

County Hunter News

May 1, 2011
Volume 7, Issue 5

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

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

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

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

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

You can see live spots of county hunter activity at ch.W6RK.com

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

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

De N4CD (email: telegraphy@verizon.net)

Notes from the Editor

1) April has been an interesting month. The sunspot number got up to 120 with the flux over 150 for a while. Then it drops back. We are seeing more spots for 15m in the state QSO parties and the DX is coming in on 15, 12, and 10M at times. It's up and down – and there have been many days of high A index to add into that.

Mobile activity is picking up a bit with the warmer weather, but it's still snowing in northern locales like MN, MI, ID, MT, IL, NE, SD and in the high mountains elsewhere.

The spring storm weather has started with a vengeance. . The 50 mph gusty steady wind in Dallas got 8 feet of the back fence at the N4CD QTH – post had rotten out and broke off. Fence fell into the alley and needed emergency repairs. Just west of here major wildfires are burning in a dozen TX counties – many roads are closed. Hundreds of houses lost to the fires. A million acres burned and most of west TX still dry as a bone.

Hollis, KC3X, in Snow Hill, NC, had major storm damage at this QTH – a tornado wiped out his house and garage and antennas. Nothing left! Watch the weather as you make your trips. There were 200 tornadoes in NC alone in that event.

There were many good QSO parties this month and we report on them individually. MI, GA, WI, MT, NM, SD – it was a good month for chasing mobiles.

Band conditions improve. In some of the state QSO parties, over 300 contacts were made by some on 15M. 10M has been pretty dead other than some occasional DX, but little in the way of counties. The annual E-Skip season should hopefully provide some excitement for county hunting on six and ten meters.

2) AI5P Hawaii Report

For those interested in numbers - Condx not the best but enjoyed the trip and the contacts:

Hawaii County: Totals-45 (20cw/24; 20ssb/11; 17cw/6; 17ssb/4)

Maui/Kalawo: Totals- 125 (40cw/16; 30cw/19; 20cw/27; 20ssb/28, 17cw/33; 17ssb/2)

Kauai - Totals- 121 (40ssb/1; 40cw/15; 30cw/10; 20cw/30, 20ssb 29; 17cw/31, 17ssb/5)

Honolulu - Totals - 42 (40cw/3, 30cw/8, 20cw/11; 20ssb/8, 17cw/9, 17ssb/3)

Total Mobile contacts: 333 Some CHers worked me in Hawaii County /Portable as well. 73, Rick AI5P

3) Mobile Activity in April

Starting at the beginning of the month..

Jerry, W0GXQ was down in IA on a trip there and headed back afterwards.

Dick, NG9L, was down in MS and put out more.

Bill, WG9A, was out mobile in IL.

Bill, K2HVN was in NC then spotted on down to FL.

Lowell, KB0BA and Sandra, N0XYL were mobile in MO. Later they would head to IA and KS and run all over the state.

W9MSE, Jeff, was in OH...and would head back to WI. Then he'd make a trip over to MN and back

Bob, K7TM was out on several trips in WA and ID

KA1JRP and KA1QBC were spotted in a few counties in FL.

Rick, AI5P ran all the HI islands. Then went off to play DX.

KB6HWD was spotted in many TX counties

Jim, N9JF, was all over – west, east, south – on multiple trips. He ran counties in the MO QSO

Party...then was up in MI for that QSO Party. You never knew where he would wind up next.

Mike, W0MU ran a few in MT/CO. He was in the MT QSO Party fixed.

Dick, W3DQT put out a few in MD.

Jimmy, K4FH was on from NC and other states.

Dan, AA0TT, big rig, was all over putting out counties on SSB.

Bill, KM1C ran a bunch in NC. Then spotted in NJ and PA.

Ron, KB6UF, made a few trips in LA, then headed north to ME through MS, TN, KY, IN, OH, PA, NY, MA and ME. He'll run more ME later in May.

K0ARS, Jim, spotted on in MI and MO.

Mike, KA4RRU was out on several trips.

Jim, N4JT spotted in VA on a trip.

Scott, K4SL spotted in WV headed into OH and points west.

Ed, K8ZZ, was spotted out in MI.

Sterling, WA7JHQ noted out mobile in NM, CO

Ray, AB4YZ headed up to WV and OH putting out some mobile diamond counties.

Paul, WD9EJK, put out counties in IL, and over into IA.

Jack, KC7YE was out and about mobile in WA state.

AA8R, Randy was out in IL

C.W., WA1IEE was out in MA and ME putting them out on CW.

Kent, KL1V ran in ID, NV into CA then back.

Bob, KC6AWX took a trip over to Clark County, Nevada.

Giles, VE2MAM spotted mobile in VT.

Brian, K7RE was mobile in SD

Ralph, WA4HXG spotted in a few.

Joe, N5UZW, ran over to TN and put out everything there.

Gene, K5GE, took a quick trip to the TX panhandle, then over to OK running the NW quadrant, and back home.

Mark, W9OP, spotted on cw in MS.

Dave, KW1DX headed south through MA, NY, PA running on SSB.

Jeffrey, AF3X, headed west from TN on a long, long planned trip. Stuck to 20M most of the time. At the end of the month, he's off to HI. Then AK in May.

Larry, W7FEN, started on a cross country trip headed to GA.

Peak Oil News

I. Mexico Fri Mar 25, 2011 8:31pm GMT

* Mexico's oil production drops from eight-month high

* Oil exports fall 14.5 pct from month earlier (Recasts, adds details, background)

MEXICO CITY, March 25 (Reuters) - Mexican oil production edged down 1.1 percent from an eight-month high hit in January to reach 2.556 million barrels per day in February, state oil monopoly Pemex said on Friday.

Pemex pumped 2.584 million bpd in January of this year.

Oil exports also fell in February to 1.234 million bpd, 14.4 percent less than a month earlier, Pemex [PEMX.UL] said.

Mexican oil production fell by nearly a quarter from its 2004 peak to late 2009, raising the specter that the country, a top crude supplier to the United States, could become a net oil importer before 2020.

Oil taxes pay for more than a third of Mexico's federal budget and two credit rating agencies cut the country's debt rating in late 2009 due to Pemex's output problems.

Successive governments have urged Congress to shift some of the tax burden onto the broader economy but political will has been lacking.

Pemex has succeeded in stabilizing output from its aging offshore fields since late 2009, but analysts remain concerned over the long-term health of the industry due to a lack of major new discoveries and a mounting debt and pension burden. (Reporting by Mica Rosenberg; Editing by Marguerita Choy)

KMZ(KuMaloobZap)is about one-third of Mexico's output. It is getting nitrogen injections just like Cantarel before it--very similar reservoir about one third as large as Cantarel. How long can it stay on peak production? Once it comes off peak it will be like Cantarel--4 years from peak to 25% of peak. So Mexico will quickly lose another 600k b/d over a 4 year period, probably beginning next year or 2013 at the latest.

II Saudi Arabia

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, has unexpectedly called on top oilfield service companies to help quickly boost the country's oil rig count by 30 percent to expand production capacity, Simmons & Co analyst Bill Herbert said Monday.

Saudi state-run oil giant Aramco met with leading oil service companies, including Halliburton, over the weekend to announce ambitious plans to increase its rig count, Herbert wrote in a research note.

It was not immediately clear whether Saudi Arabia was seeking more rigs to increase its idle spare production capacity beyond an estimated 3 million barrels per day currently, or simply ensure it can maintain the extra pumping power to meet any disruptions in international oil markets.

"Saudi Arabia has been expected to tread water on its production capacity, so this is unexpected," Herbert said from Houston in a phone interview with Reuters.

"The risk premium in the Middle East has risen. Also, with Libyan production falling, Saudi Arabia may feel it has to be ready for higher production capacity."

Aramco has stepped up production over the last several weeks to make up for a loss in Libyan output, but the Kingdom hasn't released any plans to expand its overall capacity since completing a \$100 billion plan to increase capacity by 3 million bpd to a "sustainable" 12 million bpd last year.

Herbert said Aramco wants to see the Saudi oil rig count soar to 118 from a current level around 92, while it's "dusting off" a slow-going, \$16 billion, 900,000-bpd oil project known as Manifa.

The rig count increase is imminent, and expected to "accelerate" in the second half of 2011 and into 2012, Herbert wrote.

Later, Halliburton said in a press release that it plans to accelerate activity at Manifa, a project to tap massive offshore heavy crude reserves, following discussions with Saudi Arabia. In 2008, Halliburton was awarded a major contract to provide drilling and associated work at 93 Manifa wells off northeast Saudi Arabia.

Herbert called the Saudi plans "manifestly positive" for oil service companies. Halliburton shares soared 4 percent to \$47.90 on the New York Stock Exchange, after touching a 52-week high. Shares in Schlumberger also rose more than 4 percent, while Baker Hughes rose 3.8 percent.

The country, OPEC's top producer, controls more than a fifth of world oil reserves.

Saudi Arabia is currently believed to be pumping more than 9 million bpd of crude after lifting output amid a slowdown in Libya's oil exports which have been crimped by a bloody conflict between rebels and the regime of Muammar Gaddafi.

Herbert said Saudi Arabia may be moving to boost spare capacity as it comes closer to reaching its operational capacity, or as it girds against the risk of further political unrest across the Middle East that could curtail production elsewhere.

Read more:

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/Saudi+Arabia+prepares+massive+boost/4517514/story.html#ixzz1HwaaES7o>

III Venezuela

Venezuela Oil Exports Declined 16 Per Cent In February

Caracas (Reuters) - Venezuela's oil exports declined 16 per cent to 2.17 million bbls per day in February compared with January, the OPEC member's Energy Ministry said in a statement on Tuesday.

The data, certified by an independent auditor, showed that South America's biggest oil producer also imported almost 50,000 bbls per day of crude and oil products during the same period. Venezuela has suffered a number of accidents and planned maintenance stoppages across its refinery network in recent months, meaning that the country has had to import some oil, mostly

petroleum products, to feed local demand.

Energy Minister **Rafael Ramirez** said on Sunday Venezuela aimed to boost overall oil production by two-thirds to 4.5 million or five million bbls a day over the next three years.

President **Hugo Chavez's** government said this month oil production had fallen last year to its lowest level since a months-long strike froze output in 2002.

Venezuela sits on some of the largest oil reserves in the world. But several factors, including lingering **OPEC** output cuts, bad weather and low investment by state oil company **PDVSA** have contributed to falling production in the past two years.

A wave of expropriations also has crimped production, with PDVSA struggling to take on field and drilling services that were previously carried out by private companies.

Oil sales provide 95 per cent of the nation's export revenue, so declining output is a headache for Chavez, who uses the funds to finance social programs and nationalizations, and is expected to ramp up spending ahead of presidential elections in 2012.

His socialist administration is pushing foreign energy company partners to boost production at joint-venture projects, while also putting its hopes in ambitious new developments to tap the nation's vast Orinoco extra heavy crude belt.

IV The United Kingdom

U.K. Oil Output Fell 7.7 Per Cent In 2010

London (Reuters) - Britain's oil production fell to 1.26 million bbls a day in 2010, down 7.7 per cent from 2009, extending a decade-long decline, according to U.K. government statistics published Thursday.

Total production of crude oil and natural gas liquids was 461.58 million bbls last year, with net oil imports of 90.90 million bbls, while Britain's aviation fuel use fell as planes were grounded by natural hazards.

"Deliveries of aviation turbine fuel in 2010 were three per cent lower than in 2009, with snow and volcanic ash factors for lower use," the government said of an ash cloud that grounded flights in April and of snowbound runways in December.

Britain was a net exporter of 2.1 million tonnes of petroleum products in 2010, despite a 2.6 per cent fall in refinery throughput, while demand for oil products fell 0.5 per cent year on year to 71.5 million tonnes.

U.K. oil and gas output has declined since 1999 and the government expects it to fall more than a quarter from 2009 to 2015 unless new reserves -- which some estimates put at over 20 billion bbls of oil equivalent -- can revive production.

Producers have warned that Britain's surprise tax increase on oil and gas profits, announced on

March 23, could harm investments in new fields needed to slow the decline.

Britain's natural gas production also continued to fall, down 4.3 per cent to the equivalent of 664 terawatt hours (TWh) last year, while net gas imports rose 29.6 per cent to 413 TWh.

Total gas demand rose 8.3 per cent to 1,090 TWh, driven by a 15-per cent increase in domestic consumption -- with one of the coldest starts and finishes to the year on record driving up heating demand, while Britain's power generation sector burnt 4.3 per cent more gas than it did in 2009.

"Liquefied natural gas imports accounted for about a third of total imports. The bulk of these LNG imports came from Qatar," the government said.

Britain has become one of the world's biggest importers of LNG in the last year thanks to new import terminal capacity."

VI West Texas

Texas rose to greatness on the shoulders of pioneers who refused to surrender to the adversities man or nature presented. In memory last week of our Texian victory at San Jacinto, I was reminded of Sam Houston's proverb: "Texas has yet to learn submission to any oppression, come from what source it may."

Let us remember those words 175 years later as today's pioneers of the Permian Basin's oil and gas industries face off against a federal proposal threatening to shut down production for two to five years.

Perhaps armed with more political motivation than scientific evidence, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing listing the "**Dunes Sagebrush Lizard**" or sand dune lizard under the Endangered Species Act. Representatives from the agency will hold a public hearing on the issue Wednesday.

Gasoline costs \$4 a gallon down the street and around the nation. Offshore oil production in American waters has been curtailed. And the economic recession remains uncontained. **Why would the federal government seek to shut down oil production in America's richest source of domestic energy, the Permian Basin?**

For the sake of a roughly 2.7-inch lizard, the federal government says.

The sand dune lizard doesn't present a threat unless you're an ant, small beetle, cricket or anything else it might set sights on when hungry. Oil and gas producers mean no harm to the lizard, either, and are renowned as an industry mindful of God's gifts found in the environment. The sand dune lizard lives among brushy plants most commonly found in desert conditions in the Permian Basin, including Andrews and Gaines counties, our state's top two oil-producing counties.

However, the so-called science on which the federal government bases its “guilty until proven innocent” verdict against the energy industry is as dusty as the West Texas desert in which it thrives. Known distributions of the sand dune lizard today are based on data from the 1960s and a handful of recent very small sample studies. According to the federal proposal, much of the lizard’s habitat in Texas is found on private lands, which have yet to be properly surveyed. As well, the public lands surveys are imprecise and incomplete.

The oil industry sustains eight million jobs in Texas and contributes billions of dollars to local and state budgets .

* * * * *

Obama hates Texas since it didn't vote for him, and he hates capitalism and profit making companies. Even more so ones in 'right to work' states without powerful unions that contribute billions to democratic candidates.

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Another insane ruling from the Obama administration;

Shell Oil Company has announced it must scrap efforts to drill for oil this summer in the Arctic Ocean off the northern coast of Alaska. The decision comes following a ruling by the EPA’s Environmental Appeals Board to withhold critical air permits. The move has angered some in Congress and triggered a flurry of legislation aimed at stripping the EPA of its oil drilling oversight.

Shell has spent five years and nearly \$4 billion dollars on plans to explore for oil in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas. The leases alone cost \$2.2 billion. Shell Vice President Pete Slaiby says obtaining similar air permits for a drilling operation in the Gulf of Mexico would take about 45 days. He’s especially frustrated over the appeal board’s suggestion that the Arctic drill would somehow be hazardous for the people who live in the area. “We think the issues were really not major,” Slaiby said, “and clearly not impactful for the communities we work in.”

* * * *

The EPA denied permits because Shell did not consider the 'emissions' from ONE ice breaker that would make 1 or 2 trips a YEAR . A village 70 miles away , with 70 residents, might be 'seriously impacted' by the 'emissions' from this one ice breaker! Permit denied!

You got to be taking some real strong drugs to come up with the rulings of the Obama anti-energy , anti-business, anti-consumer stance. The Obama energy policy is NO NO NO NO

NO. No drilling. NO exploration. No oil for you from American lands. Simple.

So, with major producers now producing less, with Libya off line, with Saudi having given over 132 billion, repeat, billion in handouts to its citizens to quell any uprisings, the cost of oil is going to stay high. Gas is up to \$4/gal in most places (or darn near it). There is not much good news from the oil patch. There is lots of bad news. Obama is doing all he can to make the problem worse.

On the Road with N4CD I

April is hamfest time in Bell County Texas. There's a semi-annual gigantic flea market there Spring and Fall each year. Well, it's usually gigantic but weather can make a big difference. The weather was expected to be good this spring.

I packed up the car and left Friday April 1 about noon time to head down I-35 for about 3 hours to get to Temple, Texas. Other than the normal horrible traffic in downtown Dallas, it went quickly and I ran the counties going down on CW. There were a few other mobiles out running, so I had to squeeze in on SSB. Dick, NG9L was in KY heading back home. KB6HWD was in TX. Lowell, KB0BA and Sandra, N0XYL, were running around in NE putting them out. I did most of counties on cw heading on down.

The weather was real nice with temps in the 80s. Band conditions didn't seem to well. I probably should have done some work on my antenna to tilt it to 54.4 degrees, the magic number for optimal coupling for 'skip' propagation, but I didn't have the time to come up with a new mount just for April 1. I could have used the noise reduction as signals were weak. (see April 1st issue of county hunter news for the Minimally Coupled Tilted Antenna). I just had to do it the 'old fashioned way'. Tomorrow would be another day and regular antennas work just fine.

I checked into the Motel 6 in Temple (\$34), then headed over to the Bell County Exposition grounds. The hamfest is held in one of the buildings – about 400 feet by 400 feet in size where folks can drive in, unload their stuff, and either park or take their cars back outside. That gets

lots of boat anchors out of hiding since it is easy to haul it right into the flea market. There's also an outside flea market – but you face the uncertainties of the weather gods. Some years it's rained out. Other years it's 95 degrees and roasting. You never know! At any rate, it's all over by 10am and the steep discounts begin. Many folks don't want to haul the stuff home again.

Sometimes I see a few other county hunters there. Slim pickings this year. It seems the county hunter population is not necessarily hamfest going. Not many make the trek. There is nothing going on other than the flea market and informal get togethers. Ten years ago, when gas was cheap, folks would drive motor homes there and Friday night there would be 30 or 40 of them, a big music picking session, tall tale telling – that went on for hours and hours. Now, only a few motor homes make the trip at \$3.50 gas. By 8:30 at night, everyone has retired to motel rooms or to their air conditioned motor homes.

The hamfest is partly going on Friday – so I spent about 2 hours looking around. The temperature was over 90 – one could get a sunburn being out in that sun. The building is 'flow through ventilation' but it was comfy inside. I thought about the snow that had just fallen along the east coast, and the 50s at best in the Pacific Northwest. Up north, there's still snow on the ground in many places. There are some nice times in TX before the summer heat moves in.

I bought some 1960s vintage CQ Magazines for a few bucks, and a National Vernier tuning dial (\$7), but didn't find other things to buy. After a few hours, I headed back to the motel, stopping at the Cracker Barrel for a country ham dinner. That evening I read through the half dozen CQ Magazines from the 1960s.

One issue caught my eye -

November issue 1961 – CQ Magazine, page 90, article by Clif Evans, K6BX:

“Big Wheels move slowly! The 10,000 copies of the USA-CA Record Books originally promised for July delivery, but plagued by repeated printer delays, finally arrived at CQ's doorsteps on September 13th. Three Cheers. “

The article then went on to describe the system of awarding the #1 USA-CA certificate – it was determined by postmark, with K2PFC beating all the others to the post office. In Nov, 1961, there were 'rumors' of folks approaching 1000 counties confirmed.

From the article:

“ You may have noted that we do not call the USA-CA just an award. USA-CA was purposely designed to encompass, support and enhance literally hundreds of other U.S Awards, therefore, rather than being just an award it is really a mammoth program. Regardless of what U.S. Awards you may be interested in or working for, you are automatically building up credits toward USA-CA. Conversely, while working for USA-CA, one likely is simultaneously

qualifying for scores of other U.S awards.

These USA-CA advantages also held true in connection with all contests, QSO Parties and Field Days by whomever sponsored. “

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True then, and true now. We're definitely tied in with the State QSO Parties and other awards by MARAC and other groups.

From the article:

“As you know, one of the goals of the USA-CAis that , eventually, each of the 50 US states will have its own independently sponsored all-county award. “

It's interesting to read the original article describing the hectic start. If you are interested in the story of the creation of the USA-CA award, check out the detailed article in January 2007 issue of the County Hunter News.

Nearly all the states now have QSO parties – either separately or as regional ones like the W1 and W7 parties.

Saturday morning I got up early at 5:40 and was at the Denny's next door at 6am for their Value Slam (two pancakes, two eggs, two slices of bacon) plus AARP coffee (\$5.40). After 30 minutes, I returned to the room, packed up and headed over to the hamfest again. It was a cool 60 degrees with 100% humidity and fog in the low spots. I had to slow down a few times on the way. The hamfest starts at 7am inside. I looked around for 2 hours but only bought a handful of stuff for \$2.

The boatanchors were out in force. You could buy dozens of Healthkits from DX-35s, DX-40s to SB-102s and all sorts of accessories. Nice SB-104, half a dozen other receivers from the AR-2 and AR-3 basic receivers of the 50s to the better ones were there. Several Meissner Signal Shifters (VFO/Exciter) were there.



Alda 103 Transceiver

This rig covered 80/40/20 meters with 'SSB and CW' – I don't think there was a cw filter. You could buy an optional noise blanker module and crystal calibrator. 100W solid state – vintage 1970s.



Meissner Signal Shifter Transmitter (low power)

Here's a little video of a Signal Shifter in operation. It was a 6-8 watt transmitter with built in VFO, external power supply required. Made in 1940s, early 50s.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLAm2UCoAtU>



TenTec Hamstick Type Antennas

I didn't know that Ten Tec sold mobile/portable antennas way back when – hamstick type antennas for mobile use – 20/40/80M for \$30. I passed. They were not flexible so I'm not sure they'd be too great mobile unless you mounted them on a spring – just in case you hit something. Otherwise, you'd likely break the mount or cause body damage. Maybe that is why they weren't too popular.

A few Multi-Elmac old mobile units were there. A weird Trio transceiver – pre Kenwood in bad shape was for sale. There must have been 25 Hallicrafters receivers there, a Hallicrafters transmitter or two, half a dozen National receivers and a transmitter or two, probably 2 dozen linears from SB-200s to P&H to Nationals, and all sorts of other accessories from station monitors to wattmeters, SWR meters, etc. There were Johnson rigs, an Alda 103, lots of ICOM and Yaesu HF stuff, and a few things I've never seen before. I didn't bring any of them home! Some nice Knight Kits were for sale – the R100A receiver (a pair in mint condition), lots of power meters. Probably 10 mint looking Collins radios, plus some AM KW stations. You could buy war surplus ARC-5s of all types.



Globe King 500 transmitter

The Globe King by WRL was a 500w input transmitter – key down. Also had a modulator deck, or could be used on RTTY, or as an SSB linear amp. Heavy!



Trio Multi-bander Transmitter

This was a 'before Kenwood' transmitter – the unit for sale had no tubes, no cabinet, and no documentation. It would have been a major project likely to resurrect it. Interesting, but I don't know if anyone bought it.

One trailer must have had 300 old two way radios from the 50s and 60s and 70s. GE Mastr Pros by the dozens, a hundred Motorola tube radios, cables, power supplies, test sets, and mobile heads. It was from an estate and probably weighed a few tons all together. An amazing pile of stuff it was. It was going cheap. Real cheap. The more you carried away the cheaper it got. After a couple of hours of both inside and outside flea market, some yakking with folks about various things – I headed out.

From the K3IMC needs page – well, there just weren't too many needs in that part of the state. Either folks needed 20 or 30 or 50, and didn't post them, or it was one way over this way and one way down there or up there.

I had two counties down that way I had missed for the Mobile Diamond. Likely K5GE had ran them but I missed them – Llano and Mason. I could hit them and fill in that area for Mobile Diamond. It took about 2 hours plus to get over that way – southwest from the hamfest. It was down through Williamson to Burnett. Conditions seemed horrible with not many contacts on 20M. 17M was worse! The DX was weak but got stronger as the day went on and the bands seemed to recover a bit. 17M peaked around noon-1pm, then it too dropped off.

After 2 hours the sign for Llano came up and I ran it. Another 40 miles later I hit the county line of Mason/Llano. Terry, WQ7A, Scottie, N4AAT, Hollis, KC3X, Gene, K5GE, and Joe N5UZW were around at times to give me an MP contact, although these two were the only new ones for me. Bob, N8KIE, is back in MI and once again hunting the counties for MD.

Other folks needed the counties for this or that, but TX has been pretty well run lately after the mini in Feb. After that C/L, it was north going by the GPS through Hamilton. There I took a 3 mile detour to get to Bosque/Hamilton on route 6, then north again to Erath, then Somervell. I followed the GPS which took me across Rt 67 through Johnson to Ellis, then onto I 35 into Dallas. The last 30 miles is all 8 lane highways and lots of traffic so I normally turn down the

HF radio, turn on some bluegrass or other music, and watch out for the hectic hurried city drivers.

There's some digital crud that now shows up on 17M cw. It looks like someone is trying to use our frequency for some new digital mode. Dang. 20M CW seemed to have some EU contest and I heard DX stations calling someone with contest exchanges at times. 40M SSB was bad from that far south in TX. Range at mid-day is getting shorter. 40M is not getting better with sunspots. It was good in the morning but really died in the afternoon.

Conditions didn't seem all that good with many areas 'weak' all day. The DX was in with DK5AI, DL3IAC, PA3ARM, OK2EC, OK1APV, OE5KE, AI5P/m in Kauai, HI in the log. Not much going on on CW otherwise other than a handful of regulars like WE7G, WB2ABD, AB7RW, W4SIG, NN9K, K0DEQ, and a few others. On SSB, NG9L, KB0BA/N0XYL, KB6HWD, and one or two others were running. I checked on 20M SSB to see if conditions seemed to be better there. Many times I heard a mobile trying to get heard by NC on 20M, but after a few tries, likely gave up and went back to 40M SSB. Didn't get heard, and half the regulars listening aren't 'allowed' to tell the net control station there is a mobile calling. Oh well. Conditions didn't sound much better on 20M SSB than CW. A few more people hang out there, but there were lots of weak signals.

I made it home by 5pm – stopping for gas just before the house. 365 miles, 11.2 gallons, \$39.48 in gas for just Saturday. Not even 200 contacts in the log, so contact wise, hardly worth burning the gas. Probably I just need to go to rarer counties. It was in the 80s most of the way home, and it was a good change of pace from not doing much mobiling in March. It looks like the Malibu, now 2 years old, is going to need new tires soon before a long summer of big trips. Oh well. Lots of things coming up like Dayton, back to NY in July, the National and who knows what else?

Global Warming Scam Hype

In 2005, the United Nations Environment Programme predicted that climate change would create 50 million climate refugees by 2010. These people, it was said, would flee a range of disasters including sea level rise, increases in the numbers and severity of hurricanes, and disruption to food production.

Last week a number of news media carried the story and all of a sudden the story disappeared from the UN website - No apologies, no explanation, they just tried to hide it.

Attempting to reach the website you get a "Page not found (error 404)."

<http://maps.grida.no/go/graphic/fifty-million-climate-refuge...>

Only one small problem there UN people, a little annoyance called Google cache, which has that page archived here.

<http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:5OWrvQs...>

This proves once again that global warming is based on lies - lies that are collapsing at an accelerated pace.

Some Stuff from Ebay

In the past month, a few interesting things went by. Well, actually lots, but here's some of the rarer things. Out of the UK came this 1970s vintage solid state regen unit – a Codar. It had an FET front end, vernier tuning, and came factory wired.



It's a six transistor regen that covers 540 KHz to 30Mhz with plug in coils in the back.



Apparently a few folks wanted it as it sold for \$187, plus shipping. Shipping to the USA would have been \$54 incidentally. Ouch!

Here's something you don't see every day from the past.... Morrow Twins – 1950s.



Morrow MBR-5 Receiver



Morrow MBR -560 Transmitter

More pictures of the Morrow Equipment, including the insides at

<http://s810.photobucket.com/albums/zz29/wa9wfa/Morrow%20MBR-5%20and%20MB-560/>

Morrow was a West Coast outfit – not many made it back east. It's pretty rare stuff from the early days of mobiling and county hunting. These covered 80-40-20-15 and 10 meters. 60W input AM with plate modulation. You could use your own dynamotor for HV when mobile. They offered a home a/c power supply.

Here's a goodie from the 1940s



Rare Millen 90700 Vari-Arm VFO circa 1945

The Millen Variarm Electron-Coupled Oscillator made its appearance in the mid-40's. It is the commercial version of a unit presented in the January 1941 QST (cover article) designed by Henry Rice W9YZH. The 90700 was designed to operate on the amateur 160, 80 and 40 meter bands. Two wiring flavors were offered, that could be changed by the user, with the 90700 wired for 80 and 40 meters and the 90701 for 160 and 40 meters.

The Variarm was a stable transformerless oscillator capable of roughly 2 watts RF output. It uses a 6K7 oscillator and a 25L6 buffer. No power line transformer is used, so the above tubes along with a 25Z5 rectifier have their filaments wired in series across the AC input power line. The name variarm comes from the fine frequency tuning arm that is attached to the side of the 6K7 oscillator box.

Here's something that shows up every now and then – a Thames and Kosmos Radio Ace “Kit”. The only kit part of this is plug in the battery and the coil.



It's a one tube regen kit with 'space charge' design so it runs off 12v dc, and has a solid state audio amp. It also comes with Wall Wart. I'm not sure if in current production.

Missouri QSO Party

There were a few mobiles out giving out the counties. N9JF ran across the upper part of MO starting in the east headed west. KC0M ran half a dozen from his mobile. N0AX ran half a dozen mobile. K0LG was out in a few. NE0S set up portable on a county line. There were at least a dozen fixed stations to chase, so there was opportunity for 25 or 30 multipliers.

from the 3830 reflector:

N0AX/mobile

“Conditions seemed quite good although I didn't hear much activity on 15 and 20 - except for my first QSO; 3B8MM on an otherwise dead 15 meters! I spent the rest of Saturday driving around through northeastern MO counties I hadn't visited before - sorry I didn't quite make it to Clark! Decided to pull the plug about 10 PM and headed home. Sunday was dig in the garden day :-). Thanks for all the QSOs - especially DX stations and those that exchanged their contest info and let me give them my exchange. Thanks to the BEARS club for sponsoring the contest.”

KC0MO (fixed MO - JAC)

Part time low power with broken antenna - ended up working with just one radio and a vertical. Still kinda fun to fire up the KCOMO call from Kansas City, MO. TNX for the calls

AB1OD (CT)

“I was just recently licensed, and was playing around with a makeshift hamstick dipole while waiting for the weather to improve enough to get a wire antenna up in the trees.”

N4PN (GA)

56 cw 81 ssb 61 mults

“just enough to keep coming back to the chair between innings

Thanks to a lot of old friends for keeping it interesting..

Score includes 100 Bonus Points for contact with W0MA”

AB0RX portable

I operated portable from the Highest point in Missouri in Iron county. I had antenna problems and could not operate on 20 or 80 Meters. I tried 15 Meters, but the band was dead for me. I didn't get my CW keyer kit in time for the trip so I didn't try CW. I ended up only operating on Saturday. The winds were too high on Sunday for an outdoor operation.

Inspite of the problems I ended up with my highest QSO and point total ever in the MOQP. Activity was very good for me.

Other County Hunting Awards

For decades, some county hunters have issued their own awards. I received an email from Page, WA3EOP

“Hi Bob, this is Page, WA3EOP.

You may recall working me on the Century Club or maybe even once or twice on the 20 SSB county hunter nets.

Anyway, I want to point out that I still offer the free "found the elephants" award to anyone providing proof of contacting me in at least 6 different states. Over 70 of those have been issued so far and 3 folks have me in at least 13 states for my "still seeing elephants" award.

I don't do it often but sometimes on my trips I'll check into the 20 SSB County Hunters and hand out a county or two.

Well I wanted to pass along to the county hunters who may be interested in the elephant awards that my mobile trip of the year is planned for Mid July (13-17) when I expect to be mobile PA, NY, CT, MA, , VT and NH during my travels. As time permits I may visit the CH nets to see if anyone needs me from whenever. (20 SSB)

Page (We are 3 Elephants On Patrol)

note de N4CD – I'd bet Logger doesn't track this, so you'll have to track it manually.

Picture File for April

KA3DRO Mobile Install

Ron sent along these pictures of his installation in a F-150 pickup truck



KA3DRO Screwdriver Install



KA3DRO Radio Install



Hamshack of George, AA4GT and Mary, NV4Z
IC756, Ameritron Amp

New Mexico QSO Party

from the 3830 reflector:

K7IA – Grant County

“20m was noisy with many NA signals just (or barely) above the noise floor. The stronger signals came from EU, so long skip was in.

Worked a couple of NM mults on 20 and 15 groundwave/backscatter. The balance of NM counties (nine of them) were worked within 30 minutes in late afternoon on SSB.

80m was silent except for GA QP ops, many of whom got "NM" but proceeded without sending their names. Those are NIL. Suggest: for weekends having more than one QP, make a crib sheet of all of the QP exchanges and multiply your fun (and ours!). Many thanks to the GA ops who weren't baffled by my NMQP exchange plus "599 NM" added and who responded with their names. Happy to have you in the log!!

At this time of year, and terminating the NMQP at 0200Z, 160 meters is superfluous.

Despite band conditions, there were many QRP and mobile ops who simply never gave up calling and who had surprisingly good signals (CW & PH) once they were in the clear. Thanks for all of the Qs from folks who were very interested in working New Mexico and swapping QSL and County cards!

N5NA mobile

This is my third year to operate in the NM QSO Party. The last two years I've combined it with a couple of days of skiing. With the change from February to April I had to go a bit farther to find a ski area still open. Wolf Creek in southern Colorado fit the bill. To top it off we received 14" of fresh powder on Thursday before the QSO party!

Thanks to everyone who called and thanks to my driver and wife, K5AKS! This year we covered 13 counties starting in Taos. We took a fairly straight shot back to WTX ending in Lea with a slight detour through Bernalillo. Driving through Albuquerque on I25 & I40 I was amazed how quiet it was in such a large city. Usually you can't hear a thing in a city.

My top station worked was N6MU. Even made a couple of SSB QSO's which I believe is the first time I've worked John on phone. Top stations worked were: N6MU(16), NO5W(13), W5ESE(12), NT5O(11), K0PC(11), NT2A(8), W9AEM(8), AB7RW(8), W1END(8), KE7DX(7), N8NA(7), N9QS(6), W2RR(6), K4AMC(6), N4CD(6), N5BL(6), WA6KHK(6), W4YDY(5), K0JPL(5), WA5TVO(5) and N5UL(5).

DX worked included LY5A, DK2OY, DL3GA, SP5SA, OK2EC, OK1CF, and DL6KVA.

The following counties were activated with indicated number of QSOs: SantaFe(41), Chaves(37), Eddy(36), RioArriba(36), Sandoval(33), Torrance(30), Taos(30), DeBaca(28), Guadalupe(26), Bernalillo(25), Lea(25), Lincoln(18), and SanMiguel(15). (Didn't think I'd ever get my 15 QSO's in San Miguel for the bonus!)

N6MU – California

“Couldn't resist the x5 power multiplier for QRP. Conditions to NM on 20 were excellent all day which made it possible. Still called WA5TYJ, who was S9+ on 20 SSB, for hours and never could break his pileup. Most just took patience, hi. Top mobile for me was N5NA with 16 Qs followed by AA5B and KK6MC with 7 Qs each”

N2IC/portable

Spent a few hours from the Sierra County side of Emory Pass. Fun to finally have a radio that runs from 12 volts. Half an element from an old trapped tribander made a decent vertical.

Funniest part was the inhabitants of the RV that parked next to me. They were using a portable radio and a whip antenna to listen to some broadcast station, and were obviously having some difficulties. I don't think they ever associated me with their problems.

W0BH – KS

I enjoyed working NM stations on Saturday morning and found them as friendly as ever! It would really be fun to head over to your beautiful state and join the mobile fun sometime.

Once the Georgia QP started up, I turned my beam and receive antennas east and switched logging to GQP. After that, the rules and exchange were too different to allow easy logging of NM stations. Sometimes it works well to work multiple parties (I work the 7QP, New England QP and INQP at once), but not these two. The parties also had different power and spotting rules which didn't work well together.

Having said that, it doesn't take away from all the work the sponsors and ops put into this party .. much appreciated as always. It will be interesting to see what happens in 2012.

Getting Folks Finished Up

Last month we didn't see too many finish up. So let's see if we can't get the following folks to their goals

KMIC - USACA using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/17/2011 **MT**:Custer, Fergus, Garfield, Petroleum, Treasure **NV**:Lander **UT**:Millard

KISO - BINGO using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/01/2011

Bingo for first time - KISO@aol.com

CA: Mendocino

CO: Teller

HI: Maui

ID: Caribou

IN: Blackford, Huntington

KY: McCreary

MT: Daniels, Lincoln, McCone, Meagher, Pondera, Wheatland

NC: Hoke, Warren, Yancey

NM: Rio Arriba

NV: Humboldt

OH: Seneca

PA: Armstrong

RI: Newport

UT: Sampete

WA: Clark, Columbia, Kittitas, Thurston

WI: Trempealeau

WY: Teton

VEIWT - USACA using CW - Updated: 04/16/2011

AL:Coosa **CO**:Hinsdale, San Juan **IL**:Calhoun **IN**:Brown, Martin, Owen **KS**:Grant, Greeley

KY:Edmonson, Taylor **LA**:Beauregard **MO**:Moniteau, Morgan, Oregon **ND**:Adams, Dickey

NE:Johnson **NM**:Harding **OH**:Fulton, Hocking **OR**:Crook, Grant **TN**:Houston, Jackson,

Morgan, Tipton **TX**:Lamb **WV**:Monroe, Pendleton, Pocahontas **WY**:Washakie

WB2ABD - 5TH using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/20/2011

CO: Gunnison

IN: Parke, Pike, Rush, Union

KY: McCreary, Spencer
MD: Baltimore City
ME: Androscoggin, Somerset
MO: Dade
MT: Fallon
NV: Douglas
NY: Hamilton, Schuyler, Warren
UT: Carbon

WB2ABD - 2ND using CW - Updated: 04/14/2011

Last two ... nothing held back.

AL: Winston
MT: Fallon

W3CR - MASTER'S PLATINUM using SSB - Updated: 04/06/2011

I'm still not able to sit endless hours at the radio awaiting a county to be run so would appreciate a call to (309) 797-9878 or (563) 676-8744 (Sprint) if my needs are being run.

CT: Litchfield
HI: Hawaii, Kalawao, Maui
KY: Jackson
MA: Barnstable
NJ: Hudson
NY: Chenango, Haamilton, Oswego, Otsego, Wayne, Yates
PA: Wyoming
SD: Haakon, Jackson, Stanley
VA: Fairfax
WV: Hancock, Tucker

W3DYA - 3RD using CW - Updated: 04/13/2011 **MN:**Wabasha **MS:**Itawamba, Lawrence
OK:Choctaw, Le Flore, McCurtain, Pushmataha **WI:**Barron, Marinette, Polk, Rusk

N3HOO - 2ND using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/15/2011

Down to 6 to go for 2nd time. Any assistance greatly appreciated. Ed

KY: Letcher, McCreary, Spencer
NE: Arthur, Logan
UT: Duchesne

N3HOO - BAND-20 using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/15/2011

One to go for all 20M

NY: Madison

K3IMC - 3RD using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/15/2011

I need 7 counties in 3 states to complete my 3rd time. I have listed all my needs.

CA: Alpine, Humbolt, Plumas

KS: Graham, Sheridan

UT: Sanpete, Wasatch

K3IMC - MASTER'S GOLD using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/15/2011

I need 35 counties in 16 states to complete my Masters Gold. I have listed all my needs.

CA: Alpine, Plumas, Sierra, Tehama

CO: Gunnison, Pitkin

ID: Blaine, Teton

IN: Monroe

KS: Grahm, Sheridan

MO: Knox

MT: Madison

NC: Martin

NE: Boyd

NV: Eureka, Storey

NY: Queens

OH: Brown, Highland

OK: Le Flore, Pushmataha

TN: Cannon, Sequatchie, Stewart

VA: Franklin

WA: Asotin, Clark, Columbia, Douglas, Garfield, Island, Skagit, Yakima

OH3JF - USACA using CW - Updated: 04/05/2011

Hi! My goal is to work all counties on CW and preferable with mobile stations. My total is currently 3074 counties (3061 mobile QSO's and 16 non-mobiles). The ****SYMBOLS**** that I have used on my list are as follows: County# means FIXED QSO (non-mobile) County* means Mobile QSO (but not yet confirmed). Many thanks in advance for all your coming trips and CU on CHN. 73, Henry OH3JF e-mail: henrikek@kolumbus.fi - henryoak@nic.fi (Phone +358 40 845 2773)

KY: Martin

NE: Polk

TN: Grundy,

WA3QNT - 4TH using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/15/2011 **ME**:Aroostook, Franklin
TX:Bandera **WI**:Oconto, Taylor

KE3VV - 6TH using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/10/2011
Trying to finish 6th time No Relays... So who wants the **WBOW** plaque - you just have to go to the middle of nowhere...
UT: Daggett

VA3XOV - BINGO using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/21/2011
WOW!!! Only 2 to go for Bingo!!! (jwatkins@canadacartage.com) Thanks... Jim
ME: Lincoln
UT: Duchesne

K4AMC - 2ND using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/02/2011 **AZ**:La Paz **IN**:Jefferson

VK4EJ - USACA using SSB - Updated: 04/19/2011 **GA**:Atkinson, Pulaski, Telfair **ID**:Camas, Owyhee **KS**:Comanche, Doniphan, Morris, Smith, Stafford, Woodson **MO**:Putnam
MS:Lawrence, Leake, Montgomery, Quitman **MT**:Powder River, Treasure **NC**:Gates
ND:Grant, Slope **NE**:Pawnee, Rock **SD**:Campbell **VT**:Essex

N4PJ - USACA using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/23/2011 **CO**:Cheyenne, Eagle, Jackson, Moffat, Routt, Washington **IL**:Clay, Gallatin, Perry **IN**:Carroll, Daviess, Harrison, Ohio, Owen, Parke, Rush, Switzerland, Washington **KS**:Barber, Pottawatomie **KY**:Carlisle, Edmonson, Grayson, Hancock, Logan, Owen, Union **MO**:Barry, Dent, Douglas, Maries **ND**:Kidder
NY:Essex **OH**:Monroe, Morrow **OK**:Caddo, Washita **OR**:Union **SD**:Hanson **VA**:Dickenson, Russell, Scott **WI**:Rusk

N4XML - 2ND using SSB - Updated: 04/20/2011
I have 9 Counties for Second time in 7 States. Thanks in advance for the help.
73
Bob, N4XML
AL: Hale
ID: Shoshone

MN: Dodge
NC: Anson
NV: Esmeralda
SD: Edmunds
TX: Bailey, Cochran, Young

KD4ZAT - USACA using SSB - Updated: 04/15/2011
CO: Rio Grande GA: Chattahoochee
IA: Buchanan, Ida, Jones KS: Morris, Washington KY: Carlisle, Crittenden, McLean MI: Ocean
MN: Benton, Clearwater, Cottonwood, Lincoln, Watonwon, Wright, Yellow Medicine
MT: Blane, Carbon, Chouteau, Glacier, Hill, Liberty, Lincoln, Mineral, Pondera, Teton,
Sheridan NC: Currituck ND: Burke, Sioux NJ: Cumberland NY: Seneca OH: Carrol, Clinton
SD: Beadle, Brule, Day, Douglas, Miner, Stanley, Yankton TN: Stewart UT: Daggett WI: Oneida,
Taylor WY: Park

K4YT - USACA using CW - Updated: 04/21/2011
CA: Shasta KY: Leslie, Perry LA: St Bernard
MD: Calvert, Carroll MO: Dade, Dent, Douglas, Iron, Maries PA: Fayette, Fulton, Mifflin,
Westmoreland VA: Gloucester, Highland, King William, Northumberland, Clark WA: San Juan
WV: Brooke, Greenbrier, Hancock, Morgan, Pendelton, Pocahontas, Wayne, Taylor

LY5A - 3RD using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/11/2011
Pse e-mail if you planing a trip to any of those counties . Many thanks. Jonas, LY5A ex LY2ZZ
IA: Clay
KS: Wallace
MO: Ripley

N5KGY - MASTER'S GOLD using SSB - Updated: 04/17/2011
This is it for MG Nothing held back! 662-465-6225
CA: Imperial, Riverside, San Diego, San Mateo, Santa Clara
ID: Madison
MO: Warren
ND: Bowman, Slope
NM: Sierra, Socorro
VT: Washington
WA: Kitsap

N5PR - BINGO using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/15/2011
NEEDS FOR BINGO. HOME PHONE 505-864-7217, CELL PHONE 505-999-8253. THANKS FOR
ANY HELP.

KS: Clay
NM: Taos

N5PR - USACA using CW - Updated: 04/15/2011
AL:Jackson, Marshall CT:Litchfield
GA:Chattooga IA:Howard, Keokuk ID:Bonneville, Clearwater IN:Cass, Greene, Ripley
KS:Wallace KY:Breckinridge, Fulton, Hancock, Harlan, Marion, Robertson LA:St. Mary
MN:Filmore NY:Rockland OK:Harmon, Latimer PA:Fayette, Indiana TN:Gibson, Stewart,
Unicoi, Van Buren, White TX:Bailey, Coke, Presidio, Terrell VA:Accomack, Brunswick, Lee,
Russell WV:Hampshire, Lincoln, Logan, Pleasants, Pocahontas, Wirt

N5XG - 2ND using CW - Updated: 04/18/2011
CA:Lake, Mariposa CO:Hinsdale, Saguachie
CT:Litchfield, New Haven, New London FL:Gilchrist, Hernando IA:Chichasaw IN:Carroll,
Clinton, Jennings KY:Bracken, Breckenridge ME:Cumberland, Franklin, York MO:Sullivan,
Worth NV:Esmeralda, Lyon, Mineral NY:Essex, Franklin, Putnam, Schenectady, Sullivan
OR:Benton, Jefferson, Josephine, Klamath PA:Adams, Somerset, Sullivan, Union, Warren
RI:Bristol, Washington SC:Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenwood, Marlboro, Newbury, Union
VA:Amherst, Bath, Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Craig, Dickenson, Giles, Grayson, Roanoke,
Russell, Tazewell WV:McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Morgan, Wayne, Wetzell, Worth

N5XG - USACA using CW - Updated: 04/18/2011
Final 8 to complete my Mixed USA-CA to All CW, plus also needed for 2nd time.
IA: Chickasaw
IN: Carroll, Clinton, Jennings
SC: Edgefield, Fairfield, Newberry, Union

KD5YUK - BINGO using SSB - Updated: 04/20/2011
--CALL IF YOU GO THERE- 903-277-1884. LC'S UP FOR GRABS.. Thanks
OH: Butler

KD5YUK - 2ND using SSB - Updated: 04/20/2011
Cell: 903-277-1884
AR: Howard, Ouachita, Perry, Sebastian, Sevier
IA: Lyon
KY: Edmonson
MA: Suffolk
NC: Perquimans

NV: Lander, Story
NY: Hamilton
OH: Harrison

N6PDB - 2ND using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/16/2011

Now down to 4, step up!!! DDM

CA: El Dorado
IA: Kossuth
MN: Wabasha
UT: Daggett

W6TPC - MASTER'S GOLD using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/20/2011

GA: Calhoun
KY: Robertson
MN: Clearwater
NC: Clay
ND: Adams
VA: Bath

Email to w6tpc@cox.net

WQ7A - 5TH using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/21/2011

Some Last Counties for you to consider. Always appreciated. 73

IL: Calhoun
KS: Stanton
MA: Hampshire
ME: York
NC: Madison, Cherokee
ND: Dunn
NJ: Bergen
OH: Meigs, Muskingum
TX: Cochran
UT: Rich, Duchesne

W7FEN - 2ND using both SSB and CW - Updated: 03/31/2011

Nothing held back, Cell Phone (509)552-9226, E-mail w7fen@live.com

GA: Banks, Barrow, Burke, Elbert, Franklin, Habersham, Hancock, Jenkins, Lumpkin, Stephens, Talbot, Warren.
IA: Van Buren
KY: Crittenden, Floyd, Larue, Letcher, Owen.
MS: Kemper
MT: Beaverhead, McCone, Musselshell, Teton.

PA: Berks, Forest
VA: Rappahannock

W7FEN - BINGO using both SSB and CW - Updated: 03/31/2011
Nothing held back, Cell Phone (509)552-9226. E-Mail w7fen@live.com
GA: Bacon, Glascock, Hancock, Jenkins, Lumpkin, Talbot
KS: Atchinson, Lincoln
KY: Breathett, Fleming, Geenup, Larue, Lewis, Nicholas, Spencer
MT: Deer Lodge, Granite, McCone
OH: Darke, Holmes, Scioto
PA: Armstrong, Elk, Forest
VA: Grayson, Rappahannock
WA: Walla Walla
WI: Wood

K8AO - BINGO using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/22/2011 AR:Madison OK:Grady

KD8HB - 8TH using CW - Updated: 04/16/2011
Please let me know if your plans take you to any of these. Thanks
GA: Mitchell
IA: Iowa
IN: Morgan
KY: Bracken, Pendleton
NM: Union
OH: Defiance
WV: Morgan, Wayne
Email to jajudy@frontier.com

N8KIE - 4TH using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/20/2011
IN: Franklin
MO: Benton
NE: Antelope, Grant, Howard, Wheeler
UT: Daggett, Wasatch
WI: Price

AA8R - MASTER'S GOLD using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/20/2011 CA:Mono
ME:Waldo UT:Piute, Summit

AA8R - 4TH using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/23/2011
CA:Napa CO:Alamosa, Conejos
IL:Pope KS:Clark MD:Dorchester MO:Knox, Putnam MT:Sheridan NV:Pershing
OH:Coshocton, Fulton OK:Le Flore WA:Garfield

K9JF - USACA using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/15/2011
I'm getting closer logger with four to go! Please call if you are going to be in one of these needed ones.
Those counties noted with a star (*) are worked and awaiting MRC. Thanks for your help!! Jim K9JF
(206) 930-9372 or k9jf@arrl.net
NE: Sherman
NY: Seneca
SD: Jerauld, Miner

N9QS - 8TH using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/22/2011
These are for my 8th Time. But if you plan to go through any of these, please give me a heads up at
n9qs*at*att.net. I am not always available 100% of the time so a heads up is good. 73 de ROY 4 to go.
Cell # 618-610-1151.....
IA: Taylor.
IN: Rush.
MA: Hampshire.
NE: Saunders.

WB9STT - 6TH using SSB - Updated: 04/17/2011
SSB ONLY
CA: Modoc
IA: Mitchel, Plymouth, Wright
KS: Kiowa, Pottawatomie
KY: McLean, Meade, Menefee, Monroe
MN: Benton, Murray, Wabasha, Waseca
NC: Macon
NV: Elko
NY: Bronx
TN: Cannon, Jackson
UT: Washington
VT: Franklin

W9UX - BINGO using CW - Updated: 04/16/2011

CA: Inyo, Lassen, Mariposa, Modoc
KY: Trimble
NE: Frontier

Email to w9ux@arrl.net

W9UX - 2ND using CW - Updated: 04/16/2011

CA: Lassen
UT: Beaver

Email to w9ux@arrl.net

KM9X - MASTER'S PLATINUM using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/22/2011

Must be good for MASTER PLATINUM..6 left to go. Email heads up is good.

CO: Custer, Otero
MO: Audrain
NE: Cherry, Sheridan
NM: Colfax

KBØBA - 2ND using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/05/2011 CO:Costilla

KØDEQ - USACA using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/20/2011

AL: Clarke, Escambia
CO: Crowley
GA: Bleckley, Early, Montgomery, Talbot, Taylor, Upson
KY: Breckinridge, Cumberland, Lewis
MO: Lewis, Reynolds
MT: Carter, Petroleum, Richland
ND: Adams, Grant, Sargent, Sheridan, Sioux
NE: Blaine, Boone, Clay, Nance, Richardson, Sioux, Thurston, Wheeler
TN: Marshall
UT: Kane

Email to k0deq@arrl.net

NØDXE - BINGO using SSB - Updated: 04/08/2011

Gotta get her done. Many last county awards up for grabs. Please email NØKV@earthlink.net. Thanks much. Pat :)

CA: Butte
ID: Adams, Clark, Fremont, Teton
IN: Dearborn
KY: Owen, Shelby
MS: Clarke, Jasper, Wayne, Winston
NC: Alexander, Graham

NE: Arthur, Garfield, Polk
NY: Sullivan
PA: Carbon
UT: Sanpete, Tooele
VA: Henrico, York
WA: Douglas, Grant, Lincoln, Skagit, Stevens
Email to n0kv@earthlink.net

KYØE - USACA using CW - Updated: 03/31/2011

LAST 8 TO GO

CO: Rio Blanco
KY: McCreary
NY: New York
OH: Monroe
PA: Indiana
VA: Frederick
WV: Berkeley, Wetzel
Email to ky0e@q.com

WØGXQ - MASTER'S PLATINUM using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/22/2011

As of 4/22/11 I still need 9 for Master Platinum. Please email or call if you are planning to transmit from one of these counties. Cell 218-252-6848. Thanks in advance!

AK: Second
MA: Hampshire
NJ: Hudson
NY: Rockland, Sullivan
OH: Miami
WV: Boone, Mason, Taylor

NØLXJ - BINGO using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/16/2011

Five Last Counties Up For Grabs! Come get them...

IN: Fayette
ND: Adams
NY: Chenango, Essex, Montgomery, Warren, Washington
TN: De Kalb
VA: Grayson
Email to woskag@comcast.net

WØNAC - 4TH using both SSB and CW - Updated: 04/16/2011

Still A lot of Last Counties Here! Nothing has been held back. Sure could use some help! Matt

AR: Newton
IN: Blackford, Lawrence
MD: Caroline
MO: Ozark, St. Francois
NE: Frontier, Wheeler

NJ: Somerset
NY: Washington
PA: Sullivan
SD: Hughes
UT: Wasatch
VA: Craig, King William, Northampton
WV: Pendleton

NØXYL - BINGO using SSB - Updated: 04/18/2011

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

GA: Chattooga, Laurens, Lumpkin, Treutien

IA: Humboldt, Pocahontas, Sac, Wright

KY: Harlan

ME: Somerset

MO: Dunklin

MS: Bolivar

NH: Belknap, Merrimack

NM: Lea

NV: Douglas, Washoe

NY: Cayuga

OK: Alfalfa, Caddo, Grant

PA: Montgomery, Wyoming

UT: Piute

VT: Franklin

WV: Braxton, Mason

As usual, check the latest listings on K3IMC Special Needs Page – the folks might have got some in between.

Many are very close to finishing and there are lots of last counties in there as well as getting someone entirely finished up!

GA QSO Party

Wow.....it was another spectacular QSO Party with a dozen or more mobiles/rovers and one by one calls by the dozens! At this rate, someone is going to qualify for the MARAC 1x1 call award in the future if all states had QSO parties like this one. John, K4BAI Greg, NM2L, Norm, W3DYA, and Sandy WB4EVH were some of the regular county hunters out mobile (in multi-op stations) while several other long time county hunters activated their home counties giving out hundreds of contacts.

N4I mobile - WB4EVH Writes

Here are a couple of pics from my setup for the GA QSO party using call N4I. I am in the green, Dave KW4M and our driver Rhonda (XYL of KW4M). Front seat phone position, Rear seat cw position. All logging with computers. CW sent with a computer also. Ran all of our counties listed on K3IMC web site except one. My Tarheel antenna shorted out on Sunday afternoon. We were about 15 miles from home so we packed it in. Final score app 30K, not bad considering band conditions. Have done better. Believe it was a good party for a lot of people. We only drove 475 miles.

73

Sandy WB4EVH



Sandy, WB4EVH, Rhoda, and Dave KW4M



Phone position

from the 3830 reflector

N4ZZ mobile – 2925 QSOs!

We are writing this as we are leaving the mountains of Georgia, via route 136 to 59, on our way home to middle TN.

Our goal was to travel through 58 counties in Georgia, and we almost made it, with 57, we missed Dade county due to a slight 15 minute traffic jam on I-85 just south of exit 28. Then in Trion on our way to Dade, we were temporarily held up by a major traffic light. It was rather curious that it was fine before we came to a stop under it, then all directions were being held to a red light for some reason. Finally after about 5 minutes and wanting to get Don into Walker County we simply went ahead. No sooner did we get through the light than it started flashing Yellow. Hmmmmm, could Don have been interfering with the signals?

We had a great time competing in the 50th anniversary of the Georgia QSO Party. The pile-ups were huge but civilized (thanks), Europe was booming in on 20m (especially OM2VL).

This was our 4th N4ZZ team contest, and our first time participating in the Georgia QSO Party contest. The conditions for contesting this weekend were pretty ideal, starting with the large number of participants in this contest, which would not have been possible without the hard work done prior to the contest by the contest organizers. Not only did they advertise and get people to participate but they also ordered perfect weather and good propagation conditions.

We'd like to send a big thanks to all of the operators that worked us and seemed to be lying in wait for us at every county border crossing. Special thanks to the stations that worked us the many many times, but also to the casual operators that just popped in for just one.

In conclusion, Georgia really knows how to put on a party. Thanks SECC, SEDXC, and the others that help make this happen.

73 - The N4ZZ Team

Melody -- KI4HVY <The Driver>

Don -- N4ZZ

Jim -- AD4EB

W4NZ mobile – 2182 QSOs

Saturday - Operators: K0EJ, K4VIG, W4NZ

As in last year's GQP, we started in DADE county atop Lookout Mountain (el.

2100 feet) in Covenant College's parking lot. Following much the same route as last year, we traversed 22 counties covering about 480 miles. Activity seemed very good although conditions were somewhat erratic. It was good to have 20m more productive this time but 80m was a bust on Saturday night. And that's the only real shot you have at 80m in this event. At the end of the day we had 1104 QSO's in the log.

Sunday - Operators: K4VIG and W4NZ

K0EJ was unable to accompany us on Sunday and last year's teammate N5WR was doing a solo run this year. So that left it up to Gary K4VIG and myself. We knew the Sunday trek across the winding roads in the North Georgia mountains would give both of us a real workout and it did. But there was a bright spot. Following last year's route, we arrived in Hart County around 1900z. This was the scene of Murphy's attack on the van last year. As it turns out Hart and Franklin counties seem to be real RF hot spots as we experienced some of the highest rates of the party. There was virtually no noise and all signals were really strong. The ensuing pileups were simply amazing. Time constraints prevented us from reaching Cherokee and Forsyth counties (next year!), but we did manage to cover a total of 40 different counties.

Stations of special note: Bob W0BH (44 Q's), OM2VL - Laci, amazing signal, thanks for all the QSO's(38), Rusty W6OAT (K4BVD) and Jim K9YC seemed to be everywhere. The European gang was out in force, especially DK2OY, DL3DXX, DL3GA, DL6KVA, DL8USA, OK1AOV, OK2EC, SP5SA and PA3ARM - Thank you!

Thanks to Mike NE4S and the entire GQP Team for a great party and congratulations on your 50th anniversary!!

73 from the W4NZ/m rover team: Mark K0EJ, Gary K4VIG and Ted W4NZ

AD8J Rover

Drove down from Asheville, NC to participate in just the second day. Managed to hit 7 northeastern counties as a solo rover. Lots of work doing all the driving, putting up wire antennas, operating, taking down antennas and driving

to next county. I was able to put up the 40/20 meter inverted vee in less than 15 minutes and take it down in about 7 minutes. The big challenge was finding a location to pull off and set up. Church parking lots seemed to work pretty well as most have a nice big tree! Next year look for me both days.

N5WR mobile 2567 QSOs

I decided this year to make a solo run, wanting to try out my new radio. I finally bought a mobile rig a few months ago, an IC-7000. I was pleased with its performance. It takes up a lot less room too.

My mobile station begins with my car, a 2002 Hyundai Accent that I bought before medical school because it was cheap and got good gas mileage, and I am still driving it today for the same reason. It has over 150,000 miles on it, and many holes have been drilled in it for the sake of mobile contesting.

On the driver's side quarter panel is a Breedlove mount, very sturdy, which holds a Hi-Q 4/80 screwdriver antenna, with an 8.5 ft whip on top. This antenna would look huge on any car, but especially on my little hatchback. For this contest, I also installed a ball mount on the lid of the trunk to put up a 20 meter Hamstick. I have bonded everything together extensively: the tailpipe, engine, doors, trunk lid, body, exhaust - all of it with copper grounding strap.

In the passenger seat of the car, I have a 2 ft x 2 ft piece of plywood. I have drilled 3 holes on the left side so that I can bolt down my Bencher key. About 99.9% of the CW is hand sent, with the exception of a few memory buttons. The IC-7000 is tied down to the plywood with Velcro and tie-wraps, and I also keep 2 antenna switches to switch between antennas and an MFJ antenna tuner. On the passenger floorboard the power cables come through the firewall to an N8XJK Booster, which feeds a RigRunner that everything is connected too. The setup is not exactly neat, but effective.

On Day 1 I set off from home around noon and started the contest in Pickens county on 40 meters and conditions seemed decent. I tried 20 meters but couldn't get much going until around 20Z in Jackson county. I operated without a stop for the first 6.5 hours before finally stopping for gas. The first 7 hours were all 100+ with the best hour being 153. My plan was to change antennas at that time, tuning the screwdriver for 80 and putting up a 40M Hamstick. When I got back on the road, I realized something was wrong. The SWR was too high on 80, and the IC-7000 doesn't have an internal tuner, so it was backing down the power to less than 20 watts. I had to stop and try to

troubleshoot. I ended up stopping twice, and spending about 45 minutes off the air before finally giving up and just operating on 40. Looks like from the other scores that I would have been better off to forget 80 altogether. I stuck it out on 40 which went long, but still had 70-80 Qs the last 3 hours on the way home. Day 1 totals: 1070 Qs, 30 Counties.

Day 2 was fantastic, with 20 and 40 both in great shape, it seemed like all I had to do was send my call and instantly I had a pileup. All 10 hours were 100+ and got better throughout the day, with the last 3 hours being 168, 181, and 178 QSOs. Everything worked well, I never changed antennas, I stopped for gas once and was off the air for only 12 minutes. I changed my route slightly to pick up a few more counties south of Atlanta and near Columbus because I was making good time. It shows just how good propagation was that several stations in my Top Ten list were W6/W7 and EU stations. Day 2 totals: 1497 Qs, 34 counties.

I like the special event callsign idea, I think it paid off in great participation.

Most US QSOs: NT2A (62), AA7V (46), K9YC (45), KV8Q (45), W6OAT (43), W0BH (43), WX4DSC (41), W8TM (40), KV1E (39), N7XU (39)

Most DX QSOs: OM2VL (47), LZ5R (31), DL3DXX (27), DL3GA (19), OK1AOV (15)

Thanks to all for the QSOs, I had a great time.
73, Erik N5WR”

N0TW mobile

Had antenna problems on Saturday. Went home and fixed problem then went back mobile. Sunday was great! Lots of DX. Covered over 500 miles mobile through 14 GA counties. What a great contest and lots of fun. See you all next year.

W3DYA mobile

Great weather and great contest!

Sorry I skipped a few counties on Saturday. Got hung up in traffic on I-75 and would not have made my planned motel stop otherwise. I also didn't get to the last two counties on my list on Sunday evening, but hated to leave a county as long as I was getting calls!

I don't ID after ever contact so I was not surprised there were a number of duplicates. I expect them and consider it a good trade off. If prompted with

"call" or "ID" I will send my call on the next exchange, but I try to move the pileup as fast as I can.

Thanks to the following for 20 or more contacts. It was a busy weekend!

NT2A	38
AB7RW	33
K9YC	28
W0BH	28
KV8Q	27
OM2VL	26
W6OAT	25
K4AMC	23
KB8OMG	21
N5XG	20
DL3DXX	20

Thanks to everyone for following me around!

73, Norm, W3DYA

N4UC AL

Tons o' fun! 40 was great all weekend from No. Ala. Too much noise on 80 to do any good and 20 was just a bit too long. Thanks to all the mobiles, especially N4ZZ, W4R, N4NZ, W3DYA, N5WR, and K4ZGB who are responsible for about half my score.

K3TN - MD

Either there are some very small counties in GA, or some of the mobiles were driving at warp speed - every time I checked, N4ZZ and N5WR were somewhere new.

K9YC

“Serious efforts by a dozen mobiles made this a lot of fun. I made 47 Qs with N4ZZ, 45 with N5WR, 34 with W4NZ, 28 with W3DYA, 27 with W4R, 20 with N4A, and 58 Qs split between N0TW, N4AO, K4I, KN4Y, K4ZGB, and AD8J. The only negative is that most of the mobiles abandoned 20 CW long before prop was gone, and long before I could work them on 40M. By my count, I missed 13 counties, some of them probably when I had to QRT for dinner Saturday night. :) “

KN4Y mobile

Rover recklessly roaming rapidly through Georgia counties reporting RST's and county abbreviations. A true Rover's dream, pile-ups from county line to county line. Hated to stop and feed the vehicle and driver. Great weather. Had driver Saturday and Sunday ran 4 counties while parked.

W4R Mobile (K4BAI and N4DU) 1991 QSO

Thanks to Jeff, KU8E, for the use of his mobile set up, rig, antennas, and car. We were 22 minutes late getting started. Otherwise, we were just about exactly on our scheduled route. We added two more counties from the original plan and made QSOs from 38 counties. The totals and claimed score may be a bit off. We were QRV on 80, 40, and 20M CW.

20 and 40 were pretty good with relatively small skip zones. 80M was very noisy due to storms in the eastern part of the country (but not in GA, thankfully).

Thanks for all QSOs. QSLs for W4R/M may be sent to K4BAI

N4A mobile (NM2L, K4DI driver)

Sunday was my first time having a driver (my good friend Jim, K4DI). What a difference that makes. We managed about a total 18 hours of operation (9 each day). Worked 2 more countries (13) than we did Georgia counties(11). This was great fun. I hope I can talk Jim into going again next year. Let's hope we activated them all!

W0BH – KS

I finally had time to put in a full effort this year and came up a combined four counties short of a sweep : Newton, Pulaski, Quitman, and Wheeler. When I finished, I thought I was only missing two, but two more appeared when I went over the log afterwards. To get (almost) all the counties means extraordinary effort by everyone involved .. most particularly the mobiles.

Special thanks to this amazing group :

63: N4ZZ/m
44: W4NZ/m
41: N5WR/m
38: W4R/m
28: W3DYA/m
19: KN4Y/m N0TW/m
17: N4A/m
12: K4I/m
07: KC4HW/m N4AO/m
06: K4EAK/m N4I/m
05: K4ZGB/m
04: KB4KBS/m NE4S/m
03: AD8J/m
02: WD4DX/m

I heard several GA stations on 15 but they were too weak to work, and 80 SSB was really bad on Saturday evening with thunderstorms here in Kansas.

N4ZZ/m was truly outstanding in his number of counties covered (did you make it to all 58?). I didn't pick him up (due to band conditions) until he was 3 counties into his route, but from then on, the schedule with times he posted on QRZ.com was especially helpful and I'm sure added some Qs for us which I might otherwise have missed. Near the end, I was concentrating on SSB more to try to find the four remaining counties, so I didn't track the mobiles as hard and missed them in a few counties I already had in the log. Thanks to all the mobiles who listed their schedules in order of travel. It really really helps from this end.

W4NZ/m and N5WR/m tie for the "best ears" award. Neither were very loud on 40m a good share of the time, but I gave it a try anyway and they still picked me out of pileups I wouldn't have thought I could break. Everyone was loud on 20m, and both W4NZ and N5WR were great about going to both bands.

Overall, I worked 145 unique calls and learned to spell GEORGIA (that was fun!).

Even though I didn't quite make all 159 counties, I'd like to thank 2 ops for going out of their way to give me a shot. K4MFC called in from a mobile in Gwinnett county. I noticed on the map he was close to Rockdale and asked how far away he was. He said, "call you back in ten minutes." He did and just like that ROCK was in the log .. one I was sure I'd missed.

The other op, Shawn, KI4JDO was in McDuffie county and on the schedule, but I hadn't found him after lots of listening. I'd been calling CQ on SSB and asking ops if they'd heard him, when suddenly he found me. The QRM was really bad during our QSO even after I moved him, so will have to get the rest of the story later, but many thanks, Shawn!

One of these years it will be really fun to join the gang in Georgia for a mobile run. Until the next one ...

73, Bob, w0bh

NO5W (TX)

GQP is always a fun event with great mobile activity and lots of counties but this one far exceeded the fun and score I've had with previous runnings of the GQP. Thanks to the mobiles for some great action.

I worked N4ZZ, who was "smokin" even in the fiercest pileups, in 34 counties. But there were several others who were also blazing. Here's my county totals with the mobiles: N4ZZ(34), N5WR(29), W4NZ(24), W4R(18), W3DYA(16), N4A(11), N0TW(9), KN4Y(6), K4I(6), K4ZGB(5), N4AO(3), AD8J(2), NE4S(2).

My only disappointment was in the spelling bee. I worked every letter but "G" in the first half hour, then found one G several hours later and never heard another one.

Thanks again to the mobiles and the organizers for a great party.

73/Chuck/NO5W

KV8Q

Wow!!! What a fun contest. Lots of activity with decent conditions. Lots of QRN here on all bands Saturday; but, I even found two Q's on 160 in the noise. Skip was too long on 20 but 40 sure made up for it. Chasing the mobiles/rovers kept things interesting and there was plenty of GA fixed stations on the air to fill in the gaps. I even found G-E-O-R-G-I-A!!! Thanks to everyone for the fun. Here is the list of rovers/mobiles I found showing the number of Q's with each:

N4ZZ 52 (Due to the driving skills of Melody, I'm sure)

N5WR 46
W4R 35
W4NZ 29
W3DYA 28
N4A 24
N0TW 14
K4ZGB 12
K4I 8
KN4Y 8
AD8J 7
N4I 7
W1BO 3
NE4S 2
N4E 2

W5ZL Texas

This was my first semi-serious GQP, and had it not been for a timely email reminder from my old friend K4BAI it would have likely passed me right by. Second, a huge tip of the hat to all the mobiles. You guys rock, especially double-digit counters N4ZZ (22), N5WR (21), W4NZ (19), W4R (15), W3DYA (11) and N0TW (10). You are the heart and soul of the QSO Party. I know all about blisters on butts and bleeding eardrums after scurrying through county after county for two days. I hope it was as much fun for you as for me chasing you.

Others have commented on the operating techniques of the mobiles who were seemingly always covered up in pileups, but let me add my \$0.02. I really liked N4ZZ's operating style. I never had to hang around listening long to know who and where he was. No wasted motion. W4R and N5WR much the same. W3DYA could, in my opinion, benefit himself and the hunters by throwing his call in more often. W4NZ, another super op, was at the other extreme with full ID and county after every QSO. Either conditions were really good or the mobiles all had exceptional ears. Both maybe?"

OM2VL – 354 CW 102 SSB

I would like to thanks to all mobile stations which were also on 20m at the beginning of the contest (40m at this time is closed in Slovakia). I checked frq around 14045 and also sometimes made QSY to SSB (maybe missed some CW mults, but made many SSB mults). It was really amazing contest, thanks for everyone for QSOs!

Some statistics:

mobiles from most counties: (QSO/County)

N4ZZ/M 57/51
N5WR/M 46/42
W4NZ 38/36
W3DYA/M 27/26
W4R 25/24
KN4Y/M 21/20
N0TW 17/12
N4A 12/12
N4AO 10/7
K4I 10/7
N4I/M 5/5
NE4S 5/5

BIG BIG thanks for N4ZZ/M for 51 county! I heard him from all county, but from MILL (called him 20min ... :((), EARL,CLAY,CALH,RAND no luck don't heard me. I missed also MERI - was this time on SSB.

BIG thanks also to all mobiles, when I called - they answered me!

I think missed many SSB QSOs on 40m, because I can transmit only up to 7200, and many GA stations was over 7200. But I think 102 SSB QSO (39 on 40m,53 on 20m, 10 on 15m)is not so wrong from Europe.

Missed this counties: CALH (hrd), CAND, CLAY (hrd),EARL (hrd), EFFI (hrd), MACO (hrd),OCON (hrd), QUIT, RAND (hrd), TREU, TWIG, WHEE, WKSN.

>From 1x1 special callsigns missed only K4E all other 17 station I have - thanks a lot!

My working condx:

TCVR: Yaesu FT5000 + OM3500 Amplifier

Antennas: 80m: 2el YAGI 50m up + BEVERAGE

40m: 3/3 STACK 46,21m up

20m: 6/6/6 STACK 38,25,12m up

15m: 6/6/6 STACK 34,25,16m up

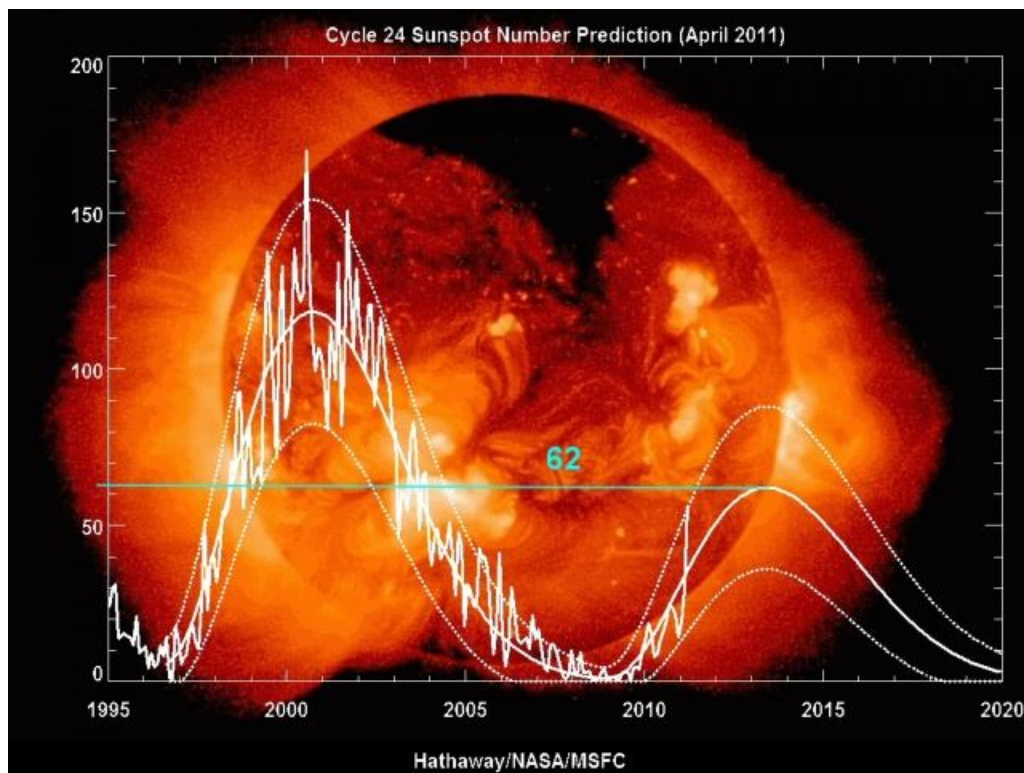
logging program: Writelog

Thanks again for the nice QSO Party, please send your QSLs for my US County award (still need confirmation 60 county from Georgia)

NASA Sunspot Number Prediction

Updated 4/4/2011

The smallest sunspot cycle in two hundred years



Current prediction for the next sunspot cycle maximum gives a smoothed sunspot number maximum of about 62 in July of 2013. We are currently over two years into Cycle 24. The predicted size would make this the smallest sunspot cycle in nearly 200 years.

Predicting the behavior of a sunspot cycle is fairly reliable once the cycle is well underway (about 3 years after the minimum in sunspot number occurs). Prior to that time the predictions are less reliable but nonetheless equally as important. Planning for satellite orbits and space missions often require knowledge of solar activity levels years in advance.

A number of techniques are used to predict the amplitude of a cycle during the time near and before sunspot minimum. Relationships have been found between the size of the next cycle maximum and the length of the previous cycle, the level of activity at sunspot minimum, and the size of the previous cycle.

Among the most reliable techniques are those that use the measurements of changes in the Earth's magnetic field at, and before, sunspot minimum. These changes in the Earth's magnetic field are known to be caused by solar storms but the precise connections between them and future solar activity levels is still uncertain.

Of these "geomagnetic precursor" techniques three stand out. The earliest is from Ohl and Ohl. They found that the value of the geomagnetic aa index at its minimum was related to the sunspot number during the ensuing maximum. The primary disadvantage of this technique is that the minimum in the geomagnetic aa index often occurs slightly after sunspot minimum so the prediction isn't available until the sunspot cycle has started.

An alternative method is due to a process suggested by Joan Feynman. She separates the geomagnetic aa index into two components: one in phase with and proportional to the sunspot number, the other component is then the remaining signal. This remaining signal has, in the past, given good estimates of the sunspot numbers several years in advance. The maximum in this signal occurs near sunspot minimum and is proportional to the sunspot number during the following maximum. This method does allow for a prediction of the next sunspot maximum at the time of sunspot minimum.

A third method is due to Richard Thompson. He found a relationship between the number of days during a sunspot cycle in which the geomagnetic field was "disturbed" and the amplitude of the next sunspot maximum. His method has the advantage of giving a prediction for the size of the next sunspot maximum well before sunspot minimum.

We have suggested using the average of the predictions given by the Feynman-based method and by Thompson's method. However, both of these methods were impacted by the "Halloween Events" of October/November 2003 which were not reflected in the sunspot numbers. Both methods give larger than average amplitude to Cycle 24 while its delayed start and low minimum strongly suggest a much smaller cycle.

The smoothed aa index reached its minimum (a record low) of 8.4 in September of 2009. Using Ohl's method now indicates a maximum sunspot number of 70 ± 18 for cycle 24. We then use the shape of the sunspot cycle as described by Hathaway, Wilson, and Reichmann and

determine a starting time for the cycle by fitting the data to produce a prediction of the monthly sunspot numbers through the next cycle. We find a starting time of May 2008 with minimum occurring in December 2008 and maximum of about 59 in June/July of 2013. The predicted numbers are available in a text file, as a GIF image, and as a pdf-file. As the cycle progresses, the prediction process switches over to giving more weight to the fitting of the monthly values to the cycle shape function. At this phase of cycle 24 we now give 40% weight to the curve-fitting technique of Hathaway, Wilson, and Reichmann Solar Physics 151, 177 (1994). That technique currently gives highly uncertain (but smaller) values.

Note: These predictions are for "smoothed" International Sunspot Numbers. The smoothing is usually over time periods of about a year or more so both the daily and the monthly values for the International Sunspot Number should fluctuate about our predicted numbers. The dotted lines on the prediction plots indicate the expected range of the monthly sunspot numbers. Also note that the "Boulder" numbers reported daily at www.spaceweather.com are typically about 35% higher than the International sunspot number.

Another indicator of the level of solar activity is the flux of radio emission from the Sun at a wavelength of 10.7 cm (2.8 GHz frequency). This flux has been measured daily since 1947. It is an important indicator of solar activity because it tends to follow the changes in the solar ultraviolet that influence the Earth's upper atmosphere and ionosphere. Many models of the upper atmosphere use the 10.7 cm flux (F10.7) as input to determine atmospheric densities and satellite drag. F10.7 has been shown to follow the sunspot number quite closely and similar prediction techniques can be used.

Our predictions for F10.7 are available in a text file, as a GIF image, and as a pdf-file. Current values for F10.7 can be found at: <http://www.spaceweather.ca/sx-4-eng.php>.

Source: NASA <http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/predict.shtml>

Montana QSO Party

This seem to be limited to a few fixed stations who each did a great job of putting out the home county. Mobile activity was real scarce. I heard/worked 3 MT stations during the QSO Party from the TX QTH.

K7ABV - MT

Thanks to all for a fun state qso party, I usually didn't enter until I found a nice logging program that seems to work for these parties...W3KM did the trick...Higher bands didn't seem open much and 20 was busy for me...so i did most of my work on 20..thanks again for a nice weekend..

W0BH - KS

Had to use the neat score calculator on the MTQP web page to figure out my score! Logged a few MT stations while working the the Georgia QSO Party. We travelled through a number of MT counties last summer and really enjoyed the experience.

Peak Oil Update - \$200/bbl oil?

Jeff Rubin says get ready for a different auto industry and driving-culture world, as crude oil prices race past \$200 per barrel

When he was chief economist at CIBC World markets, Jeff Rubin was one of the first economists to forecast a rapid rise in oil prices driven by growth in the developing world.

Back in 2000 he correctly predicted that oil prices would be trading at \$50 U.S. per barrel by 2005. He also accurately predicted that oil would crack the \$100 U.S. per barrel mark by the end of 2007.

His recent forecast of \$225 U.S. oil and \$7 U.S. a gallon gas by 2012 has netted him a lot of airtime on U.S. television.

“Fuel efficiency is a bit of a head fake. We instinctively equate fuel efficiency with

conservation [...] but the average consumer today consumes more fuel—not less—than he did 30 years ago.” – Jeff Rubin

What are the first things you see happening as oil prices climb?

Rubin: Look at Western Europe. It is a good indicator of what our roadways will look like when we have to pay higher prices. We'll see \$150 oil pretty soon, within 12 to 18 months; \$150 oil will translate to about \$2 a litre gasoline. It will vary according to provincial tax differences, but the point being that Europeans have been paying that price for a decade or more. Not because of \$200 oil — because of their taxes on \$50-\$60 oil. People in Europe drive less, and drive different vehicles. I think we will soon drive very different vehicles.

But the biggest difference between Western Europe and North America is vehicle ownership rates. In the U.K., for example, households own 20 percent fewer cars than North American households. That would imply that 20 percent of the vehicles on our roads would be taking the exit lane.

The other reason Europeans own fewer cars, is that they use public transit a lot more. Their public transit systems are significantly better than ours. We spent billions of dollars in interstate highways and the 401, they built inter-city rapid rail. And this happened, not because Europeans are smarter than North Americans, it's because fuel was more expensive, so people responded differently. We'll soon be facing the fuel prices the Europeans have faced for over a decade now, and I say, European roadways are as good an indicator as any, of what our future roadways are going to look like.

Fuel stations in Europe see far smaller vehicles than we're used to in North America.

You believe we will actually take vehicles off the road?

Rubin: I do. The days of the U.S being a 17-million vehicle market, like it was three or four years before last recession, is over, and never coming back. I say there will be fewer vehicles on the road in the future, not more. Yes, vehicle sales recovered to 12-12.5 million, but the only problem is, as the U.S. economy recovers, look at where gasoline prices are? They're not far off from four dollars (per gallon).

Vehicle sales will sink, because \$4 gas, and high-energy prices in general, will push us into another recession?

Rubin: Definitely push us into a recession. If you look at every major recession in the last 40 years, it's got oil's fingerprints all over it. The 1973 OPEC oil shock. When Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait and oil shot up to the unheard of price of \$40 per barrel, we had another recession. And, of course, what did we see when we last saw \$147 a barrel oil? The deepest post war recession. So, yeah, not optimistic or convinced that our economy can withstand \$147

oil.

But aren't we better able to withstand higher oil prices, with all these new and better fuel-efficient vehicles coming on the market?

Rubin: Fuel efficiency is a bit of a head fake. We instinctively equate fuel efficiency with conservation, not only with our cars, but also with our homes. They're different things. Think of all the fuel efficiency gains that we've seen since the OPEC oil shocks of the 1970s. The average car engine today is probably 30-40 percent more efficient, than those 1970's V8s, but the average consumer today consumes more fuel — not less fuel than he did 30 years ago.

This is because the average driver drives about 30 percent more, and he's hauling around a bigger (and heavier) vehicle. Same thing with the house; furnaces are more efficient, but house sizes keep going up. We think efficiency leads to conservation, but it doesn't. Because the more efficient it is, the cheaper it becomes to consume.

So what do we do? We use more. Efficiency can lead to conservation, if price doesn't change, but the Catch 22 there, is that our whole motivation for being efficient is to cheapen the cost of using energy. That's why we ever more efficiently consume more and more fuel. "Where I would be bullish on the industry is in India and China — not in places like North America, where the number of cars on the road will shrink." – Jeff Rubin

How do we get around that? Legislation?

Rubin: No, it's price. The brute force of price. When gas got to \$4.20 a gallon on Memorial Day weekend in 2008, low-income American families were spending more to fill their tanks than their stomachs — that's not a sustainable model. What happened then in 2009 was that we saw fewer cars on the road, the first time that's happened since WW2. The "scrap-age" rate was 14 million and new vehicle sales were 10.4 million.

What about the automakers?

If I were the CEO of GM, I would go and build some more car plants in China. That's where the demand is going. The Chinese vehicle market is already 18 million vehicles and larger than that of the U.S. Very soon, if not this year, GM will be selling more cars in China than it does in the U.S. Where I would be bullish on the industry is in India and China — not in places like North America, where the number of cars on the road will shrink. Because as China consumes more oil, in a world where oil supplies are no longer growing, or growing marginally, we're going to end up consuming less.

You're not painting a great picture for the North American car enthusiast...

Rubin: Well, I can understand. I'm pretty passionate about my car — an 11-year old Audi (A6,

with manual gearbox). I'll keep my car and see others do the same. Don't forget that we burn a lot of fuel making cars. Over 11 years other people might have bought two or three cars. A lot of fuel is saved if you just drive one over a long period of time.

If gas becomes super expensive, will driving be restricted to the rich?

Rubin: Well that's a very interesting question. If you leave it to the arbitrary nature of prices at the pump, that is what exactly will happen. Because if fuel gets super expensive, like \$7 dollars a gallon, then only the very rich will be able to afford it.

That's why the British government is already looking at a potential fuel voucher system. Britain had them a long time after WWII, right up to the mid-1950s. It's a more equitable way of distributing fuel in the population. Rationing by (high) prices is pretty regressive in its distributional impact. It's a good question to consider as we move along.

Michigan QSO Party

Wow...another great QSO Party with loads of activity and a bunch of mobiles to chase around the state! Conditions were good for most with loud signals from the stations you heard. If you didn't hear them on 20, they just 'weren't there'. Steve, AK8A, joined up with the K8XXX multi-op, and there were dozens of CH chasing the mobiles.

From the 3830 reflector site

K8IR mobile

At the top, I need to thank my drivers: Eric, KG9GH, who has been with me for 5 years, and Chris, N9JUD, came along to find out what this contesting is all about. We started in the rain, and spent the last half of the route in an April snowstorm. Eric and Chris are the heroes for taking care of the hard part. I just came along for the ride.

The weather slowed us down so that we missed the last two planned counties. We hit DICK at 0402. It also affected us in other ways. I had a couple of good runs on 40 phone earlier in the contest, but I discovered in Houghton County

that no one could seem to hear us, except for ourselves, as distorted audio was coming through the car radio speakers (the radio was off). There seemed to be some RF feedback when using the 75/40 meter phone antenna. I had to turn down requests for SSB later in the contest. We checked the system this morning before taking down the antennas, and all was well, again. I'm thinking the ice/snow buildup on the antenna and guy ropes may have caused the problem. Hopefully I won't have to worry about antenna icing again for several years.

On to the contest. What a difference a few sunspots make. 20 was smoking, with some huge pileups of both US stations and DX. We had 9 EU countries in the log. It was nice to see 15 open again. 40 was in good shape with plenty of activity up to the end. 80/75 activity was scarce during the day. They were noisy enough at night that we had a hard time being heard, although there was a pipeline into nearby Wisconsin.

The log by county:

DELT 50
SCHO 72
MACK 45
CHIP 44
LUCE 41
ALGE 57
MARQ 56
BARA 68
HOUG 63
KEWE 52
ONTO 57
GOGE 25
IRON 74

Thanks to everyone who called in and especially to those who followed us around the route. At least 10 stations were in the log 10 or more times. K8MFO found us the most, 17 times.

It was my 10th MIQP trip, and certainly one of the most memorable. I'm ready for spring, but there's more snow in the forecast this week!

73
Jim

N1IW/8 MI

Another fun one! Reminded again why I love to come back to Michigan and put Montmorency county on the map for the MIQP. Arrived Thursday afternoon from NH with temps in the 40s and no evidence of snow. Set up the IC-7000 after unpacking and stowing the vittles, and soon realized that the 80M off-center fed dipole needed some work; high VSWR on all bands. Up on Friday at abt 0800, sunny and 29F. After breakfast I made a quick repair to the OCFD (one end had become disconnected from the balun) and quickly got on the air and checked out the bands. I called CQ on 17 CW and SSB and was answered by Europe... Cool! A few ferrites on the cables (paddles, audio, coax) to clean up some RFI issues and I was ready to rock-and-roll.

It was raining when I got up on Saturday morning and it eventually turned over to light snow after dark on Saturday night. (BTW, 2" of snow on ground this Sunday morning with off and on squalls all day.) Good day to play radio. At 1200Z, I opened up on 20M CW like I usually do trying to build my mult count from west of the Mississippi, and posted a 57 hour. I soon realized that 20M probably wasn't going to have the legs it did in the past with the higher solar numbers making the band a bit long.

During the next 2 hours I stayed agile between 40M and 20M keeping in sync with the CW/SSB mode changes recommended in the rules.

40M remained most productive until 0100 when I switched my focus to 80/75.

Station: One man/one radio/one dipole
IC-7000
Home brew 80M off-center (45'/90') fed dipole at 30'
N1MM Logger w/Dell laptop and Microham Microkeyer

Best 73 and see you all again next year!

AE8M Mobile

Special thanks to those who gave me multiple Q's

including K8XXX (7), N4PN (7), K8MFO (7), K8RYU (5), K9DU (5), N6MU (5), NS9I (5), OM2VL (5), W4UCZ (5), WA3HAE (5), DL2HBX (5), K1PQS(5) and a host of others at 3 and 4 Q's.

I worked a total of 17 EU's. There is something stimulating about sitting in your car with your modest mobile setup and working Europe, especially on 40M. It makes you forget about the howling wind shaking the car and the freezing rain and snow. It was also stimulating to work KL7DX in AK twice. I wonder if his weather was as bad as the Michigan weather.

My Honda Accord has 2 antenna mounts and I rotate between Hamsticks of 20M, 40M, 80M and 75M. The rig is a K3.

My on the air time was about 6 hours and driving consumed about 4 hours. As the summary shows, 80 and 75 were a major disappointment. I wasted considerable time CQing on 80 and 75 in each county visited. This has been productive in other contests, but not this time. I heard very few stations on 80/75.

I stayed in a motel near Pentwater, MI on Saturday night. I operated Mason County from the motel parking lot. The motel maintenance man came out to verify that I was a motel guest and not some pervert. I explained that I was in a radio contest. He saw the laptop in my lap and suggested that I come inside out of the snow and wind. He never grasp that I was on the radio. He concluded that I was playing games on the internet and went back inside.

K8MR multi-op mobile

This year my regular driver of late, AC8E, was not able to do the trip to Michigan, so I invited Gary, AF8A, a veteran of the roads of Michigan, to join me. We had hoped for good weather to be able to follow up on Sunday with a bike ride on the White Pine Trail rail-trail, but as everyone noted, that weather did not happen! This was only the second mobile trip I've done where I split operating time with my driving partner. Not as much fun driving as running, but with \$4/gallon gas it was good to be able to split the costs in addition to the operating time.

I had a long day on the road. I left my QTH before 7 am to drive to Sharon, PA, to pick up my mother to attend a bridal shower for my daughter. Back home at 9:30am, to switch vehicles to the decked out, ready to go minivan. Reached the

MI border about 2 minutes before the contest started, and had a few glitches in the opening minutes. But got things straightened out and off and running about two minutes in.

How wonderful to finally have good propagation! Great pileups on 40 and 20, some successful moves to 15 meters. One QSY from 15 CW to 15 SSB failed because there were no clear frequencies on 15 SSB! Forty meters was working in-state, so very little activity needed or used on 80/75. Things turned into a rate fest, so we spent less time than usual scraping up MI counties, especially on SSB. This broke the QSO record for MiQP mobiles, but we needed about 11 more mults to break the all time MI mobile score record from 2003.

Mobile phone contesting is always tough. Probably 75% of my phone qsos were moves from CW, typically to 14151 or 7130/7133. As time goes on I am beginning to think the best way to generate phone activity is to just pick up from a busy CW run and move to SSB, hoping lots of those guys in the CW pileup will follow me to SSB.

Lots of fun following, and being part of, the races between various serious competitors. I missed the usual shootout between the big MI mults, K8XXX and K8MQP.

MiQP is my emotional beginning of spring. Often in MiQP I see the last snow of the year, usually lying in a shaded embankment up north in some place like Cheboygan county. This year MiQP hopefully will be my last snow, but instead we had the most snowfall I've encountered on a mobile trip. Snow started about sundown in Crawford county, and continued quite heavily through Osceola county. Not much was sticking on the relatively warm roads on US131, but with strong cross winds it made for extra care and less than full freeway speed. We had to chip some ice off the antennas when we took them off the van Sunday morning.

Thanks to all who participated, and to the faithful gang waiting for us as we moved from county to county. We hope to see you all in the Ohio QSO Party on August 27. I may also show up for the West Virginia test on June 18, if I can arrange to combine things with a bicycle riding driver.

73 - Jim K8MR

WI9WI – fixed WI

Five of the past 6 years I've operated this one mobile from the UP. This year a

combination of things, mostly the weather, kept me in Madison. Also missing from the UP this year were Wisconsinites N9NE and the NE9U team. Rather than drive 1000 miles, spend 24 hours or up in the car, have to rent a motel room for at least one night if not two, spend north of \$200 on gas and fight freezing rain, icy roads and snow, I opted to operate in the comfort of my basement and watch hockey on TV while S&P'ing the MI stations.

W0BH – KS

Got in for a few Qs throughout the day and found K8MR/m, N9JF/m, K8IR/m and W8FSM/m enjoying the ride. Conditions were incredible into Kansas. I don't think I worked a MI station under S9, and most were well over including the mobiles. Didn't even turn on the amp.

Air Champ Radio Kits

Over the past few months, I've managed to find a few things on the Air Champ Series of Radios offered in the 1950s. They were part of the Boy Scouts offering and appeared in the Sears and other catalogs of the day. We've shown the one tuber AC-100 in the October 2010 issue.

Here's the crystal version of the Air Champ Series – the AC-99



The way it arrived



The built unit

One of the things about the Air Champ Series was the box that it was shipped in! It was used as the enclosure for the radio. Here's the box for the two tube radio. You'll note the radio, which is built on a pine board, is then placed in the bottom of the box, and the controls pushed through the front of the box. There's a cutout for the speaker! This is for the 2 tube set which could drive a speaker. (It's the shipping box!)

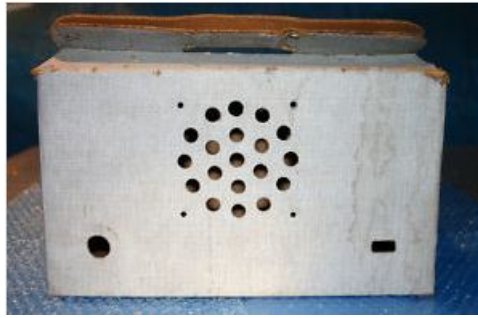


How it arrived on your doorstep



Layout of parts on the 'wood chassis'

Which then went into:



The shipping box, complete with carrying handles

Even the crystal radio went 'into the box'. You'd bring out the antenna wire, ground wire out the back, and the lone tuning control stuck through the front panel by itself! You would have a 'portable set' to take out on your camping trips!

It's amazing to see any of these around these days after 55 years of collecting dust.

Here's a really rare Ebay spot of the month



This is the AC-303 'speaker upgrade kit' for the basic one tube receiver. It added about five parts, including a speaker, output transformer and a few resistors and capacitors. The one tube set AC-101 used one half of the 3A5 dual triode. You had headphone output from a single stage. This upgrade wired in the other half of the dual triode! This sold for \$85 on Ebay in

the past month! It did come with all the original paperwork – for those Air Champ Collectors it was a 'real find'.

Why the UN Libs want gun Control

America's Largest Army

The world's largest army... America 's hunters! Think about this...

A blogger added up the deer license sales in just a handful of states and arrived at a striking conclusion:

There were over 600,000 hunters this season in the state of Wisconsin . Allow me to restate that number. Over the last several months, Wisconsin 's hunters became the eighth largest army in the world. More men under arms than in Iran .

More than in France and Germany combined.

These men deployed to the woods of a single American state to hunt with firearms, and no one was killed.

That number pales in comparison to the 750,000 who hunted the woods of Pennsylvania and Michigan 's 700,000 hunters, all of whom have now returned home.

Toss in a quarter million hunters in West Virginia and it literally establishes the fact that the hunters of those four states alone would comprise the largest army in the world.

The point?

America will forever be safe from foreign invasion with that kind of home-grown firepower.

Hunting -- it's not just a way to fill the freezer. It's a matter of national security.

That's why all enemies, foreign and domestic, want to see us disarmed.

Food for thought when next we consider gun control.

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Of course, if you'd like to be a tyrant like Gadaffi, even here in the USA, the first thing you have to do is 'go after the guns'. That's always the mantra of the left wingers here. The Micheal Moores, the Micheal Douglasses (An American President) , a Barack Obama and all his radical left wing supporters. Those folks don't want you clinging to your guns and bibles. Those are the ones who would like to see you cowed and wiped out like in Libya with no means of defense.

Kalawao County

Hawaii Qso Party August 2011 Kalawao

callsign = AH6NF

I wanted to let the County Hunters know in advance that a group of 6 Hawaii hams plan to be operating from Kalawao County on the island of Molokai for the Hawaii QSO Party in August. Details of the Hawaii QSO Party are at

<http://karc.net/OperatingEvents/HawaiiQSOParty/HIQSOPartyRules.html>

We plan to be down on the peninsula Aug. 25-29th, operating before and after the contest as much as possible as well as for the contest itself.

Since it is not often that someone goes to the peninsula (Kalaupapa town), we thought you would like to let your County Hunters know that we plan to be there so that they can get their needed Kalawao County contacts.

Contact me for any more information you might need and please let me know if you have any particular bands/modes, etc. that are most wanted. Bev, AH6NF

email = bevyuen@hawaii.rr.com

Morse Code Translator

Too lazy to send code.... just type it in and it will be sent...or you can have the dots and dashes version. Type in the text and hit the translate button

<http://morsecode.scphillips.com/jtranslator.html>

There are now a half dozen 'apps' for the iPhone/iPad to copy and send Morse code, too! Just type in Morse Code to search for them.

Export Land Model Update

Remember the 'Export Land Model'? It deals with producing countries using more and more of their production, and being able to export less and less?

Now, dueling headlines

"...Saudi Arabia expects its oil production to hold steady at an average 8.7 million b/d to 2015,

rising to 10.8 million b/d by 2030....."

<http://www.platts.com/RSSFeedDetailedNews/RSSFeed/Oil/8812036>

and

“Oil consumption, boosted by car use and air conditioning, has risen by half in the past decade to an estimated 2.7 million barrels per day (bpd) this year. Saudi Aramco, the national oil group, reckons demand could reach 8.3 million bpd by 2030.”

CONCLUSION: $10.8 - 8.3 = 2.5\text{mbd}$!!!!

Obama's problem solved ! We're not going to depend on the Saudi's anymore....

<http://blogs.reuters.com/columns/2011/04/20/arab-gas-guzzling-threatens-global-energy-balance/>

Mexico will be a net IMPORTER in a few years. Saudi will have little oil to export by 2030. Same for many other producers – so where is all the oil that China and the US needs going to come from?

Can you say \$20 gasoline? Or more?

17 Meter Report

Those spotted on 17m this month include: K5GE, KB6UF, KL1V, KA4RRU, N4JT, WQ7A, W9MSE, N5XG, W0MU, W0GXQ, KM1C, AI5P, W7FEN, and N4CD.

Atlas Shrugged – The Movie

“The movie story set in 2016, the economy is down the drains, gas is like a ridiculous over \$30 gallon, planes don't fly anymore, the Middle East is in chaos, etc. Very dire circumstances. Mexico nationalizes their industries, creating losses of unspeakable proportions to US owners and investors. There is mounting political pressure to tax the rich and penalize the productive members of society. Colorado is now the richest state and the hub of economic activity (strange). One by one, they drop out.....successful, smart, productive members drop out and "join" something else.... something with John Galt (won't spoil the movie here).

Antiquated rail tracks cause a major accident and the owners of Taggart Transcontinental - Dagny Taggart, a moral, productive character, and his brother with compromised value system have to do what they can to rebuild the railway. He takes the political route to solve the problem, whereas Dagny takes the moral and legitimate path and partners with the productive and successful Hank Rearden, owner of a steel company. He invents a type of metal that's half the weight and 5 times stronger than steel. The altruistic society loots and mooches off them.....creates legislation to stifle their productivity and tax them. Both are partners and do what they can to overcome the oppressive forces. I'll stop there....compelling storyline.

Towards the end of the movie, the anti-successful, anti-rich dialogue from the statist sounded more and more like what you hear out of Obama these days.....must tax the rich, pay their fair share...blah blah.”

source: MF board

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'Atlas Shrugged': From Fiction to Fact in 52 Years

If only "Atlas" were required reading for every member of Congress and political appointee in the Obama administration. I'm confident that we'd get out of the current financial mess a lot faster.

Many of us who know Rand's work have noticed that with each passing week, and with each successive bailout plan and economic-stimulus scheme out of Washington, our current politicians are committing the very acts of economic lunacy that "Atlas Shrugged" parodied in 1957, when this 1,000-page novel was first published and became an instant hit.

Rand, who had come to America from Soviet Russia with striking insights into totalitarianism and the destructiveness of socialism, was already a celebrity. The left, naturally, hated her. But as recently as 1991, a survey by the Library of Congress and the Book of the Month Club found that readers rated "Atlas" as the second-most influential book in their lives, behind only the Bible.

For the uninitiated, the moral of the story is simply this: Politicians invariably respond to crises -- that in most cases they themselves created -- by spawning new government programs, laws and regulations. These, in turn, generate more havoc and poverty, which inspires the politicians to create more programs . . . and the downward spiral repeats itself until the productive sectors of the economy collapse under the collective weight of taxes and other burdens imposed in the name of fairness, equality and do-goodism.

In the book, these relentless wealth redistributionists and their programs are disparaged as "the looters and their laws." Every new act of government futility and stupidity carries with it a benevolent-sounding title. These include the "Anti-Greed Act" to redistribute income (sounds like Charlie Rangel's promises soak-the-rich tax bill) and the "Equalization of Opportunity Act" to prevent people from starting more than one business (to give other people a chance). My personal favorite, the "Anti Dog-Eat-Dog Act," aims to restrict cut-throat competition between firms and thus slow the wave of business bankruptcies. Why didn't Hank Paulson think of that?

The current economic strategy is right out of "Atlas Shrugged": The more incompetent you are in business, the more handouts the politicians will bestow on you. That's the justification for the \$2 trillion of subsidies doled out already to keep afloat distressed insurance companies, banks, Wall Street investment houses, and auto companies -- while standing next in line for their share of the booty are real-estate developers, the steel industry, chemical companies, airlines, ethanol producers, construction firms and even catfish farmers. With each successive bailout to "calm the markets," another trillion of national wealth is subsequently lost. Yet, as "Atlas" grimly foretold, we now treat the incompetent who wreck their companies as victims, while those resourceful business owners who manage to make a profit are portrayed as recipients of illegitimate "windfalls."

When Rand was writing in the 1950s, one of the pillars of American industrial might was the railroads. In her novel the railroad owner, Dagny Taggart, an enterprising industrialist, has a FedEx-like vision for expansion and first-rate service by rail. But she is continuously badgered, cajoled, taxed, ruled and regulated -- always in the public interest -- into bankruptcy. Sound far-fetched? On the day I sat down to write this ode to "Atlas," a Wall Street Journal headline blared: "Rail Shippers Ask Congress to Regulate Freight Prices."

In one chapter of the book, an entrepreneur invents a new miracle metal -- stronger but lighter than steel. The government immediately appropriates the invention in "the public good." The politicians demand that the metal inventor come to Washington and sign over ownership of his

invention or lose everything.

The scene is eerily similar to an event when six bank presidents were summoned by Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson to Washington, and then shuttled into a conference room and told, in effect, that they could not leave until they collectively signed a document handing over percentages of their future profits to the government. The Treasury folks insisted that this shakedown, too, was all in "the public interest."

Source: WSJ

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The Movie is out in limited distribution around the country. It's worth seeing.

Here's the Cliff Notes version/summary if you want to get up to speed before you go see it

http://www.cliffsnotes.com/study_guide/literature/Atlas-Shrugged-Book-Summary.id-7.pageNum-1.html

80 Meter Report

AA8R reports - below are some stats from the Tuesday 80m CW night for CHNews

Total Counties: 201 counties

Number of Mobiles: 13

Top 3 mobiles:

N9JF - 97 counties

W4SIG - 26 counties

W9MSE - 16 counties

South Dakota QSO Party

I heard/worked at least five different stations – K7RE, Brian, was out mobile on cw in 15 more more counties. . KD0S was in many counties(10+) on SSB and CW. AF3X was in South Dakota, too on his trip. Then there were several stations spotted on SSB as well. (KB0QBT, WD0BMS, K0PIR, K0LEW) Probably 25 plus counties on the air for this event. One or two fixed cw stations in there as well (K0HW).

N6MU – fixed – CA

“Not a whole lot of activity but mobiles KD0S and K7RE kept it interesting. 60%(38) of my Qs were with KD0S who was willing to QSY everywhere. “

K4BAI – fixed – GA

Nice QSO party with fair activity. Got a number of all-time new SD counties. Thanks to KD0S/M and K7RE/M and to the other fixed stations.

N5NA – fixed – TX

I enjoyed following the two mobiles around, K7RE & KD0S. Finished up with the following QSO totals: K7RE (12), KD0S (7), and K0HW (1). K7RE sounded busy every time I heard him. Both stations had a good signal on 20m into WTX. My one 40m QSO was with KD0S.

I kept one VFO on K7RE's frequency and the other on KD0S and watched the P3 for activity. That worked out pretty well.

If not for mobiles state QSO parties would be pretty boring. Thanks K7RE & KD0S for putting on the SDQP!

Awards Issued

Second Time #403	Lowell, KB0BA	April 19, 2011
Eighth Time #8	Paul WD9EJK	April 9, 2011
USA- PA – N #11	Ray, AB4YZ	April 15, 2011

Operating Events for County Hunters

Florida QSO Party RS(T), FL county or S/P/C www.floridaqsoparty.org

Apr 30, 1600Z - See Web site Multiple operating periods; CW 7.025-7.035,14.040-14.050,21.040-21.050,28.040-28.050; Phone 7.18-7.19,14.265-14.275,21.340-21.350,28.480-28.490.

Ten-Ten Spring CW Contest Call sign, name, 10-10 number, state www.ten-ten.org
May 7, 0001Z - May 8, 2359Z

7th Area QSO Party State and county code 7qp.org

May 7, 1300Z - May 8, 0700Z CW--40 kHz above band edge; SSB--1.845, 3.855, 7.235, 14.255, 21.355, 28.455.

Indiana QSO Party RS(T) + S/P or IN county, DX RS(T) only www.hdxcc.org/inqp
May 7, 1600Z - May 8, 0400Z CW--1.805 and 40 kHz above the band edge on 80-10 meters,
SSB--1.845, 3.820, 7.190, 14.250, 21.300, 28.400.

New England QSO Party RS(T) and S/P or New England county www.neqp.org
May 7, 2000Z - See Web site Multiple operating periods; CW--3.540, 7.035, 14.040, 21.040,
28.040; SSB--3.850, 7.180/280, 14.280, 21.380, 28.380.3

CQ WW WPX Contest RST and serial www.cqwp.com
May 28, 0000Z - May 29, 2400Z

Other events:

Dayton Hamvention County Hunter Meeting – Friday 4pm

May 20-22

<http://www.hamvention.org/>

National Convention – July 2011

The 43RD MARAC National Convention

July 6th – July 9th, 2011 Duluth, MN

(

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

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

Check MARAC.org for latest info