

County Hunter News

July 1, 2006

Volume 2, Issue 7

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

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

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

We hope you will enjoy the new County Hunter News. Feel free to forward, or provide links. Permission is given for copying or quoting in part or all, provided credit is given.

County hunter nets run on 14.0565, 10114 and 7038.5, plus Tuesday nights on 3556.5

Information on County Hunting is available at www.countyhunter.com

De N4CD (email: telegraphy@prodigy.net)

Notes from the Editor

Club of One Runs off another Potential "SSB" Mobile: Well, the 'witch hunts', trashing and bashing, arbitrary 'new rule of the week', and banning continue.....today, May 27, 2006, we hear Club Station K2JG denying a request to a "8" mobile station who wished to move a mobile at the end of a run...the mobile was N8KIE in WYO, WV that he wished to move...then he asks "AA8R, why don't you run on SSB ever? You just want to help yourself and not others on the net". Who knows, maybe he wanted to move him to CW? Or

move him so OTHERS on SSB could get him? And AA8R puts out many, many counties. SSB is just not his preferred mode while mobile.

I guess the “Club” sees some spots occasionally on CW for this mobile – but he wasn’t out mobile today on a trip. AA8R/m wanted to move a mobile to help out others, and to ask a ‘query’, which you cannot do on net, or ELSE! (You might incur the wrath of the Net Mullah and get send to ‘sit in the corner’ in a time-out until NM decides you have suffered enough. No queries on net, ever. You can have a ‘question’, but remember the made up arbitrary rule is ‘no queries’. You’ll be corrected like a second grader instantly!) Or wear the ‘dunce cap’ and sit in the corner. Until you are ‘contrite enough’.

AA8R received this from KZ2P by email:

In a message dated 5/28/2006 3:14:15 P.M. Eastern Standard Time, K2JG@Comcast.net writes:

“AA8R,

I far from the only with this opinion. When you decide to help the folks on 20 SSB, then I will help you. Until then have fun on CW.

KZ2P”

Of course, nearly every MARAC member and cw operator knows that Randy, AA8R, was involved in the new rules for the MARAC CW contest, with changed categories to make it more interesting to all. He promoted the CW contest throughout the radio world, getting publicity for the MARAC sponsored contest in QST, and in other publications, to insure a good turnout, got well over 150 people involved in the contest, with literally thousands and thousands of contacts made by MARAC members and others, giving some folks over 400 counties worked in a single weekend. Now, he is busily correlating received logs, and will announce the results shortly. (Results now available at www.AA8R.com) A lot of work done for MARAC. And what does he get from an Officer of MARAC, for ‘not helping the folks out’? I guess if the SSB folks had some one as dedicated to making sure the MARAC SSB contest was as good as the CW one, they might have had more than a pitiful contest showing on SSB. And for his good work, he gets slammed by the Treasurer of MARAC? And ‘run off’? Golly.

So what treatment did this superb, dedicated worker for MARAC get from the current MARAC Treasurer? (It's even incredible to believe that the SC Director, W0MU, wouldn't get upset with hardworking MARAC volunteers getting this treatment, but it appears to him that, 'Anything Jim does is OK').....

Who knows, maybe it was a last county for him on a different band/mode? And he extended the courtesy of not taking up net time to try and arrange that?

I thought that was what NC asked over and over again? "Next up are X, Y, Z. Any ins outs and moves?".....guess he didn't mean that.....any more than when he asks "Is there a mobile ready to run?"- Now excluding 30 or so. Well, add 4 alone this month to the tally.

What can you call it? Some might call it extortion and blackmail. You do what I want, or I'll ban you, never give you relays, kick you out of the chat room, or worse. Even sadder, a few folks bash along, without any idea why, other than acting like a bunch of six year old kids piling on, hoping for 'baddie points'.

Last month it was ND9M getting the same treatment, when he asked for a double relay. On days when there are almost no mobiles running on SSB, I guess you aren't going to hear those too often that have been 'run off' like these two recently, plus likely another dozen who asked to 'move a mobile' but weren't inclined to run on 20zm SSB all the time. Add that to the 30 or more on the 'banned list', and when it is quiet all day with little activity, you know why....oh, and don't forget those who can't move mobiles to help out everyone else....like AD1C. No wonder there is no one around to 'move a mobile' when NC can find one to run, or suddenly there are several who all want to run right away. ND9M found his mic for the New England trip - he could hear NC up there. Hard to run on SSB when NC doesn't hear you in FL, GA, or SC most of the time.

Of course, ND9M is busy putting out counties on 40M SSB where the 40M folks welcome everyone...no one is run off!...and one of his problems is he can't hear NC in north Florida most days from the mobile. Can't even 'check in' if he wanted to. At times, he does run on SSB. Just not as often as on CW.

Now we have 100 stations on 14.336 that NEVER run mobile...can't raise a hand to move a mobile when NC asks 'anyone like to move this mobile?' Hundreds of them. Do they get chastised for 'not running mobile on the 20M

SSB net”? Or “Not helping out?” When has NC challenged them to get in their mobile and put out some counties if they wanted to continue getting relays? And when a mobile comes up to SSB on occasion and asks for a relay, like last month when he told off ND9M, saying don’t bother to come back here if you aren’t going to run on SSB, today it was AA8R getting the same treatment. Likely both will take him up on that, and seldom run on SSB on 20M. Or come up there for a special last county. The county hunters lose.

Let’s see...14 mobiles on the list, waiting to run, and he wants another one????? He wants AA8R to run on SSB, but gives him ‘ultimatums’???? While the ones on planned trips are having to QSY off and fight weekend QRM on their planned trips almost all the time to get out all the counties on their planned routes???? Duh? I guess AA8R will stick with the ‘friendly bunch on CW. Why give in to blackmail and extortion?

More threats from Club HQ in FL...if you don’t do what I want, I’ll have a temper tantrum and ban you!.....ban you! Reminds me of Carmen on South Park...only someday Carmen is going to move out of 2nd grade and grow out of it. (If you don’t understand this, ask someone under 50 to explain it).....No relays for you!.....my way! My way!....temper tantrum!... or else!

I only listen when a Master Platinum mobile is running on 20SSB. I guess there are a lot more cases of this abuse I don’t even hear. I got 5 emails on this from the folks who were listening and heard the AA8R banishment. Even WOMU commented about this ‘sad event.’ Go figure..... Volunteer for MARAC and you get screwed by the Treasurer. Another proud “MARAC moment”.

Now it has gotten to the point of even if you ‘don’t run mobile on SSB’, you get in trouble! What new silly rule will the Club come up with next? Is the “Club” that desperate to get to 11th time around?

From someone in “7” land

“I just joined a few weeks ago but now I wonder if that was an appropriate decision. I have read the past two issues of your CH News with great interest.

I had an occasion to try a couple of fone Q’s on 14.336 yesterday. The NCS was quick to remind me that phonetics aren’t necessary and only confuses everyone. I don’t think he intended to make me feel bad, but it did none the less and

I made my decision then and there to NEVER AGAIN work SSB on the CH net. “

From a 9 land station:

“I was banned from relays for a few days a couple of years ago because I responded to quick and stepped on him. The boys on 40 meters have fun and really try to help each other and you. Their rules are - Can I help you get the county?”

From out west:

“Maybe we should take up bee keeping so when we get stung we really know it! I’m just frustrated at the stuff going on and wish everyone could get back to the good times of years past”.

From WOMU posted on the forum: “I get tons of cards from folks that work me in various contests chasing all the counties that I have never heard on any of our nets. The nets are a lot easier. Things change. **Hopefully they will change for the better soon.**”

From the forum, re StarTrek and Spock: ““The needs of the many, outweigh the needs of the one”. – Regarding whether county hunters should HAVE to use a ‘different’ frequency to get away from the bashing/trashing and banning.

From the forum: “Yes, there is something profoundly wrong with having to go to another frequency.”

Wouldn’t it be great to have NOTHING to report about who got run off each month??????? We just report what happens. If nothing happened, nothing would get reported..... I wonder what new ‘stupid’ rule will be next??????

Oh...here’s another one! From “0” land.

“So that is what Jim was so upset about? Just because somebody helped a mobile after THE ncs checked out. I happened to tune over to 336, heard kz2P say he was leaving, got busy with the logs & when a mobile called & no one answered I picked him up, got him started & spotted & followed with relays. I didn't think that was the WRONG thing to do. If that is going to set him off like that then I will apologize for helping a mobile, but then I will turn right around

a do it again. Sometimes we have to the right thing, just because it is the right thing to do, & not worry about who is going to have a hissy fit afterwards.”

Update on NV4Z/N3ISH – Run off the net: (via email)

“She was trying to assist Jim with a station he was having trouble with and after 2 efforts, Jim rudely interrupted and asked her if "**she wanted to take over the net?**"..... She sent her apology and told him she was just trying to help him.... He told her.... " That is NOT the answer I wanted.... do **you want to take over the net?**".... She again said, " I am sorry"..... **he told her off** and she finally told him to "go to hell"..... And that finished George up as well as Jim refused to give him a relay later.“

Temper! Temper! Another two long time county hunters ‘run off’ and trashed on the air..... And they run mobile too!....fewer mobiles for the folks to work. They are about the only mobile that ran in South Florida. But Jim ‘got his way’. Temper Tantrum! The heck with the rest of the county hunters.

What does it take to get banned? Folks want to know.

“What does one have to do in order to get "banned" from the CH net? I guess I'm not around to hear about what I've been reading, so I have no idea what goes on. I have one star and I've never had problems on the net ... except to be told not to use phonics ... but, other than that, things have been o.k. But, in order to be prepared, I would like to know what I should do - or not do - because I still have about 1/3 of the counties for the 2nd time around and I don't want to do anything in order to be banned from completing the project. ..Maybe I don't monitor the net enough these days in order to "hear" about what I've been reading. To me, it's all a bit confusing. Do I sound confused?” (Post from K3IMC forum).

Not much...don't run mobile....or ‘ask’ politely to ‘move a mobile’. Or try to help out on net.

Now, let's recall the great ‘sin’ of N9STL. From her post on the K3IMC forum:

“I posted a note on the forum that said that I thought that everybody should be treated respectfully and everybody should be allowed to run. He sent me an e-mail and told me not to tell him how to run the net and when I did not respond

in a "timely manner" he banned me. I was officially banned on 12-23-01 (Two days after my mother's funeral) When I told him that I had just buried my mother and that is why I did not answer his e-mail he said "You should have thought of that before you posted your note on the forum" and I asked him when I could run again I was told NEVER. Joyce N9STL”

Reminder: When you move off frequency, either SSB or CW, please do make an effort to establish the frequency is clear first. Sometimes the mobile gets to the new frequency, and folks are calling him. I wonder if they checked first? Or just started calling, hoping to be first? Both on CW and SSB. Take a few seconds to ask, or send QRL? And listen.

Info: Rob, who was W8YRB, applied for and got vanity personal Callsign for his initials, and is now K0RU. Same excellent CW op, different Callsign. He joins others who have personal call signs reflecting their initials.

Where did KC1NA go? Bob got a new truck – and unfortunately it has 20 over S9 noise in it on the ham bands.....(not surprisingly is quiet for the 27MHz CB band – noise suppressed there). He cannot run counties in this new truck. (As reported on the K3IMC forum). Gary, W4GNS is struggling with his new truck....s5 noise on cw makes it rough – and impossible on SSB. Ralph, WB4FFV got new truck 2 years ago, and seldom runs – he has to be stopped to hear anyone – and that doesn’t get miles done and money made when you are driving a truck.

Club of One Tries to Shut down The County Hunter News – The Club of One operator, and one of the ‘Club’ fans sent “anonymous” emails to the web host provider for the County Hunter News Online. They complained about the ‘news coverage’ of the Club station.. All we do at CHN HQ is print the news as it happens. If no trashing/bashing/banning happened, we wouldn’t have anything to report. Apparently the ‘Club’ and Club fans don’t like the continual ‘news coverage’ of the weekly happenings on 14.336 reported to you out there.

Not everyone is around listening on the radio all the time to hear what is going on. So, rather than stop what many find offensive, the “Club” tried to do what it has done before..... it will dream up a ‘reason’ to run you off the net...KZ2P will “kick” folks out of the chat room or get one of his Club supporters to ‘ban you’ from the chat room. And the Club and “Club fans” will write anonymous emails ‘complaining’ about ‘coverage’ of news, trying to get the news source shut down. Or spread false and malicious information.

Needless to say, the ‘anonymous’ emails were easily tracked back to.....James, **KZ2P** and Mike, **W0MU**. When confronted with the digital trail, at least James, KZ2P ‘fessed up’. If he really had a ‘complaint’, wouldn’t it seem respectable and honest to use his own name/call when complaining?

W0MU, South Central Director, did not bother to respond. The email was traced back to him. Even worse – he didn’t have the decency to ‘fess up’ when confronted with the digital trail evidence. I guess they think they can control the news as reported in the CHNews and on the K3IMC forum just like they want to control what happens on ‘the private net of the Club’ on 14.336, and in the ‘chat room’ (aka trashing/bashing room). Fortunately for County Hunters, the US Constitution Bill of Rights provides for ‘Freedom of the Press’ to report on what is happening. Those in ‘power’ can’t shut down a free press – unlike Russia or North Korea or Iran.

This is not the first time – the Club complained so vigorously (and a few other Club fans participated in trying to shut down the CHNews last year) that we moved to our own URL to avoid hassles to our previous host. So when you hear KZ2P and W0MU, trying to act like “ little Dictators” in countries with no freedoms, telling you what news you can ‘read’ or where you can ‘get your news’, be glad you live in the USA with freedom of the press. Not Cuba or North Korea or Iran.

MARAC Board Reverses Itself – Last month the CHNews reported that the MARAC board has passed a resolution to issue awards with no log submissions required. Due to high input from the membership that did not approve that decision, the MARAC board voted to rescind that previous action – thus requiring the submission of logs. Likely during this period, everyone who submitted for an award sent in their logs per the normal procedures used in the past.

RILEY HOLLINGSWORTH AT DAYTON

From 5/26/06 ARRL Letter, published by the ARRL,
Newington, CT:

FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth advised those attending the FCC forum at Dayton Hamvention 2006 to try kindness instead of confrontation when problems arise on the bands. Hollingsworth spoke May 20 to a nearly full house at Hara Arena, and for the most part he praised the Behavior of the majority of Amateur Radio operators, especially those who volunteered in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina last year. But, he noted, **radio amateurs** still could be more courteous and **less inclined to fly off the handle at some perceived on-the-air offense.**

"You need to lighten up and not embarrass the Amateur Radio Service," Hollingsworth advised. In Hollingsworth's view, radio amateurs all too often are hypersensitive and rude.

Hollingsworth acknowledged that "certain problem operators" remain, but the real troublemakers are rarely the newcomers to Amateur Radio. "If there's a downfall in Amateur Radio, it won't be caused by no-code Technicians or codeless anything else," he said. **"It'll be caused by the microphone**—no doubt in my mind"

Now, think about it: If what you're hearing annoys you, or angers you or is stupid, use the 'stupid filter,' which is that big knob--that VFO that will take you somewhere else," he quipped. "It's the largest knob on the radio." He recommended moving to another frequency or even **another band** altogether.

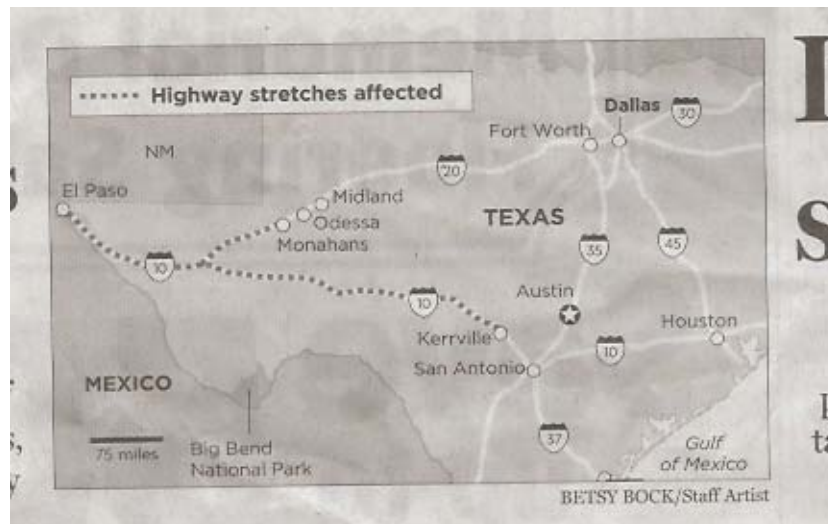
He also suggested that radio amateurs have an obligation to stay informed about what's going on in Amateur Radio that might affect their activities. "You have to not only keep up, you have to lead the way, because it's in your charter," he said, pointing to §97.1 of the Amateur Service rules."

ED: Maybe that is why so many have ‘turned that big knob’ and gone down the band to CW? OR the band switch and gone to 40M or 30M. Turned on the “stupid filter” for .336 . Others are just leaving in disgust. .Most radios work fine on 30 meters. And no microphones allowed in this country and most countries on 30M.

New Texas Speed Limits – 80 MPH!!!

Speed limits on parts of I-20 and I-30 are now 80mph, the highest speed limit anywhere in the country. On Thursday, May 25, 2006, state transportation officials boosted limits from 75 mph to 80 mph. This is confined to mostly ‘rural’ counties in West Texas...a 432 mile stretch of I-10 between El Paso and Kerrville, and 89 miles of I-20 between Monahans and the I-10 junction in Jeff Davis County.

This was approved by the Legislature last year, but took a while to ‘implement’. Agency studies showed that 85% of all drivers on those highways were already cruising between 76 and 79 mph. Source: Dallas Morning News, Friday, May 26, 2006.



from the Dallas Morning News

DUCT tape vs. DUCK tape

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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

Duct tape, also known as **duck tape**, is a strong, fabric-based, multi-purpose adhesive tape, usually silver or black in color, although many other colors, including transparent, have recently become available. Duct tape is usually 1.88 inches (48 mm) wide. It was originally developed during World War II in 1942 under the name "Duck Tape" as a waterproof sealing tape for ammunition cases. Permacel, then a division of Johnson & Johnson, used a rubber-based adhesive to help the tape resist water and a fabric backing to facilitate ripping. Because of these properties, it was also used to quickly repair military equipment, including jeeps, guns, and aircraft. Duct tape is also called 100mph Tape in the military, citing the urban legend that duct tape will hold its adhesion up to winds traveling 100 miles per hour.

After the war, the housing industry boomed and people started using duct tape for many other purposes. The name "duct tape" came from its use on heating and air conditioning ducts, a purpose for which it, ironically, has been deemed ineffective by the state of California and by building codes in most other places in the U.S. (which means professionals are restricted from using it in systems they install, but do-it-yourselfers are not). However, metallized and aluminium tapes used by professionals are still often called "duct tapes".

“Duct tape is found in many people's tool kits. Its versatility and holding power are evidenced by its humorous nickname in engineering circles: "the ultimate material." Another frequent joke (referenced below) is that a handyman needs only two tools: duct tape for "sticking" and the lubricant WD-40 for "unsticking".

“NASA engineers' faith in duct tape as an emergency tool was rewarded in 1970, when the square carbon dioxide filters from Apollo 13's failed command module had to be modified to fit round receptacles in the lunar module, which was being used as a lifeboat after an explosion in route to the moon. Engineers designed a workaround using duct tape and other items on board Apollo 13, relaying directions to the spacecraft's crew. The lunar module CO₂ scrubbers started working again, saving the lives of the three astronauts onboard.”

From <http://www.ducktapeclub.com/university/history.asp>

It was thirty years until the next advancement came. That's when Jack Kahl, former CEO of Manco, Inc., changed the name of the product to Duck Tape and recruited the help of a very talented young duck named Manco T. Duck. Manco T. Duck really embraced the product, lending his likeness to the Duck Tape logo and giving personality to a commodity product. Manco, Inc. also began to shrink-wrap and label the product, making it easier to stack for retailers, and easier to distinguish different grades for customers.

James “Jimmie” Francis Leonard

Who? You've likely never heard of him, but he had very significant impact to the art of telegraphy, which carried over into “wireless” Morse Code. Few have ever heard of him. But if you are a CW operator, you might be interested in what he did ‘way back’ when. (An interesting rare book acquired at the Dayton flea market revealed some interesting information).

Jimmie Leonard was born in 1834 in Frankfurt, KY. That was 10 years before the first telegraph system ever was installed in the USA. He graduated from school in 1848, where he had studied Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, and the McGuffey series of Eclectic readers. Thinking carefully about different voactions, he decided to devote his life to the new science which was fast girdling the word – and had completely astonished it – telegraphy. Back then, it was big as the dot.com revolution that hit the USA in the 1990s. Investors bought ‘franchises’ and equipment from the Morse Company. The current dollar equivalent of billions were spent within 15 years building systems.

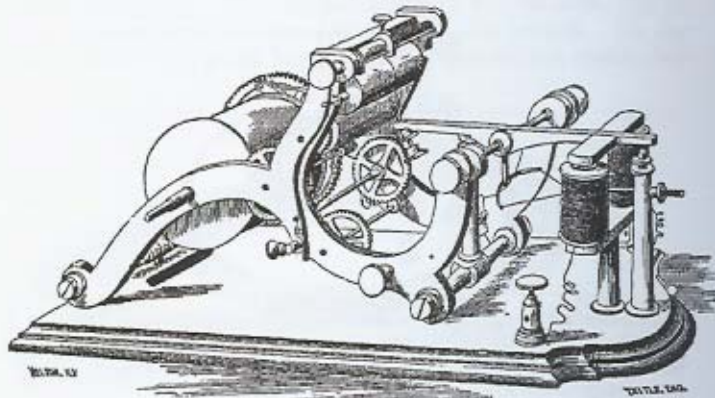


James Francis Leonard 1834-1862

The first telegraph system went in between Washington and Baltimore in 1844. New systems were built with amazing speed. The Morse Company finished the line from Louisville to Frankfurt, KY in 1848. The first news received by telegraph in that city was the death of John Quincy Adams (the sixth President of the USA). In the fall of 1848, Jimmie Leonard applied for a job at the Frankfurt office, close to his home. He was offered a job as a telegraph messenger boy, the first step in the company. In his spare time, he tinkered with 'the tape'.

and the pen point is thus caused to puncture the ribbon paper,

Fig. 39.



A Morse Telegraph Register – circa 1850s

When Samuel Morse invented the telegraph, messages were received on a printed tape. A scribe embossed each character on a moving paper tape, and after the message was received, someone would decode it. In that manner, also, a written copy of the message as received could be maintained. The device used was called a ‘register’. While Morse had broadly written his patent to include ‘reception of message by sound’, no one had ever done it, and any attempts were against the ‘official policy’ of the company, and Morse and all company officials were unaware that such an ability even could exist. Some folks could read bits and pieces of messages.

In fact, the Morse company passed internal regulations against anything but decoding messages off the tape by sight. Alas, it seemed that ‘the tape’ had many problems...improper adjustment, running out of tape, failure to wind up the spring that powered the register, or the breaking of the weight cord on weight driven registers. They used ‘clockwork mechanisms.’ At times, the message was so faint on the tape it was hard to read. It was far from perfect. It would not go faster than 25 wpm, and what was received was what was sent, no matter how bad the sending operator. If an error occurred in reception, a repeat couldn’t be gotten until after the tape had been fully transcribed – giving minutes to hours delay.

As an aside, at the same time, when both were 14 years old, another youngster named Andrew Carnegie was also starting his career as a messenger boy for the telegraph industry. You now know him as one of the world’s largest

philanthropists. As you will learn later, he also developed the skill that Jimmie demonstrated first, being 3rd to use it.

Quickly, the superintendent of the line learned of the excellent work of this youngster and invited him to a meeting at Louisville HQ for the line. James Reid, who turn out to be one of the giants in the telegraph industry, was this superintendent, and had heard stories of this 15 year old's ability to copy Morse code 'by ear'. Jimmie demonstrated his ability, and was put to work sending and receiving the most difficult dispatches, which he always handled with accuracy and rapidity, writing the messages down by hand as they were being transmitted across the wires. He became known as the most famous 'sound reader' in telegraph history. While others had caught 'bits and pieces' of messages listening to the 'click and clack' of the telegraph equipment, Jimmie became the first to copy entire dispatches – every word of every sentence, and be able to write them down in 'real time'. He seldom missed a letter, but by 'sound reading' could break instantly to get a fill or repeat when needed, unlike the tape sight readers.

A few years later, before the giant International Exhibition held in 1855 in Paris, France, Professor Samuel Morse arranged for some speed tests, unbeknownst to those who were asked to participate. At another office with the fastest known sender, he was told to 'send messages as fast as possible' for five minutes. This was done over the primitive telegraph lines that were barely insulated, had high resistance – about the worse case you could imagine that 'just about worked' most of the time. Every minute you had to 'adjust' things to keep it working as conditions changed. Joseph Fisher in the Nashville office whipped off text out of magazine, sending 250 words in five minutes (first minute at 55 wpm, the the rest at 45 wpm) by straight key, and Jimmie Leonard copied the text 100% correct. No one knows how fast Jimmie could have copied...no one could send fast enough to where he couldn't copy it! And by hand key and writing on paper with pen – legible enough to be used as 'final copy' delivered to a customer! It turned out Samuel Morse, the inventor of the telegraph, was in the Lousiville office that day to observe, and took the neatly written very legible handwritten copy with him to Paris to show as part of that exhibition. It was impossible to receive over 25 wpm on the paper tape. Other European systems were even slower. Yet, here was someone able to copy at 50 wpm. Naturally, done on a "Morse System" using "Morse Code".

Within 20 years, many telegraphers 'copied by ear'. The register (which was a very expensive piece of equipment to make and the most expensive part of the

telegraph system other than the telegraph wire itself) began to fade away – other than in fire and burglar alarm type applications. It was replaced by the simple sounder – which you see at flea markets all over the country for \$10-50 – literally millions of them were made. They were optimized for ‘sound reading’. Registers are as scarce as hens teeth...worth \$5000 and up. Several of the county hunters on the air now are retired commercial telegraph operators (Abe, W7GQK, Pete, N4AKP, and others).

In the 1870s, the typewriter (telegraph MILL) was invented, and then put into service, allowing easier copy. No need to try and write down messages at 30-40 wpm by hand. You copied it by ear, and typed it out as it came in - Usually all uppercase letters. Most of the typewriters used only had uppercase letters!

Jimmie Leonard caught typhoid fever, and died a young death in 1962. He had been working feverishly sending messages during the Civil War, and some suggested he just ‘worked himself to death’. Andrew Carnegie rapidly moved up through the ranks of the telegraph industry, invested wisely, made a fortune, got involved in the steel industry, made another fortune. He was the 3rd person to ‘read by sound’. (Many of Thomas Edison’s first patents for were improvements in telegraph systems, and he was one of the fastest telegraph operators of the times as well. And did you know that Alexander Graham Bell accidentally ‘invented’ the telephone while trying to come up with a way to send multiple messages over the same telegraph circuit simultaneously?)

Now, if you wonder where this goes, if it weren’t for Jimmie Leonard, we would likely have seen ‘paper tapes’ used continuously in the telegraph industry, until teleprinters arose at the last 1800s/early 1900s, and then messages continued to be copied by machine. No one might ‘copy Morse’ by ear. Can you imagine radio systems that were designed to copy code on a paper tape, or only used ‘machines’. Without Jimmie’s contribution, and development of the ability to copy Morse ‘by ear’, and discovery by an open minded James Reid, always looking for improvements, who knows what Marconi would have done? – he was tinkering with machine copy back in 1900s for the first wireless system- the radio equivalent of the register, to have ‘paper tapes’ of messages.

Most of the international traffic of the day was copied as squiggling lines on paper tapes on submarine telegraph cable systems, where conditions made it required, and signals at the microvolt/picoamp level could be copied on the siphon recorder invented by Lord Kelvin. Higher sensitivity than provided by the human ear. (Celsius temp is often recorded as degrees K – degrees above

absolute zero in honor of his wide achievements in science – for “K”elvin). Siphon recorders cost \$50,000 and up back then. Think what a ham station might cost! And how you might county hunt? Maybe ham radio now not much different that RTTY using Model 15 teleprinters with paper rolls or tape? Or the computer equivalent. Come to think about it, with PSK31, AMTOR, SuperFast 600wpm Morse, and other digital modes, maybe we are going full circle after 170 years? Back to not copying by ear?

For those just getting by the 5wmp code test, now think of having a job that required sending or receiving thousands of words at 30-40 wpm every day, 8 or more hours a day, and copying that all by hand? Then later, all day long by typewriter. Oh, and that sending with a hand key – bugs had not been invented yet! Not until around the late 1890s. I have trouble writing much over 25 wpm for more than a minute on W1AW speed runs, and got up to 30wpm once with barely legible copy. Can anyone send by hand key at 50 wpm out there today? And also copy doing it totally legibly at 40-45-50 wpm?

He left an interesting legacy that even today, cw ops have a hard time duplicating! Perhaps he was the speed demon of all time with the hand sent Morse copied by ear? One whose skills and willingness to defy the ‘conventional wisdom of the day’ who changed the direction of the telegraph industry, which likely changed how Marconi designed wireless systems.

Sources:

The Life of James Francis Leonard, The First Practical Sound-Reader for the Morse Alphabet, by John Wilson Townsend, 1909.

The Telegraph Manual, by Taliafeo Shaffner, 1859

The Telegraph in America, by James D. Reid, 1879

Update on the Witch Hunts

It seems that the previous article needs some updating and a few corrections and additions based upon newly received information.

Of course, everyone should realize that NONE of this would have happened had the “Club” not had a 7 year history of running folks off the net, for minor things, like not answering an email ‘promptly, for giving out a LC, and his “antics” and fits that have earned him an international reputation. (and not good for ham radio).

Now you can imagine a nice friendly net, with helpful people interested in seeing all CH finish up for the awards they are working on, right? The way it was for 30 years. If the current Net Control “Club” was on the ball, like previous net controls over the past 30 years of CH, he would have been on top of things, N9STL would have gotten a relay for Garfield, MT, or the mobile would have been moved to another band. Everyone would be happy. No one would have to worry about getting banned just for giving a LC. Or making a post and exercising their First Amendment Right to disagree with someone. Or suggest that all should be treated with respect.

Instead, the “Club’s” personal vendettas for ‘imagined infractions’ of his ‘made up rule of the month’, - in this case, failure to answer an email in 2 days, or giving out an LC to someone he could not get along with, etc, was the cause of all the grief going on. Let’s put 99.9% of blame right where it belongs. The “witch hunts” started in Collier County, FL. The ‘bannings’ and ‘bashing and trashing’ started right in Collier County, FL. Yes, the “Club” is ‘always there’ to remind you. As many have said “He’d be the best NC of all times if only _____”.

Now, let’s review why N9STL got banned by the “Club”. Just what was the horrendous ‘offense’ that caused this over 4/1/2 years ago? Did she kill 30 of the “Clubs” relatives in terrorist attacks? Did she appear on his doorstep with a lynch mob armed with AK-47s and RPGs? From her post on the web:

“I posted a note on the forum that said that I thought that everybody should be treated respectfully and everybody should be allowed to run. He sent me an e-mail and told me not to tell him how to run the net and when I did not respond in a "timely manner" he banned me. I was officially banned on 12-23-01 (Two days after my mother's funeral) When I told him that I had just buried my mother and that is why I did not answer his e-mail he said "You should have thought of that before you posted your note on the forum" and I asked him when I could run again I was told NEVER”.

(Wasn't that nice of the Club? I guess satisfying his personal ego transcends all human grief? Incredible, isn't it?)

Likely this was around the time that KI0JD, Carol, another YL operator, was 'run off by the Club' when Percy had a bad dream, tried to do some simple math, got it wrong, and started a six month terror campaign with the "Club" accusing KI0JD of being the "Magic Carpet" mobile – running counties 'too fast' for Percy's calculations. A made up 'allegation' that was proven false by many, many other county hunters. However, NC didn't let facts get in the way. He was having too much fun trashing and bashing away with Percy trying to outdo him on every bash. Or 'unban' that mobile when the facts were false? Nooooo.....the malicious trashing/bashing machine was cranked up full force.

Many folks suggested that Carol had done nothing wrong, and tried to get her back on the net. That seemed only to further incite the Club to increased levels of bashing/trashing, name calling, and character assassination. Finally, after near unanimous support from all other county hunters, Carol was finally reinstated – but many who had supported her were now on the 'Club' hate list.

After this horrendous failure to not answer an email in 2 days, while she was off with the death of her mother, not only was Joyce 'banned', but she was 'trashed', called a liar/cheat and worse by the Club and Club fans. For over the past 4 ½ years. Some folks after hearing the lies repeated year after year may have figured that if the Club were willing to spend hundreds of hours of time talking about it, the Club had to know what it was talking about. Or that she had committed some horrendous crime against humanity. Wrong – as we have shown time and time again. Wrong – it takes nothing but violating a 'made up rule of the minute' to get banned. And after that, it was nothing but malicious, intentional character assassination, plain and simple, for 4 ½ years.

Some of the statements in the article on the 'witch hunt' were based upon information from what should be a reliable source (A MARAC official holding high office) who apparently flat out lied about some details. We'll cover them in detail.

First, this MARAC official told folks that the information from Roger, W2NWL, was 'disqualified' because the logs had been 'altered'. That is what was put in the last CHNews. That turns out to be a **flat out lie**. No logs were 'disqualified'. Or found to be 'altered'. About the only thing that was altered was the truth from this MARAC Official. Roger's logs turned out to be

‘inconsistent’ with what was found from multiple others and checking well over 130 contacts. It was not used.

The CHNews owes Roger an apology. Apparently he was ‘used’ by the Club of One fans without being aware of it. Or maybe he thought he was ‘helping out the Club’? Or maybe the ‘Club’ had urged him to ‘work’ but not ‘log’ N9STL contacts? Then, of course, she would not be in the log when ‘checked’.
HMMMM????

It turns out that, at the Club of One prompting, by special request of Club HQ in FL, not at the request of anyone else, Roger, W2NWL, had checked his logs to see if N9STL was in it. . The “Club of One” already had copies of the submission that was made. **By what authority, no one knows.** Nothing in by rules allows it, or even suggests it. As far as I can tell, according to a MARAC director, no other application in years has been looked at by anyone other than the awards chairman.

Roger found one contact in the log, but could not find several others in his log, but could not be sure, as to whose mistake it might be, and relayed this information to Gene, KD9ZP. He said ‘he couldn’t be sure’. He was in those counties. Someone was in error – 59 type contacts and something didn’t seem to add up, but no one knew why. Even more ironic that the one contact he found her in, she didn’t use, and the other four were ‘not in log’. Amazing coincidence, isn’t it?

That got distorted into ‘he altered his log’ by this high MARAC official who reported on the outcome, not the Awards Chairman. I spoke with Roger, W2NWL, after learning some of the information that came out of this MARAC official’s mouth was turning out to be false. He explained what had happened when he was asked to quickly track down his contacts by the “Club” and ‘verify them’. He did not ‘volunteer’ them, **they were solicited by phone call from “CLUB HQ”**. Hmmm? Club HQ? Not the awards chairman? Not even the Director who was sorting things out for the witchhunt checking?

The same MARAC official also indicated logs had ‘only be received from and received from two people’ and ‘both were sent in unsolicited’. That also turns out not to be true. Both Kent’s and Roger’s log were **solicited**. By Club of One fans and supporters. Without the Club continued bashing/trashing there would have been no ‘witch hunt’. No other application in the past couple years had

been scrutinized, with requests flying all over the country to ‘verify this and that’. Period. And for what reasons – stay tuned...

There was nothing the Club would stop at to derail N9STL. For years, folks on .336 and in the ‘chat room’ had to listen to the Club’s bashing/trashing of various county hunters. Some folks seemed to actually believe his lies after a few years and the constant repetition. Or never knew the full story. All this vilification of N9STL came down to not answering his email within 48 hours, and that caused 4 ½ years of what you have been hearing about her and others for similar ‘offenses’!

Kent states in his post on the forum: “I was requested to check my log on my Kansas trip by my district manager and I replied to his request.”

Now, of course, the Director says just the opposite in an email: “KL1V asked me to check the logs.”

The director was the one who responded, and Kent only posted after the information was written in the CHNews that KL1V wanted his contacts checked and sent in his info first. I’ll take the word of Kent first. He didn’t. Likely it took ‘prompting’. The start of the witch hunt. The director then requested KL1V to check all his logs for N9STL contacts after getting copies of the entire log. Why? Who knows?

Now, what did seem unusual is that Kent, KL1V, recalled one MRC he had received from N9STL for some cw contacts months and months ago. She was working on W.A.S. on cw. There was **one** contact in error on the card, and he corrected it and sent it back. Not many, as alleged. A scan of the MRC is available for anyone curious enough to want to look at it. Now, who hasn’t had to do that on MRCs? Don’t you expect that the station getting back the MRC will not count the one that is crossed out? **Why you expect that it would be included in an award submission? Why would you even inquire about it? Maybe after 4 ½ years of character assassination, some bought into the false ‘she cheats allegations’ which were proved unfounded, even by KL1V?** What interest did he have in this?

Can you remember the Callsign of ONE person who has sent you an MRC six months ago, and you had to cross out a county, or change something like the state or county since it was wrong on the MRC? Not likely. I sure can’t. Or contacts that weren’t successful? Or maybe ones you had to ‘scratch’ on a relay? Why would expect anyone to count them? And remember them from

more than a year ago? **And make an 'issue' out of it?** One to trigger a full scale 'witch hunt'? Or should be say 'a non-issue'?

Kent posted on the forum:

“Sorry for the misunderstanding and asking to check Kansas counties in your log. It was just a simple inquiry and I never thought this would escalate this far.”

Again, why would anyone want anyone to check contacts that didn't happen, unless they themselves 'bought into' the allegations repeated over and over by the CLUB station for 4 ½ years? Or wanted to 'join in' the trashing routine? And the witch hunt? Who knows?

But it seemed Kent had filed this away in his mind, to 'use' later. Or 'ask' about? Or more likely the "Club" fans prompted him? Anyway, that and the **contact which never happened** were "things that just had to be checked" when he heard that N9STL had finished. **Why?**

Let's see – Kent had to rush back to AK to get back to work. His time off was over. He was back working when the LC WBOW contact occurred most likely. Not listening on the air. How did he even know 'it happened'? Or that Joyce, N9STL had 'finished up'? He stated he was under the impression she had reworks. So surely he was not expecting her to finish, right? And what business of his would it be if she did finish?

He ran it on April 26. She didn't get there until June 2nd, on a weekday. Seems absolutely amazing to the casual observer that he, within just a few hours, got the news, had the time and fantastic memory so he could 'request' those non-contacts be 'verified' as NOT being in the log. Has anyone else out there ever been waiting for someone to finish up, keep right on top of things, and **then ask for contacts that never happened to be checked within hours?** You gotta be kidding!

Likely none, unless for some reason someone has beat into your head to keep any 'dirt' that could be used later????? (and where would that set of lies keep being heard and seen? – propagated by whom? For over 4/12 years – let's put the responsibility for this sordid mess right where it belongs – Collier county, FL – Club HQ. Campaign of hate and terror. For not answering 'promptly' an email.) Hard to believe isn't it?

In the past two years, 10 people have applied for 5th time around. How many people suddenly were inspired when they heard that someone finished up to ‘remember’ a contact or two that **they didn’t have?** In the past two years, ten people have received the 4th time award. How many people suddenly were inspired to ‘remember’ a contact or two **they didn’t have**, and make inquiries about “checking the log to make sure that contact isn’t in there for those 10 people?”. In the past two years, ten people have received the 3rd time around award. Again, how many ‘requested’ **that contacts they didn’t make** be ‘checked’ in the log submission? For 2nd time, 10 people in the last year received awards. For Bingo, ten awards in past year. Let the facts speak for themselves on this. You decide on this.

Some further checking about the witch hunt shows that all other logs were **requested**, and contacts were validated in over 130 counties by various county hunters around the country. Seven land mobiles. Zero land mobiles. Two land mobiles. Nine land mobiles – two different ones there. That single ‘question’ from Kent, which was quickly shown to have no basis as NONE of the two contacts in question were in her submission, gave justification to one Director to do a full scale ‘Witch Hunt’ investigation. So what did hours and hours of short fuse nearly instant log checking by CH around the country show?

There were two or three contacts ‘not quite certain’ as folks were crossing county lines, and similar. And one very inconsistent log to all the others. So Roger, we apologize. You responded to Gene in an honest fashion. A MARAC official flat out lied about your information. It remains a puzzle as to why. Since your information was ‘inconsistent’ from every other source, it was ‘discounted’ and not used. If someone did work someone, and not log it, it would be useless to use that someone’s log for verification.

It appeared that Kent, KL1V, had been intentionally helping out the “Club of One” gang by running Garfield ‘too early’. Kent had to revise his trip at the last minute – delayed on the way down by snow, bad weather to work around on the way home, maybe enjoying the DX convention too much by statying an extra day, and he was starting late to return to AK. He posted the revised trip with special effort the night before he left. Many caught him in rare MT counties on his way home.

He was told, likely by the ‘Club of One’ folks that Joyce, N9STL, ‘had added in a few reworks’ so Garfield was not a ‘big priority’. Still, she was ‘closing in’.

It turned out he had to run Garfield very early in the morning. So that sets the stage for what happened.

Now, we do know that folks that morning were desperately trying to move Kent off frequency, when he ran Garfield, MT, on 20M SSB, as the Net Control appeared to be doing everything in his power to see that a) he didn't get moved and b) he didn't make that contact with N9STL. Ray, WG6X, and others tried desperately several times to move him, so they could give Joyce, N9STL, who was on frequency, a relay, or get him to a different band for last WBOW contact.

Kent stated he had 'interference' every time someone made a comment or talk to him. OK. Or maybe the comments were drowned out by 'Kent, take your last call' or 'We'll see you in the next one – that was KL1V Garfield, MT – is any mobile ready to run?'...over and over again. **Or maybe the knowledge he could suffer the fate of two other county hunters who were simply run off the net for giving a LC that didn't please the "Club" was heavy on his mind?**

So Kent ran the county, early, real early, and left, not realizing it really was last WBOW for Joyce. No one was able to move him 'due to interference' he said. And the Club likely making sure that he didn't hear others trying to move him.

It appears he was being 'used' by the Club of One to further the Club's agenda. Maybe he thought he would help the Club and get some 'baddie points' by 'recalling' a crossed out contact on an MRC, and a contact that never happened? ...or more likely others constantly 'reminded him' constantly to come up with that when N9STL finished up? And contacted him immediately to **'jog' his memory about contacts he never had?**

He provided that, by conveniently "requesting" that the log be checked to see if those two (and only two) contacts did not appear in it. **Who else would have done that among the hundreds of county hunters?** Maybe he didn't realize his 'simple inquiry' would give the Club fans justification for the full scale witch hunt? Think about it. Or maybe he did? You be the judge. It seems mightily strange here.

Lots of folks knew this was the last WBOW. Many were "tuned in" to getting Joyce finished up, and helping out. However, the Club of One spread the word of 'She has reworks', when that was KZ2P bait to throw him off his attempts to foil a contact for last WBOW. Maybe the "Club" would back off, or be caught

off guard if it weren't the 'last'. Maybe Kent wouldn't be 'banned' if he gave it to her if the Club thought she had others. The Club did foil a contact anyway. No one could move Kent. Despite valiant efforts. Or?

We know from last month that the "Club" was closely monitoring every QSO that N9STL made, and of the thousands she made on 20M SSB, **the Club heard exactly one for Jackson, KS, that was not successful**, and the "Club" desperately hoped she would log it anyway. Without a relay, it was a tough shot. She didn't make it, didn't log it. Why would any county hunter log a contact that didn't happen? Unfortunately, it was with KL1V. From over a year prior. So? But the inquiry a year later from KL1V? Why?

As soon as N9STL announced she had finished up, the 'Club' and certain club fans figured it was time to 'use that' against her, as a probably 'phantom contact', they hoped. By golly, if they could find 'one' error in her submission, their 4 ½ year terror campaign of calling her a 'liar and cheat' could continue another ten years with a 'factoid'.

Without 'prompting' who would remember a contact that never happened over a year prior? Gosh, I probably have hundreds of folks I didn't manage to work – either direct or on relays in the past few years...and don't recall a single one! Why would I? Not in my log. Does anyone ever log direct contacts that didn't happen?

He asked that those **non-contacts** be 'investigated'. Huh?

Turns out the "Club" was wrong, as usual, and she had not logged it. But that caught Kent, KL1V in the beginning of the witch hunt. Naturally, questions about "Jackson KS" instantly arose by the Club Fans. Was that an 'error' of horrendous proportions? No...not an error of any proportions. Not even a microscopic error. Not in the submission. She worked another mobile there later. And logged it 100% correct.

Kent was then asked to 'check other contacts' by some involved in this witch hunt. I guess the Club figured it better use whatever it could get from anyone. Maybe there would be another error? On someone's part. Somewhere? Digging for dirt. Or maybe the Director was 'egged on' to 'do his job' by the Club and Club fans? (when it really wasn't his job).

It turns out Joyce worked Kent in a few counties for the MG, and they all checked out 100% in Kent's logs. **It should have ended there!** There were no 'non-contacts'. Why did it continue?

The only two 'questions' Club HQ could use as justifications were quickly checked out, and NOTHING WAS WRONG. **Why didn't it stop then?** That was already further than it should have gone!

The Club started to lose hope.— nothing damaging was found by the checking of Kent's logs. So more logs were requested from more people – looking for that single error on someone's part that would justify it all. And it all had to be done in less than 24 hours!

One Director in California spent hours and hours quickly sorting through logs, and lists were prepared and sent out of contacts to be verified. To a lot more than 'only 2' as a top MARAC official had stated. Reports came back from all over the county from 'priority urgent' requests. Over 130 'in the log' and a few 'not really sure' – crossing C/L, had recorder problem, or had 42 OK, not sure on 1 or 2 – likely was good.

So if you get 'information' from some top MARAC officials, be very wary of it....some 'flat out lies' came from there, and the CHNews is sorry we relied upon the word of this MARAC Official. It was wrong, and we apologize to the people innocently dragged into this Kent was doing his darndest to get the counties put out. On the other hand, K2JG was doing everything "the Club" could to do to continue the reign of terror and prevent contacts and awards. KL1V triggered the entire witch hunt by his 'inquiry'. Likely the Club fans were 'reminding' him to **miraculously** remember them from way back when. About non-contacts! Or?

Seems one Director 'out west' thought he was just doing his 'job' to get involved and go past checking the ONE contact which Kent amazing remembered from over a year prior as 'not happening' – that of KL1V in Jackson, KS, which was quickly shown not to be N9STLs submission. **It should have ended there.** The cw contact also not in submission. It really should have ended then.

I'm not sure even that would normally be checked, since who really keeps records from months and months ago about a 'contact that didn't happen?' (answer: only K2JG on intensely hated mobiles, and Club fans). Any other

county hunter keep a record of ‘contacts that didn’t happen’? In a separate log book? Separate logging program? Really? Tell us about it!!! That is news!

Even more ironic, if another NC had been on duty that day beside the ‘Club’ or fans, and had given N9STL a relay, it likely would have been successful, and none of this would have even occurred. Or if it was another mobile that ran Garfield, MT, and she worked it, and submitted logs without announcing on the air, ‘I’m done now’, Club fans wouldn’t have had time to mobilize. It has got to be very obvious to all those who listen to .336 or check into the ‘chat room’ that a 4 ½ year Club campaign of terror against certain mobiles led some to take unnecessary actions simply as a continuation of the ‘reign of terror’ and trashing/bashing.

Instead, trying to ‘verify’ that **one** QSO not in the submission at all, at the urging of Club HQ, turned into the most intensive hunt for ‘an error’ likely in MARAC history. This Director, too, feels he was ‘taken in’. I guess the ‘‘Club’’ told him ‘he was just doing his job’ and urged a full scale witch hunt to commence? Or he happily participated, earning some ‘baddie points’ from Club HQ? Who knows? Or maybe he ‘answered’ an inquiry from someone in his district – in this case, KL1V, asking him to check ‘non contacts’ in a log submission. Wouldn’t it make sense to him that checking ‘non-contacts’ wasn’t going to be productive for honest, hardworking county hunter submissions? Or did he buy into the Club’s 4 ½ year terror campaign as well?

As it turned out, all his effort and the efforts of CH around the country to verify things showed that within the normal degree of certainty while working stations/logging when out mobile, things came back 99% verified, and a few ‘not certain’ or ‘can’t say for sure’ . Clean bill of health. Naturally, many didn’t respond to the witch hunt call, and some mobiles don’t log contacts all the time, so nothing can ever be 100% checked. Many others keep paper logs and wouldn’t have the time or interest to sort through dozens or hundreds of contacts in less than 12 hours.

The world of CH would be a lot better off if folks just ignored the ‘bash/trash’ room, the agenda/vendetta of the ‘club’, and focused on getting folks helped to get their awards. Not ‘checking out’ of County Hunting, but checking out of the chat room and the vitriol there. Simply use the W6RK chat room. Folks tell me their alarm programs work just as well there.

And putting the filter on the garbage coming out of FL - "She's not mobile in MT" ..then later "She's running counties at the airport". And on and on. Just character assassination. You saw the pics last month. Who lied? Who can't seem to ever get the facts right in FL? Or spews vitriol and hate on the net and chat room? Bans folks...kicks them from the 'chat room'? Talk over comments and mobiles trying to move themselves?

When KA3DRO was out in MN last summer, you read about the horrible behavior of the Club member filling in for the regular club, running "Mobiles Off" and spouting "he's not even mobile"...."He's not even in MN".....and when the picture was printed in the CHNews, other Club fans stating 'I don't know when the picture of the CL was taken!'. This was a repeat...but worse. A horrible black eye for County Hunters. Heard world-wide. And the Club would rather sweep his antics 'under the rug' so folks don't know about what really is going on. Now you do.

WOMU, SC Director of **MARAC**, makes an interesting post...he suggests that the 300 people who for decades used 14.336 should 'move elsewhere'..so the "Club" can have its private net on 14.336. Even MARAC literature says 14.336 is the COUNTY HUNTER FREQUENCY. Why should 300 give up their county hunting frequency? Folks want it back the way it used to be before the 'reign of terror'. I guess that won't change for a while. So follow Riley's suggestion...turn the dial...move to 40M SSB "Friendly Net" , or over to CW. Like 80 ops or more have done in the past year. Watch the spots, and show up on 20M to work the mobile, and turn the radio back down again. County Hunter after county hunter are finding it is better to 'check out of the chat room' than check out of county hunting. Join the W6RK chat room. Join the crowd on CW on 40M SSB.

Go mobile and run their last counties of those close to finishing. Send new folks suggestions when you see a 'need' and it is right next door to a county hunter, and you can help them out by getting them together. Maybe that county hunter isn't watching the needs that month, but it is 30-50 miles away? Or maybe you know a fixed station that just helped you out.

County Hunting should be about getting mobiles to run, not running them off. County hunting should be about getting folks finished up, not doing everything in your power to see they don't finish. County Hunting should be about bringing new folks into the hobby, not discouraging them on the first day on net, or making them feel like six year olds. Or dragging folks needlessly

through the mud simply to ‘enforce’ the ‘Club’ agenda when there is no justification for it.

I really wonder about the sanity of the some of the Club fans when they simply ‘ignore’, or worse, participate in the bashing/trashing – when the bashing/trashing has started over things like – not answering an email promptly – like giving a LC WBOW to someone with ONE to go – like asking to move a mobile – like **not** running on the SSB net. It seems some bash along just to get Club ‘Baddie Points’ or put little “smilies” - ☺ - on zingers made in the chat room and get ‘baddie points’ from the Club?

Or W0MU with his falsehoods about his imagined ‘cw banned list’, which doesn’t exist and never has. If anyone knows of a mobile who was banned, or a station “not allowed” to make a contact on the CW net, let me know and it will be in the next issue. That would be ‘news’. Even KC6AWX got his next to last from N4CD and apparently wasn’t listening (and the run wasn’t spotted) for his last county WBOW after we had ‘differences of opinion’. You call, I hear you, you get worked. You call in mobile when I am running NC you get run. That is how CW works. Never a banned list, or folks who go out of their way to have ‘non-contacts’. And usually more than a few willing to help out with running mobiles, doing relays, so everyone gets ‘heard’ trying to check in.

Likely, folks are tired of the “18 year old blondes” and “running out of meds” comments out of Club HQ – still going on. And the intentional interference – when certain mobiles try to move themselves since they can’t run on net, or try to move a mobile after the run. Just can’t keep self control? Or trying to make the mobile repeat over and over, and ruin other folks contacts? Hey, it isn’t about getting folks contacts – just the opposite – preventing contacts, preventing comments about moving off freq, - it’s about ‘running them off’ and being vindictive. Or keeping others from working the mobile. You really don’t count...it is all about “the Club” and it’s “you do as I want or else” tactics.

I got into County Hunting back in the early 1990s. WA3TUC was my ‘mentor’ on how to run the net. Fantastic, diplomatic person. Efficient Net. Everyone welcome. Ten or 15 on the list at times. Folks got moved all the time. Ran with an assistant all the time, so together heard all of the country, and everyone could ‘check in’. I’m not sure I’d even get into county hunting again under the current NC situation on SSB. So many of those on back then have simply left CH. Or been run off. Or left in disgust. WA9QNI, Jack, and WA4KER, Howie, had it for 4 hours in the mornings most days. No one got ‘run off’.

Enough on this. Hopefully, the MARAC elections will result in a ‘new start’ for MARAC, not torn apart by K2JG politics and the ‘club’ agendas. Or those who seem to fall over their feet trying to ‘justify’ all his actions. Hopefully people will THINK before they start bashing/trashing along with K2JG. Like asking themselves why I am stooping so low? For failing to answering an email? For giving out a LC WBOW? You have to wonder why the NC at the “Club” station is so insecure with such low self esteem that the only way he can ‘feel good’ is to continually bash and trash folks and ‘put them in their place’.

Again, the CHNews apologizes to Roger, W2NWL, who was vilified by a MARAC official, and for Kent for suggesting he intentionally ran Garfield ‘too early’. If he knew it was LC WBOW, **and that he wouldn’t be ‘run off 14.336 for giving it out’**, the results might have been different. He did, however, have amazing, ahem, recall about contacts that never happened, that started the witch hunt. **And the urgent amazing need to ‘inquire’ about them.**

The CHNews relied upon the word of one MARAC official, and it turned out to be garbage. Both Roger and Kent have worked hard for the county hunters – for years. Roger as awards chairman for many years, and Kent running all over the west and AK.

Let’s put 99% of the blame for the entire sordid witch hunt affair right where everyone knows it belongs – Collier County FL at Club HQ. It was started by the “Club” with the banning 4 1/2 years ago, and then 4 ½ years of character assassinations and smears on the character of various CH, then the impetus for the ‘witch hunts’ with the allegations he had made. **Only the Club and fans remembered the contact that never happened a year before** to bring up again. I’m not sure anyone remembered that all this started over an email not ‘immediately answered’ by one vindictive ‘Club’ in Florida a month ago.

Now, some newcomers might not realize for the Master Gold award, which you can only start on after you get your Bingo award, you can get a county two ways – either work someone **in** the county who has Bingo and at least one star, or work someone **from** the county who has Bingo and a star or more. When the contact with KL1V who was in the county was not successful, N9STL went to the county, and worked at least 15 people who had Bingo and a star from the county, thus getting credit for it.

When N9STL checked in as a “Mobile ready to run”, on 14.336 from Garfield, MT, she was told ‘You are not welcome on THIS frequency’ by the Club – continuing 4 ½ years of character assassination. So 40 county hunters followed her up to .343, with likely almost no one staying on .336 to hear the Club fans saying or posting – “She’s probably not even mobile”...”She’s probably not even in MT”....”She’s probably running counties from the airport”.....of course, all of which weren’t true. What else would you expect out of the Club? The truth? Or more likely, more manure.

You’ve seen the pictures. At least 40 worked her there. And congratulated her for getting here last. Well done, Joyce. You worked hard for your award! Despite the highly intense malicious ‘campaign of terror’ from Collier County. With no relays on 20M SSB.

N4CD and W0RRY Go for the WBOW

Incredibly, Charlie, W0RRY, had gone from needing 20 to needing just one for the WBOW in less than a month. It didn’t hurt that right after the trip to Dayton we made a 2 day mad 1300 mile dash around KS, getting his last 7 in KS, and dropping that number down significantly.

Also, W6TMD was headed to the Second District AK, and N4CD was trying hard to finish up working all counties on 30M. I was down to under 25 to go, and the toughest one to get was going to be Second AK. The signal from there would be extremely weak in TX on 30M, and I don’t have a great antenna system (inv vee up 28 feet in the middle) – not especially good for the “DX” distance to AK. I wanted to ‘get north’and west by at least 500 miles or more.

Charlie called, and said he was down to one to go for the last for 5th time. We worked out a trip route. Lots of folks needed counties in KS, and NE despite several previous trips there! So many counties – so little time. It was time to do a ‘connect’ the dots trip – hit counties not run for MP yet – or not transmitted from second time – or LCs for someone –needed by Charlie on cw, and of course, hit Perkins, NE, Charlie’s last WBOW, in the southwest part of NE.

I headed up to Tulsa, OK. Mary, Charlie's XYL, has gotten used to our county hunting trips, and headed off to visit family for a few days. The next morning, very early, we headed to KS.

It turned out that Dick, K5VYT also needed Comanche KS for a last WBOW for his 5th time. We could run through Comanche, get it for him, then head west, and then north, if we could get there before his doctors appointment – so we had to get there early in the day. Things worked out well – the 'club' decided to take the day off, so we ran on 20M SSB, and Dick got his last WBOW on 20M with nice short skip. We proceeded west a bit, then headed straight north to KS. After a little zigging and zagging just before NE, to run some MP counties, and get some of the 'needs', we stopped for the night, having done 650 miles.

The next morning we were off to get Perkins NE. So far things had gone well. It was the usual county hunting set up – 2001 Buick Lesabre – K8CW antenna system for 20/30/40m, plus a separate 40M hamstick for 40SSB, and a 30M QRP rig. Shortly we hit Perkins, NE, worked each other. Charlie had sent in his logs already, minus one contact. After the last WBOW, Charlie used the cellphone to call Gene, KD9ZP, and with his normal super efficiency, a number was issued shortly! Charlie was so excited he did a cartwheel at the county line while N4CD was taking a picture!

Things were going well – two objectives met, and we were headed north to 'be north' for an attempt to work W6TMD. Two LC WBOW completed successfully! We got to northern NE, and there was still lots of time left that day. Charlie was closing in on Master's Gold award also. He had missed Jones SD two weeks before – and it wasn't that far from where we were. So we added in another 130 miles, and ran up to Jones SD, and a few others, and stopped in Tripp, SD at the Super 8 motel. The schedule put out by KB6UF and W6TMD said they would be running the Second the next day. I didn't want to head too far east or south before 1800Z the next day when he was to show up.

Ron and Darrel were scheduled to drive up to Coldfoot, stay overnight, then go up to the Second the next day. I had a sneaking suspicion that if they got up there with few hassles (if the road was in good shape and no problems with tires or other things on the way up), that maybe after spending 30 minutes doing 'everything there is to do' in Coldfoot – basically a truck stop/motel – they might head another 60 miles up to the Second and put it out in the evening – the

best time for 30M propagation. I left the radio in car, and we went to dinner. Normally the radio comes out when we stop at the motel. The line is only 30 miles north, but the rock there is so iron laden, you can't get any sigs out – you have to go another 25-30 miles to be heard!

On the way into Winner, SD, Tripp County, we had noted a very quiet area on the way in to town...near a abandoned Drive In Movie Theatre. Near zero noise - I commented this would be a good place if W6TMD was running today and not tomorrow.

I knew that if I had gotten to Coldfoot, there was almost nothing that would not get me up the Second to have another few hours to run it - especially late in the evening – best for 30M. No problem with 'driving in the dark' as you have 24 hours a day of daylight in June. We ate dinner, talked about that, and other things, and as we came out and turned on the radio, there was K2JG busily doing the last of relays for W6TMD in Second AK. Oh my gosh! He had already run 30M according to what the Club said.....I didn't even know if I could hear him or work him on last call. It was a mile or two to the quiet location we had spied before! We got there QUICKLY!

Fortunately, the propagation gods cooperated. Ron and Darrel took a last call, and were 55 on 20M SSB. I worked him and asked for 30M again please, please!Cough cough noise from the Club. Seems the club has a very bad habit of coughing, making strange noises, whenever one of the 'banned stations' works someone and tries to make a comment. The Club doesn't seem interested in letting mobiles make contacts – quite the opposite. Or move themselves off frequency while working someone, if they can't run on net. Sometimes even over reports. More than several folks have also noted it now. Amazing, isn't it? Intentional interference. Seems to happen a lot to N9STL, N4CD, KA3DRO, W9GBH, WA4UNS, and the list goes on and on. Maybe just the 'venom' surfacing? Or the 'meds' wearing off? Bill, K2NJ also needed it desperately on 30M. I didn't know if Darrel had got the request.

Next he ran 20M CW. Nice 559 signal – worked a good number of stations direct, but others were calling. No one stepped up to do QSP – as he was about done, no one had helped....so I jumped in and did relays (QSP), sitting in the drive in movie, mobile. Another bunch got through. I asked for 30M at the end. This would likely be the 'best shot'.....30M conditions in the middle of the day are not good for 3000-4000 mile distances. Even 5000 miles to the east coast. It was 'sunset' time in the USA – about the best time you could pick

perhaps. Grey line conditions. In SD, the sun was headed down to sunset in about an hour or less. Nice sunset out the window, as we sat the car pointed NW, for best sig to AK. (Mobile systems are directional! – about 2 S units difference off the front vs the back). The sun was already down on the east coast.

Now came the anxious moments as I switched over to 30M, and called W6TMD on 30M.....was he going to be there and be copyable? I had missed working KL7HBK with his non-resonant antenna and a few watts – some of the others up north had snagged him during the winter. Wow, I heard him come back, barely barely 339....about 50-70% copy – fading up and down, with some flutter on the signal. We worked. Success.

Charlie got him next. Another 10 or 15 worked him, but I heard another 10 or more calling. Oh my gosh – there was K2NJ calling and many others – likely all 339s or 229s up in AK, and no one stepped up to do QSP!!!! Likely, it was tough to pull out the calls in AK. All about the same strength, and killing each other! I've been on the far end trying to copy – no fun. They were all good copy in SD. Well, not many were copying Darrel all that well anywhere in the country! He was about to sign for the day!

Dang...well, with so many calling, but with maybe 60-70% copy on Darrel, it would be tough to do QSP....but we did it.....and relayed in K2NJ, and another 10 or 15 from all over the USA...AZ, CO, KS and WI and NC and TX. Just about everything 229s or 339s, and some repeats needed. It took a while to get everyone through. I think all but one made it through. Wow!....a successful run from Second AK. And it caught just about everyone by surprise – their getting there early. Many were not expecting it. The run on 30M the second time also not spotted. I don't know how many made it through the first run.

It had been fantastic day – Charlie finished up 5th time, got his number already (#79). I had snagged Second AK on 30M. We did relays for W6TMD on both 20 and 30CW to help out everyone we could hear. Bill, K2NJ called the cellphone – he exclaimed “There is a Santa Claus!” – he had gotten through to Second AK on 30M. Everyone was pumped.

I didn't get all that much sleep – so much excitement. Now, we could head on back at warp speed, not worrying about getting south the next day – so next morning we up and at it by 7am, running down the east side of NE quickly.

One of the nice things about Super 8 Motels is the free breakfast – sometimes only juice, coffee and donuts, often cereal, fruit – sometimes waffles.

For Ron and Darrel, it seems propagation the next day was terrible from Second AK. He was spotted by SM6VR on 20cw – but no spots on 20SSB or from the USA. Apparently not heard in USA – did not run on 20M SSB net. Either NC not listening or calling him at sked time (1800Z), or didn't have west coast stations calling and waiting to help out. He was heard slightly after 1800z in EU on 20 cw, and not spotted in USA on 20 or 30CW. No other spots all day! Bummer – those who didn't get him the night before seem to have no luck.

Stopped at the Super 8 in Lancaster County, NE. The trip could be only a 4 day trip now, if we could make it home the next day to Tulsa, OK.

Silver, KC0JG was down to 3 to finish and needed one in KS, a 40 mile detour – we added it, and got it for him on the way home...and made a bee-line for home – 2300 miles in 4 days. All objectives met. No deer hit, but a turkey did try to commit suicide by suddenly trying to take off in front of the car – he escaped with maybe a slightly dinged wing. No damage to car – from him. Lots of wildlife – deer, pheasants, turkeys along the way. Hot – Temps in KS at 100 degrees with blast furnace 40mph winds. Yuk. Slightly cooler to the north. Average gas mileage about 29mpg. Thirty nine pages of log. Charlie did all the logging. I got a MP contact in all but one county on the trip – ran it 'too early'. Yippee! As Charlie put in “ I love it when a plan comes together!”

Peak Oil News

From July 2006 ASPO Newsletter (<http://www.aspo-ireland.org/Microsoft%20Word%20-%20Newsletter66.pdf>)

News from Venezuela:

“Evidently, Venezuela has discovered that its Regular Oil production has peaked and that the Heavy Oil of which it has huge resources is slow, costly and difficult to produce. It has forced the country to buy oil from Russia to meet its short term commitments.

Venezuela, the world's fifth-largest oil exporter, has struck a \$2bn deal to buy about 100,000 barrels a day of crude oil from Russia until the end of the year. Venezuela has been forced to turn to an outside source to avoid defaulting on contracts with "clients" and "third parties" as it faces a shortfall in production, according to a person familiar with the deal. Venezuela could incur penalties if it fails to meet its supply contracts.”

News from Saudi Arabia

Saudi Aramco admits that the natural decline of its old fields is now running at 8% a year. Infill drilling can of course help offset the decline but it is a losing battle. Overall it begins to sound as if Saudi Arabia has passed its peak.

But Saudi Aramco has taken a number of measures to offset a decline in output from the country's aging oil fields, the spokesman added. "A variety of remedial activities are always being taken in oil fields influencing their effective decline rates," the spokesman said. "The drilling of additional development wells in the producing fields is Saudi Aramco's standard practice to offset normal declines of older wells."

This maintain potential drilling in mature fields combined with a multitude of remedial actions and the development of new fields, with long plateau lives, lowers the composite decline rate of producing fields to around 2%," the spokesman said.”

News from Mexico

A month ago, Pemex spokespersons got on TV worldwide to proclaim an exciting ‘discovery’ of a large field, based upon one test well drilled. Likely he was ‘premature’ to say the least. In latest ASPO News:

“In Item 695 (April Newsletter) covering world discovery rates we referred to the deepwater well Noxal-1 off Mexico expressing some doubt that the reserves of 10 Gb reported by the press on the basis of government releases were valid. We are now informed by an engineer with detailed knowledge of the project that in fact the well failed to make a significant discovery.

From Chicago Tribune, Sunday, June 12, 2005

“Analysts predict that Mexico's oil reserves, second only to Canada's in filling up U.S. gasoline tanks, and could dry up within a dozen years. Meanwhile, Pemex lacks sufficient money to repair antiquated pipelines and explore for more deep-sea deposits.

One solution would be outside investment. But almost all Mexicans oppose loosening their constitution to allow private or foreign interests to break the government monopoly and hold a stake in the nation's oil.

Though he tried, Fox was frustrated in his reform efforts. His attempts at tweaking the constitution to allow equity investments in gas and secondary oil operations were barely considered by Congress.

Many Mexicans argue that there are other ways to save Pemex. First, many say, the company should clean up its notorious corruption and waste.

During the 71-year rule of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, which Fox ended in 2000, Pemex funds were siphoned off for political campaigns. Powerful union workers still enjoy luxurious benefits. And officials say nearly every operation is vulnerable to fraud and kickbacks.

On top of that, the government takes most Pemex profits to cover a third of the federal budget for schools and other public services. Last year, Fox and Congress lowered the amount by about \$2 billion a year, but analysts say more relief is needed.

Despite today's high oil prices, **Pemex remains the world's most indebted oil company, in hock by as much as \$85 billion.**”

News from Norway:

“Norwegian crude production in May was down around 270,000 barrels a day at 2.38 million barrels a day from the same month last year - the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate said Thursday.

Output from the world's third largest oil exporter has been declining from a peak production in 2000-2001 due to maturing fields and lack of reserve replacement.” (from yahoo message board).

That’s down 10% in just one year – and declining at that compound rate now.

Food for thought – Exponential Growth.

Perhaps you have heard the story of the King, who had one of his loyal residents perform a deed of great significance. He offered him a great reward, but the wise man said “I am just a humble man – my needs are not many. Please, just give me a token reward – on the first day of the month, give me one grain of rice on the first square. On the second day double it for the next square. Then the next day, double that, and give me 4 grains of rice, and so forth, until the chessboard is full.” The King immediately accepted the request, and went on his way.

Let’s ask the question a different way. Would you rather have \$50,000 cash, right now, or would you rather ‘just take a penny the first day, two pennies the 2nd day, double it to 4 pennies on the 3rd day, and so forth, for the month? Which way would you select?

Most people have no idea about the power of exponential growth. They figure maybe that the end of a week, they would get 64 pennies on the 7th day. So what? If you continue, at the end of two weeks, you would get 8192 pennies, or \$82. Big deal, right? The \$50,000 sounds good to you.

At the end of the 3rd week, you’d get slightly over 1 million pennies, or \$10,000 in cash that day. Hmm...not bad. How about after 4 weeks? On the 28th day, you’d get over 1 million dollars. You wanted the \$50,000?

If you look at it on a scientific calculator, and raise 2 to the 29th power (2 pennies being what you have on the 2nd day, with another 29 days of doubling in a 30 day month), on the 30th day, you will receive 5.3678×10^8 power, or about 5.36 million dollars alone. You will have received over 5 million already. Now, I’ll bet most Americans were anxious to take the \$50,000 and run, right!.....a mere pittance! They would settle for literally pennies on the dollar! Well, not even 1 penny for every dollar you got.

In the case of the King, after 40 days or so (there are 64 squares on a chessboard), he had emptied the entire treasury, and started to sell the Kingdom. Long before the 64th square, the King owed the wise man more than all the money in the entire world. Try 2 to the 63rd power on your calculator.

Albert Bartlett has written and lectured extensively on exponential growth. When folks talk about 'a 5 or 10% annual growth in this or that', if you compound that out 30 or 40 or 50 years, you start to see big numbers. Very big numbers in many cases.

From <http://dieoff.org/page60.htm>

“The Awesome Power of Exponential Growth

In a paper(3) published in 1978, entitled Forgotten Fundamentals of the Energy Crisis, Albert A. Bartlett, Professor of Physics at the University of Colorado, examined the concept of exponential growth, and calculated how long our fossil fuels would last at various rates of growth.

Some of the points Professor Bartlett brought out are as follows:

When the rate of consumption of a resource is growing at a fixed percent each year, the growth is said to be exponential. Exponential growth is characterized by doubling, and a few doublings can lead quickly to enormous numbers.

Another important aspect of exponential growth emphasized by Professor Bartlett (and one that is astonishing to the non mathematician), is that the increase in any doubling time is approximately equal to the sum of all the preceding growth!

For example, when the rate of consumption is growing at seven percent a year, the consumption in one decade exceeds the total of all the previous consumption. "The reader can suspect," Professor Bartlett writes, "that the world's most important arithmetic is the arithmetic of exponential function. One can see that our long national history of population growth and of growth in our per-capita consumption of resources lie at the heart of our energy problem."

Professor Bartlett makes it clear that when consumption is rising exponentially, new discoveries that double the size of the remaining resource result in only a small increase in the life expectancy of the resource. He goes on to draw a general conclusion of great importance: "When we are dealing with exponential growth we do not need to have an accurate estimate of the size of a resource in order to make a reliable estimate of how long the resource will last. "

We often read that the vast coal resources we have are sufficient to last for many hundreds of years. This would only be true if there is no annual growth in

consumption. By contrast, Professor Bartlett has calculated that, with a five percent annual growth in consumption, our "superabundance" of coal would be totally exhausted in less than 100 years!

One does not need to be either an energy expert or a mathematician to realize that, if we want our vast coal resources to last for hundreds, or even thousands of years, we need to stabilize demand at a level substantially lower than it is today. “

From Wikipedia:

“**Albert A. Bartlett** is an emeritus Professor of Physics at the University of Colorado at Boulder, USA. Professor Bartlett has lectured over 1,500 times on *Arithmetic, Population, and Energy*. Bartlett is a modern-day Malthusian.

Professor Bartlett often explains how sustainable growth is an oxymoron. His bleak view is based on the fact that a modest percentage growth can equate to huge escalations over short periods of time. He has famously stated that "*The greatest shortcoming of the human race is our inability to understand the exponential function.*"

He regards overpopulation as **The Greatest Challenge** facing humanity, and promotes sustainable living. Bartlett opposes the cornucopian school of thought (as advocated by people such as Julian Lincoln Simon), and refers to it as The New Flat Earth Society.

J. B. Calvert (1999) has proposed that Bartlett's Law, will result in the exhaustion of petrochemical resources due to the exponential growth of the world population (as per the Malthusian Growth Model).”

An excellent 1 hour video on the web is available at <http://www.globalpublicmedia.com/lectures/461>

Highly recommended, especially if you would have grabbed the \$50,000 and run! Well done, by someone who has presented this to over 1000 audiences worldwide! When you hear ‘world population is increasing XX% every year, or ‘the population of the USA is increasing by Y% every year’ – unless you run the numbers, you might wind up like the King!

Peak Natural Gas

Readers of the CHNews know that natural gas prices spiked through the roof last winter – hitting \$15/thousand cubic feet, or mcf. Now comes news from Conoco Phillips – they have put their plans for a large liquefied natural gas import terminal on ‘hold’ for review.

At the same time, big questions about the world’s largest gas field, which lies off the coast of Oman, with part extended into Iran. A third production platform test well was drilled, and came up with a ‘dry hole’ – nothing. This one reservoir has claimed reserves which, by itself, would hold 19% of the entire world’s natural gas.

From the oil drum, at

“The North field is currently assumed to contain approximately 900 tcf of recoverable natural gas reserves, accounting for 14% of the 6,337 tcf of worldwide natural gas reserves according to the BP statistical review of world energy. In addition, Iran’s South Pars field (a geological extension of Qatar’s North field) is estimated to contain 280 tcf of reserves. Taken together, the North field and South Pars are assumed to hold 1,180 tcf of reserves, or roughly 19% of the world total. The North Field covers an area of over 6,000 sq.km, almost half of the surface area of Qatar. Reservoir depth is up to 11,000 feet.”

Oman has placed a moratorium on further development pending a review of the potential of the reservoir.

“Obviously, the importance of any gas field of this size can not be understated. To put this in perspective, Russia holds the largest percentage of proven gas reserves with 25% of the world's total. This single field alone accounts for 19% of global reserves. And what is to become of all this natural gas? Qatar is ramping up to become the largest LNG (liquefied natural gas) exporter in the world. Much of this imported gas will be exported to the United States. At this time, Qatar's liquefaction capacity is 3.4/bcfd, 14% of the world's total. However, the current plan is to ramp this production up to 10.3/bcfd by 2011. Qatar's intention is to achieve 100 years of production. The SCI report states that "This would not seem to be much of a challenge on current reserve assumptions and production rates. However, the 320% increase in production capacity planned over the next five to six years will bring Qatar’s expected production to 25 bcfd [billion cubic feet equivalent per day] and the North field’s reserve life to 97 years (slightly below the minister's target of 100 years).

This leaves little room for error if what is believed to be the world's largest gas field turns out to be anything under 900 tcf". This brings us to the moratorium”

“Qatar has put a moratorium on future projects utilizing natural gas from the massive North Field and the freeze is to apparently give Qatar Petroleum (QP) time to conduct field tests on the reserves.

"A decision had been taken sometime ago to freeze any further development in the North Field," Ali Al Hammadi, marketing manager of QP, told the 2nd Middle East liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipping conference here yesterday”

"Iran needs some 1 bcm/d of gas for its own domestic use, **which means there is no surplus gas for export gas in the next twenty years**" - Kamal Daneshyar, Chair of Energy Commission of Majlis (07/05) and "**Gas export is one of the objectives to be pursued** within the frame of ‘Iran’s 20-year prospect plan’" - Roknoddin Javadi, MD of National Iranian Gas Export Company (07/05)". So the status of Iran's natural gas exports and the development of the South Pars extension to North Field is up in the air as things currently stand.

If you've gotten this far, congratulations. It is just these kinds of issues that the world will confront as we face the inevitable peaking of natural gas. But when that will happen is unknown and hard to predict.

Solar Power Update – from Nanosolar – Press release

” PALO ALTO, California - June 21, 2006 - Nanosolar Inc., a global leader in solar power innovation, today announced that it has started executing on its plan to build a volume cell production factory with a total annual cell output of 430MW once fully built out, or approximately 200 million cells per year, and an advanced panel assembly factory designed to produce more than one million solar panels per year.

Presently in pilot production in its Palo Alto, California facility, Nanosolar announced that it has started ordering volume production equipment for what is going to be the world's largest solar cell manufacturing factory. The company also announced

today that its first cell fab will be located in the San Francisco Bay area and that its first panel fab -- for a broad array of novel product form factors using advanced processes -- is expected to be located in Berlin, Germany.

Seed-financed by the founders of Google, the company's team started pursuing its mission of making solar electricity vastly more affordable in 2002. After four years of intense commercial research and development, including two years of manufacturing process development and engineering, the company has now delivered on its ambition to produce a fundamentally less expensive, mass-manufacturable solar cell.

"Thin-film printing overcomes the complexity, high cost, and yield and scalability limitations associated with vacuum-based processes. Nanosolar's technology enables low-cost, high-yield production previously unattainable," said Chris Eberspacher, Nanosolar's head of technology, noting further: "This allows us to produce cells very inexpensively and assemble them into panels that are comparable in efficiency to that of high-volume silicon based PV panels."

Added Werner Dumanski, Nanosolar's head of manufacturing and a storage-disk industry manufacturing veteran: "Given the square meter economics of solar, high-throughput high-yield processes have to be used to succeed in this industry. With Nanosolar's printing process, the fully-loaded cell cost -- including materials, consumables, energy, labor, facility, and capital -- is less than the depreciation expense alone that vacuum thin-film companies have to pay for the equipment that produces their cells."

Regarding the scale of the factory, Dumanski points out: "A factory of this capacity would cost more than one billion dollars to build if one used conventional solar technology. Given the distinctly superior capital efficiency of our unique process technology, we can achieve this scale with a lot less capital and as a startup company."

From New Book, "Black Gold" by George Orwell, Wiley, 2006

"you simply need to examine the potential for growth in the Chinese automobile industry. At the moment, domestic Chinese automobile demand is

rising rapidly toward two million vehicles per year. There is a remarkable parallel between US auto demand in 1910 to the Chinese auto demand today. Here are some statistics: China is producing one car for every 600 people, which equates the US auto penetration in 1910. By 1920, US car production and consumption jumped tenfold to one car per 60 Americans. If China's car production followed that same trajectory, it would equate to 21 million additional cars in a decade's time. That means that China's auto ownership would be about 210 million by 2015, and approaching the number of vehicles owned by Americans at 217 million. Given that US gasoline consumption is about nine million barrels per day, it is easy to see how China's consumption can rise dramatically. "

If there is no additional demand from elsewhere, in 20 years China's oil demands will increase another 27 million barrels per day, just to provide fuel for cars! The question is whether production will be able to keep up with that kind of demand. Likely, capacity can only as increase as prices rise to support additional production. Further, the Hubbert Curve would suggest that at some point, not in the distant future, oil production will peak, regardless of the price of oil, and then you have year over year declines in oil production.

Now, as an exercise for the reader, extrapolate another 10 years on that exponential growth curve. With more than 4 times the population, when will China's auto production and ownership be twice as much as the USA? Where will all the oil/gasoline to run them all come from?

Awards Issued

7th Time #8, KD8HB, Joyce, 6/7/2006
Master's Gold #17, N7AKT, Scottie, 6/11/2006
4th Time #126, W7KQZ, Ernie, 5/25/2006
USACW-IV #4, KD8HB, Joyce, 6/7/2006
USACW-III #4, KD8HB, Joyce, 2/8/2003
5th Time #79, W0RRY, Charlie, 6/15/2006
2nd Time #361, KA9JAC, Bob, 6/13/2006

USAPA-“K” #10, VE9DH, Jim, 6/01/2006
6th Time #27, WA4WQG, Art, 6/5/2006
7th Time #8, KD8HB, Joyce, 6/7/2006
5th Time #80, K5VYT, Dick, 6/19/2006
USACA #1136, N9JF, Jim, 6/26/06

Time to Change 30M CW Freq?

There seems to be some problems with 10.114 – often in the evenings, there is DX coming in, calling CQ on 10.114 – and in the USA, W9ZN and others frequently seem to think the frequency is empty when it is in use, maybe with a mobile running, and they just don't take the time to listen before blasting away calling CQ. Bill, K2NJ has suggested we move, and has investigated the band plan. From 10.100 to 10.130 is for 'cw', above that reserved for digital modes. Most DXpeditions see the lower part of the band, but on occasion have spilled over into 10.114, maybe operating on 10.109, listening up 3-5, which puts some of the pileup right on our net freq.

Some quick checking show that some digital signals are appearing as low as 10.123 MHz. Maybe near .120? something like 10.1195? Some have suggested 10.126.

For the next weeks, until the convention, please listen frequently to above 10.114 to make sure it is clear of spurs from overseas, from digital crap from other places, and from use by anyone else. The CW folks can discuss at the 'cw meeting' at the convention, along with other inputs to make sure there are no problems with moving the net up the band. We don't want to move and then move again.

The CHNet started out on 10.113 - seemed to go along with 14.113 which is used by some ops starting out, and when there is CW contest messing up the normal frequency of 14.0565 with contest activity. It turned out to have broad spur interference from EU – so we moved up to 10.114 and have been there for nearly 2 years. There have been a few problems with DX peditions winding up listening on 10.114, or one actually that came up on 10.114.

So, check above 10.114 for a new home...maybe up to 10.130 – to see if you hear anything or note any problems in any directions – morning, noon and night.

De N4CD

County Hunting by ABRW, Phil

Barbara and I decided to make two trips in the month of May, one for the County Hunters CW Contest and one to Idaho so Barbara could attend the MINOW Annual get-together. MINOW is short for YL Amateur Radio operators residing in Montana, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. They should have named it A MINOW because YL hams from Alaska are also members.

We have been anxious to drive through Central Oregon, having watched the movie “Over Oregon” many times; it was time for a real live tour. Every time we wanted to go out mobile in that direction, there were forest fires that closed many roads. Not being familiar with the area would have made a bad trip trying to work our way along detours. The weather also was against us because while we were having rain in Vancouver, they were having lots of snow at the higher elevations. The weather report for May 6th was for rain with temperatures in the middle thirties in the mornings and 50’s in the afternoon, we decided not to watch any more weather reports so as not to have our minds changed about going up into the mountains.

Our journey began after breakfast. We entered Interstate 5 near our house, seven miles north of the Oregon state line and headed south to Salem, Oregon where we would pick-up state route 22 to Bend and then head to Burns for the night. Radio conditions on 20 meters left a lot to be desired. The band was packed with loud stations and I could not find a place to call CQ so started Searching and Pouncing. It took a lot of patience to make contacts. Why work the guy with the weak signal that is buried under a pile-up. I finally went to 40 meters and much to my surprise, started to rack up some Q’s. I wish I had 40-meter signals at my home QTH during the daylight hours like I did on the road.

We had lunch in Bend/Deschutes County. The food was excellent as well as the service. Three Sister’s part of the Cascade Mountains are very visible after you get a few miles East of Bend. The price of gas in Bend was \$3.12 a gallon, just a little more than it is at home.

We spent the night in Burns (population 2300). Our motel clerk was extremely helpful with information about where to eat and what was to be seen. In a small town, this should not take long, HI HI. We thought we would take a walk around the town to check out its charm. Actually, it was a very neat clean place, we did not see many people around at 5 pm and road traffic was extremely light. We walked about four miles. The Indian Casino was in the direction we were going, but the big black clouds in the sky changed our minds, so we cut through a rather large cemetery. It would have been interesting to read some of the inscriptions on the tombstones as some looked like they had been there for many years.

We took the hotel clerks advise about eating at the steak house two blocks away. The food was excellent. The menu had seven entrée selections and only the entrée's were written on the menu. The entrée came with any drink you wanted, then a shrimp appetizer, followed by a salad, and a loaf of bread with butter. Then the entrée arrived. Feeling full already, along comes the ice cream and cake to top off the meal. All this cost was \$12.00 each.

It rained all night and half of Sunday morning. We dined on the hotel's Continental Breakfast getting back on highway 395 to John Day, Oregon and highway US 26.

The town is named John Day (population 1500). There are also John Day Fossil beds west of the town. John Day was born in Culpeper County, Virginia in 1770. He came to Oregon to establish a fur trading post. The fossil beds are named after the John Day River, not John Day. The river got its name because the Indians took all of John Days possessions where the river emptied into the Columbia River. We saw a lot of deer along and on the road. Bob and Jim, we gave them the right of way, allowing them to cross in front of us. One looked at us as much as to say, where did you come from?

The remainder of the trip through Central Oregon was very different than any place we had ever seen. Some is very flat, while soon you are going down a cavern and the signals disappear. One nice thing is the lack of power lines. This sure made for a nice quite band.

Soon we were back down to the lower altitude and in Hood River County. Because of our place on the highway, between two high hills, we were not able to make any contacts so we found a parking lot along the Columbia River and tried again with success.

Altogether I made 215 contacts working 40 states and ended up with a score of 26,160. We covered 726 miles and gave out 15 counties. We spent almost five hours getting across Deschutes County with just a short lunch stop.

Our trip to Idaho was much more interesting than the County Hunting experience. We traveled Northern Oregon on I84 to Umatilla, then into Washington on I395 going to Spokane, WA. NA7W Larry Covington asked if I could get him Pend Oreille (pronounced Pon D Ray). I agreed to stop in to visit Sally and him. Along the road we watched a huge black sky ahead of us and as we got into the Spokane County area, the road was soaked, so we missed the storm. We entered the City of Spokane during the rush traffic hour. While sitting in traffic we continued to drink our water. Little did we know that the storm had knocked out the electricity in the city? When that happened, the stoplights went on to flashing red in both directions to control the traffic. What a mess it was, and then the water we drank began to make us uncomfortable. After about 20 blocks of stop and go, and not being able to change lanes, Barbara put on her left flasher and I believe I heard her say a few words she don't normally use to the guy that did not want to let her over. Just ahead was an Office Depot store, we stopped and used the restroom there and thanked the manager for having them. Hi HI.

We had a nice visit with Sally and Larry; they are spending the summer in their cozy trailer home in Newport, Washington (population about 2000). Soon as we got out of the Spokane City limits, I noticed how quiet it was on the air, signals were crystal clear. This is another area free of power lines. We then entered Idaho, about 300 yards from NA7W's home, heading to Post Falls and our motel.

On Sunday morning while the MINOW's were having their business meeting, I made a solo trip to the Bonner/Boundary state line. AT first I was parked next to a railroad switch box that was a bit noisy. So I went across the tracks to reduce the noise level. It was pretty hot sitting in the car, so I rolled down the window. Wow, a terrible odor filled the car making it difficult to breath. I put the window back up until the last station was worked. Then I opened the door and looked, I was parked where someone piled up the horse manure. Time to head back. The scenery was really something up here, lots of snow on all the mountains.

After the MINOW'S were done with their yearly business, we headed south in Idaho. If you ever look at the county of Clearwater on a map, you will notice that there are only three roads into it and the same three to leave by. Going into Clearwater was quite nice; the road was in excellent condition, with many spots to pull over (So you can chain up in the winter). We continued on to Kennewick. As we traveled along, I ran counties on 30 meters, which was a real treat after the lousy signals I have at home on 30. Each county netted a large pile up. There were a lot of stations that were not

involved with county hunting that were trying to get an explanation of what was going on. NA7W needed Walla Walla County but he could not hear me on 20, 30, or 40 meters.

Once again we had a helpful hotel clerk. She loaned us their twenty five percent off card at a Mexican restaurant one block down the street.

Monday morning we began our trip back to Vancouver and stayed on the Washington side so I could give out Klickitat County where I made ten contacts. Then, the atmospheric gods forbid working any station on any band for some time. My CQ calls netted no one. There were no contacts in Sherman, Hood River and only two in Wasco counties. When we got to Multnomah County, we took a detour to Crown Point where the Vista House sits 735 feet above I84. Here we made quite a few contacts and K8CW asked if we could go to Clackamas for his last county. The atmospheric gods still had the airways blocked out and we only made six contacts in Clackamas and K8CW was not one of them. So we went to lunch at the Mall, figuring that maybe later signals might improve. They didn't, but I did hear K8CW on 30 meters, so we parked the car and I was able to connect with him. We then turned the noise off and headed home. This trip covered 1209 miles and 34 counties.

De AB7RW, Phil

Field Day 2006

I hope you joined your local club or went out with some friends for Field Day 2006. Rather than fight the QRM, or be out mobile in very tough conditions (although no contesting or QRM on 30M!), I joined up with the Plano Amateur Radio Klub – with Club callsign K5PRK. Not a vanity ‘Club of One’, but one with over 100 members, and with the callsign representing K5 **Plano Radio Klub**. (not someone’s initials in the club).

About 60-70 folks showed up for FD, with 4 operating positions – including a dedicated VHF position (lots of Techs, and Tech Plus types in Club) for 6m and up, another mostly on digital modes, another “Go To” station for new ops to use, plus the normal 10-80 stations on SSB and CW. Everything running off generator power, and with 3 folks doing all the cooking/food preparation. Maybe 30 signed the operators log sheet and did the operating during the event.

We had some publicity, big banners, and handouts for anyone coming by to see the operation in one of Plano's main recreation parks.

Half the folks just came to help, or enjoy the food and friendship – the other half came to operate.

One of the primary purposes of ham radio is to provide emergency capability when needed – and Field Day is the ideal time to work together to have a good time, get in some operating. We had a few folks out there licensed only a week or two! It's a good way to get your feet wet. Things went well. No thunderstorms or bad weather, half decent conditions, a long multi-hour opening on 6M allowing hundreds to be put in the log, and a couple of good CW ops who put hundreds and hundreds of cw contacts in the log. The SSB folks did well too with a dozen or more dedicated SSB folks running the rigs continuously.

In the past few years, there have been more than enough emergencies requiring emergency operations - the Shuttle disintegration over Texas with the months of hunting for debris and clues as to why. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Tornadoes. Floods. Part of the Plano Radio Club's mission is to be ready to go when needed, with equipment 'ready to roll', and operators able to do the job. How about your club? How about you? If you had to defend your ham radio license, what justification would you have to the valuable spectrum, other than pages and pages of 'too toos'? I probably come up short on 'volunteering' for some of the efforts – others are as much into emergency readiness as most county hunters are into county hunting. Maybe we all need to 'cross train' a bit?

After a long stretch of operating, I came home late, got some sleep, then chased after a few mobiles on Sunday morning- some MP mobiles were out and about, and I always can use the Master Platinum contacts on SSB for W3CR, or either SSB or CW for W6TMD. The cw folks used 14.113 during the FD to get away from the QRM – works well in most contests. Plus, of course, 30M is contest free. Lots of contest QRM till it was over, but two brave mobiles were on the road on trips.

It's like Sweepstakes and ARRL DX contests – either join in the fun, or take the day off – or stay on the mode that the contest isn't! Or use counter measures, like 14.113 for cw, and 30M, which will help. On SSB, good luck!

Another fun event, and got to meet lots of new folks that came out for the event.

July Picture Gallery



AB7RW, Phil and NA7W Larry

Both very active on CW



AB7RW on CL Boundary ID 2006



NW6S, Jim, at the Dayton Hamvention 2006 – often heard on cw.

Results for MARAC CW Contest

Randy, AA8R has published the results of the 2006 MARAC CW County Hunters Contest. Please go to www.AA8R.com to see the results – click on previous contest results.

That's it for this month! See you next month. De N4CD.