

County Hunter News

August 1, 2014
Volume 10, Issue 8

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 it on, and the county lines should appear!

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

Notes from the Editor

1) N4CD Rumbings - Things have settled down a bit since the big Alaska Trip and all that excitement. Putting out the four districts, and getting five folks finished up for the Mobile Diamond award was one of those moments of great fun and adventure which don't happen all that often in life. Getting the others finished up for Mobile Diamond was very satisfying as well. That's the fun part of county hunting. Many others needed the Alaska Districts for last counties for various awards, so it was 'worthwhile' in terms of 'giving back' to the county hunters for the counties they gave me along the way. Hope you made it through to the ones you needed.

Now, others are out of major trips, some headed to the big ARRL Convention in Connecticut. A every few others are off to the MARAC National Convention in California, while even more are just off on their annual vacation trips to visit family, get away from the home town for a week or two or three, headed to the 'summer place' for a while, and just enjoying the 'summer weather. So it's back to reporting on what's happening in the County Hunting Sphere. I'm cooling my heels for a bit recuperating from the last trip at the N4CD QTH. There's more excitement planned for August and September this way.

2) Annual Awards Announced at the National Convention (as posted by KV7N on the K3IMC Forum)

County Hunter of the Year SSB: : TIE WA9DLB Tony Mazzocco W0NAC Matt Matthew

County Hunter of the Year CW: KW1DX David Pyle

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Best Net Control CW: W0GXQ Jerry Mertz

Best Mobile SSB: KW1DX David Pyle

Best Mobile CW: W0GXQ Jerry Mertz

Best Mobile Team: Tie

N0KV/N0DXE Barry & Patricia Mitchell & AA9JJ/N9QPQ Frank & Marilyn Yohe

Congrats to the winners.

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3) Sunspots – Where did they go?

About the middle of the month, we had a sunspot free day. While not totally unusual, it was the first day in over 4 years with no sunspots, and this during a 'peak' in activity. Suddenly, the solar flux is way under 100, and the sunspot count is 20-30 for a few days. Is the fun over? Has this cycle come to a quick end? Ten and 15M are dead. 20M isn't much better with days of just 'fair' propagation shown, and 'poor' on 17m to 10M.

From the ARRL Propagation Newsletter:

“Last Thursday (July 17) had no sunspots at all, a sobering reminder of how weak this solar cycle is. We have to go way back to August 14, 2011 to find the last spotless day, and there was only one other day with no sunspots in 2011, on January 27.

On July 18 two new sunspot regions emerged, but the sunspot number was only 26. Two days later, on Sunday July 20 the sunspot number was just 17, and another new sunspot group emerged. On Tuesday two new sunspot regions appeared with a sunspot number of 40, and the next day, July 23, the sunspot number was 55 and another new one emerged.

Solar flux ranged from a low of 86.1 on July 19 to a high of 99.1 on July 23. Outside of those seven days, on July 24 the solar flux was 104, and the sunspot number remained at 55.

Average daily sunspot numbers from July 17 to 23 were only 25.9, down from 96.9 in the previous seven day period. Average daily solar flux dropped nearly 41 points to 90.3.”

At the end of the month, the flux and the sunspot number were once again in the 150 area each! Go figure. Scientists are having a hard time figuring out this cycle. Any prediction is pretty well guess work now....other than we will be headed down at some point in the not to distant future.

4) FCC Nails “Jammer” KZ80

From Official FCC release

KZ80 fined \$22,000 by the FCC for intentional interference

By the District Director, Detroit Office, Northeast Region, Enforcement Bureau:

I.

INTRODUCTION

1.

We propose a penalty of \$22,000 against amateur radio station operator Michael Guernsey for intentionally causing interference to other amateur radio operators and failing to provide station identification. Amateur radio frequencies are shared and licensees may not monopolize any frequency for their exclusive use. Deliberate interference undermines the utility of the Amateur Radio Service by preventing communications among licensed users that comply with the Commission's rules. In addition, the failure to transmit call sign information disrupts the orderly administration of the Amateur Radio Service by preventing licensed users from identifying a transmission's source. Mr. Guernsey has been repeatedly warned in writing by the Enforcement Bureau about causing interference to other amateur radio operators. This history of noncompliance, combined with Mr. Guernsey's deliberate disregard for Commission authority, warrants a significantly increased penalty.

2.

In this Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL), we find that Mr. Guernsey, licensee of Amateur Radio Station KZ8O in Parchment, Michigan, apparently willfully violated Section 333 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (Act), and Sections 97.101(d) and 97.119(a) of the Commission's rules (Rules) by causing intentional interference to licensed radio operations and failing to transmit his assigned call sign in the Amateur Radio Service.

The FCC took action on the jammer on the 14313 net. Maybe they'll get around to catching the 'jammers' and putting a few miscreants 'out of business' on 14.336 and nearby frequencies when certain mobiles run. We already caught the one in SC red handed - you read about it in the CH news.

Full FCC text here

<http://www.fcc.gov/document/michael-guernsey>

Mobile Activity in July

A few mobiles headed toward CA for the convention. Not like the past years where dozens were active.

Matt, W0NAC, with N0LXJ, Sharon, took the north route through MT, ID, WA putting out a large number of counties on the way there. Focus was on digital.

N2JNE spotted in NY counties.

AB4YZ, Ray, had the mobile fired up in VA counties.

Gene, K5GE, headed back from his weeks in WA – where he was 'north and west' to have the best shot at working the AK districts. Headed to CA for a couple weeks, then back to Texas.

Jerry, K5YAA headed to New England, participated the World Competition, then headed over to the ARRL Centennial celebration in CT, then home.

Jerry, W0GXQ, was out with N0CIC on a trip in MN.

Ron, KB6UF, was putting them out in LA then headed to MI. Ran into minor problems on cw.

Jimmy, K4YFH, was busy on the return leg from AK, thoroughly doing ND and SD and MN and WI counties.

Lowell, KB0BA, and Sandra, N0XYL, headed to CA for the convention.

Phil, AB7RW, headed south to the convention and back. The car was repaired in time. .

Frank, AA9JJ, and Kay, N9QPQ, mobiled over the convention and back.

Don, K3IMC, flew out west, and then proceeded to the convention putting out counties from the rental car.

N3RC was back on the road putting out counties.

Larry, N2OCW, was spotted in PA and WV counties.

Bob, N8KIE, headed west to the convention, then off to HI for a few weeks, then back mobile to MI again.

Mike, KA4RRU, spotted in WV counties.

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KB0BA reported on their end of June trip:

Our trip to Ripley, Indiana and beyond was fun. We left home the 11th of June, spent one night in camp and then taking the truck, we crossed Ohio into West Virginia. We had run about half of the counties in WV last fall. Our plan was to finish the state this month, The three day trip turned into a five day trip and we still have 7 counties to do in order to finish the state. All in all, the trip covered 49 counties in Indiana, Ohio and West Virginia. We also braved the insane "Grand Prix" traffic in Cincinnati to visit Dan (KM9X). We usually have dinner with Dan and Judy in June and September when we attend the National Muzzle Loaders Shoot, but not this spring. Since Dan couldn't join us, we went to visit him. Judy was at the hospital as well, so we had a nice visit with both. The weather was so hot in southern Indiana that we decided to come home three days early. Lowell didn't miss a single bird -- but then again, he didn't shoot at any either. Hi hi! We are leaving for the national in California on July 5th, taking a modified county hunter route. Looking forward to hearing you on the radio. Sandra and Lowell “

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Alan, KO7X spotted in CO

KW1DX spotted in CA around convention time. Looks like he flew to CA and rented a car.

W6PXE ran some MT counties for the folks

Greg, NM2L, headed from GA up to WV where he ran a bunch, then across to NY state and NH for a vacation. Spotted up in VT and ME as well.

WA2CNJ spotted in Suffolk, NY

Jim, N9JF, was off running counties in IN and OH.

Barry, N0KV, with N0DXE, out and about in CO. Got some for N9STL with his newly earned Master Platinum Award (now good for MD contacts).

Jeff, W9MSE, headed out to run some of the 500 required counties for Master Platinum – he was zipping all over SD and other states.

Kerry, W4SIG, wound up in MS and AL putting them out.

NF0N, Mike, headed out for a bike race running in IA and NE.

W8FNW/W8FNW and W8GEJ(on cw) ran all over KY putting them out.

Rick, W5QP was putting them out in MS and Kerry, W4SIG ran a bunch in MS at the same time. 30M worked well for both.

N3MRA, Seth, was zipping all over the east coast area putting them out.

Mary, AB7NK, and Neil, K7SEN, were wandering all over the west for many days. Make that weeks. Hot at home. Cooler up north!

AD0H was noted out in WA state.

KC7YE was busy in WA putting them out.

Then we had the big CW Contest weekend and we'll report separately in that one.

N0KV/N0DXE took a day trip to CO counties. N0KV ran on cw in the contest.

KW1DX headed over to NH for a LC WBOW.

AE3Z headed out in NY for a LC WBOW for KB0BA.

KB9AIT was seen out and about in WI.

NG9L was seen out and about in WI.

AJ5ZX ran a few in TX.

W0FP, Frosty, was spotted in MO counties.

W9OO was noted out and about.

K8AO put out a few.

Alaska Follow Up

Some additional thoughts/points on the trip to Alaska in June...

1) If you are thinking of heading to Alaska, there is a lot of great things to see and do while there. While this last trip I didn't do all that much sightseeing, the first trip I took to Alaska in 2002 was filled with all sorts of great things to do. My first trip lasted a month. There is tons of stuff to see near Anchorage including the Native American Center just outside Anchorage, the museum there, and of course, heading down to Whittier (through the train tunnel) and going out on a cruise in Prince William sound to see the wild life/glaciers and whales

While in Juneau, you'll want to visit the Mendelhall Glacier – you can go up on it, there's a great visitor center. Gotta see it. The first trip to AK, I was there for a month and took in tons of stuff. If you got back issues of the RoadRunner for 2002, I wrote an article in it.

You can find that N4CD trip report to AK in 2002 here

<http://marac.org/roadrunner/aug02rr.pdf>

The one difference I note between trips is that back then, I worked 200 contacts from each district. This time, an average of 100 from each district. The number of county hunters seems to have dropped tremendously in the last 12 years. Not good. Could be that the sunspot cycle just hasn't provided much in the way of propagation lately so there's less enthusiasm in HF operating. Or we have too many getting up in age, losing interest, and not being replaced by younger folks. Or maybe only some needed the AK Districts for their current needs?

This trip, I sort of bypassed most of the touristy things again as I was running at less than half speed and just trying to get by with minimal expenditure of energy. Once you've seen 'em, you've seen 'em I did enjoy the cool temps (never got over 70 the whole time I was there) compared to sizzling 90s and triple digits in TX.

When you drive from Anchorage to Fairbanks, you'll need an extra day or two – stop on by the small town of Talkeetna – where they have the annual Moose Dropping Festival – and then spend a day or two at Denali National Park. You'll likely spy Dall Sheep way high up on the mountains, and all sorts of other wildlife. If you catch a 'good day' you'll get a spectacular view of the highest mountains in North America.

Up in Fairbanks, you won't want to miss the Pioneer Village, the Univ of Alaska Museum (did that again this year), and go out 'panning for gold' and visiting one of the gold dredges to see how they mined the rivers and bogs. That can fill a couple days of your schedule.

Up in Nome, in half a day you can see the 'downtown' and wander around. You'll see the official 'end point' of the Iditarod dog sled race which is held annually, starting near Wasilla down by Anchorage, and ending in Nome. That is a celebration of the original run which was needed to bring serum to save the lives of the kids in Nome during an epidemic. The dog sleds were the only way to get it there in the dead of winter – like 1050 miles through the middle of nowhere at 30 to 50 below zero with dog sled relays to get it there it time.



End Point of the Iditarod dog Sled Race

In Nome, you can see the 'train to nowhere'....some 1880s style NYC steam powered elevated railroad train cars brought there for a railroad from Nome to Council (where they found gold again) around the 1900's time frame.



Train to Nowhere

These rail cars were brought by ship (barge) from the NY city area, where they were used on elevated rail lines IN the city around 1881. The new subway put them out of business – plus the pollution was horrible with trains running right through the middle of Manhattan! The road from Nome to Council runs along the coast until the ghost town of Solomon, then takes off inland. The line was never finished, and the engine and cars are just sitting in a field rotting away slowly. The road actually stops 1000 feet short of Council. If you want to actually get there, you need a super river crossing machine (think 4 wheel drive jacked up four or five feet) to ford the wide swift river during the time it is not frozen solid. A few folks leave their regular cars on the 'Nome side' of the river, and have a dedicated 'truck' to ford the river in the right place to not wind up being pushed down the river. Either that, or you better have a friend who has one when you go to visit, and leave your regular car and have him/her ford the river, pick you up, and ford the river again to actually get into the small town of Council.

At one point, when 'gold was discovered', the population of Nome rose to over 10,000 and it was the largest city in AK. Now, it's population is 2,000 and more than half the people in AK live in the Anchorage (pop over 200,000) area. At least 1/3rd the people in Nome work 'for the government' in some capacity. There are lots of construction projects for 4 months a year. Many then go on unemployment for the remaining months. Same for the tourist industry that is 'summer only' and the 'Iditorod Race'. Not many visit in the middle of winter for any reason.

If you plan to go to Nome, reserve months (six months) ahead to get the least expensive

rooms in Nome. The least expensive (basic \$160 plus tax)) go first and are taken mainly by the 'bird watching' group tour folks. There is also a 3 day minimum stay at that motel. Otherwise, you'll have to spend more for a more expensive room – maybe another 40 or 80 bucks a day. There is a B&B and less expensive hotels to check out. Might even be able to rent a car at the Dredge 7 Hotel - if you stay there. You could probably do it for a bit less than what I paid. The Second District is going to cost you a bit unless you are in a high efficiency RV with good gas mileage and drive up the haul road – and that might still cost you a tire or two and a windshield along the way. That's why it is one the rarest counties in county hunting! Most car rental contracts forbid driving on that road (as well as 2 or 3 others). You could probably do the Second in one day of continuous driving if you were really pinching pennies – as long as propagation held up , or you had a ham buddy to get at least 'one contact' while there.

You can get 21 day advance purchase airline tickets at decent rates. If you want to use frequent flyer miles.....there's limited selection of dates you can use them. The sooner you plan/reserve,the more choice you will have. There's not much available even 60 days out. So plan well ahead if you are going. June probably has the best weather, but fall likely has better propagation conditions. Winter even better for propagation, but....winters in much of Alaska can be brutal. Think blizzards, 40 below temps in Fairbanks, piles of snow on the ground, ice storms laying down 3 inches of ice, and just a few hours of daylight each day, etc.

2) The other option is to drive to AK – but it's many days driving up the Al-Can highway and many days driving back. It's a toss up. Nice to have your own car/radio installation - vs – rent a cars and temporary installations – and flying and hauling all the stuff. Most car rental agreements will NOT let you take a rental car on the haul road from Fairbanks up to the Second District. If you drive, have a full size 'spare' tire. You'll most likely need it, and maybe even a second spare. You might get by with a midget 'spare', but you might really get in trouble with some of the new cars and the can of 'flat fixit it stuff' you get instead of a spare tire. There's a lot of 'way out in the boonies' driving in AK – like much of Montana – off the interstates. You leave Wasilla, 30 miles north of Anchorage, and there's not much for the next 200 miles. Even less after Denali village up to Fairbanks along the road – but there is traffic up and back. Not much in the way of services along the route. Likely 1000 cars a day head up and back. Don't expect AAA to come rescue you quickly, if at all. . Along much of the route (50%) there is no cellphone service, either. Or radio stations to listen to. Even stranger, Dollar Rent a Car suggests that 'due to the high level of dust' that using the CD player might scratch your CDs with all the dust that accumulates inside the player mechanism. Enjoy the view as you drive along. There's lots of 'scenic' as you head the 355 miles up the road to Fairbanks and 355 miles back south again. It's an

'adventure'.

Once you get north of Fairbanks on the haul road...it's down to a few passenger cars a day on the road, and trucks headed north with supplies for the oil workers at Prudhoe Bay and to the truck stop at Coldfoot.

3) CW Relays – forgot to mention last month that many jumped in and helped the cw relays. Thanks Paul, K1TKL and the others. I'm sure the folks who got relays really appreciated the work!

4) Mobile Diamond – just to set the record right, it was Joyce, N9STL, and Hollis, KC3X, who sent in the last four counties data for N4CD in the melee at the end of the excitement and application process for Mobile Diamond awards. Fortunately, MARAC came to an most excellent outcome, with 'all' of the applicants for MD receiving #1. That might have been the only time in MARAC history that so many completed a major award all at the same time, same run, same county, same mobile. Or even two completing a never issued award all at the same time.

For the Master Platinum Award, K5GE(Award #1) was 3 weeks ahead of the next to receive the award (N4CD #2). For the Master Gold Award, K5GE was again #1, beating out the next person by eight months! The first Bingo Award was issued almost 2 years before the second one!

So, yes, this was really 'record setting' in that five folks finished up, WBOW, within minutes of each other. Some within seconds of each other. You'll likely never see it happen again - but you never know.

There are still some awards out there – never achieved by anyone yet. Who is going to be the first for Natural Bingo? Or No Star?

Folks finished up the Master Platinum Award in 2008. There was a 2 year period where folks were unsure of the rules for Mobile Diamond. Some started working on what was proposed – having to work a MP holder in/from every county plus put out 500 counties on 2 bands with 3 contacts per band. Mobiles were accused of 'having too much fun' and 'self aggrandizing' at the time by the twin-twins. Hi hi. Finally the rules were decided and the new start date was Sept 15, 2010, more than two years after the first county hunter (K5GE) finished up the Master Platinum Award.

By Sept 15, 2010, there were 9 holders of the MP award with another soon to follow. The start was 'rocky'. So everyone 'started' or started over at that start date. It took less than 4 years for the first five to complete the award despite the challenge. Those five put out over 2500 counties (N4CD put out over 1000 alone) in the quest for MD. Likely 90% of the counties in the country were run by the time they were done – just from five mobiles. If we add in those closing in on MD (N9STL, KC3X, N9QS, KM9X, WQ7A), that would be another 2500 counties that were run in their quest for MD. I know that N9STL has her 500 counties run now. Obviously, all 3077 counties were run in less than 4 years for folks to be able to finish up by those mobiles with the MP award!

Some suggest there are already 'too many awards' just for mobiles that they, as fixed stations, will never earn. Could be – but if you want those counties run, it sure helps to keep those mobiles on the road working for more and more awards.

Will there be an award after Mobile Diamond? Will anyone have the energy and enthusiasm to even go after it, after climbing the ladder for Bingo, Masters Gold, Master Platinum and then Mobile Diamond?

All good questions.

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4) Natural Bingo - Turns out that N4CD was good for Natural Bingo with all of the counties in AK being “ X Judicial District”. With the “D” in the county name, then N4CD is good there for the Natural Bingo. If you've been around a while, you probably worked W6TMD, also with the 'D' when he was there a while back so you might have already had it. Or KB6UF in the 'First’ or “Fourth” with the F. Some folks who have been around for 25 or 30 plus years have to be getting close on Natural Bingo.

5) Alaska State Troopers – While I was in Alaska – the news came out. The National Geographic Channel (cable/satellite TV) series – Alaska State Troopers – was coming to an end after five seasons. Maybe you've caught the program – which is basically a COPS type program, but set in AK. Locations included everything from highly populated areas like Anchorage and Fairbanks, to the boonies of Kotzebue and small villages of 300 people reached only by small plane, boat in the summer, or snow machine, and everything in between. I'm sure the re-runs will go on forever so you

might be able to catch many episodes.

6) Oops...got his call wrong. Glenn, the FD coordinator there at KL7JRC, , has the callsign KL0QZ. Had it wrong last month.

7) AI5P Trip Report - If you are thinking about heading to AK, don't forget to check out Rick's, AI5P, story on his visit to AK in a 2012 issue. You can find it here:

<http://chnewsonline.com/County%20Hunter%20News%20August%202012.pdf>

He had a blast visiting AK, and visiting a few 'out of the way' places.

8) Another Trip Report - Ron, KB6UF and Darrel, W6TMD were there in 2006. There's some info in the August 2006 issue on their exploits. They drove up the haul road. Conditions were not great, but they did the best they could under trying circumstances. They were one of the few to run it on 30M.

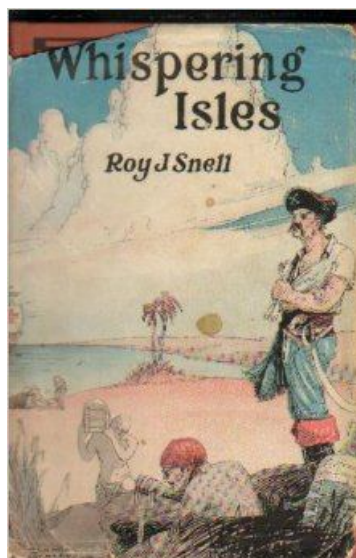
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Book Review(s) of the Month

This month we conclude with the last two Radio Phone Boys books. If you'll recall, there are 8 in the series – six of which we reviewed in Jan and May of this year. Now we quickly cover the last two in the series – which really go off on tangents, have no radio content, and aren't worth reading really. Just 1920s kid adventure stuff, same old formula, different location. Big disappointment. As the years went on, the stories got old, the popularity of these books dropped...and I guess for good reason! The first one is pretty good (and available on line). Then it slowly goes downhill from there each new book.

1. CURLIE CARSON LISTENS IN -- 1922, Reilly & Lee.
2. ON THE YUKON TRAIL -- 1922, Reilly and Lee.
3. THE DESERT PATROL -- 1923. Reilly & Lee.
4. THE SEAGOING TANK -- 1924. Reilly & Lee.
5. THE FLYING SUB -- 1925. Reilly & Lee.
6. DARK TREASURE -- 1926. Reilly & Lee.
7. WHISPERING ISLES -- 1927. Reilly & Lee.
8. THE INVISIBLE WALL -- 1928. Reilly & Lee.

The Whispering Isles – by “Roy J Snell”



Curlye, one of the two Radio Phone Boys, winds up on vacation on an off shore jungle island in a Central American country – unspecified. He's there on vacation and also to help a friend catch a giant new type of crocodile. Well, needless to say, there's encounters with crocodiles and other jungle animals, being kidnapped by Maya, escapes from them, finding an old abandoned ancient town and a treasure map, bad guys, hunting for the ancient buried treasure and finding it. Then pirates and Mayans again

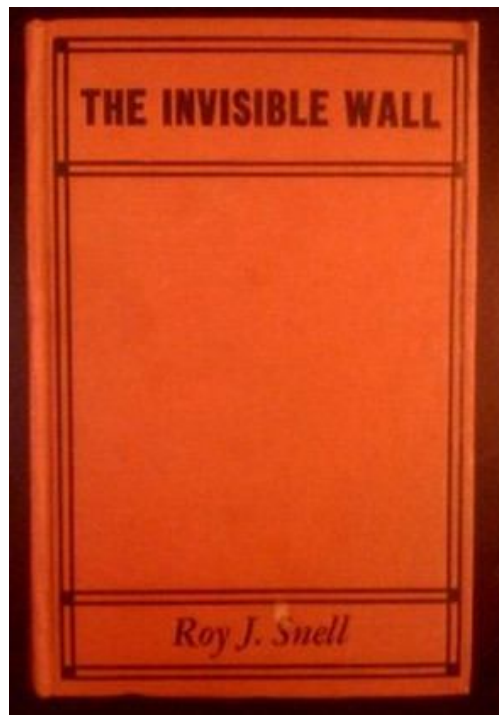
and finally he gets out of there safely with the treasure.

There is NO RADIO in this book whatsoever despite being part of the series. So skip it! Same formula adventure as in the other previous five, minus any radio and there's not much radio adventure to start with in this series after the first two books – it becomes less and less significant. Now it reached zero. Just change the location, a few details, and you've got the same story, different day, different local characters. Nothing new here. Book was cheap and even came with dust jacket but wasn't even worth the 'cheap' \$3.68 it cost.

They didn't even put 'Radio Phone Boys Adventure' on the title page. Hmmmm....

The Invisible Wall by Roy. J. Snell

This is the last in the series of 8 books of the Radio-Phone Boys books. It's even got that back on the title page. However, you'll look long and hard in this book to find a sentence with the word 'radio' in it. Skip it! It was another 'cheap' book on the web and not worth even that!



That's about all I can say about this- I read it quickly. Just your formula story – Curlie goes up the Amazon River in South America with a friend who is looking for “White Gold”. The time frame is mid 20s. It's the same formula with natives, kidnappings, bad guys, stolen boats, recovered boats, a mysterious native boy friend who shows up when needed to keep them out of trouble, being stranded, crocodiles, eating manatees, coconuts, finding their way out of half a dozen perilous situations, fighting off the bad guys, and winding up coming out in fine shape. By the way, the 'white gold' was balata, a rubber like substance that was used to make belts for machinery. It didn't harden like rubber and at the time was worth some money.

At the end of this book, he mentions the 'adventure' (non-radio) continues in the next book he wrote, which is *The Rope of Gold*. You can read that one on line as a E-book here if you are into 1920s adventure books. There is zero 'radio' it.

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/43102/43102-h/43102-h.htm>

The one after is *the Arrow of Fire* – it's on line too – no radio content – 20s adventure.

<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/43263>

Snell wrote about 85 books for boys and I suspect most of them are the same story, different day, different location. The best Radio Phone Boys book – by far – is the first one – available on line. Curly listens In.

So ends the series of Radio-Phone Boys books. After the fifth one, the author forgot he was writing the RADIO -Phone Boys books. There is no mention of radio. None. Zip. Nada. Since there are no on line reviews of these – you never know However, I did post reviews on Amazon dot com so others will not stumble into the same situation unaware. Hi hi

Some Field Day Reports

K5YAA/mobile

Field Day 2014. Another FB gathering of revelers all over the country. During my run in the mobile I would now and then envision the set ups that were being used. Grills, tents, generators and rope guyed towers and antennas. Some on mountain tops, in state parks and many with a lake in view. Heat and bugs down South and especially under the mesquite tree groves of Texas. Spent some time in those kind of groves many years ago trying to be in the shade during the 105 degree summers of Texas. Weather here in Oklahoma was near perfect for FD with the exception of one hard downpour on Saturday afternoon. Rolled up the windows and turned on the A/C for maybe an hour and kept on pounding.

The mobile played well. 20 meters was the band here. 15 had some good activity and I even found a few folks on 10 meters Sunday, late morning. Was, to my happiness, able to find and keep a run frequency all the time. Had difficulty pulling out a few on 10 due to heavy QSB so apologize to you mountain toppers with that 1/2 a watt and wire. Just couldn't copy well enough to log you on 10. No particular QSO stands out. Some very good CW ops in the field. 40 meter SSB had stations wall to wall. I felt feeble when I went up there and left after making only a few Qs. Just didn't have it in me to fight the QRM. Found 20 and

even 15 SSB to be a bit more comfortable. I had N5M and KC7SNO on my list of needy stations to work and was snatched up by N5M on 40 CW when I went to test that band Saturday afternoon late. The guys driving that call sign were in training for the WRTC event. Seemed to me they were on the ball and caught me with that second radio quickly. KC7SNO had another op in training. He's been training for years at that CW stuff. One of these times he will get it down! So I worked everybody on my short list. Had a number of folks say my name - so I know some of the professionals were out there showing the crowds how CW is done.

Randy W5UE at NA5NN took the mic to say hello on 40 SSB. The best QSO I had up there on 40 SSB. Nice to hear him after a few years.

There were some monster gatherings. 28A 10F are two that come to mind. Several 9, 8 and 7 somethings too. Takes quite a crew to set up that many rigs. I imagine those sites had cooks and many onlookers. Fun stuff.

On to WRTC and the ARRL Centennial in a short ten days or so. Another FB operating event the WRTC. Looking forward to meeting the ops and the visitors. A visit to Headquarters is a once in a lifetime happening so I am looking forward to the Centennial gathering. The FD run let me test my endurance in the mobile. 17 hours was near my limit. Will have to see if I can stretch that to 24 for the IARU test. Maybe with a bit of East Coast seafood I can get that 17 up to 24.

Thanks to all who gave me a call in FD. Another fine event in the world of ARRL.

73, Jerry K5YAA

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KN4Y mobile (class 1C)

Got signed up for a State Bowling tournament before I realized it was on the field day weekend. So to keep my FD participation consecutive since 1980 I opted to do mobile 1C in Orlando, Florida. I operated in the parking lot between squads, but the heat was intense and when the van temperature started to rise I would quit. Orlando is all concrete and it gets hot. Later after sundown it was bearable. I planned to do some later night operating but I fell asleep. Getting

too old to try and do two things on the same weekend.

N4CD at KL7JNU (1A AK)

As noted last month, N4CD was invited to participate at the Juneau Amateur Radio Club and their Field Day held out at the Fire Training Grounds each year. I visited there in 2002 and had fun, and was invited back this year by Glenn, KL0QZ. I checked 15m but nothing was happening this far north, so nearly all the activity was on 20M during the day. Here's another pic that Glenn sent along from the Field Day. Pam does not yet have a license, but is in a class to get her license. She was doing the logging in N1NN as N4CD worked them on CW. I'd write down the info, she'd type it into N1NN. Two step operation.

It was tough going up that way, with us calling many stations who never heard us but simply went on calling CQ FD endlessly. We'd get answered by maybe 1 in 5 but copying all. Many times, there would be 3 or 4 or 5 W6s on top of each other (not hearing each other) or 3 or 4 or 5 W9's calling CQ on the same frequency – not hearing each other, but of course, making it so no one else could hear them either with the QRM. If you went back to one (if you could dig out the call) maybe two would then answer you – a real mess. Ah...the joys of a DX type location – 4000 miles from FL and the east coast – and 'double hop' to most of the USA other than the Pacific Northwest.

If stations were 'alone' we had a chance of getting them, IF they had a decent receive situation. All too often, stations were S5 or better, but never came back – just endless Cqs. It makes you wonder.



N4CD at KL7JNU FD, Pamela Logging
pic by KL0QZ

We lucked out in Juneau for FD. During June, they had 7.5 inches of rain – one of the wettest Junes in history. The day I arrived in Juneau, Ketchikan, not too far southeast, had 5.4 inches of rain in a single day – setting a record. During FD, we had just a sprinkle or two of rain. The county hunting 'luck' held. Other than a day and a half of steady rain in Fairbanks, the trip was nearly rain-free other than a few quick showers.

On the Trail of Regens

Now, I didn't expect regen receivers to show up in Juneau in the Fire Department Training Center. It's the last place you'd sort of expect to see some. Aha!but if your eyes aren't open, you won't see 'em!

So what was on the table near where they conduct their classes for licensing?



At the KL7JNU FD site

How about two regen sets for the BC band? The one on the left was a one tube set – ran off 1.5v and 45v battery. Didn't seem to be working at the time, or I didn't have it figured out. The one on the right was a design out of QST about 2000. It's a two transistor, one audio IC design, probably an N1TEV article design, that tuned the BC band. It worked fine with several stations coming in with more than enough volume. It looked like the had about a 30 foot indoor antenna and a ground to a metal pipe.

County Sign Database Project

Progress is being made! Now the needs are under 500 and with the summer travel weather, many new additions are being made.

Terry, WQ7A, and Boni continue to add more counties from their long trip to the MI Mini. There are dozens of new MI counties, plus others in OR and other states along the way.

Jerry, W0GXQ, went out with N0CIC on a trip in NW Minnesota. Here's a new addition for the database:



N0CIC Norman Minnesota – W0GXQ pic

From W5IL – Jackson MS



W5IL Jackson MS

W5IL sent in a whole bunch, including many from CO

Rick, W5QP, added in more to the LA state – we are now finished there. Here's Vernon Parish, LA



W5QP, Vernon, LA

Here's one of several added by N2JNE



Madison, NY by N2JNE

Lee, KC7QOP sent in a few more – from his trip in IN



Vermillion/Parke, IN by KC7QOP



Ed, KN4Y, Irwin GA

Ed sent in a bunch from FL and GA to help finish things off.

On the Road with N4CD

It was hot in Collin County. Real hot for here – 100 deg type days with barely getting down to 80 in the wee hour in the morning for a few minutes before heading back up

again. Everything radiates heat. Time for a trip!

Joyce, N9STL, is working hard on the Mobile Diamond Award. I could get 2 of her last 3 in TX. The other is in K5GE's back yard. Of course, it always seems the 'needed ones' are about as far away as you can get in TX and still be in TX. Dang...down to Presidio and Brewster – way down by the Big Bend National Park....along the Rio Grande River. It turns out that Hollis needs Maverick and Kinney to finish up for the WBOW.

OK....that's even further out of the way and in the middle of nowhere in south TX. No one goes there...they just pass through as fast as the road will take them. Well, that and 100,000 'illegal migrants' a year flooding across the river and into Obama's back yard, where the 'transport vans' now haul them 'discretely' in unmarked 'detention vans' to cities all around the US. You see lots of gray vans headed north down there and they are full. It's stupidity in action. They used school buses for a while but that was 'too obvious'.

Well, off on the trip. To get through the Dallas “Metroplex” you either leave real early, like 5:30am in the morning to beat rush hour...or you leave at 9am or later and hope the traffic jams have cleared. I choose to leave early and was on the way at 5:40am on a Wednesday morning. It was already 'very warm' with temps in the 80s headed west through the cities...over to Ft Worth. I had to be through there by 7am when the real heavy traffic starts. No problem. Zipped along on the 6 and 8 lane highways – still lots of cars but the traffic moved.

After you clear the Metroplex (3-5 million people) it's more open country and 70 to 75 mph speed limits. I punched in Del Rio TX....the last point on the path before the last detour down to Kinney and Maverick. This was a follow the GPS lady trip after I got west of FT Worth. So it was down through the lesser run counties including Brown, Schleicher, Edwards and Val Verde. After you get within spitting distance of the Rio Grande, you head further SE down along the river. There are border patrol folks every 3 miles. They are supposed to keep out any border runners, but it seems these days their mission is to pick up 'the children' and bring them to a detention center, where they mysteriously get transported north never to be found again or deported. Hundreds of thousands a year. A couple hundred a day are caught. That means about a thousand a day make it through. The ones that are caught are merely put on buses, trains, plains and special vans headed north to every state. You won't even know about it until 200-1000 show up in a 'new shelter' in your town. But there are hundreds of border patrol folks....but they sure aren't keeping the border secure. Make it thousands. Their main job is now 'assisting' migrants. They don't even make an effort at catching them and returning them.

Well, after a while, you get through Kinney to Maverick and you can run that line easily. Hollis got his contacts and finished up. That part of the trip a success, and many others needed Val Verde, Kinney and Maverick – not run all that much on cw it seems. Without a mini down in Harlingen area, there aren't too many reasons to head to 'the Valley' these days other than putting out the counties.



Maverick/Kinney TX
LC WBOW KC3X Third CW

After those counties in was back to the Motel 6 in Val Verde TX. \$43/night including tax. That sure beats the \$160/night plus tax in Anchorage for the Motel 6! Of course, there isn't much in the way of 'scenic' in Del Rio. I had some pasta for dinner. During the day I snacked on a banana and a package of nuts. It's hard to get a good balanced diet on the road.

Del Rio has about 35,000 folks, an Air Force Base, and a giant reservoir/park area. The coyotes use jet skis to zip migrants across the lake and avoid the land check points.

Old Timers might remember the powerful broadcast stations just across the border in the Mexican twin city Ciudad Acuna. The 500,000 watt XERA and XERF stations could be heard at night over the west half of the USA – and the legendary Wolfman Jack was 'on the radio' in the 1960s. The 'mailing address' was a post box in Del Rio, TX.

Next morning it was up early to beat some of the heat of the day – headed over to Presidio and Brewster for N9STL. There's not much along the way but maybe 50 or so border patrol folks spaced every 4 miles or so to help the 'poor little children' (mostly

teenagers/adults and 30% with severe criminal records, folks – MS13 gang members, and worse). It's amazing what the Lame Stream Media (MS-LSD, NBC, ABC) bleat about 'the poor little children' when most are late teens, or in their 20s and 30s. Only 20% might fit the category of children. When they get 'instant amnesty', there will be 5 million new democrat voters. Makes you want to puke – what Pelosi and Obama have orchestrated. You head through Terrell and Pecos.

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What you might see on the south side of the border – headed north – but usually written in Spanish.....plus half a dozen Asian languages as the refugees from there are now coming north via Mexico.



They used to fingerprint every single illegal....not any more...just put them on a bus and get them out of south TX for points north, to be 'lost' in the country/system forever.

Now....at a rate of at least 150,000 a year....it will cost about \$100,000 each to educate, house, provide services.....until these folks actually start to pay their own way, if ever. That's tens of billions of dollars that will come out of YOUR increasing federal and local and state taxes. Just who did you figure is going to pay for all of these 'migrants'? Who do you think is going to pay to build all the public housing and schools? Provide the medical care? Yepper, get set for ever increasing taxes! Remember, Obama thinks 'you have too much' compared to the rest of the world. You didn't 'earn that'. The government 'let you' keep some of your hard earned cash. You aren't paying 'your fair share'. We need to be 'compassionate', blah blah. Hey, folks, we got tens of millions of folks needed a hand up here. We have 50 million now on food stamps. We have a legal way for immigrants to get in line, go through the process, get screened medically, and join the fabric of the country – ones who want to integrate, not convert the US into

Spanish speaking clones of Mexico and central America. We need educated, skilled folks. It isn't happening. Just watch the news.

There's actually a road checkpoint where they ask if you are a US citizen. Just one on the whole trip. No smuggler is going to go through that.....and likely, now a day, you just dump your load 1000 feet away, tell the 'migrants' to ask for 'asylum', and they are 'home free' to Obama's land of free housing, food, schooling, medical care.....once they reach the 'checkpoint'.

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Well, after 50 or 60 reminders of border patrol folks, sitting on the side of the road, just waiting to 'help' the migrants' with free housing, food, and a ticket to northern cities, you get over to Brewster county and Alpine, a nice small little town mostly known as 'the gateway' to Big Bend National Park. It gets cool in the evenings as its up at 4500 feet or so.....but it's still hot in the summer time during the day. I just passed through. About 15 miles west of Alpine you hit the county line with Presidio/Brewster. Joyce, N9STL, got those 2 so she is whittling away at the MD needs.



Brewster TX
Genuine Percy Pic



Presidio, TX

That finished off the planned TX part of the trip.

Joyce also needed Los Alamos NM. Hmmmm....another 500 miles to the northwest. Either I ran it, or she would be taking a long, long, long trip to clean up her needs later this year. I could get there and besides, there's mountains there! Every now and then I need a 'mountain fix' (and cooler temps for a day or two). Plus I'd go through some counties I hadn't run in a while.

The GPS lady said it would be real late before I got there, so I just headed out northwest through the TX counties following directions she provided. It's pretty easy since you go 30 or 50 miles before a turn. You zip up through the middle of nowhere – at least you can zip along at 75 mph – cross two interstates and keep going and going. As I went north, with a 4 mile detour you can hit Loving County – usually needed by somebody. There are about 100 people in Loving County and it has the highest per capita income in the state. That only works if your relatives owned the land and you now collect lots of oil royalties. There's no drinking water in the county – you drill a well and you hit oil/gas. I took a short detour and ran it..then back on 285 where the nice GPS lady said the next turn is in 297 miles.

As you cross into NM – there's no county line sign. It takes a while to figure out it's Eddy NM for sure. That sign is missing in the county hunter Sign Database. I've found there are usually not county line signs at state boundaries. Sometimes yes, but a lot of times, no. Sometimes the only confirmation you get is a county sign like this –

and even then, they sometimes indicate a county road in a nearby county that just happens to start where you are – i.e., wrong info. They are usually right but you need to check your map carefully – or your GPS these days or smartphone app.



Highway 35 in Eddy, NM

However, I did catch the sign leaving the county – made a U-turn at the county line and could catch the Eddy sign. One more that is no longer needed – got it.



Entering Eddy NM

You head through a few towns – mostly towns that 'used to be'. It's sad to see five or 8 closed motels – and boarded up downtown areas as the need for the town just vanished – or the main purpose (a mine, for example) shut down. Once a town loses their school due to declining populations – it's all over, and that happens all over the midwest and west as school systems consolidate, and the school kids face 15 to 50 mile bus rides each way back and forth to school. Now, if there is no Walmart or equivalent – the town slowly dies as no one new settles there, the kids leave never to return, and the population dwindles as services disappear.

Around 5pm it was time to stop and there was a convenient Motel 6 in Roswell, NM - Chaves County. I stopped for the night. The city is run amok with UFO museums and attractions for the 'tourists'. This is near where the alleged UFO crashed back 50-60 years ago and the conspiracy theories are still running strong.

A Motel 6 - another low cost motel – but this was one of the brand new 3 story jobs – it was \$60 including tax. It had all the cable channels, free wi-fi , but still no breakfast other than coffee. Still not too bad. There was a Golden Corral nearby and that did me well for dinner. Filled up on healthy stuff – big plate of salad...then main course with lots of veggies....and a plate of fruit for desert.

The 14336 net was in 'friendly session' so I ran a bunch on SSB that day and some off frequency the day before and the day after. Might as well catch a few more people who

need the counties. I was in no hurry to get anywhere. There aren't too many cw mobiles in NM these days and few wandering through on SSB it seems. I ran through Lincoln, De Baca, Guadalupe, Sante Fe.....plus later Colfax, Taos, Harding, Union, Quay and Curry. Missed Lea for Hollis – but another trip.

Next morning I headed the rest of the way to Los Alamos getting there about noon. You have to really want to go there. You just don't 'pass through' it as it is on the way to nowhere. It was put there as a main 'town' during WW2, when the government had to find 'the most out of the way place' to locate the scientists working on the atomic bomb Manhattan project – a place where you could isolate people with very limited access. Still, today, there's a section of narrow two lane road from the way back days you must travel – hugs the cliff for a few miles with a sharp drop off on one side and a 50 ft high wall on the other side. I get there, and go about 300 feet into the county, stop and run it. N9STL gets the last in NM for MD. A few others really need it. I finish up and head back down the mountain. Didn't run it on SSB. Half way down the hill – where you can't turn around for five miles, Hollis calls and says “Frosty needs it on SSB for one of his last 12 for Platinum'.....OK.....down the hill to where I can turn around, back UP the hill for five miles to the line....run it on 14248....get Frosty....and some others..then head back down the hill, again. The car is getting a work out.



Los Alamos, NM
LC N9STL, W0FP, WA9OUE

The 'mission' is complete. But of course, now I have to get home and there is no direct way home. The GPS lady says 'backtrack' 100 miles down to the interstate 40. Nope, I don't like to go where I have already been. So....it's off to Taos, NM and through one of

my favorite spots – Eagle Nest, NM. The C'L is way up at a mountain pass for the next county. There's lots of winding roads getting up there – up mountain passes with lots of switchbacks at 30 mph....and trees! And mountains!....up to 8000 and 9000 feet and COOL. You see a sign “Watch for Snow Plow”. That's one you won't find in my neck of the woods in TX! Hi hi

After a few hours, I get to Eagle Nest. It's mid day at 8200 feet elevation and the temp is 82 deg! Nice. Sunny. Unfortunately it's a weekend and there's no hope of a motel room to chill for a day or two. The place is over run on weekends and the prices are sky high. The Econo-Lodge is \$139/room and booked up solid. You have to reserve ahead – and best during the week. It drops to the 40s and 50s at night here. My favorite motel is a small one – the Gold Pan Motel – but it was booked up, too.

I think I had enough recreating – so I forget about heading to CO.....prime season there and I'm just not in the mood to 'chill'. I'm having too much fun county hunting and driving and am going to be in the CW contest tomorrow. I can play around in that as I head home.

There aren't too many places to stop once to leave the mountains. You can head northeast to Raton – and there's a nice Motel 6 there – or head more toward TX which is mostly east at Clayton in Union County right at the border or even into Dallam, TX with another 75 miles of driving. Just depends how far you want to drive. I head toward Clayton. There's not much along the way. I take a detour 8 miles or so south toward Harding – out in the middle of nowhere – and then back on course for Clayton in Union County

I find a nice Super 8 there – so I stop. \$68 including a nice breakfast with waffles. So I hunker down there for the night. Dinner at the Eklund Hotel 'historic dining room'. Nice Salmon Dinner at a reasonable price in a 1892 type 'Saloon'. Cool! You can also stay in the hotel in you want for about \$90/night plus tax.



Hotel Eklund – 1892 downtown Clayton

Next morning, after a waffle, bowl of cereal, OJ, coffee – and a banana – it was east headed toward TX. I lost an hour going from NM to TX with the time zone change from Mountain to Central. The CW QSO Party would start at 9am but I'd be on the road by 8am or earlier. I decided to head south in NM rather than hit the TX panhandle. WC5D was going to run most of the panhandle, so no reason to have two mobile putting out the same counties. TX has 254 counties so we need to run 'em all if we can.

The route was then south to catch a few in NM before heading into TX. I ran Harding/Quay line for the contest....then it was a NM line Curry/ and TX. Since WC5D was going to do the northern panhandle, I headed south in TX doing the counties 'two by two' which you can do with a bit of driving. You get through some of the 'rarer' counties like Yoakum, Terry, Lamb, Cochran, etc. After a long day, it was getting hot and I was getting worn out. I passed through Brownfield...hmm.. There's some nice motels there. Comfort Inn - \$89 plus tax (over \$100 by the time you are done)..A nice Hilton – think \$149 plus tax. There's a Budget Inn....but there's a 8 foot overhang you can't get under with an antenna. Actually stayed there once..had to take off the antenna to get in and out.....it was OK....then there's the Crystal Palace....\$60 including tax. Nice rooms. Decide to stay there. It's got large rooms - mini fridge/micro and large flat screen TV. Giant bed with 4 pillows....it's older but in good shape. Good value.

<http://www.crystalpalaceinn.com/>

Next to it is a Italian Garden restaurant. Have the lasagna special which includes a nice salad for \$8. Can't complain. Good. I hit the hay early. It's been a busy day with the contest and all the mobiles! Wow....there's K7TM, AB7RW, W9MSE, W0GXW, W3DYA, NU0Q, K5YAA, WC5D, NY4N, K5CM, KN4Y, KE3VV, K2RP, WB0PYF, and a whole bunch more on Saturday, plus dozens of fixed stations chasing them. I'm

far enough away so W3DYA in east TX is good copy. So is Jerry, K5YAA running in NE OK— both on 20M. On Sunday, as I head east, I get too close and don't hear the TX/OK mobiles on 20M. I hear folks calling 'em, but no mobiles in TX to be heard.

I hit the hay early and am up early at 6am. Not much to do but head on out east – I'll run the line before the contest starts (Lynn/Garza) and head to the next one for the contest – otherwise it will be too late getting home. The sun rises at 7am and I'm on the road before then. Some C/L are 10-15 mile detours off the route to get to them.

Those county line stops take a half hour with all the callers! Then it's off on a detour to Borden/Scurry up by all the wind machines churning out megawatts...then back on course to the Interstate 20. I'm down to Mitchell when the test starts so that's what I run. I'm beginning to lose W3DYA. I go to 40M but likely if he even goes, he's only there a few minutes and I miss him the rest of the day. Need one down that way in TX too...oh well. Not my day for getting the last 2 in TX. Missed WC5D in Childress – never heard him.... my score: 0 for the 2 needed in TX.

From this point on, you can run them 'two by two' along the interstate – Nolan/Fisher, Jones/taylor Callhan/Schackelford, Palo Pinto/Erath, Stephens/Eastland – with some minor detours of 10-15 miles. I prefer to run C/Ls in contests – easy to log and easy to send the exchanges then. Otherwise, you get to listen to hours and hours and hours of recordings.....so I stop for the contests to run. Had the time so it worked out OK.

Ran Parker all by itself. 104 degrees outside. Yuk. Hot summer day. I'm stopped just off the interstate to run it. It's over 103 degrees all the way through the Metroplex for another 2 hours of driving.

First I'm in the Metroplex (Tarrant) ...then 75 miles of six and eight lane roads and traffic. Today it was not too bad as it was Sunday. It's a whole different story at 5pm on a weekday! Yuk – you don't want to try it. I give out a few contacts for Tarrant, then a few in Dallas as I drive along. Most of the time, I'm just driving with thousands of other cars on the roads with all the merges, in/out traffic at exits, and high volume of cars.

Home by 6:30 after running my home county Collin with Denton for 20 minutes in a noisy place for 15-20 minutes. Didn't push it. Whew...five days on the road....over 2200 miles.....tons of counties.....tons of contacts. Now to go through the logs to try and figure out some sort of score to send in to Norm, W3DYA. I was in two states so that's two logs. One of these years I use a computer in the car for logging in contests when stopped. You just hit the 'finish' button at the end and it does all the work! Hi hi.

Hope we hit some you needed. I tried to hit a lot of NM.....and some new ones not run too often lately in TX along the way. You can only zig and zag so much. N5XG was running some, WC5D ran a bunch, W3DYA was going like crazy, so TX was 'put out' for the folks in serious amounts! Hope we hit what you needed! It was fun!

This was one of the better CW QSO Parties.....and a good end to the trip.

The Awards Ladder

There was a bit of discussion on the K3IMC forum about the current situation with awards. There are two sets of awards at MARAC: Those than can be earned by going mobile and putting out counties – and those than can be earned by fixed stations who never go mobile. (and earned as well by mobile stations). Of course, folks who both go mobile and operate from home can work on everything.

Keep in mind that MARAC is the MOBILE AMATEUR RADIO AWARDS CLUB. It was formed to give out awards to mobiles. There were no awards specifically oriented for fixed stations. The first awards in County Hunting were offered by another organization – the Certificate Hunters Club – and that mainly for operation in state QSO parties – the big deal back then. This pre-dated the USA-CA program by CQ Magazine and continued for another 15 or so years after until it just faded away. That organization sought 'awards' of all kinds – from DX to USA oriented. We've covered that in past issues.

Over the years, MARAC 'took over' awards started by others – like the B&B Shop, the Mobile QSL Bureau, - , including Nth Time, Bingo, Master Gold, Mobile YL, etc. In the last decade, new awards such as Prefixes and Call Combos, Master Platinum and Mobile Diamond have been added.

For example, USA-CA, the first award in anyone's book to finish up, and sponsored and administered by CQ Magazine, is the entry point for most into county hunting. You can

get to the 'first level' with just 500 counties worked and confirmed. Eventually, if you have the interest, you can move up the 'ladder' to achieving 'Worked All Counties'. Some wait until they have all worked to apply for the award. Your choice.

Unlike some other awards by different organizations, you can count every contact you ever made under a call held by you. Your first Novice license contacts, and every call in any location worldwide you have been – all count for all the county hunting awards from both CQ Magazine and from MARAC. No 'starting over' if you move.

Many DX stations just reach the 500 level and move on to other things.

If you still have interest after working all the counties, you'll likely get into the other awards that county hunters can earn. There are over 40 awards that fixed stations can work on – without ever going mobile. The 'most common' is likely the Bingo Award, which will get you one step 'up the ladder' in becoming 'more valuable' as a contact, and which will allow you to work on a higher level award. So even for fixed stations, there is a 'ladder' of progressive awards you can earn.

The sequence would likely be:

1) Earn the USA-CA award. (However, you can earn other MARAC awards first – like prefixes or call combos or even Bingo. The USA-CA requires confirmed contacts. MARAC just requires log data. If you've worked the Second AK, but haven't gotten a card years later, you might actually get Bingo or another award first while hoping someone else is in the Second District for a contact that will confirm.)

2) Earn the Bingo Award – this can be done along with the first award – once you earn this award, and have your USACA, you can then start on the Master Gold Award.

3) Master Gold Award – you can only start on this after you have earned your Bingo Award and USACA. There are two parts – working each county with a county hunter who already has the Bingo Award for the first part. The second part can be done in several different ways, but for a fixed station who does not go mobile, it can be by net control/assistant hours, or by service hours to MARAC as an officer, committee member, or sponsor of a convention. You can earn this award without ever going mobile. Or you can get 'points' for mobile contacts and likely never travel more than 300 miles from home going mobile. (AK and HI excepted)

That is as high as you can go as a 'fixed station' in the "ladder". However, there are dozens of other awards to work on, including the "Nth Time" award which is sort of a

ladder type award. You can't work on 5th time till you've completed 4th time, etc. Some stations have worked all counties 10 times or more now. You actually get 'more valuable' for the Five Star Award (up to 5) and the Star XX Award as you work the counties time and time again – being able to give out your county with all those 'stars' toward the 20 required for the Five Star Award – even your home county.

Now on to the higher awards.

The nice feature of Master Gold, Master Platinum and Mobile Diamond is that a mobile can drive TO the county, and earn credit for that county if they work someone from the county who holds the Bingo Award, MG, or MP respectively. That is relatively easy as over 350 people now hold the Bingo award to get to MG. If you work 2 or 3 people on the net, SSB or CW, you've got your credit for the county most likely for MG award. The vast majority of net folks hold the Bingo Award.

The 'higher awards' do require mobile operation, and likely would not be available to those who never go mobile. However, there are dozens of other awards to be earned, including Five Star, Prefixes, Call Combos, Nth time, Bingo N, Natural Bingo, Digital, etc, from a fixed station. There is no lack of awards to achieve.

For mobiles, there are more awards on the ladder to be earned. The 'incentive' for these awards are to keep the mobiles out an running, and provide more difficult challenges. Each new award is a step up. Remember, it is the MOBILE Amateur Radio Awards Club.

If we continue the ladder – after Master Gold, mobile operators can then work on the 'higher awards' starting with Master Platinum

4) Master Platinum (MP) – similar to Master Gold (MG) in that you can either work someone who now holds the MG in a county, or from the county, you can 'start' on the worked all the counties from day one. This is an anomaly in the awards rule. Anyone can actually track and work toward getting contacts with a mobile in every county who holds the MG award. However, there are two parts to complete for this award. Likely some fixed stations have worked all the counties with a MG holder. The second part requires that you transmit from 500 different counties, making a contact with an MG holder who must be in a different county. That means the mobile must put out 1/6th of the US counties to earn this award. In the process of doing it, fixed stations will likely get the opportunity to work lots of new counties as these mobiles trek through the

counties racking up the county count. So far, over 23 mobiles have earned the Master Platinum Award. Several have 'worked all the counties' and just now need to ramp up their transmitted county count. That could take years. Or not.

This is an award that stimulates mobiles to go run those counties – and not just the ones in their neck of the woods. They'll be traveling to lots of other states to finish it off!

If you are still a gung ho mobile – then you can work toward the next award AFTER you get the Master Platinum award.

5) Mobile Diamond – created 4 years ago, this award is one step up – and at the moment, the highest award a mobile county hunter can earn. You can only work on this once you have earned the Master Platinum Award. So far, 23 people have earned the Master Platinum (MP) award, with N0KV now being the 23rd to finish. It's even more of a challenge, with two parts to finish. The first part is working someone with MP award in/from every county. The second part is transmitting from 500 or more counties, and making at least 3 contacts on each of 2 different bands in each of those counties, with at least one of them a MP holder. The reason here is to make sure a large number of people have access to contacts for a given mobile. If the skip is too long for 20M, then likely 40M would do it. You've got to have at least a two band mobile set up (3 on cw would be better) to do this. The idea is to make it possible for the most folks to have a shot at working the mobile, and discourage 'single band only' mobiles. There's no 'one contact per county' allowed – which you could do on some of the others, maybe just working 'net control' for a 'contact if you need one' deals. You've got to make a serious effort at 'putting out' the county!

At this point, 5 folks have now completed the 'highest' mobile award. Will there be a new challenge? Will there be mobiles ready for any new challenge and even harder award? Good questions.

Meanwhile, mobiles have other awards to work on, from transmitting from each county in a state (The Ran All XXX(state)) award and nice certificate, to getting credit for 25 or a multiple thereof of giving out a 'last county' in a state, to transmitting from all the US counties (All 3077). So far, 16 people have transmitted from all the US Counties.

Other mobiles are just content sticking mostly to their local area, insuring those counties get put out regularly, with maybe an annual trip here or there to a convention or hamfest or grandma's house. If they are active at home, maybe they have earned Second or Third time around. That makes them even more valuable as a mobile as they can give out more 'stars' to other awards. Heck, even working a fixed station with 'stars' counts for

that county.

The 'fixed only' operators can be chasing dozens of awards – from Nth Time to Bingo N to the 4 prefixes (A, K, N, W), to the call combos (1x1, 2x1, 1x2, 2x3,2x2, 1x3, 2x3), Digital, All CW, Natural Bingo, No Star, Mobile YL, YL/OM Teams, etc. They can be thankful there are awards that gets those mobiles out and running.

For example, those working on Master Platinum, now 24 holding that award, had to run 24 x500 counties, or 12,000 counties. Likely many working on the MG award also used 'transmitted county credit' of up to 1000 or more points – and there are 61 of them. If most of the folks had 1000 transmitted county credit, that is over 60,000 counties 'put out', many with full runs. That's a lot of counties! Add in Mobile Diamond – where you must run another 500 with full runs, and you add in another 2500 for those who have completed it, plus another 1500 for those closing in! If it weren't for these awards, many of those mobiles would have sat at home, not having a challenge to complete!

So, while some fixed stations might gripe they can't earn the highest awards, without those awards, there would be a whole lot less activity than there has been. It's only a handful of awards out of more than 50 that fixed stations can't earn, and they likely will be doing better toward the other awards, being at home with good antennas, and spotting networks up on the computer, and their logging program telling them which contacts they need. They are not the ones burning the gas and spending nights on the road.

Some have suggested there should be an 'alternative way' to allow fixed stations to reach the Master Platinum level. Personally, I don't think so. If you want the 'super mobiles', the gung ho mobiles willing to get to and put out 500 counties for the higher awards, they aren't going to take the 'hard way' if there is a simpler way of qualifying for it, such as 'net control hours' or 'service hours' in some way. Since 23 have now completed it, with more closing in, it's obviously 'not too tough'.

As a low power, low profile antenna op here, I'm not likely to earn some of the awards. I seldom get on SSB, and 2/3rds the activity is on SSB. Should I complain? Of course not. Others on the east coast might never work all the prefixes and combos out west with current conditions, or even on the east coast if the mobiles never go to 40M. I still have my fun and stick mostly to cw.

Remember, it's the MOBILE awards club. We need all the mobile activity we can get! Where will the mobile activity of the future come from, with \$4 and then higher gas prices? Cars get better mileage these days, but it still costs a lot of money to earn MP and MD! Seriously. Then again, no one is likely to get to the top of the ARRL DXCC

Ladder near the top using a budget QRP rig and wire antennas either. They'll probably have \$5000-\$20,000 in rigs and big antennas up on tall towers to get there! Then wait years for Somalia, Yemen, North Korea, and other 'entities' to show up to work, if they can. No county hunter friend is going to take a detour to these destinations for you while on vacation trips. Expeditions to some of the more remote places can cost upwards of \$300,000 for a 10 day stay on some out of the way place.

If anyone really has a suggestion about the awards, well, let 'em speak. We always need new ideas. Ernie, W7KQZ, now SK, was the one that came up with many of the ideas for the new awards in the past couple years – I believe it was him behind the call combos and prefixes awards...through suggestions to the awards committee. Mobile Diamond came about after a two year rocky start. Who knows what's next? Who knows if anyone will have the energy to go after whatever comes after Mobile Diamond.

Meanwhile, who is going to be first to get Natural Bingo and No Star?
Hmmm...You might be the first to get it.

Did you know that some of the awards have 'levels' like the USA-CA where you can start at 500, and go up in steps of 500 till you achieve all? Check out the rules!

If you look at the Call Combo Award, you can get the basic award at 1000 counties for a given 'call combo' (ie, 1x1, 2x1, 1x2, 2x2, 2x3, 1x3,) Then 2000 and 3000 then all.

The YL OM team award can be earned for 250 counties worked, then 500, 750, 1000, 2000, 3000 and all levels. The same for the YL Mobile Award! Same levels.

The Single Band Award can be earned with 1000 counties per band. Then it's the 2000 and 3000 level, then all.

For the QRP enthusiast, it's the same deal for the QRP Award. Work 1000 to qualify for the basic award, then levels of 2000 and 3000 counties.

Digital? Same deal – basic award at 1000 counties.

If you've got some time, check out the award rules at:

<http://marac.org/Awards.pdf>

There's enough to keep everyone busy chasing counties. And we haven't touched on the County Challenge Award either! (non-MARAC).

One of the hardest awards to get – is the USA – All Prefixes Award. Only a handful have been issued. This is what the plaque looks like:



USA 'All' Prefix Award #4
Issued to Joyce, N9STL

Race for the Mobile Diamond

As of mid summer, there are a few folks closing in on the elusive Mobile Diamond Award – WQ7A, N9STL, with KC3X and others trailing a bit behind. Other who have earned the Master Platinum Award (now 24) are also working on it, but haven't posted needs yet. Having just completed getting there, it's now my challenge to get the others finished off. A few who earned Master Platinum have 'kicked back' and are taking a break (KB6UF, W6TMD) but Ron puts out counties so others can work him and get credit when he travels.

On the way back from his long trip to the Northwest, Gene, K5GE, picked up a bunch for Joyce, N9STL, and Terry, WQ7A. I snagged a few for N9STL. She's motivated to finish up soon. Terry is doing well, too, but with some tough ones remaining back east. We need a few more folks with Master Platinum to help run those counties! Who knows, maybe in a year or two for more to finish up? Hopefully sooner!

Who will be #6, 7 and 8?

We have two new MP holders, so they now have to run their 500 counties each for the higher award! Listen for N0KV and KE3VV putting them out on 2 bands to get the needed county credit! Hollis, KC3X, still needs to run a couple hundred more to be done.

14336 Follies Continue

There was a “net control SSB of the year” announced, but I bet you don't know who the 'callsign' was that received it. That callsign is actually heard very seldom on the net! He really doesn't deserve it for all the crap that goes on during the time he is 'occupying' 14.336. Guess it's possible to win with just 8 or 10 votes these days from your family and buddies with just little input from the membership, likely with VFO's frozen on net

frequency 14336 who never go to 40M. It was given to 'Papa' as in Kilo Zulu Two Papa. He doesn't run the net, his 'twin' Junior, K2JG does.

Why would you give an award to someone who:

Regularly chews out newcomers to the frequency for using standard phonetics? Used on every other single frequency of the ham bands? One who runs off more potential county hunters than he recruits by a factor of at least 10 to 1? One who is known far and wide for his antics, vitriol, and nasty comments worldwide? Not for his ability to run a friendly net. I've yet to hear one person say 'I got into county hunting because of the friendly net control operator' – but have heard at least 100 times “Is that nasty idiot still around on 336?”?

On my past trip in late July....what did I hear? Yep, stations being chewed out for calling in with phonetics. It never ceases. After I've run the county, I'll sometimes see who is out on SSB, and maybe give AB7NK/K7SEN a contact so they get my county. I don't need anything on SSB – just working them on cw these days.

One who was 'allegedly' QRM'ing a mobile running off frequency on 7/20/2014 That 'jammer' person had received the Net Control of the Year Award. His cohort in FL, the one brained damaged to inhaling too many fumes and too much alcohol, seems to be also an active participant in the jamming off net frequency. A true pair of idiots reinforcing each other into more illegal activities. “Boing Boing Boing”.....really now – that's just plain juvenile. Then again, folks get treated like the 3rd grade when they stumble onto net frequency not knowing the phonetics phobia of the NC person.

One who disparages active county hunters, and frequently mentions and 'rubs in' the recent passing of loved ones as KZ2P notes 'the world being in a better place without them'. Hopefully both this character and his buddy will quickly join Ted, the OM of N9STL, and the world 'will be a better place without them' if that is their view of the world and how it operates. That's not nice to say, but I'm just turning around THEIR statements. You've got to be really sick, sick, sick to say things like that on on the air.

We don't need such juvenile delinquents on the band QRM'ing others or running it like a 3rd grade parochial school classroom or getting awards as NC of the Year when you do idiotic stuff like that. . You likely know who it is. “Both” of him and “both” of his buddies .in FL. The twin-twins. The 'clubs of one'.

It's no wonder why digital is becoming so popular and fewer and fewer mobiles run on 14..336. Some mobiles these days only run digital. Some run digital and CW.

Now, you could you imagine the outrage if James and his sick sidekick in FL, say, were to pick on Bill, KM4W, who recently passed away. How would YOU feel if James got on the net, blabbed all over the world that 'the world is a better place without him'? He seems to have no problem doing that with K9HUH, Ted, who became a silent key a year ago!

Or how about James and his sidekick telling Chris, WY7ML, that 'the world is a better place without him(WY7LL – Leo)', who passed away a year ago and is still missed in the county hunting world? Yet, you hear this every time that N9STL goes out on a trip, along with the 'boing boing' jamming from the twin-twin nitwits and other stuff and comments. It's really sick. Really really sick to think you have to 'hold your nose' when you decide to run counties on 14.336 or listen to the crap dished out daily to someone who accidentally uses phonetics while calling in for a relay or trying to work the weak mobile under the tough conditions we have at times. When conditions were better a few years ago, he really chewed out DX stations, to the point where one filed a formal complaint at the highest levels of government requiring a full FCC hearing on the matter and review of whether "K2JG" should even have a FCC license.

Many YLs say 'just turn it down or off' when KZ2P and the sidekick appear on net and the stupid comments begin, or mobiles/fixed stations get 'yelled at' like delinquents. Oh, 'he's the ugly one' and stuff like that, usually when AA9JJ/N9QPQ are running. You've heard it, I'm sure.

The 'club' is always worried about 'wasting net time' – phonetics take a few microseconds longer. Yet, the club, my my calculations, has caused at least 30,730 unneeded contacts to be made on net frequency – each taking a few seconds extra to work 'both of him'. Go figure. If we assume an extra just 3 seconds added per 'working the both of him' and exchanging reports, that is 3×30730 , or over 90,000 seconds. That's 1500 minutes, or 25 hours of 'valuable net time' wasted with his 'twin' Junior working the counties. If it takes mobiles an extra ten seconds to log the contacts once they get home, that is 250 hours wasted logging the K2JG contacts. Talk about 'time wasters'! You do realize the 'club' call has his initials.....while his regular call doesn't? Most people, if they get a vanity call, get their initials for their personal call. James let 'junior' have the club call – hi hi. I'd bet he's spent another 25 hours a YEAR yelling at folks passing by who use standard phonetics while calling a mobile. More time than if he just let the contact happen without a vicious attack on the innocent passer by. Oh well. The 336 follies continue. Now 13 years and still running. The vicious attacks still happen.

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Fortunately with the declining sunspot cycle about to happen, 30 and 40M will pick up and in a few years, the most popular net and band will be 40M. Keep that 7188/7185 frequency occupied. Digital works great on 30M, too.

Maybe it's not 'telling' but half of each issue of the MARAC monthly pub deals with digital. Guess it's going to be more and more popular as long as the situation doesn't change on 336. We already have a bunch of mobiles more focused on digital than SSB now. Do you wonder why?

Yeah, "Papa" who doesn't even run the net got SSB NC of the year. Normally he delegates running the net to "Junior" (as in Junior Grandinetti) – with his special call sign - K2JG, , while Papa (KZ2P P for Papa) stays in the background until he needs a county, then Papa also makes a contact along with 'junior' from 'the both of them'. Hee hee. It's "K2JG" that runs the net. Bet MARAC likely counted votes for K2JG for KZ2P, who never runs the net these days. It's 'junior' running it. Papa's call sign is seldom heard.

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40M should be coming back within a few years. Maybe sooner. We might be on a steep decline on this whacky sunspot cycle. Maybe we'll have more nominations for NC SSB of the Year next year.

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PS: If folks didn't do anything stupid on 336 (and nearby frequencies) we'd have nothing to write about! On the other hand, if they do stupid/illegal things, it needs to be reported.

SuperCapacitor News

The latest issue of the Economist Magazine came in the mail and there was an

interesting article on Super Capacitors. They were really in the news 10 years ago, but there has been limited progress

So what is coming down the pike? At a recent race car show, you could see the latest Tesla Model S and the new MBW i8 – powered by lithium ion batteries, sometimes backed up by a gas driven engine that drives a generator or may also drive the wheels directly.

The Toyota TS040 Hybrid uses a supercapacitor. When the car needs a kick that the 520 HP 3.7 liter V8 gas engine cannot provide, an additional 480 HP is available from two electric motors connected to this super capacitor. When the car is decelerating or braking, the motors work in reverse, as generators, to charge the supercapacitor up again.

Supercapacitors pack vastly larger surfaces in a given space by using porous materials to form the electrodes. This permits them to have an energy density up to 10,000 times that of a regular capacitor. It's only a tenth of the lithium ion battery energy density, but a super capacitor could have tens times that of a battery in the future.

Supercapacitors also last longer than batteries. After a few thousand cycles, most lithium ion batteries are giving up the ghost. Super capacitors should last 1 million cycles.

Toyota is already incorporating lessons from the TS040 into its road cars. The Yaris Hybrid-R, a concept car, uses a supercapacitor to provide quick bursts of power. There are rumors that they will work with BMW for a sports car. Peugeot Citroen has starting fitting super capacitors to some of its cars as a part of its 'stop-start system. Now, more than 20,000 hybrid buses use the devices to provide bursts of acceleration during start up from a stop. They are popular in China.

Who knows when one will show up in your next car?

Operating on the CW Net

The CW net operates similar to the net on SSB on 20M. Not much different. There are

just a few things to understand before you jump on in on 'net frequency' and run your county. Either SSB or CW.

First, just like the SSB net, if you show up on frequency, it is common courtesy to check 'if the frequency is in use'. You do this on SSB by either knowing that there is a net control there – from having run earlier in the day – or by checking. On CW, the best thing is to send QNF? (is the net free) or CHN? ...I like CHN?..... What you don't want to send is QRL? (is the frequency in use). That could be a QRP type, or a CQ'er getting set to call CQ for five minutes. One has no clue as to whether they are a County Hunter or someone wanting to use the cw net frequency to hold a QSO. IF all I hear is QRL?, I'll send a CHN Net HR de N4CD.....so don't use QRL. CHN? Works fine. Once or twice. If no one tells you it is busy....it's probably not. Or QNF? CHN? De Your Call.

On SSB, you might come to the SSB net frequency, maybe after running on 40M frequency, and then ask "Is the frequency in use' if no net control station has been around earlier. Either someone will tell you 'Go Ahead' or "Wait – mobile running'. Simple, right? You check first, then start to run. If you start to run, and someone jumps in – says..... "N4CD – a mobile is already running, please standby'.....you do...sometimes conditions are such that no one came back to you. OK..not a problem and sometimes happens. So you wait or move off freq with a quick 'going up 3 or going to 343'.

The same is true on the CW frequencies. With conditions the way they are, there are only a few listening at any given time. Maybe a mobile is running you don't hear and no one has called in the last few seconds. You go to 14.0565 and put out a "CHN QNF?"....meaning is the net free and can I go ahead and run. The best reply to hear would be "GA de KC3X". Or "QNF de KC3X"or similar...and I'd start my run, and give KC3X a signal report and my county.

What you don't want to doespecially if you have not been listening on the cw frequency...is to come on and blast away whether someone is running or not! No different than SSB. Just common courtesy to check – and wait until someone responds. If no one says 'busy', then go ahead.

Now suppose there was a mobile running I didn't hear? Hopefully one of the regulars would send "QRX" or 'AS' (di dah di di dit)...meaning 'wait!'.....something is happening. No different than on SSB if someone said 'Standby' or 'Wait' or Mobile running. You've got to check. Some days there are no other mobiles out. Other days there are 3 or 4 others running.

So....you need to be able to recognize QRX or “AS”. If someone sends N4CD QRX...that means me – and 'wait'....or just sends QRX or “AS” “AS”. Now I have two choices. I might wait....or move off freq by sending D2...meaning I'm going down 2 and hopefully folks will follow sand spot. I just don't go ahead and run anyway.

If I do hear the other mobile running, I might do just like on SSB and give a report and say 'N4CD QSY D2 in XYZ county’....meaning I'm going down 2 to 14054.5 plus or minus QRM to run the county.

If you aren't comfy on the net frequency, other 'infrequent' cw ops might run off frequency...some like AB7NK or N9STL going to 349 or 341 after the SSB run for some pre-arranged cw contacts. Or maybe spot themselves on cw on a non-net frequency. Or go to 14054 every time after an SSB run if they don't want 'collisions' which sometimes happen.

Even when you check, sometimes there will be two mobiles that start at the same time, or just 'collide'. So you deal with it. Not a big deal. Sometimes that happens when a mobile drags on and on and on, calling away but getting no answers. Then no one is calling and you can't tell if activity has ended or not. It helps to listen in a bit on the cw frequency to see how things go before you venture out on your trip to put out things on cw. Not much different than the SSB net, other than we don't normally have a 'regular' net control on frequency much of the day. Just various helpful county hunters jumping in to try to make sure only one mobile is running at a time and spotting cw runs.

It's not all that hard. You do have to be able to understand QRX and AS messages though.....if you want to not cause the situation of multiple mobiles running at once.

K9HUH Lives On!

Last year, Ted, K9HUH, husband of Joyce, N9STL, passed away. Ted was instrumental in getting the club station at the local school set up. He wrote and followed through on a grant application, and the Douglas School in Belleville, IL, received a grant and now has

a fully functional modern station for the kids to use as they get their ham licenses and explore ham radio and the technology. The club previously had a different call, but in honor of the one who was instrumental in getting the club upgraded on the air with modern gear, the club now has the callsign K9HUH. N9STL is the club custodian.

Ted, K9HUH, rarely got on the radio to work counties – that wasn't 'his thing'. He had lots of other interests that kept him busy, but he was there all the time to support N9STL and the local club and local folks trying to get licenses.

What you might not have known about Ted, K9HUH – from a year ago -



Ted, K9HUH, SK

“Mr. Wilhelm was the owner and operator of Wilhelm Band Instrument Repair, Belleville, IL. He was active in the Metro East Musicians Union, AFM, serving as the business manager. He also performed as a drummer with local bands. For 58 years Ted was a Ham Radio Operator (K9HUH), and was a member of several amateur radio groups. “

Source: <http://www.rennerfh.com/index.aspx?news=3373>

So, if you now hear K9HUH making contacts on 14.336, and it sounds like Joyce, N9STL, it is! She has decided that K9HUH should work toward USCA- and it will be all 20M, all SSB, and 'no relays'. It's located in St Clair County, IL.

Now that's a real 'club station' with lots of members and a real station, not the same one as 'the clubs of one' seem to use. Separate facilities, separate antennas, and operators other than 'the same one' over and over 10,000 times a year. Of course, Joyce might use the club call at her station at times, too.

Ain't that great! K9HUUH callsign lives on! It's a 'real club', too! Not a "Club of One". It's a memorial callsign for the club for one who recruited new ham radio operators, provided a place for them to learn in a 'friendly environment', and where, yes, even phonetics are encouraged and used, and who set up a club station/antenna for use by the youngsters – everything that makes some one 'great' in the ham radio environment. We need a lot more like him if ham radio is to survive as we know it.

Next time you hear the call K9HUUH, remember that. Maybe you can Elmer a new ham into ham radio and teach him/her the ropes like he did.

Examples of What Liberalism REALLY Is

- 1) Liberalism is college professors and documentary filmmakers accumulating vast fortunes in a capitalistic system by decrying the evils of capitalism.
- 2) Liberalism is claiming that the "border is secure" while saying we shouldn't deport anyone who illegally crosses the border.
- 3) Liberalism is "environmental activists" flying across the world to ride together in SUVs to posh environmental conferences where they call for everyone else to live like cavemen in order to save the planet.
- 4) Liberalism is spewing hatred and profanity at women, calling for gun control that leaves women defenseless against rapists and murderers, and celebrating misogynistic pigs like Bill Clinton while accusing OTHER PEOPLE of being engaged in a "war on women."
- 5) Liberalism is people who say that asking for voter ID is racist while claiming that

black Americans are too uniquely stupid and lazy to get an ID.

6) Liberalism is forcibly taking money you don't deserve from the people who earned it and calling THEM greedy for not wanting to give you even more.

7) Liberalism is saying that the government should confiscate guns from NRA members and kill them if they resist and then claiming that you have no idea why they think that they need guns to defend themselves.

8) Liberalism is people who sneer at displays of the American flag, tell the world America isn't exceptional, and criticize the country non-stop while getting offended if their patriotism is questioned.

9) Liberalism is calling for higher taxes while you cheat on your own taxes.

10) Liberalism is bitter, race-obsessed people who see EVERYTHING in racial terms, accusing OTHER PEOPLE of being racists.

11) Liberalism is saying you're for "choice" because you support abortion while opposing giving Americans choices about their health care, schools, whether they want to bake cakes for gay weddings, or even the light bulbs they have in their house.

12) Liberalism is calling everyone who disagrees with you a racist, bigoted, homophobic Nazi and then calling OTHER PEOPLE hateful.

13) Liberalism is considering yourself compassionate for wanting to forcibly confiscate other people's money to give away to constituent groups you hope will vote for you in exchange for the loot.

14) Liberalism is saying George W. Bush is a monkey who started the war in Iraq to "steal their oil" while becoming furious if anyone criticizes Obama.

15) Liberalism is pretending that US religious folks are dangerous while radical Islamists chanting "Death to America" and advocating Sharia law are harmless little lambs.

16) Liberalism is calling for guns to be taken away from Americans while you're protected by armed guards.

17) Liberalism is billionaires who have more money than they could spend in a lifetime railing against the horrors of "income inequality."

18) Liberalism is "animal rights activists" who eat meat and wear leather shoes screaming profanity at women who hunt.

19) Liberalism is black pundits who got their jobs solely because they're black and willing to call other people racists going on TV and claiming that white gas station attendants and fast food workers are benefitting from "privilege" because of their race.

20) Liberalism is thinking of yourself as an independent, open-minded free thinker for mindlessly parroting whatever the Democrat Party line is on every issue.

Source: <http://townhall.com/columnists/johnhawkins/2014/07/19/20-examples-of-what-liberalism-really-is-n1863760/page/full>

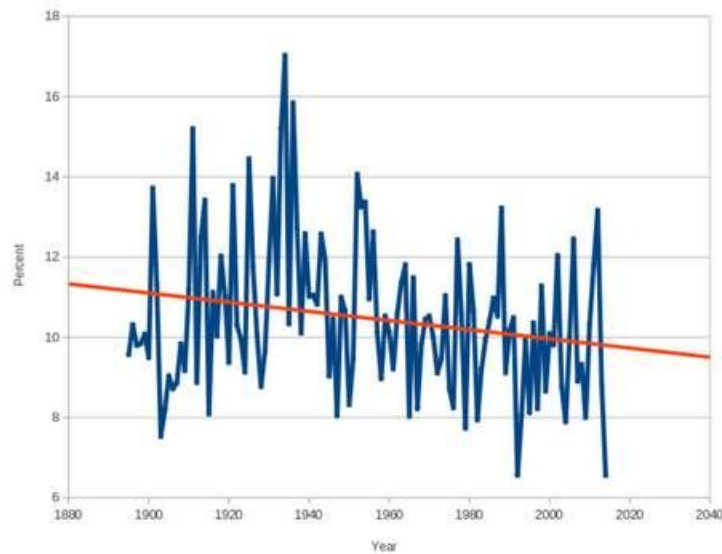
Global Warming Debunked Once Again

Coollest Summer On Record In The US

Posted on July 26, 2014 by [stevengoddard](#)

The frequency of 90 degree days in the US has been plummeting for 80 years, and 2014 has had the lowest frequency of 90 degree days through July 23 on record. The only other year which came close was 1992, and that was due to dust in the atmosphere from Mt Pinatubo.

Percentage of 90% days through July 2014 – All HCN stations



So they tell you the planet is burning up? Turns out we have fewer and fewer 90% days every decade for the last 100 years.

Al Gore? Paging Al Gore? You flunked science in elementary school. You also flunked 'global warming' No warming now for 17 years (the 'pause' in global warming speak) now.....and the stats say we have fewer and fewer 90 deg days every year.

How wrong can you be? Oh, right! It's not science, it's politics. It's a power grab to redistribute everything in the name of 'fairness' and 'we have too much' and 'they have too little'.

Give us a break. The math says not only are you wrong, but you are terribly wrong. Now....if you look at the south pole...record ice. Yep, northern latitudes are a bit warmer, but overall? The world temps are in what you call a 'pause'. It's what everyone else with a brain says 'no warming for 17 years now despite rising CO2 levels' and your billion dollar computer models, everyone one of them, are WRONG. You really blew it, Al Gore and warmists.

Source: <http://stevengoddard.wordpress.com/2014/07/26/coolest-summer-on-record-in-the-us/>

However, the 'progressives' are all about power and will indoctrinate you into the global warming cult. That allows them to take control (creeping government power) of every

facet of your life and every 'use' of energy. It allows them to tax and redistribute to the tune of two trillion a year in phony 'carbon taxes' with the money going to their political supporters, bundlers, and campaign cash raisers, and to finance boondoggle 'green energy' projects like planting trees in Malaysia... (while others are chopping them down in record numbers to plant palm oil trees for 'green fuels' which are harvested each year). It's massive stupidity in action, but the cash flows the 'right way' for them.

US CW County Hunter Contest

Wow! It was a busy weekend with a dozen mobiles putting out hundreds of counties. Norm, W3DYA, set this up at the last minute. It seems MARAC lost interest in sponsoring the annual MARAC QSO Party – both SSB and CW and it fell through the cracks. It wasn't announced or planned.

At the last minute, Norm, W3DYA, decided we needed to have a CW QSO Party this year. He sent off the rules and tried to get publicity via the WA7BNM contest calendar which many use for the weekly event listing.

<http://hornucopia.com/contestcal/weeklycont.php?mode=custom&week=current#5451>

The word spread and there were a dozen mobiles out and running!

There were nearly 500 spots for just the cw activity on Sunday! Wow....the spots just kept a 'coming as mobiles hit their counties.

N4CD was on the road early on Saturday – started in NM then into TX. It was fairly quiet, mobile wise, till 1400z, then all heck broke loose with a dozen mobiles running at once!

Who showed up?

Wow....mobilesthere's K7TM, AB7RW, K4ZGB, W9MSE, W0GXW, W3DYA, NU0Q, K5YAA, WC5D, N9JF, NY4N, K5CM, KN4Y, KE3VV, K2RP, WB0PYF, and a whole bunch more on Saturday, plus dozens of fixed stations chasing them. Sunday had

W5JR, KO1U, K0RU, and N0KV join in the fun. K4YFH was just out running on net frequency on 20M CW but that just made for even more activity for the cw folks if they needed his county. He didn't join in the QSO Party fun, although a few worked him and gave their county to him.

I heard KD8HB, K1BV, K4BAI, AA3B, W1WMU, WA0IYY, W9ILY, N6MU, W0SK, W7OM, W7ON, K8iBQ, AE1N, WO4O, W2RR, WA6URY, and a bunch of other fixed ones joining in the fun, along with the regular county hunters on the net daily. (N4AAT, KC3X, K7INA, W6TPC, K8QWY, KM6HB, K4XI, K4YT, WA4EEZ, W4YDY, K2HVN, N8II, WA7JHQ, OK2EC, DL8USA, DL3DXX, DL5ME, OH3JF, YV5OIE, NT2A, W2CVW, N6PDB, K7REL, W7GVE, WA2VYA, and on and on and on.

On Saturday, there was a big IOTA contest that made a mess of things on the east coast. For the most part they were fairly weak out in the southwest/south US but you could hear S1 and S2 signals from 14025 all the way up to 14060 at times. Many of the mobiles moved up to 045 to 055 to escape most of the QRM. Fortunately it was over on Sunday although the conditions weren't as good on Sunday it seems. Depends where you were – fairly short skip on Saturday (couple hundred mile skip from west TX to east TX and OK all day), plus the DX and east/west coast coming in. The east coast US got slammed with QRM from EU on Saturday with the contest.

KO1U went mobile in 2 counties – the minimum required to be counted as a 'mobile'. Ran Suffolk and Essex MA for the folks.

Soapbox:

AB7RW: “It breaks my heart to hear all the good reports. Signals were so crummy on the West Coast, I averaged 1 QSO per 4.6 miles. I knew signals were not good when N4CD was about a QSA2. Usually he is very loud out here. We went 543 miles. A couple of times we were in a spot where the S5 noise level dropped to zero. I thought the radio popped a fuse. Most of the time I had a S7 noise level. One second a mobile would be very loud and the next second it was not there. I guess I need to go to Kansas or another state in that area to make some Q's. We did enjoy the scenery and 101 was packed with cars and people everywhere. “

W9MSE:”W3DYA, Norm, Thanks for setting up the contest, we had a great time!! “

W0GXQ: “Yes, a big thank you Norm! It seemed there was good participation, especially the number of mobiles. Saturday was terrible, but Sunday was much improved Sorry you had such poor propagation. Forty meters stunk, so I missed most of the counties that W9MSE and NU0Q ran. Of course, the IOTA contest on Saturday didn't help matters. :)”

K5YAA: “250 or so more QSOs this year than last. (more). Didn't hear VT or AK but everything else was on and many Europeans even a JA on 20. 20 was in good shape both days, 15 just wouldn't open today (Sunday). 40 seemed weak also today. Yesterday produced more QSOs on 40. Mobiles were everywhere but again Saturday was better on 20 to work even the close in ones. N4CD Panhandle Texas signal was very good yesterday. Finally worked Ed KN4Y today for a few QSOs. Didn't even hear him yesterday.

KC3X:”Great CW weekend, Saturday was a bust for the weaker signals due to the European contest, but Sunday was great. Had fun, what more could you ask for.”

DL8USA: “it was a fine weekend with a lot of new counties for me. The propagation was interesting, because no propagation to NY, IL -- east coast and no TX (only 1x) but fairly good to IA CO ID OK which are usually very difficult to hear from here . On Saturday heavy QRM from the IOTA-contest , Sunday much better

WA2MUA/2 and WA2MUA/7: Hello to my old county-hunting cw friends. So nice to work you again after so many years.

This is to explain how I worked you as /2 one hour and /7 an hour later. I was using some of the transmitters of remotehamradio.com. Their website has the details, but basically I rent time on their system and get to use any of their available stations. It's the only way I can operate from the condo where I am now living.

You might be thinking "why don't you go mobile?" I use my daughters car during the week when she goes to work in NYC and don't want to impose on her any more than I already do. RHR costs me about the same as going to the PEI dx lodge one week a year. To me it's a great deal.

I am very happily retired and maybe some day will see you guys at a mini.

73, John wa2mua

PS: I suggest the recommended abbreviation for Schoharie County be changed from SCHH to SCHO. I got a lot of repeat requests on that! And it's too close to SCHN”

Recent Awards

Third Time #240	Gene, NT2A	7/7/2014
Third Time #241	Lowell, KB0BA	7/27/2014
Eight Time \$14	Dave, KE3VV	7/26/2014
USACW III #14	Hollis, KC3X	7/23/2014
Bingo II #94	Lowell, KB0BA	7/22/2014
US All Prefixes #5	Tony, WA9DLB	7/12/2014
US “W” Prefix #13	Tony, WA9DLB	7/12/2014
Mobile to Mobile #21	Ron, N5MLP	7/7/2014
Master Platinum #24	Dave, KE3VV	7/27/2014

Upcoming Events for County Hunters

We are back into state QSO Party season, as well as some other contests to have fun in and work the counties.

August 2 – 3

10-10 Summer Phone QSO Party
Call, name, 10-10 number, S/P/C
www.ten-ten.org
Aug 2, 0001Z - Aug 3, 2359Z

North American QSO Party
Name and state ncjweb.com
Aug 2, 1800Z - Aug 3, 0600Z

August 9

Maryland-DC QSO Party
Maryland county/city or S/P/C
mdcqsoparty.w3vpr.org
Aug 9, 1600Z - See website

August 16

North American QSO Party
Name and state
ncjweb.com
Aug 16, 1800Z - Aug 17, 0600Z

August 23

Hawaii QSO Party

RS(T) and Hawaii multiplier or S/P

www.hawaiiqsoparty.org

Aug 23, 0400Z - Aug 25, 0400Z

Ohio QSO Party

Serial and S/P or "DX" www.ohqp.org

Aug 23, 1600Z - Aug 24, 0400Z

August 30

Colorado QSO Party

Call sign, name, and county or S/P/C

www.ppraa.org/coqp

Aug 30, 1200Z - Aug 31, 0400Z

That's it for this month!

73 de N4CD