

County Hunter News

September 1, 2011

Volume 7, Issue 9

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.

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

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

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 . Please check it out. Back issues of the County Hunter News are available at www.CHNewsonline.com

De N4CD (email: telegraphy@verizon.net)

Notes from the Editor

1) August was a good month for county hunting, but conditions were up and down. Several mobiles were out on long trips, so that made it interesting to follow and work them. Greg, NM2L headed cross country. Gene, K5GE was on a long trip to SD, and Ray, AB4YZ was running most of New England, NY and NJ. Some were still returning from the convention in Duluth, MN at the beginning of the month, having taken long stops along the way.

Propagation was nothing to write home about. Some days were OK, but many days folks struggled to hear the mobile for much of the day. In the middle of the day, the bands went flat. Still, hundreds of counties were run. There were lots of two-two relays on many days.

2) Trip notes

AB7RW reports on his July trip: “”We traveled 7500 miles. Only problem with the car was the day after we got home, the driver door would not open. Hi Hi, Getting time to trade it in, has ovr 190,000 miles. Yes it's broken in (In my wallet). Both the mechanical and electrical systems quit at the same time. I transmitted from 177 counties and Q'd 3984. “

Mobile Activity

At the end of the last month

Greg, **NM2L** headed out from Georgia to MT via a hundred counties in IL, IA, WI, MN, ND. . Conditions were unusual. Folks were working him from 40M up through 10M with solid signals into TX and around the country. That kept up for few days, then the great conditions faded and it was hard to hear him above 20M after that – it was back to real long skip. .

Kerry, **W4SIG**, headed over from TN and spend a lot of time on 15, 12 and 10 meters with lots of activity as he made his way to Dallas. Then back.

Gene, **K5GE**, was running counties in SD. Unfortunately he hit a deer/deer hit him. All OK but car damaged and trip had to be shortened. He still put out a big bunch of counties, using 17M often for the second band needed for Mobile Diamond transmit counties. His report later.

Jim, **N9JF**, stumbled through Blaine OK on the way back from his extended trip in AZ. It was the LC WBOW for Joyce, N9STL for Bingo IV!

Jerry, **W0GXQ**, headed to South Dakota for the US Counties QSO Party via a few in ND. At the beginning, the upper bands worked a bit, but 10, 12, and 15 quickly shut down. Then it was 80-17 for the trip, and only 20/40/80 in the contest.

Jack, **N7ID**, was out and about in ID a few days. He got several to help finish off N0DXE on her quest for Bingo. She's getting real close.

Norm, **W3DYA**, headed out for the US Counties Party by running a bunch in TX.

KA4RRU, Mike, was out mobile a few days including a trip up to PA.

Larry, **N2OCW** was up in CT, PA, NY, NJ putting them out for the folks. Later in the month he ran some in WV and PA.

Chuck, **NO5W**, was mobile in the US Counties Party – running in LA. Report later.

Dan, **KM9X** wrote

“Thanks to all those that gave me contacts on my vacation trip to Duluth, then to the beach in Miss, and back. I have just completed the logging and ended up with these stats.
213 counties ran in 10 states. Ran 65 new counties (1626 total unique counties ran)

Out of the 173 ran on 20, 40 and some on 15m, 99 qualified to count as the Mobile Diamond Award transmitted counties. Lots of counties with not enough on one band or the other, but 15 m did allow some counties to get the required three contacts on two bands. MD transmits are at 117 now.

I got 131 new counties for 4th time and 161 total now counties for the Mobile Diamond. Thanks to all the MP holders for the help on that needed MP contact and to all those that really didn't need my county but gave me a contact towards the three on two bands!

3089 miles. A total of 118, 217 miles so far CHing. Great time was had by all, in Duluth and on the beach.. now to plan the next trip. “

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In August

Jim, **ND9M** returned back home running counties from out by the west coast.

Seth, **N3MRA**, was on many days putting them out on SSB, along with Dan, **AA0TT** who was all over the country.

Scottie, **N4AAT**, took a trip up to VA. He developed brake problems in WV and had to make it home with failing brakes – report a bit later in the CHNews.

Greg, **NM2L**, was out in MT running counties until Murphy hit and his IC-706 died.

Mike, **KA4RRU**, was over in Dare, NC – ran to and from – putting them out.

WA3QNT ran a few in PA.

The team of **W8FNW/W4FNW** plus **W8GEJ** hit a bunch of counties in OH and WV on several weekends. The team runs on SSB and W8GEJ on CW.

Ed, **K8ZZ**, made a long trip out west to MT via most of NE and SD running them all the way to and back from MI.

Bob and Ann, **KA9JAC/KB9YVT**, put some out in WI.

Jim, **K0ARS**, put them out on a few trips in August.

Barry, **N0KV**, and Pat, **N0DXE** were spotted in few to the south of their QTH in COLO.

Dave, **KE3VV**, headed south to FL. While there he put out most in Southern FL as well.

Dan, **KM9X**, took a trip to the western side of IN.

Mike, **W0MU**, headed from CO to MT. Seems he had mini-me NA7XX club call along for the ride.

Jack, **N7IV**, headed over to MN to run a few.

AE5SK ran in MS and TN on SSB.

Randy **AJ5XZ** ran in TX a few times. One trip he was accompanied by **KC5QACB**.

Darl, **NA8W**, spotted out mobile in OH

Dave, **KW1DX** spotted out mobile – including the tough to get NYC boroughs, and some in NJ. Then headed back home via CT.

Kyle, **WA4PGM** was running counties up in ME.

Ron, **KB6UF** was over in MS putting them out.

Ray, **WG6X**, made two trips in AL to get counties for the folks.

Mike, **KA4RRU**, headed to FL! Put them out along the way.

Kerry **W4SIG** was down in MS running them there.

Tom, **K8YJ**, ran counties in WV.

Larry, **W7FEN**, put out counties in CO during the month. He's spending lots of time in Teller, CO.

N8CBW, Clark spotted out west in counties on SSB.

K0MAF spotted on SSB running counties for the folks on SSB.

Ray, **AB4YZ**, headed out to NY and New England. He indicated that when he finishes all the counties up that way, he will have completed running all the counties in the 'Continental US'. He had ride along 'mini-me' call W4CA with him.

Ed, **N8OYY**, was out and about in WV, including some of the rarer hard to get to ones.

Larry, **N2OCW**, was putting them out in WV and some in PA.

Jimmy, **K4YFH** put out some in NC on CW.

Kirby, **W8DCD** was on running counties.

Jeffrey, **AF3X**, headed from TN down to SE LA and back.

Jim, **N4JT**, headed from NC up to VA to get Wise, Dickinson, Buchanan and other hard to get counties. Both CW and SSB

Don, **W0EAR**, was out and about in MN.

KA1JPR/KA1QBC headed from FL to ME. And back.

Karl, **K4YT**, headed up to the NYC area running them along the way.

K1LH was out in TN putting them out.

Joe, **KF5AT**, headed over to Tyler TX to give Matt, W0NAC, the LC WBOW for the 'K' prefix.

Matt Hagens on Oil

Last week, in a repeat of 2008, reports of fat earnings from the oil majors were met with blame and outrage from American consumers, who are stressed from \$4+ gas prices and strapped finances. Exxon Mobil, the 18th-largest oil company in the world, with about 3% of world production (~4million barrels of oil equivalent per day), reported quarterly earnings of \$10.7 billion dollars. Americans are upset because they envision such hefty profits as direct transfers from their thin pocketbooks to Exxon, itself the recipient of government oil and gas subsidies to boot.

I am not an oil industry apologist, but recognize that I live in an oil-centric world, own a car, enjoy air travel and partake in the daily smorgasbord of food, services, and novelty made possible in the cheap energy age. To me, given the problems our country and government face, blaming Exxon for high gasoline prices and excessive tax subsidies is akin to complaining about a mosquito bite on your arm when a crocodile has your leg in its mouth.

First, it is a stretch to say that Exxon is under-taxed; last year Exxon's worldwide total taxes amounted to \$86 billion, or 23% of its revenue (by comparison, at this country's second-largest corporation — Apple, Inc. — taxes were 6.9% of revenue. Yet Exxon understandably is a lightning rod, because the ~3 cents per gallon it makes as the world's largest refiner add up to very large numbers. And yes they make large sums on their oil production when commodity prices rise more than costs. But these are two sides of the wrong argument, and are not the real story.

Under a lens of ecology and biophysical economics, the vitriol being expressed at the Exxon is misplaced at best and counterproductive at worst. Though our culture perceives dollars and digits in the bank as wealth, in reality they are only markers. Our real wealth comes from the sun, including its direct daily insolation, its role in photosynthesis (which creates biomass, including fossil fuels), and its pushing natural and hydrological cycles that perform vital services to our species and others.

Our primary wealth is our finite endowment of resources, like oil and gas, timber, water, and minerals. We extract resources from this natural "bank account" and combine them with human ingenuity and technology to produce things we can use, such as tractors, houses, and clothing. Our socio-political system then overlays monetary tokens: stocks, bonds, bank deposits and

cash that function as markers of our real wealth, markers that are increasingly disconnected from the reality of our natural resource balance sheet.

But energy is different from iPads or Doritos in its impact on our lives. The laws of economics (more like guidelines) state that energy, capital and labor are all substitutable. This turns out not to be true; there is no substitution for energy in our economy — every single economic product created requires first an expenditure of energy.

The amount of human labor that oil and other fossil fuels have been able to replace or allocate to other pursuits is gargantuan. The average human can generate only about 0.6 kilowatt-hours per day from physical effort, which, based on median U.S. salaries, equates to more than \$300 per kWh generated by human labor. Oil, even at \$110 per barrel, costs us just 6 cents per kWh, or 500 times cheaper than human labor. This replacement of human effort with fossil fuels has been the single primary driver of economic riches of the past couple of generations. For all intents and purposes, on human time scales, oil in our lives is indistinguishable from magic.

And it is depleting. U.S. oil production has been in steady decline since its peak in 1970. World production has been stagnant since 2005, despite a tripling in price last decade. The marginal barrel of oil now costs \$85, as we are drilling deeper and in harsher environments, and now having to include fuels with lower net BTUs like tar sands, natural gas liquids and ethanol into the oil category just to stay even.

So when Exxon reports \$10.7 billion in earnings, this is the monetary accounting of the chemical and kinetic energy it contributed to society in the form of oil and gas sales. This oil and gas then went on to perform myriad other activities in our economy — and 4 million barrels per day is the equivalent of over 2 billion human-days of useable energy. About equal to the working population of the world. Quite a deal actually, for us.

While high gasoline prices might appear to be the problem, they are only a symptom of our more-complex problem. We have grown debt in this country more than we've grown GDP for 45 years in a row. Our borrowing of money to buy cheap shoes, cheap furniture and cheap TVs gives China much (paper) wealth with which to bid up world commodity prices, including oil.

To avert financial ruin in 2008, our government stepped in as lender of last resort in the housing market, spent 12% of GDP each year they didn't have, and grew the Federal Reserve balance sheet by over \$2 trillion dollars. These actions have furthered the U.S. dollar's devaluation, which in turn drives oil prices higher in dollar terms. In the context of these trillions, a focus on eliminating \$4 billion in subsidies to an industry that produces the hemoglobin of our economy is much more politic than actually relevant. The Big Problem isn't Big Oil creating energy from fossil fuels, it's Big Government creating money from thin air to cater to an over-entitled population.

This brings us to the biophysical money shot. At issue is not whether we are 'running out' of oil or other fossil fuels. The problem is that we are running out of fossil fuels affordable enough to power a globalized industrialized society. As easy (government) money causes commodity prices to rise, this helps Exxon and the other oil companies but is costly to the American public.

If this stimulus goes away, and oil goes back down to say \$40-50 per barrel due to recession, this helps the American consumer, but at a cost of significant amounts of oil resources then

becoming uneconomic to produce. One can imagine the endpoint of this trajectory, as eventually get to a market price which is both unaffordable to our debt-saturated society, and uneconomic for oil companies to extract the harder to find remaining hydrocarbons.

This is the future we should be planning for. It's not all dark, but significant belt-tightening of both consumption and aspirations will be required.

For now, its safe to assume that the passing of the credit creation mechanism from the private sector, to the central banks was not only a wealth transfer to the financial sector (via free money), but to the energy and other sectors as well. So again, XOM just reported pudgy earnings, but so did Goldman Sachs, General Electric and a host of other companies benefiting from the reflationary FED bullet. Exxon's earnings controversy thus really isn't about Exxon. But it should be a reminder that energy not dollars is what we have to spend, and since energy can't be printed, he who has the money controls the energy (for now).

The bottom line is the main drivers of American progress over the past two generations have been cheap energy, and increasingly cheap credit. This era is now over. Perhaps as importantly, it's beginning to be recognized as over. It turns out that cheap energy and cheap money may not be our God-given rights as Americans. And the secret truth is their availability, in hindsight, was as much a curse as a blessing, given what we see of people's reactions and expectations today to an increase in oil price from 3cents to 6 cents per kWh.

It was less than two years ago we were squawking about the financial companies bringing the U.S. to the brink of financial ruin. Now it seems we've turned our sights on the evil oil companies (again).

They may not be noble, or admirable, or even likeable, but oil companies are providing a critical service to society and playing by the rules created by you and me and the people we voted for. Though gasoline is expensive relative to what we have become accustomed to, it is still incredibly cheap in what it can accomplish for us. In the face of resource depletion, it is time we not only wake up to the realities of our natural resource situation, but also grow up — by making hard choices instead of blaming whomever seems to be the bad guy du jour.

Nate Hagens has a PhD in Natural Resources from the University of Vermont and and MBA from the University of Chicago. He writes at the energy discussion portal, www.theoil drum.com and is on the Boards of Post Carbon Institute and Institute for Integrated Economic Research.

US Counties QSO Party

Jerry, W0GXQ contributed the following

“My plans for the U.S. Counties QSO Party were finalized months ago, but I failed to get an

update on the South Dakota road closures due to flooding. As a result, I experienced over forty miles of detours on Saturday. Sunday was much better with only an additional ten miles of detour.

I wanted to be alert Saturday morning when the Party started, so I left Hubbard Minnesota around 1600z Friday and spent the night in Britton, (Marshall) South Dakota. On July 27th through the 29th, the higher frequency bands were wide open for new band/county count; and I was hoping for the same over the weekend, but I was sure disappointed to make just a few contacts on 15m and zip on 10m. Twenty meters was the workhorse band. On Saturday forty meters was very poor but on Sunday it really picked up (due to propagation or spots?).

About the time I was to hit the road on Saturday morning, it was storming. High winds had damaged and/or toppled large trees around the motel. My antenna is guyed four-way and it was threatening to twist right off the top of the Blazer. The sky was almost black and there was hail in the area, so I went back inside the motel and rechecked the weather channel. The storm-band was quite narrow, so when the wind died down a bit, I decided to outrun it. All went well until I hit the first detour.

There was other contest competition on Saturday which made it dicey, but on Sunday we seemed to have the bands to ourselves. The European stations were very strong and the skip favored some close-in contacts as well (I never did raise anyone on 80m). This year my plan was *not* to compete with the other entries in the Mobile category, but to “transmit counties for the Mobile Diamond Award”. To this end, I accomplished very little on Saturday with only one or two contacts on 40m between 1400z and 2200z. There was no problem making MP contacts with N4CD, N4AAT, N8KIE, and N9STL being very active, but because 40m was so punk, I managed only “run credit” for 8 of the 21 counties. On Sunday I met the requirements in all but two of the twenty four counties on my list. I didn’t do much searching for mobiles this trip, but thanks to W9MSE for finding me in the majority of my counties.

The trip meter read 1,518 miles when I returned home. With temperatures in the mid to upper nineties, the air- conditioner was on for the better part of both days of the Party; so the Blazer really ate up the gas! Since I had no driver, I decided to use a recorder, so now I’m looking at reliving the weekend and hoping that I can meet Scott’s deadline (smile). As I age, I’m finding it harder to pull out the calls at the onset of running a new county. My thanks to all of the county hunters who followed me, and I hope that I was able to provide some needed SD counties. Look for me as I head to Montague TX in early September. “

From Chuck, NO5W US Counties QSO Party – NO5W/M

This was my first adventure as a mobile in the US Counties party. It exceeded my expectations in terms of activity but it was not without some frustrations and visits from Murphy. I had

recently acquired a new laptop and naturally it was running Windows 7. I had some reservations about the software running OK on that new OS so in the limited time I had Saturday of the contest I went on a little solo drive stopping to operate in several neighboring counties. I was pleasantly surprised that there were no hiccups, everything seemed to be in great shape for the Sunday full-day outing that Larry-K5END and I had planned for southeast Texas and southwest Louisiana.

Bright and early Sunday morning I picked up Larry and away we went headed east toward Beaumont and Lake Charles Louisiana. About twenty miles into the trip and still trying to break away from Houston everything was ready and it was time for the first CQ. Aha, the first one yielded a response, this was going to be great! Logging the contact proved to be a different story however, as the machine appeared to hang up and hang up really hard. The only way I could get control was to pull the battery. After reinstalling the battery several attempts at restarting proved futile and it was decided we would have to revert to the old Dell D400 machine which, of course, we had forgotten to include in the cargo.

What in the world had happened between Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning? No time to try to trouble shoot that question because we had advertised a number of counties we would cover on a somewhat ambitious route and time was slipping away. So it was back to the house to pick up the Dell and install the latest software to support the USQP. The Dell started up fine and we were back underway but the first QSO revealed that the old machine was nearly choking on the 3077 counties in the mult list. If you were following along and trying to work NO5W/M you must have been frustrated and puzzled by the “operating style” or lack thereof. Believe me it was also very frustrating on our end. A call would come in, be entered, and the enter key pressed to send the exchange. About 5-6 seconds later the exchange would go out and of course by that time the callers would be calling again, as they should have. And if we needed to correct a typo or a mis-copied call or county well good luck with that! The machine was responding so slowly that it was nearly impossible to know what you had typed over or deleted. Although short 1x2 and 2x1 calls weren't too bad even moderately long calls really posed a problem.

As the day went on things got a little better since the counties of fixed stations would get auto-filled but of course there were a number of mobiles calling, with excellent signals by the way, and most of the time they were in a new county. Obviously these were much appreciated QSOs but when one would call in I knew it was going to be another session of wrestling with the balky computer.

Except for one missed turn, Larry kept us moving down the planned route and we continued to get good pileups at each county changeover and continued making QSOs but it remained a struggle. Many thanks to all those that followed us around and continued calling. Your QSOs and patience were very much appreciated and turned a rough start into a very enjoyable outing. With Larry's excellent driving we managed to make all of the planned counties. We'll definitely be back next year with snappier operating.

So what in the world did happen between Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning? The key

seems to be that on Saturday we were always stopped while logging QSOs whereas on Sunday we were underway. These new-fangled laptops have sensors to protect the hard drive when various levels of vibration are detected. When that happens it is impossible to read or write to the drive. So what's a mobile op to do in order to use one of these machines? Thoughts of disabling the drive protection feature came to mind but that didn't seem like a good idea. Installation of a solid state drive was also considered but those things are not cheap. Next best thing, and a whole lot cheaper, are the lowly USB memory sticks. And that's what we'll be using in our next outing which will be a team effort with Alan-N5NA in the Arkansas QSO Party on September 10 covering about twenty counties in the southern part of the state. A detailed route plan can be found on the Route Plans page of our web site www.no5w.com. Hope to put your call in our log many times in that one as well as the Texas party later in September.

73/Chuck/NO5W

On the Road with N4CD

The thermometer was hitting 100 degrees plus and records were being set for the 'highest low temp' of the day, day after day. (lows of only 84, 85, 86 deg). There were also many ties and near ties for high temps and an occasional record high strings of days consecutive over 100, too. (105, 106, 107, etc) The exceptional drought let the temps rise and rise with the fixed high sitting over Texas courtesy of the La Nina weather pattern.. There wasn't any need to stay in the Dallas area for a while, so I decided to head 'to the hills' and cooler climates. Besides, there were counties to run. It gets boring being cooped up in a/c day after day. The budget would allow a 10 day trip out west.

From The New Scientist:

In 19 out of the past 20 La Niñas, storm clouds moved across the northern US, bypassing Texas and neighboring states. The result was drought in the southern US, explains Hoerling. In turn, drought pushes temperatures up, because parched soil and the air above it are more vulnerable to overheating....

Right now, a large high-pressure dome is stuck on top of Texas and nearby states, says Gerald Meehl of the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, bringing clear skies and high temperatures. "Since the air is not going anywhere, it just gets hotter and hotter," he says. Were the jet stream still flowing, it would carry cooler air from the Pacific to replace the hot air that is currently hanging around.

No need to stay around in TX to see how many records get broken this year – but, note- it is not the hottest summer by far – there are still some hotter ones in the past!

There were a few stranglers for Mobile Diamond counties out to the west in TX , so I headed right out highway 380 west to the TX border, then north for a few and over in New Mexico. All of New Mexico other than one that Bob, N8KIE, ran - was new territory for he MD award, and folks needed the northeast corner where Union is located. I made it out to far west TX by night, and stayed overnight in a small motel (Friona Inn, Friona, TX – Castro County). Dinner was a chicken salad at the DQ next door.

It was still hot there. Next morning the route zigged up along the east border of NM. You can take a small road to get over to San Miguel which I did – 15 mile detour but it added in another county and I had time.

The next day was all in NM. If you go to where the ski areas and mountains are, you get up to 8000 feet or so, and the temps at night drop like a rock. The day time temps are more moderate, too. However, the south part of NM was just as hot as TX and just as dry! I didn't go there!

There's a nice small town of Eagle Nest, NM in Colfax County that is up at 8000 feet where the temps drop to the 40s and 50s every night and only gets up to the 70s and 80s in the day time. That is perfect after weeks of plain old hot weather where it gets DOWN to 85 degrees at night, and is usually about 100 deg at 9pm at night! I spent two days there – you can see the whole town in 3 hours, but I did some local sightseeing and just chilled – I did get over to Taos County and ran that. It's not a bad climb up to the Pass and you can run the County Line there if you want, or just Taos as there is lots of parking. The sign is still full of bullet holes – as it was the last time I was here five or 10 years ago!

I stay at the Gold Pan motel there - \$50 – only six rooms but right on the main drag.



I had dinner at Dorothy's Outpost Pizza – she makes only 8 to 10 pizzas a day. You'll wait a half hour while she custom makes your pizza but you can sit out on the porch and enjoy the wonderful COOL temps!



Dorothy at Outpost Pizza

It's about 15 miles over to Angel Fire ski area, and there's a big lake in Eagle Nest with world class fishing. The next night I had a great dinner at the historic restaurant/hotel across the street – build in 1893!

If you want more excitement, head on up the road to Red River – it's got 20 or 30 hotels/motels and is a nice tourist town where you have lots of activities for adults and kids of all ages. It started out as an old gold mining town, and now it is a ski area in the winter time. It's full of condos. In the summer time, it is a biking/hiking mecca, or just a place to hang out and do the tourist thing. It's got a mile long 'main drag'.

Near Eagle Nest is the New Mexico Vietnam Memorial (near Angel Fire- the ski area). Here's a link.



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

After two nights enjoying the 40s in the morning – I headed over into Colorado. Bob N8KIE had run some there and Gene, K5GE had run the eastern side on his last trip, but most of the state had not been run for Mobile Diamond. Folks always need Hinsdale so I took the long route and headed into Hinsdale then into Gunnison, then over to Montrose. That night it was an Econolodge motel. After I checked in, I made a dead end detour down to Ouray and ran it, then headed back to the motel. Dinner was at the great Chinese Buffet there (Dragon Wall). It was in the 90s there – it's on the western side of the Rockies and not all that high. It's the 'high plains'. Hot! Dry! Breakfast is included at the Econolodge – had some waffles, cereal, a banana, eggs and bacon, and coffee.

The next morning it was up the northwest corner – big counties and lots of driving – Moffat, Routt, then east into Jackson (and the mountains once again).



Jackson/Routt COLO

I zipped through over to Grand County and stayed at the Cliffside Inn in Kremmerling. I met an interesting traveler from the Netherlands. He was taking 4 months to ride his bike coast to coast. He had started in NY and was headed to Portland OR.



Dinner was at 'the best Mexican restaurant in Grand County' – maybe it was the only one? It was nice and there were a bunch of folks there. The temps got down to the 40s and night – delightful! I drove around the town a bit – not much there – and part of it probably went back 120-130 years with the 'false front' buildings one block off the main drag now.

The next day I headed south a bit to run some of the mountain counties - up and down the tall mountain passes down through Leadville (entire town at 10,000 plus feet – highest year round city in the US). There's always folks needing Lake and Pitkin and Park counties plus the scenery is great and the summer temps are mild. Way back when, when CO was a territory, Leadville tried to become the state capital. Millions in gold were taken out of a square mile of gold mines in the town. Denver eventually won out.

Well, eventually you get to Independence Pass – the highest paved pass in Colorado at over 12,000 feet – and only open in summer. There are 3 higher paved roads, but this is the highest mountain pass. There was still a few patches of snow left on top of pass (in mid August!). The pass usually doesn't open until after Memorial Day – the snow is still too deep to plow and keep the road open – and closes by early fall.



Pat, N0DXE calls on the phone and invites me to drop on by their QTH in Douglas County. After zipping down through Teller into El Paso, I head north on 83 to Douglas and drop on by for a visit. Well, that turns out to be for a few days.

Conditions had been so so. I'd run on 20cw, then 17, 30 and sometimes 40cw (not many takers), then switch to 20 SSB where N5UZW would usually be waiting. After a quick spot, a dozen or more were there on 20M SSB. Once 'over the mountains' there were few takers on 40M SSB, too. Occasionally I'd spot myself, although cell coverage throughout much of Colorado, at least with Verizon, leaves much to be desired. County lines are often 'out in the boonies' so you didn't have data coverage, but maybe could get in a cellphone call. I did manage to get a Mobile Diamond contact from every county, but part of that is not running too early in the morning or too late at night when the skip really lengthens out. Sometimes there is only DX in there late in the afternoon.

I laughed my head off a few times when I worked AB4YZ for the MD contact, and 'James' came on with a 'big growl' to try to cover up the signal report. It seems he just can't help himself. No self control. Maybe he needs even stronger 'meds'? It's pathetic, and I'm sure dozens hear the 'growl' that he can't even seem to suppress. Worse, sometimes he jams

other people getting reports as the mobile comes back to another. Maybe that's one reason there are so few mobiles running these days. They don't want to put up with this idiotic behavior out of SC. It's really sad. Just imagine mobiles out on trips, and they suddenly realize that the NC station is intentionally jamming them as they try to work stations. Ray's key broke early in the trip so he ran only SSB. (That leaves tons of LC s for the CW county hunters when someone heads up that way with a working cw setup.)

Well, when I arrived, Barry was off on a search and rescue mission in the boonies of Park County. He's really into Search and Rescue operations. Seems an 44 year old experienced hiker had been missing for 3 weeks after going on a 'day hike' and the search teams had just notified of 'missing hiker' who had gone to scale a 12000 foot Bison peak 3 weeks earlier. After a few days of searching, nothing had been found – when you are by yourself, anything can happen, from severe weather including vicious lightning (with no place to hide) and large hail. Or sliding off a cliff or overhang, breaking something, or encountering a bear in a bad mood. The search was mostly at or above the tree line at high altitude. It's possible they'll never find anything as things are usually eaten by predators quickly.

Barry, N0KV, and Pat, have a nice spread with a good antenna farm – nice beam, verticals – that cover everything from 160 up through VHF. While there I got to run the 20M SSB net for a day or two from a good station – which can be a lot of fun since you can hear everything. They have a nice quiet QTH, too.

One day I headed out and run the counties around the Denver area. Leaving their QTH, it is one mile over to Elbert county – then you head north about a mile or two and you hit the Arapahoe County line and there's a good spot to run it, too. Take Gun Club road up to where you find a part of Adams, then run it. Next, I headed west to the hills to get to Clear Creek and Gilpin – you can do that at a county line – not the greatest in the world as it's in a 'cut' though some hills, but it seems to work OK – you'd have a better signal if you head on up to a clear spot and just run Gilpin. Matt, W0NAC, suggested the gravel/dirt road from Idaho Springs up to Central City – but I passed on that – my Malibu doesn't do too well on gravel roads, and he has a high clearance truck! (and has been known to get stuck on occasions, too). He gets up there every month or two, so if you need Gilpin still, hook up with him!

Then I headed down to Jefferson – I accidentally took the small old route 6 to Golden – very scenic but it winds a lot, and it's in a canyon along side the river for 20 miles. There's a four lane road off the interstate – oh well. Then up to Boulder – and over to Broomfield. A quick trip up the interstate then for 3 exits to Weld CO. The weather was turning nasty with dark clouds, expected thunderstorms in the afternoon and evening and there was some rain coming down, so I decided that Larimer would have to wait for another trip. It was back to Barry and Pat's house for the evening. Along the 'front range' it is not uncommon to have afternoon thunderstorms. The antennas were disconnected for a few hours.

One night we headed out to the Buckhorn Exchange – the oldest restaurant in Denver – going back to 1893.

Here's a bit from their website”

“Denver, Colorado's most historic eating and drinking establishment, located at 1000 Osage Street in Denver, Colorado, is now in its second century of operation. The Buckhorn Exchange, which has liquor license Number One in the State of Colorado, was founded on November 17, 1893 by Henry H. "Shorty Scout" Zietz, easily recognized as one of the most colorful figures of the Old West.



In 1875, at age 10, a wide-eyed Zietz met Col. William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody. Within two years young Henry was a full-fledged member of the hard-riding, straight-shooting band of scouts. It was during the years that Henry rode with Buffalo Bill that the great Indian leader, Chief Sitting Bull, dubbed him "Shorty Scout" due to his diminutive stature.

"Shorty Scout" Zietz became a lifelong friend to the Indians, and when he died in July 1949, the last of Cody's famous scout band was gone.

But it was Zietz's restaurant, the Buckhorn Exchange, which chronicled the robust and lusty days of early Colorado. From the time it opened its doors here on Osage Street in 1893, it catered to cattlemen, miners, railroad builders, silver barons, Indian chiefs, roustabouts, gamblers, businessmen, the great and the near-great all dropped in to imbibe and dine on the West's finest offerings - many still on the menu today. It seems that a square meal, a hearty drink, and a taste for history always lived side by side at the Buckhorn.

The Buckhorn Exchange derives its name from the Rio Grande Railroad yards that were directly across Osage Street and the second-story Buckhorn Lodge that housed railroaders for the night. Each Friday, the railroaders scrambled across Osage Street to exchange their paychecks for gold. In return, Zietz handed each man a token good for a free lunch and a beer. After all, whoever heard of a railroad man stopping after only one beer?

President Theodore Roosevelt ate here in 1905 when his Presidential Express train pulled into the Rio Grande rail yards. Roosevelt strutted in presidential style, asked old Shorty Scout to be his guide and hunting partner, and after dinner and drinks, the pair took off by train to hunt big game on Colorado's western slope.

Today a photo of the train and a flag from its engine are among hundreds of pieces of museum-quality memorabilia on display in the Buckhorn Exchange which today is as much a museum as a restaurant and bar.

Another historic moment and most incredible scene was recorded in 1938 when Sitting Bull's nephew, Chief Red Cloud, and a delegation of thirty Sioux and Blackfoot Indians rode slowly down Osage Street in full battle regalia, and ceremoniously turned over to Shorty Scout Zietz the military saber taken from the vanquished General George Custer in the Battle of Little Big Horn. The sword remains in the Zietz family today.

The Buckhorn Exchange brims with historic artifacts, legends and notable moments. Five Presidents - Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, Dwight Eisenhower, Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan - dined at the Buckhorn. Hundreds of Hollywood legends, too, have savored our fare, including Bob Hope, Jimmy Cagney, Charleton Heston, astronauts Scott Carpenter and Jack Swigert, Great Britain's Princess Anne, Roy Rogers and Will Rogers. The list is virtually endless.

The Buckhorn even survived Prohibition implemented in Colorado in 1916 - three years before the rest of the nation. With the repeal of Prohibition, the restaurant and "bar" - no longer a saloon - reopened as Zietz's Buckhorn Restaurant and Bar, and was issued Colorado Liquor License No. 1, which is still on display today.

The walls of the Buckhorn detail its illustrious history. Its walls hold a rare 575-piece collection of taxidermy, including deer and moose, giant buffalo, mountain goat and big horn sheep; dozens of indigenous fowl; even a two-headed calf and a legendary jackalope.

The 125-piece gun collection includes Colt .45s, Winchesters, Derringers, a Sharp's sporting rifle dating to 1889, and a rare palm pistol dating to 1891 and the Minneapolis Firearm Co.

Yes, a great deal has changed at the Buckhorn since 1893, yet much is as it was in the days when the clientele packed six-guns, silver barons rubbed elbows with roustabouts, miners shook dirt out of their clothing along with gold dust, and "Shorty Scout" entertained the customers with tales of the decade he spent on the frontier. “

You can get elk, yak, buffalo, ostrich, quail and sometimes rattlesnake along with other specials right off the menu.

<http://www.buckhorn.com/index.php>

Denver also has an interesting privately owned transportation museum, too. Check out:

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

There, you'll find a car Amelia Erhard drove, plus dozens of steam engines, and a hundred cars from the 20s and 30s with 500 exhibits.

Barry and Pat were chasing counties – Barry is working hard on his Masters Gold - he needs a bit over 100 to go. Pat was down to 4 to get her Bingo. She was twisting a few arms and trying to get the two she needed in Mississippi. Jeffrey, AF3X was suddenly on a trip to LA via

MS. On the way back, he and Pat hooked up on SSB so she was down to 2 to go, and she has the last WBOW lined up, so it's just SanPete, UT to go. Maybe they'll be headed over that way pretty soon? (look for a trip out west after Labor Day).

Well, all good things come to and end. It was time to head back to Dallas. The temps had been sizzling there with 106 and 107 every day so I wasn't all that excited about getting home, but there were things to do. So, Thursday morning it was over to KS via some new counties. Barry had printed off a map of his KS MG needs – and we had done a map of what he needed in OK. Gene had run 4 in the southwest corner, so I'd skip those and zig zag through some new MD counties. It was hot – temps hit over 100 in KS by noon. Gas had dropped to below \$3.60 a gallon and you could get it in places for \$3.27 a gallon which helped a bit.

I stopped in Meade County, KS. Meade is famous for the Dalton Gang hangout. It's probably the only thing in the town why folks stop other than a motel room or a quick meal. Pat, N0DXE, had told me about one of their trips, and winding up in this small town with only small 'older style motels'. No Holiday Inns, Best Westerns, Super 8s or even a Motel 6 here. Well, there I was in Meade, and yes, there were only older style motels there. No problem – good room, good TV, free wireless internet, cellphone coverage. Low price, too.

From the Hideout website:

“Meade's major tourist attraction, the Dalton Gang Hideout, was formally the home of Eva Dalton Whipple, sister to the infamous Dalton Gang. She came to Meade in the 1880s and was married to J.N. Whipple, a Meade merchant. Whipple built the house which still stands. Years after the couple left Meade, a deep rain wash covered with timbers and earth was discovered: a tunnel from the house to the barn built into the hillside below. Legend has it the tunnel was used by the gang to come and go undetected by the law. “

There's the Dalton Gang Museum, the Meade County Museum, and the Dalton Gang Hideout to see here. I stayed at the Dalton Gang motel. Dinner was at the Pizza Inn (missed Sunday night pizza). The next morning had a quick breakfast at the Chuckwagon restaurant then headed back home. It only got down to 75 in town in the morning and was quickly up to 100 degrees by noon. It was a bit cooler as you left town.

Scottie, N4AAT, needed Alfalfa, OK, so we dropped down into OK to get that, then over to Grant, Garfield, and Kingfisher which N0KV needed for MG. Barry also needed the ones right on the interstate 35 (Cleveland, McClain, Garvin) so that's the way we headed home. Temp was 105 in Oklahoma City. It stayed well over that all the way home, with the highest being 110 deg in Denton County. As I pulled into the driveway, it dropped to 'only' 106 degrees. Dallas once again broke another record, being officially 107 deg at the airport.

The next morning it was 86 deg out on the porch at 7am. Summer is still sizzling in TX. The neighbor indicated water restrictions were now in place. I can water the grass on Friday mornings and Tuesday evenings. Time to reprogram the sprinkler controller.

The transmission in the Malibu is still acting up so it will be time to get it back into the shop. Last time they could find no 'codes' in the computer for the transmission.

I hope you caught the counties you needed. It was a good trip and I got to keep cool for a while up in the mountains. Conditions were up and down, but Joe, N3HOO, Joyce, N9STL, Ed, N3HOO, Scottie, N4AAT and others were there on 20M SSB to relay in the stations needing help on SSB. Between the 4 bands on cw, one could usually get through. So now it is time to do some paperwork and hope for cooler weather!

Things from Ebay

This month -

A rare McMurdo Silver VHF Super regen from the 30s-40s. It used 4 tubes, had plug in coils for 144 MHz and 220 MHz – really really up there for the VHF types of the day. IT sold for about \$200.



NM2L Trip Report

Trip to see the Grandbabies

When I left Sugar Hill on July 27, I was proud as a peacock with my 6 band chick magnet riding above the bed of my 2001 Toyota pickup truck. It was a beautiful day and I was running a little later than I wanted to. We started running Forsyth, Ga around 1100z and we were off and running on a very long day.

Things went pretty well as Dorothy (my GPS) and I made our way to Murray, Ga where we picked up a county for Jeff W9MSE. To my surprise, 17 meters was in good shape. We tried 15 meters and it was open! We meandered through Pickens and found 15 still opened up then we tried 10 and that was open too! WOW! This was promising to be a really good day! We made our way up through North West Georgia working six bands all the way 40, 30, 20, 17, 15 & 10. Everyone was having a great time.

In Catoosa, GA we were honored to pick up a WBOW county for Norm W3DYA. That was a real thrill for me. My first one and especially sweet as Norm was the guy who got me started in County Hunting in the first place in a CW QSO we had many years ago. This was one of the highlights of my trip (next to seeing those grandbabies).

On into Tennessee we went as 10 and 15 meters continued to hold up well until about 1800z when it started sliding downhill pretty quickly. After an mid-afternoon lull of sorts 10 and 15 started coming back as we passed over into Kentucky and then into Ill. We lost 10 meters and then 15 as 2300z approached.

The roughly laid out plan was to make it through to St. Louis area for a visit with Roy (Silver) N9QS, but although I had plenty of gas in the truck, my personal tank was empty so I ended up spending the night a bit short of Roy's county. Poor planning I suppose you could say that I bit off more than I could chew and I was behind schedule if I was going to get to Minot on schedule. Unfortunately, the stop at Roy's place was nixed this time around.

The next day, July 28, I started in Madison, IL, and headed North through Illinois. Lots of fun and the bands were wide open again. Ten meters was really good with a lot of visitors. I was feeling like I was getting back on schedule when the phone rang. It was a request for Calhoun, IL. Well, I looked at the map and then I looked at the time and I said to Dorothy "we are on

vacation, so why not”. We turned left near Kampesville down Rte 108 and headed for the ferry that I hoped was running. Sure enough, this worked out perfectly. I hit the ferry just as they were loading up and off we went.



Now this is where we might have had a little problem. Not a problem with the band or with the rig or with the truck really, but the ferry Captain pointed out to me that the sign on the back of my truck might get me in a little hot water in that particular county. Apparently it is a pretty “left leaning” place in terms of politics. He kind of winked and smiled as he said, “I like your sign, but a lot of the people in this county probably won’t”.

What did the sign on the back of my truck say?

“The problem with Socialism is that eventually you run out of other people’s money”. **

So I drove very carefully through town and headed North with no trouble at all.

So back to the trip. I snuck up through Illinois and landed in Carroll which was a county I knew Jim, N9JF needed. So finally, I was able to give Jim a county! He had run so many that I needed, it was about time.

We stayed overnight in Clinton, Ill overnight. I got a motel room and Dorothy slept in the

truck. In the morning we headed over into Iowa. We crossed the Mississippi near Savanna and continued meandering North and West toward the general direction of Minot, ND. The night before I had not had a chance to check the internet stuff at all. I was just too tired again. I was really surprised when I heard Jerry, W0GXQ traveling through Iowa, Minnesota and then North Dakota as well. We thought about stopping to try and catch up with him, but those grand babies kept weighing on my mind. We moved on. Dorothy is young and never seems to get tired.

After a couple of great days with the kids in Minot, it was time to head to Bozeman, MT for some work stuff. This presented an opportunity to catch up with Mike, W0MU for an eyeball QSO and a nice visit in his little log cabin. This was the first time meeting Mike and we had a good visit. I continued on into Bozeman and spent a couple of days working there.

I had an email come in while I was in Bozeman. Seems a few folks needed Meagher including K7TM, so on the way back to Minot we took a turn to the North and headed for Meagher via Cascade, Judith Basin, Fergus and Petroleum. We spent the night in a little motel in Standford, MT for \$42 including tax. It was clean. That is all I could ask.

The next morning as we headed out, the IC706 died! No power out at all. I am still working on the root cause of that one. This abruptly ended my ham radio portion of the trip. Back to Minot for a couple more days then across Northern Minnesota for some business stuff, down through Wisconsin for another business stop, a stop in Northern Illinois and then a bee line for home.

What a long quiet ride it was. Thanks all for the fun and a good time. I hope I can do it again soon with a rig that is working all the way home! 73 de Greg NM2L.

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** **Margaret Thatcher**, in a television interview for *Thames TV This Week* on February 5, 1976. Prime Minister Thatcher said, "...and Socialist governments traditionally do make a financial mess. They [socialists] always run out of other people's money. It's quite a characteristic of them."

It has been popularly paraphrased in various forms:

- "The problem with socialism is that eventually you run out of other people's money [to spend]."
- "The trouble with socialism is that eventually you run out of other people's money."
- "Eventually, socialists run out of other peoples' money [to spend]."

Cost of Mobiling

A query on the K3IMC forum:

“What's the average daily expenses of traveling while on a county run? Been awhile since I've been out.”

Some answers:

AA8R: “Last time Pattie & I were out it...cost us an average of \$109 per night for lodging...then you add gas and food. Then you can add wear & tear to the SUV such as oil changes, tires, etc. It's not cheap.....”

W7FEN: “18 days on the road 5400 miles = \$90.00 per day. That was 2 people traveling.no, correction...forgot the fuel - \$142/day

N4PJ: “Wow! I'll bet you get a wide range! Our experience.... the last three years or so - we stay at places like Super 8 and Days Inn. Generally runs between \$60 to \$80 a night, depending on the area. If you're in a "resort" area, the prices are commensurately higher. Otherwise, they're closer to \$60. N4CD goes really on the cheap with Motel 6 but I like sheets made out of something other than gauze! hi hi

Gasoline costs obviously vary with location and MPG of your vehicle. If we're off the interstate and do about 300 miles a day, it takes about \$75 to fill up the tank again. That's for a 1995 Dodge RAM pickup that only gets 16 - 17 MPG on the road.

That truck has 236,000 miles on it. The arithmetic dictates that instead of buying a more efficient vehicle, I'm better off to drive this one into the ground. Then, when I'm forced to buy something new, it will be something more efficient.”

KB0BA: “We figure \$200. a day considering motel, gas and food. Breakfast in the motel, such as it is. We also travel with snacks for lunch on many days.”

N8KIE: “about \$200 a day “

KM9X/KB9MGI: “we always figure \$200 a day with hotel, gas and eats. no shopping! 20 counties ran = 10 bucks a county to put out. Aint gonna happen out west, we probably got 10 counties a day last year. \$20 bucks a county then. I hate to think how much I have spent running to her bingo, then MG, then MP and ... MD??? “

W0GXQ: “QSO Party trip expenses From noon Friday to 9pm Sunday: 1,515 miles, two overnights, lots of gas and some pretty good eats . . . \$369. Pretty much in the ball park for one person.

N4AAT: “You talk about expensive on a 2 day trip, check this out -----1 & 1/2 days running. 1491 miles -- \$298.00 for fuel -- Hotel and food \$ 120.00 -- vehicle problems to get

brakes fixed \$300.00 -- Total \$718 dollars -- and that's just about .50 cents a mile. Is it all worth it, not like this it ain't. Besides, the band conditions were really bad, and when your brakes don't work in the mountains, your in trouble. On top of this at the hotel, the lady tried to charge me \$30.00 more on my check-out bill, until I caught it. Some times you wonder if it's all worth it. “

de N4CD: I plan on \$100-\$140 a day depending where in the country, and how aggressive my plan is. If you are seriously 'putting out' you can only go about 300 miles a day in many parts of the country- you are in the county for 20-30 minutes running all the bands and modes. If you are traveling getting from point A to point B in minimum time, then you can easily put 500-600 miles a day on the car, increasing your gas costs by 100%. You might not have time to run all the bands, either, as you zip in and out of counties in the Midwest or back east. Then there is wear and tear on your car – if you put 30,000 miles a year on a car county hunting, it will be thousands in depreciation, tires, maintenance and repairs, and breakdowns at some point.

Maryland/ DC QSO Party

Yes, there was a Maryland/DC QSO party but if you operated CW, you likely fell asleep in between finding stations to work. There was a bit more activity on SSB, but no moving mobiles were spotted. One mobile would have made a whole bunch of difference. I was out putting out counties in CO so didn't get to chase the stations.

From the 3830 contest reflector we have the following comments:

KN4Y (FL) 5 cw QSO

Worked all the Maryland CW stations I heard which were few. Someone did not get the word out. Bored and did not try Sunday.

AB1OD (CT) : 16 phone QSOs

“Worked those stations that I heard, and thoroughly enjoyed the more relaxed, friendly style of this QSO party as compared to big contests.”

W4UT (TN) – 33 SSB, 11 CW

Not much CW activity in this one.

KS4X (TN) 28ssb 6 cw

K4BAI (GA) 27 ssb 15 cw

“Not much CW activity.

Only one mobile worked, WA3EOP/M, and he wasn't changing counties.”

N1SZ in Montgomery, MD made 130 contacts on SSB and **W3LL** made over 320 on SSB.

The activity seemed a bit light.

K5GE Trip Experience

K5GE South Dakota Trip Experience

First I want thank those who responded with concerns and offers to help on the radio and through phone calls. It is comforting to know that we have radio communications even when there is no cell coverage. We had some good runs also. Thanks for the contacts.

We have made other wonderful trips to South Dakota and we had hopes that this would be one also. It started out as usual by staying at our favorite Bed & Breakfast in the black hills. The next 2 days were filled with sightseeing. I did manage to run a few counties.

We then left the black hills and were working our way to Chamberlain, SD where my wife had some museums she wanted to see. The scenery changed and I was running counties along the way. My hopes were to run all SD counties before we started home. We stopped at the small town of Winner to have lunch which is located in Tripp County.

After lunch I headed West on SD 44 toward Gregory county. It was a beautiful clear day close to 90 degrees.



Before Picture

Then all of a sudden, there was a blur from my left peripheral vision as a large deer slammed into my side of the windshield. Apparently the deer wanted to cross the road and in the process it tried to leap over the car. It partially hit the windshield, front fender, and other parts of the driver's side. Oh yes, some part of it hit my antenna, bent the mast, and 40m resonator. The view through the damaged windshield was very poor and I pulled over as soon as I could to survey the damage.



After Picture

I then discovered that the driver's side door would not open. It was only about 50 miles to Chamberlain, SD where we had a motel booked, so I decided to move on. The side view mirror was dangling by the cable and banging into the door when I tried to go very fast. As I started to get into town, I pulled over to clean up some of the mess. Believe me; climbing over the center console was no fun at all. Bits of glass were everywhere.

While I was dealing with the car, a local woman who was passing by stopped to help. She offered to lead us to a local glass shop and we took her up on the offer. After all, a new windshield and side view mirror could get us on our way. Unfortunately, the windshield had to be ordered so we were stuck there for a few days. Jesse and his wife, the owners of River City Glass were super nice and I would recommend them if you are in their area with a glass need. Jesse vacuumed up broken glass, replaced the side view mirror and taped Plexiglas to the windshield so I could run a few counties while my wife checked out the museums. An interesting side note, Jessie's wife was in the Winner, SD area right after us and saw the deer that had hit us. A very large deer, she said.

After Jesse replaced the Windshield, I revised our trip and headed home to have the car completely repaired. I had motels booked in advance for the planned trip, but had to cancel them all after the accident. Getting a motel in July is not very easy, especially where there are only a few motels. Sorry if I missed your counties, but it could not be avoided.

This was the second collision that I have had with a deer. The first one I hit, but this SD deer hit me. The first deer that I hit was fairly small and standing in the middle of the road. It was barely dawn and the deer was pointed straight at me. When I saw it, I laid on the brakes and horn. It didn't move until just before impact. Some of you may ask why I didn't swerve to avoid the deer. Please read tip #4 below.

My statement about the SD deer hitting my car might raise a question to some of you. How could anyone claim that they had been hit by a deer? Well, it's true, just ask N4CD. In fact, a local woman here had her car hit from behind. Maybe she was driving too slowly. I have included some Statistics.

Deer Accident Statistics from www.car-accidents.com

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration there are about 1.5 million car accidents with deer each year that result in \$1 billion in vehicle damage, about 150 human fatalities, and over 10,000 personal injuries. The actual numbers are probably higher because the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's figures for deer accidents, rely on inconsistent state reporting- there is no standard reporting of deer accidents in the country yet, and a "reportable deer accident" varies significantly between states.

In an insurance claims statistics study conducted in 2004-2005 the top ten states for deer accidents were listed. According to this study, Pennsylvania drivers experience more deer collisions than any other state. The number of accidents increases with the deer migrating and mating season which occurs between the months of October and December.

Worst states for deer collisions based on total number of claims filed with one of the countries largest auto insurers:

- 1) Pennsylvania

- 2) Michigan
- 3) Illinois
- 4) Ohio
- 5) Georgia
- 6) Minnesota
- 7) Virginia
- 8) Indiana
- 9) Texas
- 10) Wisconsin

Tips to avoid deer accidents:

- 1) Be attentive when driving! And Slow Down!

- 2) Use high-beam headlights when driving in deer territory to increase your vision and will increase your time to react to a deer hiding on the roadside who decides to jump in front of your car.

- 3) The use of car-mounted 'deer whistles,' do not seem to affect deer and may result in drivers being less aware. These devices don't work! Watch out.

- 4) 4) If a collision with a deer is unavoidable, it is usually best not to swerve to avoid it, brake and hold the wheel straight. Turning the wheel to avoid the deer may result in a worse accident with another car, or cause the car to spin out of control resulting in a much more serious crash.

ARRL resolves 60m Interference

Investigation by ARRL OOs, Researchers Leads to Resolution of 60 Meter Interference between ARRL Official Observers and researchers at Rutgers University has resulted in a change of operating frequency of coastal HF radars, eliminating interference to amateur stations using two frequencies in the 60 meter (5 MHz) band.

In July 2003, radio amateurs in the US received secondary privileges on 60 meters. Its strict guidelines -- no CW, operation just on five distinct channels using USB, a maximum effective radiated power of 50 W and only open to General, Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees -- have prevented it from being popular. At first, amateurs interested in operating on 60 meters had to make modifications to the radios in use at the time. But now, more rigs are available that are designed to operate on 60 meters directly, or with a simple manipulation of menus. Over time, radio amateurs heard various signals on the channels; users assumed these signals were those of government users and protected as such. Normally, advice to amateurs is to “use it or lose it” in regard to band usage, but on 60 meters, the watchword seemed to be “misuse” the band and lose it. So amateurs were cautious and compliant and when the band was made available to radio amateurs, users reported that everyone on the band was friendly and courteous, with at least one amateur reporting “that it was the way all the other bands used to be.”

But recently, with more users and people monitoring and using the band, amateurs began hearing more Coastal Ocean Dynamics Applications Radar ([CODAR](#)) signals on the channels. CODAR is a form of HF radar used by a number of institutions to research and study ocean currents and waves. Amateurs frequently reported CODAR sounds as that “repetitive loud swishing sound” on the band.

“After comparing reception reports of these signals that we had been hearing on the East Coast and reports he had received from amateurs on the West Coast, ARRL Orange Section Official Observer Coordinator Dan Welch W6DFW, followed up on them and began doing some research,” explained ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG. “We alerted Official Observers -- especially along the coast -- to monitor and forward reports.” Welch enlisted the assistance of a number of these Official Observers and other stations to monitor the frequencies after he had received more observations. Through good cooperation with the FCC, he was able to ascertain that CODAR was being used by Rutgers University on channels 3 and 4 in the 60 meter amateur band.

According to Skolaut, much of the follow-up included good cooperation from the CODAR group at Rutgers, including Josh Kohut and Ethan Handel. Rutgers is part of a regional partnership working on ocean observing. Kohut told the ARRL that information they gather is used by the Coast Guard, fisheries, off shore energy facilities, storm forecasters and pollution studies. He explained that the transmitters are capable of 40 W and provide information from up to 100 miles.

Welch and Handel coordinated testing, and amateurs were contacted to help monitor the frequencies as Handel shut down the various transmitters in their network to determine which ones amateurs were hearing. “They conducted two tests a week apart and it was definitely determined that the pulses being heard on the two channels were being transmitted from one or more of their sites,” Skolaut said. “It is interesting to note that the West Coast stations were able to hear the East Coast CODAR much of the time, depending on propagation. After consulting with Welch, the Rutgers team was able to move their transmitter frequencies outside of the amateur band to 4.9 MHz to continue their valuable ocean research. Both Handel and Kohut said that they were glad we were able to resolve this issue in a mutually beneficial way.

Now once again, 60 meters is quiet with regard to CODAR signals.”

Skolaut encourages amateurs to check out the band and sample what those frequencies have to offer, taking into regard the various restrictions for its use: “While conducting the monitoring checks, we noted a number of relaxed QSOs taking place on the other 60 meter frequencies, including a number of UK stations coming in quite nicely here on the East Coast on channel 5. This is a common frequency available to amateurs in the United States and the UK. Sixty meters is a band that fills the gap between 40 and 75 meters on phone quite nicely at times. It may truly be the ‘hidden treasure’ of the amateur bands.”

Later in the month, the ARRL had to investigate and shut down yet more interference to the 12M band from radar sounders. Here's the story from the ARRL Letter:

“ARRL and California Researchers Team Up to End 12 Meter Interference

After the resolution of the recent 60 meter CODAR situation on the East Coast, the ARRL noted an earlier report by John Terrell, N6LN, of Palos Verdes, California. Terrell described CODAR activity on the 12 meter band, from 24.93 to 25.058 MHz. Since it appeared likely it was originating on the West Coast -- possibly near Orange Section Official Observer Coordinator Dan Welch, W6DFW -- ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, contacted Welch for assistance.

With assistance from Richard Saunders, K6RBS -- an Official Observer from Mission Viejo, California -- Welch determined the CODAR transmissions were originating from an installation operated by the University of Southern California. “Dan contacted Burt Jones, a Professor of Research in the Marine Environmental Biology Department, and Lab Manager Matthew Ragan,” Skolaut explained. “The folks at USC were glad to cooperate and they promptly moved the transmitter frequency out of the amateur band.”

Jones, a former radio amateur, told the ARRL that he was glad that he was notified of the problem and was happy that it could be resolved quickly. “In many ways, we are on the same team, in the sense of using the radio technology to address multiple kinds of issues,” he said. “The ARRL and the Amateur Radio community provide a substantial benefit to society that I think the general public doesn’t fully appreciate. Our HF radar network serves multiple issues, from understanding basic science to facilitating search and rescue operations, as well as managing responses to environmental disasters, such as last year’s Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.”

Skolaut said that it is reassuring to realize individual interests can be served harmoniously with cooperation in use of the frequency spectrum: “Our thanks to Dan, the Official Observer program and the USC team for bringing this situation to a good conclusion.””

USA No-Star Award Integrity

Seems a lot of folks have been getting lots of bogus contacts for the No-Star award. Just because Logger 'accepts it' doesn't mean it's a Valid Contact!

From the MARAC Award Rules

“USA-No Stars Award

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with amateur radio operators who have not received the USA-CA Award and to encourage new county hunters to transmit counties while mobile.

SPECIAL RULES: A **Star** is defined in General Rules and Definitions for MARAC Awards. Only **Valid Contacts** with operators in **Mobile** or **Portable Operation** who have no **Stars** may be used for this award. If an operator has one or more **Stars**, only contacts made with that operator before the date that the USA-CA Award was issued to that operator may be counted for this award.

All contacts must be made on or after January 1, 2010.

AWARD LEVELS: No intermediate levels. USA-No Stars is awarded for working **All USA Counties**.

After completing USA-No Stars, each sequential award (USA-No Stars II, USA-No Stars III, etc.) can be worked by **Starting Over** and working **All USA Counties** again for the sequential award.

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

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So what do we have when an operator with stars uses a 'ride along club call'? Well, every single one of those contacts is a bogus contact. Every one. Not a Valid Contact. Why?

The rules state that the OPERATOR must not have a star. For example, if AB4YZ is using club call W4CA, he has stars. He cannot give out a No-Star contact. Period.

The fact that Logger accepts it is an ERROR of major proportions. Since he has run over 100 counties lately, that's at least 100 bogus counties in many county hunters award book for No-Star. Some might have several hundred BOGUS contacts listed in their no-star book.

It might not be easy to do, but Logger should fix that problem. Maybe having a 'negative data base, so calls like K2JG/m don't count when an operator with stars uses it....and we would have calls like WB8WV (used by N2OCW), AB0ZO(used rarely) , etc, and likely NA7XX when WOMU gets a star. Fortunately there aren't a lot of 'ride along' calls used on net these days giving out 'cheap shot' counties. Some seem to delight in working a 'club call' for a prefix, but in my book, that's a total cheap shot and slimey way to get your prefix award. You 'bent the rules'. You really didn't work an operator who had an assigned callsign of the right prefix.

Some of the more honest county hunters simply don't work the 'ride along' club calls. Yes, they county for 'prefixes' since the rules say 'callsign' used by an 'operator' (which is supposed to be assigned to that operator – and club calls are never assigned to an individual). Of course, Logger takes it.

Maybe the Logger folks can fix the No-Star award so that calls like W4CA, WB8WV are in a 'negative database' and cannot count for No-Star?

It doesn't seem to make sense to have obvious flaws in the logging system giving out ten thousand bogus contacts to those working the 'club station' in every county. If W4CA keeps running, it could wind up being a half million bogus contacts. That really would stretch the integrity of anyone getting the No-Star award with 10 or 20 % of the counties not actually worked with the required operator. It would be 'I got the award but I cheated'.

It sure doesn't meet the intent of the rules, either, nor does it encourage mobile operation by 'new county hunters' when hundreds of counties have already been run, and the valid contact won't show up because the space is already taken by the bogus contact. Chalk off all of New England, most of NY, all of NJ, etc.

Since the problem seems to be confined to only a few 'mobiles', it shouldn't be that hard to write the code for that, leaving space for any new 'ride along' club calls that should appear (and they are few and far between) and be used by someone with a star. When the no-star book is calculated, check a 'negative call database' and simply don't count or delete any contacts in that book.

It might also be worth looking at any new award that comes along and what using a mobile 'ride along'club call does for the integrity of the award.

Of course, for the new Star XX award (20 stars) , you also have a problem. If you work KZ2P and K2JG in the home county...well, you don't both the stars of KZ2P and K2JG. The award says you only get the stars of the OPERATOR. Same would be true of club call K9DCJ used by anyone. You would not get the total of both the operator and the club call. If W4CA ever got a star...well, same problem there. More non-Valid contacts. Fortunately, other than KZ2P/K2JG, there aren't any other club calls with stars running on the net these , but maybe while the Logger folks are considering negative 'club call' data bases, they might make sure that Logger doesn't not give out stars for club calls with stars. That would include W1BQL(used

by KA1JPR).

If it were just one or two counties – well, you could 'ignore' that problem, but with W4CA likely now having given out hundreds of counties with bogus logging for no-star, and with 25 or 30 working him in each of the counties run.....that is thousands and thousands and thousands of errors and non-Valid contacts.

Now, in state QSO parties, where just ONE call is used and it might be a club call, with perhaps several operators, one would not know if the operator had a star. Likely not. Most club calls in state QSO parties are no star operations. Field Day poses a bigger problem in that not only don't you know about the operator (most likely not a county hunter), sometimes you have no clue as to what county they are really in – as the licensee maybe be in one county, the club station or set up in another – or it could even change year to year). If you look things up on QRZ, you find out quickly if a station is a club call or not.

For a county hunter who likes to actually follow the rules, just simply don't work the club call. It's a 'cheap shot' (and invalid in my book) way to get a prefix or call comb, and worse, a cheating way to get a no-star contact. Maybe Logger will fix it.....if not, the first person to get a No-Star award likely will have cheated their way there. It won't have any integrity.

60 Meters

Slovakia gets 150 kHz wide 5 MHz band

Slovak Radio Amateurs are now allowed to use the entire 5258.5 - 5410.0 kHz band instead of the previous allocation of a single channel on 5260 kHz.

5258.5 - 5410.0 kHz is allowed for experimental purposes with a maximum power of 100 Watts ERP. and the licenses are valid for 1 year.

Heathkits Again?

ADIO BUSINESS: HEATHKIT SAYS IT IS RETURNING TO THE KIT SUPPLY MARKETPLACE

Heathkit says it is re-entering the kit business that it abandoned almost two decades ago. In an announcement posted to its [www dot heathkit dot com](http://www.heathkit.com) website, Heathkit Educational Systems

which is the current name for the company states that in late August the company will debut its new line of do-it-yourself kits for common around-the-house items.

Don't look for ham radio gear to be a top priority even though the word on the street is that kits for the amateur radio market may be down the pike. Right now the company is starting off with more general interest kits with their first entry being a Garage Parking Assistant or G-P-A for short. The Garage Parking assistant kit lets someone build their own system that uses ultrasonic sound to locate a car as it enters the garage. The system signals to the driver using LED lights mounted on the wall when the car is detected and in the perfect spot for parking. Next on the market will be a Wireless Swimming Pool Monitor kit followed by many more novel items.

For those of you too young to remember, it was on March 30, 1992, that the then managers of Heathkit announced that after some 45 years the company was closing out its kits and leaving the business. In its hey-day, Heathkits were products of the Heath Company of Benton Harbor, Michigan. Their build it yourself product line included everything from electronic test equipment to high fidelity home audio equipment, television receivers, and of course amateur radio gear. It was the emergence and subsequent domination of the world electronic marketplace by Pacific Rim manufacturers who could produce and market completely assembled equipment at prices far less than Heathkit or anyone else could supply a do it yourself version that led to the demise of names like Eico, Paco, and of course Heathkit.

So why has Heathkit decided to re-enter the kit market? To hazard a guess you have to remember that the current incarnation of Heathkit is an educational materials supplier. As such it has likely taken notice of the burgeoning maker and hacker community. This is an ever expanding group of technology hobbyist's world wide that in recent years has grown into a multi-million dollar business opportunity for those smart enough to recognize it and are ready to fill the void. These are also the people that many believe will be the next generation of technology leaders and radio amateurs.

The Heathkit announcement says nothing about the business rationale for going back into the kit supply business but it does state that the company wants to bring to its customers interesting and unique products. As such it is interested in learning what types of products that kit builders would like to see brought to the marketplace. Anyone interested can submit their suggestions by mail addressed to 2024 Hawthorne Avenue St. Joseph, Michigan, 49085 or at www.heathkit.com. (ARNewsline™ with some information supplied by KC8VWM, N4OZ and others.)

Source: Amateur Radio Newsline

Beijing poised to rethink electric car policy

Beijing appears to be rethinking its singular focus on electric vehicles to reduce fuel consumption and improve air quality as it becomes increasingly clear that its targets for mass producing electric vehicles in China were unrealistic.

China had originally planned to leapfrog an entire generation of conventional engine technology to develop what Beijing hoped would be an early advantage over the West in electric vehicle technology. No formal decision has been taken to abandon that plan, but top decision-makers in Beijing are understood to believe now that the original timetable was too optimistic.

Wen Jiabao, the Chinese premier, reflected intense debate within the bureaucracy recently when he published an article in a Communist Party journal questioning China's "road map" toward alternative powertrain vehicles. Peter Huang, powertrain forecast manager at IHS Automotive in Shanghai, expects Beijing to shift its focus now to "hybrids and all vehicles that can reduce fuel consumption". "The shift in focus means that even traditional internal combustion engines could now see beneficial policies," he says. China's targets of one million new-energy vehicles on the roads by 2015 and 5 million by 2020 could be revised to include conventional hybrid vehicles, as otherwise the government will struggle to meet these goals, IHS said.

Other Chinese analysts say while there is a battle on for the future of China's alternative fuel policy, the exact outlines of any new policy have yet to be agreed upon.

Whatever the outcome of the debate, industry analysts say Beijing has been disappointed by slow progress toward developing a domestic electric vehicle industry. China's highest profile electric vehicle maker, BYD -- which is backed by Warren Buffett -- has repeatedly delayed plans to commercialize and export its electric vehicles. Government subsidies of up to 60,000 yuan (\$9,370) for pure electric vehicles and 50,000 yuan for plug-in hybrids are already available in five Chinese cities on a trial basis, but very few buyers have taken them up.

"It was simply never realistic for a fledgling auto industry to skip conventional hybrids and immediately electrify," says Bill Russo of Synergistics auto consultancy in Beijing, former head of Chrysler in China. "However, I believe this will not deter China from a long-term goal of pursuing such an endgame. They have planted the seeds for the future EV industry: it is just going to take much longer than they anticipated".

Chinese buyers have, up to now, shown little appetite for conventional hybrids: last year, Toyota sold only one Prius in China, produced by its local joint venture with FAW, according to Namrita Chow of IHS Automotive. Boosting sales of conventional hybrids would depend on whether government subsidies currently available for electric vehicles are extended to other fuel efficient vehicles, she said.

Beijing's review of its policy comes in the context of a growing industry debate over the viability of electric cars. All of the world's big carmakers are developing electric or rechargeable hybrid models in order to comply with more stringent regulations on their cars' fuel efficiency and carbon dioxide emissions.

However, because of the electric vehicle's limited driving ranges and high prices compared to conventional cars, there are doubts over how many consumers will buy them. Early reviews of Nissan's all-electric Leaf, while mostly positive, have emphasised the car's limited driving range and relatively high price for its size.

Toyota, the industry's top-selling producer and leading champion of hybrid technology, is among the producers who think that pure electric vehicles will be a small niche market. Rival producers including Ford Motor and Volkswagen, while developing their own hybrid and electric models, also emphasis the major gains in fuel efficiency and CO² emissions that can be gained by downsizing and turbocharging of conventional engines.

Source: Shanghai Times

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In the US, only a few hundred Volts have been sold, mostly to government agencies mandated to buy them. Only a bit over 4000 Nissan Leaf cars have been sold. You can buy an off the shelf gas or diesel car that gets over 50 mpg. Coming diesel/hybrids should be over 60 mpg. It's possible those \$18,000 Leaf battery packs may only last 3 or 4 years, making operational costs quite high. Stay tuned.

Awards

USACA #1218	Art, N4PJ	Aug 12, 2011
USA-CW #119	Terry, W9UX	July 27, 2011
USA-CW #120	Milt, KY0E	Aug 12, 2011
Bingo #333	Norm, W3DYA	July 27, 2011
Bingo II #80	W0NAC, Matt	July 24, 2011
Bingo III #19	Frank, AA9JJ	July 17, 2011
Bingo IV #7	N9STL, Joyce	July 31, 2011

USPA- K #21	KA1JPR Percy	July 22, 2011
USPA – K #22	W4YDY, Dave	August 4, 2011
Second Time #406	W9UX, Terry	July 27, 2011
Second Time #407	K4AMC, Jim	July 27, 2011
Third Time #230	W9OO Carl	August 3, 2011
Sixth Time #40	W7KQZ, Ernie	July 26, 2011

Congrats to all!

Operating Events for County Hunters

This looks like a good month with several QSO Parties scheduled.

At the end of August, if you get this soon enough – several big QSO Parties are scheduled including OH, KS and HI!

From Bob, W0BH:

Hi Bob,

Just wanted to update you on the KSQP. We're celebrating 150 years of statehood, so this is the Kansas Sesquicentennial QSO Party and we're having some serious 1x1 fun! Besides 17 plaques (plus two special ones), we will have 33 1x1 calls issued to spell KANSAS and SUNFLOWER. Stations spelling either word and entering as stated in the rules will earn a certificate. For the first 150 stations spelling both, the certificate will include the Amateur Radio stamp issued in 1964 to commemorate the ARRL 50th Anniversary. We also have both KANSAS and SUNFLOWER spelled in CW, SSB, and Digital. The first station to work both KANSAS or SUNFLOWER in all three modes will be awarded the Kansas Triple Play plaque. If no one accomplishes that, the first station to work either will win the plaque.

For the county hunters, we have eleven mobiles and lots of fixed stations covering all 105 Kansas counties in BOTH CW and SSB! This year, we have a sponsored Worked All Kansas plaque for the first station to do so.

The KSQP is August 27th and 28th. I'm not sure when your County Hunter News comes out, but if it comes out before then, perhaps you could give us a promo using some of the above info. If you need more, let me know. If not, then certainly a writeup after the fact! I've included a composite .jpg of the stamps in use if you'd like to use it.

And yes, it's not too late for you personally to join us! This would be the year ...

73, Bob, w0bh
Kansas QSO Party

PS Here's a direct link to the mobile routes page : www.cs.hesston.edu/w0bh/ksqp/routes.htm

PPS The Kansas QSO Party web site : www.ksqsoparty.org

We list the others here:

Aug 27, 0400Z - Aug 28, 2200Z 1.8-28 **Hawaii QSO Party** RS(T) and HI county/island or S/P/C www.karc.net

Aug 27, 1600Z - Aug 28, 0400Z 3.5-28 **Ohio QSO Party** Serial and S/P or "DX"
www.ohqp.org

From the ARRL Contest Corral, ARRL, Newington CT 06111

For September!

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2011-09-v2.pdf>

9/3

Colorado QSO Party

Call sign, name, and county or S/P/C www.ppraa.org/coqp

Sep 3, 1200Z - Sep 4, 0400Z CW--1.850, 3.550, 7.050, 14.050, 21.050, 28.050; Phone--1.870, 3.850, 7.250, 14.250, 21.350, 28.450.

Tennessee QSO Party

RS(T) and county or S/P/C www.tnqp.org

Sep 4, 1800Z - Sep 5, 0300Z See website.

9/10

Arkansas QSO Party

RS(T), county or S/P or "DX" www.arkanhams.org

Sep 10, 1500Z - Sep 11, 0300Z CW--3.550, 7.050, 14.050, 21.050, 28.050;
Phone--3.980, 7.260, 14.260, 21.360, 28.360, 145-147.

Note: NO5W, W4SIG, N4CD and W3DYA expected to be out mobile in this one!

9/17

Connecticut QSO Party

RS(T) and CT county or S/P/C

<http://www.ctqp.org/2011.html>

Sep 17, 0000Z - Sep 17, 2359Z

South Carolina QSO Party

RS(T) and county or S/P/C

w4cae.org/scqp/scqsoweb.html

Sep 17, 1300Z - Sep 18, 2100Z

CW--1.805, 50 kHz above band edge; Phone--1.845, 3.86, 7.261, 14.27, 21.37, 28.37.

8/24/2011