

County Hunter News

September 1, 2014
Volume 10, Issue 9

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Want county lines on your Garmin GPS?

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

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

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

Notes from the Editor

1) N4CD Rumblings

The days are getting shorter – the sun comes up a bit later – but it is still hot, hot, hot in TX with sizzling 100 degree temps in the second half of August. I managed to miss the first half of the month by heading north! The bands continue to work well – 20M is the bread and butter band, with some contacts on 17M and 30M. 40M works well back east for parts of the day.

The activity is good while folks are traveling during the summer season. Several mobiles are out on big trips giving days of lots of activities and snagging counties for the

various awards.

There are hamfests around the country for folks to travel to/and from, so it's been good for the weekend trips as well.

The state QSO party season has started so there is even more activity to look forward to in the coming months. This month saw several good ones, and we'll report on each one individually.

2) CW Net

Last month, we had a section on the CW net. One more item came to mind that needs to be addressed.

Every now and then, a mobile will run on SSB. Then switch over to CW. What sometimes happens is that eager beaver folks on the SSB net, knowing that the mobile is going to switch over to CW, and 'needing that county', also switch over to CW. They haven't been listening to the cw frequency. A mobile might be running. They aren't listening and some apparently don't care whether one is running or not!

However, as soon as they hear the mobile that just came to the CW frequency, and when that mobile sends CHN? Or QNF?they jump in right away with a "GA" (go ahead). They have no clue as to any activity going on!...they are so eager for that CW contact....they just 'assume' the frequency is not in use. Bad ! Real bad. I've heard it a few times, and that is when we get 'collisions' of two mobiles running at the same time, and someone who has been on the cw frequency then trying to sort things out.

It's not fair to the mobile running nor the county hunters in general. If you don't have a clue as to whether the frequency is in use, don't be the one to send GA without listening first for at least 15 seconds.

When a mobile who infrequently runs on CW, or stays and listens mainly on SSB, switches over to CW, the last thing he needs is an instant' GA', regardless of whether the frequency is actually in use or not! If you don't have a clue, don't be the one sending 'GA' without having listened to the frequency for a while!....It just causes mass confusion. I've heard that anonymous 'GA' all too often when a mobile is already running.

Worse, if someone else sends QRX, and others are continuing to send GA GA GA....it's

even more of a mess! That's happened, too, as some eager beaver 'switch overs' want the mobile to start regardless!.

3) More Alaska Follow Up - Bering Sea Gold

If you have cable or satellite TV, you may have caught the program Bering Sea Gold. It's a story about crews off the coast of Nome, AK, dredging the bottom of Norton Sound (the Bering Sea is miles and miles away but who would know what Norton Sound is?..... and showing shots of Nome AK – the airport, streets, etc. Didn't realize till I paid attention that this is just offshore from Nome, AK, and you can see the dredges from the shore 'mining' the bottom for gold still there.

<http://www.discovery.com/tv-shows/bering-sea-gold>

from the above web page

"In the frontier town of Nome, Alaska, there's a gold rush on. But you've never seen gold mining like this before — here, the precious metal isn't found in the ground. It's sitting in the most unlikely of places: the bottom of the frigid, unpredictable Bering Sea. And there are a handful of people willing to risk it all to bring it to the surface.

For two million years, glaciers have been melting into the Bering Sea and depositing sediments rich with gold into its waters. As Nome's ice pack melts during the summer, the isolated, ramshackle town of eccentrics and outcasts booms with excitement as pioneer gold seekers rush to get out onto the water. Miners dive and dredge to scour the bottom of the sea from custom built, barely seaworthy rigs — in a race to haul in as much gold as possible before the waters become too frigid to dive.

Bering Sea Gold illustrates a world like none seen before — one where the danger is palpable and the stakes are high. Success in the waters will give the dredgers the hope and means to continue — and maybe even make them rich."

Lots of 'made up' drama and conflicts like most of the 'reality shows' on TV these days, but some good visuals of Nome and surrounding areas and a bit on gold dredging.

Discovery Channel.... just remember it is 'staged''reality'.....with staged conflictswith staged 'personal interest' stuff. Just watch with that in mind.

Remember, the main purpose of TV is to attract eyeballs (you watching) so the TV stations can sell expensive advertising time to companies to sell their products and

services. The fact they actually have to provide programming is a mere 'detail' and they try to minimize the cost of that vs the return on investment. Remember – the economic model of TV stations is getting you to watch the ADS...not the show. Hi hi.

4) Those County Hunting Miles....

Looks like the N4CD mobile is in need of new front brakes at 140,000 miles. Darn. I was hoping they'd last the life of the car. The Chevy place wants \$240 to replace the front disc brakes. It's not just gas and oil changes and tires.....also wear and tear on the car and depreciation. Try selling a US made car with 200K miles on it!... hihi

Ran past the 'Just Brakes' place. Hmm....mechanic said 1/4 of pads still there. Hmm...who is lying? Of course, the salesman at Just Brakes wants to do a 'full system flush, new pads, new rubber boot ends for calipers, etc. because the system is now over five years old and wearing out. I don't trust them one bit but I needed verification. Just Brakes is good at 'wallet flushing'. They do sell cheap brake pads if you want them, as well as 'OEM quality' brakes for as much as the dealer would charge, plus they want to add in another \$200 in 'flushes' and 'new gaskets/boots', and so on.

Checked the tires....maybe another 10-15 thousand left on them. I better save up for some new tires, too! If I keep up the 30,000 miles a year, I'll be looking at a new car in 2 years or so, too. At about 200K miles, and 7 years, the car is on the 'downhill side' of reliable. Hmm...this county hunting stuff adds up! Good thing I don't have too many other expensive hobbies.....

5) W1TEE Gene, SK

I was doing some research and was thinking of dropping Gene, W1TEE a note. Checked the MARAC database, that had him listed in East Hartford, CT – but he hadn't been active in a long time. Hadn't renewed in a decade. Then checked QRZ and it listed him as SK, having passed away in 2012. Well, dropping him a note wasn't going to work.

Gene, W1TEE, was the second person to run all the counties the first time and the first to do it all CW. He was working on doing it a second time. It appears he didn't finish, but there is conflicting stories out there. Part of it might have been because I thought he had finished running them all twice, and put that out in several newsletters as I sought to

'catch up' to him, but that now appears to in error.

Gene was listed as having run 44 states for the Second time. I had heard he had run all of the counties twice, but that may have been a bad assumption on my part. Some thought he had completed it – but it may be he was just seriously working on it and didn't quite get there. Plus my assumption and writing about that 'he had done it'. He's listed as having run 44 states for the second time in the MAARC database and applied for the award for the 'second time transmit' for those 44. Missing are TX, OK, CO, AR, KS, and VT.

Ed, KN4Y, seems to think that is correct as he never completed all of them. He wrote:

"Yes your assume correct, Gene never finished second time running all counties. He told me he had run out of funds, but was hoping to finish the task. He never did. He had to get rid of his Dodge because he could no longer get parts, it had plenty of miles. He was a quiet fellow. He ran only CW and only 20 and 40-meters, common for time prior to 1990. He attended most of the MARAC conventions. The last convention I remember talking to Gene was in Virginia, have to check my name tag for the date. He used a Bencher and hand logging. " My old logs are full of W1TEE contacts.

Ed KN4Y "

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Jerry, W0GXQ noted:

"Gene was always out mobile when I worked him during the mid seventies and soon after moving to Minnesota and going mobile myself, I had the pleasure of giving him Pembina ND for the WBOW for his USA-CW #58 "

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Gene had about 375,000 miles on his Dodge and zipped through those counties. At times back then, we had multiple CW mobiles running. Ed, WA6VJP seemed to 'always be there' to help the mobiles run.

It looks like his Dodge was tail ended in accident that was pretty much the end of it.

Anyone having more definitive info on Gene and the second time attempt/success, please drop me an email.

6) 1x1 and other special calls

A query was made on the K3IMC forum. Seems one county hunter worked NU0Q, who was using the call N0U for the KS QSO party. The county hunter wanted to know whether he could count N0U for Bingo or stars since NU0Q was the operator. Nope! You have to work NU0Q as NU0Q for it to count. Those 1x1s have no value toward stars or Bingo by virtue of having a star. On the other hand, they count in your call combo book for 1x1 callsigns!

Mobile Activity in August

Jack, N7IV headed east into WI and back.

AF5CC headed from OK up through MO and back via KS.

Mary, AB7NK, and Neil, K7SEN, returned through CO and UT on their long trip. Later in the month, they were headed east and spotted in NM.

Jimmy, K4YFH, was busy putting out all of WI and MI.

Dave, KW1DX, was busy running around in VT and a few counties in eastern NY.

Larry, N2OCW, was out and about in PA, filling in some holes for Mobile Diamond. He got on cw for some “LC”s for the folks, too.

Dave, KE3VV, headed over to NC and TN then down to FL.

N9AC was on in WI

Jim, N9JF, took some vacation in AR and put out some there. Later back in IL and IN.

WB5TMW was active in TX

N4AAT was out and about in SC. Took a nice trip to GA to finish off WQ7A for Mobile

Diamond needed counties there.

Kerry, W4SIG, headed to ID and back.

Bob,N8KIE, with driver N0RLJ, headed back from the west coast to MI.

Mike, NF0N, went on trip with W0GXQ around NE, ND, and SD.

W0FP, Frosty, was out running counties in MO many days during the month. And other states as well.

Ron, KB6UF, ran a few in LA.

KB0BA/N0XYL headed east as far as NY putting them out.

Jim, N9JF, was busy in IN and IL.

W3DQT was mobile in WV/VA.

K3IMC left GA, ran through TN out to IA and points west.

KE4TTS spotted in SD.

AJ2I was on in NH and other east coast counties. Volunteered to give out needed northern NJ counties for the folks.

NG7Z was on from WY and SD and points west.

N3MRA was out and about in the country running them on SSB.

KC8UAV was also busy running the counties he went through.

KJ5PQ and KG5UZ were busy putting out MI and WI on digital modes. Showed up on SSB now and then too.

K0PFV noted in NE and WY headed west.

NU0Q took a trip out to CO and back.

W4SIG, Kerry, was putting them out in TN and MS.

Ron, KB6UF headed to AL and GA to run a few needed counties there.

Lee, KC7QOP was zipping around. Putting them in PA and MI and west coast.

K8EMS was on in MI.

WD4OIN headed to FL.

WB0PYF ran some in MO.

Larry, W7FEN was active out west in CO and NM.

Jeff, W9MSE, headed off to OH once again.

Dave, KU4YM, made a quick run in SC.

Jack, N7IV, headed from WI back to home.

W4FNW/W8FNW spotted out in a few.

N9JF headed off to IA for some work.

Jimmy, K4YFH made it back to NC after many months on the road.

Paul, N7JPF was out in WA state.

AE3Z put out a few in NY state.

US CW Counties Party

CW County QSO Party Results/Soapbox

N6MU --- 371 QSO 312 counties

Conditions not the greatest but the mobiles were sure plentiful. Top mobile for

me was K7TM with 50 Qs followed by K5YAA(38), W9MSE(35), NY4N(30), N4CD(26), W3DYA(24), WC5D(20), W0GXQ(19), NU0Q(13), KN4Y(12), N0KV(8), AB7RW(7), K5CM(7), W5JR(4), N9JF(2) and N5XG(2). Kudos to Norm, W3DYA, for keeping this thing afloat. CW rules! 73...

John, N6MU

NT2A 421 QSOs 386 counties

Great contest...lots of mobiles activity! Thanks to Norm W3DYA for this contest and mobile operators. The conditions were very strange first day and better second. On 10m heard only WA7JHQ with 229 report and didn't get him. It was no activity on 40m. Should be better make a start at 10-11Z or 18-19Z to improve low bands activity. Finally I got a fun.

Thank you and 73 to all.

Gene, NT2A

K5YAA mobile 1187 QSO Counties = 262

232 Mobiles

152 DX

10 never opened up. Did take a couple of looks down there. 20 was terrific both days and on Saturday was short enough to work Texas from Oklahoma much of the day. Every effort on 15 was a struggle and 40 just didn't have much activity either day.

WN4AFP (fixed SC) QSO 53 Counties = 51

K4BAI fixed GA QSO 118 Counties = 87

Out of town for most of the weekend and got back for almost the last three hours interrupted for dinner with the XYL. Seemed good activity. At least Sunday had no conflict with other contests.
KN4Y mobile 529 QSO Counties = 149

Stopped and ran Saturday after bowling, Sunday all day with driver. Ran counties in Florida and Georgia, two of the southern States. 15-meters was dead, mostly a 20-meter contest

NU0Q QSO 580 Counties = 187

Lots of activity and lots of fun. Thanks to all who followed me around Iowa and Illinois. After running Des Moines County, I finished up running all counties in Iowa first time. I was able to provide a few 'last counties' for some people on this trip and picked up a few new ones myself. QSB was challenging at times. Propagation on Saturday seemed to favor short skip while Sunday was better for DX. This was the first trip with a new car, and all seemed to work well. Occasionally, my receiver got swamped by nearby loud fixed stations since I had the noise blanker on. We saw W9MSE/M heading the opposite direction on U.S. 20 in Delaware County, Iowa but we were too busy running to QSY and work him. Near the end on Sunday, we headed north to a few extra counties. Thanks to W3DYA for keeping this event going this year along with all the other mobiles who made it a big success. 73, Bill.

N8II – Fixed – WV QSO 542 Counties = 388

I was up late and decided I had to cook some eggs for breakfast, bad idea, ended up 20 minutes into the party before first QSO was made (had trouble finding the MARAC QSO party in drop down on N1MM). That set the tone for frustration. All of the first day, I just could not get quite into sync and I am still getting used to using the TS-590 in contests. I missed W9MSE the most times that I shouldn't have, 3 counties during a short dinner break. Trying to help with spotting also cost more than a few QSO's. Also QRM for the IOTA contest was just bad enough to be another annoyance, but the pattern on my 20 M yagi is very clean, so it could have been worse. The first day ended with about 250Q's

and 151 mults and should have been a lot better. Day 2 was better with no contest QRM and good 20 M conditions and I managed to work 187 more counties. W0GXQ mentioned Sunday was much better for him.

Many many thanks for all of the mobiles who operated, many pounding the pavement almost continuously for the whole 20 hours. By QSO total, here are the stars of the show: NY4N 51 (Jeff was the only mobile I worked in the same county on 40 and 20 often), K5YAA (responsible for most of the 15 M Q's in log), W9MSE 38, W0GXQ 30, NU0Q 27 (loud here but didn't seem to generate too many pile ups), K7TM 26 (thanks for all of the rare ID counties!), N4CD 24, W3DYA 23, WC5D 18, K5CM 13, W5JR 12, AB7RW 10 (conditions did not favor Phil here, weak), N0KV 9, K2RP 4, WB0PYF 4 and a few others to boot. It was a great turn out and many thanks for making the weekend a lot of fun.

Please do not move the CW CH party back to the first weekend in May, too many QSO parties already!

Thanks and 73, Jeff

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Norm, W3DYA should have all the results compiled by the end of this month, and we'll try to include them next month. So far, logs have been received by W3DYA from:

MOBILE: AB7RW, AG6V, K1TKL, K2RP, K5YAA, K7TM, KN4Y, , N4CD, N5XG, NU0Q, NY4N, W0GXQ, W3DYA, W9MSE, WA2MUA, WC5D

FIXED: AD0BI, AD1C, CALL , K0RC, K1BV, K2DSW, K2MF, K2RP, K2UFT, K4XI, K4XU, K5KPE, K6CSL, K7ZYV, K8FZY, KA3QLF, KC3X, KI4MZC, KK7X, KM4FO, KO7X, KV4QS, N1API, N1QY, N2JNE, N2SO, N2UU, N3NZ, N4BAI, N4VA, N5XG, N6MU, N6PDB, N6PDB, N7JPF, N8CIJ, N8II, N9QS, NI4NN, NS8O, NT2A, W0EAR, W0JWR, W2CVW, W2RR, W5ASP, W6TPC, W7GF, W9ILY, WA2VYA, WA7JHQ, WB0CFF, WIWMU, WN4AFP, WO4O

DX: DL3DXX, DL5ME, DL6KVA, DL8USA, HB9ARF, JA9CWJ, OK1VD, OK2EC, SM5ALJ, SM6BZV, SM6VR, SP5SA, VE5KS, YV5OIE

Olde Wireless Book on the Month

Book Review of the Month

It didn't take long! The missing 6th book in the Ocean Wireless Boys series showed up on the Villanova Digital Web site. Likely others in the series (4 on line now) will appear too! There were only 4 known copies of this last one in libraries anywhere in the country listed in the WorldCat (catalog of most library contents). WooHoo! The last one in the series and one of the few early' missing' juvenile wireless adventure story books from the 1910-1928 era appear! I really didn't have much hope of finding it and suddenly it appears. Serendipity.

Even more amazing, well, sort of, is a few weeks later, one of the 'reprint' services will now 'print on demand' the old books that show up in digital form on the web – those with expired copyrights. So not only can you read this on line for free, you have the following popping up from your 'needs list' that you had out on Amazon dot com :

“Wilbur Lawton – Ocean Wireless Boys on War Swept Seas
D.N. Goodchild at The Press at Toad Hall--Publishers of High-Quality Reprint Titles
Since 1998, Hardcover, , AMERICAN MARITIME, NOTE: THIS IS NOT A
FACSIMILE REPRINT. Our books are completely re-typeset and re-designed in a
manner respectful of the original volume.
Bookseller: D.N. Goodchild, Bala Cynwyd, PA”

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Yep, good optical character recognition software and the 're-typeset' the book. How about that? Take the work of others to get it on line, then 'sell' the books. But if you were desperate for a 'hard cove' copy to fill in your library, this would do until you found an original. If you ever found an 'original'. You might have to wait until one of those four libraries went 'totally digital'. Or one of a few serious collectors died.

That closes the book on the Ocean Wireless Boys Series now. This was written about 1912-1917.

The entire series:

THE OCEAN WIRELESS BOYS ON THE ATLANTIC -- "How a Brooklyn boy

became a wireless operator and shared in the work of rescue on the sea makes a thrilling tale." -- 1914. Hurst. (good read)

THE OCEAN WIRELESS BOYS AND THE LOST LINER -- "This book takes the young wireless operators into southern waters and through grave perils." -- 1914. Hurst.

THE OCEAN WIRELESS BOYS OF THE ICE-BERG PATROL -- "The sinking of the Titanic emphasized the usefulness of the wireless in the iceberg zones described in this volume." -- 1915. Hurst.

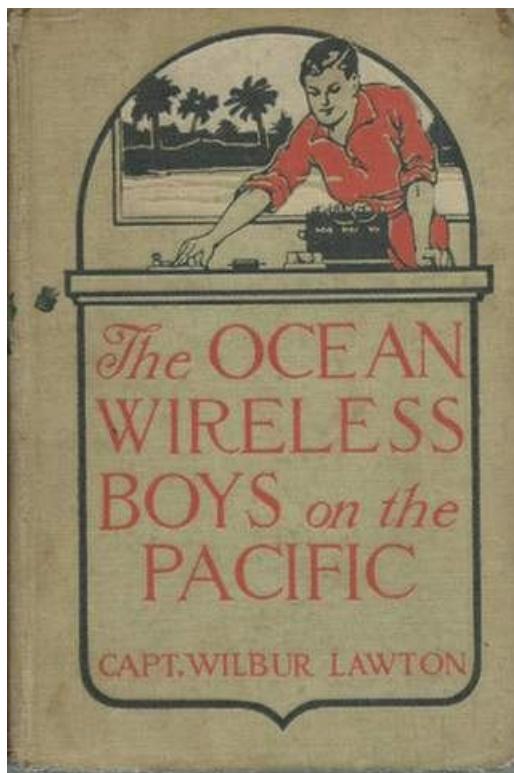
THE OCEAN WIRELESS BOYS AND THE NAVAL CODE -- "Combine warships and wireless, danger, intrigue, and daring and you have an exciting tale of the sea." -- 1915. Hurst.

THE OCEAN WIRELESS BOYS ON THE PACIFIC -- "This is as fascinating, thrilling and interesting as any of the preceding volumes. Plenty of action for red-blooded boys." -- 1916. Hurst.

THE OCEAN WIRELESS BOYS ON WAR SWEPT SEAS -- 1917. Hurst. - The boys find themselves on German ship – which then finds itself 'bounty' as war has been declared. The boys find adventures in occupied France during the war. (WW1).

But first – a double Header – number five in the series – Ocean Wireless Boys on the Pacific - #5 in the series. Then #6 to wrap up the series.

Ocean Wireless boys on the Pacific



Let's see – it starts out as:

"Twenty days out from San Francisco in the vast, heaving desert of the sea, twenty days of storm, sunshine and calm, the Sea Gypsy, the great white yacht of Jacob Jukes, head of the big Atlantic and Pacific Shipping Combine, was making her way lazily through the dreamy South Seas. The vessel was capable of great speed, being known as one of the fastest craft of her kind. But she was bound on a mission which might take a long time to consummate , and economy of coal, which was piled even on her decks, to reinforce the supply in the bunkers, was necessary. What this mission was remained, so far, a mystery to every one on board except Mr. Jukes himself, the iron -jawed and impenetrable organizer of the expedition.

Up to this time he had shown no inclination to unburden himself of his secret, and although the craft was equipped with powerful wireless of the most modern type, the yacht had received no messages, nor had she sent any, under orders from Mr. Jukes. On this particular evening Jack Ready leaned against the door of the wireless-room, a converted deck cabin, and covertly watched the heavy-shouldered, bull-necked form of

the millionaire shipping man as the latter gazed over the rail across the vacant waters at the gorgeous sunset. It was a true pageant of the heavens, such as is only to be seen in the Southern ocean. Great cloud-masses rose in wondrous forms, like glorified castle walls and turrets, glowing with purple and gold and red. Jack found himself following Mr. Jukes' gaze. Although such spectacles had been almost nightly ones since they had steamed into the tropics, there was something wild and sinister about the present one that thrilled him.

Captain Septimus Sparhawk, the brown, gaunt captain of the yacht, whose thin face was decorated by two little dabs of grayish whiskers forward of each ear, passed by.

"Nothing to do but to look at the sky, eh?" he asked Jack, as a suspicion of a smile crept over his face. "That's about all, sir," rejoined Jack, with a laugh. "I expect to see spiders spinning webs on my instruments every day. I haven't touched the key since we sailed." The captain shook his head. He was an old and loyal employee of the shipping man, and not much given to words. But, apparently, now he felt called upon to express himself. "It's a queer business, lad," he said, "and it may get queerer still before we find out what it's all about. I'm as much in the dark as you or the cabin boy. But right now that sunset worries me more than anything else."

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The acquaintance of Jack and Mr. Jukes had its beginning in certain events which took place near Jack's quaint home, which he shared with an eccentric uncle on an old schooner in the Erie Basin in New York. The rescue by Jack of Mr. Jukes' little daughter, and the result on his affairs, were fully detailed in the first volume of this series, which was called "The Ocean Wireless Boys on the Atlantic." This is not the place to re-tell all the exciting adventures that befell Jack and young Raynor, who was third engineer on the steamer to which Jack was assigned, in fulfillment of his ambition to be a "wireless man." Nor can we do more here than to hint at the contents of the second volume. This was called "The Ocean Wireless Boys and the Lost Liner," and set forth the fate of the Tropic Queen. In this book we found Jack and his inseparable chum steadily progressing in their chosen professions, and also met several other characters, all of whom had an important bearing on the events of the boys' lives. Mr. Jukes took formal recognition of the part Jack played in the disaster that overtook the Tropic Queen, and inwardly resolved that his heroism and devotion to duty had made him a lad worth watching. Still a third volume followed, describing the boys' further adventures. In the "Ocean Wireless Boys of the Iceberg Patrol," much interesting information about the manner in which the ocean lanes are guarded from the white menace of the north, was given. The boys shared in many thrilling adventures also, and ended by discovering something that an expedition, at the head of which was Jack's Uncle Toby, had almost lost through the

tricks of a band of hard characters. The fourth book setting forth their doings was called "The Ocean Wireless Boys and the Naval Code." Captain Simms of the U. S. N., after devising a novel code for the use of this government, through the machinations of a band of daring rascals, found himself robbed of it. Wireless played a big part in the recovery of the documents in the long run, Jack acquitting himself to the delight of the naval officials and the government by his work in this connection. Some of the miscreants, whose tricks Jack had helped to frustrate, were sent to prison but others got free. These latter the boys, though they little suspected it, were destined to meet again.

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Needless to say, the hurricane does hit and it storms for 2 days, wreaking disaster upon the ship, taking half their coal with it overboard, and leaving the ship with a major lack of fuel for the trip.

Soon, they discover the Centurian – a sailing schooner. It's deserted. It turns out this was the main purpose of the adventure – to find out what happened. No one is on board when the ship is spotted. It turns out that the ship was owned by Mr Juke's younger brother, Jerusalem, who was on a paid secret mission to buy the Tear of the Sea – a valuable and unusual pearl. An insider had tipped off Bully Broom, a competitor who operated like a pirate. So the quest was on now to find him, and perhaps his brother.

There's a lot of adventure – it moves pretty quick – and you might just get hooked on it. This is one of the better ones. However, fairly light on the 'radio aspect' – just lots of adventure. The first two are good for wireless involvement. After that, it fades quickly other than the Iceberg Patrol.

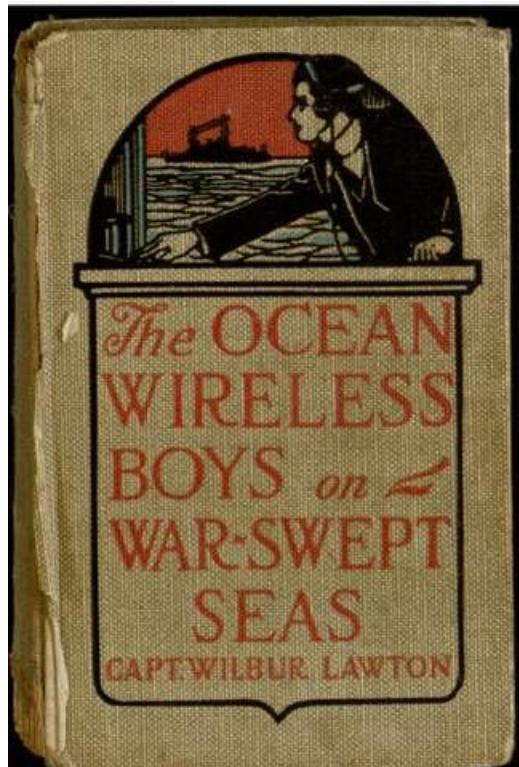
So Jack and Billy travel all over the Pacific in the coal powered steam yacht Sea Gypsy, hunting for the Captain's brother. They wind up on New Guinea and it's into the jungles. Jack and the crew are kidnapped but escape. They mount a rescue attempt deep in the jungle for Mr Jukes missing brother and find him. The bad guys are arrested for piracy and the Tear of the Sea pearl is recovered and returned to Mr Jukes. Lots of adventure and of course, it ends well.

I'm not sure why the series is continued as 'Wireless Boys' when there is hardly anything about wireless, other than the continuity of the characters. It could have been a great series but wasn't. That's why you've never heard of it.

Read it free online here in multiple forms or you can pay Amazon dot com 3 bucks for the ebook. It's #609,717 on the Kindle store top seller list!

<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/44503>

Ocean Wireless Boys on War Swept Seas



The last in the series and still good.

Jack Ready and buddy Bill Raynor wind up on a German ship headed to Europe, the KronPrizessin Emilie, which is also carrying six million dollars in gold. They are on vacation – having received a large sum of the money for their services in rescuing the pearls in the last episode in book 5 in the series. They're tourists on this luxury liner. The year is the mid/late teens. There is talk of war in Europe (WW1 – The Great War – The War to end all Wars). It's still the era of coherer receivers and rotary spark gaps and rotary converters to get the high voltages needed. Ancient technology for sure, but it

provided a lifeline to thousands of ships and millions of passengers at the time. You'll recall the Titanic sank not too many years before, triggering massive new requirements for ships to have adequate life boats and to carry wireless operators on duty 24/7.

It turns out they know several of the passengers – and the wireless operator. It's not long after that Jack is spending most of his time in the wireless shack, listening to what is going on. Soon he learns that war has been declared...and he is on a German ship! The message came from a British ship, attempting to overtake and stop the German ship. Russia, England, and France have declared war on Germany. The US is still 'officially neutral'.

The second wireless operator on the ship has taken ill, and Jack is offered the job of replacing him. Soon, the captain decides to turn around and head back toward the US. There is little hope of reaching Europe now with the war being declared. They are carrying six million in gold, which would be a big prize to be captured by the 'Alliance'. It's now become a game of cat and mouse. The United States remains 'neutral' at this point and a safe haven.

The ship is blacked out and plunges headlong through fog, iceberg fields, in an attempt to avoid the British war ships eager to capture her. Jack is at the wireless listening as the warships talk with each other (in unknown code). Those warships even fire at her, trying to get her to stop. By luck, they find a fog bank and avoid two British cruisers closing in, and arrive in Bar Harbor, ME – a 'safe haven'. The US has not entered the war yet. Jack and Bill leave the ship along with all the other passengers. Then it is on to further adventures.

Mr Jukes, the owner of the steam ship line, once, whose son was once rescued by Jack, has a special assignment for Jack to find his son who was traveling in France before the war broke out. He hasn't heard from him. Jack will undertake a personal mission to hunt for him and he gets passage to Europe on the US flagged passenger ship St. Mark as the second wireless operator. The ship was fairly deserted as no one wanted to head to Europe and the 'war zone' there. Most ships in NY harbor were sitting, going nowhere as Atlantic travel plummeted to near zero. They set sail, not even knowing which European port they will arrive at – that's to be determined later. The arch evil enemy Herr Professor Dr Lustig Radwig and his accomplice Schultz try to get Jack to send a special coded message to his German compatriots. He refuses. Later they conspire to make it look like Jack has fallen overboard, when in reality he has been kidnapped and hidden in an unused part of the ship so they can send their message. Fortunately, he is found and rescued just before they land and the evil criminals are incarcerated by the British authorities. Unfortunately, they quickly escape.

Meanwhile, the Ocean Wireless Boys secured passage to Belgium, the last known whereabouts of son Tom before the war broke out. They charter a tramp steamer – the Barley Rig - as regular passenger service has ended and the English Channel/North Sea is now mined and ships are being torpedoed by German subs. Well, before you know it, in the middle of the night, in a raging storm, the trawler hits a mine and goes down quickly. Both Jack and Billy managed to get themselves in a small dingy – but no oars, food, water, or any other supplies. They appear to be the only two survivors. Two days later they are picked up by a Danish ship headed to Antwerp, where it will sit out the war. So the adventure continues.

They make contact with an old friend – but there is no news of Tom Jukes. That night they are in a hotel and the city is bombed by a German Zeppelin. Their hotel is destroyed but they escape. The Germans are trying to get Belgium to surrender but the Belgian troops fight on. Next, the wireless boys head to Liege. It too is under siege with the enemy closing in.

The wireless boys accidentally run into Tom Jukes, the young man they are seeking. He's off to the 'front' to take some pictures with a photo friend and invite the boys along. Naturally, go they go. Unfortunately they get captured by a German patrol, led by their arch enemy it seems, Herr Dr Radwig. They are accused of being spies by him and taken into custody. Jack is put in a sturdy smoke house. That night, the day before he is to be executed for being a spy – so said Radwig, the camp is attacked by an aircraft. All the Germans are killed, including Radwig. Jack escapes because he was in a sturdy building, damaged, but it protected him. He escapes yet once again. He tries to get back to the Belgian lines and find the others.

While dodging through the woods, he runs into his old friend Garros, whom he met yet again on the ill fated voyage out of NY. Garros, now head of the French air forces, has an airplane and offers to fly Jack to the nearby city so he can avoid all the German patrols. They get shot down by a Zeppelin but can fix the engine and head on into the city at night. Whew! The episodes and adventures never end!

Jack goes to sleep in the hotel. He “awakes” to find himself a prisoner on an airship – chained to his seat. He can see the war going on below him. He is interrogated by a German officer that night. Things don't look good for him. It turns out it was a realistic nightmare, but Jack gets the idea that it is time to bug out if possible. He has had enough of the war!

He fortuitously meets up with the two others and they manage to enter France and head

to Marseille, where they catch the St Mark – their ship on the way over – now hauling refugees and US citizens back home – as tens of thousands have been stranded by lack of ships leaving. They finally arrive back safe in the US, mission accomplished.

309 pages and a quick couple hour read on line. That's the last of the Ocean Wireless Boys series and just about the last of all the books on my shelf. There aren't too many more out there that I know of, or show up on catalogs anywhere! It's a pretty good story but not much wireless after the first half of the book. You get hooked – you can't put it down.

Free here....or you can now order a reprint.

<http://digital.library.villanova.edu/Item/vudl:330441>

There's a few more ones to review...but we're beginning to run out of new 'book review' material There are a few more on the shelf. We might have to go off on another tangent! Hi hi It's been a good 2 year run.

On the Road with N4CD Part 1

Headed to NY the 'County Hunter Way'

Day 1

The temperature in TX was a sizzling 98 to 99 degrees for a week, with an occasional day at 100 expected now and then. This was the perfect time of year to head north toward cooler climates and enjoy a 'cooler summer'. Every day at high temps, with the morning temp near 83 deg gets old fast. While we have mild winters, we have four months of 'hot' each year to get through. It's not bad if you're working – everything is air conditioned, houses are air conditioned, cars are air conditioned. It's just when you are outside taking care of the lawn, or going for a walk, that you notice it is hot. Everything radiates heat. Not as bad as Phoenix, AZ, but still too hot to stay all summer long in TX.

The work on Mobile Diamond and Second Time transmit was almost done – and no

counties remaining back east other than for others. The total for Second Time transmit was up to 3072, with five remaining to go but none back east. MD was completed back in June. So I'd try to hit counties for others along the way. That's the 'county hunter way' of traveling.

The fast way is 2 days to 3 days to get to Rochester NY area from TX. Mapquest says it's 1432.5 miles if you don't stop for gas or food or motels. Add in another 20-30 likely for stops. 22 hours of driving time, if no delays, construction, bad weather slow downs. Of course, there will be construction, maybe an accident, and possible delays due to weather. I'd take 4 1/2 days and add in another couple hundred miles of back roads. That's the 'county hunter way'. I took a few "Percy Pics" along the way, too.

Each year the Antique Wireless Association holds a convention near Rochester in Monroe County NY. A couple hundred folks show up for the 4 day event, which includes flea market, dinners, talks, and an auction. It's along drive to NY, but if I went, I could do a bunch of county hunting along the way. Temps up there are usually quite a bit cooler, especially in the evenings/nights.

Terry, WQ7A, needed Marshall , WV for his Mobile Diamond and Hollis needed Elliott, KY to finish off those states. Terry is closing in and with a little help from his friends, he'll get there one of these days, hopefully soon. Scottie promised to get the ones in GA for him. Ron, KB6UF would get the AL ones. Joyce, N9STL, got 2 of 3 in MO and the other is in the planning stages. Hollis was off the air for a year (had to rebuild the house due to the tornado) so is playing catch-up on Mobile Diamond. There were also lots of other needs in KY and WV.

The fastest route – is the same as the one to Dayton, more or less, heading right to Memphis, Nashville, up to Cincinnati, then toward the northeast to the corner of NY across OH and just the tip of PA. I elected to add in a few days more of county hunting – and W3DLM sent me an email at the last moment saying his last for the whole ball of wax was Wayne.....I thought at first Wayne, WV....which wouldn't be too bad...but it was Wayne KY. Yuk!....that's not a fun one to get to and get out of! It's even worse if you stumble into it from the interstate just to the east – miles and miles of twisty road to get to the county line, then miles more to get back out of it! One of the reasons its not run to often – is that is a pain in the neck to get to it to run it! Ah, yes....counties like Webster WV and Wallowa, OR that you really must want to visit to get to. Hmm.

Well, if I worked it right, I could head up to the county next to it...then head northeast across the county – minimizing the twisty roads. So that pretty well set the path. Oh, and Neil, K7SEN, needed Wayne, KY for one of his last for 2nd time 'round. And Elliot,

KY for his Bingo.

So...bright and early on a Thursday morning the N4CD mobile headed out the same boring route up I-30 to Little Rock (Pulaski County AR) then across on I-40 toward Nashville (Davidson, TN). Hollis, KC3X, had just finished up so he was chasing me everywhere so I had at least one contact per 'green stamp' counties along the way.

I took it easy and stopped in Jackson, TN on I-40 (Haywood County) at a Super 8 that I've visited before. Decent price (\$60) and nearby places to eat. The big Smokehouse Buffet was 'temporarily closed' so dinner was at the Pearl Chinese Buffet (good) for \$9. You better like broccoli as it's about the only recognizable veggie other than soaked green beans at a Chinese buffet. Usually there is some fruit available for dessert, too.

The weather the first day was fine. There was threats of rain but it missed me. I got to the motel, and the lady said " did you have rain the whole way"? Nope, just a few drops but apparently in Jackson TN it poured the whole day. Lucked out! County Hunting is a whole lot less fun when it rains/pours on you the whole day long. Even less fun if the radio is full of lightning static – QRN and the sky full of flashes.

Day 2 TN to KY

In the morning I headed across through Nashville, over to Cookville where it was time to head off north on smaller two lane roads to get up to Clinton KY via some lesser run TN counties like Overton and Pickett. From Clinton, you have good roads through Wayne KY without the horrible twisty roads across the ridges – if you run in the 'valleys' as opposed to trying to cross from NW to SE, you have good roads. Same for down near Letcher KY and up in PA where the ridges run SW to NE, and you don't want to be trying to head NW to SE – you just have miles and miles of switchbacks and roads that take forever at 25 or 30 mph to get anywhere – with 100 to 300% added miles from point A to point B compared to the way the bird flies.



Wayne, KY
LC WBOW for W3DLM Bingo

Success! Worked W3DLM from Wayne, KY, and he finished up his Bingo! Now he can really go after those Master Gold contacts and work on that award. He sent in his log electronically and it wasn't a day or two before his number was issued and he could start on MG. Neil, K7SEN, got Wayne and he's down to a handful for Second Time, too. Well, that worked out pretty well – now it was time to get over to Elliott, which a couple folks needed including K7SEN and KC3X. It was the LC in KY for KC3X for Mobile Diamond. So the route headed up across KY.....but it was getting late after so much fun putting out the counties, so I stopped in Hazard, KY (Perry county) at another Super 8. Nice low prices! Dinner was at the Ponderosa Steak House. You can get your fill of veggies/salad there too.

Next morning after breakfast at the Super 8 – it was time to head up through Elliot via Breathitt and Wolfe. There were little black bugs in the OJ or Orange Drink. Yuk. Management didn't get too excited about that. You might think twice about visiting them.

Lots of folks need lots of things in east KY...but you have to head some direction – and it was north. One could spend 3 or 4 days putting out the east half of KY for the folks. Did some of that last Dayton trip with the central part of KY. You still get to run a few of the rarer ones getting to Elliott but it was early – so I guess the West coast missed out. Only WQ7A seems to be up at 5-6 am his time for 40 and 30m contacts. I remember

working W6TMD – getting some of his last ones in KY and WV at early hours in the morning. I'm not one to 'sleep in' – I'm on the road by 7am.

The trip up through Elliott went well – it's another you have to want to go to.....one way across it....and it takes a while, even though the roads are good – it's just windy and with little towns and villages and bumps in the road, along with occasional right angle turns.



Elliott KY – LC for KC3X for Mobile Diamond

I chugged along headed toward the next destination in WV for WQ7A. After you get through Elliott, and Carter, you eventually hit the interstate and head into WV. Ah, but first, with a few mile detour, you can hit Greenup, KY – which always seems to be needed by someone. Headed into the county, found a parking spot and ran it. I had lots of time yet to get to NY. No sense to get there too soon as nothing would be happening until Wednesday at the convention.

While I'm chugging along, Ray, AB4YZ calls on the cellphone. He says "I need two for WBOW for All-CW and they are in WV – one right on your route. (Gilmer and Randolph were the needed ones)....hmmm...another WBOW opportunity if I could get both. That doesn't happen all that often. I could get at least one of them. Then consider whether there was time and how bad the detour to the next one.

I know from past trips that there is about 1/2 a mile of Gilmer on the Interstate. If you blink – you miss it. Maybe less than 1/2 mile There is no exit and no good place to pull over. If you don't stop, maybe you'll get in 3 contacts on cw – if the frequency is not in use. Maybe 4 or 5 on phone if you have smart folks doing it quickly and they are prepared. If you need SSB, N8OYY seems to be there often (his home county) – CW is a lot tougher. That short contact could be done for Ray. The other needed one was about 40 miles or so east of the main route. Fortunately I had time. I left 3 1/2 days to go the 1400 or so miles from TX to NY. Of course, in KY and WV you might only get

300-350 miles in a day if you stop to run counties or take short detours here and there! On some stretches of road, you average 30-40 mph for an hour or two or three.

I get to Gilmer...and pull over. There's almost no shoulder and there is a guard rail at the edge. You've got maybe six inches if you pull over close to the rail, and that leaves you about 2 feet clearance at best to the traffic lane as cars/trucks whiz on by. Not a safe spot. I run it quickly on 40m and only 40m cw then bug out. Too dangerous to run on other bands. I'm stopped for maybe 5 minutes which is 4 minutes too much..maybe 5 minutes too much, but it works out OK. Likely it's 'illegal' to stop on the interstate, too. Worked out OK. Ray was 599. Big trucks and cars were whizzing past by the dozens. It's a busy, busy interstate.

What's this? Elwood, KA3MMM working me on 40M. Haven't heard that call in eons, but I guess these days he hangs out on 40M and that doesn't make it down TX way. He'd work me in most counties all the way up across KY, WV, PA, NY, OH until I got back southwest where propagation just wasn't there on 40M. Also W8OP was in there often on 40M.

Before I left, I had removed the 15m resonator off the mast (the heavy duty mag mount arrived via mail from AK via the post office and I put it back on the car). The magnets on that one are twice as strong as the ones on my other '3 magnet mount'. With the 15m resonator off, the 30M Hustler resonator worked a whole lot better and it didn't detune in the rain, like before. Hmm. Had full power on 30M the whole trip so that was nice. Still, in most counties, the number of QSOs on 30 was just a small fraction of those on 40M, but occasionally I'd be working WQ7A or K1TKL on 30m in mornings or afternoons from back east.

OK.....I manged to get Gilmer for Ray, AB4YZ – now to get to Randolph the easiest way – which is fairly easy since there are ski areas there, and it's almost an interstate highway from the Interstate over to Randolph. Ooops....Hit Barbour for a mile or two - looks like a wet line, so had to run Randolph and Barbour separately. Oh well. Do Randolph first. It was easy to get to Randolph....and likely the fastest way out of there and then to get to Marshall WV for WQ7A would be to head back the same route to the interstate, then up the interstate. As it turns out, likely much faster. But....I don't like to go the same route and you miss running other counties along the way. So it was off on smaller highways like 250 to the northwest to get to the Marshall County area. I wasn't going to make it on that day, so I had to head to a place with motels.



Randolph WV
LC WBOW USA-CW for AB4YZ

That turned out to be at the interstate after heading through Taylor (a LC) to Marion. There's a Super 8, but motel prices start climbing as you head north. \$80 plus tax. Ouch. I like those \$50 and \$60 motels in TN and KY.

Dinner at the Cracker Barrel next door.

So far the weather had been great. What started out as 90s and 100s in TX were low 80s in TN for highs and 70s in WV. Things were about to change. Just a sprinkle every now and then so far.

Day 3 – WV to NY

I checked with Terry WQ7A to find out when the band opened to his neck of the woods. NO sense getting to Marshall early if the band wouldn't be open. He's up at 5am his time (8am eastern) and likely would have propagation by 6am his time(1300z). I dragged my feet a bit. It was sprinkling as I left the motel on twisty, windy highway 250. It would take hours and hours and hours to get through Wetzel (not too bad) to Marshall (incredibly slow and windy roads with little towns with 15mph bends and

turns). The highway goes over ridges (switchbacks at 20 mph) then runs through valleys for miles but with little towns and 15 and 20mph curves into, in, and out of them. You don't make time on highway 250! Figure 30mph average speed for over 100 miles. Scenic! Heh heh But you don't have much time as driver to 'enjoy' the scenery. You're too busy turning left, right, left, right. Never a straight section for more than 300 feet it seems.

Worse, the windshield wipers are now going full time. Everything from drizzles all the time to downpours does not make for fun driving on strange roads. It would rain all day. It sure makes the route seem longer and you likely wind up going a bit slower even on the interstates. You see idiots in downpours still driving 60 and 65 and 70 as if the water on the road means nothing to them. Heck, every now and then the 'traction' light on the Malibu comes on.....the electronic stability control as you hit a puddle of water on the road. Oh well – fortunately no accidents. Of course, on Highway 250, you won't even get up to 50 mph more than a few times. It's slow!

I get to Marshall and the band is fine to Terry and he strikes that off the list. I'm in Marshall for what seems like 2 hours winding here, there, up, down, around.....



Marshall WV
LC Mobile Diamond for WQ7A

Eventually I get out of Marshall and get to the interstate once again hours later and thoroughly drenched. I was getting tired quickly of the rain. Enough backwoods WV counties! Time to make some tracks.

Now it's up the interstate following the GPS lady – not much to report other than it was too messy/pouring rain to try and snag one or two of the county line signs on the interstate still needed in PA. Maybe next time. They did put the rest areas in good places – you can run some 'short counties' sitting in a convenient rest area! I ran all the counties headed north.

When I got to NY, I took a detour off the NY Tollroad to get to Cattaraugus. Not too far – maybe 10 miles and a few folks needed that one. Then back on the I-90 NY toll road headed for Buffalo. It was getting late – motels here are even more expensive – big sign for the Rad Roof Inn...special \$89/night. Ouch. I stop at a Super 8 in Erie County. Yep, it's \$92.....with senior discount it's \$84....plus, of course taxes which puts it over \$90/night. Yuk. Oh well....I pay up. Even the Motel 6 at this location had a \$79 special rate on their advertising sign. Plus, of course, tax. Maybe it would have totaled about \$80 with the 10% senior discount. Well, fortunately the County Hunting budget had enough in it to handle it. The car was going through \$40-\$60/day in gas, plus of course, the driver was going through \$20+/day in food, too. It adds up. But that is 'my fun' so I enjoy doing it. I don't get back east all that often. The car might need some brakes here soon – 145K miles on it – original brakes. Looks like new tires in another 10,000 miles, too.

Dinner at the restaurant at the motel complex. So so....not enough veggies/fruit. \$12. Unless you hit a buffet, or have a salad bar, most meals out are mainly meat and potatoes – not the greatest stuff for you – with maybe a teeny salad with a few leaves of lettuce and a slice of tomato. Usually lunch at home is a large salad (half a head of Romaine lettuce to start, a whole tomato, mushrooms, flax seed, maybe olives, some onion, spinach leaves, carrots) when I'm at home, plus the drink made in the Vitamix blender. It's hard to do that 'on the road'. Subway does have a 'medium size' salad available if you wind one of those outlets while traveling for lunch.

The temps all day were in the 60s and 70s.

Day 4 – NY to the Convention site

I had a day left to enjoy and run some NY counties. I checked my map and it already had the route planned from one of the trips up this way earlier , so I followed it – Niagara, Orleans (nice little corner on Salt Road), down to Wyoming/Livingston, up to Wayne via Ontario, and then to Monroe.

After the Wyoming/Livingston line, I discovered I could zip on past the AWA museum in Bloomfield, NY – it would be open - well, 'open house' on the Tuesday before the convention. I visited it last year when it officially opened at the new site and spent a few hours there. This year I just spent 30 minutes – not much had changed. It's still in the 'growing phase' and more will be added as finances permit.



AWA Museum – Worth a Visit

Worth a visit if you are in that neck of the woods, along with the even better museum in Huntington WV that's a 'must see'. Well, after that stop, on to Wayne, NY.

Wayne was a needed county for Neil, K7SEN, and he found his key and worked me on CW! How about that? K2MF also needed Wayne.

It started to rain again so it was time to head on in. Temps in the 60s.

Had to add some air to the tires as the pressure was dropping due to low temps. They were set at 95 deg and at 65 deg, pressure was down 10% or so. It was only in the mid 60s this far north with the 'cool summer' they are having. My Malibu has individual tire pressure monitors so you can check what's happening.

There's a nice parking area at the Monroe/Wayne line...and a fruit stand – bought some absolutely delicious peaches.....then had some late lunch and headed on it to the

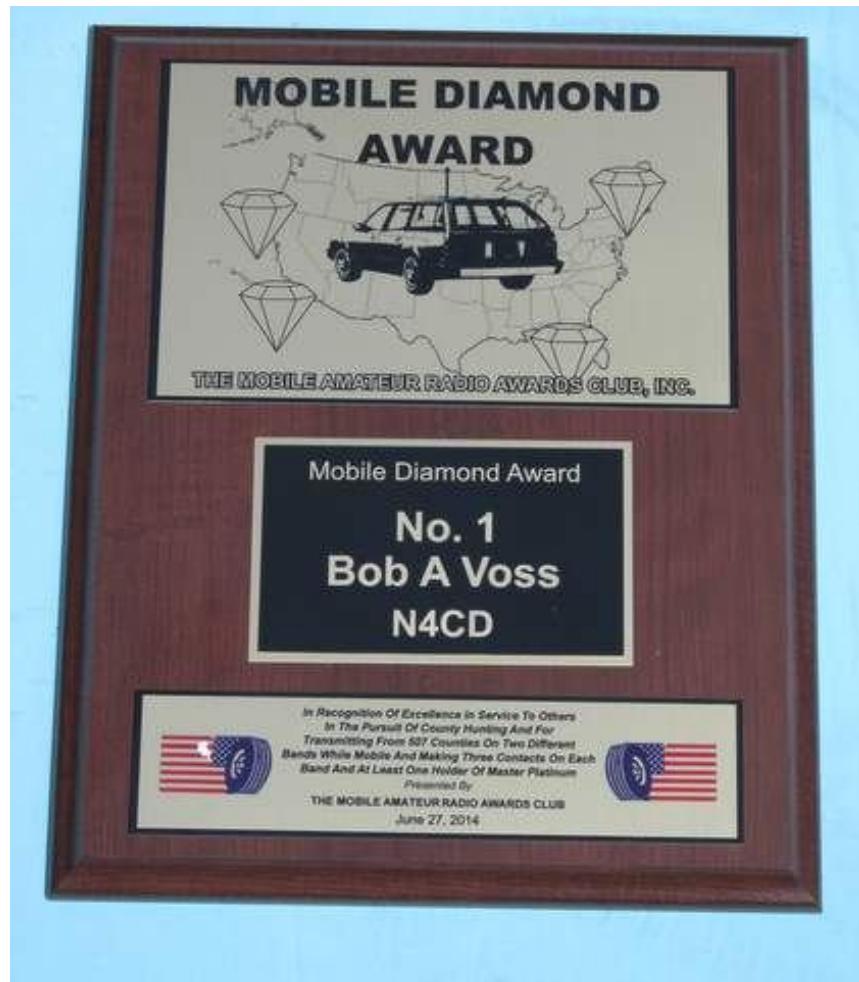
Convention Hotel for the Antique Wireless Convention. The county hunting part of the trip was a success and was now over.

To be continued!

Mobile Diamond Plaque

The members challenged the Awards committee to come up with something nice for the plaque for Mobile Diamond. Last month we showed the All Prefixes Award that was recently sent out.

This month – in the mail – the Mobile Diamond Plaque arrived – it's about 10 inches wide and 13 inches tall. Definitely 'nice'



So far, five county hunters have earned Mobile Diamond. (K5GE, N4AAT, N5UZW, N4CD, N8KIE).

Your Tax Money at Work

The federal government is in dire need of U.S. citizens willing to house the thousands of illegal immigrants who enter the country each week, and they are willing to pay them to do so.

The Texas-based nonprofit Catholic Charities is currently seeking out foster families for the migrants, most of whom come from Central America. Ruth Braiser, a spokeswoman for the organization, told Breitbart Texas that foster families can receive monthly payments for housing adult immigrants who are under 23-years-old.

"Most of our children are 15 to 17-years-old," she said. "But some stay in our program until they are 22-years-old; if they're still working on getting their high school diploma, they can stay until they're that age."

The revelation that some of the migrants receiving foster care are adults will likely come as a surprise to many; the mainstream media has largely portrayed the border crisis as involving only children and family units.

Braiser mentioned that foster families will be paid \$40 per day for each migrant they take in from Catholic Charities. **The payments are funded by the federal government, as Breitbart Texas previously reported.**

Foster parents have the ability to collect more than \$7,400 per month, considering that they can house six immigrants at any given time.

In addition to daily payments, Braiser said that the illegal immigrants are provided with taxpayer subsidized education, health care, transportation, and an "allowance." She was not specific about the amount of such an allowance or how often it is administered. Many have expressed outrage that instead of being turned away at the border, many illegal aliens are being brought to federal facilities where they receive a slew of taxpayer-subsidized benefits: housing, food, vocational training, English lessons, recreation, and legal counsel. Ultimately, most of the migrants are released onto U.S. soil after promising to show up at an immigration court hearing."

Source: <http://www.breitbart.com/Breitbart-Texas/2014/07/29/Collect-More-Than-7-2-k-Per-Month-for-Fostering-Adult-Illegal-Aliens>

County Sign Database Project

The County Hunters are trying to get pictures of each and every county line sign in the country. So far, it's proceeding nicely as folks from around the country check the 'needs'

list and add in another dozen or two each month.

More additions were made this month to the County Sign Database this month. It's now over 2650 county line signs and counting down toward the 3077 number. Some states may be a real challenge – but that's what it is all about!

Here's a sampling of new additions this month.

Lee, KC7QOP sent in a bunch of needed signs. Here's Crawford PA:



He sent in signs from MI and OR as well.

Here's one from Dave, KE3VV:



Hanover, VA – by KE3VV

KB6HWD sent in one from Guadalupe, TX



Guadalupe TX by KB6HWD

Jerry, W0GXQ, sent in Eddy ND along with others from his recent trip around ND with NF0N



Eddy, ND by W0GXQ

Here's Grafton, NH from NM1G



Grafton,NH – by NM1G

Mary, AB7NK and Neil, K7SEN added more from their recent trip



Kimball, NE by AB7NK/K7SEN

Rick, W5QP, added dozens more in MS

K8QWY sent in another from OH.

The County Sign database is located at:

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

The needed signs are at:

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

Reader Feedback

comments on the August issue:

“WANTED TO SAY I REALLY ENJOYED THE NEWS THIS MONTH.....COMPLETELY AGREE WITH EVERYTHING YOU SAID..... from a “5” land station

Just wanted to say, GREAT NEWS LETTER.....from a '4' land station

Good news letter – '2' land station

North American QSO Party- CW

This is another annual event to have some fun on cw for 12 hours or so, work a bunch of your buddies, and just make some contacts. This year, 10M was open so I spent time on 10 and 15M. From TX, VE3 land was pounding in along with much of FL, with occasional contacts in NC, VA, GA, MD MN, CA and other states. We don't have 10m open that much. The SFI and sunspot numbers were in the mid 150s range during the contest. Rather than just rack up a score on 20M and 40M later, I spent a few hours working the shifting propagation on 10 and 15m. Stations would be in for a while, then fade out, and other nearby regions come in. Lots of fun.

Who was on? I heard K4BAI, KF0UR, and a lot of the state QSO Party folks like W4NZ, N4PN, and many others. N9JF, WA4PGM, K8MFO, K5YAA, KM4FO, K07X, were on – and some in the log.

From the 3830 soapbox comments

K5YAA - 779 contacts

“80 meters was a real surprise. Actually had a couple of runs going. Using my

Tarheel and Hustler mobile antennas on 20/40 and 80. The 6 el 15 yagi and 8 el 10 yagi on those two bands. 15 kept running for me and stayed open for quite a while.”

KO7X – 661 QSO

“ots of noise on the low bands. There were several stations calling that I was unable to copy through the QRN. I got my 160 meter lazy 7 back up in the air Friday - just in time.”

On the Road with N4CD Part 2

At the Antique Wireless Association Convention

Each year at the Rochester Institute of Technology Conference Center several hundred old radio enthusiasts gather for an annual meeting of the Antique Wireless Association. This year was no exception and I'd join the crowd for some fun, possible acquisitions of 'goodies', learning at the seminars, and enjoying seeing old friends again. It starts off on Wednesday with the opening of the book fair, where 8 different book/magazine/paper vendors put out their wares (likely 5000 books and untold number of booklets, instruction books, pictures, paper, etc). You could find 1905 wireless text and technical books, biographies, old advertising, old magazines from the 1900s, 1910s, 1920s (including some very old QSTs), telegraph books, television books, and just about everything written in the past 100 years on the history of radio/television, personalities, etc. I browsed things and actually found a few early wireless juvenile fiction books I was not familiar with. The prices were high but maybe I could make a deal. Otherwise, there wasn't anything I wanted to add to my library at home – already too many ham radio books!

The hotel charges \$99 'special rate' for AWA, plus, of course, taxes of another 13% or so. That seems to be the going rate.....but the hotel has all sorts of meeting rooms, exercise room, outdoor pool....very nice..... but no mini-refrig or microwave in the rooms.

Wednesday night was a free 'pizza party' with a live band to kick things off. I had a

few slices, but since the major change in diet....the pizza wasn't all that appealing as before. But it was good pizza! (Jerry, K5YAA, take note – hi hi).

There's lots of restaurants within a few miles – Golden Corral, China Buffet, Subway, Wendys, Macdonald, BBQ places, etc, so it's very convenient if you have a car plus the hotel has a decent restaurant. They actually house a few students there for 'overflow' and some international students as well for RIT – there is a shuttle service to the main campus about 7 miles away.

On Thursday, the programs begin – and the outdoor flea market opens. I browsed the outdoor market early – nothing I was interested in – at the price wanted. There were some nice early Federal receivers (1910 era) for \$1400 or so – ouch! - in real nice shape – but that was it as far as 'goodies'. Maybe 30 folks were selling things. A few more might show up on Friday and Saturday.

I attended quite a few of the 'sessions' that ran during the day. One had to do with the 'aperiodic receiver'. Huh? Well, that's a receiver that receives 'everything' all at the same time. Non-wavelength specific. Why would anyone want to do that? Well, it turns out during the war – WW2 - , there was a need to have a 'snoop receiver' that would detect any local strong signal. Panoramic was commissioned to make 50 of these units – that were called 'Watchdog Receivers'. If any transmitter within a short range fired up, it would 'scream' an alert.

KN4R found one of these at the Shelby, NC hamfest, and gave the presentation and wrote articles about it.

Panoromic had made 'panadaptors' for the government for regular receivers – speciality items. The Watch Dog receivers were made in a basement with help from regular day time employees who put in a night shift to get the units built under government contract. No major supplier wanted to build 'a small run'.

It's a 'type K' SS-201. Very few were made – maybe 300 total, and even fewer are known to still exist. It's a 'broadband receiver' made in 1943. You might put one in your mobile radio detection van along with your good receives and DF equipment, or have one at an interment camp to prevent clandestine transmitters. They were very expensive at the time. The government bought Hudsons for their 'monitoring cars'.



Panoramic Watch Dog Receiver

Here's a You Tube video on it

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9pdIPNfJMfY>

There's a great article in Electric Radio this month on it – including a half dozen high res pictures of the insides plus a schematic. It covers 60KHz to 60 MHz – the likely places you would find spy/clandestine radios. They were deployed at about 50 sites around the US, with concentrations on the east coast (Wash DC to Boston MA corridor).

Here's a detailed history of the Radio Intelligence Division – set up during WW2. They tracked 9000 'signals', caught 400 clandestine stations, and captured 200 'spies'.

<http://users isp com/danflan/sterling/ridhist.pdf>

In the evening, the Collins Collector Association had a Buffet Dinner – and even though I'm not a Collins Collector – I had the buffet. Expensive – typically hotel charge price – but it was decent food.

On Friday, there were more technical sessions. I enjoyed the ones on “WW2 Spy Radios”, and W1TP's Telegraph Seminar/Update.

Here's a page on the B-2 spy radio

<http://www.radiomilitari.com/b2.html>

Tom, W1TP, mentioned that he hit the 'jackpot' at the ARRL Centennial Flea market. He found 14 fairly rare (some really rare) keys for sale. He bought 14 of them at prices between \$200-\$400 – which he said was 'very reasonable' for them. He's a serious key collector and when some rare stuff shows up, he really gets excited. Did you go and see the keys? Some were almost never up for sale, like the French cable system key, and another wireless spark key. You can go to 100 hamfests and never see one, no less 14. Oh well.....I don't carry around \$3000 or \$4000 waiting for those rare keys to show up! Bet some of you out there who went saw the keys and and passed them by without even a glance!

Another program was on WW2 Axis radios/technology. For the history newbies – the Axis was the combination of Germany, Italy and Japan – who fought against the US, Russia, Poland, France, and Britain in WW2. They used some innovative tubes and mountings for them in their radio sets. Few survive as most had to be destroyed after the end of WW2.

Each year, at the convention, there are 15 or so categories where folks can bring things to show and compete— such as pre 1910 wireless, tube console radios, and the 'category of the year' – which his year was Hallicrafters. There were Hallicrafter early receivers, TV sets, CB radios, a CPO, advertising, and everything related to that manufacturer. Here is something you don't see very often – not only one, but two of these were on display, and there are only SIX known copies of this radio known to exist! It's the first receiver Bill Halligan made – a regenerative – the S1. Four bands, bandswitched. We've covered it before. One sold on Ebay in sad shape for over \$600 – needed major major restoration.



Hallicrafters S-1

If you thought the S-1 was rare, here is a S-2. This one has a factory added bandspread capacitor. The main tuning is the horizontal knob on the left. The one on the right is the audio control. Left knob is bandswitch and right knob is regen control.



Hallicrafters S-2

Before the book fair wound down Friday afternoon, I managed to make a deal to buy two of the early juvenile fiction books that I didn't even know exist before this trip. The Wireless Boy with the Oyster Fleet and The Wireless Boy with the Secret Service. They'll be reviewed on of these issues. They aren't on line yet.....maybe another year or two or three – who knows? I checked and WorldCat has about six copies of each title

listed at various institutions around the country. As project Gutenberg digitizes library after library, it's just a matter of time before they hit the web as a 'ebook'. The copyrights have expired and no one is going to sell more than a few of them at any rate! We dickered for a while – I paid more than most of the books I bought and he got less than what he wanted. They'll be up for sale at the next local convention/meet after I read through them quickly.

Out in the flea market, I found my 'find'. An old 'carcass' from a Knight Kit Span Master regenerative receiver. No tubes, no knobs other than one of the main tuning knobs, no speaker, and under the chassis unknown but clean looking. Case a bit beat up with the cloth covering coming loose (common problem). The price was right 'Free- take it if you can use it!). Dang! I had one radio at home – bought it at Dayton two years ago...and on the way from the flea market to the car, one of the main tuning knobs came loose and disappeared! That was a sad moment. Now I got a new knob and a parts radio to boot! Well, that was my 'luck' for the day.

Friday night we had the official banquet – good food – and announcement of the annual awards. The AWA runs the museum, puts out a magazine each quarter and a yearly giant review document. Runs the museum. Lots of work is required. The awards for First Place in each of the 17 categories were also announced.

After the banquet, there was an auction preview for the Saturday auction. I didn't see anything worth sticking around for – or that I wanted to afford - so I'd be on the highway early on Saturday headed back ot TX. I'd been away enough days.

To be continued....

Maryland QSO Party

Yes, there was a Maryland DC QSO Party but activity as usual was on 40m for the most part with stations trying to work each other. A few did a good job of putting out their counties from fixed locations, mostly on SSB. No mobiles were noted.

From the 3830 reflector:

KS4X – fixed TN - QRP - worked 19 stations and 11 multipliers.

W7KAM – fixed MO 9 QSO 6 mults

Disappointed at the number of MDC stations on 20 meters this year. I was gone Saturday night so I didn't get to work any nighttime on 40 meters. Conditions were not good all weekend. Usually do much better in this one. Wait until next year.

KE3X – fixed – DC 48 cw 506 SSB

First time participating in this contest - did not work any other DC stations and only got half the MD counties. 20 Phone seemed to be the only place with any rate, and was called by lots of DX there between 5-7PM local.

This was a very different experience from other State QSO parties like OH, PA, FL, TX or CA where most activity is on CW and there is a rush to work the mobiles.

I tried calling CQ on 15 and 20 CW, but I kept getting called by European friends who wanted QTC's so gave up. It seems WAE CW on this same weekend makes those band/modes basically unusable.

Multiplier breakdown: 14 MD Counties, 46 States, 4 Provinces, 50 Countries.

KD5J – fixed AR - 13 Q, 9 mults

Did not find too many MD stations on the air.

Noted as spotted in the W6RK log

WA2WDT – Montgomery MD

KR3E Worcester

AB3TM, W3VPR Anne Arundel

KK4GV Somerset

NI2W Washington (good for NB award) , WB3FTQ

N3TCR Caroline (good for NB)
WG3J Wicomico
W8LYJ Howard
K3CCR Prince Georges
N3AEG, ND3D Baltimore

If you need one of those counties you might look them up!

Global Warming Fraud Exposed Yet Again

According to the the 1990 IPCC report, the Arctic sea ice anomaly in 1974 was almost -1.0 million km². Essentially identical to 2014. There has been no change in Arctic ice coverage over the past 40 years.

Step back and think about this - The last few years, the Arctic was exposed to a warm El Nino in the Pacific and a warm AMO in the Atlantic and that is why the Sea Ice Extent was lower. And it is for these reasons that the Arctic Sea Ice Extent is cyclical with a high variability. Global Warming had nothing to do with this. Now that El Nino and AMO are turning negative, the Arctic is recovering very nicely - In fact, global polar sea ice is into record territory.

<http://stevengoddard.wordpress.com/2014/07/30/no-change-in-arctic-sea-ice-over-the-past-40-years/>

Hawaii QSO Party

It looks like all the HI counties were on the air including the elusive Kalawao. The same group that was there a few years ago returned to Kalawao peninsula to do some volunteer work, give 'remote' VE testing, activate Kalawao for the HI QSO Party, and get on the air at other times. Many other fixed stations especially in Honolulu and

Hawaii counties were on.

NH7NJ was noted on Kauai, and KH6BWG on Kalawao on 40m cw at night. On Saturday, 15m propagation was good with half a dozen HI stations there, and Kalawao spending a lot of time on 15m. You had about a dozen multipliers to seek including at least 3 on the Big Island – Hawaii County- and multiple on Honolulu including the Pearl Harbor area. It's expanded since last year. Ford Island was eliminated or put in the Pearl Harbor Area.

Here's the mults this year

HIL	Hilo (Big Island)
HON	Honolulu County (Oahu)
KAL	Kalawao County
KAU	Kauai County
KOH	Kohala (Big Island)
KON	Kona (Big Island)
LAN	Lanai Island
LHN	Leeward Honolulu County (Oahu)
MAU	Maui Island
MOL	Molokai Island
NII	Niihau Island (Kauai County)
PRL	Pearl Harbor Area
VOL	Volcano Park (Big Island)
WHN	Windward Honolulu Country (Oahu)

from the 3830 reflector

HB9ARF – fixed - 7 CW 6 Mults

K4BAI - fixed – GA 13 cw 9 ssb 15 mults

Band conditions to Hawaii

good on 40 through 15M. Not much activity on 40M (only KH6LC). Nothing heard on 10M and didn't expect to hear anything on the lower bands. Thanks for all QSOs. 73, John, K4BAI.

On the Road with N4CD Part III

There wasn't any reason to head furthur east. My sister and hubby were spending the summer down in the DC area – he's just finishing up chemo for the pancreatic cancer so they didn't get to the 'summer place' this year – and no reason to detour to Warren NY for a visit. Often when I am that far east, it's only another 200 miles or so to Warren County – and I can run around up there for a few days, too – right next to VT and those rarer upstate NY ones. Maybe next summer. So it was back to TX instead.

There was nothing I had to have at the upcoming auction, so I could make an early start from West Henrietta, NY (Monroe County) back to Texas. The days had been nice with temps in the 60s!...yes, 60s- long pants, and even a jacket in the morning for the early flea market rounds. A few storms passed through to keep it even cooler. I left the area at 6:30am with the temp at 63 degrees. It would get incrementally warmer as I headed south. Texas was still sizzling in typical August fashion.

The route home was 'follow the GPS lady' the entire way. Just punch in point A and point B into Mapquest or similar on line routing program, and you can usually see the same route as the GPS lady has in mind. Go to Mapquest, hit the 'directions' button and enter in the two points, and it will tell you how many miles and hours and give you a route. You can play around adding in a way point if you want to go via some county for some one along the route, or do it section by section. My GPS lady needs updating but it costs as much for the update these days as it nearly would cost to buy a similar new GPS unit – and you could upgrade to a larger screen, too. There are a few roads she doesn't know like new tollroads. Maybe I'll buy myself a 7 inch one for a holiday season present.

The county hunting was complete other than run the counties on the way home, and other than requests for southeast KY way out of the way, no one else had suggested anything new along the route. It's 1450 miles from there to my house – an easy 2 1/2 day trip if you don't want to push to hard. Three if you want to take it easier. I'd see how it went. It was still the time of year with lots of daylight.

Before you know it , I was out of NY (well, a couple hours) then down across Erie, PA – nice in the summer, but right in the 'lake effect' snow belt where it really dumps on them during the winter time! There's only a few cities along the way. One of the old time

county hunters lived up that way. That was George, KB3GN...hasn't been active in a decade nor updated or joined MARAC in a decade. QRZ dot com lists him with a MD address now. No problems in the summer time. Then it was over to near Cleveland, down to Columbus area, down to Cincinnati, and down I-65 headed to Nashville. A few counties you're in only for a few miles, so only those listening on net, or sticking around after the first few likely get the 'short ones' of a few miles duration. Or those who have a map handy and realize there's only a few miles on the interstate of county X or have done that route themselves.

Whew. Lots of miles went by, and when the count was up around 700, I decided to stop for the night at a Super 8 in Mumford, KY. Still high prices - \$62 plus tax but that's better than \$100. I had gained an hour going from Eastern to Central Time....or was about to....forgot. This is right on the border between time zones. You get 'early sunrises' for CDST, and late evening hours for EDST hours.

Dinner was at a nearby small Chinese Buffet place - \$9. There aren't too many choices other than fast food beside this little town. Next time I'll push on to Bowling Green with more dinner choices – another 50 miles.

Next morning it was on the road early at 6:30am after breakfast at the Super 8. No waffles – well , they had the frozen kind. Yuk. No make your own Belgian waffle. Had sugar laden cereal instead – no other choices.

The GPS lady said I could make it home by 7pm without stops. Hmm. Well, I'd see how I did as the day went by. You zip through a few counties for just a few miles. It's amazing how many would work me in one, then disappear, and I'd be in a new one in 3 minutes, but they were 'long gone' and missed it. Happened frequently on 40cw. That was a couple counties that only the real dedicated got – some only 2-3-4 miles in length and that goes by fast at 65 mph. Some only had a few contacts as those that might have seen the spot were minutes late, if someone had spotted it. I'd be in a new county by then. I just wonder how many log what the spot says and aren't paying attention to what I'm sending? You never know! I try hard when I hit a new county to keep repeating it....like "NW Larue Larue QRZ"....I don't what else to do but change bands (which I often do when I hit a new county). At that time in the morning, it's only 40M CW that is working.

Not much to report on other than band conditions were up and down. 17M wasn't doing much. 30M had folks show up only when spotted for the most part. Almost no one had a receiver just on 30M. 40M worked well down into KY and TN, then sputtered off as I headed toward TX with just a few in each county.

I hit AR....and grrrrr!.....the construction in St Francis County took 45 minutes of stop and go, stop and go, to get through the one lane for 15 miles. The backup started 4 miles back for the two lanes to merge. What a mess. It was feet per second, not miles per hour. You've go to do this at midnight or 6am, but afternoon on a Sunday, when all the truckers have hit the road, is a giant pain in the butt. I lost about an hour in time. Now, the GPS lady said 8 pm arrival time. That would be 13.5 hours on the road and 750 miles of driving.

I carried on, with a short stop for dinner at a Subway. High 90s for temps all across AR. Then back on the interstate. You hit the TX border and now it is 75mph speed limit and traffic moves 80 mph. I zip along running the counties. K7INA is watching out for the mobiles. NF0N is up in KS and NU0Q is out in CO. K3IMC is running some in GA and TN headed to IA. It helps to have someone there to get mobiles started and prevent two from running at once.

As the sun sets in the western sky...I pull into the driveway just before 8pm. It's only 84 degrees as showers just passed on through – missed them. It had been 97 degrees earlier in the day. It will be up to 100 by the end of the week.

It was a good trip. Two folks finished up for WBOW (W3DLM, AB4YZ) and contacts given to get others down under 10 to go. 3430 miles on the car – about 32 mpg overall. Lots of counties put out so Hollis, who just started over, filled in many many 'new' ones. Hope we hit something you needed.

40M SSB Net

There was some discussion on the K3IMC forum about the 40M SSB net. Some mobiles QSY there after the run on 20M. Some don't seem to. The problem is worse out west where there are often QSOs or nets on 7188 or nearby at various times during the day, and no one 'listens' there to the net frequency. Back east, you have mobiles that self spot if coverage, or go there after 20M.

Of course, back in the 'good old days' of county hunting, you could ask for a mobile to QSY to 40M on the 20M SSB net. Don't try it today. '40M" and "move a mobile" are not a part of the vocabulary of Junior and Papa (K2JG and KZ2P). When WA3TUC, WA9QNI, WA4KER, and many others ran the net, you could ask for a mobile to go to

40M, even if they only made a quick contact from a county. Or you could ask them to move off frequency if it wasn't their turn. Don't try it today. You'll either get promptly ignored, yelled at for 'wasting valuable net time, as he calls endlessly for a 'mobile station ready to put out a county', or put on the 'black list'. In the past, he'd give you a time out where you sat in the corner with a dunce cap on for half a day or a day.

That behavior and lack of ability to move mobiles for a contact, or request 40M, doesn't help, but now it is mostly Propagation. We're at the peak of the sunspot cycle, for what it is, and 20M has the best propagation, and that is where most folks are. In five years, 20M will open later, close earlier, and not have as much 'short skip'.

It will still take some dedicated folks to get and keep the frequency on 40M. Now, other groups and nets have moved in since the County Hunter Activity is fairly low. The last dip in sunspots saw KM9X and N5UZW keeping the frequency open with lots of mobiles running there. In fact, Junior bemoaned the '40M only' mobiles that seldom showed up on 20M since 'they were having too much fun' on 40M and didn't need him for the tu-tu relays to work folks in the east half of the country from the east half of the country.

So, if you want a 40M SSB net frequency, keep it busy now. When there events such as minis, get the mobiles on 40M SSB and get some activity going.

In the past, I ran a lot there, but now I'm pretty busy keeping the 4 cw frequencies going. 17M is not as good as it was a while back, but provides good contacts.

For the SSB only folks working on Mobile Diamond, that requires contacts on two bands, within a few years, 40M will be essentially if they want to get their 500 counties run! 17M will be fading away and opening less, and opening later and closing earlier. Keep that in mind if you see yourself working on the Diamond Award. Even the others require contacts (MG, MP) from counties – and 20M will be less and less reliable for them.

We need a few newbies to keep things going, and of course, mobiles that QSY to 40M for the folks. And maybe some NC stations that don't choke up at the thought of 'QSY to 40M please' and 'move a mobile'.

I recall way back when...when we were on 7238. If I got an early start back east....you'd have the Classroom net that started at 8am – and ran for an hour. I'd check in for a 'contact' in a county for transmit credit. Maybe I could sneak in another quick contact during the net, too, but that was it. Better have a county hunting buddy along if you

were only SSB.

Maybe Alan, VK5AAR, would be around on 20M for the one and only QSO there if the band was open to VK land – but that would be it. The County Hunters took over after the Classroom net most days. We'd keep it till 6pm central time when the Rotten Apple Group moved in. They actually had it till the Classroom net started in the morning. When the band expansion happened, KM9X pioneered the move to 7185, later to 7188.....and we had the frequency all day long. It was great during the 'dip' in the cycle, and could be again – IF – folks get on and keep a frequency and there is enough mobile activity.

My 2c.

Solar News 2014

Sunspots 2014: Two big surprises

Austin, August 16, 2014 – A rare spotless day on the sun on July 17-18, 2014 triggered public speculation that an already stunted Cycle 24 was nearly over. Such is not the case. Defying the odds for so late in a sunspot cycle, another solar sunspot maximum was set last month. Another one is coming this month.

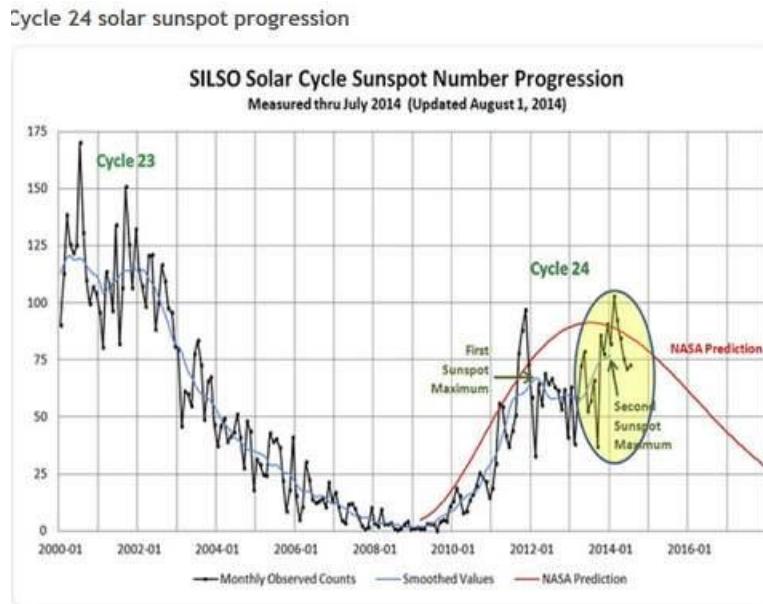
In other major news, a long needed revision to the 400-year sunspot record was proposed. It'll be the first change made to the sunspot record since it was first established by Rudolf Wolf back in 1849. The changes will affect long-term climate and other dependent scientific studies.

One effect of the proposal will be to reduce modern sunspot totals. That will wipe out the so-called “Modern Maximum” and make the current sunspot cycle, Cycle 24, the weakest in 200 years.

After four straight months of steep declines in monthly sunspot counts, July reversed the trend and increased slightly.

The Royal Observatory of Belgium released July's average monthly sunspot count on August 1, 2014. Despite the mid-month spotless day, the sunspot number increased and it grew solar maximum again for the sixth straight month.

Cycle 24 still remains the weakest solar cycle in 100 years. It's nowhere near NASA's forecast smoothed peak. Data indicating weak sunspot activity over the next couple cycles remain strong.



Cycle 24's new smoothed solar maximum peak inched up from 76.0 spots/day to 77.3 spots/day. With the increase in sunspot activity in July there will probably be two or three more months setting new sunspot maximums before the sun starts fading inexorably towards minimum.

When that change finally arrives, long-term indicators suggest the next sunspot cycle will be much weaker than this one. That could portend a general cooling trend for earth, if history serves as a guide to future behavior.

Extended periods of inactivity – like the Spörer, Maunder and Dalton minimums – were all accompanied by cooler earth temperatures. Conditions today mimic Cycles 3, 4 and 5 which marked the beginning of the Dalton Minimum.

The 400-year sunspot record is the longest continuously recorded daily measurement made in science. It's used in many scientific disciplines, including climate science studies. It hasn't been adjusted since Rudolf Wolf created it over 160 years ago.

Over the centuries errors have crept into the record, degrading its value for long-term

studies. New data and discoveries now allow scientists to detect and correct errors. The first serious look back at the long-term record since Wolf in 1849 came without even a press release last month. It's a modestly titled new paper called "Revising the Sunspot Number" by Frédéric Clette, et al., submitted for publication to the journal Solar and Stellar Astrophysics on July 11, 2014.

Some outcomes of the new paper include:

- The so-called "Modern Maximum" disappears
- Sunspot activity is steady over the last 250 years
- Three detected "inhomogeneities" since 1880 are corrected
- Cycle 24 will become the weakest in 200 years

The new paper describes the current state of understanding of the long term record. It isn't a complete revision of the entire record, but a first level recalibration going back to 1749. The Royal Observatory of Belgium plans to release this and other revisions incrementally over time.

Solar physicist, Dr. Leif Svalgaard of Stanford University, organized a series of four workshops beginning in 2011 designed to review and revise the long term record. This new paper is the first fruit of that labor. Primarily, it removes "inhomogeneities" and brings the International Sunspot Number and newer Group Count record and solar magnetic history in sync.

Ultimately, Svalgaard seeks to extend the official record back to the early 1600s, before the Maunder Minimum. The paper outlines what needs to occur to make that happen.

For now the proposed revision stops at Wolf's 1749 starting point.

Conclusions

The sun continues to confound observers. Albeit exceptionally weak, Cycle 24 continues to set solar maximums each month long after its forecast peak of activity should have passed.

Dr. Svalgaard's landmark physics-based 2004 paper forecasting 75 ± 8 for the Cycle 24 peak is spot on. Everyone else predicted higher numbers, some as high as 144. Back in 2004 he also said solar max would come in "≈2011". By 2009 NASA revised their forecast saying solar max would be in mid-2013. Both are wrong. It hasn't arrive yet.

The newly proposed revisions to the sunspot record going back to 1749 will have some effect on global warming predictions. Exactly what that effect will be remains to be seen. Based on reduced solar activity, the smart money says the current 14-year “pause” in global warming will last for many more years to come, perhaps accompanied by some cooling.

Source: <http://informthepundits.wordpress.com/2014/08/17/sunspots-2014-two-big-surprises/>

Ohio QSO Party

Another good one with lots of activity. Much of it stayed on 40m as they tried to work each other in OH for multipliers.

AE8M – mobile 330 cw 116 ssb qso

Thanks to all outside of Ohio who came to our Ohio party, including a number of EU stations. You made it a fun contest! The most frequently worked stations outside of OH were: N4PN 10, K7GM 9, AD8J 8, K0RI 6, and 5 each for KO1U, NS9I, VE1RGB AND WX4G. My average rate for the contest, which excludes driving time, was 54 Q's/hour.

My mobile rig was a K3 at 90W and an assortment of hamsticks. I park to operate and frequently jump of the car and switch antennas to change bands and modes.

Band conditions seemed a bit noisy but propagation was good enough to have fun. I usually pick up a number of Ohio multipliers late in the contest on 75/80, but not much this year. However, 20M provided more multipliers than usual early in the contest.

N4PN – fixed GA 167 cs 153 ssb

Great QSO Party and great operators..

Thanks to all who made it out to the party...

Lots of great fixed station friends...K9NW, WB8JUI, N8BJQ, KW8N, K8AZ, and nice having W1AW/8 active all over the place....

Mobiles: K8MR led the way with 33 Q's, followed by K8O w/22.

W9MSE w/13; AE8M & W8UE W/10 and K8RYU w/7..

Thanks again...it was fun..

73, Paul, N4PN

W1NN/8 – fixed OH – 126 cw 48 ssb

Family activities prevented a full-time effort this year and I could only get on for a couple of hours at the beginning of the contest. Activity seemed pretty good on 40 but I couldn't rustle up many callers on 20.

I hope to be back in the mobile next year.

73, Hal W1NN

AD8J – fixed NC 136 cw 109 ssb

First full contest with my new remote station located about 20 minutes from my home QTH. Conditions were not short enough on 20 meters to make many Q's on that band. So it was mostly a 40 meter contest for me. Worked the following mobile/rover stations several times:

K8MR 15

W9MSE 13

AE8M 9

W8UE 8

K8RYU 6

WB8JUI 4

KV8Q – fixed Franklin OH - 442 cw

Another amazing 12 hours in the OQP. Conditions were good here although a bit noisy on 80 until the last hour or so. Picked up 30 DX QSO's with DM5EE getting in the log 3 times. Moved a few folks around and ended up with two five-banders - K8MP and K8BTU. Missed 9 counties. Five of them had no mobile activity and I simply missed the mobiles in the other four - PAUL, DARK, PREB,

and WASH. once again, I am amazed by the mobiles. They sure put some great ops in those cars. Here are the mobile/rover stations that I found (QSO's/Mults):

K8O 27/23
W9MSE 25/24
K8MR 15/14
W8UE 10/10
K8RYU 10/8
AE8M 8/8
W1AW/8 5/3
WB8JUI 4/3
WB9CIF 1/1

WN4AFP – fixed SC 45 cw 70 ssb

The OQP was fantastic... This was my 2nd OQP. My goal double my Qs and Mults from last year. I could only work this one part-time. Strong activity on both Phone and CW. The mobiles and rovers were active and excellent ops. I didn't hear K8MAD on 40m. I was cool to have W1AW/8 in the mix this year. Thanks to all for the contacts! Hats off to Mad River Club for their excellent QP! CU Next year!!!!

AA8IA fixed OH - 239 ssb 216 cw

Where were the CW stations at this year? I was craving some more CW fun but wasn't finding it. Had to resort to a half-n-half with phone.

Thanks to all who participated, and a special thanks to those who worked me. I appreciate the DX (DM5EE, F6HKA and F5JD). I had intended on doing the full contest, but near the end my laptop kept flaking out because of RF (or so I thought, although it didn't plague me at all earlier in the day). I figured that was a sign to wrap it up.

There's always next year!

N1CC fixed Texas 35 ssb 37 cw

Part time effort while taking part in three other concurrent QSO Parties. On another occasion, if OH is on its own weekend I would take a serious effort since I usually have good propagation to OHIO. Conditions were poor, however, Ohio was coming in here well.

N8Q (N8XX) Delaware OH 31 cw

Something (still unknown) was "sucking RF" from this place. I was using a "sloper" antenna 53 feet length, and later, 84 feet long (used an antenna stretcher to see if longer length would work better. The 84 foot antenna was configured as an end fed inverted vee.

Signals were always weak. I brag about my antenna at home, as "being a few dB better than a dummy load buried 6' underground, but in this case, a dummy load probably would have done just as well.

Until some stores closed down about a block from my daughter's place, the noise level was a bit higher than I'd have liked, especially with weak signals.

I was one of 5 who volunteered for W1AW/8 - this was a disaster. I think I made a whopping 5 or 6 Q's in 4 hours of transmitting into neverland.

But, I may have made my goal - to set a new record for QRP operation from DELAware county, since to date there has been no QRP entry from DELAware County!

With such a high bar being set, it should be possible for someone to eradicate it with little effort, given an antenna which actually radiates. :)

Note - operating only cW was not the goal - but when I tried SSB I made zilch Q's.

KN4Y – fixed FL 61 cw 33 mults

Operated CW and I think many of the Ohio CW operators have retired and moved to West Florida. Only worked one mobile, I am sure more hams in Ohio know how to

operate mobile. I was born in Ohio when there were state owned liquor stores and always enjoy a RF return back to Ohio.

NT2A - fixed NY - 310 cw 40 ssb 0 Mults = 104

K8O mobile (W8CAR K8NZ) 633 cw 778 SSB QSO
nearly all on 40m and 80M !

Thought for the Day

I bought a bird feeder. I hung it
on my back porch and filled it
with seed. What a beauty of
a bird feeder it was, as I filled it
lovingly with seed.

Within a week we had hundreds of birds
taking advantage of the
continuous flow of free and
easily accessible food.

But then the birds started
building nests in the boards
of the patio, above the table,
and next to the barbecue.

Then came the poop. It was
everywhere: on the patio tile,
the chairs, the table .
everywhere!

Then some of the birds turned mean. They would dive bomb me and try to peck me even though I had fed them out of my own pocket.

And others birds were boisterous and loud. They sat on the feeder and squawked and screamed at all hours of the day and night and demanded that I fill it when it got low on food.

After a while, I couldn't even sit on my own back porch anymore. So I took down the bird feeder and in three days the birds were gone. I cleaned up their mess and took down the many nests they had built all over the patio.

Soon, the back yard was like it used to be quiet, serene.... and no one demanding their rights to a free meal.

Now let's see.....
Our government gives out free food, subsidized housing, free medical care and free education, and allows anyone born here to be an automatic citizen.

Then the illegal's came by the tens of thousands. Suddenly our taxes went up to pay for

free services; small apartments
are housing 5 families; you
have to wait 6 hours to be seen
by an emergency room doctor;
Your child's second grade class is
behind other schools because
over half the class doesn't speak
English.

Corn Flakes now come in a
bilingual box; I have to
'press one ' to hear my bank
talk to me in English, and
people waving flags other
than "ours" are
squawking and screaming
in the streets, demanding
more rights and free liberties.

Just my opinion, but maybe
it's time for the government
to take down the bird feeder.

If you agree, pass it on; if not,
just continue cleaning up the poop!

News of the day.

"109,631,000 Americans lived in households that received benefits from one or more federally funded "means-tested programs" — also known as welfare — as of the fourth quarter of 2012, according to data released Tuesday by the Census Bureau.

The Census Bureau has not yet reported how many were on welfare in 2013 or the first two quarters of 2014.

But the 109,631,000 living in households taking federal welfare benefits as of the end of 2012, according to the Census Bureau, **equaled 35.4 percent of all 309,467,000 people**

living in the United States at that time.

When those receiving benefits from non-means-tested federal programs — such as Social Security, Medicare, unemployment and veterans benefits — were added to those taking welfare benefits, **it turned out that 153,323,000 people were getting federal benefits of some type at the end of 2012.**

<http://www.cnsnews.com/commentary/terence-p-jeffrey/354-perc...>

Got that? Half of all the people in the US are getting benefits paid for by others, and 1/3rd of all the folks here are getting welfare of some form or other, free, paid for by others.

Just who do you think is paying for all of this? It's time to start cleaning up the poop.

MARAC Awards – Some Thoughts

Introduction:

I was perusing though the latest listing of MARAC awards and noted some strange, at least to me, things. Maybe a glitch or two. Nothing too earth shaking....but.....

For example, some awards you can work a 'second time' after you finish the first time. Obviously, that makes sense for things like Second Time, where you can start on the Second Time after you get the First time, and so on and so on up to infinitum, it seems. No limit. I'm not sure why, but it is like shooting fish in a barrel after the 10th time. Even more so if there are "two of you" to shoot the same fish twice every time. Not much of a challenge, but I guess for some folks, that's all they know. Under Awards Level, you see that specifically it says you can earn this multiple times. Many have earned it two, three, four and five times. If you've been a county hunter for 10 or more years and are retired, it's not that hard to do a couple times.

Some, like Paul, WA3TUC (now SK), after the first couple times, decided he would do it differently each time. One time, he requested I go get a KY county for him. It was right near W8GPC who spent a lot of time in KY putting them out. Nope, he said, he

needed a "4" call area call – as he was only working mobiles who had the 'right' call sign for the 'district'. In other words, for all of New England, he needed a '1' call, for NJ and NY, a '2' call, etc. Probably the first and only one to do it that way, but it was a bit harder than shooting any fish in the barrel for the 'next' time or so. Some do it 'no relays' or 'all 20M SSB'. I'm just working up to five times on cw, and then, who knows? Maybe I'll concentrate on something else like another award. You sort of get in a rut.

But that option of doing a 'second time' is only true for certain awards. For years and years, you could only get Bingo. Then stop. About 20 years ago , for some reason, they decided they could issue a bunch more paper, one of the missions of MARAC, by allowing folks to work Bingo II, Bingo III, Bingo IV,Bingo 27. All of a sudden, an award had been changed from 'only once' to as many times as your computer spits out as you work the counties. Of course, Bingo was created by others and was a 'legacy' award taken over by MARAC.

They simply added a line:

"After completing Bingo , each sequential award (Bingo II, etc.) can be worked by Starting Over and working All USA Counties again for the sequential award"

Well, I got Bingo I, and that was enough. Personally I didn't see much of a reason to get 'ad infinitum' of Bingo N, which seems to be relatively easy as folks are now up to 4th and 5th t and 6th time Bingo in just a few years. It doesn't make you any more 'valuable' as a mobile or is even a stepping stone toward higher awards as fixed station.. The next step to Bingo N plus one is no more challenging than the first time. It's shooting fish in the same barrel over and over again. More than 2/3rds of the mobiles out there have a star so they are good for Bingo.

On to Other Awards

Now, for the same reason, ie, "that's the way it started out."you can only get Master Gold once. This award was actually started by others and MARAC took it over. You can't do it a second time. It's harder than Bingo...but what the heck. You can work Bingo N times to your heart's content, but only MG once. Same for Master Platinum and Mobile Diamond. I don't have a problem with that, but it isn't consistent with Bingo N since Bingo is the first step on the 'awards ladder'. Of course, when you get MD, you have automatically done all the requirements for Master Gold all over again other

than points, and likely you ran another 1500 transmitted counties in that time, so that is sort of trivial if you get the higher award. (every contact for MD is also a valid contact for MP). Those categories would be full of repeats and repeats. Not needed.

Well, that's a good way to make sure folks work on the next higher award, rather than repeat what they already have done if you can't repeat MG, MP, MD, etc. (Bingo N is just a plain and simple do over – then again, MARAC is in the 'business' of issuing paper. The more the merrier and the more money flows into the treasury). I don't see the thrill of Bingo N, but I guess others enjoy the hunt for the 3077 contacts needed. Keeps 'em from falling asleep during the days, right?

If you want a new challenge, do the Natural Bingo. So far, no one has got that. But for some strange reason, you can only do it once. That's not consistent with Bingo – but, what the heck, who is ever going to earn it a second time? It's been 60 years of county hunting and no one has done it once yet! But of course, when it was officially created – there was no start date put in the award, even though it is a recent addition to the list of awards. Some folks have been working on this 'informally' for decades as well. No one has finished yet – or at least claimed it.

Now...some other awards like YL Mobile – you can only work once. Why? Same for OM-YL Teams. If MARAC wants to put out more paper and encourage more contacts, it would seem that they'd encourage doing it a second and third time! Of course, if you get your OM-YL Team award, you automatically get the YL Mobile award, too! (assuming you didn't work any 'fixed' teams in there). Now 200 or so have the YL Mobile award, and now 19 or so for the OM-YL Teams. You can only do it once.

But...if you check the MARAC database, there is already a category for No Star Nth time. No one has even earned No Star the first time, but the database is set for the Second Time No Star. If you check the rules, for some reason, this award you can start working on the second time, if and when you ever finish working it the first time. Seems strange, but I guess that is because the award was dreamed up after about 2010, when they changed a bunch of things.

You can't work on prefixes a second time, YL, Teams, Digital - a second time, but No Star second time? Gimme a break. No one has even done it a first time yet. Maybe someone with 'insider info' knows someone is about to finish up?

Well....on to a different area of Awards

Mobile Awards

Now....for the real reason MARAC exists today – mobile awards.....there some strange goings on there. MARAC was created to issue awards to Mobiles. Along the way, the picked up awards for Nth time, Bingo, Call Combos, Prefixes, MG, All CW, etc. That makes the fixed stations happy as they have something to work on besides N-teenth time Worked All Counties. Or Twenty-Something worked All Counties.

To reward mobiles, there are several categories. The first is "Last Counties Transmitted". Not much has changed there – you still get the awards, the certificates go by email/internet and the certificates sent as an attachment you can print out, and the LC numbered so you can see how many LC's folks have given out. Go to the Database at MARAC.org and you can check to see that KV7N, ex - KL1V has given out over 1006 last counties (those are the ones recognized by fellow county hunters). Ed, WA0SBR, had over 1,200. At the 1000 level, both earned a giant trophy (the 3-4 foot high one).

There's no recognition beyond 1000 LC's other than the totals maintained in the database of issued LC's, plus of course, the mobile gets 'bars' for each additional 25 Last Counties given out to add to the his/her plaque.

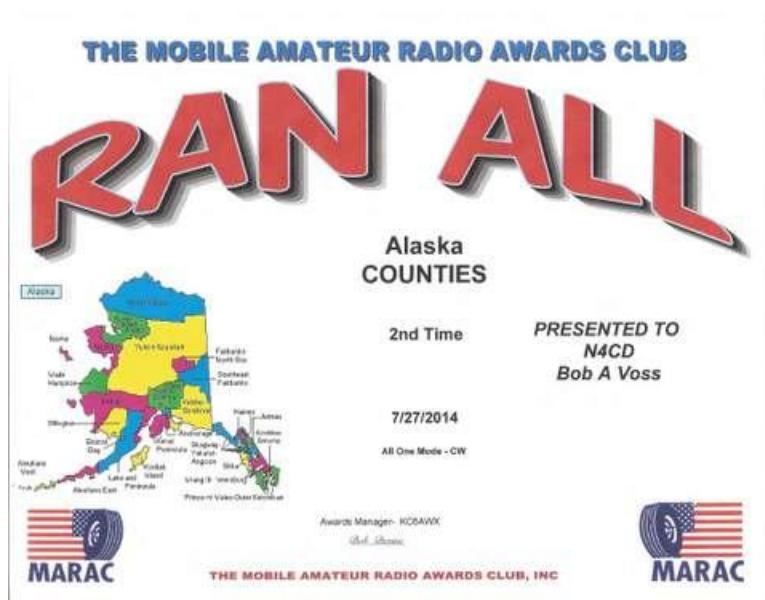
At increments of 25, you get a 'car plaque' in the mail , up to the 100 level where you get wall plaques with bars of every 25 – forever. For the Last County WBOW, folks can reward the mobile with a 'wall plaque' – the 'car plaque'. Of course, the mobile only gets this award by going to 'needed counties' for others.

(Hint: Running a whole state will finish off a lot of people and you'll likely earn more LC awards than just running straight line trips – run SSB and you'll get the most LC's as there are 3 times as many on SSB as on CW).

It takes others to apply for a LC for you to get these awards.

One other main award MOBILE county hunters often work on is the Ran All (State) Counties Award. These are numbered after the first time, ie, W1TEE got Ran All State X, number Y, issued on a certain date.....and when he ran ALL of the counties, received the award Ran All USA – which is the giant Trophy.

You can also run each state multiple times. Here's an example of Second Time. RAN ALL ALASKA Second time.



However, the 'rules' on this are as clear as mud. Well, worse. If you look at **"Award Levels"**, they don't even list ALL as one of the options! As in 3077 Counties – all 50 states.

The 'rules'....after the change in 2010.

"separate award is available for each State. All counties in a State must be completed for the award for that State. Each State award may be earned multiple times up to a maximum of ten (10) times, but only the first time is a numbered award. An applicant must complete transmitting from all counties in a State before starting over"

Transmitting from ALL and getting an award for ALL is not an option! Oops! Minor detail. Probably should be fixed.

So far, 16 folks have transmitted from all counties, KB7QO was the first (all SSB),

W1TEE was the second – and the first to do it all CW. Rumor has it that he didn't even own a microphone.

Here's the list of who has done it!...All the counties run:

1	KB7QO	7/25/1988
2	W1TEE	6/29/1991
3	WA0SBR	11/22/1998
4	N4CD	7/20/2002
5	K0GO	10/15/2002
6	N4AAT	2/24/2006
7	N7ID	4/19/2006
8	KK0L	6/19/2007
9	N8KIE	10/13/2009
10	N8RLJ	10/26/2009
11	KV7N	8/6/2010
12	AA9JJ	6/3/2011
13	N9QPQ	6/3/2011
14	AI5P	6/21/2012
15	AF3X	7/12/2013
16	AB4YZ	10/16/2013

Now, when W1TEE started running them all again for a second time, you can see the listing where he got Nr 1 and a few times Nr 2 for 'second time Ran All XX state'. They were sequentially numbered. That numbering all stopped a few years ago around 2010 for anything after the first time.

Here's a partial list:

W1TEE....

RAS - 2nd Time - AK	8/8/1995	1
RAS - 2nd Time - AL	10/31/2000	1
RAS - 2nd Time - AZ	11/5/1992	1
RAS - 2nd Time - CA	3/25/1994	1
RAS - 2nd Time - CT	5/8/1992	1
RAS - 2nd Time - DE	5/8/1992	2
RAS - 2nd Time - FL	3/25/1994	1

RAS - 2nd Time - GA	12/16/2002	2
RAS - 2nd Time - HI	10/27/1996	2
RAS - 2nd Time - IA	10/27/1996	1
RAS - 2nd Time - ID	3/25/1994	1
RAS - 2nd Time - IL	8/11/1998	1
RAS - 2nd Time - IN	8/8/1995	1
RAS - 2nd Time - KY	6/10/1998	1

partial list of 44 listed RAS second time

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Folks can earn each state award. Some might only work toward getting the nearby states, not having the time or financial resources to run the thousands and thousands of counties far from their QTH, but still interested in a challenge of running them all in their home state and nearby states. Obviously that's a lot easier back east where you can run all of NH, VT, RI, NJ, CT, or DE in a long day or less for each. Two days if you are a slow driver. Get to TX, and it is at least 5000 miles of driving. However, many folks try to knock off entire states, maybe one or two a year. Dave, KW1DX, has more than 8 states under his belt so far.

Until a few years ago, the rules were the same for the past 30 or 40 years. Then they made a bunch of changes. I'm not sure when this award was officially started for ALL counties transmitted. Sort of murky in there. Then the changes came about 2010

They limited to how many times you could run a state. Apparently, one county hunter decided to run a state like RI, CT or DE over and over and over again. I don't know who or what, but it got the 'powers that be' at MARAC upset. I did see that KO1U ran RI nine times. Quickly, like days apart, then applied for the award. Maybe that was what got the 'powers that be upset'? WA4UNS ran DE nine times and VEDH ran it six times. But that was years before. So for one case of abuse, they changed everything?

You can now only run a state a maximum of 10 times. Don't know why, since you can work all counties 20 or 30 times, I dunno...after 10 times, it seems pointless, but if you can 'work' all the counties 30 times, why can't you get rewarded for running all of NJ 11 times? Now a days, it goes electronically anyway. The Awards chairman enters it, and out it goes for 'free' over the internet, not like MARAC is losing any money on this. Just takes a line in the database, but so does 23rd time around. Or Bingo IX, which is already set up! Bingo 9! oh well.

Folks could likely use someone who runs it every six months, year after year! Unlike

someone earning 25th time, which does nothing to help out **other** county hunters one bit, rewarding someone for actually spending their money and time to get contacts and needed counties for the folks would rather seem to be in the interest of MARC than just collecting another dollar for 25th time award. Ed, WA0SBR, used to run all of SD at least once a year for the folks. I don't think he was motivated by getting another Ran All SD award. Nor many others. He didn't even file for individual states for the most part.

Someone running NJ every six months is likely to produce even more revenue for MARAC (their main purpose it seems) as more folks finish up, more LC awards are sent out, and the treasury collects more \$\$\$, and more county hunters are happy getting that state finished up! So why stop at 10, not that more than 2 or 3 have even bothered to apply for 4th or 7th time Ran All Delaware? I dunno. Well, it only takes one 'character' to screw it up for the rest of us. Maybe they just should have limited it to 'only earn the award once a calendar year' or similar?

Scottie, N4AAT, after running them all the First Time, now has run South Carolina five times. That was years ago, and he's probably done it a few more times, but just hasn't applied for it. Heck, I've run 220 plus counties in TX since the first of the year.....but I won't start over until I **finish running all of them for second time in the country**.

No reason to work on a 3rd time until second is done done done completely. But each to his/her own. Some never intend to run them all.

It is sort of strange getting '0' numbered awards as MARAC now does after 2010. In fact, as of the last week of August 2014, it seems all of the RAN XX second time just fell out of the database completely. Gone. Vanished. Swallowed up into cyberspace. Nothing issued 2nd or 3rd time RAN (state) since 2010 listed now in the database.

About that Awards Integrity

If you talk to the Awards Chairman, he'll tell you that he's got to go 'by the rules'. Strictly by the rules. OK..... it's all about the 'awards integrity'. That's a good goal. However, if he believes in that as 100% gospel, then.....there's a problem. He needs to check the current 'rules'.

Now, an even stranger thing is noted. MARAC issues a "All CW" Award...the USA-CW

award. It was taken over from others who maintained an informal list before MARAC decided to issue them.

But no one where the listing for the award under award rules does it say you can work on this award a second and third and 10th time! Yet, MARAC has issued USA-CW II, III, IV, V and likely plans on issuing it ad infinitum as long as folks send in their logs and bucks to the awards custodian! In fact, if you total up all the USA-CW II, III, IV, V's...it's about 100 awards that have been given out – for an award that doesn't exist!

Oops.

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The 'rules'

Under Awards Levels

“USA CW is awarded for working All USA Counties”

It says absolutely nothing about being able to earn it multiple times! Nada. Zip. Zero. Yet, of course, if you go to the MARAC Database, you'll see listings for USA-CW II, III, IV, V, etc. Dozens of people have earned second, third time.

This was one of the awards that MARAC took over from others. Before it took it over, folks had likely already earned Second, third time awards. They just seemed to 'overlook' a 'minor detail'.

Oops.....well, so much for 'the rules don't allow a second time' that has been one of the things heard about requests for a second time issue of a different award. It's all about 'integrity' of the process and the rules.

The precedent is set. MARAC does issue Second and third time, even if the rules don't specifically state so! Maybe 'accidentally' but it does.

In the case of the Ran All State/Counties, the current award to 16 people doesn't exist in the 'rules' under Award Level either!

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Now on to the solution:

It' doesn't do much good to just point out problems. Anyone can do that. What helps is suggesting solutions!

It's really not all that hard. The Awards Committee and BOD needs to get their heads together and provide a few 'tweaks' to the award rules.

The USA-CW award needs a tweak saying it can be earned multiple times, just like the worked all counties N times. Easy. But it is a 'rule change' just to cover what has already been done for decades. Then the Awards Chairman will be happy again.

Well, that brings us to the logical conclusion. If someone runs all the counties in each state, state after state, and runs all 3077 counties, they now get the Ran All US Award.

It's not listed under **Awards level** in that award. It should be. Minor tweak to add a line under Awards Level for "All Counties Run".

Now it would make sense that MARAC would also actually be interested in stimulating more mobile activity and rewarding mobiles that run states a second and third time. Maybe just having a statement 'this award can only be earned once every six months or once a calendar year' rather than the limit on the number of times would make more sense?

And of course, if you want more mobile activity, you've got to set higher goals and allow repeats of mobile oriented awards. It should be possible to earn Ran **All States** a second time!

And a line saying that award can be earned multiple times would be nice, too, under the Awards Level. No trophy needed.

It's sort of lumped in with the Ran All State Award now. It's even more like an afterthought, that they put it in this section, even though SIXTEEN people have received the Ran All US Award, and it is listed under the pull down options in the MARAC database. Half of them didn't even apply for state by state awards either for all 50 states. Just the 'all' which, until it is fixed, doesn't exist as an award level.

Here's the rules:

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Ran All XX

“To make contacts with amateur radio operators while transmitting from every county in a State.

SPECIAL RULES:

The applicant must make Valid Contacts while transmitting from every county in a State while the applicant is in a Mobile Operation or Portable Operation

AWARD LEVELS:

A separate award is available for each State. All counties in a State must be completed for the award for that State. Each State award may be earned multiple times up to a maximum of ten (10) times, but only the first time is a numbered award. An applicant must complete transmitting from all counties in a State before starting over.

APPLICATION AND FEES:

Standard application. Logs must indicate the State and county transmitted, the station worked, the date of each contact , and the date of the last contact. Band or Mode is required for endorsements.

There is no fee for award certificates for MARAC members. members, there is no fee for the first award certificate for each State. The fee for each additional award certificate for a State is \$3 for non - members. The fee for the optional mobile plaque for each State is \$20. A trophy will be awarded for completing all States. There is no fee for the trophy”

Under award level.....there is nothing for having run them all!

OK...did you catch that last line or so? The only mention of the Ran All USA is sort of like a footnote to the Ran All Counties in a State. They issue a trophy for an award level that doesn't exist?

Seems to be that's a bit more significant an achievement than just nearly a foot note. It should be listed under Award Level, not as a footnote! By the 'rules' you can not earn an award that isn't listed under "Award Level".

Actually, today it doesn't even say you earn an actual award if you work all of them. You just get a trophy. Right?

Now, the question of the day: Why doesn't MARAC issue Second Time Ran All USA Counties? Maybe no one has applied for it, but the current Awards Custodian says 'the rules say nothing about Nth time' and that is 'end of discussion'.. Well, the rules also say nothing about USA-CW II, III and IV.....yet he merrily keeps issuing USA-CW II, III's and IV's and V's. Even though 'the rules' doesn't allow it currently!

And has issued Ran All USA counties even though that is not listed as an award under Award Level.

I'm sure the Awards Chairman never checked, as did anyone else since no one pointed it out before.....so he gets a 'pass' on that one. I just found out about it by digging, and the 'fix' is real easy. Five minutes of BOD time at the most. It will give them something to actually talk about at a board meeting. The emails can fly back and forth on the awards committee first, if they want to chime in on this. It will only take 3 sentences to fix the current situation.

Since MARAC is in the business of 'issuing awards' that would seem to be logical.....and the solution to lots of 'problems' is 'why not?' rather than 'NO'.

Well, I guess it will be up to the 'powers that be' to sort this out. I guess I stirred the pot. Simple suggestions

- 1) Add 'multiple times' to the USACW Award
- 2) Add 'All Counties Transmitted" to the Award Level under Ran All (State) Counties
- 3) Add to this award for ALL may be earned multiple times under Ran All USA Counties

Yeah, that would be nice.

Even more confusing, there is a RoadMaster Award. Anyone read the rules lately? P28 of the awards description. This sort of seems to duplicate the Ran All USA - counties

award – in that if you run ALL of the counties, you can apply for this award (you have to pay) for having run all 3077 counties. You can get a special plaque for 3077 run. (gotta pay for it, too.)

For the 'Multi-County Award

“A certificate is awarded for making Valid Contacts from 100 different counties. The certificate is upgraded with Red, Blue, and Gold seals for making additional Valid Contacts with 250, 500, and 1000 counties respectively. A MARAC mobile plaque is awarded for making Valid Contacts from 1500 counties, and additional mobile plaques are awarded for reaching the 2000, 2500, and 3000 levels. **The MARAC Special Plaque is awarded for making Valid Contacts from All USA Counties”**

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Well..it seems MARAC sort of has two awards for the same thing (Roadmaster and Ran ALL USA for having run all US counties.. Sort of screwy the way things are written.....and as afterthoughts....to other award categories. I don't know if anyone has ever applied for this award. If so, buried in the archives somewhere, possibly. One of the MARAC legacy awards.

That's my 2c this month. Guess I stirred up the pot a bit. But easy fixes if the BOD and the Awards Committee get their heads together. Simple.

Some Medical News

Elderly people may struggle to sleep as well as they did in their youth because they lose the ‘switch’ that enables them to nod off, scientists believe. Researchers have identified a group of cells in the brain which block off conscious thoughts, allowing us to sleep. They think these inhibitory neurons are gradually eroded as we age, leading to greater sleep problems in later life.

Falling asleep becomes more difficult with age because we lose the 'switch' that enables us to nod off

The scientists, from Harvard Medical School in the US, suggest the same process is seen in people with Alzheimer's disease, who are particularly prone to disrupted sleep and night time confusion. Professor Clifford Saper, who led the research published in the journal Brain, said: 'On average, a person in his 70s has about one hour less sleep per night than a person in his 20s.

He added: 'Sleep loss and sleep fragmentation is associated with a number of health issues, including cognitive dysfunction, increased blood pressure and vascular disease, and a tendency to develop type 2 diabetes.'

'It now appears that loss of these neurons may be contributing to these various disorders as people age.' Researchers have identified a group of cells in the brain which block off conscious thoughts, allowing us to sleep. Professor Saper's team discovered the ventrolateral preoptic nucleus - a key cell group of inhibitory neurons - was functioning as a sleep switch in rats. They then found the same process was happening in humans.

The cells turned off the brain's arousal systems to enable the animals to fall asleep.

Professor Saper said: 'Our experiments in animals showed that loss of these neurons produced profound insomnia, with animals sleeping only about 50 percent as much as normal and their remaining sleep being fragmented and disrupted.'

A group inhibitor cells in the human brain is located in a similar location and has the same chemical make-up as that found in rats. The researchers demonstrated that the same process is taking place in humans by analyzing data from 45 elderly people who had donated their brains to science. The volunteers had agreed to have their lifestyle monitored from the age of 65 until their death, at an average age of 89.

The participants wore wristwatch-type movement sensors to monitor how well they slept. When the scientists examined the brains, they found that those people who had fewer neurons in the 'sleep switch' area, were more likely to have had sleepless nights.

Professor Saper said: 'The fewer the neurons, the more fragmented the sleep became.' Those with the fewest neurons spent less than 40 per cent of their time in bed in extended spells of sleep. 'These findings provide the first evidence that the ventrolateral preoptic nucleus in humans probably plays a key role in causing sleep, and functions in a

similar way to other species that have been studied,' Professor Saper said.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-2729899/Revealed-reason-difficult-sleep-old-age-We-lose-switch-enables-nod-off.html#ixzz3AyXkkgoT>

Kansas QSO Party

There were mobiles zipping left and right with most counties expected to be on the air for the annual event. John, N6MU, worked all 105 counties!

From the 3830 reflector:

VE9AA - 192 cw 80 ssb 95 mults

Well ! What can be said about this QSO party?

Condx were way way down for me up here, but the mobiles made up for it with thrie gusto !

I have no idea how many Q's I made with Bob K0A or JErry W0L, but it surely must be dozens and dozens each. There were also other mobiles with a dozen or two Q's each. All did real well, but home stns a bit thin on the ground, hi !

Loved the 1x1's. Worked roughly 98% of them only missing K0O and N0T... 92/105 cty's worked, but I did not actively try to work all cty's...only all stns.

Unfortunately I was not able to put in a full blown effort, but I tried to do as much as I could between honey-do's, meals etc.

A couple mishaps here, op error. Blew a fuse in the rig just as K0E signed STE(?)...lol....by the time I got it replaced he had vanished.

Also, W0L was having a hard time hearing me in a certain cty through the pileup of EU's that persisted and would not stop calling, so I cranked the keyer speed

up to 48wpm and made it on the first pass. Afterwards, I would call Jerry at 40-50wpm (depending) and always made it. Only one SSB Q's with W0L iirc.

So many mobiles were doing such a great job, so my apologies for only mentioning a few. N0A, N0U, W0Q....really, most of them are in my log many many times.

My goal was 60k pts and/or 250 Q's. MAde the grade I'd say. All with an HF9V on the back of the shed and about 500W.....

One iffy 10m Q's. If it doesn't survive log checking, oh well...I tried. Called many CQ's on 10 and scanned it pretty much every time I changed from 20-15---then 10,./

73 de Mike VE9AA

N6MU – fixed – CA - 327 cw 146 ssb 105 mults

Wow, what a Party! 1x1s everywhere, mobile and fixed. The CW mobile frequency assignments worked well again. Still a keeper.

Needed 13 counties after the break and all were scheduled for Sunday. Found them all but not without concern the last few hours when the bands took a nosedive. W0O/W0ZQ gave me three of the last four including the last one. TNX, Jon! My last four were BRO,ATC,LCN and DON.

As always the mobiles are a key part of any Party. I counted 14 mobile calls. Top mobile for me was K0A with 82 Qs followed by W0L(75), W0Q(43), N0A(41), N0K(34), N0U(29), W0O(26), W0E(24), N0P/K0Y(15), W0T(14), N0Q(9), W0R(8) and W0W(6).

Kudos to Bob, W0BH, for all his efforts in organizing another top notch Party. Thanks to the myriad of fixed stations as well. 73...

John, N6MU

SP9LJD 196 cw 73 ssb -96 mults

hank you very much for really nice party. A lot of mobiles with very good operators. It's a pity we don't have propagation on 40m I didn't heard even single sign. On 20m from the beginning no possibility to work KS because of EU noise. 15m was pretty good but not so many stations as on 20m.

I thought maybe I will reach 100 different counties but finally I stopped at 96. Sorry for dupes but sometimes I wasn't sure about QSO because of heavy EU QRM. Tnx for all QSO's to all stations operating from KS.

W0L mobile - K5YAA and KU5B operators 1548 cw 396 ssb

Another good run in the Kansas QSO Party. We even had a brief 10 meter opening and 15 meters was terrific both days. Both bands were short on visitors. The ones that came had good signals. CW kept us busy both days but SSB on 20 was quite productive a number of times - that is when we could find a fairly clear frequency to run on. This year I had the pleasure of having Colin KU5B operate and drive with me. He impressed me with his skills on both modes especially SSB where he had some good runs going at times.

We want to recognize several of our callers who took the time to be in the party for much of the weekend. Especially the DX who again stayed up very late to capture some new counties. By late I mean 2AM and even 3AM in UR land. 20 was playing well very late.

In total we worked 36 countries including 2 QSOs with VU2NKS who called us during fairly large pileups on 15 and 20 meters. We both were pleased that the mobile could make it to the other side of the world. We worked every continent on both 15 and 20 meters. Such fun doing that.

Canadians provinces missed were VO, VE1, VE7, VE8 and VY1. VE9AA, Mike seemed quite aggressive as he showed up at high speed 39 times and even on SSB twice. We predict he will be the Canadian winner of the KSQP this year.

US stations that worked us more than 15 times were: KC3X, K7IA, N2JNE, NT2A, W7GF, KQ3F, N3KR, W4UT, N5DO, NS9I, N8II, KN4Y, K7TM and N6MU. Special mention for Q counts with these stations. (78) N6MU, (55) NT2A, (40) N8II, (38) K7TM and (35) N5DO.

As we motored along we had only minor navigational problems missing a couple of turns that caused to go out a block or two before we got back on track. We made

all 20 counties as planned on Saturday and on Sunday we even added one due to another slight navigational problem, you're welcome, where Hwy 56 left it's association with Hwy 150. We took 56 North even though 150 went East. All of a sudden I saw the county sign for Dickinson. Colin was operating and I had an odd feeling when I saw that sign - uh oh, this one is not on the list. Maybe 5 miles out of the way but we provided a handful of Qs to some ops that were following us at that time. Somehow we kept pretty close to our schedule ending Sunday in Labette for a 20 minute run. Overall we both had a great time and made very few stops, mostly just to gas up. Equipment performed very well again as it has the past handful of parties and events. Only a couple of times we had to restart the computer. Weather was not really a factor even though Kansas summertime appeared with it's regular 99+ temperatures. Wonderful how an A/C unit in a van will keep things cool.

We both want to thank Bob Harder W0BH for his efforts at organizing this one. We had the pleasure of meeting him and his Saturday operating partner Aaron for dinner in McPherson after the run on Saturday. Bob works hard each year to get out the activity and prepare the party for maximum fun. Our hat is off to him.

73, Jerry K5YAA and Colin KU5B aka W0L.

N0A – AD0DX operator – mobile

This has been a busy summer for me. My oldest son got married and that took up a lot of our energy, but I guess I had a little left over for the 2014 KSQP. This is my best score ever. I was hoping to get 900 q's and almost made 1000, so I'm really happy with the results.

I changed my route this year. In the past I have stayed for 30 min at the RAW / CHY / SMN 3 county line, but never got great results. This year I skipped the 3 county line (but covered all the counties) and went down in the Wallace, Logan, Gove and Trego. This worked out really well and I actually made all of my counties on Sat.

On Sun we took a detour to Republic because I didn't work much cw there on Sat, and so at the end of Sun I missed Wabanausee.

I also noticed last year that John N6MU got Ottawa as his last county, and I drive very close to it, so I decided to detour down to Ottawa for 20 min on Sunday. I was able to work a number of regulars in the KSQP and so I think it was worth the

effort.

We had a very young state trooper stop and check us out at the Ellis / Rooks county line. Thankfully he had heard of amateur radio and like others we talked to thought it was kind of cool that this is the weekend where everyone in Canada and the USA tries to contact someone in Kansas. I tried to explain that counties are score multipliers without making it too complicated and he seemed interested.

Probably the most exciting thing that happened was that we saw a semi truck on fire with huge flames out the back, when we were driving east on I70 at mile 300 right near Fort Riley. I called 911 and felt like I did my good deed for the day. I hope that driver is ok.

Propagation was very interesting this weekend. I was really surprised when I worked Texas on 15 mtrs, and it kept happening all weekend, especially with N5DO. On Sun afternoon 15mtrs was strong and then it just dropped off.

When I was in Republic W7PFZ indicated that he needed Clay county for the sweep and so I made sure I worked him in Clay county. He was blasting in on 15mtrs in Republic and then an hour or so later he was down to 539 when I worked him in Clay. But I did work him and get him in the log. I'm really curious to see how many sweeps we get this year.

It was fun to work the Europeans this year, but it seemed odd not to have OM2VL in the mix. But I worked G3XVR, SP9LJD and others.

My setup is an ICOM 7000 with two Hustler mag mounts on the roof of my 2005 Chevy Venture. The Hustler antennas have the 'tri' attachment and one was for 40/20/10 CW and the other was 15CW/20SSB/10SSB. I didn't have any q's on 10mtrs, so I should probably get another 40mtr resonator and then I can work 40ssb... maybe I would have worked ND or SD on ssb, never heard them on 40cw.

I worked all states except for ND, SD, VT and Alaska.

I didn't have any equipment problems, besides the fact that I need to learn how to put some chokes on my engine to reduce engine noise.

I like the ICOM 7000 as a radio... but it's not a good radio for being on the receiving end of pileups. I don't think any DSP I know of that's available has what it takes to really cut through a good pileup. I'm seriously thinking about selling the 7000 and buying K3. The K3 seems like the best of both worlds; good SDR features but crystal filters for culling down a pileup. Anyone want to buy a 2 year old barely used ICOM 7000? This is a nice portable rig.

I didn't have my WINKEYER working for the contest, and so I programmed the IC-7000 to send 'KSQP N0A/M N0A/' and then I just filled in the county. I sent the calls of all stations worked using my keyer at 28wpm. I really have to get that winkeyer back so that I can work cw at 30/32/34 wpm and hopefully get my rates up.

Another key on the IC-7000 is programmed to send 'CQ CQ CQ DE N0A/M N0A/M'. The reason for doing this is that the reverse beacon network does not pick up KSQP DE N0A/A as something to spot. So by sending 'CQ...', this gets picked up by the reverse beacon network. It's interesting to see who watches the rbn; often the Europeans were the first to call me on 15mtrs, immediately after I called CQ. Thanks to everyone who spotted me. I never asked anyone, but I'm sure someone did.

At one point I was switching to 20mtr CW, and I noticed that there was a big signal on 'my' frequency of 14035. I fully understand that no one owns any frequency in Amateur radio, but I was curious who from the KSQP was on 14035. So I listened for a few min to find out which mobile had this huge pileup going, only to find out it was KH6LC. Oh.

I use N1MM for contesting software. I didn't want to try the new N1MM+ because I didn't want to risk using brand new software for a real contest. I really like the ROVERQTH and COUNTYLINE features of N1MM for mobile contesting. I hope that they brought these features over to N1MM+.

I had 200 phone qsos' in the contest, which is a personal best for me. I'll be honest; mobile in a contest on phone kind of intimidates me. CW is much easier. Just crank that filter down and pick out a signal. Voice has always seemed much more difficult to me. But somehow for this contest I really got into it and even almost enjoyed it. Ok I did enjoy it a few times. You can get a nice rate going. And then when you realize that everyone knows your callsign and switch over to just 'N0A/M' and stop using

phonetics it gets pretty fast.

Thanks everyone for all the q's and hope to see you next year.

73's, Ron N0A/m (AD0DX)

W7GF – fixed -Oregon – 121 CW QSO – 70 Mults

N0R - 423 cw 93 ssb (op NS0R)

Had a great time this year as N0R. Bands went from good to bad and then back again throughout the entire contest. I'm not a phone op, but I managed to try it out a bit for the contest. I live in town so, no real room for any great antennas. I have a 20 meter half square that got quite a workout this weekend though. Overall had a good time. Bob did a great job organizing the party, so many thanks to him.

K0N – fixed KS 363 cw 1040 ssb - K0XVU Operator

Had a great time this year as N0R. Bands went from good to bad and then back again throughout the entire contest. I'm not a phone op, but I managed to try it out a bit for the contest. I live in town so, no real room for any great antennas. I have a 20 meter half square that got quite a workout this weekend though. Overall had a good time. Bob did a great job organizing the party, so many thanks to him.

K0L - KC0DEB operator - 10cw 431 ssb

It looks like a great crowd turned out this year looking for KS stations. Conditions did get kinda noisy at times (QRN), resulting in plenty requests for repeats. I appreciate everyone's patience, and things sure did get done! 20m was ;again; the workhorse, with 15m lagging as expected. On Sunday 15m did open up to Europe, where my meager signal apparently was heard OK. Last year there were comments about the lack of activity on PSK31, so I decided to spend some more time using that mode. The nice PSK QSO rate was a surprise,

and I would like to thank everyone who called me!

This event is getting more and more popular every year, and I would like to thank the driving force behind it all: Bob W0BH, thank you for another great KSQP!

73,
John K0L / KC0DEB

N0W – N0OFG operator - 694 ssb

Personal Best for ksqp, rig used was Yaesu DT897D and Heathkit SB230 running 650 watts PEP into a Loops ans More HFV 21 made in Augusta, KS.

N0S – K)BJ Op 533 cw 1213 ssb qso

AMAZING short and long skip Saturday. Soft condx ~4-5th hours Sunday, but pretty good overall. Many thanks to organizer W0BH, all the mobiles, and the folks that chase us. As always, great fun to meet old friends and make, if briefly, new ones.

KN4Y - 171 cw 89 mults

Plenty of 1X1 calls driving around the State on CW, but heard no 2X2 bonus station on CW. Missed 16 counties when I took the wife for lunch Saturday and I went to church Sunday. The QSO party was so exciting I missed three naps. This QSO party had the main ingredient, mobiles. A party is only a party until it is a Kansas party.

N5DO- fixed – South TX 275 cw 89 ssb 99 mults

I set a goal to try to work all 105 Kansas counties. I knew that winning would be next to impossible, since N6MU is hard to beat. Not only is he a good operator, but he knows everyone and they look for him in each new county. And he does it all using low power to a multi-band vertical in the back yard. Congrats also to NT2A for doing an outstanding job.

Much of Texas is usually too close to Kansas to do well in this contest, but my QTH in the Big Bend area of southwest Texas often has good propagation to Kansas. In prior years I have found that there is often little propagation to southwestern Kansas, but I was hoping for better this year. There was good propagation to the western part of the state until about the middle of the afternoon. On Saturday I worked K0A in Stevens County at 1848Z and he had a good signal. At 1930Z I worked him in Morton County (in the southwest corner of the state and the next county over from Stevens) and he had a just above ESP-level signal. Then I didn't hear him again until the next day.

When the contest was over I missed 6 counties -- 5 in the western part of the state (Seward, Grant, Stanton, Hamilton, and Wallace). But I somehow missed Rush County, right in the middle of the state. Lack of propagation doesn't give me a convenient excuse!

Bob, K0BH, did another outstanding job of organization for this year's contest. He and all the Kansas stations who operate have made it into one of the premier state QSO parties! Thanks!

Getting Folks Finished Up

Here are a few folks closing in – less than 10 to go. Can you help them out ?

Remember back when, before the internet, when folks would leave lists on the table at the 3M and annual convention with 'Needed Counties" and folks would try to hit some of them on the way back home?

Here's some with under 10 to go. Lots of needs in WV, KY and MT it seems.

AB7NK - 2ND using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:

08/19/2014

[Complete list!!!](#)

GA:Brooks

KY:Marion

MT:Powder River

NY:Kings

TN:Hancock, Lake

WE7G - USACA using CW - Updated:

08/21/2014

AL: Dallas, Lowndes

GA: Crawford

IA: Hardin

IN: Martin

KY: Lawrence, Menifee, Mercer

TN: De Kalb, Rhea

WV: Barbour, Doddridge, Hampshire, Upshur

KA7ICF - USACA using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:

08/15/2014

AL: Monroe

GA: Worth

KY: Owen, Perry

MI: Alpena

NC: Perquimans, Tyrrell

NY: Washington

VT: Essex

K7SEN - 2ND using SSB - Updated:

08/19/2014

Full list for 2nd time. Nothing held back.

KY: Nicholas

MS: Chickasaw, Humphreys

NY: Kings

K7SEN - BINGO using SSB - Updated:

08/19/2014

Full list, nothing held back.

CT: Middlesex, New London

MD: Caroline

:

NC: Rutherford

NJ: Monmouth

NY: Franklin

OR: Yamhill

PA: Dauphin, Mifflin, Tioga

K7TM - BINGO using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:

08/19/2014

GA: Terrell

KY: Magoffin, Nicholas, Wolfe

MA: Hampshire

VA: Amelia

N8CIJ - 7TH using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:

08/14/2014

NO RELAYS

GA: Fannin, Gilmer.

KY: Harlan, Marion, Spencer

MS: Stone

NC: Graham

K8QWY - 3RD using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:

08/21/2014

IN: Dubois, Greene, Union

MI: Iosco

OH: Monroe

SC: Marlboro

NA8W - USACA using SSB - Updated:

08/18/2014

GA: Calhoun, Haralson, Walker

KY: Nelson

VA: Bath

KØDEQ - USACA using CW - Updated:

08/23/2014

IA: Emmet

IN: Scott

KY: Clay, Knox

NE: Greeley, Loup

TX: McCulloch

WV: Nicholas, Webster

WØGXQ - 6TH using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:

08/09/2014

This is a complete list of remaining counties for 6th time.

KY: Estill, Knox

ND: Dunn, Mercer

KØMAF - USACA using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated: 07/29/2014

CO: Archuleta, Crowley, Dolores, Montrose, Phillips, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, San Miguel

FL: Bradford, Calhoun, Wakulla, Washington

ID: Blaine, Clark, Lincoln, Owyhee

MT: Dawson, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Prairie

UT: Daggett

VT: Bennington, Essex

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

08/10/2014

OK: Washington

WA: Columbia Skagit

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

08/10/2014

GA: Talbot

KY: Green

NØXYL - 2ND using SSB - Updated:

08/24/2014

VA: Surry

AD1C - USACA using CW - Updated:

08/15/2014

I work during the week (M-F), no special trips please. Nothing held back.

KY: Crittenden, Elliott

TN: Cannon

K1SO - BINGO using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:

08/09/2014

Bingo for first time - All single county states...Get a last county. Nothing held back! 73

K1SO@aol.com

RI: Newport

WY: Teton
:

K1TKL - BAND-20 using CW - Updated:

08/12/2014

CA: Calaveras

IL: Mason, Perry

MA: Bristol

MI: Eaton

NE: Adams, Furnas, Grant

NV: Esmeralda

TX: Kerr, Live Oak, Llano, Robertson

VA: Grayson

WV2B - BINGO using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:

08/25/2014

CA: Glenn

IA: O'brien, Tama

MT: Wheatland

NE: Logan

NY: Rockland

OK: Cleveland

TX: Jasper, Morris, Randall, Schleicher
VT: Addison

WA3QNT - BAND-20 using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:
08/10/2014

Using either SSB or CW (Whole Ball)

NC: Graham

AE3Z - 6TH using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:
08/24/2014

NY: Suffolk

PA: Delaware, Wyoming.

WA4EEZ - BINGO using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:
08/19/2014

CA: Marin

IN: Warrick

MT: McCone

NH: Carroll, Strafford

OR: Coos, Lincoln

TN: Trousdale

AA4GT - 4TH using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:
08/12/2014

FREMONT

ID: Shoshone

KS: Graham, Stanton

KY: Fleming, Oldham

LA: Vernon

MT: Blaine, Fallon

NV: Mineral

OR: Tillamook

W4IHI - USACA using CW - Updated:
08/25/2014

The complete list to finish up USA-CA CW. Please, let me know if you will be going to any of these. TNX

KY: Johnson

WV: Barbour, McDowell, Mingo
:

KA4RRU - BINGO using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:

08/15/2014

4 needed to finish this award!

GA: Washington

NJ: Cumberland

PA: Armstrong, Columbia

K4YT - 3RD using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:

08/20/2014

email hs0zdg@gmail.com

MT: Petroleum

ND: Dunn, McKenzie

NJ: Atlantic

SD: Perkins

N5MLP - BINGO3 using SSB - Updated:

08/21/2014

Very last one! LC-2 with plaque will be sent to the person who makes the contact for Bingo in Hale, AL. Will have my mobile at work. Email and cell number in MARAC db.
AL: Hale

Maybe you can get some finished up. Prime travel season is coming to a close. They're expecting possible snow up in MT this week! Colder weather is not far off! See if you can get them done in the next few months.

Check the K3IMC needs page for more needs, for state by state needs, most wanted counties, etc.

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

Awards Issued

USCA #1246	Darl, NA8W	8/2/14
USA-CW #136	Ray, AB7YZ	8/10/2014
Bingo #356	Paul, K1TKL	7/28/14
Bingo #357	Don, W3DLM	8/9/2014
Third Time #242	Mike, K8OOK	7/29/2014
4th Time #163	Ron, N5MLP	8/19/2014
8th time #16	Tom, K7REL	8/2/2014
Master Gold #62 -	Lowell, KB0BA	8/1/2014
Master Gold #63	Ron, W6TPC	8/11/14
Call Combo 1x3 #14	Chuck, W3CR	

Upcoming Events for County Hunters

It's back into big time QSO Party season with some good ones coming up!

Courtesy of the ARRL Contest Corral:

Tennessee QSO Party

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

www.tnqp.org

Sep 7, 1800Z - Sep 8, 0300Z

Arkansas QSO Party

RS(T), county or S/P or "DX"

www.arkqsoparty.com

Sep 13, 1400Z - Sep 14, 0200Z

CW--40 kHz above band edge;

Phone--3.85, 7.18, 14.28, 21.38, 28.38, 146.55;

PSK31--3.58, 7.08, 14.07015, 21.08, 28.08 M

South Carolina QSO Party

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

scqso.com

Sep 20, 1400Z - Sep 21, 0300Z

CW--1.815, 3.545, 7.045, 14.045, 21.045, 28.045, 50.095;

Phone--1.865, 3.810, 7.190, 14.250, 21.300, 28.450, 50.135 MHz

Washington State Salmon Run

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

www.wwdxc.org

Sep 20, 1600Z - Sep 21, 2400Z

Maine QSO Party

RS(T), county or "DX"

www.maineqsoparty.com

Sep 27, 1200Z - Sep 28, 1200Z

Texas QSO Party

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

www.txqp.net

Sep 27, 1400Z - See website

CW--20 to 50 kHz above band edge;

Phone--25 kHz above edge of General segment

That's all folks! See you next month - 73