

# County Hunter News

January 1, 2015  
Volume 11, Issue 1

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.

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 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)

Want county lines on your Garmin GPS?

<http://pages.suddenlink.net/w4ydy/hamlinks.html#County>

Download the file to a flash card that fits in your GPS unit, turn it on, and the county lines should appear!

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

## Notes from the Editor

**1 ) N4CD Rumblings** – Another year has gone by. Wow – there was a lot happening in the past year – at least as far as N4CD was concerned. And county hunting. Radio conditions were decent for the most part most of the year. We had lots of great QSO Parties, many with a half to a dozen mobiles to chase around, or 'expedition' stations or rovers to catch. With a surprise double peak in the sunspot cycle, conditions on the upper bands were good. 10M provided possibilities of working AK and HI counties, 15m was often good to AK and HI, and lots and lots of activity took place on 17M. The logs were full of upper band QSOs. Hope you joined in the fun.

Five managed to finish up the Mobile Diamond Award – the biggest challenge offered by MARAC today for active mobile stations. Others are down to within just a few. That takes took exciting trips to Alaska and Hawaii to get folks finished off or close to being 'done'. Others were out on week long trips, or out every month putting out the counties and getting folks done.

A hundred awards were earned by county hunters - finishing up First Time, Nth time, Bingo, Five Star, Prefixes and others.

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The weather has definitely turned to 'winter' so the mobile activity, especially up north, slows down a bit. It will be a while for the first QSO Party in the Spring to happen but it should be another good QSO party season. Meanwhile, there's low band counties to work in the 'quiet' winter months.

Just checked weather in Nome, AK in the Second District. You don't hear mobiles too often up that way this time of year. It's been averaging in the teens – but mid December they are expecting single digits for a week, high humidity, wind..and lows at zero or below. Humid, too! Brrrr...glad I was there in June.....when it hit an unusual 70 degrees for highs. There's also only a few hours of daylight now. Not much further north, there is no daylight in December! The sun never rises.

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The County Hunter News is now at 10 years of reporting the news to the county hunters! Wow. Ten years and still going strong.

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In 2015, we can look forward to big events in MI (MI Mini), Dayton OH, the National Convention in FL, the new 3M in TN, and thousands of counties to be worked.

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**2 ) Antique Wireless Convention** - a hundred pictures were posted on the web of the radios sold at the Nov 2014 Vintage Radio and Phonograph convention held in Mesquite, TX. If you are curious about old radios, you might check it out. All sorts of

nifty stuff from 40-100 years old. Worth a look

<http://www.antiqueradios.com/forums/viewtopic.php?f=24&t=263143&p=2202788#p2202788>

**3 ) Wireless Books** - I'm still finding a few obscure wireless books. They're good reading on dead band days or where there is no cw activity. They'll be a few more reviews coming before I run out of new material. With the web, you never know what almost unheard of title suddenly shows up as an Ebook or on Ebay!

## CW Totals to KK7X – NOW!

Now is the time to send in your year end totals for cw to Dennis, KK7X. Each year he compiles the updated statistics as to who stands where in completing the next time around on USA-CWCW or Nth time USA-CW. Whether you've worked 47 or 2045 for the Nth time, send them in.

The County Hunter News usually publishes this in the February issue each year.

Please send in your cw totals NOW to Dennis! Don't delay or you'll be left out.

Here's the link to the form. Note whether it is first time, second, etc. Like “2560 3rd”

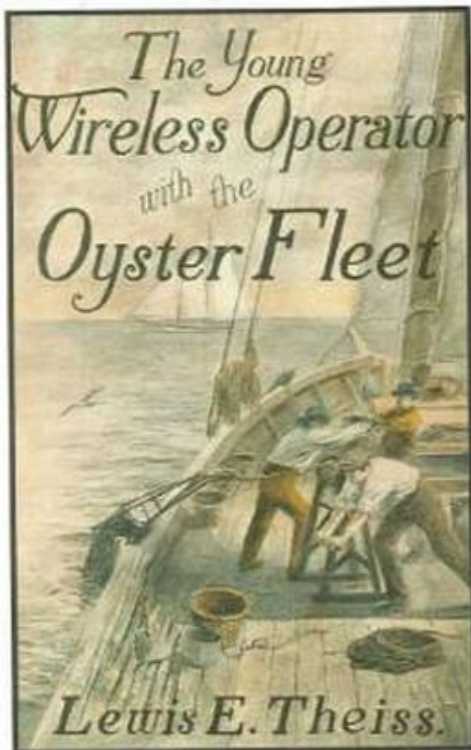
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1WqRB8x0C73BXx-j4Z9SBSwYgxigMLtBLWBV8jj59bGI/viewform?c=0&w=1>

or to his email adr: Dennis at KK7X.us

I sent in mine - 3073 for 5<sup>th</sup> time. Please send in yours.

## Book Review of the Month

**The Young Wireless Operator with the Oyster Fleet – by Lewis Theiss - 1922**



This month it's yet another 1920's era wireless book – found at the AWA convention back during the summer. It's another decent tale of Alec, a youngster from PA who winds up in BiValve, NJ, searching for a job. Bivalve is the oyster industry capital of NJ, millions of oysters being extracted from the sea via dredging and then distributed all over the east coast.

Lewis Theiss wrote half a dozen books on early wireless – juvenile fiction for the

youngsters of the day. It takes just a couple hours to read one and they often 'cookie cutter' recipes for the stories – getting into and out of troubles, hard work finally paying off, catching the bad guys, using wireless at some point. Only one is on line so far, and the other titles are rather obscure in the book world. I guess not many copies of the originals are still around, but you never know. With the digitizing projects of Gutenberg, Villanova, it might be just a matter of months or years before all of them show up on line!

The book starts out for ten chapters not even mentioning wireless. Then, Alec is able to listen in to ships and talk to his friends from his bunk on the oyster ship where he is now working as an able seaman. You learn about the 1920s oyster industry, seeding the beds, shell collecting, processing the oysters, dredging for them – a fairly interesting tale of the technology of the times. This was the 'good years' for oystering. Fast forward to 2014 and the catch is a mere pittance of what it was back then. Pollution and over fishing put a giant dent into the industry. Bivalve and Shell Pile were actual towns – ghost towns today with a population of less than 50 – located near current Port Norris, NJ – Cumberland County. The oyster industry peaked in 1955. In 1957, a pathogen killed off 90% of the oysters in the area. The ships would travel from there up into Delaware Bay.

Alec, the lead character, works his way up through the oyster business. There's adventure after adventure. He starts to analyze why oysters grow where they do one summer during slack season, buys a microscope and other instruments to measure the temperature, salinity, and microscopic oyster larvae, and suitability of the various sections of the Delaware Bay for use.

After a dramatic rescue by using the 'wireless' on one 'vacation trip', he finds large quantities of oysters when others have failed, and has applied scientific knowledge to do so. In the end, he saves his mentor's business, gets the girl, and becomes a partner in the oyster business with the man who took him under his wing and showed him the ins and outs of the trade.

Good couple hour read, good adventure book, but almost no radio content. Just a few times the 'wireless' was used and just a few sentences here and there.

Times were a bit different. For example, he owned exactly two pairs of clothes – the work clothes and the 'Sunday clothes'. That was it. Had just a few possessions and didn't want for a lot of 'things'. Did have his 'wireless' mostly home made.

There's another couple few of his books on the shelf to read. The Young Wireless

Operator with the Coast Guard, and the Young Wireless Operator with the Secret Service – and who knows what else might just show up. Theiss wrote 30-40 books – everything from submarines to planes to war adventures. Then, as the 1920s went on, the market for books plummeted as kids got their entertainment on the radio. He did a bunch on flying adventures – six in that series. I note one book as late as 1941 copyright date.

## Mobile Activity in December

The last week of November was Thanksgiving. Only a few county hunters were on the road. It seems less and less travel with a radio these days – or even travel. In the way back days, there would be folks waiting to run on holiday trips. This year again it was slim pickings. Maybe we've reached the point where the kids come to visit the parents, and the kids and grandkids aren't ham operators any longer? I duuno, but there are more and more folks with radios in their car (go to any hamfest) but they don't seem to be used very much!

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**Gene, WB4KZW** headed out to IN for the holidays and back.

WB4KZW noted on the K3IMC forum:

Trip to FT Wayne and back

Thanks to all who kept me company on this trip. Sorry we couldn't get the MA leg in. Looking at the National weather map this evening; I made the right decision. The ice in the WV mountains was bad enough! At times we were in thick fog, drizzle falling, and occasional ice patches on the road. I'll think twice before trying to travel through WV on Rte-250! My xyl did all the driving. Over 1,000 Q's. It was a fun trip, except for the harrowing, icy spots of Hwy-250 through the mountains. Thanks for all those that kept me company, particularly on CW. Felt good to be "on the road again."

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**Lowell KB0BA** noted on the K3IMC forum:

Thanks to everyone who rode along with us on our way to northern Wisconsin last week. We had a most enjoyable Thanksgiving with my oldest nephew and his family. His grandchildren are 2-3/4, almost 3, and the baby is 6 months. These little one are my 'great grands!!! The day after the holiday we did a few more counties in a light snow. Coming home Sunday, we went west from Marathon until we reached Buffalo county, crossed the river and came home on the Minnesota side. Great trip! --Sandra (N0XYL)

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Rick, W5QP headed down to LA and back - rain on cw and digital modes through the counties.

W3DQT put out St Marys, MD

AA9JJ/N9QPQ headed to IL on a quick trip and back. 20M SSB only.

K8ZZ ran a bunch in MI headed south. Was also out on other trips.

N2OO put out some needed counties in NJ.

W4SIG was busy on a trip to New Orleans area – then over to MS to clean up a bunch of needs including a QRP LC for NN9K. Later he headed to east TN and ran a bunch over there.

K9SDM ran some in IN – on a very lonely 14.336 frequency. Then WB5TMW was active in west TX and WW5DD in south Texas.

Seth, N3MRA was spotted on SSB in TX then headed east.

Mary AB7NK and Neil, K7SEN headed to TX and back again. This time they were transmitting data from the counties – giving out Five Mode digital contacts.

N2JNE, Charlie, headed to ARRL HQ and put out the CT counties along the way.

Darl, NA7W, with N8EWQ, was also active on digital modes in OH.

Jim, N9JF, was on the road many days – IA, KY, IN.

Kyle, WA4PGM put out some in WV and VA

W0NAC/N0LXJ Matt and Sharon, were off in CO and NM as of press time.

Lowell, KB0BA and Sandra, N0XYL were out in IA.

## Getting Folks Finished Up

It's time for a bit of N4CD editorial. At times I'm amazed at how lazy some county hunters are these days. They are there ready to snap up needed counties when the spots appear but when it comes time to 'putting out some counties' for others they sit on their butts. Even some regular county hunters who go out mobile just seem to go numb from the head down when it comes to getting folks finished up. It can't be 'high gas prices', can it?

Then again, others go out of their way time and time again to get folks finished up. Why such a difference?

Now, I'm partial to getting folks finished up the first time. I'm absolutely sure you remember the thrill of getting that last one for the whole ball of wax (WBOW) when it happened. Whether it was 1 year ago or 20 years ago. If you've been around for many years, maybe you're up to 3 or 5 or 8 times, but the first time was the 'big deal'.

Of course, when folks are down to 10 or less, at least in the past, folks would try to get folks finished up – get them 'done' – get them a USACA number. Even for second or third or Nth time, or for Bingo or Masters Gold and higher awards. To me, the first time is a priority when taking trips. Each year I check the needs and see if I can get someone done with the route I take on various trips. It was a big deal on the 'Friendly Net' of the day when someone finished up, or someone got the last couple before the WBOW contact. Now....if you don't want to get yelled at -better not say anything on 14.336 about a 'last county' or 'next to last' or ask a mobile to help you out. Dang, you

better move that mobile off frequency and not irrupt the daily six hours of no mobile running on net – even if he'/she is only 33 copy at your house. Otherwise, tough luck, NC could care less about you. .

Some others do go out of the way to help...but too many just can't seem to be bothered or interested these days

It seems more and more folks just don't care. I noted that Gary, W4IHI, has been needing just 3 in WV for months. Many many months. One within 40 miles of a county hunter in WV who is on regularly. Two others that are within striking distance (less than 40 miles) from another county hunter. No one raised a finger. (N4CD cleaned up the needs in WV with a special detour on the last trip north) .

Last year I cleaned up the last two for KC1NA for his MG. One of the counties he needed was no more than 50 miles from an active county hunter who could have easily gone there. Nope, didn't happen. Maybe he was waiting for it to be a LC WBOW? If so, he missed out. He's on the air frequently, too.

Terry, WQ7A, was down to 2 to go for Mobile Diamond. There's a county hunter that could have given him that county that lives within 40-45 miles of the county and is heard mobile at least every month on the air. Did it happen? Nope. Maybe he was waiting for it to be the LC WBOW? (Well, N4CD cleaned up that one with a 100 mile detour.) I dunno.

Another county hunter was down to 3 to finish up. Along comes a mobile zipping across I-40 in OK. The county is on the interstate. Did he check the needs? Did he run it? Nope, ran the county after it, and the one after and 10 more in a row.....but not the needed county. Oh well. Looks like N4CD will have to head to OK.

Now folks like W4SIG and W5QP, AB7RW, K5YAA, N0KV, W0GXQ, NM2L, KN4Y, N9STL, and a few others do make special trips to get folks finished off....it seems it's happening less and less for the other 300-400 active county hunters. Even old timer octogenarians like Ed, KN4Y head out a couple times a year and try to catch counties for folks. He has a driver to help him out. KW1DX has been keeping much of New England off the needs list. NA8W has been busy in OH and the W4FNW/W8FNW/W8GEJ folks have put out lots of OH and KY.

Kerry, W4SIG, has done dozens of trips to finish folks off in MS and AL and TN. N9STL headed down to KY to give out counties to dozens to clean up their needs. Then over to LA and MS – getting half a dozen folks their last counties.

Frank, AA9JJ and Kay, N9QPQ, on a quick trip, took a detour in OK and got a couple for N9STL , who is closing in on 8<sup>th</sup> time with just 2 to go now.

Ed, K8ZZ, on a recent trip, went out of the way to get some of the rarer ones in MI – in the winter time, too!

That leaves about 300 other active county hunters.....not doing anything. When have YOU checked the needs and maybe gone out to help out?

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However, a lot of folks post needs that aren't too far from folks homes and they just stay on the needs list forever ! And ever! That's sad. Others post needs but either haven't been helped to get some of the 'non rare' counties where an active county hunter or very active ham lives – might take years to finish if they expect others to wander there.

Sometimes you just need to help yourself. Look at the map and coloring book and figure out who might be able to get you a county. Maybe they never check the special needs?

So let's look at a few needs and see if we can't help them out.

For

**NT2A** - USACA using CW - Updated:

11/24/2014

**ME:** Franklin

**NY:** Clinton

**VA:** Middlesex, Northumberland

**NT2A** - BINGO using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:

11/24/2014

**MA:** Hampshire

**PA:** Cameron, Forest

**W3DLM** - 2ND using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:

12/20/2014

**GA**:Toombs

**LA**: Tensas

**WA**  
: Garfield

**K3IMC** - MASTER'S GOLD using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:

09/19/2014

**KS**: Grahm

**MO**  
: Knox

**NC**: Martin

**NY**: Queens

**OH**: Brown, Highland

**VA**: Franklin

**KC3X** – - 10 th time using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:

12/22/2014

**IA**: Keokuk

**NC**: Person

**NE**: Johnson

**SD**: Beadle

**TX**: Cameron, Starr, Zavala

**KS4BO** - USACA using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:

12/10/2014

**GA**: Terrell

**IL**: Perry

**KY**: Simpson

**NJ**: Atlantic, Somerset

**NY**: Erie, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Oswego, Wayne

**PA**: Berks, Bradford, Cambria

**RI**: Newport

**VA**: Alleghany, Botetourt, Patrick, Tazewell

This for the FIRST TIME!

Now, if he's read the County Hunter News, he knows that N2ZN – whose pic appeared in the Dec issue, is 'county hunter friendly' and will gladly get on for a contact for relatively rare Wayne, NY. Easy....to snag that one. He's got email listed on QRZ.com

If he checked the W6RK listing, he'd find that Erie and Niagara NY show up in every contest with big contest stations. Likely more than one would give him a sked and a QSL for their county. Just do a search on Erie NY and you'll see that W2SO is on for every contest, and N2CU – a regular in QSO parties, lives there! Hmmm....Same for Niagara NY – lots of stations to get a contact. You can take this list down by 30% easy by looking a bit!

Tazewell, VA? That's where AA1VA lives. Duh! OK....maybe new folks need some hand holding, but when active county hunters live in a 'needed county', why ask other folks to go there!

Newport RI? W1SYE was active. Maybe a sked? K3IU is a contest regular. Dave KW1DX has run it more than a few times too.

Now some of the others likely will take a county hunter trip – but folks got to help themselves first to the 'easy to get' ones. It's like why should I or others wander to Tazewell when AA1VA lives there? Or Wayne NY when N2ZN is on all the time, SSB and CW?

Duh! Sometimes you wonder. Radios operate on frequencies other than 14.336

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. Jack, WD4OIN is closing in on a bunch of awards

**WD4OIN** - USACA using CW - Updated:

11/11/2014

GA: Burke  
ID: Lincoln  
KY: Todd  
MD: Harford, Worcester  
UT: Piute  
WV: Hancock, Wetzel

**WD4OIN** - FIVESTAR using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:  
11/07/2014

**PA:** Beaver  
**RI:** Bristol  
**VT:** Windham

**WD4OIN** - MASTER'S GOLD using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:  
11/05/2014

**AL:** Bullock  
**ID:** Shoshone  
**IL:** Jasper  
**KS:** Neosho  
**KY:** Green  
**NY:** Sullivan, Wayne  
**PA:** Beaver, Sullivan  
**TX:** Brewster, Parmer  
**UT:** Daggett  
**VT:** Bennington

Now, call book contacts aren't going to work there – you need county hunters with higher qualifications to get your MG or Five Star. For USA-CW, it never hurts to skim through the QRZ listings for counties you need. Type in search for and select county. Maybe you'll find an active contester in there or one with lots of 'hits' – a good probability. For most MARAC awards you don't need a confirmation, which is sometimes a problem with 'contest station' folks.

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**WA4EEZ** - BINGO using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:  
12/13/2014

**MT:** McCone  
**NH:** Carroll  
**OR:** Coos, Lincoln

**KA4RRU** - BINGO using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:  
11/07/2014

1 more needed to finish this award!  
**PA:** Armstrong

**N4RS** - FIVESTAR using CW - Updated:

11/14/2014

**NH:** Hillsborough-1

**OR:** Tillamook-1

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**W4SIG** - Mobile/Mobile using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:

11/21/2014

**AL:** Lauderdale, Madison

**TN:** Lewis

**N5PR** - 3RD using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:

12/01/2014

**AL:** Cherokee, Clark

**CO:** Freemont

**GA:** Stewart, Wheeler

**KS:** Clark

**NM:** Lee, Mora

**PA:** Potter

**WV:** Jefferson

He needs to wake up! N8II lives in Jefferson WV, no?

**KG5RJ** - USACA using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:

12/19/2014

**AR:** Chicot, Franklin, Little River, Madison, Perry

**KS:** Clay, Comanche, Grant, Greeley, Wichita

**KY:** McLean, Union

**ME**  
: Lincoln

**NY:** Lewis

**OK**  
: Blaine, Harmon, Tillman

**SD:** Campbell

**TN:** Lake

**TX:** Brooks\*, Comanche, Cottle, Foard, Freestone, Irion, Jack, Kent, Knox, Limestone, McCulloch, Robertson, Scurry, Throckmorton

**KM6HB** - 3RD using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:  
12/20/2014

**GA:** Pierce

**NC:** Bladen, Chowan, Clay, Columbus, Currituck, Davie, Jackson, Transylvania, Washington

**KM6HB** - USACA using CW - Updated:  
12/20/2014

**AL:** Covington

**GA:** Wayne

**IL:** Hancock, Pulaski

**KY:** Knox, Lewis

**NC:** Alleghany, Burke, Harnett, Haywood, Scotland

**NY:** Clinton

**OH:** Henry, Wood

**PA:** Indiana, Somerset

**TX:** Bastrop, Glasscock

**WV:** Hancock, Hardy, Pleasants, Wetzel

**DL6KVA** - USACA using CW - Updated:  
12/06/2014

**CO:** Rio Blanco

**ID:** Clearwater

**KY:** Estill

**LA:** Evangeline

**NE:** Cuming, Johnson

**NM:** Sierra

**TX:** Caldwell, Gonzales, Jackson

**WV:** Mingo

**WE7G** - USACA using CW - Updated:

11/26/2014

AL: Dallas, Lowndes

GA: Crawford

IA: Hardin

KY: Lawrence, Menifee, Mercer

TN: Rhea

WV: Barbour, Doddridge, Hampshire, Upshur

**K7SEN** - BINGO using SSB - Updated:

12/22/2014

MD: Caroline

NC: Rutherford

NJ: Monmouth

**KC7YE** - USACA using CW - Updated:

12/22/2014

AZ: Santa Cruz

CA: Lake

DE: Kent, Sussex

MA: Essex, Franklin, Nantucket

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NJ: Mercer, Monmouth, Ocean, Union, Warren

OK: Harper, Washita

OR: Morrow, Union, Wasco

SD: Deuel, Sanborn, Turner, Union, Walworth

UT: Daggett, Garfield, Kane, Piute, Unitah, Wayne

VT: Addison

WA: Chelan, Ferry, Lewis, Pend Oreille

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Hey, doesn't that county hunter K2HVN hang out in Kent DE all the time? Gotta help yourself!

**WY8I** - USACA using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:

12/06/2014

AK: Second J. Dnw

NC: Lincoln, Mitchell, Yancey

ND: Emmons, Morton, Oliver  
NY: Essex  
PA: Cameron

**NA8W** - BINGO using SSB - Updated:  
12/20/2014

Any help appreciated

AR: Cross, Van Buren

GA: Calhoun, Chattooga, Haralson, Harris

MD  
: Harford

MI: Wayne

NJ: Bergen

OH: Carroll, Seneca

PA: Blair, Cambria, Clinton, Potter, Wyoming

VA: Bath, Hanover, Madison

**KØPFV** - BINGO using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:  
11/22/2014

Last for WBOW

WA  
: Skagit

**NN9K – QRP**

CA-Sutter--

MO-Sullivan--

OH-Marion and Washington--

OR-Crook, Grant and Wheeler—

SD-Buffalo--

VA-Nottoway--

WV-Doddridge and Wirt.

**WØEAR** - USACA using CW II - Updated:

12/20/2014

IL: Boone

NC: Yancey

TX: Dimmit, Lasalle, Zavala

**KØFG** - USACA using CW - Updated:

12/21/2014

IL: Brown, Clay De Witt, Marion, Monroe

As usual, check the Special Needs page at

<http://www.cquest.com/cgi-bin/flynn/needs.pl>

And let's see if we can't get a few more finished up this winter! Keep you needs updated – even if they don't change.

## On the Road with N4CD Part I

### **Sunday before Thanksgiving**

The annual trek to Maryland to visit sister and the relatives for Thanksgiving makes for a nice couple thousand mile trek across the country with some usual weather problems to work around. This year was no exception – all started out well leaving Collin County TX early on a Saturday morning headed out along the interstates through TX, and AR and over into TN – if you don't mind rain. The plan was for maybe a 3 1/2 day trip. Mother nature would change that along the way, though.

The tree leaves had not starting turning in TX. Well, a few on the 'softwood' trees.

Most of the leaves were still on the trees. As I headed north up through AR, you'd see trees dropping leaves. You zip along the interstate and the sun shines through the trees flickering and a bit annoying at times. Still, lots of trees still had leaves on the way through. The further north, the more trees without leaves.

Up in WV, many trees already had dropped their leaves – it was a fall 'leaf trip' – but there's not all that much color in most of the trees along the route. You have to head to CO or New England for the maple trees, aspens and others that turn spectacular colors.

Now that I had finished up for running all the counties a second time, it was time to start over on Third Time Transmit All Counties. There's no official award for that – yet. Or even Second time....but I'm keeping track. So every county once I got 200 miles away from home would be a 'new county'! The fun continues. I had to make at least one contact per county – even the 'short ones' of a few tenths of a mile – just to fill in the coloring book for 3<sup>rd</sup> time. Hi hi. There are a few like that on the interstates where if you blink, the county has gone by. There are even some not marked on the road for just a few hundred feet but shown on the GPS.

Each year I check the needs page on K3IMC and see if I can help some county hunter get close or finish up for an award or at least chop their needs down. Last year at Thanksgiving it was finishing up KC1NA for Master's Gold by getting one in TN and one in WV. That turned out to be a slight schedule problem but we overcame it and he finished up for that award.

On the summer trip to the Antique Wireless Association convention in western NY, I managed to snag the last two WBOW USA-CW for Ray, AB4YZ – both in WV. Got a bunch of others for other county hunters, too.

This trip it would be an attempt to get Gary, W4IHI, done for the first time. Last summer he missed Barbour WV, one of his last 3, by about half an hour. I had already run it late in the day, was 20 or 25 miles away from it when he called and getting close to the motel at dark for the night. There was no easy way to get back. The next day on that trip a year I was scheduled to get one the other way for Terry, WQ7A, then beat the snow forecast by getting to sister's house a half day early. Wasn't time to go back. Last year, too, I had weather problems. WV and winter don't mix well. So this fall trip I'd try to hook up with W4IHI. And avoid bad weather!

Gary works during the week and doesn't get home till mid afternoon so I'd have to try and hit the three he needed in WV at those times. (McDowell, Mingo, Barbour).

The rain had just cleared out of Dallas when I left...but it was over in AR and it rained the entire route across I-30 to Pulaski County (Little Rock) and the entire way across I-40 to Memphis (Shelby County) and beyond. The rain was moving the same speed as I was. Dang. After a long day, I stopped in Dickson County at a Super 8 Motel west of Nashville. Nice.

## **Monday before Thanksgiving**

Breakfast at the Super 8 – including a waffle.

Next morning the car continued across the boring interstates in TN over to Virginia – aiming to get to McDowell after 1:30pm eastern time when Gary, W4IHI, would be home. He started seriously working the counties in 2007 – cw only.

There's a reason that McDowell is 'needed'. It's a pain to get to! And Mingo is even worse, along with Wyoming and others in that neck of the woods. There's lots of narrow twisty roads. It can take 40 miles of driving to go between towns 10 air miles apart. You average about 30 mph on many of the roads. I headed off the interstate at Abingdon VA on smaller and smaller roads, headed for the town of Welch WV. I'd try and find a motel there as several were listed on the web and at least one looked decent. I didn't see any Super 8 or other chain motel there. Most of the folks looking for those type rooms probably drive an hour or more over to Bluefield WV for the night.

After I get to McDowell, Gary, W4IHI and I hook up.



McDowell, WV – for W4IHI, W4SIG and others  
Genuine Percy Pic

Wow – did you catch that sign? McDowell WV was where the story of the Rocket Boys, in the movie *October Sky* took place. Real story – in the town of Coalwood in McDowell County. If you recall from the book/movie, the Rocket Boys were teenagers who took up rocketry and built increasingly sophisticated rockets soaring thousands of feet into the air. One went on to win a National Science Foundation award and got a full scholarship to college. Here's the Wiki page on it.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rocket\\_Boys](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rocket_Boys)

“Homer "Sonny" Hickam, Jr. lived in a small coal mining town in West Virginia named Coalwood. In the movie *October Sky*, he is called Homer.) Sonny's older brother, Jim Hickam, excelled at football and expected to get a college football scholarship. Sonny, however, was terrible at sports and had no special skill that would get him "out of Coalwood". Sonny's mother was afraid that he would have to work in the mines after high school. Sonny enlisted the help of Quentin Wilson, Roy Lee Cooke, Sherman Siers, Jimmy "O'Dell" Carroll, and Billy Rose to help build rockets. Their first real rocket, powered by black powder, was named Auk 1. .

The Rocket Boys enjoyed mixed success during their three year rocket launching campaign (1957 to 1960). . They launched a total of 35 rockets all sequentially numbered Auk I–XXXI. They also won a National Science Fair gold medal for their rockets, for their project titled "A Study of Amateur Rocketry Techniques"

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How about that? You go to the middle of nowhere and it's still somewhere. That was a good movie. If you got Netflix order up a copy of October Sky. It shows up on the movie channels as well.

Coalwood is about 8 miles southwest of Welch – didn't make it there – they have an annual festival to celebrate the Rocket Boys. Off of highway 16.

-----  
I arrive in Welch and look for the motel. Hmmm. Call the lady at the motel and she says after a few minutes of questions (it's like EVERYONE knows where the motel is so why you asking me?).....that it's on Highway 16. OK....but highway 16 winds through the downtown area and isn't named 'Pineville Road'. Pineville Road is not in the GPS. Neither is the motel. Route 16 also goes south but she doesn't even know if she is north of south of town. Duh! OK....I head north on highway 16 toward Pineville – must be Pineville Road since it's the ONLY road going that way. No street signs other than route 16. I go past the hospital and go a few miles more. No more houses – it's getting to be mostly trees. I give up. I need to get to Mingo before it gets really dark.

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According to Wiki, the population of Welch is about 2400 people as of 1960. Welch goes back to the the 1890s when it was incorporated. . It became the county seat of McDowell County shortly after. From Wiki:

In the first half of the 20th century during the opening of railroads and coal mines throughout the region, Welch became a prosperous city: the hub of retail business for a county approaching 100,000 in population, and the location for three hospitals. After the production boom of World War II, oil began to supplant coal in many areas of domestic fuel supply. Mechanization of coal mining reduced the number of laborers needed in coal production. McDowell County's population peaked in 1950, and began a decline over decades to follow. In 1960, however, McDowell County still ranked number one in the United States in total coal production. The City of Welch proudly proclaimed itself "The Heart of the Nation's Coal Bin."

When presidential candidate John F. Kennedy visited Welch by automobile caravan in

1960, he saw a city whose businesses were struggling due to a growing poverty rate throughout the county. What Kennedy learned here during his campaign for the 1960 West Virginia primary was believed to be the basis of the aid brought to the Appalachian region by the Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson administrations. During a speech in Canton, Ohio on September 27, 1960, he stated "McDowell County mines more coal than it ever has in its history, probably more coal than any county in the United States and yet there are more people getting surplus food packages in McDowell County than any county in the United States. The reason is that machines are doing the jobs of men, and we have not been able to find jobs for those men."

The first recipients of modern era food stamps were the Chloe and Alderson Muncy family of Paynesville, McDowell County. This was the first issuance of federal food stamps under the Kennedy Administration, and it was the beginning of a rapidly expanding program of federal assistance that would be legislated in the "War on Poverty."

In the 1960s and 1970s, McDowell County coal continued to be a major source of fuel for the steel and electric power generation industries. As United States steel production declined, however, McDowell County suffered further losses. In 1986, the closure of the US Steel mines in nearby Gary, led to an immediate loss of more than 1,200 jobs. In the following year alone, personal income in McDowell County decreased dramatically by two-thirds. Real estate values also plummeted. Miners were forced to abandon their homes in search for new beginnings in other regions of the country.

In recent years, Welch has attracted the construction of new state and federal prisons which are creating some sources of economic renewal. The city has begun restoration of its historic downtown area.

Some firsts....

In 1928, Welch resident Minnie Buckingham Harper became the first black woman legislator in the United States. Harper was appointed by the Governor to the West Virginia House of Delegates to fill the vacancy caused by the death of her husband.

Welch also built the first municipally owned parking building in the United States, which was opened September 1, 1941. It accommodated 232 cars .

Periodic flooding of the Elkhorn and Tug Fork rivers have plagued the future prosperity of the city. Most notably, the record flooding in 2001 and 2002 nearly destroyed Welch altogether. “

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Back to county hunting -

This isn't going to work. Can't find the motel. I have to get to Mingo before Gary has to leave for appointment in the evening. Back to town. Head west.

That's about a 40 minute drive through Wyoming County (LC for AE3Z) over to Mingo. The road twists and turns and its up an down and around – good road but slow going. At least a dozen little towns and slow downs. Eventually I get there and with the GPS you note there is a nice side road where the line crosses and you can sit and run the County Line off the main road(Mingo/Wyoming) Works for me! It's sure nice to have the GPS with the county lines.



Mingo WV for W4IHI  
One to go for WBOW  
Genuine Percy Pic

I head back into town after another 40 minute drive and call the Pocahontas Motel again. It's getting dark. This time a gentleman answers. Yep, the motel is on highway 16 and it is 3.5 miles north of the hospital, which is already on the north end of town. The last two miles are through the middle of nowhere – then suddenly you see the motel off the side of the road. Hurray! A warm place to stay. When I called earlier the lady said the only room they had left was 'the small room' for \$50 including tax. I told her to save it – I'd be there by dark. They weren't kidding. The room must have been about 9 by 10 feet, with a bathroom of 3 by 10 feet. It had a full size bed but you had about 18 inches between everything – the bed, night table, door, walls, console with TV set, mini refrig, microwave on top, etc. Not even room to open a suitcase other than on the bed but it worked. It was already dark when I got there. Heat? It had a plug in 'electric fireplace'. It worked – it got cold outside that night.

I wandered back down the long hill toward town to a 'drive in' 2 miles back and had a nice dinner of chicken and a plate full of veggies, a nice side salad....then headed back to the motel. Hit the hay at 9pm. It was now COLD outside. Worse, Larry, N2OCW told me that a major snow storm was headed to northern WV and up the I-81 corridor on Tuesday night. I watched the weather on TV – sure enough – across Northeast WV, along the major interstate going east, along I-81 up through the Shenandoah Valley – all might get 6 to 18 inches of snow starting Tuesday evening and into Wednesday – just in time for the holiday travel before Thanksgiving. Why does WV dump snow on me each time I visit in the winter? Why haven't I learned to avoid WV after September?

The best laid plans often go astray in the winter time. Gary, W4IHI, needed Barbour, just 200 miles or so north so I'd have to kill half the day waiting for him to get off work and be available in mid afternoon on Tuesday. I'd have to plan my escape after that.

## **Tuesday before Thanksgiving**

I got up at 6am and was on the road at 6:30am headed to Pineville. Hopefully I could grab some breakfast there at a nice sit down place and kill some time. It's in Wyoming County. A 'Hot Biscuit' chain restaurant appeared after a 30 minute drive– and had a real nice breakfast platter at a good price and enjoyed myself. Read the local paper. Leisurely. No one is around on the radio at this hour. Back on the road an hour later. Well, finally it was time to wander over to the interstate. I had hours to kill. It would take an hour to get to the interstate. Then head north slowly with a few side trips.

It was windy. Every now and then you'd be behind a ridge or a shelf and there was a shower of leaves like a snow storm descending upon the road! Weird. Like a blizzard at times. In the higher elevations, all the leaves were down and blowing around.

There's a short piece of Gilmer on the interstate - you might make a few contacts before you are OOC- out of the county – and last summer I stopped on the shoulder of the road – narrow and with a steel fence on the side - (very bad location) - to run just one band to give AB4YZ his next to last for WBOW CW. So I figured with lots of time to spare I'd take a short detour off the road to Gilmer. I see the cw spotters didn't spot it but had a good run from there. Not more than five mile detour. What is with the spotters? You go miles out of the way to run a county, have a good pile up, but no one can spot the run? Most of the time the spotters did a nice job. Thanks.

Ed, N8OYY lives there in Gilmer – if you need it on SSB, but he's not heard on cw.



Gilmer WV  
Runs not spotted  
Genuine Percy Pic

I still had lots of time so took a detour to Webster. Actually, this isn't too bad a detour so if you are looking at getting there – take the road off the interstate.



Webster WV

I still had lots of time, so I stopped for a leisurely lunch, gassed up the car and wound my way over to Barbour, waiting for Gary to show up after work. I sat in a nice church parking lot – look over the grave stones – enjoy the fairly warm sunny weather – and finally hook up with Gary for his last WBOW! Yippee! Then work the pile of others quickly before I bug out to MD. I ran this just a couple months ago. The snow is coming!



Barbour WV  
LC WBOW for W4IHI  
USA-CA

OK...it was now time to 'get out of Dodge' mucho pronto and beat the snow. The nice GPS lady said I could put the pedal to the metal and be in Gaithersburg, MD by 7 pm....after dark and during rush hour. Maybe. The GPS Lady doesn't understand rush hour – or holiday traffic. Better fight the mobs than than snow drifts, winds, and clogged highways with stuck vehicles on Wednesday!

So I hustled north to the interstate headed east over to Frederick, MD, then south on I-270 to Montgomery County. Ran the counties as I zipped through them, but no time for detours. You can hit half a dozen counties with a 10 mile detour off the interstate, but beating the snow was priority number one. This area was expecting a lot of snow and wind from a 'nor'easter'. It's up high in elevation and things can get real bad real quick.

Traffic got heavy over by Frederick MD. Between normal rush hour and lots and lots of folks moving up their holiday travel by a day, the roads were full. I-270 northbound was a parking lot with an accident or two. Southbound moved OK except for one delay as folks gawked at the accident on the other side of the road 300 feet away....and we had a five mile gawker backup. There wasn't anything to see other than 300 flashing lights on police cars, ambulances and rescue vehicles.

I had planned on getting to sister's house on Wednesday, but got there Tuesday night instead missing half a day of county hunting. Normally, the family gathers on Thursday and disappears on Saturday and I figure about 3 days is the right amount of time to visit...then it gets old. You don't want to venture out with Black Friday sales either, not that I'm a shopper for 'stuff'. All the tourist destinations are shut for the holiday weekend. I watched a lot of TV and movies. I filled up the car for the return trip and ate lots of turkey and stuffing and other goodies.

I planned to hit a few of the rarer ones in WV on the way home that I missed on the way up. Looks like WV is getting run pretty well between my trip, WA4PGM's many trips, one now and then by AB4YZ, W8OP. Then WB4KZW headed there too after Thanksgiving.

It was a good trip north for me having succeeded in finishing up Gary, plus giving out lots of the rarer WV ones to the folks.

Parts of my route did get lots of snow that night and next day– and east of there lots of rain. We had a tad bit of snow in the DC area - just enough to make it look nice but not cause a single problem. Glad I was hunkered down and missed the snow episode further west where it did cause problems, clog up airports with cancellations, and delay travel!

My sister has been tracking my progress on W6RK spotting site. It was even better when the 'map it function worked. Now she has to Google the county name to see where it is at – to know where I am at. Hi hi.

I was looking forward to getting stuffed with turkey in the next few days.

Continued after an intermission....

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## Some Things from Ebay

I'm always on the hunt on eBay for interesting items, especially regen receivers/kits. This month I stumbled upon a few kit radios from the 1960s era – when kids would drool over what was offered by the various manufacturers and hope for presents around the end of the year.

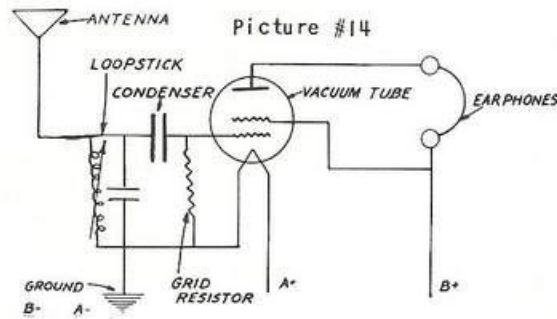
Here's a couple kits of eBay. Maybe you remember them? If you're young, well, maybe it was your parents or grandparents. I've got to keep in mind that more than half the people alive today were born after 1985! To them, the 50s and 60s are 'really ancient history' – hi hi.

The front panel on this radio says “Lafayette Radio” - likely sold by them. All the information, though, says Superex, an outfit in Yonkers, NY. From some of the diagrams included - and the front panel – I would conclude that this one tube radio is merely tuned circuit followed by a grid leak detector. There is no control on the front panel for regen. The grid leak detector would have provided about 20 db of gain over a straight crystal radio. This would take a good outside antenna and ground to work.

It's an 'never built' kit.



Here's the schematic of the 'grid leak' detector circuit:



Here's another kit that was sold by Norelco/Phillips. It's solid state with 3 transistors and a diode – exact configuration unknown – but it drives a speaker. Primarily seen overseas – don't think too many were sold in the US.





I never built these – the Norelco probably came late for me as I was in college at the time and money was scarce for toys. Now I was into bigger things and stuff I could build out of the junk box at the Radio Club – hi hi. My junk box at home were parts scrounged from junked TV sets – I'd cut out the resistors and capacitors to re-use, as well as yanked all the tubes from them. TV sets would last about five or seven years before becoming obsolete with larger screens on the new models.

This never built kit sold for \$206.50 plus shipping! Ouch!

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A never built Meissner Midget kit showed up on Ebay. These have the unobtainium plug in coils. It's being sold by the CT Radio Museum. It's rare to see an unbuilt one of these – very rare. It appears from the other photos provided it is a 2 tube set with part of one tube as a rectifier likely. 1950s vintage. Regen receiver primarily for the broadcast band. No bandspread or 'fine tuning'. You could put in a shortwave coil, but it would be real real touchy. Sold for \$200 on eBay.



Meissner Midget Kit

### **On the trail of regens subsection**

Here's one item that showed up. I'd guess I is a 5 tube regen. See if you can determine what it is. Here's three pictures out of 5 that showed in the listing. It has five tubes that you can see. The seller noted 'one tube may be missing'.



Front View



Left side - insides



Middle/right side insides

From what I can see, it looks like the left inside picture is an RF stage. The center is a regen detector. Probably need two plug in coils to change bands. On the right would be an audio tube or two and maybe a rectifier tube for the power supply. There's enough knobs on the front panel for fine tuning, regen control, audio control. There was no

schematic. It was likely a 'home built' unit but could have come from a kit. When you see things like this on Ebay you really don't know what it is and the seller had no clue either. So I went ahead and 'bid' on it. No one else knew what it was or cared. Good!

Likely from the 1935-early 40s era. OK. The price is low. I bid on it. Not too many others bidding. No one knows for sure what it is, who built it, from what, what sort of schematic it used, etc. A 'pig in a poke'.

I won it for \$26.55! plus, of course, shipping.

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Whoa- later I found information it! After I bid on it. It's a kit radio –a 'Doerle' kit offered by Guy Stokely Radio on Radio Row in NYC! It was advertised in May 1937 Short Wave and Television Magazine! (Stokely did a lot of early TV work, too).

I found this radio – via some searching on the web - page 37

<http://www.americanradiohistory.com/Archive-Short-Wave-Television/30s/SW-TV-1937-05.pdf>

According to the ad, it uses a 6K7 RF amp, a 6K7 regn stage and 3 states of audio amp with 2 6C5 tubes and a 6F6 audio output tube and 5Y3 rectifier. It would come with 8 coils for 9 1/2 to 200 meters. Wired it was \$28, and as a kit you could get it for \$17.96, less tubes.

Looks like I 'won' this on Ebay for \$26.55 so I'll have time to play with it. Likely need every cap replaced, filter caps replaced.....and who knows what else to get it to work – assuming the original owner built it right in the first place – hi hi. It might sit a while depending upon the winter weather, mobiling, chasing needed counties, etc. only 4 coils were included and who knows if they are the 'right ones'. We'll see. It's nice to find 'new regen stuff' on Ebay. Something like this shows up once or twice a year. It's my 'holiday present to myself.... hi hi

# USA QRP Award

Pete, NN9K, is getting close to being finished up working all counties – QRP.

Now....something interesting.....from the MARAC Awards page

The rules for USA QRP:

## OBJECTIVE:

To make contacts with amateur radio operators in All USA Counties using QRP power of five (5) watts or less (output power) in any mode.

## SPECIAL RULES:

Any Valid Contacts using QRP submitted for other MARAC awards may also be used for this award. County hunters who worked All USA Counties using QRP and whose QRP endorsement was recorded by WD3P and maintained by WD3P were issued the first series of numbers and may apply for the award by submitting an application and appropriate fee to the MARAC Awards Manager

## AWARD LEVELS:

Basic Certificate for 1000 counties  
Red Seal for 2000 counties  
Blue Seal for 3000 counties  
Gold Seal for All USA Counties  
Optional Plaque for All USA Counties

Each level is sequentially numbered with a unique series of numbers. When an upgrade level is achieved, the Awards Manager will issue a new certificate with appropriate seals and a history of the previous levels.

## APPLICATION AND FEES:

Standard application, logs, and fees

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Low power operation: For purposes of MARAC Awards, a Valid Contact using QRP requires that one operator in the two way communication be using a QRP power level. Only HF frequency contacts may be used for QRP contacts. For MARAC Awards, the fixed, portable, or mobile QRP station must be using five (5) watts output or less

- - -

OK...so you go to the awards look up link off the database page.....and I don't even see an awards listing category for USA QRP. Have none been issued by MARAC? Do they never expect any to be issued? They are going to be numbered.....

What am I missing? Have zero QRP awards been issued? Weren't the WD3P listings grandfathered as in the the USA-CW listings from KA3MMM?

I guess things like Bingo IX, NO Star #2, and worked all counties 20 times are 'important' while other things like transmuted states second time, QRP, etc, just fall off to the wayside. Oh, and no Bingo IX, Worked all Counties 20 times or No Star II have been issued yet..... but there are listings for them in the database.

- - -

Larry, WD3P has worked all counties QRP.. He's got over 2900 with just 1 watt.

Here's his home page with lots of QRP stuff

<http://www.wd3p.net/>

Something needs fixin'

# On the Road with N4CD – II

## Saturday after Thanksgiving -back to Texas

After 3 days, it was time to head back to Texas. I was stuffed. Ate a lot. Well., too much, but I guess Thanksgiving is the time to do that.

The way home would depend upon the weather. It looked OK other than rain along the way. No blizzards were scheduled for the near future anywhere along the route.

I decided to head across WV on the way home. There's total cloud cover and the temperature is barely above freezing. Folks needed a lot of the rarer counties and if I took the 'scenic' route 50, I could get to some of the less run ones. First I had to head down to Stafford VA for Terry, WQ7A. He was down to two to go to finish up Mobile Diamond – and one of them was Stafford VA – not too far from Washington DC.

The only hassle this weekend would be the CQ WW DX CW contest that would be on the whole Saturday and Sunday. The only 'good' thing about it is that if you are on the road early or late at night, you can get at least 'one' transmitted county contact by working a DX station somewhere whether the time is 6 am in the morning or 8pm at night if no county hunter is around or listening to give you one. .

So early on Saturday morning, a non work day, I headed down I-270 in Montgomery County MD to the 'beltway' I-495 and then down I-95 for about 40-50 miles. Don't try this on a normal work day – it will take you 3 times longer! You go through Fairfax and Prince William along the way. WQ7A would have to up at 8 or 8:30 eastern time...that's 5am out his way on the west coast – but he mentioned he usually gets up at about that time. You know that N4CD is usually an early bird and I was down in Stafford early – pulled off the Interstate into a shopping mall area just before 8am. Gave Terry a call on the phone just to be sure he was up! 5 am his time! Think I woke him up but he said he didn't mind getting up for that! We hooked up on 30M (he's got a great beam for 10-30 MHz) - for his next to last WBOW for Mobile Diamond.

Snapped the sign below on the way back out of the county:



Stafford/Prince William, VA line  
Next to LC WBOW for WQ7A  
Genuine Percy Pic

The one remaining is Belknap NH for his Mobile Diamond. Anyone with Master Platinum headed that way soon?

Well, I was now 50 miles out of the way – so it was time to head NW from here and get on route back to TX via WV and KY.

This was the weekend for the CQ WW CW DX contest. 20M was a big mess. When we have contests, the CW folks usually move up to 14.113. I've got that programmed into memory in the IC706. In the late afternoons the DX stations might even show up on that high frequency, though. 14.113 is 'twice' 056.5 if you wondered why it is .113 – hi hi that worked out well most of the time.

From Stafford, I punched in Winchester, VA into the GPS and followed the GPS Lady out that way. Then on to WV and a very twisty, slow, SCENIC route 50 where you probably average 35 to 40 mph through Hampshire, Mineral, and Grant. There are piles of snow on the sides of the road and it's a 'winter wonder land' with up to a foot of snow in places. The road is clear, though, so it is good driving. This was the snow I had to hustle to miss on the way north a few days earlier. It's no fun being in a snow storm in

WV. Every time I head through WV on the way to and from my sister's house, WV tries to, or succeeds in snowing upon the N4CD mobile! Some places out this way had up to 18 inches the week before. Why does WV hate me? (or why haven't I learned yet to stay away from it?)



Grant, WV  
Lots of S-N-O-W  
Winter Wonderland

The temp was just above freezing and the snow, piled 4-8 inches high on branches, was melting and falling down. As you drove along, big clumps would fall – sometimes on the car with a 'bang', or just in front of you as you drove along. Weird. The highway department had done a great job of clearing off the road.

If they stretched out route 50, it would be about three times longer that it seems, going across WV and OH and IN with some to spare. You go up, down, around, up, down, twists, up and down and around. Lots of small towns dot the road. If you like antiquing and 'getting away from the city hustle', this is the place for you. Just have lots of time! You hit Garrett, MD for some miles, then through Preston, Taylor, Harrison, Ritchie, Doddridge.... Route 50 turns into 4 lanes after Harrison and you zip along then.

Hollis KC3X calls on the cellphone. “Any chance for Tyler, of the last 13 for WBOW?” he asks. Hmm...it's not on route 50 – which is pretty good at this point. It's almost like an interstate here – 4 lanes. He says Tyler 'almost' or 'maybe' hits 50. Well, it likely comes within a mile or two, but there is no way to get to that corner that 'comes close'.

Tyler is 'off the beaten path. From route 50, there are two possibilities. I looks like route 56 is the shorter – maybe 10 miles. It turns out to be a painful 10 miles of narrow, did I say narrow, 1 1/2 lane road that really winds and twists and turns. You average maybe 30-35 and it takes 20 minutes to get to the line. There are some nice houses, and some places you find it hard to believe that folks live in. Trailers, dilapidated places 100 or 200 years old, yards full of 100 years of junk, cars, appliances, and you name it. The further back you go, the worse the housing stock. Sort of like some rural areas in AR where it seems mandatory to have five junked cars, an old refrigerator and washing machine or two, out in the 'front yard' before they allow you to live there.

The pavement actually changes at the county line, but there is no sign for the county, at least not at the first crossing. Not to worry – with GPS you are all set. Hollis is there so that's one less for him to finish up. There's a big pile up as well. Some goofed off and missed it. I didn't publish a route on the way home since I really didn't know where the car would wander. A lot depends upon the weather. All day it was cold and didn't get out of the 30s till I reached western WV where it was in the 40s and warming up even more.

There was only 1 missing sign in the County Database for the entire state of WV. It was Ritchie County and I managed to snag a picture of the sign to finish off the state. Last County! Hi hi



Ritchie WV  
LC for the County Database!

Now, I can't take every detour for everyone otherwise I'd never get home. This worked out OK since I was headed to the Wood County area (Parkersville) for a likely stop for the night. I-77 runs north/south through there. I'd be heading south on it in the morning. Hollis is a good spotter and my car tends to go places for those who help out – either by giving me counties – or by being a 'frequent spotter'.

I got to Parkersville and there are lots of motels. One conveniently located is a Red Roof Inn – not too far out of the way. Hmmm.. It's deja vu all over again. I stayed at the Travelodge right next door a few years back. It was a little bit 'low rent' the last time I stayed there so I sprung a few extra bucks for the Red Roof (\$57 with taxes). Next door is the Mountaineer Restaurant – good for dinner and breakfast. I ate there twice. It was near 60 degrees in this part of WV and the following day would be warm and windy. Very windy.

Night came quickly – it's winter, and it was a 'short day'. I hit the hay about 9pm.

## **Sunday**

It was warmer on Sunday morning. At 6am I wandered over to the Mountaineer Restaurant. Yep, they really were open at 6am on Sunday morning. Had a nice omelet and decaf coffee. By 7am I was underway headed down the I-77 to Kanawha

(Charleston) then west on I-64. It was time to 'make some tracks' and make progress toward getting home. The wind was blowing from the south at a good clip – maybe 25-30 mph all day – and the temps were getting up to the 50s and 60s. Delightful!

Not much to report. Headed across KY on I-64, to the Blue Grass Parkway to the Western Parkway – running the counties on 30, 14.113, 40 and 17m. The DX contest was still going on. Late in the afternoon, a 'data station' decided to sit on 18091.5 – and with a computer, sat there calling CQ all afternoon. As far as I can tell, no one ever answered him. RTTY? Dunno. Made a mess of 17m cw. Otherwise, 14.113 worked as well as 30 and 40M with lots of contacts, If I had time after running all the bands, I'd slip over to SSB and give any mobile running their my county.

30M was gangbusters. Lots of activity there due to the QRM on regular 20M net frequency. Not everyone got the message about 14.113. On the east coast, there's lots of stations within range on 30M.

The Florida 'Loudmouth' was helping Mr Grouchy on 14.336. Jack, K0MAF, checked in to run a county. As usual, the 'loudmouth' had to spew forth one of his nasty comments.....saying “hey Ugly” go ahead and run the county. Duh! No wonder XYLs cringe when he's around. It's always stupid, idiotic, biting, nasty, out of place comments a few times a day. Yep, he helps run stations off the frequency. AA9JJ is scheduled to be on the road, and likely you'll hear 'AA9JJ, he's the ugly one' comment again. Always happens. He can't help himself. Just turn the volume down when he's around or turn the radio off. Better yet, listen on cw.

One time I was in Clark KY...and worked KB0BA/N0XYL in Clark WI. At the end of the run, the 'grouch' on 14.336 announced 'that was KB0BA and N0XYL in Clark, KY'. Hmmm.....guess he was listening in and got screwed up. Moved the mobile into KY where N4CD was. Well, I gotta help those mobiles get counties on SSB. And let the 'grouch' know where I am as he listens in. Heck, someday I might need their counties for some award like stars. I just log 'em now but don't track teams or prefixes. Maybe some day I'll enter the couple hundred thousand contacts into the computer.

Meanwhile, the mobiles might need my county. Didn't have time to run off frequency on SSB. Half the time, I just had time to finish the cw runs before running out of the county. They go by quickly on the interstate – and KY has lots of small bits of counties here and there.

I was hustling and making good time. I was headed toward Craighead AR for N9STL – maybe I'd get there today, maybe not. I gained an hour, but sunset would be 'early' at

the eastern edge of the central time zone – like 4:30pm. I zipped on down through TN – hitting Obion and Dyer. Hollis needs Lake, TN but no time for the 10 mile detour – which takes at least 30 minutes to do counting run time. By the time I get to the corner of AR, it's already getting 'dim'. There was a dense cloud cover all day which didn't help. I got to the first county in AR – Mississippi – and decided to go QRT for the day at a Days Inn. Stayed there before. \$57 including taxes. Chinese Buffet 500 feet away. Didn't make it to Craighead – another hour and a half to where there were motels. That would be tomorrow. Joyce was down to a handful to finish up again, with two in AR, one in MS, 3 in OK. I was within a day's drive of 'home'.

I hit the hay at 9pm.

## **Monday**

Up at 5:40 am. Breakfast at 6am.

Monday started out COLD in the northeast corner of AR in Mississippi County. The wind was howling out of the north now. Today would be a day to get some 'off the beaten path' counties in the state. I rather would take separate routes coming and going on trips – sometimes you just have to run interstates to make some time. Winding around takes lots of extra time. Today I'd get the last two in AR for N9STL.

The warm weather and 70 deg temps of Sunday vanished overnight and the thermometer said 35 degrees at 6am. The Days Inn has a nice breakfast, but sadly, no waffles. I had some eggs and sausage, a bowl of cereal, a banana, glass of orange juice, read the paper, and then went back to the room for a bit. It was still early. Still dark. I packed up the car and was set to go about 6:30am headed to Craighead County for N9STL. Joyce had gone to Kentucky and cleaned up the state for me with over half a dozen needs. So it was time to return the favor. One county she needed was up northeast and one southwest – both miles off the interstate and off the short quick short route home.

Fortunately, the roads were warm from the day before, otherwise it could be real disaster with temps near freezing and a light drizzle falling. Didn't see any icy spots. The Malibu decided to give an 'ice possible' warning. No ice found. Thank goodness.

Since I hadn't run Mississippi County yet, that was first up – and there were a good handful around to work me – I was back in central time so the east coast folks had time to eat breakfast, have a couple of cups of coffee and turn the radio on. It took over an hour to get over to Craighead in the rain. There would be rain again all the way through

AR. On the way up, it rained the entire way across AR, too! For some reason, this year AR decided to dump upon me. The roads are narrow but OK – took a while to get there. Craighead was the next to last for N9STL and others had posted needs. Made it OK, found a spot to pull over near the county line.



Craighead AR for N9STL and others  
Genuine Percy Pic

Dang, the line of Poinsett and Craighead is a wet line so had to run Craighead as a dead end run. Did that, caught up with N9STL, and put a bunch in the log there. Turned around and went down and across through Poinsett - heading west to Polk County on the far side of the state. It would be five hours to get there and you've have to go through Pulaski (Little Rock – the state capital) to get there the quickest way. .

The bands were in good shape and it was great not to have the contest QRM! Oh, really nice without the contest QRM that gave me a headache at times – you'd hear them even in the background, all the way up to 14.113 in the late afternoons, and on 40M. 17M had some idiot calling CQ on data (RTYY?) on 18091.5 for hours at a time, never getting an answer, but his 'robot' just called and called and called. Messed that up for the folks. He was gone. Monday was peaceful and quiet.

Gene, WB4KZW was on his way back to home – that would take him 2 days. Kerry, W4SIG was motoring across I-40 in TN, W5QP was headed from AR down to LA. That was about the cw activity. On SSB, Dennis/Susan, N6PDB and WA6OCV were

headed west, K0MAF, Jack, was on in FL, and Gene WB4KZW ran on SSB along the way. AF3X showed up late afternoon headed across I-40 on SSB in OK, AR. That seemed to be about it for total activity.

Southwest AR is full of hills and windy roads. You start out from the interstate on 70/270 headed west past Hot Springs. The road gets narrower and narrower and the turns and switchbacks appear in droves. You don't make great time in this part of AR, which is why some of the counties are relatively rare. Eventually I got to Montgomery – someone needed that for a LC - then over to Polk – the LC in AR for N9STL. She's closing in with just a few to go to finish up, with 3 in OK, 1 in MS remaining. By the time you read this, maybe she'll be done



Polk AR – LC AR for N9STL  
Genuine Percy Picture

There's a nice 'small' hamfest in Polk County in Mena. A couple hundred show up each fall. Its more a 'lets all get the RVs together and party for a few days, have some nice BBQs, drink a few brews, oh, and we'll have a nice small hamfest while we are at it! Not worth the drive from TX unless you are going county hunting, and some years, the AR QSO Party is the same weekend so you can go to the hamfest Friday afternoon and Sat morning, be done by 9:30am, and go run counties again! Hi hi

After getting to Polk, I punched in 'Home' on the GPS and let the GPS lady guide me back home – another 170 miles or so – through Sevier, AR to McCurtain, Choctaw OK,

then down into TX – Lamar and Fannin. The drizzle stayed away most of the way. Home by 5:35pm as the sun was setting in the west under a heavy cloud deck. Stopped by the Boston Market for dinner, then home to unpack and unwind from 3231 miles of driving. Cold....brrr....below normal temps down in the 20s tonight.

Gas prices ran from \$2.50/gal in AR to near \$3 in suburban DC area. That was a nice change from \$3.50 to \$4 not too long ago. I suspect it won't be staying low for too long so enjoy it while it is low.

Hope I hit something you needed. There were lots of 'new' counties run on the trip.

## County Sign Database Project

The County Sign Database is a project to collect a picture of every county in the USA. So far, Gary is doing great, but more contributions are needed.

Gary, K4EXT, added more this month to the database, which is now up over 2700 counties!

Here's one from Jack, K0MAF:



K0MAF Placer, CA

Here's one from Ron, KA3DRO:



Stephens, GA by KA3DRO  
Genuine Percy Picture

Phil, AB7RW sent in several from his big trip. Here's one in NJ - those signs at the county line are tough to find – in many cases they aren't there. NJ worries more about townships! Like Connecticut! He used route signs



Middlesex, NJ by AB7RW

Here's one from Rick, AI5P



Roosevelt, NM – by AI5P

Here's a contribution by Don, AE3Z:



Potter PA by AE3Z

There's a lot missing in VA – prime territory for a camera bug to snap a lot of new signs. I added in Stafford on my last trip. Finished off WV by catching Ritchie. A couple hundred more needed to finish off all 3077 counties!

Kerry, W4SIG, sent in 20 more from GA and TN. Here's Fulton County – right outside of Atlanta:



Fulton GA – de W4SIG

Here's another from right outside Atlanta from Barry, K2MF



Gwinnett, GA – de K2MF

Here's one of several sent in by KV4DX – in KY



Christian KY by KV4DX

Jerry, W0GXQ sent in a handful from ND. Still more to go there.

There's only a bit over 300 left to go finish the database off!

<http://www.charchive.com/cntys.asp>

## Global Non-Warming, or “The Pause”

### Guest essay by Christopher Monckton of Brenchley

Since October 1996 there has been no global warming at all (Fig. 1). This month's RSS temperature plot pushes up the period without any global warming from 18 years 1 month to 18 years 2 months (indeed, very nearly 18 years 3 months). Will this devastating chart be displayed anywhere at the Lima conference? Don't bet on it.



Figure 1. The least-squares linear-regression trend on the RSS satellite monthly global mean surface temperature anomaly dataset shows no global warming for 18 years 2

months since October 1996.

The hiatus period of 18 years 2 months, or 218 months, is the farthest back one can go in the RSS satellite temperature record and still show a sub-zero trend.

What will the chart look like this time next year, at the beginning of the Paris world-government conference, at which the Treaty of Copenhagen will be dusted off and nodded through by the scientifically illiterate national negotiating delegates of almost 200 nations, ending the freedom and democracy of the West and putting absolute economic and political power in the hands of the grim secretariat of the UN climate convention?

When the November 2015 RSS data are available, how many years and months of zero global warming will have occurred? Enter our friendly competition by putting your best estimate in comments. For guidance, at the December 2012 Doha conference I was banned from UN climate yadayadathons for life for the grave sin of telling the truth that there had been no global warming for 16 years.

The Great Pause is a growing embarrassment to those who had told us with “substantial confidence” that the science was settled and the debate over. Nature had other ideas. Though approaching 70 mutually incompatible and more or less implausible excuses for the Pause are appearing in nervous reviewed journals and among proselytizing scientists, the possibility that the Pause is occurring because the computer models are simply wrong about the sensitivity of temperature to man made greenhouse gases can no longer be dismissed, and will be demonstrated in a major paper to be published shortly in the Orient’s leading science journal.

Remarkably, even the IPCC’s latest and much reduced near-term global-warming projections are also excessive. In 1990, the IPCC’s central estimate of near-term warming was higher by two-thirds than it is today. Then it was 2.8 C/century equivalent. Now it is just 1.7 C° equivalent – and even that is proving to be a substantial exaggeration.

On the RSS satellite data, there has been no global warming statistically distinguishable from zero for more than 26 years. None of the models predicted that, in effect, there would be no global warming for a quarter of a century.

### Key facts about global temperature

Ø The RSS satellite dataset shows no global warming at all for 218 months from October 1996 to November 2014 – more than half the 430-month satellite record.

- Ø The global warming trend since 1900 is equivalent to 0.8 C° per century. This is well within natural variability and may not have much to do with us.
- Ø Since 1950, when a human influence on global temperature first became theoretically possible, the global warming trend has been equivalent to below 1.2 C° per century.
- Ø In 1990, the IPCC's mid-range prediction of near-term warming was equivalent to 2.8 C° per century, higher by two-thirds than its current prediction of 1.7 C°/century.
- Ø The global warming trend since 1990, when the IPCC wrote its first report, is equivalent to below 1.4 C° per century – half of what the IPCC had then predicted.
- Ø The IPCC's 4.8 C°-by-2100 prediction is almost four times the observed real-world warming trend since we might in theory have begun influencing it in 1950.
- Ø From September 2001 to September 2014, the warming trend on the mean of the 5 global-temperature datasets is nil. No warming for 13 years 1 month.
- Ø Recent extreme weather cannot be blamed on global warming, because there has not been any global warming. It is as simple as that.

## CQ WW CW Contest

The usual HI and AK stations were on if you needed their counties. You could also work a couple hundred US stations if you wanted, but you've got to be careful as there are lots of 'guest' operators using their call signs at other people's stations – not necessarily in their own home county.

From the 3830 contest reflector:

**KN4Y 250 27 74 - 10 m only**

Wife got home from hospital and I could only get daycare, so went with 10-meters. Short run on Friday, all day on Saturday until the band gods shut 10-meters off for the Alabama & Auburn football game. Sunday after church 10-meters started slow, but picked up momentum. I tried running but the rates were too fast for my aged system so I just heard and worked. I have never worked

so many JAs in a contest, the panhandle was receptive. I ran 100 Watts and it sometimes took 5 tries to get through a pile up. I am not a DX'er and I worked many new calls (countries). Slept good.

## The 14.336 Follies

The reign of terror on 14.336 has been going on for over 10 years now for most, and in reality, it goes back at least 15 years. Comments made daily back then for over a decade including 'the drunk in IL' – the 'drunk in OK' - “Hey, Dougie Dougie! “ Derision - morning after morning – and more recently 'Hey, Bitch!' aimed at a prominent YL operator. Then the twin twins invented “Twinkies”. Oh, we also got to hear about his “Meds' and “18 year old blondes' all the time, too. You remember sending folks to the corner to wear the dunce cap for a few hours? Time outs and other silliness? Banned for a day? Oh, if you grovelled enough, he 'might' let you back on the net, or have relays that day.

Not only is it caustic comments, even dumber comments from the side-kick in FL, it's the arrogance spewed forth daily. The daily caustic 'yelling' at passer by folks who happened to use phonetics. Those who stumble upon the net and don't know what 'double relays' are. The jamming, yes, jamming of mobiles – by the twin-twins. Really, now, W1BQL, club of one....and Kay Two “Junior” Grandinetti, another club of one – the trouble makers. Even sillier is the 'from both of us' contacts. Both of them? Are they schizos? Talk about 'wasting valuable net time'!

I have nothing but contempt for those who jam. Either on 14.336 or off frequency, right Percival? Jam mobiles they don't like? Juvenile stuff, but, hey, I guess he thinks he's getting 'baddie points' by doing the 'dirty work'. Those that jam .336 are no better. Hand in your ham license if you are doing that.

The list of the 'black sheep' grows longer and longer – recently many joining the ranks of the 'black sheep' simply because they are tired of hearing their fellow county hunters abused, and worse, the continuing bad rap county hunters get for 'that guy on 14.336' who is known worldwide, and has even stirred up international incidents going to the highest levels of the State Department – a really sad case. Folks are tired of the tirades, the 'voices' they seem to hear from 'jammers' who aren't - but are constantly accused of

doing it. They are tired of the snide comments when folks run off net rather than on net. Or the games they play. The folks back east can run on 40M SSB often - there's enough people that can hear them to make it worthwhile. Even there, though, one idiot in FL still tries to jam.

The County Hunter News started 10 years ago – this month – to cover the shenanigans of the twin twins and their cohorts at the time in regards to the outcome of an election – they didn't like the results. That episode left MARAC without a President or Vice President for six months thanks to Kay Zed Two Pee, W5UGD, and 2P's few buddies.

Oh....did you know that Two Pee censors the 'chat room'? If he doesn't like you this month, you'll never get in. Hopefully that will change one of these days.

I hope that if MARAC comes up with a spotting site described in the Road Runner, they'll also come up with a new chat room that EVERYONE can participate in. One not controlled by, well, 2-P and buddies, who exclude those they 'don't like' for whatever reason.

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So a few comments from the K3IMC forum (which, by the way, the twin twins tried to censor here a few years ago and get comments unfavorable to them removed). Thank you Don for having a backbone and not caving.

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W4SIG: My perspective

First off, thanks for all the folks that worked me on my last several trips this month thru TN, GA, MS, and LA. They were long (over 150 counties run) but very enjoyable. I know some of you were elated to get some LCs to finish up some states. These were some really fun mobile trips. Today I even had a county line (Jasper/Clarke, MS) with over 90 qsos (between the multiple bands and modes). Really, really fun!

Also, as you probably noted, although I did run most of these on 20 SSB I did NOT run them on 14336. For those that missed counties they needed because of this my apologies. I simply made a decision that I did not want to be part of the embarrassing behavior on the 14336 frequency any longer. I had endured enough. If some choose to call this "boycotting" the frequency then so be it. At first I was not "run off"; I simply

CHOSE to run on alternate frequencies. Our rigs do have dials. After all, a mobile has the right to run whatever bands, frequencies, and modes he/she chooses. Most of us do not get upset if a mobile just runs on 20 SSB if that is what he/she chooses.

Similarly we don't get upset if someone just runs digital, just CW, etc. As has been often said, "the mobile is King!" However, I found it interesting on a couple of occasions on this last trip when I noticed that there hadn't been a mobile running on 14336 for several HOURS. I also listened in to see if there was any NCS-type activity. There was none. So I chose to announce myself in my mobile county in an attempt to run there. After all, no one "owns" or can hold a non-active frequency at any time on any ham band for any reason, right? My first such attempt was immediately met with "Sir, the frequency is busy. Please QSY!" (We've all heard that one before).

So I did, no sweat. Apparently "someone" was holding a grudge for me not running on "his" frequency. I guess you could call this the first time I was "run off" the frequency. A similar situation happened today. However this time when I attempted to announce myself on a dead 14336 I was stepped on by KZ2P and not acknowledged to even exist. Someone begging for a mobile to run who then promptly ignores one trying to check in makes a lot of sense. So I guess this meant I was officially on Jim's "black list". Again, no sweat. I am a versatile fellow. I can run multiple modes and multiple bands and I can run anywhere on 20 SSB that I please. My fellow county hunters follow the spots if they need the county. They understand that you don't have to sit on 14336 to work counties.

Remember, there is NO official county hunting net recognized by MARAC. This convenient truth means MARAC is powerless to enforce any rules or behavior on any "net". Why MARAC can even offer a Net Control of the Year when the club doesn't even officially recognize there is a net in the first place is debated by many. I know there are many county hunters who simply enjoy chasing counties and don't want to get caught up in all the drama. Can't blame you. However.... For my fellow county hunters (especially the active mobiles) please ask yourself what you will do when you or a friend is ignored when trying to check into a net. Ask yourself what you will do when you or a friend is ignored when trying to get a relay. Ask yourself what you will do when you or a friend are admonished and chastised for not following the rigid rules even though you have been an active county hunter for a very long time. And ask yourself what you will do when you or a county hunter friend of yours and his/her family is belittled or insulted on 14336.

Frankly I should have left 14336 a long time ago and I feel awful for not leaving sooner. I now sleep better. In addition to not running counties there while mobile I certainly will not beg for relays to other mobiles either. If mobiles choose to run their counties on

14336 that is your prerogative. I will attempt to make a qso with you there if I think you may need the county that I am in. I feel like 99% of county hunters are true friends, have been so for a long time, and will all continue to be cherished. I look forward to working you on ALL frequencies, but especially anywhere but 14336. "Nothing will rain on my parade!"

W4SIG 12/09/14

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K5YAA: Now we are getting somewhere. When respected county runners/hunters speak their minds like you just have we are getting on down the road (pun intended).

I was told there is no way to occupy 14.336 as the owner gets up early and takes over just after some east coast net finishes up in the morning. Again very early. The band is supposedly not even open to the west it is so early. I was told there is no way to capture the frequency as the first user. BS - I have captured frequencies in contests due to the fact the guy who had it did not respond within a reasonable time, say 5 seconds, so I just took it and either ran the other guy off after a few minutes of arguing or just ignored and worked stations through the bellowing. No problem.

I will be able to open the band much sooner here in 5 land than many others can do so a plan is to occupy 14.336 one morning and sit and argue about who was on the frequency first. A true waste of time but it should be a hoot to see who can burn down the other guys antenna first. Generating noises, playing music and other means of testing a rig and amplifier puts a real toll on the elements making up a rig especially an amp, much like RTTY taxes away the longevity of a set of tubes. So, burps, beeps, buzzes and other noise makers will eventually wear out a stations ability to place a bigger than mobile signal on the air. { de N4CD: that sounds like Percy to me! Hi hi }

I understand there are maybe two such stations that will get a workout like that. May take a second day or so to rid the airwaves of the nuisance. Should be fun and I am looking forward to going a few rounds with the master. Read and heed master - you are painted on the bulls eye of my target. Percy, if you will let your buddy know what I said here. I will appreciate the relay.

I usually use the accepted two or three selections of phonetics that have for years been the approved statements of the land. They are available on the web if one wants to be in the norm. Personally, I use the old ICAO list where A is Able and F is Fox and B is Baker etc Once in a while I will put a twist on the words but always using a word set that can be copied under the worst conditions - you know - the conditions that exist on

the upper part of 20 meters.

73, K5YAA that's Kilo Five Yankee Able Able or Kentucky Five Yesterday America America so as not to be miss copied.

- - -

W8JJ: I've left 14.336 MHz as well. I'm not on the "list" as far as a know. However, I can no longer stand by and watch my friends be marginalized and denied access to the joy of county hunting. Therefore, I will self spot-off frequency when operating mobile. Further, I've also committed to not working mobiles on 14.336 MHz. This is a simple supply and demand issue. If there are no mobiles running, or nobody working the mobiles, the need for an NCS ceases to exist. I'm so tired of MARAC officers hiding behind the, "MARAC does not run a net " mantra. Really? Clearly we should be running one don't you think? And when we do, it will accessible to anyone with privileges in the general phone band. Nobody can change the behaviors of other people. However, we can all change our own behaviors to seek a just resolution to this long standing problem. This club is at a critical point in history. It's time to take back control for the good of all members and to restore our reputation in the larger ham community.

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W8OP: I concur. I have been silent on the 14.336 issue for a number of years also. If and when I ever get mobile again, I will also will NOT be running WV counties on 14.336. So I guess, I may be labeled an outcast too. Time will tell. I migrated to 14.056.5 a number of years ago and only recently have been making contacts on 336. You'll be seeing me more on 056.5. I would support an alternate 20 meter freq. Until I retire, there's not much I can do about being active on a net.

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W5GND: "I am looking forward to supporting another frequency. Ss a charter member in the black sheep squadron, I have been denied relays, etc on 336. As ex-NX5Z (USACA #857), I often got critique for NX5 Zulu (OH NO! PHONETICS!) If people aren't used to that call, they mess it up OFTEN . . . I am now W5GND & I hope that's better. I am retiring at the end of this December & hope to be able to help support a new CH freq. Hats off to those brave enough to stand up & be counted ! ! !

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NA8W: "I read that you were not running on 336 anymore and last week I was listening close to your run frequency of 339 when I heard deliberate interference attempted on your run. Sad and the same call as used on N9STL several weeks ago. I look forward to making contacts anywhere you run as you said, the mobile can run anywhere. Thanks for being out there!! "

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K8ZZ:"I have also chosen NOT to run on 14.336 for my own reasons.. "

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N3AHA: "I started county hunting in 1978 and enjoyed it for many years. Eventually, I got fed up with the net control behavior and wrote an article about it in Worldradio magazine. In that article, I was saddened that newcomers were driven away by the behavior and wondered what county hunting would be like if nothing changed. Remarkably, this was 12 1/2 years ago in 2002.

In a subsequent article, I also asked MARAC to take a stand and learn from county hunter history. The ICHN was formed in 1966 after county hunters were disenchanted by the Certificate Hunters Club (CHC) and the primary net control, K6BX. In that article I stated, "Is the ICHN really independent net or is it really a MARAC net in disguise?" After all, most of the operators on the net are MARAC members. "If it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it's probably a duck," I figured. Lastly, I asked MARAC..."It is time to realize that the ICHN is pretty much a MARAC net. So what? What is MARAC going to do about that? Sadly, nothing has changed.

I continued to hunt counties on CW for awhile, eventually just moving on to other ham radio interests, chasing DX and contests. I miss my county hunter friends and I hope that something changes, but I believe it will take moving off 14.336 for that to happen. I applaud Kerry and others for expressing your feelings/opinion and ultimately, turning your dial away from 14.336. "

- -

# 160M Contest

from the 3830 contest reflector

**N8II - QSOs = 1066 Sections = 73 Countries = 16**

I didn't see all of those QSO's coming, thanks to all of those casual ops who stooped by and made it worth staying on the radio. This is probably the biggest score I have ever made in the ARRL 160; many years I was burned out after all of the previous contests. I am no night owl, went QRT around 06Z Sunday after being off from 0415-0515 and quit Friday night around 0430Z because I was hearing absolutely nothing from EU as well as western Canada and northwest of CO. First night effort was 663 Q's/75 mults, lots of pretty high rate hours with a few breaks. The first night was pretty brutal past 5 and 0 land and despite working all of the lower 48 states at least twice except ND (once), I never heard anything from VE5-VE8. Conditions seemed a bit better the 2nd night to EU, but with very low activity and the DX window was out the window, so I probably worked about equal numbers both night with a total of about 20 EU Q's. Conditions to the Rocky mountains and west coast were noticeably better the 2nd night as well. In addition to missing all of Canada west of VE4, missed NL, WTX (worked a boatload (39) of NTX/STX, pretty inexplicable), SF, EB, PAC, and AK. If I were to put the Q's together from all of FL, it would be 45 Q's and is ever increasing. Biggest section QSO totals were OH 62, VA 61 (my antenna seems to have a null to northern VA), MI & MN 40 each, NC 38, MDC 37, EPA 35. The only northern EU worked were SM and LY; a less disturbed ionosphere really would have improved the mults. I heard a good number of PVRC members, hopefully we are in the running for the unlimited club title.

**N2CU – fixed – WNY 713 Q 89 sections**

Haven't had the chance to install the K9AY loops, so didn't expect to get on. However, I couldn't resist one of my favorite contests so I put them up on Saturday in the cold and rain. Not like using phased beverages like I had last week at W2FU, but a vast improvement over the TX antenna.

Elecraft K3  
Drake L7 @ 1KW out  
46' Inverted L with 97 radials

73,  
Tom N2CU

### **KN4Y - FL 269 Q 49 Sections**

Stations were not loud but within my hearing level. Stayed up until 3am and still did not hear a California station. I am using 100 Watts, I hate to use that much power, but hey, have to be heard.

### **KO7X – fixed WY - 680 Q 80 sections**

I thought domestic conditions were excellent but I did not hear much DX. This was my usual part time, casual effort. I took lots of naps. 49 states in the log Saturday morning (missed NE). Worked two of them Saturday evening.

## **On the Road with N4CD II**

The weather was 'decent' for mid December with mild temps and no snow in sight. A damsel was in distress in IL N9STL was now down to 2 to go to finish up, thanks to some help from her county hunter friends - W4SIG getting one in MS, and AA9JJ/N9QPQ getting one in OKLA. There were only two to go for 8<sup>th</sup> time, and she

was also down to one to go for Bingo IV. Besides, it would be a good excuse to go county hunting and put out a few counties before the ice and snow hit OKLA roads up that way. Winter usually brings lots of snow, ice and storms there.

There were needs scattered all over the place in OK. Kerry, W4SIG needed a couple to finish off MG and MP.. K0PFV needed a next to last for WBOW in OK. There wasn't much reason to stay home for 2 days in between various events like holiday parties, Saturday breakfast, bad weather fronts moving through, etc Besides, I just felt like county hunting. Gas is down to under \$2.50 a gallon, and I saw stories on the news of \$2/gal in OK. (Never did find it). Saw \$2.10 gas though.

It's only a bit more than 370 miles up there to the needed counties up by the KS border in western OK. Just a 'jaunt in the country side' for the N4CD mobile. Well, that's at least 740 miles if you figure I have to get back home. Miles add up. The car is up to over 150,000 miles of county hunting fun now and its' almost time for another set of tires.

I posted a quick note on the K3IMC forum to let folks know I was headed to 'northwest OK'.

Woodward is the big city for a 10 county area. It's only 12,000 or so folks, but has a few motels and I've stayed overnight there a few times. It's part of the oil patch in that neck of the woods – and also in tornado alley having been hit by a few in the past years, the last in 2012. You want to watch the weather. Woodward is also known for iodine mining – one of a few spots in the US with an iodine mine. Before 1900, over 25% of the US population suffered from lack of iodine – a condition that led to 'goiter' – enlarged Adams' Apple. They (the government and the salt industry) then started to 'iodize' salt – and urged people to consume lots of salt to get iodine – which did solve one problem, but led to people consuming way too much salt to this day – leading to high blood pressure and other problems!

North of town they are building wind turbines by the dozens. The GPS lady understands 'Woodward OK' when you want to go that way.

Jerry, K5YAA, the resident mobile county hunter these days, has been under the weather recuperating from an operation. (Probably too many waffles clogged things up). Who knows? He hadn't been mobile in a while and tends to go out mainly in state QSO parties. Not too many others get around in OK other than in the QSO Party once a year or those passing through on a interstate or visiting from out of state.

The weather was decent. Temperatures were in the 47-52 degree area most of the day with eternal overcast and gloom. Never saw the sun on Thursday. Never saw the sun on Friday till 20 miles from home. Cloudy all day, occasional sprinkle, but good driving on Thursday. No problems.

Jerry, W0GXQ, was off on a "Eskimo Trip" to North Dakota. He had 27 degrees and humidity starting out – and worried a bit about ice forming on the antenna. Jerry was going to spend 2 days heading all the way across ND and back. It was a busy day for mobile activity. AA9JJ/QPQ were in NM headed for home. Wow...that's 4 Master Platinum Holders on the road at the same time (AA9JJ, N9QPQ, W0GXQ, N4CD)....good day for snagging those counties! The 'foliage' was mostly brown and most of the leaves gone up in OKLA. Not much to see – everything uniformly 'winter brown'. Much of OKLA is farmland. Or ranch land. You normally see lots of cattle out this way.

Before the trip could start, I had to wait for the package from eBay to arrive – won a old regen radio and it was coming FedEx. There is no way to 'hold' that delivery so had to be home to get it. It came quickly – on Wed - so I was off on a Thursday morning at 6:30am headed to northwest OKLA. There wasn't much of a plan other than head straight toward Harper and Woods OK for N9STL via the GPS lady's instruction. That would, of course, go through some of the middle of OK. Once I got there, I'd figure out how to get back home. It was a 6-7 hour trip just to get up there so this was going to be a overnighiter.

I'd find a motel somewhere 'up that way' and be sure to get back home to the next night. Turned out with stops it was a 7-8 hour trip so it definitely was going to be an overnighiter. There's larger towns with motels here and there – some of the motels are pretty shoddy looking but if you are desperate they probably would work. If you read some of the reviews you might not stay at them. The Motel 6 in Ponca City had a whole raft of complaints from bed bugs to dirty sheets to dirty clothes under the bed and worse – hi hi. Don't know if that is true or not. If you have a choice, stick to a Super 8 type places when there or take your chances. There are a few 'low rent' motels are in OK you'd be better off not visiting.

I headed out before sunrise – west over to I-35 then north to OKLA City then west/northwest. Those two counties needed by Joyce border KS. These were all 'new' third time transmits so I made sure to put them all out along the way. I even brought the microphone along (always have it – hi hi) and got to use it a few times. Up through Cooke, TX, Love – Carter – Garvin – Murray – McClain - Cleveland – west though Canadian - Blaine - Dewey to Woodward to Harper – then turning east to Woods.

Harper County has about 3000 people total in 1000 square miles..... a population density of 3 people per square mile. Woods isn't much different – 7 people per square mile. Lot's of 'nothing to see' as you drive along.

Success. N9STL got the last two for WBOW. Yippee. Eight time, too. Made the contact on 14.336 and it was great when everyone congratulated her on finishing up. Just like the 'old days' when there was always a 'friendly net'.



Woods, OK – LC WBOW for N9STL

When you get to Woodward, OK – town and county – you head north on highway 34. After you leave town it goes to open country right away. You're in the middle of nowhere quickly and the next 'town' on the highway signs is listed as 'intersection highway 64 – 25 miles.' Not even a town ahead. The most common sign out this way is 'cemetery'. I bet there's a sign indicating a cemetery every five miles along every road. 100 years ago, there were lots of small towns all over the midwest. You pass through a few along the routes I took – downtown with one or two stores still open....or maybe not one at all....half a dozen houses still lived in, and another dozen falling down. The folks moved off the farms – the farms got bigger and mechanized – and the towns and villages are dying or dead. Now all that remains are the cemeteries – and the signs for them. In some towns, the cemetery is as big as the present downtown area. It was a thriving place some time in the past. Now it's farms with hundreds of acres – or

more. Some of the cemeteries are 'family plots' with not that many graves. There's lots of history there for the genealogy folks.

Now I had to figure out how much time I had before sunset and which way to go. No sense going back the way I came, and it would be a very late night if I headed straight back home. Nope, bot going to do that. These days I'd rather not be driving at night on strange roads, and the critters come out at night.

So I headed basically east. It turns out N9STL also needed just one – Nowata – to finish up Bingo IV. Hmmm....if I head east, I can get 2/3rds of the way there by sunset. Then the next day, go 2 hours more to Nowata, then head to Pawnee for W4SIG, then shoot straight south to home and get home by dinner time. That would aslo get Hughes for Kerry. OK....that sounds like a plan and it goes through some relatively rare OK counties like Alfalfa, Major, Grant, Garfield, etc. I posted a note on the K3IMC forum to alert the folks. That would also get Washington, a next to LC WBOW for K0PFV.

Way back in history – 1 years ago, there were natural oil seeps in OK in several places – where the oil came to the surface – and the first was discovered by westerners in Mayes County. The 'tar' gook was used for sealing and lubrication and de-ticking cattle.

The first 'oil well' was in Rogers County and produced 1/2 a barrel of oil a day. They were drilling a salt well....and hit oil. The first well actually drilled to find oil was in Washington County. In the early 1900s, Oklahoma was the country's largest oil producer and it was still the “Oklahoma Territory” at that time.

You see some oil wells – the pump jacks – along the way. There's over 80,000 oil wells in the state. There were many towns that 'hit it rich' with the oil boom here in the 1900-1920 era. Some of the 'richest towns' in the US were in OK – Collinsville (Tulsa County) had many 'millionaires' and other counties did well as well. These were all small oil patches but pumped millions of dollars worth of oil. That quickly passed by the end of the 1920s when oil was found in TX in larger quantities. You still see pump jacks working in Osage and other counties around. There's a lot of 'middle of nowhere' here. Grant County is another with 3 people per square mile density and with half of the population living in one or two small towns and that means lots of long stretches of highways without much civilization.

However, in the past, the 'big oil fields' in OK were discovered in Alfalfa, Major, Garfield, Canadian, Osage and Washington Counties – and OK was a big producer of oil back at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Lots of money was made and lots of millionaires made. Oik production peaked in 1927 and has been dropping year after

year. They are still pumping oil – over 100,000 bbl of oil per day - OK is still a good producer of oil for the country. It brings in billions to the state and mineral rights owners.

More info on oil in OKLA at:

<http://www.ogs.ou.edu/fossilfuels/pdf/OKOilNotesPDF.pdf>

You pass through almost deserted towns – that at some time were thriving. Someone had the money to put up nice brick/stone buildings still standing. Now, most are just remnants of a glorious past. The 'large' cities grew – the smaller towns faded away. The 'county seat' usually remains – need it for recording deeds, legal documents, mineral rights, criminal justice system/courts, etc.

I headed to SSB every now and then. There was a friendly net on 14.336. So I'd jump in, run one here and there. Chuck, W3CR missed Major, so I managed to figure out how to run a 3 way line between Garfield, Alfalfa, and Major. Turns out you can take a dirt road just 3 miles – good one- to get to that 3 way point. MARAC rules don't let you give out more than 2 counties with a contact, so I had to give 2 in one contact, and 1 in a second contact. Gotta follow those rules. Chuck got his Major County. My radio/antenna only get about 10w out on .336 but it seems to work for most. After than run, I continued heading east till sunset.

The GPS Lady said there's a Super 8 motel in Kay County – so I called ahead and yep, for \$62 including tax, they had a room for me. So I headed there – got there just before 5 pm. With the total overcast, it was 'dim' already. Filled up the tank with gas next door (\$2.40/gal), had dinner at the small Dragon Chinese Buffet next door, hit the hay early at 9pm, and that was the end of the first day after 538 miles of driving. It was a good day.

There were only 2 pillows on the bed – but I slept well. Only need one normal size pillow!

Jerry, W0GXQ, kept those ND contacts coming heading west. He started down on 40m cw and he was going up to at least 15M. In the mornings, I started on 40 and worked my way up. Later, I started on 20 and did the 20/17/30/40 routine as no one seemed to be spotting on 40m or even there most of the time.

The log was filling up.

## Friday Morning

Friday morning comes and it is still totally overcast and gloom. Temp in high 40s and now foggy. The Super 8 has 'free' breakfast. Waffles! Have one, have some OJ, an apple, and decide that's enough damage to the diet. Those waffles are 500-600 calories and pure junk food....but they are 'good'. I used the low cal syrup. Oh well.....a waffle once or twice a month isn't too bad.

The road goes east – more or less. I got lost in Ponca City. The GPS lady got lost too...that cost me 15 minutes – road construction, a bypass half built, not in the database – and the GPS lady totally confused down town. Oh well....one of these years I'll pay to update my old database (10 years old) or buy a new GPS with bigger screen. I finally get back on route 60 headed east.

Jerry, W0GXQ is winding his way back east today. N9JF was up in IA later in the day. Activity starts early on cw. Tom, K4ZGB was putting them out in AL. Didn't hear much happening on .336 but only listened now and then.

OKLA is a pretty messed up state. Half the population is “Native American” and half the land is 'Indian Territory' – actually, “Indian Nations”. Most of them are throwbacks in time to 100 or 150 years ago. - few roads – decrepit housing – and not much to say other than 'they want them they way they were'. In most of them, there are still 'towns' that existed and are grandfathered in. Most of the other properties not in the town proper were bought out from non-Native Americans – and knocked down or 'incorporated' into the “Indian Nations”. What roads there are are usually OK – and of course, in some places, they built toll roads and sock it to you to cross the territory. If you stay on the interstates, you'll never notice that – but get off to the lesser run counties and you wonder why things are the way they are until you understand why. Some 'nations' have cleaned up with casino money – so there are some 'have' and 'have not's'.

In a couple hours, I make it over to Washington, OK – needed by a few – not all show up – and then to Nowata. (580 sq miles, pop 10,800 – density of 18 folks/sq mile). That's N9STL's last county WBOW for Bingo IV. Wowie – two LC WBOW in two days.



Nowata, OK – another LC WBOW for N9STL  
Of course, a Genuine Percy Pic

You won't be stopping on this county line. There's about 2 feet of grass shoulder – maybe - off the pavement then a 45 deg drop into the gully right at the county line. You can park 80 feet either side, but not at the line. Forgot trying to run the Washington/Nowata line. I was going to do an SSB run there but that didn't work out. I didn't think that line was 'runnable' from memory but it had been a long time since I was there.. A lot of the power lines up that way can also be noisy – but weren't too bad on this trip – other than Grant County which has lots of bad power lines.

Joyce needs just 4 for Mobile Diamond, but a 4000 mile trip to the north lands (UT, ID) is not in the cards right now! She might have to wait for spring or summer on those! Hi hi. Or a mobile that doesn't mind driving in winter conditions. OK weather was mild for this time of year. In the spring you have tornadoes. In the winter blizzards and bad ice storms. In the summer still thunderstorms and tornadoes. I'm not sure when the locusts hit. Hi hi.

OK...I reached the most Northeast point....now time to skedaddle to Pawnee for Kerry, then take a line south on 48 all the way to south OK and then home. With a few zigs and zags, I add in Seminole to the route with a 3 mile detour (what a twisty road that 99 is!) .

The bands are busy! At one point, mobiles are running on 14056.5, 14054.5 and 14052.5. Three mobiles on 20M at once – W0GXQ, N9JF in IA, N4CD, K4ZGB in

AL..... Busy, busy, busy! Even two mobiles at once on 17m a few times. W7FEN runs one or two. KA4RRU is off in VA – running some.. K4ZGB is putting out a dozen counties in AL. KW1DX is up in ME. CW is really hopping! There's mobiles on 20, 30 and 40 at the same time during some runs! I hit SSB every now and then. Not too much going on there but the friendly net is in session. There's a few not converted to CW yet – K4PLB, WA9DLB, W3CR, WD8IGK, W89WKD, etc. I was nice to hear Susan, WA6OCV on CW this trip. Darl, NA8W, Jack, K0MAF, and Dave, KS4BO came over to CW.

Highway 48 heads all the way south to Bryan County. There you catch 75 down toward Dallas and the N4CD QTH in Collin. Everything went well till 20 miles from home, then the highway and traffic, in a construction zone, came to a halt. Nothing moved. It was 'cattle shutes' and someone had an accident. Lost 30 minutes and eventually managed to get off at next exit and sneak around the jam slowly. Hit the driveway at 5:03pm after 982 miles in 2 days. Whew! That's a lot of driving for a short trip to OK. 37 transmitted counties along the way. Worst weather was 300 foot visibility in fog for 50 miles, otherwise, just cloudy and gloomy weather with no sun – but temps in the 50s on Sunday – and near 70 when I hit Texas.

I get home and leaves are blowing everywhere. The trees have turned totally and the streets and yards are full of fallen leaves. Folks will be busy raking them for the next few weeks (including me). Winter has arrived – well – almost - Dec 21-22 at the Winter Solstice – to be 'official'

This weekend is the 10M ARRL contest, so I'll try to chase a few stations and put some in the log.

Hope I hit something you needed. If not, who knows where N4CD will wind up next?

## King of the Road Award

MARAC offers a King of the Road Award. How many of 'yall' have even heard of it. Recently, Barry, K2MF, sent me the award for his working me in 250 counties. From the MARAC Awards page:

## **King of the Road Award**

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with the same mobile operator in multiple counties and States.

### **SPECIAL RULES:**

The applicant must make Valid Contacts with the same operator while that operator is in a Mobile Operation

If the operator has changed call signs, all of the different calls signs for the same operator may be used for this award.

The applicant may also order additional award certificates and plaques to be presented as a “thank you” to the mobile operator with whom the multiple contacts are made for each category of this award.

### **AWARD LEVELS:**

#### **King of the Road Multi - County Award**

A certificate is issued for making contacts with the same mobile operator in 100 different counties.

MARAC Red, Blue, and Gold seals are awarded for making contacts with the same mobile operator in 250, 500, and 1000 different counties respectively.

The MARAC Mobile Plaque is awarded for making contacts with the same mobile operator in 1500, 2000, 2500, or 3000 different counties.

A MARAC Special Plaque is awarded for making contacts with the same mobile in All USA Counties

#### **King of the Road Multi State Award**

A certificate is awarded for making Valid Contacts with the same mobile operator in fifteen (15) different states. The certificate is upgraded with MARAC Red, Blue, and Gold seals are awarded for making Valid Contacts with the same mobile in 25, 35, or 45 different states.

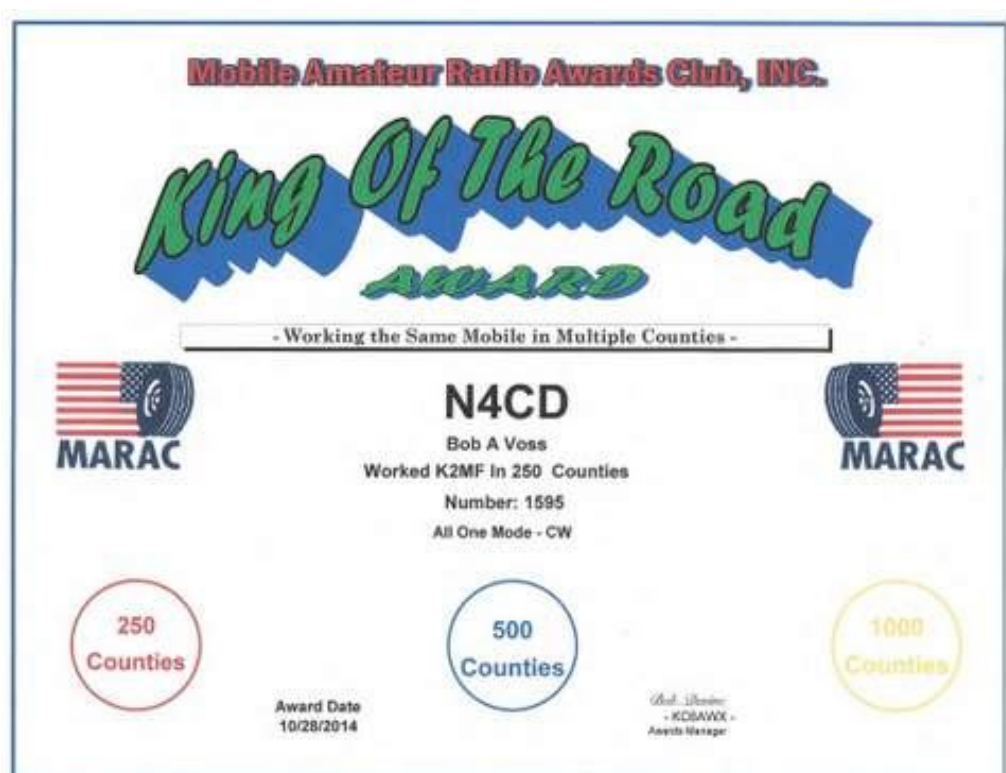
The MARAC Mobile Plaque is awarded for making contacts with the same mobile in 48 or more States

### King of the Road (State) Award

A certificate is awarded for making contacts with the same mobile in all counties of a single State. A separate certificate is available for each State.

#### APPLICATION AND FEES:

Standard application, logs, and fees.



King of the Road – Multi county  
250 Counties by K2MF

# W0GXQ Trip Report

## W0GXQ North Dakota Trip

There was to be a break in the weather (mild temperatures) near the end of the second week in December, and I was getting a case of cabin fever. My last trip was the latter part of September. I tracked the MN/ND weather on my planned route for ten days, and it seemed to be holding steady with daytime temps ranging from the mid thirties to the lower forties. In the past I have had problems with wind in North Dakota, but there was nothing in the forecast that concerned me. There was a lot of humidity which, in the past, had given me some bad ice build-up on the Hustler antenna system. This trip, I followed some advice on the K3IMC Forum which was to coat the antenna with PAM. I had no ice at all, however, the temps were a little higher than on prior trips.

Thinking that I would not be taking another mobile trip until the Michigan Mini next April, I had removed the IC-7000 and the mounting hardware for the rear-mounted Hi-Q 4/80 screwdriver antenna the last week in November. That is when they start using the corrosive treatment on the roads in northern Minnesota. Although the base of my antenna is about 20 inches off the road surface, the corrosion to the mount hardware is still a problem.

I did not have the capability for 80m this trip as the Hi-Q was not mounted. Since I was on the road very early and Thursday (Dec 11<sup>th</sup>), on very late in the evening, I probably should have had it with me. A dozen or more folks had LC needs in ND, so I left Hubbard at 1145z which was much too early for any serious county hunting; one CH'er telling me his LC in Clearwater would have to wait.

The roads were not too bad (frost covered), until I got into Polk MN, and then it was patches of black ice. By the time I reached the western part of Grand Forks, it was very icy. While in Benson county around 1530z, I pulled over for a highway patrol vehicle coming up very fast behind me, and as I was getting back onto the highway, I hit the ice and lost control and spun around and down into the ditch, stopping with the rear of the Blazer at the edge of a field. There was very little snow, so the four wheel drive got me

back onto the highway. Checked everything out, and found no signs of damage to the vehicle or the Hustler antenna. The Kevlar guy lines did their job.



Ramsey ND - W0GXQ

After that incident, it was very slow going until I got beyond Devils Lake in Ramsey County, when the sun finally broke through and all was well. This and other minor reasons, was why some of you missed needed counties because propagation was not good by the time I got there. Because of the bumper to bumper truck traffic in western North Dakota, the travel was slow. I am not anxious to run counties out that way again anytime soon! As a side note, gas prices (87 octane) were \$2.70 around the oil fields!

The bands were pretty good, especially 17m and up where I made nearly 50% of my contacts. Fifteen, twelve and ten meters accounted for 34% of the total contacts. The odometer read just at 1,100 miles when I got back to Hubbard. Contacts made – 1,331.

For the Historian's county sign database, there were 13 needs in ND that I would be running. I managed to snap nine, but only five turned out for some unknown reason. Anyway, Gary has some new ones to work with.

I found that at the start of the runs when it's pile-up time, it is better to offset your transmit frequency anywhere from 50 to 150 Hz. It is so much easier for the mobile to separate the signals. It is also a good way to beat the strong stations, who many times cancel each other out. When you hear a mobile hesitate during their runs, the majority of the time it is because he/she cannot pick out a call sign. That is the time to throw in your call again. There are a handful of operators that do this very well.

While in Ward county, I stopped and met up with Joe, N7IV and another Jerry, (N0GC), both from the Minot area. After Joe treated us to lunch, I headed up the road to run the C/L of Ward and Renville; and Joe drove on up to Mountrail which was my NTL county for my sixth star and CW-VI.

If I don't get Dunn by next Spring, WQ7A will do the honors on his way to the Michigan Mini. I am looking forward to seeing a lot of you there.

## CW Totals to KK7X – NOW!

Now is the time to send in your year end totals for cw to Dennis, KK7X. Each year he compiles the updated statistics as to who stands where in completing the next time around on CW.

The County Hunter News usually publishes this in the February issue each year.

Please send in your cw totals NOW to Dennis! Don't delay or you'll be left out.

Here's the link to the form. Note whether it is first time, second, etc. Like "2560 3rd"

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1WqRB8x0C73BXx-j4Z9SBSwYgxigMLtBLWBV8jj59bGI/viewform?c=0&w=1>

or to his email adr: Dennis at KK7X.us

## ARRL 10M Contest

The band was open. From the N4CD QTH in TX, you could hear the European stations and work many of them with a simple antenna and low power. Several dozen New England stations were loud down this way. Later in the day, AK and HI came in with KL2R in the 4<sup>th</sup>, KL7KY, WL7E in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and maybe others on. HI was also in there for those wishing to work them. I heard most of the states – some very weakly and no hope of working them. Had fun but didn't catch any new ones.

From looking at the contest results, many DX stations had thousands of contacts. Many US contest stations were at or over 1000 QSOs, and run of the mill stations had hundreds of QSOs.

Quite a few county hunters participated including N2OCW, N4PN, WA4PGM, NO5W, N6MU, WQ7A, KC3X, AA8R, KN4Y and others.

From the 3830 reflector.

**N4PN – GA – 2321 QSOs**

IT JUST AIN'T NO BETTER THAN THIS ONE...CONDX REALLY GREAT..  
PLENTY OF ACTIVITY THE WHOLE WEEKEND..  
GLAD I WENT MIXED, IT REALLY KEPT THE CALLS COMING..  
THANKS TO ALL WHO MADE IT OUT..  
BEST WISHES FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON..  
WAS ABLE TO RUN EUROPE FOR HOURS ON END...

73, PAUL, N4PN

**WA4PGM - VA - 361 QSO**

Hard to stay on the radio with springtime temps!

### **KN4Y - FL 341 CW QSO**

Planned to operate lots of hours then reality set in. Took several hours for the shack to warm up for comfortable operating. The radio club dinner meeting was Friday night, Saturday was great, tried running but rates too high for my slow brain. Sunday after church was great until the kids showed up to eat. Finally the last two hours I found a quiet spot and ran and had a ball. Ten meters was in great shape both days. As a novice 40 years ago ten meters was my first band for WAS. We do not send hot weather North, why do they send cold weather South?

### **KO7X with KD7RQU - WY – 884 QSO – cw and ssb**

Brian came out on Saturday and enjoyed some excellent conditions. I mostly ran CW on Sunday. I heard several Wyoming stations but only worked one on CW and two on SSB. Missed a few states too so no WAS this year.

### **NO5W mobile in LA - 120 cw QSO**

I haven't had much opportunity to operate the mobile on 10m recently so my main objective was to use the ARRL 10m as a test to see how it would perform. Was not able to get much going in Run mode so it was almost all S&P but was pleased with the results in the limited time available. Thanks to all for the Qs and for pulling my mobile signal through the QRM.

## Awards

USA-CW #138	Bill, K0DEQ	11.17.14,
USA-CA 3rd Time #245	Lloyd, NX4W	11.30.14,
8th Time #16	Joyce, N9STL	12/11/2014
Bingo V #6	Joyce, N9STL	12.12.14,
USA-PA "W" Prefix #13	Gene, K5GE	12.1.14

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### Operating Events

Other than Straight Key Night – Jan 1 – not much going on but other types of contests and special events where you can snag some counties.

Did you send in your CW totals to KK7X?

Happy New Year, Y'all!

