

County Hunter News

December 2021
Volume 17 Issue 12

Welcome to the On-Line County Hunter News, a monthly publication for those interested in ham radio county hunting, with an orientation toward CW operation. We also cover some park chasing activities these days. 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 Frequencies are 14.0565, 10.124.5, and 7056.5, with activity occasionally on 3556.5 KHz. Also, there is SSB activity now occasionally on 7188 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

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://marac.org/awards.pdf>

There is a lot more information at www.countyhunter.com . Please check it out.

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

De N4CD, Bob Voss, Editor (email: telegraphy@verizon.net)

Notes from the Editor

N4CD Rumblings

1) Sunspots – We got them. Then we didn't. Most of the month the sunspots have been in the 30+ region. We're making progress. However, band conditions go from 'fair' to 'good' on 20M and the band stays open for more hours including into the evening these days. The A index has been up in the high digits and some days the K index kicked up to 2 or 3. So you get good days and not so good days. DX is being worked consistently on 17 and 15M FT-8.

At the end of the reporting period – Nov 26 – the solar flux went over 100. The bands were rated 'good' on 30/20m and 'fair' on 17 and 15M! Happy days are here again. We're headed in the right direction! Woo-hoo!

2) Weather – It's fall going into winter. Up north, the trees have shed the leaves and in far north areas, the snow has arrived. Here it's been 'mild' in TX but getting chilly toward the end of the month with 30s in the mornings some day. With shorter days – there seem to be fewer trips by mobiles around the country. Bob, N8KIE, has headed to the warmer climate of HI escaping MI winters. While there, he promised to run Kalawao probably in January 2022. This weekends forecast is for up to 18 inches of snow in VT – real winter. Brrrr.

3) N4CD Trips - the N4CD mobile has been staying close to home. A few doc

appointments here and there and some lack of enthusiasm these days it seems. On Wednesdays you might find me over at the local park for the weekly CWT test but haven't gotten inspired to go run 'new parks' as most are hundreds and hundreds of miles from the QTH. The ongoing COVID problem is also on my mind with the rural areas back into health overload with hospital ICUs jammed - mostly with not vaccinated holdouts. What can you say? You can't fix stupid.

Several mobiles were out on big trips during the month – notably W4SIG and KE4UP, with N8OYY headed back to WV via 40+ counties along the way from FL. Several other mobiles including KB6UF, W0GXQ were out for days putting them out. See the mobile activity section.

Natural Bingo Additional

After last month's article, I sat around and tried to compute the probability that some folks are getting mighty close to finishing this award. If you consider that one person has worked all counties 19 times, and six people have worked all counties 10 times now, with 27 people having worked all counties 7 or more times, the odds get pretty good that some are very close to having Natural Bingo.

One person has worked all counties with 2x3 call combos. That gives the high probability of getting the right suffix letters of all the prefixes. 23 have worked it with 1x3 call signs – same increased probability.

(Many have Bingo 2,3,4 but I'd venture most of those awards are with mobiles with stars or an X in the call wandering through the counties, not letter combinations for the most part.)

If you worked the state QSO parties, you have some mobiles with 1x1s that might run through a handful of the right letter counties, plus many 'county expeditions' in states like CA, AZ and a few other states where they get a letter of the county for the suffix. For Bingo and Natural Bingo, fixed stations count too by the rules, In some QSO parties, folks get the 1x1 for their home station for their county.

So what are the odds? K8ZZ has been just about 'everywhere' so if you caught him in the Z counties (4 or them?) you got him. Not many Zs. If you have an X in the suffix – well, there are zero counties starting with X. Great for regular bingo as a wild card but

nothing for NB. So...2 out of the 26 letters are not that useful for the 3077 counties. You need the Z though. Other not too frequent occurrences? Qs? Some. Five or from Queen Anne's, Quay, Quitman GA, and Quitman, MS, Queens, King and Queens. Think that's all. Oops, no, Lac Qui Parle, too. Lots of O's and P's. Lots of A's, B's, C's, to H's, not so many I's, Not so many U's and V's and Y's, Yet every letter is require in the corresponding county. You've got to snag them all. Those double and three word counties give you increased odds of getting them for NB.

To date, 18 mobiles have transmitted from all the counties on mostly on HF, with KB7QO (the first on SSB) to W1TEE (the first on cw), to WA0SBR, K0GO(WB6REF) , N7AKT(N4AT)*, AI5P, N4JT, KK0L, AA9JJ, N9QPQ, AB4YZ*, N4CD, K3IMC, N8KIE, N7ID*, AF3X, KL1V, If you've been around 'a long time' you probably have most of the letters in those suffixes in the log. (QO, TE, SBR, REF, AKT/AAT, P, JT, L, J, QP, YZ, CD, IMC, KIE, ID, V, etc.

So where does that leave us? Likely some have over 3000 worked but getting a G suffix mobile to head to Gosper NE, or a N to Nantucket.....could be the obstacle to ever finishing up this award for someone. Or a W in Wallowa. Or even an N or M in one of those N or M counties. Haven't seen a 'needs list' for NB yet.

Haven't heard back from anyone on where they stand for NB award on counties worked toward it.

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Did hear from one person about the No Star award which does require a MOBILE or PORTABLE,

Bingo and Natural Bingo, according to the MARAC rules:

“Valid Contacts using any combination of mobile, portable, or fixed operation and various modes of operation may qualify for MARAC Awards, although some awards or endorsements require that all contacts be made using a single Mode or type of operation”

Thus, you can use FIXED stations for Bingo and Natural Bingo as neither requires mobile or portable operation in their specific rules. That adds a lot of possibilities when state QSO parties encourage folks in counties to get a 1x1 with the last letter corresponding to the county, like K6M in Modoc. But...even that was a 'county expedition- just for the event. Counts if run from a fixed station. Some of the other counties were run from a home station with 1x1s with the right suffix.

You'd really have to check the 3830 contest reflector to find out if those 1x1 stations were fixed or portable for No Star Award which requires mobile or portable. There are many many county expeditions, and folks will list them in the 'county expedition' section on the 3830 contest scores page, often with a short write up. The County Hunter news uses that to cover the state QSO party activity each month. You log them as 'portable' if a county expedition. Otherwise, check W6RK spot history page. If N0A, N0U, etc, showed up in more than one county for that QP, obviously he is a mobile or rover.

For many of the other MARAC awards like Nth time, Bingo, Five Star, Master Gold, Platinum, and many others (But not No Star) you can use fixed stations. The YL Mobile award, of course, does require MOBILE contacts. Portables don't count for YL Mobile. For most MARAC awards you can work the 'home county' of county hunters for nearly all the awards if the fixed operator has the right 'qualifications' for that particular award. That won't get you far for most of the awards but it's a start.

When you log your contacts in Logger, it should ask 'mobile, portable, or fixed' and you need to check the right box. Then it should give you credit for the various awards based on that and the callsign. Keep your database up to date so you get credit for the newly awarded goodies for those mobiles (and fixed stations) out there.

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The USA No Star award requires mobiles and portables and has a start date of Jan 1, 2010. (Otherwise, half a dozen would likely have finished this award instantly if they had been around a long time). To date, only N4AAT (SK) has received the No Star Award and he was on the air 18 hours a day working at this and other awards.

Some tidbits of history. Did you know that 24 US Presidents have counties named after them? On the flip side, 21 Presidents have no county named after them.

There are 30 counties and 1 parish named after George Washington. Jefferson gets 22 counties and a parish. Andrew Jackson gets 21. 18 for James Madison. In addition, Madison County, Montana is named after the Madison River, which in turn is named for James Madison. Madison County, Nebraska is probably named for Madison, Wisconsin, which in turn is named after James Madison, where most of the new county's settlers were from.

16 are named for Abe Lincoln, but there are more Lincolns not related. Seven other Lincoln counties exist in the United States; five of these counties are named for

Benjamin Lincoln, a general in the American Revolutionary War. Lincoln County, Maine is named after the city of Lincoln, England, and Lincoln County, South Dakota is named after Lincoln County, Maine.

James Monroe gets 17, US Grant has 11...but don't get confused. Three other Grant counties exist in the United States. Grant County, Indiana was named after Captains Samuel and Moses Grant of Kentucky. Grant County, Kentucky was named after Samuel Grant, John Grant, and/or Squire Grant, early settlers of Kentucky. Grant County, Wisconsin was named after an early pioneer who opened a trade with local Native Americans.

James Polk has 11 - but to add to the confusion - Polk County, Missouri is named after either James K. Polk or Ezekiel Polk, the grandfather of the president and an early settler in the county. Polk County, North Carolina was named after American Revolutionary War colonel William Polk.

James Garfield has six. John Adams and John Quincy Adams have 5 and 3 each, but It is unclear whether Adams County, Ohio and Adams County, Iowa are named after John Adams or John Quincy Adams. Flip a coin.

William Henry Harrison has 4 named after him, but....Four other Harrison counties exist in the United States. Harrison County, Kentucky was named after Benjamin Harrison, an early settler of Kentucky. Harrison County, Missouri was named after U.S. Congressman Albert G. Harrison. Harrison County, Texas was named after Jonas Harrison, a lawyer and Texas revolutionary. Harrison County, West Virginia was named after Benjamin Harrison V, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and the father of William Henry Harrison.

Franklin Pierce has 4 – and to be correct - Pierce County, North Dakota was named after Gilbert Ashville Pierce, a Governor of Dakota Territory and later a U.S. Senator from North Dakota. Pierce County, Franklin North Dakota was named after Gilbert Ashville Pierce, a Governor of Dakota Territory and later a U.S. Senator from North Dakota.

Zachary Taylor gets 4 named after him. Again - Three other Taylor counties exist in the United States. Taylor County, Texas was named after Edward Taylor, George Taylor, and James Taylor, three brothers who died at the Battle of the Alamo. Taylor County, West Virginia was named after politician and writer John Taylor. Taylor County, Wisconsin was named after Governor William Robert Taylor.

Martin Van Buren has 4. James Buchanan has 3. Millard Fillmore has 3. Grover

Cleveland has 3 – but Cleveland County, North Carolina was named after Benjamin Cleveland, a colonel in the American Revolutionary War who took part in the Battle of King's Mountain.

Theodore Roosevelt has just 2. John Tyler has 2. Chester A Arthur has one – in NE.

Warren G Harding has just one in NM – and Harding County, South Dakota was named after territorial legislator J. A. Harding.

James McKinley has just one – in NM

The following 21 presidents do not have a county named after them: Andrew Johnson, Benjamin Harrison, William Howard Taft, Woodrow Wilson, Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald R. Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Barack Obama, Donald Trump, and Joe Biden.

In the United States, there are twelve counties named Johnson County, nine named Clinton County, five named Carter County, four named Wilson County, two named Ford County, and one named Reagan County, but none of them are named after presidents.

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Looks like for the most part, they ran out of new counties needing names about 120 years ago, with no great number of counties being created since then.

Some other tidbits.

Renamed Counties

Cass County, Missouri was originally established as Van Buren County in honor of President Martin Van Buren. It was renamed in 1849 after Senator Lewis Cass.

Stephens County, Texas was originally established as Buchanan County in honor of President James Buchanan. It was renamed in 1861 for Alexander H. Stephens, the vice president of the Confederate States of America.

Defunct counties

Washington, D.C. formerly had a county known as Washington County, D.C., but that county was abolished through the District of Columbia Organic Act of 1871.

Garfield County, Kansas was named for President James A. Garfield. It existed from 1887 to 1893, when it became part of Finney County, Kansas.

Lots of good reading about county names here

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lists_of_U.S._county_name_etymologies#Alphabetically

Now that you've digested all this information – you might try working on the US Presidents Award. You can even finish it up before you finish working all US counties!

U.S. Presidents Award

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with amateur radio operators in USA Counties that are named after Presidents of the United States.

SPECIAL RULES: Any Valid Contacts submitted for other MARAC awards may also be used for this award. The list of required counties is available from the Awards Manager or on the MARAC web site.

AWARD LEVELS: This award requires making Valid Contacts with all of the counties on the US Presidents counties list.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees

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If you've worked all the counties....you can apply for this award of course. However, if you are struggling toward first time....you can get this before you snag Kalawao or 2nd AK..... hi hi.

I didn't find a list on the MARAC web pages – probably it's built into Logger. If you don't use Logger I'm not sure how you would apply for this other than digging it out on the noted web page or asking K3IMC for a list of MARAC's President Award Counties. .

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If you're into chasing or activating parks, there are probably 100+ parks/monuments for

the Presidents from those in Washington DC (Jefferson Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Washington Memorial, LBJ Grove, Fords Theater, to start) and throughout the country, including some of the more recent Presidents. The Boyhood Home of Bill Clinton, Jimmy Carter's Home in GA, Eisenhower's Farm in PA, Harry Truman birthplace, Abe Lincoln's birthplace, Andrew Johnson home, etc. I didn't check but good chance of at least one for each President up through Reagan. Don't know about Nixon. Taft has one on the DC Mall.

Mobile Activity This Month

Thanks to the folks who spot the mobile activity! Without spots, few show up.

Starting Nov 1

K1YAG was mobile in TX . Out on many days during the month all over the state of TX.

W4SIG showed up in OK to NM to AZ. A bit later into CA to run a bunch there for several days. Then into NV, UT, NM, ...showed up in KS over to MO, AR.... not long after , he was running counties in MS. Whew. He put on 5000+ miles on that trip!

N8OYY was in FL putting some many there and then headed north through GA to TN

K0DEQ spotted in IL

W8OP noted in OH

KE4UP noted in Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, CA and headed north to OR for several then back down in CA to the south end running counties along the way. On the road for many days during the month – all SSB. He probably ran most of the CA counties during the month!

AI5P and N9JF ran parks in their home states

NF0N spotted in MO counties

W0GXQ spotted in NE counties – for several days of activity.

WB8III noted in PA counties

N9JF showed up in a park in Plymouth, MA and another in Essex MA. Later showed up in a few NY counties headed back to IL.

AB7NK/K7SEN headed to TX for the holidays via NM and many TX counties.

KB6UF headed over to MO and ran a bunch of counties there.

AB4WL/NN4JM were putting out several counties in AL.

End date 11/26/2021...

There were hundreds of PARKS ON THE AIR during the month – from HI to AK to probably every state in the US. Some rarer counties, too. Hope you check occasionally to snag their counties, and if they are portable/mobile, they count for N and No Star award. (there are near zero fixed stations in parks – one or two in the country) . And of course, Nth time around, prefixes, call combos, different bands (many now using 17m SSB).

COVID 2021 – November Edition

One would have hoped that this would all be behind us by this time. It's not. Many 'hotspots' including the state of MI are fired up with major health crisis in their hospitals. Rural areas are suffering a double whammy of full ICUs and lack of nurses to care for patients. Burnout is occurring among health professionals.

However, that has not stopped the great surge in travel. Airlines are back to record number of passengers headed out for the Thanksgiving Holiday. That's after several weeks of messed up flights, massive cancellations due to scheduling problems. Highways are full despite Biden-inflation gas prices of \$3.50/gal nationwide average.

You probably heard about the rapper music fiasco in Houston TX. 50,000 people showed up – in close proximity – so close that 8 people died as the crowds moved forward and compressed the mass of people to the point folks could not even breathe. One wonders, with folks spaced 6 inches apart, how much of a COVID spreader this was – and not a mask in sight. Not one network bothered to cover this aspect.

Otherwise, Dallas Cowboys packed in 70,000-80,000 fans (had to wear masks) along with other football stadiums around the country. Hmmmm....Not likely the best places to be if you are worried or over 65.

And now....dang....another variant that appears to even evade the vaccines – coming from South Africa! This thing is not going to be over soon, I'm afraid. More people have died of Covid since Joe Biden took office in Jan than before that. 770,000 in the US and counting. 5 million plus worldwide.

Oh, and thanks to Slo-Joe, releasing the strategic petroleum oil reserves, gas prices fell a giant 10c/gal here. And might for a few months – or not. Still \$3/gal here in low cost TX. California gas is \$4 to \$5 (and one location has \$5.99 gas there). The surge in economic activity drove gas/oil prices higher. Get set for sticker shock on your natural gas heating bills, on home oil delivery for heat, on propane and everything else – at least 50% higher heating bills this winter due to the greenies.

Just read that 'green gas' – that ethanol bulloney bit – the stuff that reduces your gas mileage by 10% - is now part of the problem of high cost of gas. A gallon of ethanol wholesale is about \$3.48 a gallon. How can you mix that with regular gas selling wholesale for \$2.65 or so a gallon....and not increase the price? Yes, between the mandated standards, the payments (RINs) that ethanol contaminated gas has about 15-20c cost for the bloated price of ethanol. Meanwhile, tens of millions can't afford soybeans and corn to feed themselves around the world thanks to the farm lobby/ left wing greenies, and the democrat party. Really makes sense, doesn't it? You pay extra for 'stuff' that reduces gas mileage, so you have to buy even more of the stuff!.....at high prices.

Even sadder than seeing Joe Biden plead with the Saudis to 'pump more oil' at the same time he is doing his best to shut down oil and natural gas production in the US, using the government and greenies to stop funding any needed continued investment in future US oil supplies, etc. Restricting where oil exploration can occur. Etc.

The Democrats are beholden to the Greenies and AOC types. To them, you're going to buy an EV, period. No choice. Sooner, not later. Union made, of course. What's so notable is that if every car, bus, truck ran on electricity, the US production of CO2 would drop 10%, but overall, if we did that, it would make under 1% difference in world emissions. Wow! Most IC cars today will be on the road in 10 years. Many 20 years.

Wow....Friday - Nov 26 and the news is NOT GOOD. From the web:

“U.S. stocks dropped sharply on Friday as a new Covid variant found in South Africa triggered a global shift away from risk assets.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 905.04 points, or 2.53%, for its worst day of the year, closing at 34,899.34. The S&P 500 lost 2.27% to close at 4,594.62, while the Nasdaq Composite slipped 2.23% to finish at 15,491.66. The Dow was down more than 1,000 points at session lows.”

“The downward moves came after World Health Organization officials on Thursday warned of a new Covid-19 variant that’s been detected in South Africa. The new variant contains more mutations to the spike protein, the component of the virus that binds to cells, than the highly contagious delta variant. Because of these mutations, scientists fear it could have increased resistance to vaccines, though WHO said further investigation is needed. On Friday, the WHO deemed the new strain a variant of concern and named it omicron.”

Source: <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/11/26/stock-futures-open-to-close-market-news.html>

“Journalists were briefed on Thursday night by senior scientists at a hastily organised briefing where they were told the variant was at least 40 per cent more vaccine evasive than Delta.”

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10246245/From-discovery-global-panic-48-hours-super-mutant-variant-sparked-worldwide-travel-ban.html>

It's the Omicron variant. Might be a lot worse than the current problems with Delta.

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GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. - At Spectrum Health, a major health-care system here, officials spent part of last week debating whether to move to "red status" in a show of how strained hospitals had become.

A flood of mostly unvaccinated covid-19 patients was arriving at emergency departments already packed with people suffering other medical issues, sending capacity to unprecedented levels. The only hesitation for Spectrum's decision-makers? Data suggested the covid surge was not over.

"We don't have a darker color," said Darryl Elmouchi, president of Spectrum Health West Michigan. "So if we're red now, what are we in two weeks?"

Coronavirus cases are on the rise nationally, an unwelcome trend after leveling off earlier this fall. On Monday, the United States reported a seven-day daily average of just under 93,000 cases - an 18% jump from a week earlier, according to figures from a briefing by the White House covid-19 response team. Hospitalizations were also up, increasing 6% to about 5,600 patients admitted per day.

In Minnesota, hospitalizations were also approaching levels not seen in nearly a year. As of Monday, the state had the nation's third-highest number of total new cases per capita and 1,518 covid-related hospitalizations, according to data tracked by The Post.

D'Souza, of Johns Hopkins, said it's hard to pinpoint one reason the virus is still spreading because "there are multiple factors and they vary by place and time." At this point, she said, "we're not working toward eradication, we're working toward containment. ... Right now we have to try to suppress, but live with it."

<https://news.yahoo.com/flood-covid-patients-causes-almost-150813393.html>

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Well, to be safer, I got my booster shot back in October. Now they are available to anyone who had their last shot six months ago. Don't wait. Sadly, the anti-vax idiots are keeping this alive, increasing, and it won't be ending any time soon. It's their 'Free-dumb' bit. Nature has a tendency to cull the stupid at a much higher rate so overall I guess we might benefit from their intransigence. Darwin theory at work.

There are currently 90,000 new cases a day. A million every 11 days – 3 million or so a month. How will the health care system last if this gets worse and worse – beyond what the worst peak was?

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President Biden stops all passenger effective 11/29. traffic from South Africa and 7 other surrounding countries. Note that when Donald Trump did this a year ago, he was soundly denounced by EVERY democrat as being 'RACIST' by discriminating against those 'black people'. Now that Biden has done the same, I guess they are all calling HIM

racist? You think? Nothing but crickets of course. Get a brain. Democrats play the race card over and over and gullible people actually believe them.

At the Radio Convention

I did head over to the annual Antique Wireless Convention here – held conveniently in my home town 10 miles away just before Thanksgiving. . 120 people showed up at the Comfort Inn. Not much to report. Lots of nice radios – some selling for hundreds of dollars each – from the late 20s and 1930s mainly at that price. Boxes of tubes were sold – with some individual tubes going for \$50 each. Certain tubes – like 47 audio output tubes (good for 5w) in those early high dollar Zenith consoles and used everywhere in console radios, are hard to come by – they tend to wear out and are hard to come by. If you're a Zenith TransOceanic fan (their super SW portable) – you'll fork out big bucks for a 1L6 pentagrid converter tube. Hundreds of radios from \$10 run of the mill 1950s off brand table radios – to 1940s TV sets to Predicta TVs, to dozens of Edison type cylinder players – all went by in 3 different auctions. I passed up on everything. I've got too much stuff as it is! But it's fun to see the old radios. Not a single regen was for sale!

As to COVID – maybe 10% of the folks wore masks while there other than hotel staff at 100%. We had a good catered BBQ dinner Saturday night, with a program and awards given out for the best radios on display in the show area. Some super nice radios and restorations were there in 15 different categories from 1920s battery sets to TV related, to celebration of 100 years of broadcasting. Folks spaced out but not at the auctions. Hotel prices reasonable due to no breakfast and no on site restaurant but you can walk to the Denny's 600 feet away for breakfast and lunch.

Yes, this was the 100th Anniversary of 'Broadcasting'. Our local station WRR went on the air in August 5, 1921 on 1310 KHz. It was the first station in TX and the second station in the entire country. While other stations were on for short stints, it was 100 years ago – likely your grandfather or great grandfather who first heard a broadcast unless they were a 'radio experimenter' before that. We're talking AM broadcast band – when a few stations in various markets showed up with part of the day long schedules.

Some info on WRR from their website:

“WRR was the brainchild of inventor Henry Garrett, a Police and Fire Signal Superintendent for the City of Dallas who began tinkering with radio in his off-duty hours. Garrett envisioned radio as the modern way for firefighters in the field to communicate and he sold city officials on the efficiency and safety value his concept could offer. Licensed August 5, 1921, the station was originally housed in the Dallas Fire Department and touted as the latest in firefighter communications. When firemen had no blazing fires to battle, however, they blazed the broadcast trail by playing music or telling jokes. WRR may well have been the birthplace of the “Disc Jockey!” A few years after the station began operation, the Fire Department needed a substantial investment in new equipment to serve the rapidly growing city. When city government declined to provide the funds, the Fire Department solicited donations from local businesses and thanked them, and urged listeners to patronize those businesses, over the air. A year later, in 1926, the station started marketing advertising commercials. The radio commercial was born!

On-air antics during emergency downtimes sold local residents on a new genre of entertainment. Citizens began purchasing crystal radio sets in order to tune in. By 1926, WRR had moved to the Adolphus Hotel in downtown Dallas. WRR made subsequent moves to the Jefferson Hotel and Hilton Hotel before settling at its present home on the State Fairgrounds in the late 1930s. The station debuted on the FM spectrum in 1948 and continued to broadcast at AM and FM frequencies until selling its AM station 30 years later. WRR became an all classical station over 50 years ago in 1964.

Today, WRR is the only commercial classical music format radio station in Texas and is the oldest same-owner station in the U.S. With a tower in Cedar Hill, the 100,000 watt station’s listening area spans 100 miles in any direction.

WRR continues to build on its legacy of innovation and firsts and is attracting a new breed of Internet listeners via terrestrial broadcast streaming on wrr101.com. WRR was the first radio station in the nation to offer a streaming signal on the internet.

In 2006, WRR was the first station in Texas to broadcast an all-digital format for improved sonic fidelity. Listeners can hear these benefits with an HD Radio receiver.”

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Some of the early broadcast stations also 'featured' police dispatch calls – to police stations and fire stations. There were no car AM radios back then – took a few years to develop one. So it was a broadcast radio with someone listening. Many other police/fire systems used printing telegraph lines to the various stations to send messages

about where and what was on fire.

The program reminded me of Troy NY and the station at the college I attended. A bit more of radio history. From Wiki:

“WHAZ is one of the oldest radio stations in the United States, and the Capital District's second-oldest station, after WGY.

On December 1, 1921 the U.S. Department of Commerce, which regulated radio at this time, adopted a regulation formally establishing a broadcasting station category, which set aside the wavelength of 360 meters (833 kHz) for entertainment broadcasts, and 485 meters (619 kHz) for market and weather reports. WHAZ's first license, for both broadcasting wavelengths, was issued on July 18, 1922 to the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Troy, New York. Funds for construction of the station at the Electrical Engineering Laboratory were primarily provided by three members, all RPI alumni, of the Roebling family: Washington A., John A., and the late Charles G.

The station made its first formal broadcast on September 11, 1922. Later that month the Department of Commerce set aside a second entertainment wavelength, 400 meters (750 kHz) for "Class B" stations that had quality equipment and programming. WHAZ was assigned to this new wavelength on a timesharing basis with General Electric's WGY in nearby Schenectady. In May 1923 additional "Class B" frequencies were made available, with the Schenectady/Troy region allocated 790 kHz, and WHAZ and WGY were reassigned to this new shared frequency.

On May 3, 1927 WHAZ was assigned by itself to 750 kHz, before being reassigned later that year to 980 kHz. On November 11, 1928, as part of a nationwide implementation of the provisions of the Federal Radio Commission's General Order 40, WHAZ was assigned to 1300 kHz “

Needless to say, having a 1 KW AM station on top of the EE building – with a 4 wire T-antenna 80 feet over a copper roof.....led to a lot of RFI when you hooked up your scope leads to any circuit that wasn't RF proof! Hi Hi. When sold, the station moved miles away and the towers came down.

Many of the early broadcast stations used the flat top “T” antenna. (so did many hams back then with spark gap transmitters on those useless wavelengths above 200 meters) .

WHAZ had a four wire T flat top– between two towers maybe 200 feet apart. The feedpoint consisted of 4 vertical wires attached to the center of 4 wires spread over 20

feet. The 'radiator' was the vertical section – and the two halves of the top loading wire canceled each other out RF wise, resulting in an omni pattern. It's not as efficient as a full length vertical, but then no building could take a 300-600 foot high vertical on top – plus the guy wires would extend all over campus! Many early BC stations were in downtown areas on top of hotels (and often sponsored by the hotel itself as advertising). There were no remote studios then.

I'm sure the EE students at RPI after 1967 were happy when WHAZ moved off campus and you didn't have to worry about 5V RF on your solid state project or experiment!

Oh, and when WHAZ wasn't on the air, the ham radio operators at '8SZ', later 2SZ, then later W2SZ, used the same antenna to get on the air with early tube transmitter and Paragon receiver. That club station is still active.

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In the early days of broadcasting – with no 'network programming' – stations would share a frequency. One might be the morning station, and another the afternoon station. WFAA and WBAP in Dallas shared 820 AM – 50KW stations for several decades until one bought the other out. In the early days of 50 and 100w stations, a city could have 4 or 5 on the same frequency at the same time – ten or 15 miles apart or coming up with some arrangement to share the single frequency. Not many organizations could come up with 6 or 8 hours of their own programming each and every day to entertain listeners. So it was this station for 3 hours, then that one, then the next. It wasn't till network radio connected most markets that there was enough material to keep stations on the air all day long! Long, long, time ago! It took time before the telco managed to install high quality lines from here to there to carry the audio programming for hundreds or thousands of miles without degradation. (at much higher costs, obviously).

Well, hope you enjoyed this tidbit of AM radio history. Likely there's some radio history in your neck of the woods and there are many decent 'radio museums' you might put on your list to visit. Even town/county museums often have an old old radio or TV set from the way-back days!

Built Back Better – NOT

You've probably heard of the democrats 'infrastructure' and blow out planned spending bills. What you probably haven't heard at least from 90% of the 'media' is the tax payer gifts to unions and union political funds. Yes, YOU are forking over likely several billion dollars.

First, if you buy an EV, if it is made in a 'union factory' you get a \$12,500 credit. Think Detroit. If it is made in a non union factory, like in TN, GA, TX or CA, then you only get a \$8500 credit. That extra \$4000 goes essentially to companies paying union workers – and out of your pocket for each car! Just who do you think gets the bill for all that extra subsidy for union worker companies? You! They get more, you wind up with inflation, \$3.50 and up gas, meat prices up 50%, other essentials up 30-50%. Biden-flation.

In addition, in the yet to pass blow out follow on plan, union members can deduct up to \$250 a year off their gross income for 'union dues'. Right off the top. Wow.....not as a deduction but off the top. So a union worker paying lots of dues – now gets that payment for 'tax free'. Of course, those union dues wind up in 'donations' to well connected only democrat politicians – from the state level to the fed level - and of course, the Presidential election. There are millions of union members and YOU will be subsidizing their union dues as they pay less taxes and the burden to cough up more will fall on you - and that money will wind up in Democrat hands quickly. Politicians at work loading the 'spending bills' with FAT PORK for their favored groups.

Awards Issued

Roadrunner Awards:

K5GE Attained 650 Last Counties on 10/22/2021. He received #29

AI5P Attained 1050 Last Counties on 8/6/2021. He received #11

K8ZZ Attained 1125 Last Counties on 10/19/2021. He received #8

KB6UF Attained 1850 Last Counties on 10/6/2021. He received #2

W4SIG attained 750 Last counties on 11 November 2021. He received #23

Five Star Award: AJ5ZX Completed the award on 10/25/2021. He received #83

County Challenge: K5GE attained Level 23 on 10/19/2021. He received #1

Ran All State: WY0A ran all Montana on 10/11/2021. He received #30

Ran All State: WY0A ran all Wyoming on 10/13/2021. He received #28

Single Band Award: W4SIG Completed the 30 meter band on 11 November 2021. He received #9

Events for County Hunters

No QSO Parties this month. You'll find the annual 10M and 160M contests in December but not much else. Lots of parks to chase.

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2021/December%202021%20Corral.pdf>

Don't forget to sign up for the MI Mini coming up in April 2022! Registration/Hotel now open.

Future planning – MARAC 2022 Convention next fall – stay tuned for more updates.

That's all this month.