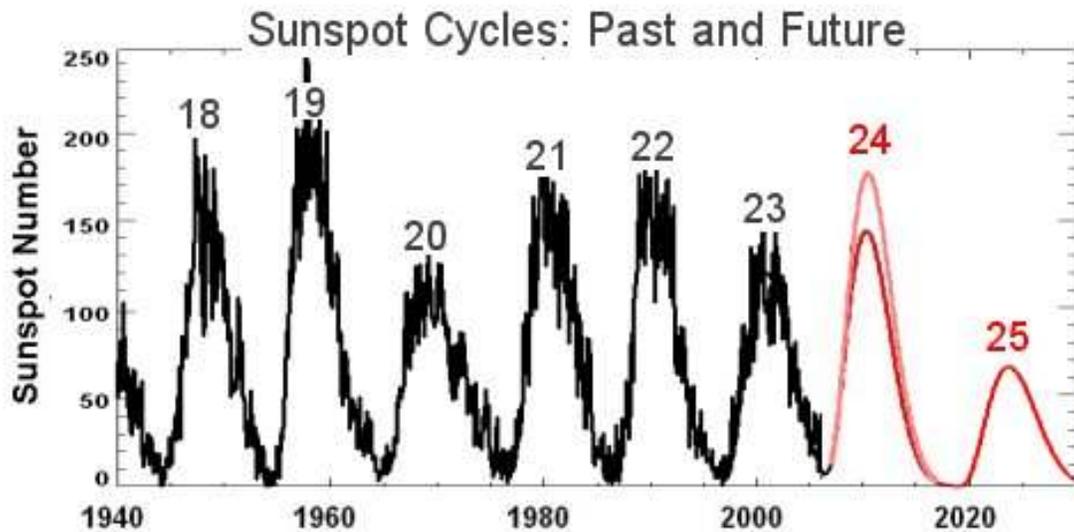
Remember the lib dems telling you that Cap and Tax would only add ‘a postage stamp’ of cost a day to your life? They lied. For just part of the percentage cutback demanded, it’s going to cost Australians a buck a day or more. Obama told you your electricity rates ‘will necessarily skyrocket’. What did you think? 10c a day? No, skyrocketing is going up 30-40% a month. Maybe almost double. Dollars a day. Gasoline? Obama administration says 77c/gallon by 2020 for carbon taxes. Most folks figure it will cost the American family \$3500/yr or so for carbon taxes.

Remember that when you talk or email to your Congressman about ‘cap and trade’ taxation. It’s really cap and tax ...and tax....and tax....and then redistributing the money to certain politically connected groups of people. Think ACORN. Think money going by the millions to ‘community organizers’. Think SEIU like unions. Think bailouts of union health and pension plans with your tax money. Heck, the folks in DC seem very math challenged. First it was a ‘little deficit’. Now it is 9 trillion over the next 10 years - on a good day with lots of optimism and nothing else figured it. Figure 15 or 20 million in 10 years – and that is \$100,000 type debt for every family in the country. The spending has gone to insane levels. The taxes will follow soon.

What? Missing Sunspot Cycle?

Leif Svalgaard writes:

Some speculation that solar cycle 25 has already begun:



From a 2006 NASA News article - In red, David Hathaway's predictions for the next two solar cycles and, in pink, Mausumi Dikpati's prediction for cycle 24, and the expected "low" cycle 25.

Graph source: [NASA News](#)

This would be stunning, because it suggests that the sun has skipped a solar cycle (#24). Researchers, three from the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics and the other from Marshall Space Flight Center-NASA, have published a paper that suggests this possibility.

Does a polar coronal hole's flux emergence follow a Hale-like law?

A. Savcheva¹, J.W. Cirtain², E.E. DeLuca¹, L. Golub¹

ABSTRACT

Recent increases in spatial and temporal resolution for solar telescopes sensitive to EUV and X-ray radiation have revealed the prevalence of

transient jet events in polar coronal holes. Using data collected by the X-Ray Telescope on Hinode, Savcheva et al. (2007) confirmed the observation, made first by the Soft X-ray Telescope on Yohkoh, that some jets exhibit a motion transverse to the jet outflow direction.

The velocity of this transverse motion is, on average, 20 kms⁻¹. The direction of the transverse motion, in combination with the standard reconnection model for jet production (e.g. Shibata et al. 1992), reflects the magnetic polarity orientation of the ephemeral active region at the base of the jet. From this signature, we find that during the present minimum phase of the solar cycle the jet-base ephemeral active regions in the polar coronal holes had a preferred east-west direction, and that this direction reversed during the cycle's progression through minimum.

In late 2006 and early 2007, the preferred direction was that of the active regions of the coming sunspot cycle (Cycle 24), but in late 2008 and early 2009 the preferred direction has been that of the active regions of sunspot cycle 25. These findings are consistent with the results of Wilson et al. (1988) that there is a high latitude expansion of the solar activity cycle.

Full paper here:

<http://xrt.cfa.harvard.edu/resources/pubs/savc0707.pdf>

IOWA QSO Party

One of only 3 states without a regular QSO Party, Iowa hams stepped up to the challenge and has announced they will have a QSO Party this year! That leaves only 2 without QSO Parties!

NN0LOH: "I'm pleased to announce that Iowa will be having a QSO Party on October 17, 2009! A BIG thank you to the Ottumwa ARC for taking on this colossal task! Please help them spread the word!

Here's the details from their website:

<http://www.wa0dx.org/iaqsoparty.html>

QSO Party Period 1400z(9AM CDT) to 2300Z(6PM CDT)

All stations are limited to no more than 125 watts.

Spotting on the packet clusters or via internet is permissible, including self-spotting.

Climate Alarmism Retreads

From June 30, 1989:

GRIM FORECAST

http://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives?p_product=SJ&am...

*A senior environmental official at the United Nations, Noel Brown, says entire nations could be wiped off the face of the earth by rising sea **levels if global warming is not reversed by the year 2000**. Coastal flooding and crop failures would create an exodus of "eco-refugees," threatening political chaos, said Brown, director of the New York office of the U.N. Environment Program. He said governments have a 10-year window of opportunity to solve the greenhouse effect...*

20 years later:

www.cleveland.com/world/index.ssf/2009/08/un_chief_calls_cli...

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Monday that climate change is the greatest challenge facing a world beset by crises and called on governments to reach a deal on the environment at a meeting in Denmark later this year.

Ban said the world has "less than 10 years to halt (the) global rise in greenhouse gas emissions if we are to avoid catastrophic consequences for people and the planet."

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20 years later and the same shrill message the Earth will end tomorrow if we don't do a massive wealth redistribution, kill economies worldwide, and do silly things in the name of 'greenies', while ignoring most of the real problems. European cap and trade has been a massive failure, raised electric rates to 3 or 4 times that in the USA (25c/KWH) , transferred jobs out of Europe, slowed their growth, caused chronic high unemployment, not closed a single coal fired power plant, and they want us to suffer as much as they are? No thanks.

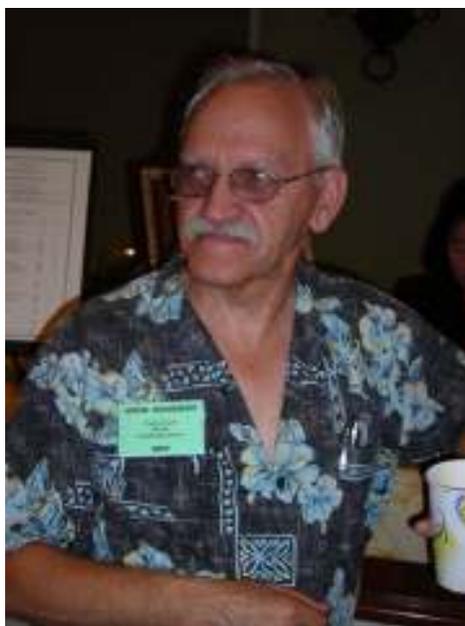
On the Road with N4CD III

The Austin Hamfest comes up every August – it was a good excuse to go mobile down the road for a few hours. Richmond has the 'Frost Fest'. This should be called the "Sweat Fest". It was hot – 100 degrees plus all the way down I-35 to Travis County. The traffic in Austin near rush hour is still some of the worst in the entire country. I'm not sure why folks still keep moving there!

The hamfest is held at the Marriott. Friday night saw about 500 people shopping in the indoor flea market looking for bargains. I didn't see anything I just had to have. I stayed nearby at a Red Roof Inn. Still 95 degrees at 10 pm. Yuk.

At 6am, the outdoor swapfest of about 20 cars was in full operation. By 8 am, all the stuff that was going to be sold was sold. It was already in the mid 80s by then, headed for 104 or so. Things then moved inside.

County Hunters that showed up included Chuck, NO5W, the chief promoter, log checker, and the 'spark plug' behind the Texas QSO Party – the next one is coming up in September toward the end of the month. Bob, KK5MI, Charlie, KE5AY, Larry, K5OT, plus quite a few of the fixed station and multi-op people showed up. W5ESE goes out portable QRP in a county each year up in the mountains backpacking. NM5G and others multi-op out of Harris County.



Charlie KE5AY

On the way home, I took a short detour to get some new counties this year with Bastrop and Lee, then back home up the interstate. Larry, W0QE was on the way to NC. Kent, KL1V was running in IL, Mike, NF0N was in NE, W4HSA, Jim, ran some in VA, and Bill, KM1C was headed west on his trip. It was busy at times on 20M with mobiles running one right after another. I looked for some MD stations to work in the MDC QSO Party – but none to be found. There was a EU CW contest making a mess of 20 meters. I was home before dinner – just a short 450 mile trip down and back. I made contacts from every county I tried on 17M, from 2-12 or so. I need to add some resonators for more bands in the mobile!

Sahara Desert Turning Green

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2009/07/090731-green...>

“Desertification, drought, and despair—that's what global warming has in store for much of Africa. Or so we hear. Emerging evidence is painting a very different scenario, one in which rising temperatures could benefit millions of Africans in the driest parts of the continent.

Scientists are now seeing signals that the Sahara desert and surrounding regions are greening due to increasing rainfall. If sustained, these rains could revitalize drought-ravaged regions, reclaiming them for farming communities.

This desert-shrinking trend is supported by climate models, which predict a return to conditions that turned the Sahara into a lush savanna some 12,000 years ago.”

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Carbon Taxes

<http://thehill.com/leading-the-news/climate-bill-could-cost-...>

Add another climate bill cost estimate to the growing pile.

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) and the American Council for Capital Formation (ACCF) released a study Wednesday that found under a high-cost scenario the House global warming bill could **reduce economic growth by 2.4 percent and cost 2 million jobs by 2030.**

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Hey, you know about the “Apollo Alliance”? That’s Obama’s left wing support group composed of the ‘social justice crowd’ including ACORN, the left wing greenie groups including Green Peace, and labor unions – such as AFL-CIO, SEIU, UAW, etc. They were hoping for a quick ‘moon shot’ to ram through Cap and Tax, Card Check, Socialized Medicine and give the lib dems total control over most of the economy.

It’s no coincidence that Obama’s ‘Green Czar’ Van Jones is an avowed communist, a director of the Center for American Progress (Marxist think tank), is directly tied in with the “Apollo’ Alliance which coordinates the unions, left wing eco-nuts, and ACORN folks, promising them big bonuses for supporting him.

Cap and Trade (Tax) is the pay off to the ‘green alliance’. Card check will be the payoff to the unions, as will be socialized universal health care for the ‘social justice’ crowd (illegals, barely legals/amnesty crowd and low income folks looking for more government goodies for free) – another step toward total amnesty as well. Thus, three groups with entirely different interests are marching in lock-step to get THEIR desires passed, blind to the other factors.

Obama tells you that ‘taking care of your brother’ is a **moral imperative** in trying to get his health care takeover passed, but his half brother in Kenya gets by on less than a dollar a day and can’t afford school, his illegal auntie is living in tax payer subsidized housing in Boston – waiting to be deported, and he can’t dig into HIS pocket for a dime or dollar or more to help either one out. He wants YOUR income and tax dollars for everyone else. Amazing, isn’t it? How big a hypocrite can you be? Oh – right! The lib dems want YOU to fork over bucks, but they don’t even start to voluntarily do it themselves! Now just who do you think is going to pay for all that healthcare? (middle class America).

Well, at least they haven’t been able to screw up the ham bands, but who knows? They’ll be trying to re-instate BPL some how to ‘serve those low income folks with BPL’ or other reasons to ride roughshod over you. The ‘little guy’ doesn’t count – only more and more government control. It’s going to be a lot different in just a few years. Wait until his minions tell you there is no gas for county hunting any longer – not an ‘approved activity’!

On the Road with N4CD IV

Wow...a bunch of trips this month – but never left the state – drove 2500 miles.....one and two day trips.

There was a hamfest in Cooke County – about 65 miles up the road. I left home about 6am to get to the hamfest before all the goodies were gone. It’s a small one, but I try to support my local hamfests. They start early in TX. The outside flea market is going at daylight – six AM. Well, I didn’t make

that, but made it by 7:30 or so. I hadn't been mobile in a week or so. After the hamfest, I headed west.

Jim, VA3XOV needed just one in TX and was down under 10 to go to get USACA. N1BY needed just one in TX. Others wanted counties west of Cooke. So, after an hour at the hamfest it was off to the west – Montague, Clay, Wichita – and then through some of the less run counties like Archer, Baylor – and Knox and King. Dang – I think they closed the only gas station in King County in Guthrie- they build a new highway intersection half a mile south of town, so most people can pass right on by 'the' gas station that used to be there. Now – gone – shut down – abandoned. If you live there, you drive 30 miles to find a tank of gas. The entire county has about 300 residents, and nearly all work for the 6666 ranch, which owns most of the county, or the very small county government.

It was already 2:30, so it was time to swing south down to Stonewall, then to get Fisher. Lunch would have to wait. I finally got a cheeseburger – no bread – it was made on a tortilla folded up. That was a new one on me.

It was a busy day with mobiles. Jerry, W0GXQ, was busy running in IA with NF0N, Mike. Bill, KM1C was in KY and WV. Bill, K2HVN was in ND and MT working his way west. It was also the OH QSO Party weekend, and W9MSE plus at least a half dozen mobiles were out in OH after the OH QSO Party started. So there was a lot to chase on this Saturday.

I had success hooking up with VA3XOV in Fisher, his LC in TX.



Fisher/Stonewall TX – LC TX for VA3XOV

I still take a bunch of “Percy Pics”. It’s easy with the digital camera, and fun to have pics of the LC for the folks. I usually send the high resolution pics directly to mobiles for their LC when I remember or have the pic. Here we have to settle for low res pictures otherwise each edition of the CHNews would be 10-15 megabytes. We scrunch them down in resolution.

This was not the day for 17M. The best run was about 6, and most runs were 1-3. K8CW was about the most heard. Once or twice, conditions cooperated and sigs rolled in, but most of the day it was real poor on 17M. There was a coronal hole that came around on the sun. The lower bands worked well, with Jerry, W0GXQ having great runs on 30M and 40M. When I hit the seldom run counties, the contacts piled up for me, too.

On the way back, I ran through Haskell, Throckmorton, into Jack and Wise. Gordon, KL7GN, was on from the 3rd. Nice to hear him on again. A few EU DX, but not many this trip.



County Line Jack/Wise TX

Jack, TX, was the last county (LC) in TX for N1BY. I went flying by the first sign, ran through the county, and caught this one on the way out – made quick U-turn, took the percy-pic, then another U-turn then headed on home. The temps were hitting 100F on the car thermometer but the weather was clear – good county hunting weather for TX. You just get dried out from the a/c all day. After Wise, I just tuned around looking for OH. Worked 50 OH stations from the mobile on 20M and some 40M. A whole lot better than NJ and MD QSO parties!

I hit Denton County and made a nice stop at the Cracker Barrel. Had, what else, a ‘country HAM’ dinner, then headed home after 14 hours on the road, and 540 miles. Hmm...65 miles to the hamfest and 475 miles getting back home after I left the hamfest. Two LC on this trip, which is not easy to do in TX with the 254 counties, made it worthwhile! Lots of the needs are too far away for a one day trip, so I’ll have to plan some weekenders to get those.

Barrels of Oil

“Aug. 27 marks the sesquicentennial of the first oil well, which was drilled in Titusville, Penn. It has been more than a century since any major producer shipped oil in an actual barrel, but the unit has been the industry's standard ever since the overwhelmed Pennsylvania oilmen struck their first gusher. Before U.S. drilling began in 1859, "rock oil" (to differentiate it from vegetable oil or animal fat) was sopped up with rags, wrung out and peddled as a cure for everything from headaches to deafness. Spurred by demand for lamp fuel as whale blubber grew scarce, derricks popped up all over Pennsylvania's oil region in the 1860s--although subsequent overproduction drove prices so far down that at one point, a wooden barrel was worth twice as much as the oil it contained, according to Daniel Yergin's definitive tome on oil, *The Prize*.

But as the oil boom took hold and the barrel size was set at 42 gal. (160 L), Pennsylvania's roads became clogged with horse-drawn wagons piled high with the containers, prompting construction of the first oil pipelines (made of wood) and leading 25-year-old John D. Rockefeller to form what became the Standard Oil Co. It would eventually control up to 90% of U.S. oil-refining until the company was broken up in 1911.”

Source: <http://www.time.com/time/business/article/0,8599,1918955,00.html>

Where are the Spotters?

On some weekends, I've listened to 20-30 people work a mobile, and NOT one of them spot the mobile on 20M. I know most of them are watching spots and show up instantly if a county is spotted they need, but they are too lazy to spot the counties themselves. They are giving/getting 599 reports. Sad! Meanwhile, others are struggling just to hear the mobile. Some day I have the feeling I should get 'deaf' to some of those who are the first to work you once the spot hits, climb all over others, and never spot you. It's frustrating. Is there a solution? I watched as mobiles have had 10 minute

runs and not one person bothers to spot. What can you say? Come on folks, spot some mobiles. And don't sweat it if two spot at the same time.

Keeping Healthy

“A new study finds obese people have 8 percent less brain tissue than normal-weight individuals. Their brains look 16 years older than the brains of lean individuals, researchers said today.

Those classified as overweight have 4 percent less brain tissue and their brains appear to have aged prematurely by 8 years.

The results, based on brain scans of ...people in their 70s, represent "severe brain degeneration," said Paul Thompson, senior author of the study and a UCLA professor of neurology.

"That's a big loss of tissue and it depletes your cognitive reserves, putting you at much greater risk of Alzheimer's and other diseases that attack the brain," said Thompson. "But you can greatly reduce your risk for Alzheimer's, if you can eat healthily and keep your weight under control."

Obese people had lost brain tissue in the frontal and temporal lobes, areas of the brain critical for planning and memory, and in the anterior cingulate gyrus (attention and executive functions), hippocampus (long-term memory) and basal ganglia (movement), the researchers said in a statement today. Overweight people showed brain loss in the basal ganglia, the corona radiata, white matter comprised of axons, and the parietal lobe (sensory lobe).

"The brains of obese people looked 16 years older than the brains of those who were lean, and in overweight people looked 8 years older," Thompson said.

The research was funded by the National Institute on Aging, National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, National Center for Research Resources, and the American Heart Association.”

Carbon Sequestration – The Myth

The fate of the Waxman-Markey climate bill rests upon two myths about so-called "clean coal." The first is that coal, as used today in the U.S., is a dirty fuel. The other is that coal can be made "clean" by capturing carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from power plants and storing them underground in geologic repositories.

Some in the coal and electric-power industries are touting the second myth in hopes of being able to survive climate legislation with hard emission caps that may be enacted this fall. These groups are looking for time and **taxpayer money** to develop CO₂ capture and sequestration (CCS) technologies that would allow the continued use of coal in power plants. The Waxman-Markey bill that is now being considered in Congress would provide about \$60 billion for CCS technologies.

The problem, though, is that even if \$60 billion were enough money to implement CCS — and it's not by a long shot — it would make no difference to the atmosphere and climate, regardless of whether you believe the first myth.

In 2007, U.S. coal-fired power plants emitted about 2.4 billion metric tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere, meaning that about one billion metric tons of CO₂ remained in the atmosphere. Since each part per million of CO₂ in the atmosphere weighs about 7.81 billion metric tons, the annual accumulation of CO₂ in the atmosphere resulting from U.S. power-plant emissions is on the order of 0.12 ppm.

So if CCS were commenced immediately and continued until, say, the year 2100, that would avoid accumulation of atmospheric CO₂ by about 11 ppm — not exactly an earth-shaking amount. EPA scenarios forecast future CO₂ levels to rise to 500 to 700 ppm.

Using the climate models relied on by the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that attempt to project atmospheric warming caused by

CO₂, the theoretical amount of atmospheric warming avoided by CCS works out to between 0.045 to 0.15 degree Celsius avoided over the next 90 years. Again, this is hardly significant compared with the 0.7-degree increase we seem to have experienced since 1850.

In a presentation to the Society of Petroleum Engineers last March, energy expert Michael Economides estimated that CO₂ cuts on the order of the U.S.-shunned Kyoto Protocol would require the drilling of 161,429 injection wells **by 2030 at a cost of \$1.61 trillion.**

That price tag doesn't include the cost of capturing the CO₂ at the point of generation, purchasing rights of way for pipelines, pipeline installation costs, and liability insurance. Power plants would have to use 30% more energy for CO₂ capture, transport and storage.

Economides says the total cost may be as high as **\$1 trillion annually** — without any guarantees that the CO₂ would stay sequestered. Importantly, the Kyoto Protocol requirement of a 7% reduction in CO₂ emissions from 1990 levels pales in comparison to that required by Waxman-Markey — an 83% reduction from 2005 levels.

For those who still hold dear the fantasy of CCS, it may serve to remember ill-fated Yucca Mountain, the almost 30-year-old project to develop a site for storing spent nuclear fuel from commercial power plants one mile under the Nevada desert.

Despite tens of billions of dollars spent on site planning and engineering, Nevada NIMBY-ism and anti-nuclear power activists delayed the project long enough for the Obama administration to defund the project.

If the comparatively small Yucca Mountain project could not be made to happen, it's doubtful that hundreds, if not thousands, of miles of pipelines carrying pressurized CO₂ to much more uncertain underground entombment and possible environmental contamination will happen either.”

<http://www.ibdeditorial.com/IBDArticles.aspx?id=336090108235252>

The first European demonstration project in Europe is in trouble because people don't want 'that deadly CO₂' stored under their town, where microfractures could allow it to escape and kill all the residents in the town.

Also, there is growing opposition to high pressure CO2 lines being built all over the country to suitable injection sites.

So do we really spend a trillion a year for nothing? Stay tuned. The Cap and Tax bill is not about the environment – it is about total control over the economy and the ability to tax and tax and tax. Energy policy? Hardly – you won't even see the words 'nuclear power' mentioned in the Cap and Tax bill, yet advanced nuclear reactors will likely lead the way to more environmentally friendly power. Oh – the democrats need the ultra radical eco-whacks who hate nuclear to be on board to get this passed, so it never will say the word 'nuclear'. Politics at work. Or should we say Politicians at work buying votes?

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It turns out that 'storing carbon' will take 3 times the space of the hydrocarbons – if you take out 1000 cu feet of coal or oil, you need 3000 cu feet to store the CO2 – each carbon atom now has two oxygen molecules attached – taking even more storage room. If we start to store the CO2 produced by burning coal and oil and natural gas – we'll run out of space to store the CO2 long before we run out of new oil, coal and natural gas. Did your folks in DC tell you that? I bet not. Just a 'minor detail'. Oh, and that 'stored' CO2 might kill you if it leaks out or a pipeline breaks near your house or school or place of work.

Peak Oil Update

“The biofuels revolution that promised to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil is fizzling out.

Two-thirds of U.S. biodiesel production capacity now sits unused, reports the National Biodiesel Board. Biodiesel, a crucial part of government efforts to develop alternative fuels for trucks and factories, has been hit hard by the recession and falling oil prices.

The global credit crisis, a glut of capacity, lower oil prices and delayed

government rules changes on fuel mixes are threatening the viability of two of the three main biofuel sectors -- biodiesel and next-generation fuels derived from feedstocks other than food. Ethanol, the largest biofuel sector, is also in financial trouble, although longstanding government support will likely protect it.

Earlier this year, GreenHunter Energy Inc., operator of the nation's largest biodiesel refinery, stopped production and in June said it may have to sell its Houston plant, only a year after politicians presided over its opening. Dozens of other new biodiesel plants, which make a diesel substitute from vegetable oils and animal fats, have stopped operating because biodiesel production is no longer economical.”

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125133578177462487.html>

Awards

Five Star #40	N1BY, Jim	7/26/09
USA-CW #104	N4AAT, Scottie	8/2/09
USA-CW #105	AK8A, Steve	8/13.09
Sixth Time #33	AK8A, Steve	8/13/09
Bingo #311	KB0BA, Lowell	8/21/09
USA-CW #105	W8CE, Aaron	8/23/09
Second Time #390	KI7WO, Alan	8/23/09
Second Time #391	W8CE, Aaron	8/25/09
N-Prefix #4	W6TMD, Darrel	8/27/09

Upcoming Events for County Hunters

Colorado QSO Party Call sign, name, and county or S/P/C

www.ppraa.org/coqp

Sep 5, 1200Z - Sep 6, 0400Z CW--1.850, 3.550, 7.050, 14.050, 21.050, 28.050; Phone--1.870, 3.850, 7.250, 1

Tennessee QSO Party RS(T) and county or S/P/C www.tnqp.org

Sep 6, 1800Z - Sep 7, 0300Z

Arkansas QSO Party RS(T), county or S/P or "DX"

www.arkanhams.org

Sep 12, 1400Z - Sep 13 2400Z CW--3.550, 7.050, 14.050, 21.050, 28.050;
Phone--3.980, 7.260, 14.260, 21.360,

Washington State Salmon Run RS(T) and county or S/P/C

www.wwdxc.org

Sep 19, 1600Z - Sep 20, 2400Z

South Carolina QSO Party RS(T) and county or S/P/C w4cae.org

Sep 19, 1300Z - Sep 20, 2100Z CW--1.805, 50 kHz above band edge;
Phone--1.845, 3.86, 7.261, 14.27, 21.37, 28.37

Texas QSO Party RS(T), county or S/P/C www.txqp.net

Sep 26, 1400Z - Sep 27 2000Z CW--20 to 50 kHz above band edge; Phone--
25 kHz above edge of General seg

Don't forget the 3M Old Timers reunion in Manchester.

That's it for this month's issue.