

# County Hunter News

August 1, 2011  
Volume 7, Issue 8

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

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

The County Hunter News will provide you with interesting, thought provoking articles, articles of county hunting history, or about county hunters or events, ham radio or electronics history, general ham radio interest, and provide news of upcoming operating events.

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

CW County Hunter Nets run on 14.0565, 10.122.5, and 7056.5, with activity occasionally on 3556.5 KHz. Also, there is SSB activity now is on 'friendly net' 7188/7185 KHz. The cw folks are now pioneering 17M operation on 18.0915. (21.0565, 24.9155, and 28.0565 when sunspots better). Look around 18136 or for occasional 17M SSB runs usually after the run on 20M SSB. (21.336 and 28.336)

You can see live spots of county hunter activity at [ch.W6RK.com](http://ch.W6RK.com)

For information on county hunting, check out the following resources:

The USACA award is sponsored by CQ Magazine. Rules and information are here:  
<http://countyhunter.com/cq.htm>

For general information FAQ on County Hunting, check out:  
<http://countyhunter.com/whatis.htm>

MARAC sponsors an award program for many other county hunting awards. You can find information on these awards and the rules at:  
[http://countyhunter.com/marac\\_information\\_package.htm](http://countyhunter.com/marac_information_package.htm)

The CW net procedure is written up at:

<http://www.wd3p.net/ch/netproc/netproc.htm>

There is a lot more information at [www.countyhunter.com](http://www.countyhunter.com) . Please check it out. Back issues of the County Hunter News are available at [www.CHNewsonline.com](http://www.CHNewsonline.com)

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

## Notes from the Editor

1 ) July was an excellent month for snagging counties. The propagation was up and down, but sunspots grew and the flux numbers went up making 17 and 15 meters work well many days. In addition, there were dozens and dozens of mobiles on the way to the convention in Duluth MN. We've had to condense the mobile activity report this month otherwise it would take up half the newsletter!

It's hot. More than half the country is 'sizzling with above normal temps due to the El Nino keeping the jet stream far north and a high pressure system locked in place. Texas is sizzling and many states are in drought conditions. Now livestock, fowl, and other crops being affected by the continuing hot weather. It's hot out there for county hunting too.

2 ) **Fred, K5CWR**, according to reliable sources, has installed a mobile radio in the car and was spotted in Denton TX. He's living up in the Tulsa area these days. He was spotted on 20M SSB. He often ran the net and ran a lot of counties 10-20 years ago.

### 3 ) Gas prices –oil prices

Despite an 'emergency release' by the Europeans and Americans from the Strategic Oil Reserves, the price of oil went down for a few days and its back up near \$100/bbl. Gas prices dropped slightly but on the last trip were in the range of \$3.50 to \$4.00 a gallon, with the higher prices in NY state. It can put a crimp on some travel budgets. Fortunately, the newer cars are getting better mileage, but you can still burn through \$50 to \$100/day depending upon your mileage and how far you drive. Even at 33 mpg, driving 885 miles in a day will cost you \$100 just for that day. It's worse if you have a big motor home, but at least there you don't pay \$45-\$120 for a motel room. It's not likely to get better, either, as the world is struggling to produce all the oil demanded by growth in China and the emerging markets, The European 'Brent Crude' price is still at or near \$115/bbl.

#### **4 ) Hawaii QSO Party**

Don't forget about the HI QSO Party. The HI folks plan to activate Kalawao this year for the QSO party with decent antennas at a fixed station. Keep in mind that 15 meters should be working well too. Maybe even possibilities of 10 meters.

#### **Mobile Activity in July**

Headed to the convention were:

WA9DLB, N4CD, N8KIE (starting in OR), WQ7A, K8ZZ, KA1YZV, K3IMC, KF5AT, K2HVN, AA9JJ/N9QPQ, WG9A, AB7RW, N0KV/N0DXE, W0NAC/N0LXJ, KA9JAC/KB9YVT, W0GXQ, KM9X/KB9MGI, NF0N, NN9K, W9OP, AA8R/W8TAX, NF0N, W7FEN, K0PFV, K0PY, N8HAM, AF3X, WY7LL/WY7ML, WD4OIN, WA3QNT,

On other trips, W3ZUH headed cross country running them on cw.

Art, N4PJ, did a ten thousand mile trip from FL to the west coast and back.

K8MM was up in Maine and ran a few more up there then headed back home to the midwest.

Dick, K5VYT headed up to ND for an extended stay. Then back to CO.

Fred, K0FG, headed over to North Carolina. And back after a nice stay.

Ray, AB4YZ headed up to WV to run a few for the folks on SSB and CW. He got Jerry, W0GXQ, the last couple in WV leaving only two for him to get.

Jim, K0ARS, spotted in many states on his trips.

Karl, K4YT, was out and about in MD and PA.

WA5POK and AA0TT spotted on 20M SSB.

W8FNW/W4FNW were out and about in MI

Mark, W8MP headed west and spotted in NM, CO and other states.

Rufus, KD4HXM spotted out and about in AL.

ND9M headed out on a big trip to CA. Seen all over the west putting out counties.

Jim, N9JF spotted while headed here and there on business trips. Then over to NM, too.

Silver, N9QS, spotted out and about in southern MO.



N9QS – Osage MO – LC for W3DYA

W9OO was on in NY state putting out counties.

N7LFX made a trip to CA counties and put them out.

Also spotted in a few: NT2A (NY), KA4RRU (VA), W8RCW (OH), N4JT (NC/VA), W8JJ

(MI), N4XML (SC),

Ron, K2RP, ran counties in CA on many days.

NU0Q was out west putting them out in NV and other rare states. He was out west for a few weeks.

WA3QNT made a day trip to pick up some rare PA northern counties like Elk.

AA8R/W8TAX headed down to VA and NC to do some sightseeing, and are putting out those counties down there.

Joe, N5UZW took a trip over to MS and ran to and from there.

Ed, K8ZZ, was seen out and about in MI testing out a new Elecraft K2 in the mobile. Off on a big trip west soon.

Larry, N2OCW headed up to New England towing a trailer. He put out some up in New England once no longer towing the trailer. Then headed back home running some.

KA4RRU headed up to Bath and Highlands, VA – tough ones to get.

NX4C ran around in upper east TN cleaning up needs here.

WB9NUL/W9UCW were spotted out in Texas.

Jerry, W0GXQ headed on down to IA and back.

Gene, K5GE, headed out on a big trip to South Dakota and more.

## On the Road with N4CD I

Late June rolled around, and it was time for another long trip to the National Convention. The

weekend after, my niece LaRa was getting married in upstate NY (Warren County) so I'd head over there after the convention- then home. It was likely to be a 5000-6000 mile trip. Dallas had had many days already of 100 degree temps, and the pavement was sizzling hot. I was looking forward to cooler temps up north.

As you may recall, I'm working on trying to run all counties for the Second Time, and Minnesota was one state where I needed to run about 85% of the state again. With the convention in Duluth, it was an ideal time to do that, and also work on getting Mobile Diamond counties for me and for the other Master Platinum holders. Folks needed counties in MN, but there would be a dozen mobiles descending on the state running dozens and dozens of them. Likely between the 100 folks attending the National, almost every single 'need' would be taken care of – whether for USA-CA or Bingo, MG, MP, or Diamond, Teams, YL's, prefixes, call combos. There would be feast of contacts. I planned to run SSB and CW in all the counties and spend a lot of time 'putting them out'. Hopefully 17m would be good, too.

I packed up the car for a 3 week trip with a second suitcase with spare clothes and the suit/shoes and tie for the wedding. I normally leave that in the car at night, and take only one roller type suitcase into the motel. I try to make it so that I can do it in two trips – the suitcase and radio kit bag (MFJ analyzer, small bag of tools, VOM, etc) in one trip, and the radio, GPS, and now Samsung Tab tablet in another trip. Sometimes you wind up hauling stuff up stairs and 200-300 feet each trip. The radio comes out every night.

The route was quick up to MN – via the 3 counties I needed to run in IA for second time transmit. The first night I made it up to Republic Kansas – there's a nice motel in Belleville where I've stayed a dozen times, with restaurant next door. Then it was up toward MN via NE. There was only one way out of Nebraska to the east – most of the bridges were flooded out, and having checked the IA and NE websites, I took the only route possible – the I-80 bridge. Traffic wasn't bad, but it often backs up 10 miles as it's the 'only route' across the river. No problem. It's likely to stay bad for the rest of the summer. After crossing into IA, it was right up north to MN to start running counties for a couple of days.

I made it to Blue Earth, MN, which is actually not in Blue Earth County (South of it) that night. The bands were decent and I was busy making contacts. Once I got to MN, it was staying in a county until the folks stopped calling, and I ran it on most CW bands and on 20M and 40M ssb as well (usually took 30 minutes or more for a county). Things take a while to do that, but this was a 'county putting out' trip in MN. The motel was a Super 8. I had dinner, and was looking out the window (with it open enjoying the cooler air). Just to the right of the motel I saw a giant cloud of dust blowing by at what looked like 60mph – it was so thick that traffic on the road in front of the motel came to a complete stop. Apparently it was a major downdraft from a thunderstorm that arrived 15 minutes later. The wind lasted about five minutes – it was sort of weird. It went up a couple hundred feet, was a couple hundred feet across – and was very dense. Then it poured cats and dogs for a while, and just to the north there was major storm damage from the high winds. The next morning the roads were littered with short tree

branches, and later on the the day major trees down all over the place and trees cut up that had fallen in yards and across the streets. There were tornadoes up in WI, and maybe some weak ones in MN. Luckily I missed the real bad WX which went by 50 miles to the north. It rained hard a few times and there were some storms around. Not perfect weather but not bad at all to be running counties. At times 40M got very noisy with QRN.

Chuck, W3CR, needed a few in MN so I made sure to go to 40M for him in the couple he requested. He's working on his Platinum with only a handful left to go. I moved off frequency on 20M and it was easy to spot myself when stopped with the Verizon based Samsung Tab. (I'm too klutzy to do it on an iPhone type screen!).

Well, I zigged and zagged in MN...first going all the way to the east, then going slightly north and going all the way to the west, then north up to Pennington and Red Lake, then circling back toward Minneapolis and finally up to Duluth. Super 8 motels each night – they are everywhere in MN and much of the surrounding states. Plan on about \$75/night for motels. I had too ambitious a plan for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> days, so I had to redo things on the fly otherwise I'd be driving till 9pm. The weather was good most days with only a few hours of rain and storms. The nets were busy- often 2 or more mobiles running on 20cw or 30cw at a given time, and folks on 14.343 and .347 on 20M SSB.

Even then, I was still ahead of schedule was ahead of schedule so I stayed at the less expensive Motel 6 in Duluth on Tuesday night before the main events took place.

Barry, N0KV calls on the phone – he is at a campground 10 miles south and invites me to stop on by and visit with him and Pat, N0DXE, , and then head to dinner at a nearby restaurant at the campground. I do that, and we visit for a while, listen to the radio and chase a few mobiles, then head on off to dinner. It was good. We decided to head up to Lake/Cook county line the next day to put that out. It's about 75 miles up the road and we'd make it a car full of county hunters. We arrived in the morning, and waited out turn to run. It was a good day on 20M with everyone able to operate on 20M. So the 3 of us put out the county and we passed the mike around for those who requested all 3. It was a load of fun. Then I ran the county line on CW. At least half a dozen others made the trek up to this county line to run it in the next few days! AB7RW, W0GXQ, KA1YZV – and Bill, WG9A was there just a day or so before!

Then we grabbed lunch on the way back. I had checked out of the Motel 6, and left the car in the lot. I picked it up and headed over to the Holiday Inn in Duluth. I found the parking area for the 'high clearance vehicles', but it was all blocked off and there were emergency vehicles blocking the alleyway, so I wound up taking the antennas off (about 15 minutes to disassemble them) and parked in the regular garage (7 foot clearance). There was a street festival going on that blocked one of the main streets right at the hotel site, so traffic was re routed and street parking was a real problem. The hotel had lots of free parking in the limited height garage – like 7 feet.

We then had 4 days of County Hunter Convention - to be continued

## Annual MARAC Awards

Bob, KC6AWX. MARAC awards chairman, announced the following awards given at the Annual Awards Dinner in Duluth at the National Convention.

I. County Hunter of the Year is awarded usually to one SSB operator and one CW operator. You may only receive this award once in your life.

CHOTY SSB 2011 – Bob - KC6AWX

CHOTY CW 2011 - Dave – KE3VV



Dave KE3VV

2. The ' Best Mobile of the Year' is awarded (usually) to one CW and one SSB operator.

MOBILE OF THE YEAR SSB 2011 - Kent – KL1V



MOBILE OF THE YEAR CW 2011 – Jerry – W0GXQ

3. Net Control of the Year is awarded annual for the CW and SSB category

NET CONTROL OF THE YEAR SSB 2011 – KZ2P

NET CONTROL OF THE YEAR CW – Jerry W0GXQ



W0GXQ Best NC and Best CW Mobile

4. Best Team of the Year – awarded annually

BEST TEAM OF THE YEAR 2011 - N0KV/N0DXE



Barry, N0KV and Pat, N0DXE  
County Line of Cook/Lake, MN

## Star XX Award

This was voted on and approved at the Annual Meeting on Saturday of the Convention.

### Star XX Award

**OBJECTIVE:** To make contacts in all USA Counties with USA-CA holders and MARAC multiple-time Worked All USA Counties Award holders totaling twenty (20 or XX) Stars in each county.

**SPECIAL RULES:** You must have completed the MARAC 5 Star Award before you start counting contacts for this Award.

Each contact with a Star counts toward the twenty Stars total needed for each county. If you have Valid Contacts with 20 different USA-CA holders in the same county, you have collected 20 Stars and have completed all the needed Stars for that county.

Contacts with amateur operators who have earned more than one Star count for the number of stars earned. If you have a Valid Contact with someone who holds the MARAC Worked All USA Counties Fifth Time Award, that contact is worth five Stars. If you have a Valid Contact with someone who holds the MARAC Worked All Counties Tenth Time Award, that contact is worth 10 stars.

You can only count a contact with each Star one time per county. In other words, if you work a two-

Star holder twice in the same county, you have only accumulated two Stars for that county. However, if you have another Valid Contact with an operator who has earned one or more additional Stars after the date of your original contact, you can add the additional Star(s) to your Star XX log.

In no case, however, can you claim more Star credits for a call sign in your log than the total number of Stars actually held by the operator at the time of your last claimed contact in that county. Also, you cannot claim credit for Stars earned by an operator after the date of your last contact unless you make an additional Valid Contact with that call sign in the county for which the additional Stars are claimed.

**AWARD LEVELS:** Certificate and plaque for contacts with Twenty Stars in all USA Counties.

**APPLICATION AND FEES:** Standard application, logs, and fees.

**NOTE:** The Start Date for this award is the date of approval by the MARAC Board.

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All contacts for this award must be after the start date of July 8, 2011.

Logger will not track this for a few months. If you want to track it, track it manually until Logger is updated (six months?). It will of course retroactively count what you have already worked once the update is in it. On the other hand, if you just work folks with piles of stars, you'll be headed in the right direction. Or even 1 star- they all add up!

## On The Road with N4CD - II

At the Convention - I arrived a day early on Wednesday as they had extra rooms and I was done running MN counties and didn't feel like driving more miles, either. On Wednesday night, a whole bunch of folks went down to Grandma's down near the waterfront – must have been 50 or 60 there in a very noisy place for dinner, but we still managed to yak for 2 hours, then head on back to the hotel where the hospitality room was in full swing.

Who was at the convention? Well, all but one or two on the following large banner showed up – there were two last minute cancellations. Tim, W8JJ, started out for the convention. He got an hour from home when his car died. Then, he had forgotten his medicine, too. After getting back home much later, he had had enough grief and decided to cancel. Jim, N4JT, had family health problems and had to cancel. Otherwise, it seemed everyone else made it.



The banner of attendees (not including other non-ham spouses)

The originally planned tour for the mine had to be canceled but Brian NX0X came up with an alternative trip. On Thursday.....we went on a train ride up along the shore of Lake Superior for a few hours. It was great weather – some sat outside, others 'upstairs' in the double decker air conditioned cars.



Thursday, a group of about 15 went down to Sammy's, a famous Pizza place in downtown Duluth for dinner. The pizza was good



'And on the seventh day...He ordered a pizza!'"

On Friday there were two tours – one to a historic mansion (which I skipped) and then a cruise out on Lake Superior for several hours. Here's a picture of N4AKP and wife enjoying themselves.



Pete, N4AKP USA-CA 1063 and wife

Some stayed up on the top deck for the couple hour trip – a few were seen with bad cases of sunburn later!

The water temp was 52 degrees in the lake, so there weren't too many swimmers in – but a few brave ones were on the beaches and in the water. It's slightly warmer in the shallower waters.

On Saturday, there were the annual BOD meeting – where the Star XX award was passed. A few awards were handed out there. The 'big ones' were saved for evening.

Then there were the CW meeting, the Logger presentation, one on Geo-caching, another on APRS – something going on for the first few hours of Saturday. The picture was in the afternoon and the big awards dinner in the evening.

I found time to do some laundry – there was a nice do it yourself laundry on the top floor of the hotel. On Saturday I moved my car to the 'high clearance area' and put the antennas back on – ready for an early start on Sunday morning. It took 20 minutes to re-assemble everything.

So who else showed up? Here's a picture gallery of some of the faces not seen in the CHNews before.



Ira, K1YE – formerly WA1FNS – USA CA 747

Ira hasn't been actively lately – he got his number in the early 1990s. He came to run into some old friends from way back when. Drop him a note if you want – his email on the MARAC database page. He'd like to hear from the old timers.

Here's John, N8BGF – he got his call put on his arm at the local street festival



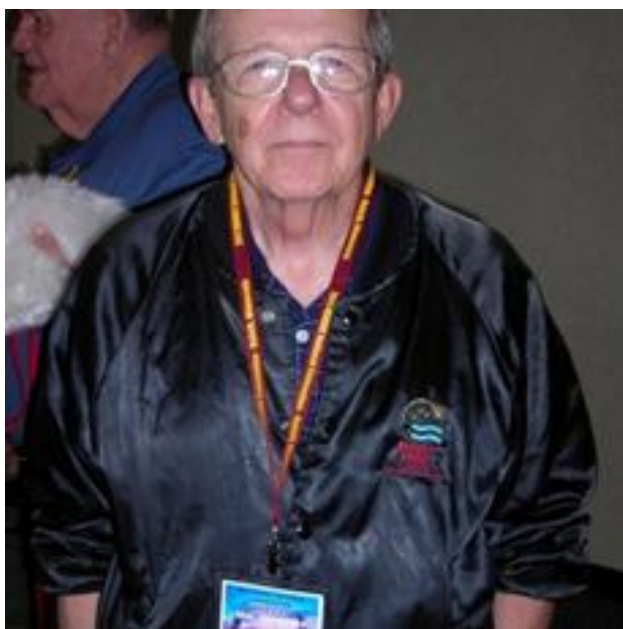
John, N8BGF – USACA 401 - on the cruise

Here's his 'arm decoration'



How about Mal, WA0SMX





WA0SMX, Mal



K0PY, Mike





Duane, K8AO USA-CA 1197 and XYL



Bill, K2HVN USA-CA #428

Here are the group pics, courtesy of NX0X



43rd MARAC  
National Convention  
Duluth, Minnesota  
2011



This is all the folks at the convention above

Below is the picture of the CW operators.





43rd MARAC  
National Convention  
Duluth, Minnesota  
2011  
CW Operators



The hospitality room did a good business – and after the dinner, things went on for a few more hours, but I hit the hay early.

Earlier on Saturday I had moved the car to the high clearance area and spend 20 minutes putting antennas back on the car to allow an early 'get away' in the morning.

To be continued in Part III

## Jim VA3XOV trip report

Our daughter Tamara (6 years old) had 2 weeks off, between when she got out of school, and when she starts summer camp. My XYL could only get the first week off, so I took the 2nd week off. I asked if I could take Tamara on a county hunting trip and was given the go ahead. We planned on running a few counties and then get a Motel with a swimming pool.

Our first day was great and we ran counties in NY and down into PA. Tamara was very good and was actually enjoying herself, especially at the MacDonald's, and the ice cream shop. We came upon a park during the evening and we stayed there for an hour to relax and I let her play. We booked a Motel in Binghamton, and spent a couple hours in the swimming pool that night, and then out for lunch. Tamara actually was up early the next day and we had a quick breakfast, and since it was early, we drove around and ran counties in the area. On the way back, we stopped in Syracuse, NY. My GPS told me we would be home at 6:30pm. Tamara stated that we should run more counties. Smart Girl!! So we headed North and ran the county line of Cayuga and Oswego Counties, and headed home along the shore of Lake Erie.



Tamara at C/L of Oswego/Cayuga NY

The trip was a success, but 40 meters was not what I had hoped for, and continued calling on 40M SSB ended with zero contacts, but, we ran more counties then I had expected to run, and, Tamara has promised me that when I go again, she is definitely coming. Ahhhh, wonder where we will show up next... to be continued... :)

## CW Meeting Minutes

MARAC National Convention  
CW Meeting (open forum discussion)  
9 July, 2011

Attendees: KB0BA, KY0E, N0KV, W0GXQ, W0NAC, NF0N, N0XYL, K2HVN, WA3QNT, KE3VV, N4AKP, N4CD, WD4OIN, W7FEN, AB7RW, AC7UH, AA8R, K8ZZ, KA9JAC, W9GUY, NN9K, and W9LHG.

Moderators: Jerry W0GXQ and Bob N4CD.

1. Mobiles are encouraged to:
  - a. Transmit on at least two different bands.
  - b. Ask if other mobiles are QRV after having run approximately ten minutes.
  - c. ID yourself when leaving the net.
  - d. QSY off the net freq when another mobile is running, rather than skipping that band. Announce their "QSY" intentions.
  - e. Find out if the net frequency is QRL before "Self-Spotting".
  - f. Send the name of their county slowly at least at the start of their run as suggested by N4AAT some time ago.
2. Attendees felt that the CW nets were running pretty smooth with or without a Net Control Station, as long as the mobile was spotted and there was help for relays when requested by the mobile. Generally, the first station to work the mobile would announce and/or spot. Thirty meters appeared to be a band not often spotted.

NOTE: It was suggested that when spotting mobiles during QSO Parties, one

should have a list of that states counties and abbreviations so the county could be spelled out.

3. Discussed how best to get the attention of “two mobiles running at the same time”. A station with good copy on at least one of the mobiles should step up and try to sort it out. Don’t be timid . . . it’s best for everyone involved.
4. A show of hands indicated there is interest in starting up the “Eighty Meter Night Out” this Fall. A target date could be September 6<sup>th</sup> starting at 2330z and meeting on 3556.5. If folks are interested, they should contact Randy, AA8R.

Jerry W0GXQ

## Some things from Ebay

As you may recall, I collect one and two and 3 tube radios from the 40s – 50s and 60s. Here's something that showed up on Ebay Australia (yes, there are Ebay sites in the UK and Australia in English). Some sellers in the UK will list in the US as well. This was a one tube 'experimental kit' similar to many offered here in the 50s. Someone alerted me to this and after checking with the seller to make sure he would be willing to ship to the US (some minor hassles), I bid on it and 'won' it. The shipping for the radio was as much as the winning bid on the radio. You only pick up a few goodies this way, and this didn't weigh much either. Postage is a killer!



It will be a while before I try to get it to work. Parts diagram is on the baseboard so at least I have a clue what the schematic is!

## On the Road with N4CD – Part III

The convention was over and it was time to head east to Warren County NY. My niece was getting married the following Saturday so I had to make some tracks back that way to be at the big event. I looked at my needs for Mobile Diamond, and I needed just about everything in WI, so I decided to stick to the interstates down to IL, then run a bit south of Chicago to catch some new ones, and across IN to fill in some missed when I didn't catch Ron, KB6UF there a few weeks ago. Same in OH – there was a nice strip of needed counties which would get me over to NY state which was a vast almost totally needed state. In addition, there would be a pile of mobiles on the air, so getting a county 'put out' might be difficult. I'd just settle for a good run on one or two bands.

It was good weather but only so so conditions on the bands. At least a dozen mobiles were running so folks were moving off frequency left and right. Some times I'd say I'm going to QSY down 2, and there is another mobile already there – so it was down another 2 KHz. I don't recall ever having 3 mobiles running at the same time on 30M cw! But it happened.



20M cw was also busy – with a few 'collisions' as near in mobiles didn't hear others trying to run. The first night I made it down to the west side of IN.

The next day it was across Indiana and then into OH and across it off the interstates. Monday it poured and there were vicious thunderstorms around that buffeted the car. I didn't take any detours and the weather was even worse to the north of me. I made it to the eastern side of OH (Mahoning County) that evening in a Motel 6 just off the interstate. . Dinner at the Cracker Barrel close by. There had been tornado watches around all afternoon, and there were some nasty 'lowerings' of the thunderstorm clouds. I didn't dawdle much anywhere but kept moving. At times the wind was blowing 50 mph rocking the car.

The next day it was up along the PA border to catch Crawford, PA, then into Erie, PA and up into New York. Chuck, W3CR, had been working on Master Platinum for a long time. He was one of the first to really start putting them out and he was down to about 20 to finish up, including six in NY state. So I adjusted the route to make sure I hit all the ones he needed, and ran most of the 'top part' of NY state headed east from the western edge – up to the north ones along the lakes and down into the Finger Lakes area. If you get to Madison County – plan on extra time- there are lots of back roads and they are like giant roller coaster roads with 500 foot up and down (like northern MO counties!). Good roads but slow getting from A to B. Lots of small towns, antique stores, and rural country side.

After lots of zigs and zags to get the counties other than the ones along the south border than KB6UF had run a few weeks before – I finally made it to Hamilton. No cell coverage there on my Verizon phone. Not a peep. Same for the broadband wireless. Well, I couldn't call Chuck to alert him so I hoped he was listening. He was and we finished off NY state for his Master Platinum. Now he is down to

HI:Hawaii, Kalawao, Maui

KY:Jackson

MA:Barnstable

PA:Wyoming

VA:Fairfax

WV:Hancock, Tucker

Seems like Fairfax is close by KE3VV so that should be easy. The HI ones will be a challenge. He's already got his 500 transmits done, too.

Sharon, N0LXJ, needed a few in NY state to finish up her Bingo and we hooked up in those she needed, including Washington, NY. Not long after, she got the others she needed and is now done.

Well, shortly after that, relatively speaking (roads are twisty and slow up in the Adirondack Mountains) I made it to Warren County and the sister's house on Lake George. Those counties



up that way are large and it can take hours to cross them. In Warren County, I could rest for a few days, except that Wednesday night there was a big get together of the two families at the house. I rested up that night – and on Thursday...did I goof off?

Nope, there were more counties to be run – so I took a day trip up to Essex, just north of where I was (15 miles – slow traffic) then over to Washington County. You can see Washington County 2 miles away from the house across the lake – it is 35 miles of driving to get there! A few folks needed Washington and there were good runs.. The weather was great, so I decided to keep going and crossed over into VT at Rutland. I headed north on one of the most scenic New England roads you can imagine. Highway 22A runs along a high ridge with picture perfect farm houses, perfectly maintained. Off to the right you see the Adirondack Mountains for hundreds of miles. There's 30 miles or more of road and it's very rural. Eventually you run up into Addison County – then into the greater Burlington area and Chittenden County. I took the bypass around the city up to Franklin VT – then backtracked and took the long scenic route all the way through Grand Isle, VT. It's actually a collection of islands, with Grand Isle only being one of them. I had time so could run them all bands. There wasn't much action on 40M SSB, though.

The weather was great – 55-60 in the mornings – good weather for sleeping with the windows wide open. It got up into the 80s – hot for the folks up there with 90s expected a bit later. You couldn't ask for better weather.

Eventually you reach the bridge at the very top of VT and NY on Highway 2. When you enter NY you are in Clinton County and about 1/4 mile from Canada. You can take ferries from NY to VT at several spots to the south. The bridge at Crown Point NY is closed for repair (for over a year) and the state is running free ferries at Crown Point and Hudson Landing plus there is a pay ferry at Ticonderoga and one from the southwest tip of Grand Island. I took the bridge at Rouse's point.

Well, it was then a long drive down I87 (Northway) back south. Art, N4PJ, needed Essex, NY for a LC. It was actually his next to last for WBOW. He was saving one for his XYL to give him in GA. It took a bit of doing to catch up with him on his cellphone...he was way out in the boonies in UT with a marginal connection. I had just heard him on 17m working a mobile so I knew that would work – he was out in Utah and it would be mobile to mobile.

After 3 cellphone attempts, with dropped calls and chopped signals, we got together on 17M to give him his last in NY. Now he is down to just that one, and once all the MRCs come in, he should be done for USA-CA done all CW. The route then went along 9 which runs along the shore of Lake Champlain. It took a while, but I was just enjoying myself and being a tourist. Then down into Ticonderoga at the top of Lake George where I grabbed a large softie ice cream cone and enjoyed it sitting in the nice cooler climate, and finally down to home.

Well, Friday came, and there wasn't much going on until late afternoon when we had the

rehearsal dinner in the evening, so I had most of the day to goof off. Well, that meant running a few more counties. The QTH on the lake was shadowed by a ridge to the west and it wasn't a good operating spot.. Might as well be out mobile! I knew I'd be leaving early in the morning on the return trip – so the bands wouldn't be open to the west, , so I ran down to Saratoga and put it out...then headed east into Washington and across it (painfully slow – very rural, twisty roads, none of which seem to go more than a mile or two or three) over to the road to the town of Arlington VT. I got to the county line – it's surrounded by hills, but it worked OK – the county line of Bennington, VT and Washington, NY – then it was back home. Wow...worked a 2w QRP bicycle mobile on 20M SSB. That's doing it the hard way! No radio trips on Saturday – my niece got married and it was a busy enough day.

After the reception dinner – I hit the hay and planned to leave early. I would on the road before 7 am headed south.

To be continued.....

## Ham Radio in the Movies

Courtesy of ARRL, Newington CT 06111

“The summer of 2011 is replete with big movies, ranging from action-adventure flicks to comedies to coming-of-age dramas. And already this summer, Amateur Radio has played a part in not one, but two movies. In *Mr Popper's Penguins*, ham radio was **featured**, albeit incorrectly, on the big screen. And now *Super 8* -- a film set just outside Dayton, Ohio in 1979 -- uses Amateur Radio in a crucial scene.

*Super 8* revolves around a group of six middle-schoolers who witness a mysterious train crash in the fictional town of Lillian. Soon after the crash, the Air Force arrives and strange things start happening in the small town. The kids, a group of young film makers (hence the title of the movie) begin to investigate the creepy phenomena.

One of the kids' dads is Deputy Lamb. After the Sherriff mysteriously disappears, Deputy Lamb takes over and holds a town-wide meeting to help allay the fear. One woman thinks that all the strange goings-on are the work of the Soviet Union. But when Deputy Lamb calls on Mr McCandless to ask a question, the man complains that he is hearing strange transmissions on his ham radio. As soon as Mr McCandless mentions ham radio, the residents at the meeting just ignore him.

But when Deputy Lamb privately questions Mr McCandless, he tells the deputy that he can no

longer listen to 13.201 (no reference is made to kHz or MHz) due to the strange noises he is hearing. Deputy Lamb mentions this to another deputy, and that deputy says he can bring in his scanner and voice inverter from home so they can monitor the frequency. After the rigs are set up, the deputies overhear vital information about what the Air Force is trying to hide.

While credit has to go to *Super 8* set decorator Fainche MacCarthy for finding a radio of the right era, the “scanner” that the deputy brings in is a **Heathkit Seneca VHF-1**, a 2 and 6 meter CW and AM *transmitter*. Introduced in 1959, this rig complemented Heathkit’s TX-1 Apache transmitter, RX-1 Mohawk receiver and KL-1 Chippewa linear amplifier.”

## Solar Activity Update

From the ARRL Propagation Bulletin – courtesy of ARRL

“There has been quite a bit of news about a predicted grand minima in solar activity. We recently reported on a conference where three lines of evidence were presented, seeming to point to a future disappearance of sunspots, perhaps like the dreaded Maunder Minimum. I am not unbiased in this regard, and like most radio amateurs, yearn for high solar activity. Alas, a return of Solar Cycle 19, the granddaddy of them all, seems elusive. But there is some dissent regarding these predictions of no sunspots, which gives us hope.

On Wednesday, I spoke with Dr. Douglas Biesecker, an astrophysicist at the NOAA Space Environment Center in Boulder. He was mentioned in the [Solar Update for June 17](#), dissenting from the assertion that evidence points toward sunspots disappearing or another Maunder Minimum in our future.

He mentioned something called a Gleissberg Cycle. When we do a really long smoothing of sunspot numbers, the smoothed sunspot numbers we are familiar with -- the data used in those nice graphs of sunspot cycles -- average data over 13 months. So every place you look on the graph doesn’t show the variation that occurred during that month, but instead averages data over more than a year, to smooth out all the noise of daily variations. But what would happen if you smoothed the numbers over a much longer period, say 11 years? Could you find some periodicity that would suggest a cycle of cycles or perhaps predict clusters of decades with low or high solar activity?

Gleissberg cycles suggest a periodicity of about 87 years, and some have studied these to try to predict general levels of solar activity over multiple decades. But if a cycle is 87 years long -- and we only have about 256 years of directly observed solar data -- the most we could look at would be less than three cycles. That isn’t enough data to make even crude speculative projections.

Doug mentioned what he referred to as an “old NASA axiom,” that goes something like this:

“If you can’t see something happen seven times, it isn’t real.”

Doug said he is attending Solar Heliospheric and Interplanetary Environment ([SHINE](#)) workshops. At these meetings, participants have been hashing out the evidence for or against a “no Solar Cycle 25” scenario, and discovering some problems with the three lines of evidence pointing toward a disappearance of sunspots. They haven’t reached a consensus, but he believes that positions may be moving away from predicting another Maunder Minimum. On this topic, take a look at this [website](#).

A new issue of [WorldRadio](#) is now available. On page 20, you’ll find the monthly Propagation column by Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA. This time it is titled “Here’s Some Help to Explain Those Unusual QSOs.” Carl looks at propagation that doesn’t seem to be supported by the MUF or general level of solar activity at the time, and offers some interesting ideas on what might really be going on.”

## On the Road with N4CD IV

The short way from upstate NY to TX is down I87 to I88 and down to the DC area and then hit I81 and the interstate all the way down VA to TN to AR and home. Boring! I didn't take the short way. Now an important key was that it was Sunday – I wouldn't try this route on a weekday! There were some desperately needed counties for Jerry, W0GXQ and I had just one to run in NY for second time transmit.

Jerry, W0GXQ was down to 2 to finish his Master Platinum award – Rockland NY and Hudson NJ. Well, Rockland isn't too bad – it's right on the 'extension' of the Thruway – actually I 87 – and you can even find places to get off and run. I saw a sign for a Park and Ride area – and took the exit – but right there at the exit was a big gravel lot for hooking trailers together - and no one there – so I parked for 30 minutes and ran the counties all bands. Didn't even have to go to the Park and Ride lot – which work OK on weekends but are usually more than full on weekdays.

I had just one county left to run for second time transmit in NY and that was, gulp, New York, NY. The last time I had done that - was with Aaron, WA2AKB, and Carol Ann, AB2LS when we went in their big Ford Expedition and ran all 7 NY area counties on a Sunday- that was the 'easy way'. I had been back to run all but NY NY for Master Platinum – seemed not too many ventured that way. I know N8KIE was there a while back.

I headed down I87 after paying a big toll to get across the Tappan Zee bridge (\$\$\$\$) – down I87 in NY through Westchester and 'da Bronx' and finally onto I287 which heads over another bridge and puts you in Queens (another \$6.50 or so). Just after you pay the toll headed 'west',

there is an exit for Randall Island Park, which is part of New York County. Jeffrey, AF3X, discovered this great place.

From Wiki:

“Randall's Island is situated in the East River in New York City, part of the borough of Manhattan . It is separated from Manhattan island on the west by the river's main channel, from Queens on the east by the Hell Gate, and from the Bronx on the north by the Bronx Kill. Administratively, it is part of the borough of Manhattan.

Native Americans called the island Minnahanonck. It was purchased from the Indians in 1637 by Dutch Governor Wouter Van Twiller and used for farming. John Montresor, an engineer with the British army, purchased the island in 1772. He lived on it, now renamed Montresor's Island, with his wife until the Revolutionary War forced him to deploy. The British used his island to launch amphibious attacks on Manhattan, and Montresor's house there was burned in 1777. He resigned his commission and returned to England in 1778, but retained ownership of the island until the British evacuated the city in 1783 and it was confiscated. It was purchased by Jonathan Randel (or Randal) in 1784, at which time it acquired its familiar name, if with different spelling. His heirs sold it to the city in 1835 for \$60,000.”

- - - -

You could not ask for a better place to run New York, NY. Quiet on 20M – less than S1 noise on SSB, zero on cw. Lots of free parking. Excellent view. Even rest rooms and a place to buy snacks and drinks. There are 66 ball fields there, batting cages, a golf driving range, and a lot of other athletic facilities and parking for at least 1000 cars around the island.



Randall Island (New York, NY)  
Manhattan Skyline in the Background

I made like a New Yorker and parked in a 'no parking area' to take the pic above but you could park right across the street in a nice parking lot with great radio shot going west! If all the NY boroughs were only this easy and noise free to run!!! (but getting here is not that easy but not all that bad if you stick to the main roads)

Well, it was back to work – across the bridge I had already paid for – and into Queens.....I did some runs 'on the move' while on I287 – then had to exit to head across Manhattan to get to the Holland tunnel to NJ and Hudson County. Well, just before the tunnel into Manhattan – I stop and finish the run in Queens...still folks calling. I'm parked along a 30 foot high wall 100 foot from the tunnel entrance. The car doesn't like it.....the dashboard warning lights light up..... 'ESC Warning' – that's Electronic Stability Control. Followed by ESC Service. Then the car tells me it can't find the 'key'- can't read the electronic key. I've seen that before in the Buicks – it goes away eventually. Well – I add another six or 8, and decide to get moving since I'm not in a good place, it's not even a 'break down' lane.....so I have to get moving. Into the tunnel into Manhattan – what a nightmare. The easier way would have been to go to Richmond (Staten Island) and into NJ and circle back to Hudson. Oh well, - 20/20 Hindsight.

It's Sunday, but the traffic is horrendous on the street across Manhattan. Folks are double parked and there is one lane of traffic in most places with a zillion cars and trucks. At one point a truck pulls up along side me on the right and stops, and the driver doesn't even look, opens the door and jumps out. He's lucky since I did have 3 feet to the left to avoid him by inches. Whew. It took 30 minutes or more to go the 2 or 3 miles across Manhattan then make my way to the Holland Tunnel. Needless to say, the noise was 20 over on every band – no hope of

hearing anything. Through the tunnel – and you emerge in Hudson NJ. No way to stop and take a pic of the sign.

Jerry needed that for last county WBOW. We made a contact right off the bat. I was headed for what I hoped would be a quiet spot with a place to park - you can forget that – I didn't find it. I worked my way a few miles north to the vicinity of Stevens Institute of Technology. Lots of streets were closed, when you got to where you think you'd like to stop, everything was restricted parking or there was not a spot to stop and the noise was high along most streets. I tried a 3 or 4 places but never could get to the hilltop – streets closed – road required card access, etc. After 30-40 minutes of frustration and a few decent runs, I took the following pic while double parked.



N4CD – Hudson NJ  
Empire State Building in Background  
across the Hudson river  
LC WBOW for W0GXQ - Master Platinum

Likely there is a good spot or two to run this county but I didn't find it. It's very very urban.

I headed out from there – headed to the 4 in Pennsylvania I needed to run around the Philadelphia area. Down through Essex, NJ to Union NJ to Middlesex and Mercer, then over into PA. More tolls (NJ Turnpike, PA turnpike, bridges, etc). Plan on bringing lots of extra cash if you come this this neck of the woods.

I zipped into Philadelphia and found a great parking lot for a trucking company and ran that.

Then back into Bucks on the PA turnpike and over through Montgomery, then onto another interstate to Chester to Delaware, finishing off those in PA. Now that is done along with NY state.

It had been a long day. I punched in 'motels' on the GPS. I found a Motel 6 in Essington, PA – 2 miles away still in Delaware County.

What a day it had been!- driving in NYC is NOT FUN! Driving in NJ is not fun either! I'm not planning on going back there any time soon! I still need a few for Mobile Diamond, though!

Dinner at a great family Pizza place – Romanos. (It was Sunday night and I had 'earned' that pizza). I had a 'tomato pie' where they put the cheese and stuff on first, then the sauce on top – and bake it. Good! They are famous for their stromboli's -

<http://www.romanostromboli.com/>

From Wiki:

“Tomato pie is commonly regarded as unique to Italian-American populations. Unlike typical New York-style pizza, which is closely related to Neapolitan pizza, tomato pie is derived heavily from Sicilian pizza, and as such can be found in predominantly Sicilian-American communities.

The basic recipe for tomato pie calls for a thick, porous, focaccia-like dough covered with tomato sauce, more like a pizza than a covered pie, then sprinkled with grated romano cheese. Many bakeries and pizzerias have their own variation on this formula. It is not usually served straight from the oven, but allowed to cool and then consumed at room temperature or reheated. Like Sicilian pizza, tomato pie is baked in a large aluminum pan and served in square slices.

Tomato pie can be found throughout Philadelphia metropolitan area, and to a lesser extent in downstate New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, especially in and around Italian communities. Notable locations serving the dish are Trenton, New Jersey, Lewes, Delaware, the Norristown, Pennsylvania area, Rome, New York, and Utica, New York.”

OK.....so now we are up to speed on 'tomato pies'. I've run across lots of good pizza while traveling. The one I had was like a square pizza, served hot, and was excellent.

The car had developed a 'flakey' problem. It seemed that when you sat for 15 minutes with the car in neutral idling, and then hit the highway again, the six speed transmission decided it wanted to be in 5<sup>th</sup> gear rather than sixth where it should be. You could manually shift it into



sixth gear – and it would stay there. After an hour or two on the road, it would would again normally, until you idled the car for ten or 15 minutes. Hmmmm....not good. Worse, with the transmission lever in 'manual' in cramped my sending hand more. This was 'serious' – hi hi.

I woke up early – 5 am. Wandered over to the Denny's 300 feet away and had a nice breakfast waiting for the sun to come up – on the edge of the eastern time zone. Packed car. Headed out just before 7am – if you leave much earlier than that and no one is around. On the east coast, there is a Caribbean net on 7188 that runs till after 8am eastern time. On 14.337 there is the ex-G net that runs to 8:30 am eastern time, with a control station in FL that is 40 over S9. The 20M SSB net has to wait for it to be done. The good news is that .336 is clear since they keep it that way when they stop. The bad news is you won't run on .336 until they end. In TX, I don't even hear a peep out of this ex-G net. The cw folks tend to sleep in. Well, it's 6am in the morning in TX then and 4am for K1TKL out in CA!

I then had a choice – I could head on down to DC and then hit I66 to I81 all the way down VA to TN, and then I40 to Little Rock and I30 back to Dallas – or go a different way. I had not planned anything other than to head home and be home in 2 or 3 days.

I elected to go down the the Baltimore area – head west to Cumberland MD on the Interstate into WV and across through WV and over to Lexington, KY, then down the Blue Grass Parkway – down to I65 to Nashville then hit the same old interstates to get home. Bob, N8KIE and Ron, KB6UF had put out some of those for MD, but I'd still pick up a bunch of new ones. There were lots of counties along the way but I'd be moving fast. That would mean only 1 cw band per county for the smaller ones, sometimes 2. I passed through 1000 feet of one county on the interstate in WV and didn't even have time for one contact. If you are desperate enough, you can try to stop on the interstate for a quick contact. Oh well, another day. There was construction and I missed the bypass so I wound up going through the City of Baltimore – some needed that- then hit the bypass on the south and to I70 going west. Then through WV on the interstates at the speed limit.

Some needed Wayne, WV – only a few miles on the interstate so you have to take an exit or stop on the road to finish up a run. Joyce, KD8HB, needed that. Managed two bands while stopped before I headed on. Didn't get to put out Boyd KY– things happening every frequency and lots of traffic. Missed that one, too Oh well, another trip. It's fairly short, too. I was getting tired from the trip and driving.

That route worked well time wise since it was all interstate and I didn't stop to run and put out on multiple bands (30 min to do that) and I made it over to Lexington, KY by dinner time and decided to stop in a Rodeway Inn on the west side of Lexington. I could have gone on an hour or two, but it seemed like a good place to stop. It had been a busy day with lots of contacts and counties, just about all on CW. Dinner at a China Buffet 3 miles away.

Getting home was mostly a cw trip – the counties are 10-20 miles and it takes about 10 minutes

when conditions are good on 20M to do a run. For the SSB mobiles, they probably find the same thing if they are on net. When I am doing NY state, or MN, or VT and 'putting them out' on all the bands, you need to plan for slower progress along the route, and maybe run county lines to get 'two for one'. Sometimes I'll do county lines on SSB, and cw 'on the run' between county lines. However, on the way back, it was pedal to the metal most of the way home.

Tuesday I had the urge to get home, so I drove the 880 miles or so straight home. Once or twice the car decided it would downshift at 70 mph into fifth gear and stay there. One time it didn't make up its mind and shifted back and forth every few seconds until I forced it into sixth. I didn't stop much and after a while, it just behaved normally. I'll bet this problem takes a while to get 'diagnosed' and fixed. Still under warranty (100,000 mile/5 year drive train warranty on the Malibu). Sorry, no detours on the way home. Got home a bit after 8pm including 'gaining' an hour with the time change. Whew. Too many miles but I was tired of staying in motels.

Well..stats.....6553 miles driven.....hundreds of counties – I'm not going to count them up...and thousands and thousands of contacts. Hit a lot of new ones, so hopefully one you needed. Finished off running MN, IA, PA and NY but still have a few to run in MA, NH, lots in ID, CA, WA and OR. The good news is the next convention is out in WA, so that will be a good excuse to run most of them! Then there is HI and AK to run again! And Dukes and Nantucket. There are always counties to run and you never know where N4CD will wind up!

## What your Newspaper Doesn't tell you

The percentage of each past president's cabinet who had worked in the private business sector prior to their appointment to the cabinet. You know what the private business sector is? *a **real-** life business, not a government job*. Here are the percentages.

T. Roosevelt.....	38%
Taft.....	40%
Wilson .....	52%
Harding.....	49%
Coolidge.....	48%
Hoover.....	42%
F. Roosevelt.....	50%
Truman.....	50%
Eisenhower.....	57%

Kennedy.....	30%
Johnson.....	47%
Nixon.....	53%
Ford.....	42%
Carter.....	32%
Reagan.....	56%
GH Bush.....	51%
Clinton .....	39%
GW Bush.....	55%

And the winner is:

**Obama ..... 8%**

**This helps to explain the incompetence of this administration:  
only 8% of them have ever worked in private business!**

That's right! Only eight percent---the least, by far, of the last 19 presidents! And these people are trying to tell our big corporations how to run *their* business? They know what's best for GM, Chrysler, Wall Street, and you and me?

How can the president of a major nation and society, the one with the most successful economic system in world history, stand and talk about business when he's never worked for one? Or about jobs when he has never really had one? And when it's the same for 92% of his senior staff and closest advisers? They've spent most of their time in academia, government and/or non-profit jobs or as "community organizers." They should have been in an employment line.

Source: Investor's Business Daily

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If you are wondering why the unemployment rate is near historical highs, why the economy is going nowhere fast, and why all the 'fixes' aren't working, see above. You can't run a government by academics and their ivory tower 'theories'. You can't balance a budget when you don't have folks who have ever done it and have had to do it or go bankrupt. You can't foster a good business environment when all you know is tax and spend. And more tax, government bloat and spend.

# Oil Demand Remains Strong

This year has been eventful for the oil patch. Natural disasters, revolutions, terrorist attacks and political maneuvering kept oil bouncing around \$100 per barrel and 3.8 percent higher on the year at the end of June. Despite the volatility and large number of external forces affecting oil prices, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said in its most recent Oil Market Report that "the bull run evident since autumn 2010 therefore looks in large part to be justified by supply and demand fundamentals."

Oil industry analyst PIRA estimates incremental demand will outpace supply by 1.1 million barrels per day on a year-over-year basis during the third quarter of 2011. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) says long-term supply/demand drivers indicate the market will remain tight for the foreseeable future as growing demand from emerging economies for liquid fuels and slowing non-OPEC supply growth "maintain upward pressure on oil prices." The IEA forecasts oil prices to average \$98 per barrel this year and \$103 per barrel in 2012.

## Oil Demand

The IEA forecasts the world will use 91 million barrels of oil per day in 2012, an increase of 1.5 million barrels per day. The IEA also revised its 2011 oil demand projections upward by 0.2 million barrels per day. Projecting outward to 2016, the IEA's baseline scenario assumes a healthy 4.5 percent global GDP growth and an average oil price of \$103 per barrel. With these assumptions, annual oil demand growth should average 1.2 millions barrels per day through 2016.

Emerging markets are almost entirely the source of this increased demand, with China accounting for 41 percent of demand growth over that time period, the IEA forecast says. Developing (non-OECD) country oil demand has dramatically increased since the mid-1990s while developed world (OECD) demand has decreased. Through two financial bubbles and a global financial crisis, non-OECD demand has stair-stepped its way to nearly doubling in less than 20 years.

How is this possible? Many non-OECD markets have favorable demographics, rapidly urbanizing populations and industrializing economies that have returned many developing economies' GDP growth rates to pre-crisis levels.

Rising incomes have also outpaced rising oil prices and sustained emerging market demand despite a general reduction in subsidies, the IEA says. Rising wealth has also established a new global middle class that the World Bank estimates will be more than 1 billion strong by 2030.

In fact, the World Bank was cited in a National Geographic article earlier this year forecasting that for the first time ever, more people in the world will be classified as middle class than poor in 2022. Today, roughly 70 percent of the world's population is classified as poor.

Major emerging market countries, such as China, India and Saudi Arabia, have reached the important GDP per capita range (\$3,000-\$20,000) where oil demand historically "takes-off."

China carries the biggest stick among emerging markets when it comes to oil demand. Strict tightening measures from Beijing and rising inflation slowed the country's oil demand growth to its lowest level since 2009 in June. However, China's oil demand is still expected to grow 7 percent this year, which is inline with the country's five-year average demand growth rate, according to Deutsche Bank. The summer months have historically been weak periods for oil demand in China but Deutsche Bank estimates growth rates will recover during the fourth quarter.

Chinese auto sales growth has slowed but still registered 10.9 percent year-over-year growth in June. In an interview with Maria Bartiromo for USA Today, Ford CEO Alan Mulally called China's car market a "very exciting development." The company is projecting China's auto sales will reach 32 million by 2020-28 percent of the entire global market. Ford isn't the only U.S. auto manufacturer tapping into China's booming auto market; General Motors' Buick brand is one of the most popular in the country. According to the Brookings Institute, General Motors sold 10 cars in the U.S. for every one car sold in China in 2004. Today, that figure is nearly 1-to-1.

In the developed world, the outlook for oil demand is less bullish. OPEC says the "austerity measures, combined with high levels of both debt and unemployment, are likely to dent the fragile recovery in major OECD countries."

While demand growth in OECD countries is underwhelming, consumption rates have recovered from recession lows at a much faster rate than many expected. You can see that OECD demand contributed heavily to the recovery in global oil demand from early 2009 to late 2010. In fact, the developed world contributes little to global oil demand growth but still consumes more than half of the world's total demand.

**Despite China's rise, OPEC says the fate of the U.S. economy is the most influencing factor for oil over the next 12 months. Oil demand in the U.S. was revised upward in May and the U.S. economy is forecasted to see 2.5 percent GDP growth in 2011.**

PIRA says the U.S. economy is signaling strength in the second half of the year. It cites business capital expenditures as improving, which generally leads to employment gains and increased household consumption. It also expects a 20 percent hike in auto manufacturing output from the second quarter and an increase in consumer spending.

A big determinant of U.S. demand and consumer spending is gasoline prices, which the EIA forecasts to average \$3.56 a gallon in 2011-up from \$2.78 in 2010. U.S. consumers have already shown to be sensitive to higher prices with total motor gasoline consumption down more than 2 percent on a year-over-year basis during the second quarter. While OPEC expects U.S. gasoline consumption to return to normal rates, OPEC calls it oil's "wild card" for 2012. Gasoline consumption could be negatively impacted by economic turbulence, such as a dip in employment.

## **Oil Supply**

Oil production was rocked by several unexpected outages during the first half of 2011. The revolution in Libya, political divisions in Iraq, terrorist pipeline attacks in Nigeria, accelerating drug violence in Mexico and instability in Yemen have all negatively impacted oil production. PIRA puts the total loss of non-OPEC production at 74 million barrels. This is more than the entire amount of production losses in 2010.

Supply in the second half could also be affected by various factors such as hurricanes, maintenance issues and decline rates. The EIA is projecting non-OPEC crude production to increase by 540,000 barrels per day in 2011 and 740,000 barrels per day in 2012.

The IEA sees global production increasing by a little more than 1 million barrels per day annually until 2016. This is a result of increased capital expenditure, which has positively impacted existing assets and accelerated new projects, the IEA says. High oil prices are generating new supply, but non-OPEC growth is coming from higher cost areas, such as tar sands. Countries such as Colombia, China, Canada and the U.S. are expected to see the biggest gains.

OPEC production is expected to decline by roughly 300,000 barrels a day in 2011 and the EIA projects OPEC spare capacity to fall by 12.5 percent this year from 2010 and then another 11 percent in 2012.

## **It's A Different Kind of Bull Market**

If you've been around a while like me, you can remember the oil shocks of the 1970s. Oil prices skyrocketed and Americans waited in mile-long lines just to fill up their cars with gas. Today's prices might conjure up some of those memories but we're living in a different kind of bull market today. BCA Research says there are a few key reasons today's bull market for oil is much different than the embargo-driven bull run from 1973-1980.

- Non-OPEC supply jumped from 27 to 41 million barrels per day in response to the embargo. Today, non-OPEC countries don't have the ability to ramp up production like that. Even if they did, BCA says it wouldn't be enough to keep pace with rising demand from developing countries.
- OECD countries drove global oil consumption in the 1980s, accounting for 70 percent of total

demand. Today, that figure has dropped to 50 percent as the demand growth has shifted to emerging markets. Developing countries are less susceptible to higher prices because of subsidies, making similar demand destruction unlikely, BCA says.

- Global spare capacity has vanished so much that almost any oil-producing country, not just top producers such as Saudi Arabia and Russia, can cause a price spike by withholding access to its resources, BCA says.

Today's oil market is much different than what we experienced back in the 1970s. Back then, countries such as China, India and Russia had no global footprint; they were isolationists. Russia was tucked away behind the Iron Curtain. Today these countries are building their economies and squeezing the existing supply of the world's resources, including oil.

These factors indicate that growth in global oil demand will likely outpace increases in production capacity and create a "tighter market" than what the IEA expected back in 2010. As the IEA sums it up, "[the] market will ultimately adjust to higher prices, albeit supply and demand remain unresponsive in the short term. Indeed, oil's price inelasticity underpins the recent extended upward price shift in the face of resilient non-OECD demand growth and perennial supply-side risks."

Source: Investors Village Board

## Speical Needs Department

This month we pick a few folks closing in – see if you can help them- they're getting mighty close! From the K3IMC needs page:

Note: If these are not ALL of your needs posted on K3IMC site, then please put a note in the 'comments' section saying somelike like “I still need 140 but close in these states”.

There are dozens of folks with just a few or just one in a state. See if you can't help them out!

**NØXYL** - BINGO using SSB - Updated: 07/17/2011

Please give a heads up if you are going to any of the counties. [LNSTENNYSON@ATT.NET](mailto:LNSTENNYSON@ATT.NET) or [KB0BA@ATT.NET](mailto:KB0BA@ATT.NET). Phone 563-381-3711. Sandra NØXYL

GA: Chattooga, Lumpkin, Treutlen

NM: Lea

And they were seen headed to Lea, NM, where KB0BA can get her Lea. That leaves just 3 in GA.

**KYØE** - USACA using CW - Updated: 07/17/2011

NOW 6 TO GO, Thanks to Art and Bob

KY: McCreary

OH: Monroe

PA: Indiana

VA: Frederick

WV: Berkeley, Wetzel

**NØDXE** - BINGO using SSB - Updated: 07/21/2011

Need to get ur done. Any help appreciated. Some county awards up for grabs. Please email  
N0KV@earthlink.net. 303-841-6510. Thanks much. Pat :)

ID: Clark, Fremont, Teton

MS: Clarke, Wayne, Winston

UT: Sanpete

VA: Henrico, York

**KØDEQ** - USACA using both SSB and CW - Updated: 07/18/2011

GA:Early, Talbot, Taylor, Upson

KY:Breckinridge, Cumberland, Lewis

MO:Reynolds

NE:Clay, Nance, Sioux, Wheeler

TN:Marshall

**W9UX** - BINGO using CW - Updated: 07/19/2011

CA: Lassen, Mariposa, Modoc

KY: Trimble

**W9UX** - 2ND using CW - Updated: 07/19/2011

CA: Lassen

UT: Beaver

**W9SUQ** - 3RD using both SSB and CW - Updated: 07/18/2011

GA:Madison

IL:Mason

KY:Green, McLean



MI:Alpena  
MN:Fillmore, Pope  
UT:Sanpete  
WA:Grays Harbor

**WB9STT** - MASTER'S GOLD using SSB - Updated: 07/17/2011

WV:Clay

(and N4CD is kicking himself for running through Clay, WV on cw and not running it on SSB for WB9STT- ten lashes with wet noodle.).....Someone please help John finish Master's Gold!

**W3DYA** - BINGO using CW - Updated: 07/19/2011

GA:Walker

MI:Alcona

**K3IMC** - 3RD using both SSB and CW - Updated: 07/22/2011

I need 6 counties in 3 states to complete my 3rd time. I have listed all my needs.

CA: Alpine, Humbolt, Plumas

KS: Graham, Sheridan

UT: Sanpete

**WA3QNT** - 4TH using both SSB and CW - Updated: 07/12/2011

ME:Aroostook

TX:Bandera

WI:Taylor

**N4AAT** - 9TH using both SSB and CW - Updated: 07/19/2011

Only 4 to go. All counties listed. Thanks in advance. Cell# 803-260-1137

CO: Lake

GA: Macon

MA: Nantucket

NV: Esmeralda

**K4AMC** - 2ND using both SSB and CW - Updated: 07/12/2011

AZ:La Paz

**NU4C** - BINGO using both SSB and CW - Updated: 07/13/2011

Just 1 LC1 and the WBOW to go for BINGO. Who gets it?? Any mode CW SSB or PSK is OK, heads up appreciated

CA: Tuolumne

VA: Northumberland

**W5DU** - USACA using both SSB and CW - Updated: 07/20/2011

NC:Hertford

**N5KGY** - MASTER'S GOLD using SSB - Updated: 07/21/2011

This is it for MG Nothing held back! 662-465-6225

CA: Imperial, Riverside, San Diego, San Mateo, Santa Clara

NM: Sierra, Socorro

VT: Washington

WA: Kitsap

**N5XG** - USACA using CW - Updated: 07/08/2011

Final 5 to complete my Mixed USA-CA to All CW, plus also needed for 2nd time.

IA: Chickasaw

SC: Edgefield, Fairfield, Newberry, Union

**KD5YUK** - 2ND using SSB - Updated: 07/17/2011

Cell: 903-277-1884

AR: Howard, Ouachita, Perry, Sevier

NC: Perquimans

As always, check the needs page first – the needs might have been met. They check with the county hunter before heading out – to be sure they'll be available. Now a days, get their phone number so you can reach them – provided there is cell phone coverage where you go!

## Awards Issued

Bingo #331

Paul, N5PR

July 18, 2011

Bingo #322

Sharon, N0LXJ

July 20, 2011

USA-CW III #13	Pete, NN9K	July 21, 2011
Fifth Time #101	Paul, WB2ABD	July 11, 2011
Master Platinum #16	Jerry, W0GXQ	July 17, 2011

## Upcoming Events for County Hunters

Last weekend in July – MARAC Counties Party – rules last month

Aug 6, 0001Z - Aug 7, 2359Z

10-10 Summer Phone QSO Party Call, name, 10-10 number, S/P/C **[www.ten-ten.org](http://www.ten-ten.org)**

Aug 6, 1800Z - Aug 7, 0600Z

North American QSO Party Name and state [ncjweb.com](http://ncjweb.com)

Aug 20, 1800Z - Aug 21, 0600Z 1.8-28

North American QSO Party Name and state [ncjweb.com](http://ncjweb.com)

Aug 27, 0400Z - Aug 28, 2200Z 1.8-28

Hawaii QSO Party RS(T) and HI county/island or S/P/C [www.karc.net](http://www.karc.net)

Aug 27, 1400Z - See website 3.5-28 50,144

Kansas QSO Party RS(T) and KS county or S/P/“DX” [www.ksqsoparty.org](http://www.ksqsoparty.org)

Aug 27, 1600Z - Aug 28, 0400Z 3.5-28

Ohio QSO Party Serial and S/P or “DX” **[www.ohqp.org](http://www.ohqp.org)**