

# County Hunter News

June 1, 2011  
Volume 7, Issue 6

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 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.

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

You can see live spots of county hunter activity at [ch.W6RK.com](http://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](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](http://www.countyhunter.com) . Back issues of the County Hunter News are available at [www.CHNewsonline.com](http://www.CHNewsonline.com)

De N4CD (email: [telegraphy@verizon.net](mailto:telegraphy@verizon.net) )

## Notes from the Editor

1 ) May was a good month for county hunting. We had many nice trips with the longer weather. AA9JJ/N9PQ were in AK, and we just had a bunch go to Hawaii and put that out. The Dayton Hamvention was held with likely 100 county hunters at the convention.

Conditions get better – some days are great, other days are lackluster. 17M was good on many days, and with the trips, there's been a fair amount of activity on 30M.

The DX has been in with OH3JF, DL3DXX, G3WPF, OK2EC, OK5KE, G3VRX, OK1KT, OK1VD, LY5A, DL6KVA, DL3IAC appearing in many longs. Alan, VK4AAR has been having good success for a few hours on 20M in the mornings.

The spring severe weather season continues with tornado outbreaks and other conditions around the country. The Mississippi river flooded closing many secondary roads for weeks, and closing some interstates. Northern flooding in MT and elsewhere shut down interstates as well, so travel got to be interesting in some locations. Near record snow packs are keeping many camping areas and secondary roads shut in WY, MT, ID, CO.

### **Mobile Activity**

The month of April ended with the mini in MI. Some of the mobiles headed to and from the convention were Dan, KM9X, Bob, N8KIE, Tony, WA9DLB, Dave KW1DX, Randy, AA8R, Bill, WG9A, Steve AK8A, Larry, W7FEN, Pete, NN9K, Paul, WD9EJK. Conditions were 'good' on the way up – then the geomagnetic disturbance with A index over 20 made hearing the mobiles really tough on the way home. Ah – solar activity – both good and bad.

Tom, K8YJ was spotted down in SC and in many counties in WV. He made it up to Dayton later in the month.

Jeffrey, AF3X, ran around in WA after his trip out there, then headed to run all of HI. Then went to AK and ran all 4 districts. Then headed back running them along the way. He'll have a few gas bills to remember the trip by.

Mike, NF0N, was spotted out in NE and the southeast corner of SD. He headed to Dayton for the hamfest.

Bob, K7TM, was spotted in WA counties.

AA9JJ, Frank, and Kay, N9QPQ headed out from AZ, went up to WA, then headed to AK to run them there. Made it up to the Second District, too. They ran down through MT on the way back home to AZ.

Dave, KW1DX, returned from the MI mini back to New England. He's now chasing counties on CW.

K7RE, KS5A and AB7RW were out mobile in the 7QP (Seven Land QSO Party). Phil, ran back to home via a bunch of counties.

Dan, KM9X and Judy, KB9MGI were out in the Indiana QSO Party.

Scottie, N4AAT, headed south from SC into GA, ran a bunch, then headed home.

Gene, K5GE, ran a few in TX.

Jack, N7IV, was running counties in ND.

Art, N4PJ and Marsha headed up to Dayton OH. Then back. Lots of counties along the way. 3,648 miles on this trip

Ed, KN4Y was mobile in the FL QSO Party.

Dan, AA0TT, was on almost daily in the big rig from all over the country.

Bill, KM1C, was up in NJ and nearby PA

Ton, K8YJ was in TN and then further south

Larry, W7FEN, made a big cross country trip headed east running hundreds of counties along the way.

Jason, KG4VBK, spotted out in TN

Jim, N9JF, had another month of heading every which way and keeping busy putting out counties as he headed to business appointments. He made it over to Dayton, too.

Barry, N0KV, and Pat, N0DXE, headed over to MO running the counties along the way.

Ron, KB6UF headed to Maine. While there he put out the rest of the state. He'll be headed home in June.

Phil, AB7RW, was out and about in WA and OR.

KI4ACW was mobile in many states, including GA and AL.

K7TM put out some counties in the northwest USA. OR, ID, into MT.

Seth, N3MRA, was out and about in OK and KS and other states.

N7JPF spotted out in WA state. He's now joined the group chasing counties on CW, too!

Gene, K5GE, put out two or three in TX for the folks. He'll be headed up to Branson soon, putting out more MD ones.

K0FG was out in MO on CW.

NX4C was busy running lots of TN counties.

WY4D was out in VA running counties.

Jerry, W0GXQ, and Jeff, W9MSE met each other in MN and went running all over the state putting them out.

On the way to and from Dayton, along with N4PJ, we had Bob, N8KIE, Tim, W8JJ, N4CD, N9JF, NF0N, N4PJ, K8ZZ, and a dozen other mobiles keeping the bands hopping.

Jim, K0ARS, was over in KS putting them out on CW.

Jim, W4HSA ran some in VA

Cliff, K6JN, and Nelda, W6XJN, wandered from FL back to the west.

Kerry, W4SIG, spotted over in ARK.

Bill, K2HVN, was out mobile in VA and MD.

KB9AIT/K9WI spotted headed to Dayton and back on SSB.

Jack, N7IV, was over in WI running them.

Don, N5XG, was out in TX putting them out.

W3DQT was in WV on CW.

Ed, K8ZZ, started in northern MI, headed down to the southwest corner, where he met up with Tim, W8JJ. Then they headed to Dayton.

Jerry K1SO spotted along his route from VA to Dayton on SSB..

Matt, W0NAC, and Sharon, N0LXJ, took a trip down to NM and back.

Jerry, N4JR, headed on up to Dayton running them on SSB.

Mike, KA4RRU, left Fauquier VA headed to Dayton, running them on SSB on multiple bands along the way. On the way back, he spent some time in WV running them there.

Carl, W9OO, long time county hunter, was spotted on the way to Dayton.

Doug, WA4UNS, put the pedal to the metal and headed up to Dayton to join in on the fun.

AF5Q spotted in a few in OKLA on CW.

Dave, KW1DX, was spotted up in Maine.

Kirby, W8DCD, seen out and about in MI.

Bob, KA9JAC was noted on SSB in some WI counties.

Scottie, N4AAT, spotted in a few in SC.

Larry, W7FEN, put out some of the rarer ones in COLO – he noted lots of snow up at 11,000 feet but the roads in good shape.

Jim, VA3XOV headed to NY and ran some desperately needed ones there.

Dennis, N6PDB, with Susan, WA6OCV, put out counties in CA.

W5IL seen out and about in IA.

Gene, K5GE, headed up to Branson, MO via ARK counties, then after a short stop there, over to Tulsa, OK and back home swinging wide to the west in TX.

Karl, K4YT, headed up to WV putting out the counties.

Sterling, WA7JHQ headed over to KS for the Memorial Day weekend.

Jeff, W9MSE, headed over to OH from WI.

N5AWE spotted out in TX and OK.

## Peak Oil Update

### **Russia at Peak Production**

MOSCOW — An ominous Russian state study warned the government Tuesday that it faced a light crude oil shortage that meant it could only sustain its world-topping production rates for another 15 years.

The annual ministry of natural resources survey painted a bleak Russian energy picture that also pointed to problems in future export rates of natural gas -- the domain of its largest and most important company Gazprom.

But most of the problems focused on oil and its deteriorating and diminishing quality in Russia's Soviet-era wells.

The detailed study said Russia was tapping its existing light crude reserves in western Siberia at alarming rates while failing to replace them with new finds in regions that sit further away from the industrial heartland.

The ministry concluded that oil quality was deteriorating steadily as a result and Russia could only sustain current annual production rates of 500 million tonnes for another 13 to 15 years.

"Russia has less than 30 percent of oil that 'flows' -- the remaining 70 percent is very heavy, viscous and hard-to-recover," said the survey while pointing to some western Siberian fields that stood more than two-thirds empty.

It added that most of the crude being produced now was of the light variety demanded on the world market -- meaning that more and more of what Russia had left over demanded extra amounts of processing.

Top government officials have spent years warning about too little money being invested in the development of untapped reserves in far-flung regions of eastern Siberia.

Oil companies have lobbied in favor of state policies that introduce tax breaks on firms that export from newly discovered locations and invest in geological survey work.

But the latest government findings show investment in new oil exploration declining by 40 percent and actual work going down nearly 50 percent.

The ministry also noted that the work being done in new locations was disappointing and discovering only small traces of oil.

"So far, the expectations are not being fulfilled," the Russian natural resource ministry said.

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Russia regained the world's top oil production ranking in the past decade and has been the world's top natural gas exporter throughout the post-Soviet era.

Gazprom has been forced to temporarily stall the development of its Shtokman field in the Barents Sea after discovering the United States was no longer willing to import its expected supplies.

The state-run giant also reported a drop in European sales last year and the Russian ministry warned that further complications for Gazprom were likely.

"European consumers are increasing their liquefied gas purchases, seeking to at least partially replace the Russian pipeline supplies," said the survey.

"This trend is irreversible," it starkly noted.

# AI5P Hawaii Trip

Hawaii 2011

I had been thinking about a Hawaiian trip for a couple of years and in September, 2010, decided to start planning. The next couple of months brought research into airlines, hotels, rental cars and thoughts of what type of antennas to use. By December, 2010, the travel plans were in place. I had also sought feedback and advice on a variety of subjects from fellow county hunters K1ER, KL1V, N4CD, G4KHG, KS5A, WQ7A, N8KIE, AA8R and AA9JJ/N9QPQ. They all provided me with good insight on operating in Hawaii and places to visit.

I decided to use Ham Stick antennas due to their compact size. I ordered 40, 30, 20, 17, and 15 meter Ham Sticks and a new Mag mount. I also bought a MFJ-259 SWR analyzer to tune the antennas on my car here. This was done and the antennas tested on the air. How to transport them? I bought a piece of 2 inch PVC and cut it to 48 inches. I had a ski bag cut down to meet the airlines' maximum size of 62 linear inches. With caps on each end of the PVC, the antennas were strongly protected for transport. I found the 15 meter rod about 1.5 inches too long so that antenna was dropped from the mix. The transceiver was my venerable Icom IC-706. The rig and the antennas worked out very well.



Hamstick Antennas in PVC pipe carrier



I arrived in Honolulu on the afternoon of March 22 after the flight from Albuquerque via Dallas. No major surprises - but the \$ 160 for my bags (two suitcases and the antenna bag - the third bag is \$ 100) wasn't much fun to pay!

I did not plan on operating in Honolulu during the first stop. I stayed at the Hale Koa Hotel (part of the Fort DeRussy Armed Forces Recreation Center), right on Waikiki Beach. Excellent hotel and highly recommended for those eligible to use! I spent two days strictly as a tourist - Waikiki Beach, Pearl Harbor and the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial, Iolani Palace, Honolulu Academy of Arts, the Aloha Tower, a "circle tour" of Oahu to include the North Shore surfing areas and the Dole Plantation, and dramatic views of Diamond Head. Wow - quite a start to the trip!

On March 25th I flew to the "Big Island" or Hawaii County as we know it. At Hilo airport I picked up my first rental car - a Mazda3. A nice car and performed quite well. When they say the "Big Island" they mean it - all of the other islands would fit inside the area of this island. Here I had arranged to stay at the Leillani B&B run by Randy, KH6RC, and his wife Lynn at Ocean View of the SW side of the island. It was about a 2 hour drive from the airport.

On the way there I attempted my first mobile contacts and only managed two - the first being WQ7A on 20 meters SSB. Conditions weren't the best over the next few days. I managed to work 47 stations: 11 on 20 meters SSB, 26 on 20 meters CW, 4 on 17 meters SSB, and 6 on 17 meters CW. 30 and 40 meters were a bust. I did work portable during the CQ WPX contest and worked over 1300 stations using the KH6RC station - An Icom 756 Pro III, Steppir Yagi and Swan Mark II amp. A number of county hunters were worked during the contest.

Sightseeing included the Pacific Tsunami Museum, Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden, Akaka waterfalls, Ka Lae at the southernmost point in the U.S. - debatable since the Territory of American Samoa might have a very legitimate claim! , - Punalu'u Black Sand Beach (with turtles), Volcanoes National Park and the Pu'uuhonua O Honaunau National Historical Park (Place of Refuge). Unfortunately, part of this last park was closed due to tsunami damage from the horrendous Japanese earthquake/tsunami of March 11th.

I spent the last night in Hilo as I had an early flight back to Honolulu. I had planned on running the county again but it was raining cats and dogs - so that ended that idea!. Actually, there was lots of rain during my time on the "Big Island" - but I didn't mind as it has been months since a decent rain in Albuquerque.

So the next morning (March 30), I turned in the rental car (624 miles driven) after filling it up (\$ 4.40 a gallon) and flew to Molokai via Honolulu.

Molokai is a very laid back island and not one of the most visited. County hunters go there because it has both Maui and Kalawao counties. I stayed at the Hotel Molokai which has been

recently remodeled and is quite nice. It even has a nice restaurant and floor shows. The Hula was supposedly begun on Molokai so you can imagine the floor shows!

The rental car turned out to be a Dodge Charger - a muscle car! No small cars were even rented - it was the Dodge or a Minivan or a big Jeep. So I kept the gas guzzler.... no other choice at the time. The only "town" is Kaunakakai which has the island's two gas stations and a two or three block "main drag" with all the stores



The 'town' on Molokai

So I headed up to Palaau State Park which overlooks the famous Kalaupapa peninsula and Kalawao county. I ran the county line of Maui and Kalawao in the park as advised by others who have been there. The first contact was with NF0N on 17 meters CW and the first SSB contact was with KM6HB on 20 meters. With several trips to the park, a total of 125 contacts were made: 17 meters SSB - 2, 17 meters CW - 33, 20 meters SSB - 28, 20 meters CW - 27, 30 meters CW - 19, and 40 meters CW - 16.

I also had the good fortune to meet and have lunch with Merv, K9FD/KH6 (ex-KH7C), who lives on Molokai. He only operates CW and is primarily a DXer.

I wanted to ride the mules down to the Kalaupapa National Historical Park but I was disappointed to find out they were fully booked for the next couple of weeks. I later found out you could actually walk down with special permission but I suspect that walk back up would

have been torturous!

Not too many tourist activities but I did enjoy visiting the Molokai Museum, the R.W. Meyer Sugar Mill, Coffees of Hawaii and experiencing one of my favorite adventures of the whole trip - a morning of whale watching! That was pretty exciting and I got quite a few good photos.

On April 1st I departed for Kauai. Of course, I had to fill up the Charger (216 miles) and with gas \$ 4.78 a gallon it cost me \$ 67... Ouch! I arrived at Lihue, Kauai, via Honolulu that afternoon. I stayed at the Garden Island Inn in Lihue which was quite nice and very interesting with its decorative motif. This time I got a very nice Hyundai Accent to spirit me around this beautiful island. I ran the county several times at different locations. The first contact was with K7INA on 20 meters CW and the first SSB contact was with AD6PB also on 20 meters. Eventually 121 contacts were made: 17 meters SSB: 5, 17 meters CW: 31, 20 meters SSB: 29, 20 meters CW: 30, 30 meters CW: 10, 40 meters CW: 15 and 40 meters SSB: 1.

Kauai is famous for rain but I was pretty fortunate. Only a few showers while I drove around the island (313 miles) and visited the Kauai Plantation Railway, Waimea Canyon ("Grand Canyon of the Pacific"), Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge with its iconic lighthouse



Kilauea Lighthouse

and the Kauai Museum and Wailua Falls. Kauai is also a shopper's "paradise" with just too many beautiful things to buy... my credit card took some big "hits" here!

On April 5th I flew back to Honolulu to finish up sightseeing and run my last Hawaiian county. My rental car was a Honda Civic Sedan and I again stayed at the Hale Koa. I basically drove around the "circle tour" route I had taken earlier to make some more stops and run the county. The first contact was with AH6V on the "Big Island" on 20 meters SSB and the first CW contact was with K7TM also on 20 meters. I ran the county a few times including once from the third floor (open roof) of the hotel parking lot downtown. A total of 42 contacts were made: 17 meters SSB: 3, 17 meters CW: 9, 20 meters SSB: 8, 20 meters CW: 11, 30 meters CW: 8, and 40 meters CW: 3.

The total number of mobile contacts: Hawaii County: 45, Maui/Kalawo County: 125, Kauai County: 121, Honolulu County: 42 Grand total: 333.

I had the good fortune to meet Stan, KH6CG, and Bill, KH6OO, and their wives during this last stop in Honolulu. From here I flew to American Samoa to operate as KH8/AI5P for 10 days - but that's another story.

I did have a 12 hour layover in Honolulu on the way home and had the opportunity to meet a number of members of the KH6BB (U.S.S. Missouri) Amateur Radio Club - including John, K1ER, USA-CA # 871. Bill, KH6OO, took me out to the ship where I got a personalized tour as well as the chance to operate KH6BB . Their basic USA-CA certificate is proudly hanging in the radio room.



AI5P at KH6BB - Battleship Missouri

After a visit to the Pacific Aviation Museum, I headed back to the airport for the overnight flight to Dallas and then on to Albuquerque on April 20th. Great trip with some amazing experiences and meeting an interesting group of folks along the way - both hams and non-hams. Hope you made a contact and I will be sending out special QSL cards in the next few weeks.

73, Rick AI5P

## Kitcraft Radios

Kitcraft Radios were advertised after WW2 in popular magazines such as Boy's Life, Popular Mechanics and the like.

In 1945, they offered the 102 crystal radio



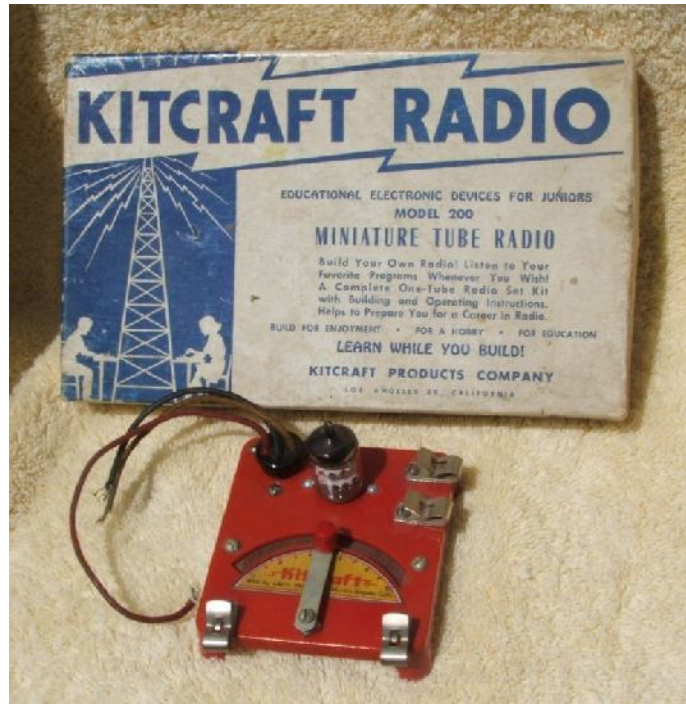
It was the typical 'galena crystal' radio which used a 2000 ohm type headphone to pick up strong local stations. You used a 'cat whisker' to find a sensitive spot on the galena crystal held in a special holder. Often the galena crystal was potted in lead to fit the holder. Philmore sold probably a hundred thousand of the sets like above. It used a slide tuner (adjustable "L") to resonate the antenna. There was no 'C' for a tuned circuit.

The kit took about 2 or 3 hours to put together, and required a good outside antenna and ground to work.

Later, they offered a 'factory wired' set as well for the lazy. Below is the Model 130 using a new fangled 'germanium diode'.



The other kit they offered was a one tube kit that used a 1T4 or 1U4 as a grid leak detector



This one required a 1.5v battery for the filament of the tube, and a 22.5 or 45v battery for the plate.

## FL QSO Party

Wow....the bands were crappy with A index in the 20s, but the mobiles were out running all over the state and the spotting sites listed hundreds of contacts and likely every county.

Many county hunters were active, including KN4Y/m, Ed, and the AA4GT bunch (AA4GT, George, and Mary , NV4Z).

From the 3830 reflector:

## **N4EEB/mobile 2344 QSOs**

Tracy my XYL driver and I had a great time and wish to thank everyone who stuck with us both days.

## **N4TO mobile – multi op**

Before leaving the hotel on Saturday AM, we noticed that the K index had jumped to 4 and the mobile operating Ron did before the start sure felt that way. Note to self: "Don't tout the return of 15M so loudly next sunspot cycle"! The higher latitudes had it even worse all weekend.

Thus, we are even more grateful for the outpouring of activity from NS and NB, as well as SP & SM!

It was terrific to have callers from DC and all the other states, along with a bunch of DX countries. While I cited the increased activity from a number of areas, the core of the FQP's success is from the yearly participation from folks in places like MI, PA, VE3 and DL.

Ron and I were sure that a solar flare had hit at 2116Z Saturday, since we had zero QSOs in the next 9 minutes, despite CQing the whole time. A review of the propagation sites did not show a correlation, though, so maybe we had some QRM under us that we could not detect. Speaking of that, it seemed like compliance with the FQP Mobile Windows was pretty good this year (we ask that no fixed stations call CQ in the windows).

We had a one-year reprieve from the 40M QRM zone, since the SP RTTY event was held the prior weekend. But we will have to solve that problem somehow next year. With the mobile window at 7025-035, it doesn't leave enough room for everyone else. Nobody wants to operate below 7025 for fear of missing a few non-Extra Class licensees. And the RTTY starts just above 7035. Any workable suggestions?

Weather conditions couldn't have been better. There were no storms anywhere to generate QRN, and the temps seemed more moderate than during some past FQPs. Our 51-county route covers about 1100 miles during the FQP, plus we drive many hundreds of miles before and afterward. Donations to our gas account may be



sent to... (just kidding!)

The QSB was frustrating for us, and probably even more so for those on the other end trying to hear us. We would answer stations multiple times before the next QSB wave would bring them back up to an audible level. Thanks for enduring that and for all the QSOs!

Finally, my thanks to Ron, K8NZ who does a really solid job of setting up the Hamsticks and IC-746, along with the Bencher paddle and speaker so that the driver can chime in with callsigns heard. Ron is a terrific guy to hang out with for a weekend, and no slouch of an op either.

73, Dan, K1TO (and Ron, K8NZ)

### **KC4HW mobile**

No Driver. Covered 11 counties in the Big Bend area and the Panhandle.

Saturday: GAD, LIB, CAH, BAY and WAG.

Sunday: ESC, SAN, OKA, WAL, JAC and HOL.

Worked 39 states, including HI on CW and 13 on PH. 13 DX countries. All total worked 43 DX stations. Worked 7 VE provinces. Additionally worked 12 Florida counties mostly on Sunday morning on 40 PH, but a few on CW.

Operating time was around 11 hours. Total driving and operating was about 21 hours. Total miles 474. Gas was \$3.89.9 to \$4.029.

The mobile station worked pretty good. I thought that I could have gotten more PH contact on Sunday morning, but 40m went away after about 9AM. Actually had planned to operate mixed in many of the counties. I have resurrected a ATAS-100 and it seemed to work fine on Friday. Saturday was a total different story and it would not find a resonant freq anywhere. So I abandoned it for the remainder of the contest. I used my 40m Hustler on PH and the 20m Hustler on CW that way I did not have to do any tuning on the antenna. So it was a limited Mixed operation at best.

The 706MKII worked very well. I drove the old 99 Chevrolet Pickup with 273k miles and it was quite as a mouse! I had a little RF get into the microkeyer but once I relocated it there were not further problems--I really think it was an old connector, I will redo them before the AIQP. Funny, when I first

discovered the RF issue, the keyer was sending just the opposite of the letter. For K it was send .-. and for C it was sending .-.- it was strange, but moving things around solved the problem.

The pileups were great. Thanks to everyone for the QSOs.”

### **KN4Y/mobile 1398 QSOs**

“It was great QSP party, a premier event. I ran CW mobile in 26 Florida counties traveling 930 miles. It was pile-ups from county line to county line, no time to sight see. I paid cash for gas and have forgotten the amount due to a senior citizen moment. I heard 1 station on 15-meters and did not check ten meters. I'll be back.

### **W4ZW/0 (C0)**

Another 5" of snow last night and it's snowing still. Great fun with the FB mobiles, but squirrely conditions.

### **W1END – NH**

“This party sure had a lot of activity. I noticed that the 20-meter band was mostly very ordered. The mobiles operated from 14040 to 14049 and the fixed stations operated mostly below and a bit above those freqs. Also on Sunday the mobiles stayed on their frequencies all day. (Maybe Saturday also.) Wish this could happen in other parties. Tried hard to find Gulf county but alas no luck. KN4Y was scheduled to be there Sunday but I heard him only after he went to the next listed county. Rats! Anyhow I managed to get a sweep minus one. “

### **K0HC (W0BH operator) – KS**

“I'm usually in Nebraska running the Nebraska QSO Party from the mobile during the FQP, but this year I stayed in Kansas with the intention of enjoying the complete 20 hours. We had 50+ mph winds most of the day Friday, and I noticed one of the wire antennas was down, but it was fixed with an hour to spare. As I set up the radios, I tried to point the beam towards Florida and nothing moved. A quick check of the rotor cable showed wire number 8 broken (all worked fine the day before), so most of Saturday turned into aerial fun instead. At least it was a nice sunny day with lighter winds.

To make a long story short, the rotor once again turns towards Florida. After that, it was a really fun time chasing mobiles around the state “

## **WI9WI – WI**

This year my main goal was a sweep. I went up to our cabin in northern WI where I have much better antennas than at home in Madison. I pretty much stayed in the chair most of Saturday and by the close had about 250 QSOs and was missing only HOL, WAL and WAG. I also only had OKA on phone. I was lucky and followed K4Q down the east coast during the day Saturday. When he got to DAD I hoped he would turn right and go to MON next. He did, and I managed to get him there for the only MON I heard during the contest. On Sunday AM I got up at the start and got K4OJ in HOL and WAL the first hour on 40. I also got OKA on CW. Then K4OJ inexplicably turned west skipping WAG and went all the way to ESC before starting back east and finally getting to WAG a few hours later. Thanks for the sweep K4OJ. After I finished the sweep I took it easy and would check the radio every 30 minutes or so over the next few hours and run the mobiles as they changed counties.

The workhorse band was 20 during the day and 40 on Saturday evening and for the first hour or 2 on Sunday. I kept checking 15 every hour or so during the day, but heard no one except for 4 QSOs on CW about midday Sunday. All were perfectly readable, but no one moved the S-meter.

Thanks so much for all the mobile QSOs.

K4KG - 34 counties

N4TO - 32

NX4N - 29

N4EEB - 28

K4OJ - 27

K1XX - 26

W4RQ - 21

K4Q - 20

N4AO - 20

KN4Y - 17

AD4ES - 8

KC4HW - 8

K4XS - 7

K2ZR - 7

K4CIB - 4

and several with 2 or 3. I made a few more QSOs with most of these stations, a couple on SSB and a few on both 40 and 20 in the same county.

Gear: K-3, AL-82 1KW

40: 2 el at 100 ft, 20/15: C-19 at 50 ft.

## **W8MJ – Michigan**

This years FQP was interesting.

With the recent band conditions, I am sure like everyone else we were thinking 15 and maybe even some 10-meter activity. Wow!!! What a let down that was! The conditions were such that 20 meters was the band only from here in Michigan and I am sure elsewhere as well. I had 2 contacts on 15 with fixed stations and that was a struggle with WJ9B and N4BP.

The mobile activity again was extremely good I thought. Koo-Doos are in order big time for the stations that switched from CW to SSB to work both modes. Hats off to K4KG and K1XX mobiles for switching back and forth. Great job, and thanks for all the qso's, they were much appreciated and needed. Also, all of the mobiles did a great job. They are really the heart of FQP. They make it happen over and over again. The activity was just tremendous. There is never a dull moment chasing the mobiles. This year was probably my best year in working the most mobile contacts. It was of course nice to get the sweep once again, that makes 11 years in row. Missed the sweep on SSB by one OSCEOLA. Not for a lack of trying.

57% of my log is mobile contacts, 481 out of 822.

K4KG 90, K1XX 70, N4TO 49, K4OJ 36, N4EEB 36, NX4N 29, N4AO 26, KN4Y 23, K4Q 21, W4WQ 17, N3AWS 14, K1KNQ 12, K2CIB 11, AD4ES 10, K4XS 9, KC4HW 8, NF4A 5, W3EEE 3, N8COP 3, KJ4ERZ 3, K4LJP 2, NZ4CJ 2, K4P 2.

## **N5DO – Texas**

We've had tremendous wind in west Texas causing some major wildfires and also causing my antenna mast to break the pin on the rotor and spin like a windmill.

I got that fixed, but the antenna itself is now inoperable, probably due to broken control wires. I'll have to get someone to climb the tower and fix that problem.

I needed somewhere to operate from. My friend, K5FD, has a relatively new Flex 5000, so I decided to operate from his house and see how a contest with a top of the line SDR would be.

It was obvious that the Flex 5000 was not contest ready (maybe the rig was ready, but the software wasn't)-- it was a major undertaking on Thursday and Friday nights to try to get everything working correctly. We had PowerSDR running the rig and N1MM as the contest logger (and several other programs running in the background to ensure everything was compatible). There were two monitors, with PowerSDR on the left one and N1MM on the right. We were trying to get it so logging and rig control could both be done from N1MM. A lot of searching on the Internet found a program called Hotwheel that would allow me to be logging on N1MM and using the mouse wheel to change frequencies, but we couldn't get it to work.

The contest started with me moving the cursor from one monitor to another -- over to the left to change frequency and back to the right monitor to work the station and log it. This led to lots of confusion and mess-ups on my part. The cursor would be on the rig side and I would start to type the call I wanted to work, without moving back to N1MM. Suddenly the rig would change to another band! Swearing, I would move back to the right band, have to move the power slide bar back to 100 W (using the mouse), find the station again, move the cursor back to N1MM, and make the QSO.

James, K5FD, wandered out to see how things were going, and I let him know that things were not going well. He said he would see if he could find out what was wrong with Hotwheel and went back into the house to check on it. After much swearing and frustration on my part with this clunky arrangement, he came back about two hours into the contest. He had found the problem -- PowerSDR had added a trademark symbol to their name and that was causing confusion. James made a minor change and suddenly I could operate in a more normal manner, without having to switch back and forth from one monitor to another.

After using the Flex 5000 for 20 hours I got better at using it, and almost reached a point where I liked it. I think the radio part of it is very good, in particular the software filters were outstanding. On transmit the CW sounded choppy to me. With more time, that could have been solved. However, more work needs to be done on the user interface -- computer gurus who say it is OK to use a mouse wheel to change frequency on a radio have never operated a contest for 20 hours. If I ever do it again, I will spring for the accessory tuning knob. But that doesn't help with other knobs that one is always toying with during a contest -- RF gain, AF gain, etc. Moving a cursor around on a

computer screen with a mouse to raise or lower a virtual knob takes longer and is more of a pain than just reaching up and tweaking an actual knob with your hands.

The contest itself has been adequately described by others. Conditions seemed down from last year (I had about 100 more contacts, and a sweep, last year). The mobiles were fantastic, and saving 10 khz for the mobiles was great. Using the bandmap in N1MM, and writing down the call signs and the county they were last in, I could quickly check the 10 or more active mobile stations at any one time by clicking on their call in the bandmap. I was able to take 5 or 6 short walks around the neighborhood as I waited for the mobiles to reach a new county. All in all a fun, although unusual, contest.

## NE QSO Party

Yes, there was a Nebraska QSO Party. You had to look hard to find stations to work. There were no mobiles apparently.

### **N0UNL – fixed**

Really bad conditions, lots of noise this year, only worked a couple stations on 80 and 15 and none on 160 and 10, hope next year is better.

Wish there would have been more stations active from Nebraska, only came across about 8 to 10 stations.

Thanks to everyone who worked our University Club Station.

73,N0UNL

### **N6MU – CA**

“No mobiles equals little activity! Worked a total of eight unique calls.”

# Intel 3D Chip Announcement

Intel steals a march on rivals as it announces new 3D microchip revolution

- **Breakthrough is described as one of the most significant developments in silicon transistor design since the integrated circuit was invented in the 1950s**

Microchip maker Intel has claimed a breakthrough in computer processor technology after revealing a revolutionary new three-dimensional transistor design.

Analysts have described the breakthrough as one of the most significant developments in silicon transistor design since the integrated circuit was invented in the 1950s.

It opens the way for faster smartphones, lighter laptops and a new generation of supercomputers - and possibly for powerful new products engineers have yet to dream up.

Microchip transistors are usually produced in flat structures, like printing on a sheet of paper. Intel's breakthrough involves miniscule fins jutting from the surface of the typically flat transistors to improve performance without adding size - just as skyscrapers make the most of a small square of land.

'When I looked at it, I did a big "Wow",' said analyst Dan Hutcheson, CEO of VLSI Research. 'What we've seen for decades now have been evolutionary changes to the technology. This is definitely a revolutionary change.'

Transistors, tiny on/off switches that regulate electric current, are the workhorses of modern electronics. They are to computers what synapses are to the human nervous system.

A chip can have a billion transistors, all laid out side-by-side in a single layer, as if they were the streets of a city. But until now chips have had no 'depth'.

On Intel's chips, the fins will jut up from that streetscape to give the transistor three 'gates' to control the flow of electric current, instead of just one. That helps prevent current from escaping.

There is a limit to how much current a chip can take, and the new design allows more of that power to be spent on computing rather than being wasted.

Intel chief executive Paul Otellini said that 'amazing, world-shaping devices' will be created using the new technology. Computers are already doing things that were almost unimaginable when Intel co-founder Gordon Moore made his famous prediction in 1965 that computers should double in power every two years.

The axiom, known as Moore's Law, has held true ever since as computers have become cheaper, smaller and more powerful. Engineers believe Intel's new transistors will keep the axiom going for years to come. Chips with the 3D transistors are set for full production this

year and due to appear in computers by 2012. Intel has been talking about 3D - or 'tri-gate' - transistors for nearly a decade, and other companies are experimenting with similar technology. But the announcement is noteworthy because Intel has figured out how to manufacture the transistors cheaply in mass quantities.

Other semiconductor companies argue that there's still life to be squeezed from the current design of transistors, but Intel's approach still allows it to advance at least a generation ahead of rivals such as IBM and Advanced Micro Devices. However, Intel's advance does not add a complete third dimension to chip-making - that is, the company can't add an entire second layer of transistors to a chip, or start stacking layers into a cube. That remains a distant but hotly-pursued goal of the industry, as cubic chips could be much faster than flat ones while consuming less power.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1383774/Intel-steals-march-rivals-announces-new-3D-microchip-revolution.html#ixzz1LUBXj3Y1>



# IDAHOLE

by Phil, AB7RW

Idahole is actually the state of Idaho. It has no connection with the beauty that the state has for the beholder. It has to do with the radio communications on the western counties of the state.

Originally I decided that we would participate in the W7 QSO Party. I thought it would be nice to make a trip from Southern Washington, up I5 through Kitsap and Clallam counties then head south along highway 101 into Oregon and then back East along the Columbia River. However, after I checked the W7 counties list that other operators had already said they would transmit from, I said, well if we go that way, we will be following the rest of the operators. So I looked over the empty Idaho listing and told Barbara we were going to Idaho and would make a three day trip out of it.

There were twenty counties that I had not transmitted from and figured this was a good time to reduce list of transmit needs. I got a little greedy in drafting a list of the counties to which we would go. Slow traffic on two lane roads with no passing areas and then the rain came to make it worse. First off the list was Wallowa. It was 30 miles one way, plus finding a spot suitable to park and then return to Asotin. With darkness already setting in, we decided to postpone it for another trip. We did not put out any Idaho counties on the way to the hotel because we would be putting them out again for the contest.

On Saturday 7 May we headed out on a well paved two lane road with no passing, curvy, and gaining altitude all the way to the top, over six thousand feet. Snow covered the ground all over the west side of the state, but none on the road. The number of contacts was much less than I expected but it was what we would have to look forward to for the rest of the day. With all the high mountains and getting into the valleys, signals were only hearable from Arizona and several stations in Western Washington.

Occasionally, we would come into a wide open communications area and I would run off 10 to 12 contacts then it would be quiet again. Most of the trip was at altitudes of over five thousand feet according to the GPS. Having the county lines in the GPS is wonderful; Idaho did not have county signs everywhere because of the crazy lines they have drawn.

The most contacts I made were in Valley. It is a large flat county. As we passed North

Payette Lake, we could see that it was covered with ice right up to the edge of the lake. People in Idaho like to drive 5 to 10 miles less than the speed limit. With two lane curvy roads there was no passing. So we had a slow trip. When we got into Boise county, we had planned to go west and up into Washington county, then head back south. When I looked at the clock and saw that the GPS said 73 miles to Weiser, I told Barbara we were going to short cut the trip through Gem and head to the hotel in Mountain Home. It was going on 8 p.m. when we checked in, and pooped. It's hard to believe that 175 contacts could wear you out. HI HI.

8 May: we knocked off a few more Idaho counties in preparation for our trip to Duluth. I hope to have run all Idaho counties before we get home. I have ten more to go and they will be a real county hunter's trip to do it in one day. I gave out counties into Union, Oregon then took over driving. All together we put 1463 miles on the odometer that already is over 181 thousand.

I made more contacts on the county hunters frequency than I did contesting all day;

6 May 214,  
7 May 175,  
8 May 200.

Ten Q's were on 15m 5 were DX, and 8 Q's on 40m. I added exactly 100 counties for my CW-III award. I have Barbara prepared to get in the California QSO Party. OMG. Her reply was, When is it?

## Seven Land QSO Party

### **K7IA County Expedition Portable**

Unlike last year's event, which I worked from a single county spot only a few miles away, this year:

a county line QTH was accessible and not snowpacked by record accumulation in 2010 (26 feet total);

the weather was perfect (cloudless, warm, and no winds rather than continuous snowfall in 2010;

15 meters was wonderful; and

there was so much CW activity that I worked very little SSB and had no reason to try RTTY.

Murphy's glitches: The spinning reel I use for launching monofilament line into trees for wire antennas fell apart. Too many portable ops, I guess. A quick trip to town produced a better reel having less line drag and increased my tree limb reach from 60 to 70 feet. Also, the trusty 1 KW Yamaha generator, used in many, many portable ops, failed moments before the event started on Saturday AM. Fortunately, I carry a backup for everything (generator, radio, computer, keyer, but not a spinning reel), so the backup 3 KW Honda went into service and, surprisingly, used the same paltry amount of gasoline as its smaller cousin.

Equipment:

Tall Ponderosa Pines for wire antennas (already supplied, no backups needed)

K3

laptop & N1MM logger

40 & 80 meters: vees, apex at 70 feet

20 & 15 meters: homebrew Moxon rectangles at 70 and 60 feet, respectively

10 meters: apex-down delta loop, inspired by article in April 2011 QST at 60 feet.

Antennas went up on Thursday. Vees and Moxons were veterans, and the delta loop was two days old, untested. Worked "right out of the box" on Thursday and Friday, making good DX QSOs including real ragchews on CW and SSB to VK-land (loop "pointed" towards NE, like the Moxons, so VK was "off the back).

On Saturday, 10 meters was dead each time I checked it. What a difference a day makes!

The National Forest was extremely dry, as it has been at the home QTH in SW New Mexico (and all points in between). En route to the 7QP site, Hwy 180 passed THROUGH two major (and recent) burn areas. Cigarettes, no doubt. Therefore, wife, Erin, and I practiced fire safety and awareness, and we looked for and found a second (potential) escape route--just in case.

As always, thanks to all for their support and interest in the 7QP. I wouldn't be surprised if 2011 marks the year of the highest number of log submissions and total QSOs. Special thanks for the QSOs that went beyond the minimal exchange of signal report and state/county. Those short chats turned an event into a, well, a "party."

73, dan, k7ia

### **N7XU mobile 630 Qs 14 counties (K4XU operator)**

Not quite as much score as last year but we only went to 14 counties this year. Conditions were much better. The radio worked, no Murphy except the cinch on the 15m resonator loosened allowing the whip to slide into the coil and sending the resonance to 21.8. Easily fixed.

Lots of DX this year, EU at 23Z on 20m. Ol' sol was doing us favors this time. My driver Martin, AE7IK, is new to radio. Had never made a contact until after we arrived at the N7LE M/M about 7PM. Great diver. We were ahead of schedule by as much as 80 minutes requiring several longer breaks.

The goal for next year is to find ten mobiles and activate some of the very rare ones ...if gas prices return to normal. I can remember when you couldn't burn 50 bucks worth in a day. Now it's >\$50 a tank.

Thanks to all who followed us around and to the great ears out there who heard the old TS-50 and Hustler. Logged using TRlog on an old TI W97 LT with a battery pack modified to take 12VDC directly from the car. No inverters here!

### **K7WA – County Expedition Portable**

Was glad to get out and put on six usually rare counties in Eastern WA. It's amazing how well 100 watts and a Hamstick can get out! Enjoyed the pileups!

IC-706MkIIG 100 watts (battery power)  
20 and 40 meter Hamsticks with wire radials

Thanks for the QSOs! Jim K7WA/KTT/GRN/ADA/FRA/BEN/YAK

## **K7RAT County Expedition – Cochise/Graham, AZ**

This was a quickly put together county-line operation, brought on by the sudden, late cancellation of the usual K7EAR county-line M/M. I was extremely pleased that Russ, WA5Y, was as enthusiastic about the idea of trying our own operation as I was. The first task was to find an AZ county line, located on public land, not too far from our NM home QTH, with passenger-vehicle road access. Our operation was from flat, hot, BLM desert land, about 6 miles north of Bowie, AZ, on the Cochise/Graham county line. Our setup was simple and effective. The antennas were a Cushcraft A3 tribander, 40 and 80 dipoles. They were put on 30 feet of Rohn 25. The gin pole allowed us to get the dipoles up an extra 10 feet. Neither of us have an RV or trailer, so we operated under a 10' x 20' canopy.

A generator was borrowed, and a TS-590S, an old laptop, and N1MM Logger rounded out the set up.

Almost everything about the contest went perfectly. The temperature was 95 degrees for setup on Friday, but the wind was calm. The contest started out with fine WX, but by 18Z the wind came up, and we had to deal with 30-40 MPH winds and a canopy that wanted to become airborne for the next 6 hours. The radio, computer, antennas, generator, operators, etc, all worked nearly perfectly. Except for 15 meters being a disappointment, propagation was excellent. A big bonus was the winter-like quiet on 40 and 80 meters Saturday night.

Thanks to everyone for the QSO's, and to N6TR for the loan of the Boring ARC call, K7RAT. I hope the RAT enjoyed a break from cold, wet Oregon.”

### **KT7G mobile**

Rig : FT-100D, ameritron als-500, and 97 F-150 platform power and ac provider. Plan B was an IC-7000 on hot standby.

Antennas : Hi sierra Screwdriver on trailer hitch end, various hamsticks on 3rd door.

Soapbox : 431 miles and lit up 5 Oregon counties and two in Washington. Did not get the required 25 in all of them, tough to count them off the N1MM screen. Created some pileups and enjoyed the trip.

There should be a rule that n6MA and n6MU cannot show up at the same time on cw, worked them both but it was a little confusing for a bit. One operator thought that "Mobile" was a phonetic for "M". but we all have to learn sometime..

### **K7BG/m**

Had fun despite a few fiascos. I have been busy of late with a new job commencing and I only decided to get the mobile station put together at the last minute. I used a new to me, circa late 90's laptop and I couldn't get it to send cw. Thanks to W0BH who helped me try a few things, but alas, to no avail. Good thing I brought the straight key. I got some good exercise pumping that thing, but my cw Qs are way down from what they would have been. It was a beautiful day that started out early with rain, but was sunny most of the rest of the day. If you look at a MT map and see where Chouteau, Cascade, and Teton come together you will no exactly where I parked my rear end for several hours in the evening.

I put out Toole, Pondera, Chouteau, Teton, and Cascade. I might have tried a few others farther away, but the cw/computer situation dampened my desire.

### **N9RV (MT -fixed)**

Conditions were quite good for this. Wasn't planning on spending as much time as I did, but with my wife gone all day for a CPR class I left the radio on all day and there it was!

Nice 15m opening to EU at 1600 UTC with very strong signals. 10m was all scatter except VE4EAR, who had a decent signal.

Exchanges of various contests are mostly compatible except for the ARI, which needed the serial number.

### **KN7K – fixed – OR**

Well, this is my first attempt to participate in 7QP from my home station, limited by HOA/CCR and Dipole Antenna for 10-40m about 20 feet high. Worked about 16 hours total with few breaks and kids jumping around, so I apologize for few QSO when my CW was really bad - my 5 years old daughter was jumping on my shoulders:-)

Overall, it was very good considering my Dipole looking North-South. I worked all Sections, only 4 missing from VE. Propagation was pretty good but couldn't hear anything on 10m and don't have antennas for 80-160m. Initially set goal for 200-300 QSO, then 500, then 700 and then decided to finish whatever I can work till midnight. It was fun!"

## **N8II – Fixed – WV**

Activity was based on per capita population was best from OR, followed by great activity from AZ, and WA. After only 22 Q's, all 7-land states were in the log. I worked 13 out of 15 AZ counties, 7 in ID, 14 in MT, 6 in NV (poorest activity), 28 in OR, 17 in UT (good activity there), 22 in WA, and 5 in WY.

7QP is a fun contest with a "real contest" flavor. Having 3 other contests that weekend probably decreases interest from outside 7 land a bit and increases difficulty with QRM, but luckily from here it worked out pretty well.

## **W0BH – fixed – Kansas**

Initial impression of the 2011 7QP .. less counties, less mobile activity (perhaps because of the high cost of gas), but more overall activity. Last year, I worked 654 Qs and 157 counties in 17.6 hours, this year 694 Qs and 136 counties in only 14.1 hours, so a noticeable increase in activity.

The fixed stations, mobile stations, and expeditions once again did a great job. Overall, I worked 488 unique calls. With the New England and Indiana QSO parties also in the mix, tracking mobiles is more difficult and it's hard to run up big mobile totals. Special thanks to the following stations and ops for five or more contacts:

12 K7UM/r  
08 K7IA/r K7RAT/r  
06 K7WA/m  
05 WW7D/m W7RN N7LE AK7AZ

County stats are always interesting as well, especially when you add in the history from previous years. Here's how many counties I worked in each state in the years I've operated the 7QP (except 2006 when I only operated 9 hours).

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	:	MAX POSSIBLE
--14	--14	--13	--14	--14	:	15 Arizona
--16	--15	--21	--22	--14	:	44 Idaho

```

--24 --21 --16 --27 --13 : 56 Montana
--08 --04 --08 --11 --07 : 17 Nevada
--34 --33 --30 --28 --31 : 36 Oregon
--19 --20 --20 --18 --17 : 29 Utah
--31 --26 --27 --32 --32 : 39 Washington
--07 --13 --07 --05 --08 : 23 Wyoming
-----
-153 -146 -142 -157 -136 : 259 total counties
-550 -621 -611 -654 -694 : total contacts
15.0 16.4 16.1 17.6 14.1 : total hours

```

I've also been keeping track of counties worked in the 7QP each year. No one is likely to work all 259 in one year, but if you combine the years, I'm down to 39 remaining (I miscalculated in last year's post). This year, I picked up five new ones.

## New England QSO Party

### **N4PN – fixed – GA**

“As always, lots of fun and plenty of activity.

Condx seemed down and limited activity due to wx in New England and being Mother's Day on Sunday. But, there was lots of stations on.

Personal score up as 9 more cw Q's and 25 more ssb Q's with the same mult as last year = 3K more score.

Thanks to many mobiles who did their usual great job....led by Tom, K1KI, with 21 Q's. Followed by Doug, K1DG with a late start with 10 Q's. Then came, Sean, KX9X with 9, K1JB - 7, W1GS - 4, W1VE - 4, K1BX and N1KPW - 3. Lots with one and two Q's... Special thanks to Joe, K1JB, for back-tracking on Sunday to give me SAGME for the sweep after Tom, K1KI had given me GRAVT for number 66.

### **W3UA- Fixed – NH**

“I never planned this contest (I'm no good at all in non-DX contests... I can't say I'm good at DX contests, just so-so; but QSO parties is just not my type at



all); but K1KI sent an e-mail, suggesting get out of bed and made a few Qs... and as former Soviet, when Party orders, I obey ;) . Indeed, it was fun. Even my infamous power line noise was quite moderate, thanks to the good "bad" weather. The major problem was with my main amplifier, which refused to work; I reconnected the cables to the second op's amp, but thus completely messed up with antenna switching. As a result, I couldn't use stacks and 4SQ, and was limited to rotary beams. In contest where bulk of Qs is coming from the "wrong" direction, it is a big nuisance...

Another thing -- I jumped to my shack 15 minutes before the test, and didn't even read the rules completely... so countless tactical mistakes were made all contest long ;) . For example, I discovered that CW Qs are twice the points only on the second day; and for some reason I thought that contest runs till 2AM Zulu. Some good Samaritan advised me about 12 minutes after GMT midnight that the contest is over... I was so sure that the test runs till 10PM EST, so initially couldn't realize, how wrong I am... Anyway, short look at the rules and ... 10 unclaimed QSOs ;)"

## On the Road with N4CD

It was time for the annual trek to the Dayton Hamvention. I've headed that way at least 30 times before, but not always from Texas. It's about 1000 miles, but since I'm a county hunter, it's seldom that short a trip. I was looking forward to the flea market and the county hunter forum and dinner afterward. Lots of county hunters would be there.

This year, I was working on filling in counties for the Mobile Diamond Award, and of course, trying to get some needed counties for the folks. Most of Arkansas was done for MD thanks to Joe, N5UZW and Gene, K5GE making trips there, plus a previous N4CD trip or two. So it was up the interstates I30 to Little Rock, to I40 to Memphis area, then up I-55 then over into TN with few detours. The weather had flooded out I-40, but fortunately it was open again, so no problem getting through. The river flooding had moved south to LA, but there was still lots of flood water remaining behind. You saw the rivers high up, and there was water sitting in fields everywhere, and small roads closed

I made it over to Dyer TN, and decided to get Lake, TN. Well, that turned out to be easy to get up to the county on a road that was 'high and dry' into the county from the south but there was water on both sides 30 feet above where it should be. It was like driving on a causeway for 10 miles up to the county line. After running the county, I wanted to head east, but all the roads

going east were flooded out and closed. Dang. I wound up going back southeast to get out of Lake, and stopped at what used to be a Super 8 in Union City, TN (Obion County). It's now a different name and the quality is even a bit lower than it used to be, so I'll hunt for a new stop on the way north. There's a Ryan's Buffet place across the street I eat at often. The weather was decent with no problems. Just a few sprinkles of rain here and there.

It was still early enough to run another county, so I headed to Weakley 10 miles to the east, ran it, then headed to dinner. The bands were good and the nets running fine on 40M SSB and on cw. Scottie, N4AAT, Joe, N5UZW and WY8I and others pitched in all the time to keep things moving. CW was busy with several mobiles out on long trips. Conditions were decent most days. Jonas, LY5A, had just finished up, and he needed everything. He was there consistently on 20M CW, and occasionally on 17M as well. It's nice to have people starting over and needing everything! Jonas also spotted many 20M runs.

The next morning, I headed up in KY. It's a vast wasteland of 'needed counties' all over the state for Diamond, and it seems almost everyone needs something there. . A few had been run by N8KIE, and Joyce, N9STL, but it was pretty devoid of filled in counties for Diamond. Art, N4PJ had run many a few days before on CW, but not on SSB.

I zigged and zagged, and sat on county lines and on short detours off the main route the whole day headed basically Northeast toward Dayton for the hamfest. I had a whole day to just put out counties on all the bands. A detour into a county took at least 20 minutes to run 40M SSB, 20/17/30/40 cw, so you are limited in how many you can do. Things went well and I got tired and stopped for the night in a Motel 6.

The schedule required getting to Dayton before 3pm or so on Thursday – the day before most things start, so there wasn't too much time for too many detours in OH, but I took the long route around Cincinnati to get a few more counties including Clermont. It was raining on and off with showers. Typical hamfest weather. It always seems to rain there.

Then it was up the interstate to Moraine, OH (Montgomery Co) and the Super 8. After a quick check in, I hustled up to Hara Arena to pick up some paperwork. Bob, N8KIE had planned to attend the Hamvention but wound up with a big nasty cold that sidelined him. He had planned to run the counties down, including Miami OH. Jerry, W0GXQ needed Miami, OH as a LC for his MP, so plan B kicked in and I zipped 15 miles up the interstate to Miami, ran it, then headed back to the motel to rest up for the hamfest the next day. Dinner at Bob Evans - Had the salad bar. It rained a bunch on Thursday and Thursday night. Poured down, in fact.

Friday morning came and the alarm went off at 5:30am. The sky was clear, it was 65 degrees and nice, and the forecast was 'only slight chance of showers'. If you've been to Dayton, you know it usually rains sometime over the weekend. You can count on it. Some years it rains a lot! I grabbed a quick breakfast at the motel at 6am., and headed on over to the Arena. I parked and managed to get into the flea market early to look around for goodies. Folks were

slow in arriving, but things were going full steam by 8am when it opened 'officially'. I walked and walked and walked....my feet got tired...my back got tired..my legs got tired. Half a dozen county hunters were also seeking goodies in the flea market. Hmmm..this used to be a lot easier.

One could find all sorts of boat anchors as usual. Some top of the line Collins stuff was up for sale by at least 20 people. (with top of the line prices). Old Hammarlund and Hallicrafters, Swan, Atlas, Yaesu, Trio, Kenwood, ICOMs from the 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s. Tubes, transistors, connectors, books – row after row of stuff – the biggest flea market in the country.

The crowds were good but not record setting. After wearing my feet out, I checked out a few of the forums inside. There's a full program of five simultaneous forums all day on Friday and Saturday, with a few on Sunday. The County Hunter Forum is at 4-5pm on Friday.

Tim, W8JJ, is the forum coordinator for the County Hunters. This year, he kicked things off. It seemed like about 80 folks were there, but I forgot to count. W8FNW and W4FNW, KJ8F, K1SO, KS4BO, K8ZZ, N4CD, W8JJ, N4PJ, N4BU, NF0N, WD4OIN, WA8OWR, WB7ATT, KS4S, NO5W, AK8A, N4JR, W9OO, WA4UNS, AA8R, W8TAX, W9KB, NA8W, KB4IPA, K9WI, NN9K, and a whole bunch more.



NA8W Darl



KB4IPA

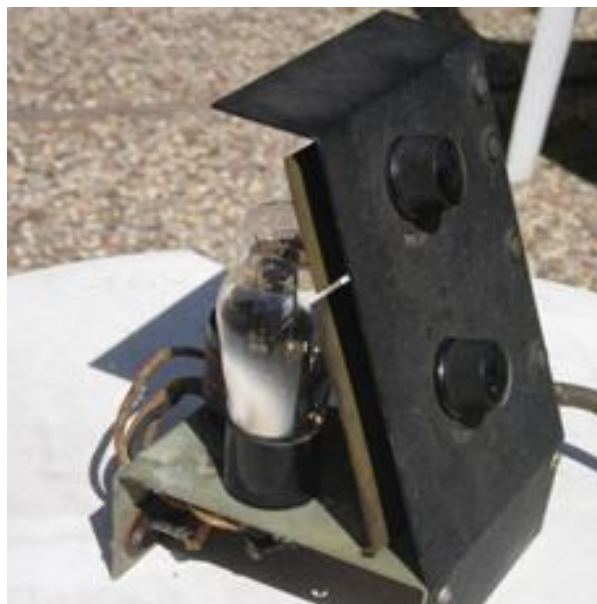


KS4BO Dave

Bob, N4CD, talked about how to optimize your state QSO experience, and Art, N4PJ, talked about his mobile installation and set up from A to Z. Afterward, we had introductions all around and time for a short yak session before about 25 headed over to the Golden Corral for dinner. Sharon, KJ9F, is the 'dinner coordinator' and we managed to get tables enough in the same area for the entire group. Folks yakked for 2 hours.

I hit the hay about 9:30 getting set for another long day hunting for goodies in the flea market.

Saturday was another nice day – no rain for 2 days at Dayton – amazing and enjoyed by all. I put on my shorts on Saturday and wandered around the flea market for another couple of hours. I bought one book, some connectors and pieces of hardware, and two little radios (Philmore Regens). Those I stumbled into accidentally. One of my telegraph collecting friends made a comment he had seen my bidding on Ebay on some one tube radio stuff – I said yes, I've been collecting a few tube type regen sets. He said he might have something buried away, and came up with two 40s/50s regen sets made by Philmore. Wow – we struck a deal and I went home with both of them.



Philmore 1930s-40s slant front receiver

This receiver uses two variable caps that are 'flaps' – one tube set – as basic as you can get – about five parts including the tube – battery power. The knobs are attached to screws that control the angle of the flaps that make part of a variable 'capacitor' – you can see the  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch opening of the two flaps from the front panel. One capacitor is for tuning and the other is for regeneration. It has plug in coils, and uses a type 30 triode tube (run off batteries – 2v filament and 22.5 to 45v on the plate).



Philmore “One Tube” regen(early 50s)

This is a one tube regen (with a second rectifier tube) that is A/C powered – 1950s vintage. As basic as you get- naturally you use headphones with both radios. The early battery radios put the HV directly on the headphones. Starting with the Knight Kits, they used coupling capacitors to block the HV on the plate of the tube from appearing on the headphone leads. Back then, hams had exposed HV in transmitters and didn't worry so much about it. Now your solid state rigs are mostly 12v, some at 24 or 48V for higher power stuff.

There was a fair amount of Heath kit stuff- HW-101s, SB-101s and the SB twins, half a dozen Heathkit amps, some Ten-Tec rigs, a few Drake rigs like the 1A, 2B receivers, and the HF and 6M transceivers, and some older HF mobile rigs like the Atlas for sale.. I can resist all that stuff. For the folks who were active in the 50s, there were a few Heathkit 'lunchboxes' including an 11m version (one of the very first CB type rigs), Twoers and Sixers, some of the Clegg Labs units, and dozens of Tecraft VHF converters for some reason. Must be a time for major garage cleaning of old VHF items to try to pay the gas bill getting there and back.

Gas prices – from \$3.56 to \$3.99 seen along the way. I probably averaged about \$3.75 for the trip, and was getting 31-32 mpg most of the time with the stops to run (and keeping the engine running). Not too bad, but it sure dents the daily spending budget to have \$40 fill ups.

With a few goodies in the trunk, I headed out early on Sunday for the trip home. I allotted 2 ½ to 3 days to get there. Going home would turn out to be a bit more exciting than the trip up to Dayton. I could zip along the interstates then zip on down to Van Buren (Crawford, AR), or go through more less run counties. I had about 50% of the counties along the interstate for MP

from N9STL, so I opted for a different route – down to Cincinnati, then west into IN running a few county lines, then down the interstate to southeast IN, then across I-64 into IL, then down into the tip of IL and across on route 60 in MO. It went well, and most were 'new' counties for MD. I did miss credit for transmit in 2 counties- ran through them too fast on the interstate to get to a second band – dang. Everything else on the trip worked out with contacts on at least two bands.

I ran through Dan, KM9X, home county in IN.....left a buck at the county line sign (county hunter tradition when you run someone else's home county).

That decision turned out to be good....I would have been passing through Joplin MO at about 5pm if I had gone the short 'interstate only' route from Dayton to Van Buren AR. I likely would have been in Joplin about the time the big tornado hit. As it was, with the longer route, I was about 140 miles to the east headed to Joplin, but pooped out about 5:30 pm in a tiny town of Van Buren, MO, population 854.

There was one motel in town, another 6 miles away. No cellphone service, at least none that my Verizon cellphone would work on. It was Sunday night, and there was a BBQ/Pizza place a mile away. I headed there.....open 11-10pm every day...except this Sunday when the good folks who run the place went off to a wedding and closed it at 2pm. Dang. No pizza on this Sunday. It was dinner at the Coney-E drive in. Cheeseburger double, and a 'pizza pocket'. It was food. The motel was \$45 including tax and it was decent. I hit the hay at 9pm. I slept well until a few hours later when the thunderstorms rolled in, the ka-booms were thunderous and the sky filled with lighting flashes for a good half hour. The wind howled. It repeated later, too. I didn't watch any TV that night to see what had just happened in Joplin so I was clueless till morning. I might not have slept as well, knowing those storms had spun off killer tornadoes.

In the morning I headed east on 60 through Springfield, MO (Greene County) over to the Joplin area. Just before Joplin I took a south turn on 71 down the Walmart highway. There were streams of emergency vehicles (ambulances and more) leaving Joplin headed elsewhere. It was pouring rain – cats and dogs. Rain static, lightning flashes, loud thunder – constant.

As I was headed down to Crawford, AR for the night, Henri, OH3JF calls LD to the cellphone and asks if I can get Sebastian, AR – just below it. . I say yes – it's not even a ten mile detour and it's all interstate to get to Sebastian. It's pouring rain in that corner of AR (and also unfortunately in Joplin MO the entire day/evening). Another call comes it on the cellphone. It's Duane, K8AO, asking if there is any chance for Madison, AR. (just to the east, he says). It's the last WBOW for his Bingo! Hmmm...well, not in the pouring rain, can't even stop to check the map as I'm on the interstate and moving, and it turns out he called about 10 miles too late to take the short way there, and I had committed to get to a last county in Sebastian for Henri. So I told him I'd check after Sebastian and call him back. I can operate and log while driving....but can't read the map detail while driving in the rain. Those details get smaller and smaller as you get older and older.

I keep on I-540 all the way there in the rain (deluges at times). It finally lets up so I can run Sebastian county, and Henri is 599 on 20M at that time of day. Ran the county all bands. Then checked the map to see how to get to Madison. Dang- from there it was 30 miles or so east on the interstate to exit 35, then about 15-20 miles north on very very twisty highway 23. I figured an hour – assuming the road wasn't flooded out. There was lots of local flooding in NW Ark at the time from the heavy rains. I called him back and said first thing in the morning. It had been a long day and I was tired of rain. I also had a dinner date.

I checked in at the Motel 6 in Van Buren, AR (Crawford County) right on I-40. I met up with my friend and we went off to dinner. Later that evening I watched the TV and all the news about the tornado in Joplin (about 75 miles north). There were calls for more rain and thunderstorms, and yes, that night it poured a few times with loud lightning and thunder several times as cells passed by. Woke me up twice. The weather forecast for tomorrow was supposed to be bad starting in the early evening in central/eastern OK and also in the Dallas area, so it was no time to be dawdling along. There's a time to county hunt, and there's a time to be gone. There were a few more counties to be run for MD in AR, but it would be a another trip.

I got up early at 6am, packed the car, grabbed a sandwich and coffee at the McD nearby, and headed over to Madison, AR in the middle of nowhere at 6:30 am. Great scenic area with giant ridges, totally forested, streams, rivers....and switchbacks...lots of them. You head north on highway 23...then it is 3 miles of 25 mph switchbacks as you wind up and down the first ridge. Then a tiny town, and you do it again up and down the ridge to get to Madison County. I got there after a good hour drive, about 7:30 local time, found the county line, ran it (not a good spot going east), then moved into the county for CW. Big hill to the east at the county line as you can see in the picture. Worked K8AO on 40M SSB.





Madison County AR  
LC WBOW Bingo for K8AO  
A genuine “Percy Pic”

It was successful with K8AO – he got the last WBOW for his Bingo. (now #330) Then, rather than run more in AR, with more impending bad weather on the way, I decided to get back to the interstate and hustle as fast as possible to home to miss the storms in OK and TX – or at least be a home when they came up. It took another hour to get back to the starting point, and it was 70-75 mph the rest of the way home. I made it home at 1:30. Still sunny and clear but they were talking all sorts of ominous weather possible and prbable.

Yep....OKLA city got hit by a major tornado at rush hour – 5pm - ...killed 5 or more....hit the suburbs....and Dallas area had 9 weak tornadoes, 70-80 mph winds, and damaging hail up to softball size.....so no 'sorry' for not running more AR...another day. It was the first time in history that hail fell at the Arlington baseball park during a rain delay at the game. Power was out to 80,000 at the peak, but Dallas escaped most of the fury of the weather with no major damage.

Well, other than the weather excitement on the way home, it was a good trip. 2500 miles, the car ran well (needs new tires at 58,500 miles), I brought home some goodies, it was fun meeting all the folks at Dayton.....and I missed the real bad weather. (no tornadoes or hail).

Heck, they even had a tornado in Dickenson and Scott, VA, just after N4PJ had been there the day before. It's storming in OH – Jeff W9MSE had to postpone his trip. It's a nasty storm season this year, so keep your eyes open and turn on the local AM radio every now and then to keep up to date (or if you have mobile internet, check the local weather on your smart phone or

laptop!)....

Next big trip planned is in July to the National, then east to NY for a wedding....then home again. However, you never know where N4CD will wind up.

P.S. Just finished the Mobile Diamond logging for transmit counties. Like Master Platinum, you have to transmit from 500 different counties – no repeats allowed. In addition, for a new twist, you have to make at least three contacts on each of 2 bands from the county, plus work a Master Platinum holder.

Yippee.....503 transmitted counties done with a contact with a Master Platinum holder, and at least 3 contacts on 2 different bands, so I'm done with the spreadsheet and entering all the data in the spreadsheet I use. I hit 9 counties where I did not have either an MP contact, or didn't at least 3 contacts on 2 different bands – just two on this last trip. That will save a lot of time at the keyboard entering a gazillion keystrokes. Took less than a year since the award was started, and many thanks to the MP holders who were around morning, noon, and night! Now, for the hard part...working another 2000 plus counties.

## NASA Caught Faking G.W. Data Again

One of the big threats from the global warming moonbat types is that a rise in temperature will melt the polar ice caps causing the oceans to rise, with the cataclysmic result of skyscrapers being under water. Let's face it, if you think that the commute into Manhattan is bad now....just wait.



There is only one problem with this scenario, Mother Nature isn't being cooperative. You see it is true that sea level has risen during the 20th century and probably well before that. Scientists estimate that sea level has increased by 7 inches during the 20th century.

The climate change hoaxers use computer models to predict that sea levels would rise anywhere from 15 inches to 20 feet because of global warming in the 21st century (the consensus number is closer to 3 feet).

But Mother Nature was never good at computer science. Satellite data proved that the first decade of the 21st century sea level grew by only 0.83 inches (a pace of just 8 inches for the entire century). What's even worse (for the global warming hoaxers) there has been no rise since 2006. Now I know that some Democrats believe that Obama is a miracle worker, but even the crazies at the Daily Kos would admit that controlling sea level is way above his pay grade. So the scientists at the University of Colorado's NASA-funded Sea Level Research Group did what any other self-respecting cult members would do, they fudged the numbers. They simply added .3 millimeters per year to its Global Mean Sea Level Time Series. That way they could report that the sea level rise was accelerating, instead of what was actually happening—decelerating.

The University of Colorado Sea Level Research Group is coming to their rescue. The NASA-funded group claims glacial melt is removing weight that had been pressing down on land masses, which in turn is causing land mass to rise. This welcome news mitigates sea-level rise from melting glacial ice, meaning sea level will rise less than previously thought. However, it is very inconvenient for alarmist sea level predictions. Therefore, instead of reporting the amount by which sea level is rising in the real world, the Sea Level Research Group has begun adding 0.3 millimeters per year of fictitious sea level rise to “compensate” for rising land mass.

The extra 0.3 millimeters of fictitious sea level rise will add up to 1.2 inches over the course of the 21st century. While this is not monumental in and of itself, it will allow alarmists to paint a dramatically different picture of sea level rise than is occurring in the real world. For example, the current pace of 8 inches of sea level rise for the present century is essentially no different than the 7 inches of sea level rise that occurred last century. However, with an artificially enhanced 9.2 inches of sea level rise, alarmists can claim sea level is rising 31 percent faster than it did last century.

This isn't the first time NASA climate-change scientists have fudged data. James Hansen is famous for it.

James Hansen of NASA is not just any global warming Moonbat, he is **Al Gore's** global warming Moonbat. It was Hansen's data that was used in Gore's Oscar/Peace prize winning film. Hansen's work is ruled by one motto: "If God gives you rotten apples, tell everyone it's champagne

In October of 2008, Hansen made the announcement that it was warmest Oct. in history. A few days later after all the doom and gloom headlines passed he announced "Oops, never mind, I was wrong." He only admitted the mistake after he was "outed" by other scientists. In reality, Oct. 08 was quite an average October. It Ranked 70th in the last 114 years.

In 2007 Hansen was forced by reporter Stephen McIntyre to revise his published figures for US surface temperatures, to show that the hottest year in history was not 1998 as he had claimed, but 1934.

Well It wasn't exactly a correction. He fought tooth and nail against correcting the numbers, mislead the press and in the end Hansen didn't fully make the change. Judicial Watch filed a FOIA request and gained access to all the NASA Documents related to the incorrect data, It showed that unlike an objective scientist, Hansen wasn't very anxious to correct his mistakes.

*According to multiple press reports, when NASA corrected the error, the new data apparently caused a reshuffling of NASA's rankings for the hottest years on record in the United States, with 1934 replacing 1998 at the top of the list.*

*These new documents, obtained by Judicial Watch through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), include internal GISS email correspondence as NASA scientists attempted to deal with the media firestorm resulting from the controversy. In one exchange GISS head James Hansen tells a reporter from Bloomberg that NASA had not previously published rankings with 1998 atop the list as the hottest year on record in the 20th century [not true].*

Hansen announced recently that "The 12-month running mean global temperature in the Goddard Space Institute analysis has reached a new record in 2010 The main factor is our estimated temperature change for the Arctic region." The GISS figures show that recent temperatures in the Arctic have been up to four degrees C warmer than the long-term mean.

Those arctic numbers that important to Hansen's announcement were a figment of his creative imagination.

*Art Horn, at the Energy Tribune blog, has blown the whistle on Hansen and GISS. He points out that GISS has no thermometers in the Arctic! It has hardly thermometers that are even near the Arctic Circle. GISS estimates its arctic temperatures from land-based thermometers that supposedly each represent the temperatures over 1200 square kilometers. That's a pretty heroic assumption.*

*Meanwhile, the Danish Meteorological Institute is publishing sea-surface temperatures*

*from the Arctic showing a cooling trend in the Arctic oceans during melt season since about 1993. Clearly, we have no accurate measure of the real temperatures and trends in the Arctic at this moment. Probably that's not very important. The Russians say that the Arctic has its own 70-year climate cycle. The files of the New York Times, in fact, are filled with stories from the 1920s and 1930s, clearly showing that the Arctic was as warm then as now.*

*But this is the moment when proposed energy taxes would start to scuttle 85 percent of the energy which powers the modern world and its lifestyles. Global climate alarmists, Hansen among them, are playing a desperate and short-sighted game of "pass the energy taxes."*

Or in other word James Hansen is full of crap. He made the temperatures up...**there were no thermometers in the Arctic to measure temperatures.**

The global warming hoaxers have their backs against the wall, the longer it takes to get their job-killing regulations in place, more information will be discovered proving that their man-made-global warming theory is nonsense.

NASA funded scientists are just trying to speed up the process, by inventing data.

## Indiana QSO Party

There were half a dozen mobiles out including KJ9C, N9FN, AE8M and KM9X, with many stations putting out their home counties. A good number of counties were on the air.

### **K8MR – OH**

Unfortunately the InQP tends to get ignored between the W1 and W7 tests. But I wanted to make an effort to work the guys out there, especially KJ9C and the N9FN crew who have contributed a lot to the Ohio QSO Party. Found them, plus wandering Buckeye AE8M/M.

### **W3DYA – fixed – TX**

“Since the county hunters' CW contest was moved to July, this is the first time I've ever had the fun of working 7QP, 1QP, and INQP. It certainly was fun, and I didn't hear any RTTY QRM on 40M!

### **N8II- fixed WV**

The QP was a little slower than the past couple of years, 1 or 2 fewer mobiles, but WN9O, KJ9C, and AE8M were roving most of the QP. I lost track of KM9X + KB9MGI after two QSO's. At the start, 40 CW was really slow and it never picked up to what one might expect. Around 1945Z, I had a nice run on 40 SSB. I worked quite a few from Allen and Tippecanoe counties, but just one QSO each mode from Marion. The mobiles/rovers had pretty good signals here on 40 in the afternoon, better than quite a few of the fixed casual guys.

### **KV8Q – fixed – OH**

Operated the three QSO's parties simultaneously using the N1MM IN7QPNE module. Then sorted everything out using Excel. Started at 1300UTC with the 7QP and pulled the plug around 0400UTC with 400 QSO's. A very interesting method of wearing the knobs off the radio. Never got on the NE Party on Sunday. Thanks to everyone for all the Q's and the fun. Special kudos to the following mobiles:  
WN9O - 14 Q'S   K7RE - 10 Q's   KJ9C - 10 Q's   AE8M - 9 Q's  
N7XU - 7 Q's   K1KI - 5 Q's   K7WA - 3 Q'S   KK6MC - 2 Q's  
Hope to see you all next year.

## **Some Goodies from the Dayton Flea Market**



Echo 432 SSB Transceiver 1970s vintage



Ultra Rare Collins 4A Transmitter  
Fully Restored  
(Not for sale, just for show)

We're running out of bytes this month, so we'll save some of the other Dayton goodies for the next issues of the CHNews.

## Obama on Oil

“While Obama recently claimed credit for increased oil production in America under his watch, that was the height of hypocrisy. To the extent that there has been a slight uptick in production under his watch, that is because of expansions of oil drilling on private lands in North Dakota, South Texas and West Texas. Further, these figures have been bumped upward by the opening of BP's deepwater Thunder Horse well. That well was leased under Reagan, the exploratory well dug under Clinton, the well set under Bush, and production only now coming to full flow. In sum, Obama had as much to do with the increase in domestic oil production on his watch as he has had to do with the daily rising and setting of the sun.

To the contrary, as stated earlier, Obama is warring quite effectively on our domestic oil drilling. He is doing so, on one hand, by severely restricting the availability of public lands and coastal regions for exploration and drilling and, on the other hand, by limiting permits for such activities:

*In 2008 there were 2,416 new oil and natural gas leases issued on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land spanning 2.6 million acres. In 2010, under the Obama Administration, the number of new leases issued dropped to 1,308 and acres leased dropped to 1.3 million. The total onshore acreage leased under the Obama Administration in 2009 and 2010 are the lowest in over two decades, stretching back to at least 1984.*

## Nevada Mustang Roundup

### **WU6W- fixed – Nevada**

He was on and made over 100 contacts on SSB, and one on cw.

### **K7MKL – W6NF operator – fixed Lyon County**

Log says 97 minutes operating time but I spent alot of time calling CQ with no result. 20 was pretty poor, with some very strange short propagation, but other obligations got in the way of anything but periodic daytime-only operation. Worked only one NV station (another Lyon County) and worked \*none\* of the usual folks that I hear in nearly every contest. 15 was almost dead quiet and I know why they used to include 28MHz in the "On the Ultra-Highs" column in QST back in the day! :>)

Ran into one fellow who objected to my contest operation with the most amazing string of obscenities I've every heard. There were some hyphenated varieties that I didn't even know existed. I did ask for his call but you know what the response was to that! He went away after I continued working stations through his tirade.

## Climate Models Go Cold

**Carbon warming too minor to be worth worrying about**

**By David Evans**



The debate about global warming has reached ridiculous proportions and is full of micro-thin half-truths and misunderstandings. I am a scientist who was on the carbon gravy train, understands the evidence, was once an alarmist, but am now a skeptic. Watching this issue unfold has been amusing but, lately, worrying. This issue is tearing society apart, making fools out of our politicians.

Let's set a few things straight.

The whole idea that carbon dioxide is the main cause of the recent global warming is based on a guess that was proved false by empirical evidence during the 1990s. But the gravy train was too big, with too many jobs, industries, trading profits, political careers, and the possibility of world government and total control riding on the outcome. So rather than admit they were wrong, the governments, and their tame climate scientists, now outrageously maintain the fiction that carbon dioxide is a dangerous pollutant.

Let's be perfectly clear. Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas, and other things being equal, the more carbon dioxide in the air, the warmer the planet. Every bit of carbon dioxide that we emit warms the planet. But the issue is not whether carbon dioxide warms the planet, but how much. Most scientists, on both sides, also agree on how much a given increase in the level of carbon dioxide raises the planet's temperature, if just the extra carbon dioxide is considered. These calculations come from laboratory experiments; the basic physics have been well known for a century.

The disagreement comes about what happens next.

The planet reacts to that extra carbon dioxide, which changes everything. Most critically, the extra warmth causes more water to evaporate from the oceans. But does the water hang around and increase the height of moist air in the atmosphere, or does it simply create more clouds and rain? Back in 1980, when the carbon dioxide theory started, no one knew. The alarmists guessed that it would increase the height of moist air around the planet, which would warm the planet even further, because the moist air is also a greenhouse gas.

This is the core idea of every official climate model: For each bit of warming due to carbon dioxide, they claim it ends up causing three bits of warming due to the extra moist air. The climate models amplify the carbon dioxide warming by a factor of three — so two-thirds of their projected warming is due to extra moist air (and other factors); only one-third is due to extra carbon dioxide.

That's the core of the issue. All the disagreements and misunderstandings spring from this. The alarmist case is based on this guess about moisture in the atmosphere, and there is simply no evidence for the amplification that is at the core of their alarmism.

Weather balloons had been measuring the atmosphere since the 1960s, many thousands of them

every year. The climate models all predict that as the planet warms, a hot spot of moist air will develop over the tropics about 10 kilometres up, as the layer of moist air expands upwards into the cool dry air above. During the warming of the late 1970s, '80s and '90s, the weather balloons found no hot spot. None at all. Not even a small one. This evidence proves that the climate models are fundamentally flawed, that they greatly overestimate the temperature increases due to carbon dioxide.

This evidence first became clear around the mid-1990s.

At this point, official “climate science” stopped being a science. In science, empirical evidence always trumps theory, no matter how much you are in love with the theory. If theory and evidence disagree, real scientists scrap the theory. But official climate science ignored the crucial weather balloon evidence, and other subsequent evidence that backs it up, and instead clung to their carbon dioxide theory — that just happens to keep them in well-paying jobs with lavish research grants, and gives great political power to their government masters.

There are now several independent pieces of evidence showing that the earth responds to the warming due to extra carbon dioxide by dampening the warming. Every long-lived natural system behaves this way, counteracting any disturbance. Otherwise the system would be unstable. The climate system is no exception, and now we can prove it.

But the alarmists say the exact opposite, that the climate system amplifies any warming due to extra carbon dioxide, and is potentially unstable. It is no surprise that their predictions of planetary temperature made in 1988 to the U.S. Congress, and again in 1990, 1995, and 2001, have all proved much higher than reality.

They keep lowering the temperature increases they expect, from 0.30C per decade in 1990, to 0.20C per decade in 2001, and now 0.15C per decade — yet they have the gall to tell us “it’s worse than expected.” These people are not scientists. They overestimate the temperature increases due to carbon dioxide, selectively deny evidence, and now they conceal the truth. One way they conceal is in the way they measure temperature.

The official thermometers are often located in the warm exhaust of air conditioning outlets, over hot tarmac at airports where they get blasts of hot air from jet engines, at waste-water plants where they get warmth from decomposing sewage, or in hot cities choked with cars and buildings. Global warming is measured in 10ths of a degree, so any extra heating nudge is important. In the United States, nearly 90% of official thermometers surveyed by volunteers violate official siting requirements that they not be too close to an artificial heating source. Global temperature is also measured by satellites, which measure nearly the whole planet 24/7 without bias. The satellites say the hottest recent year was 1998, and that since 2001 the global temperature has levelled off. Why does official science track only the surface thermometer results and not mention the satellite results?

The Earth has been in a warming trend since the depth of the Little Ice Age around 1680. Human emissions of carbon dioxide were negligible before 1850 and have nearly all come after the Second World War, so human carbon dioxide cannot possibly have caused the trend. Within the trend, the Pacific Decadal Oscillation causes alternating global warming and cooling for 25 to 30 years at a go in each direction. We have just finished a warming phase, so expect mild global cooling for the next two decades.

We are now at an extraordinary juncture. Official climate science, which is funded and directed entirely by government, promotes a theory that is based on a guess about moist air that is now a known falsehood. Governments gleefully accept their advice, because the only ways to curb emissions are to impose taxes and extend government control over all energy use. And to curb emissions on a world scale might even lead to world government — how exciting for the political class!

Even if we stopped emitting all carbon dioxide tomorrow, completely shut up shop and went back to the Stone Age, according to the official government climate models it would be cooler in 2050 by about 0.015 degrees. But their models exaggerate 10-fold — in fact our sacrifices would make the planet in 2050 a mere 0.0015 degrees cooler!

Finally, to those who still believe the planet is in danger from our carbon dioxide emissions: Sorry, but you've been had. Yes, carbon dioxide is a cause of global warming, but it's so minor it's not worth doing much about.

*David Evans consulted full-time for the Australian Greenhouse Office (now the Department of Climate Change) from 1999 to 2005, and part-time 2008 to 2010, modelling Australia's carbon in plants, debris, mulch, soils, and forestry and agricultural products. He is a mathematician and engineer, with six university degrees, including a PhD from Stanford University in electrical engineering. The comments above were made to the Anti-Carbon-Tax Rally in Perth, Australia, on March 23.*

## 17/30 Meter Activity Report

Propagation was good on 17M many days. Lots of DX is being worked on 15M, 12 and 10M – real long skip. On the last N4CD trip, on some days there were 10 plus contacts per county in the log.

In May, we have the following mobiles who rain on 17M.

K5GE, N6PDB & WA6OCV, AA8R/W8TAX, AA9JJ/N9QPQ, WD9EJK, KL1V were noted on 17M SSB.

K8ZZ, AA8R, N4CD, W7FEN, W0GXQ, W9MSE, KB6UF, K7TM, AB7RW, KM1C seen on 17m CW.

On 17m PSK, Matt, W0NAC and Mike, NF0N spotted.

With the many trips, there was lots of 30M activity for a change with WA7JHQ, N4CD, N4PJ, W9MSE, K0ARS, KA4RRU, VA3XOV, KB6UF, N9BIL, W4SIG, AA8R, K8ZZ, W0NAC, W5QP, K2HVN, W7FEN, W3DQT, N5XG, W0GXQ, AF3X, N7IV, K7TM, N6HH, N9JF, K4XI, NF0N, N0KV, AB7RW, KM1C, NN9K and more on the air from the mobile.

## Greenies lose another one

### 1 - Polar bears going extinct?

**“The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says the polar bears have increased their numbers from as low as 5,000 in the 1960s to an estimated 20,000 today.** As Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., notes, the credit for this “should be given to protection already provided the polar bear by way of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the several international conservation treaties including the 1973 Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears and the U.S.-Russia Polar Bear Conservation and Management Act of 2006, as well as conservation, education, and outreach agreement with native peoples.”

<http://robertd.wordpress.com/2008/05/19/polar-bears-and-glob...>

### 2 - Farm Yields Falling?

Alarmists are now claiming that global warming is reducing plant yields, proving once again that their claims have nothing to do with reality. Yields of corn and wheat for example have increased by over 60% the last 30 years:

Computer models at Stanford University have just “told” us that man-made global warming has already sapped some of the yield potential from our food crops. They say wheat yields would have been 5.5 percent higher since 1980 without the earthly warming; corn yields would have been 3.8 percent higher.

**Stanford's computers apparently didn't tell their programmers that U.S. corn yields have actually risen by more than 60 percent since 1980 - during a period when they were supposedly hampered by too much heat. Wheat yields rose 14 percent, aided by higher levels of CO2, which act like fertilizer for plants.**

<http://americandaily.com/index.php/article/4901>

### 3 – Frac'ing a Problem?

“It is close to an article of faith on the left that any hydrocarbon-based source of energy must cause severe pollution problems. The extraordinary benefits to America from cheap natural gas released by the fracking technique have been fought with ginned-up propaganda about purported water pollution.

**But yesterday, under oath, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson admitted that there have been no (as in zero) instances of ground water contamination from fracking,** despite the propaganda that has convinced many progressives that fracking is a devil's bargain. Watch the video in which Jackson states: "I'm not aware of any proven case where the fracking process itself has affected water, although there are investigations ongoing."

[http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2011/05/epa\\_administrator\\_confirms\\_no.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2011/05/epa_administrator_confirms_no.html)

## **The Hunt for RED WHOLEBALLOFWAX**

by KM9X

From research of the K3IMC Special Needs website:

**VE1WT** (down to 4)- BINGO2 using both SSB and CW - Updated: 05/21/2011 **CA:** Ventura **KY:** Owen **OK:** Garvin **VA:** Surry **Email** to [phil.long@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:phil.long@ns.sympatico.ca)

**WB2ABD** (down to two)- 2ND using CW - Updated: 05/18/2011

Last two ... nothing held back. \

AL: Winston MT: Fallon **Email** to [wb2abd@roadrunner.com](mailto:wb2abd@roadrunner.com)

**WA3QNT** (down to three) - 4TH using both SSB and CW - Updated: 05/09/2011

ME: Aroostook TX: Bandera WI: Taylor **Email** to [g85or30@verizon.net](mailto:g85or30@verizon.net)

**N4AAT (THREE TO GO)** - BAND-40 using CW - Updated: 05/20/2011

Cell # 803-260-1137 TN: Houston TX: Navarro VA: Carroll **Email** to [scoosh@pbtcomm.net](mailto:scoosh@pbtcomm.net)

**K4AMC** 2ND using both SSB and CW - Updated: 05/16/2011

AZ: La Paz **Email** to [k4amc@bellsouth.net](mailto:k4amc@bellsouth.net)

**NU4C** USACA using SSB - Updated: 05/19/2011

TX: Bailey **Email** to [nu4c@bellsouth.net](mailto:nu4c@bellsouth.net)

**KW4V** (FOUR TO GO)- 2ND using CW - Updated: 05/17/2011

GA: Calhoun IL: Edgar, Hardin ND: Golden Valley OH: Lawrence **Email** to [lesmallwood@embarqmail.com](mailto:lesmallwood@embarqmail.com)

**W4YDY** (THREE TO GO)- PREFIX-K using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/30/2011

AR: Columbia KS: Stanton WA: Columbia **Email** to [w4ydy.countyhunter-at-suddenlink.net](mailto:w4ydy.countyhunter-at-suddenlink.net)

**W5DU** USACA using both SSB and CW - Updated: 05/10/2011

NC: Hertford **Email** to [chuck\\_hyt@yahoo.com](mailto:chuck_hyt@yahoo.com)

**K5OH** ( FOUR TO GO)- BINGO using both SSB and CW - Updated: 05/09/2011  
KY: Todd NC: Rowan Washington NE: McPherson **Email** to [k5oh@mptelco.com](mailto:k5oh@mptelco.com)

**W7FEN** (TWO TO GO)- BAND-20 using bot h SSB and CW - Updated: 05/14/2011  
AL: Elmore OH: Noble **Email** to [w7fen@live.com](mailto:w7fen@live.com)

**K7REL** - PREFIX-K using both SSB and CW - Updated: 05/20/2011  
AL: Franklin IN: Knox NC: Franklin **Email** to [tomk7rell \\*at\\* cox.net](mailto:tomk7rell@cox.net)

**N8KIE** (THREE TO GO)- 4TH using both SSB and CW - Updated: 05/14/2011  
NE: Antelope, Grant UT: Daggett WI: Price **Email** to [n8kie@aol.com](mailto:n8kie@aol.com)

**AA8R** MASTER'S GOLD using both SSB and CW - Updated: 05/02/2011  
CA: Mono **Email** to [aa8r@aol.com](mailto:aa8r@aol.com)

**W9UX** (2 TO GO) - 2ND using CW - Updated: 05/15/2011  
CA: Lassen UT: Beaver **Email** to [w9ux@arrl.net](mailto:w9ux@arrl.net)

**W0NAC** (2 to go) - PREFIX-K using both SSB and CW - Updated: 05/09/2011  
NE: Nance TX: Tyler **Email** to [w0nac@comcast.net](mailto:w0nac@comcast.net)

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de N4CD – Let's see if we can't get a few of these folks finished up. Many others are closing in on awards. Please check the K3IMC needs page and see if you can't get them 'done'.

# Awards

Third Time #228	Jonas, LY5A	May 7, 2011
Sixth Time #39	Dave, KE3VV	May 23, 2011
Eighth Time #9	Silver, N9QS	May 16, 2011
Bingo #327	Jimmy, K4YFH	May 12, 2011
Bingo #328	Billy, KDYUK	May 19, 2011
Bingo #329	Jim, VA3XOV	May 24, 2011
Bingo #330	Duane, K8AO	May 24, 2011
Bingo II #78	Randy, AA8R	May 2, 2011
Bingo II # 79	Bob, KA9JAC	May 15, 2011

## Upcoming Events for County Hunters

Alabama QSO Party RS(T) and county, state, province, or 'DX' \

[www.alabamagsoparty.org](http://www.alabamagsoparty.org)

Jun 4, 1600Z - Jun 5, 0400Z CW--1.810, 3.545, 7.045, 14.045, 21.045, 28.045; PH--1.865, 3.855, 7.230, 14.250, 21.300, 28.450.

ARRL June VHF QSO Party Grid square

[www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests)

Jun 11, 1800Z - Jun 13, 0300Z

West Virginia QSO Party RS(T), WV county or S/P/C

[www.qsl.net/wvsarc](http://www.qsl.net/wvsarc)

Jun 18, 1600Z - Jun 19, 0200Z CW--35 kHz from band edge, Phone--35 kHz from General/Nov/Tech segments.



ARRL Field Day Category, ARRL/RAC section or DX  
[www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests) **Jul 27**  
Jun 25, 1800Z - Jun 26, 2100Z

**National Convention – July 2011**

The 43<sup>RD</sup> MARAC National Convention

July 6<sup>th</sup> – July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Duluth, MN

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Holiday Inn & Suites, 200 West First St. Duluth, MN 55802

1-800-477-7089 / 1-218-722-1202

Check MARAC.org for latest info

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