

# County Hunter News

June 2006

Volume 2, Issue 6

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

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

The County Hunter News will attempt to provide you with interesting, thought provoking articles, articles of county hunting history, or about county hunters or events, or provide news of upcoming events.

We hope you will enjoy the new 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.

Information on County Hunting is available at [www.countyhunter.com](http://www.countyhunter.com)

De N4CD (email: [telegraphy@prodigy.net](mailto:telegraphy@prodigy.net))

## Notes from the Editor

**Reminder:** This month, several county hunters should be headed to Alaska to put out the counties! I've included a trip report of my journey "north to Alaska" in this issue – from 5 years ago - nostalgia.

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**Nanotech Update:** By now, you've likely caught on that the article in the ARPIL 1 issue of the CHN news on 'Nanotech Antennas' was great fiction – but there is a real nano-tech revolution going on.

Go the IEEE Virtual Museum at Here is a good virtual museum of what nano-tech is and is likely to do in the near future - everything from Levi jeans to medicine to micro-electronics, oops, make that nano-electronics. Better batteries - micro machines. For real this time.

<http://www.ieee-virtual-museum.org/exhibit/exhibit.php?id=159272&lid=1>

Some good reading and pictures on what nano-technology is really about! Worth checking out.

**New Mobile on CW:** WB4KZW ran a few counties on CW, using straight key. Will have paddles next time and promises to run more NC counties on CW in the future!

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**Happy Birthday CW CH Net!** From the KK7X forum at countyhunter dot com:

“Happy Birthday to CW CHN on May 2, 2006!

CW CHN had its first session on May 2, 1966. John, K3WWP and Dave, WA8EOH collaborated to initiate and bring a CW County Hunter Net to life.

I had the great honor to be able to check in to that very 1st session. K3WWP NCS.

Be sure to go back to this site's home page ([www.countyhunter.com](http://www.countyhunter.com)) and select: CW County Hunters, then click on: CW Net History (By K3WWP) for a FB rundown on early CW CHN.”

WC5D, Van ex-K3ZMI

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**AL QSO Party Report from KN4Y, Ed,** from the forum at countyhunter.com:

“This was a new date slot for the Alabama QSO party. I decided to drive to the Northwest and run some counties in the Alabama QSO party.

It was nice weather but quite windy and cool so AC was not needed. I stopped and ran in Geneva (32 QSO's), Coffee (33 QSO's), Covington (26 QSO's), Crenshaw (39 QSO's), Pike (38 QSO's), Bullock (26 QSO's) and Houston 38 QSO's).

I always carry a spare radio when out running counties, except this time. I am a follower of the prophet Redundancy and usually do not forget. Another senior moment. I stopped in Bullock County and ran the county on 20 meters. I switched to 40 meters. There was no output from the radio. This is when I wish my wife had come along as she knows all the swear words. I checked all the connections, all okay. I started the vehicle and headed back to Dothan. I stopped at a rest area on 231 and turned on the radio, hit the key and there was output. I had no idea what happened in Bullock County. I stopped and ran Houston County on 20 meters, switched to 40 meters and ran the county. No problem senior. I decided to try 80 meters and made 3 QSO's. I planned to leave Alabama at 10pm my time so I could get home by midnight. Have already slept through too many sermons.

On the way home I thought about what may have happened in Bullock county It was overcast when I entered Bullock County and I had my headlights on. When I stopped to run the county I shut off the motor but not the lights, another senior moment. It was cool and I did not need AC. I think what might have happened was after running 40 meters with the lights on the voltage dropped enough the 706 would not transmit. I read somewhere the 706 was voltage drop sensitive. Leaving the lights on was the only thing I did differently during the run in Bullock county. The radio power is directly wired to the battery.

This was an impromptu decision to run the QSO party and I did not get it on the forum. I want to thank Bob, N4CD, for spotting my runs; it made a difference in my totals. On 40 meters I made 79 QSO's and on 20 meters 150 QSO's. I made 3 QSO's on 80 meters. Thanks to all the county hunters who left 10.114 to work me. Total QSO's was 232. I think next time I will get a motel and do the entire QSO party."

**Banned list update**...for those keeping track, don't forget VK4SJ who is on the banned list for 'relays'...she is closing in after years of hard work....and now you have to add NV4Z, Mary, recently banned.....the list gets longer

and longer...NV4Z can no longer run mobiles, or 'get relays'. Seems the Net Mullah has real problems with YL's....

## Feedback on Previous Articles

### On 'borrowed' club calls:

From Bill, K2NJ: (Past President, posted on K3IMC forum)

"You are all missing one very important point -= and that is...

MARAC is a club that sells awards. That is it... all we do is sell awards... we don't run nets, we don't sell maps, we don't sell bottled water... we sell awards.

Now these awards are supposed to be on an honor basis. We do not require QSL cards - we take your word that you did what you are applying for. We do NOT POLICE these awards... so if you want to cheat, you are only cheating yourself.

By chasing awards with someone else's call (IE CLUB) go ahead, I don't care... MARAC will be very happy to collect your money... **But don't pass out counties with another call, which is cheating others, not yourself.** This is not right. "

**From Larry, NA7W:** on K3IMC forum:

"Thank YOU very much Bill. That's plain English!"

**From Doug - WA4UNS**

"My definition of a club is a group of like-minded amateurs getting together and establishing a physical station for the enjoyment of all members. This station provides an operating facility for those members who might not be allowed to establish a station in their condo or apartment. It's a station for participating in contests, handling traffic in the NTS (if that still exists), and being ready for emergencies. I have problems with groups or even

individuals who establish clubs and get a call sign and do NOT have a facility with club equipment accessible by all members 24/7.”

**Editor:** Did you note that KZ2P and “Atlantic Radio” received awards the exact same day at the exact same time? (For umpteenth time, and #5 times) Likely, both awards were made with the same set of contacts, made at the same time, with the same mobiles in each county, on the same day. Likely both logged on one computer. Made from the exact same location, with the exact same equipment and exact same antennas. As one of the comments on the forum read “ditto”. One must wonder at the ‘challenge’ of doing this is. Or how a ‘club’ passes as an ‘operator’. It’s not only ‘too-toos’, but now it is ‘**ditto ditto ditto**’ when it comes to working with your own and a vanity club call of one at the same time, from the same station, with the same mobiles. Ditto Ditto Ditto....3077 times.

On my CHN recommendations for candidates for office. I had the following criteria in mind:

- 1) Be able to work with the rest of the Officers and Directors of MARAC to conduct business in a business like fashion, and get things done.
- 2) Be an active station, preferably both on SSB and CW, and fully aware of all the issues of going mobile/running counties mobile, and of running the nets. Also be an active mobile is desirable.
- 3) Have a proven track record of attendance at MARAC functions – Nationals and Minis. Be able to faithfully represent the membership, follow the Bylaws, not try to implement ‘personal agendas’ or discriminate against MARAC members.
- 4) Not be caught up in the ‘club lunacy’ business as a supporter or user of ‘borrowed’ club calls run mobile.

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**Follow-up on the article “What if they gave a state QSO party and no one showed up?”** Wow....May was a good month. At least for the CW folks. April wasn’t bad either!

The MARAC CW contest weekend was also the IN QSO Party, the 7 land QSO party, and the New England QSO party. At least 37 mobiles out there including:

W0QE, W0GXQ, W0MU, , K4MUT, WA7SLD, NN9K, KB6TAL, AB7RW, W3USA, W9MSE, W8UE, ND9M, W0RRY, AB4YZ, AF3X, AA9KH, plus the mobiles in the IN QSO party (WT9U, KJ9C, KE9I, AA9ZZ, etc) plus the mobiles in the NEQP (K1KI, WA1Z, N1RR)

“K0ARS, KO1U, N3AHA, W3DYA, K3ONW, KS5A, K4MUT, K4UK, KB4XK, KS5A, KB6TAL, K7BG, K7ED, K7RAT, K7RE, K7SB, K7WA, AD8J, KM8U, AC8W, N9JF.

Hundreds of counties! Most of NE and 7 land spotted! Conditions were rotten (A=20), but lots of counties were worked by many. A few SSB stations on the air, but not many. Lots of fixed stations as well to work, so many counties had ‘loud’ signals. 20 and 40 meters were the main bands. I heard absolutely nothing on 15 meters the entire contest time, and the few times I checked 10m, not even a peep!

Risto indicated that Saturday was the ‘all time record number of spots made in a single day!’ There were an impressive number of people making the spots, and I suspect well over 100 county hunters were watching them and using them to pounce on needed counties. Some of the spotters were: AD1C, W0MU, N2OCW, HA7UG, N9JF, N4VA, N8KIE, KQ0B, K8WQY, K5OT, NW6S, WG6X, K7VAY, N4CD, KA0SHC, KA3QLF, NM2L, W8QOI, WD8LQB, KM9X, WC5D, KA9JAC, W6RK, W4YDY, KI7WO, N7WO, AK8A, K8MFO, WA7JHQ, WC5D, WA7SLD, AA9KH, DL6KVA, W9MSE, KE3VV, KB4XK, NU0Q, AA8R, N5EDB, W3DYA, K2NJ, NF0N, KR5c, K8ZZ, K4YFH, N9STL, KO1U, W0EAR, ND9M, KC0JG, W0GXQ, WQ7A and others. (Just a dozen or so spotted on SSB, but if you entered ‘mixed’ you could use both CW and SSB contacts).

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**Trivia Question** - OK...a brain teaser. When was the first documented use of the 120 VAC 3 prong AC outlet plug, the one with the ground pin – that is now standard in every new home? Think about it for a while. Answer later in the newsletter.

**MARAC SSB contest:** Was there really a SSB MARAC CH Contest? Anybody work anybody in it? Were there mobiles out there? What if MARAC sponsored an SSB contest and no one came?

## Peak Oil News, Nanotubes, and Stuff

**Faith Based Oil:** There are various ways to ‘cope’ with higher oil prices. Naturally, you’d expect the following to happen. It reminds me of a friend back in VA who told me about a group of her ex-Army types, who maintained computer systems for the gov’t at a military installation, after she left the service. When they couldn’t figure out what the problem was, after hours of trouble shooting, they would then start to pray as a group for the computer to start working again. After a day of prayer, they’ll finally admit they couldn’t fix it, and call in outside help. Duh?

From <http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/view.php?StoryID=20060426-114223-5447r>

“WASHINGTON, April 26 (UPI) -- A U.S. Christian group has grown tired of escalating gasoline prices and is set to stage a national prayer rally to lower the numbers at the pumps.

Various Christian clergy from around the country will convene around a Washington, D.C., gas station Thursday at noon to pray. For those who can't attend, a live Internet site and toll-free prayer line have been established. “

Maybe this is what the current administration is thinking about when it talks about “faith based initiatives”? I hope they didn’t drive and waste a lot of gas in the process getting to these ‘prayer meetings’!

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**Nanotube update:** More interesting possibilities. Will it be possible to commercialize it? Maybe yes, maybe no.

From:

[http://smarteconomy.typepad.com/smart\\_economy/2006/04/nanotubeenhance.html](http://smarteconomy.typepad.com/smart_economy/2006/04/nanotubeenhance.html)

## **Nanotube-enhanced Solar Energy**

“AMBIT Corporation announces its patented carbon Nanotube-on-silicon technology, which can boost the efficiency of solar cells that convert sunlight into electricity by up to 18 percent. The Nanotubes act as antennas for the solar light and can also be used for optical detectors and Nanotube memory.”

“Corporation's carbon Nanotube array of over a billion carbon Nanotubes on a silicon solar cell measuring less than 8mm long. “

“Most silicon-based PV cells now work at an efficiency conversion rate of about 15-20%. Adding Nanotubes boosts it to close to 40%. That's only 10% away from the ambitious goal - a target of 50% efficiency within 50 months or by 2009-set by a DARPA-funded \$54 Million dollar project involving a consortium of 15 universities. The DARPA program calls to develop and produce 1,000 Very High Efficiency Solar Cell (VHESC) prototypes that are affordable and that operate at efficiencies of at least 50 percent.”

ED – N4CD: DARPA is the group that funded the initial work on the Internet back in the 70s and 80s, among many other leading edge technologies that have been spun out of USA University research labs.

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**More Nanotech News** – for those who think this is ‘just a fad’ .....from the RPI (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute website) at <http://news.rpi.edu/update.do>

## **“New Supercomputing Center to Advance the Science of Nanotechnology**

### **\$100 million partnership will create world’s most powerful university-based computing center**

Troy, N.Y. — Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, in collaboration with IBM and New York State, has announced a \$100 million partnership to create the world’s most powerful



university-based supercomputing center, and a top 10 supercomputing center of any kind in the world

The Computational Center for Nanotechnology Innovations (CCNI), based on the Rensselaer campus and at its Rensselaer Technology Park in Troy, N.Y., is designed both to help continue the impressive advances in shrinking device dimensions seen by electronics manufacturers, and to extend this model to a wide array of industries that could benefit from nanotechnology, according to the partners.

.The CCNI will focus on reducing the time and costs associated with designing and manufacturing nanoscale

“Current semiconductor technology is rapidly approaching its practical limits. New, nanotechnology-based technologies will be needed to sustain the productivity growth that the information technology industry provides to the world economy,” said John E. Kelly III, IBM’s senior vice president of technology and intellectual property.

The ability to design and manufacture smaller, cheaper, and faster semiconductor devices is crucial to sustaining Moore’s Law, which states that the number of transistors per a given area doubles roughly every 18 months. Chip designers and manufacturers have sustained Moore’s prediction by continually shrinking the size of devices on semiconductor chips. Today’s circuit components measure about 65 nanometers (nm) in width, or 65 billionths of a meter. According to the International Technology Roadmap for Semiconductors, this needs to shrink to 45 nm by 2009, 35 nm by 2012, and 22 nm by 2015.

The continued miniaturization of semiconductor technology is forcing the need for simulation across an unprecedented broad range of dimensions all the way down to the atomic scale. Rensselaer will dedicate a multidisciplinary scientific and engineering team to groundbreaking collaborative

nanotechnology research among industry, government, and academia.

The CCNI system will be made up of massively parallel Blue Gene supercomputers, POWER-based Linux clusters, and AMD Opteron processor-based clusters, providing more than 70 teraflops of computing muscle. This will put CCNI among the top 10 supercomputing centers of any kind, and make it the most powerful university-based center in the world.

The center is expected to be operational by the end of the year.”

## MARAC Sells Out?

At the May Board of Directors meeting held on May 10, 2006, the MARAC board succumbed to near total lunacy. It seems that one individual who can no longer ‘control’ MARAC the way he wants submitted the following resolution for the board. Maybe he realized that no one at MARAC was interested in helping him with his continued personal attacks? So it seems he set out to destroy it.....after he had already done major damage as you’ll learn later.....

“Recent events have proven that the policing and/or enforcing of the MARAC Awards’ rules and regulations are not our primary interest. In an effort to avoid any future “policing” problems, I make the following motion:

MARAC will no longer require that any individual or **entity** submit of any logs, spread sheets and/or data of any nature when applying for any current or future MARAC award”

You might think there would be some discussion on the issue, right? Well, it seems that the current President, WB9NUL, didn’t even ASK if there was any discussion, which is the normal Robert Rules of Order procedure. She immediately called for a vote.

Now, this motion has two major problems. We know that MARAC exists to 'sell awards' according to K2NJ, Bill. I guess 'selling' those awards takes precedent over any requirements that folks submit some documentation,

The second major problem is that this motion implicitly ratifies 'entities' as being able to apply for awards. The last issue of the CHNews showed there was no way in MARAC rules for 'clubs' with only 'station licenses' to validly apply for or receive awards. Maybe the Board wasn't thinking? OR actually read the motion? (Wouldn't be the first time, would it?). Did this slip by them? Remember there was NO discussion of the issue. "Railroaded through". No discussion, immediate call for a 'vote' in violation of normal procedure that is followed.

A majority of the Board members present 'approved' the motion! Can you believe that? Were there better alternatives? Had this been discussed with the membership? Was so prompt action really, really required?

Hopefully, the membership will vote out some of those who seem more interested if they can't get their 'own way' on clubs, personal attacks, and NC time issues, that they'll simply 'eliminate all the rules', then clubs can apply since there are no requirements to state anything when you apply for an award. Just send in your \$2, and say send me this or that certificate to put on the wall. Well, come to think of it, KZ2P is off the board in 2 months, Norm, W2IBB(ex W2LSH) submitted his resignation as Secretary.....the "Joisey Gang" is slowly disappearing, likely for the good of MARAC. While KZ2P has been an excellent Treasurer, his antics and his 'agenda' to bash and trash have overshadowed any other things that folks will remember. (I don't include K2NJ in the Joisey Gang, even though at one time when the Joisey Gang tried to do good for MARAC, which later seems to have been perverted into doing good for the "CLUB" agenda, he was, and has worked to try to bring sanity to MARAC through the periods of paralysis and restore order as a Board Member/President). (Note: Bill has moved the hamshack upstairs where he has daily access to it, and is now again active on 30M all day!).

Of course, Howdy DooDee can 'submit' for an award. It doesn't mean the Awards Chairman will issue one to a 'club station' or a "puppet" even if they are 'eligible' to submit applications for awards...they aren't eligible to **receive** awards. This 'back door approach' to get clubs approved is meaningless. It is the awards chairman that determines if 'clubs' are eligible, and by the current rules, they aren't, and until those rules and the BYLAWS are changed, no award to clubs should be issued.

Oh, and how many ‘clubs’ other than the MARAC Club WB0DPD/K9DCJ call have/has ever gotten a MARAC award? Guess what?...only one....only one has caused all this commotion....and you can guess easily it is K2JG.....duh!.....well, I guess after umpteenth time, he needed something else to log by putting ditto marks everywhere.....ditto ditto ditto...same contacts, same dates, same reports, same frequency....ditto ditto ditto.

Now, the question might be, is, what brought about all this sudden action by the Board? Well, keep reading and you’ll learn the ‘Rest of the Story’, it gets ugly. Real ugly. Really, really ugly and downright dirty.

## N9STL Finishes MG!

### QUEST FOR MASTER GOLD – by N9STL

In September of 2005, I worked my 4<sup>th</sup> last county for Master Gold. Months later after listening day after day, Ted, my OM suggested that I fly out to Montana and get my last counties. As spring approached and I still had not heard my last three counties I began to seriously consider his suggestion.

I checked into my rewards program and discovered that I could fly out to MT for only \$10. How could I pass up that opportunity? So before you know it the plans were made for me to fly out to MT, get my last two counties that I needed there and head on over to Washington to get my last county.

In the meantime I worked KL1V in my third last county, Pondera, MT and two weeks later I worked N7ID in Kittitas, WA on his way home from Alaska, where he had just completed transmitting from his 3077 county.

Only one to go! Garfield, Mt.

With the thought of being prepared for anything I decided to take two of everything along, two radios, two antennas systems, etc. Finally the day arrived and I was at the airport ready to check in when they informed me that I was 8 pounds over the weight limit for my baggage. They told me I had a choice of paying \$50 or taking 8 pounds out of the suitcase. So I rummaged around and found the small cooler that I was going to take along and it weighed exactly 8 pounds. They had me put it in my carry on and I was ready to go. Or so I thought.

As I am trying to pass through security, they started pulling all kinds of things out of my bag. I was so flustered when they had me take things out of my suitcase that I forgot that the small cooler that weighed exactly 8 pounds, contained a pocket knife, screwdriver, pliers, etc. Everything that I was going to need when I encountered problems was preventing me from boarding the plane.

Security escorted me back to the check-in station and the airline packed everything and sent me on my way. It was a beautiful flight and before I knew it I was in Billings, Mt. The rental car was secured, all of my baggage was put in the van, and I was ready for some serious county hunting!

I stopped at a park and assembled everything and made my first MT contact with my OM. When setting everything up I discovered that I could not get any frequency to tune properly except 20 meters. I was a nervous wreck. What if I fly out that way and could not make my contact? I decided that I was not going to take any chances. I was heading straight for Garfield and I would not put out anything in between.

Well, I soon learned another lesson. When they say gravel roads that is what they mean. After several hours of traveling I finally stopped and asked for directions on the fastest way to Garfield County. The man looked at me, leaned back to see my car and said, "Oh, you should make it on the back road just outside of town without any problems."

So on the road again, and many miles later I saw a county sign in sight, GARFIELD County. I decided that I would stop and take a picture of the county line sign and I jumped out of the car. (Many places in MT you can just stop right on the road) and ran up to the sign and there at the base of a sign is a big snake all curled up and just sunning himself. I decided that I needed to snap that picture quick and head on down the road and find a safer spot.



#3077 LC WBOW! Garfield MT

I only had to drive about a mile and I found a great spot. So it is time again to get the mag mount and put it on top of the van, run the coax thru the window, set up, tune, and I am ready to go. Since I was told that I needed to QSY from 14.336 a group of people were waiting for me on 14.343. The first call that I scheduled to make was with N7ID who gave me the next to last contact and saved me over 800 miles of driving. Jack and I exchanged our signal reports with the help of WG6X.

Finally after 4½ years of working for the Master Gold award I had completed what I had set out to do. All of a sudden I heard a loud thud and look out to see that the mag mount had blown off of the van. The winds were approximately 35 miles per hour. I can hear Ray hollering “Joyce, are you there?” As I was running around the van trying to get the antenna back on the roof.

I worked about 40 different people on phone and cw so I know that many other people also needed that rare county. (ED- N4CD comment: I guess KL1V running it at 6:30am MT time, only on 20M, just a few days before, as most CH on 20M were even awake, didn't get many contacts in his log...maybe 4?).....lots of folks needed it! And she ran it on CW too).

On Wednesday, I drove to Wyoming so that I could help Nell, K0GO, complete her Bingo award. Conditions were great to TX and after many years (since 1969) Nell completed her Bingo award with a 59 report.

For the next several days I drove around MT and WY. On Friday I had an eyeball with Mike, W0MU, as I passed thru his home county of Stillwater. If you ever see Mike you might want to ask him about my antenna system. As he watched me set up my antenna as I was getting ready to put out Stillwater, I heard him say something about wishing that he had a camera!

Due to the efficient work of our awards manager, KD9ZP I was able to start my Quest for Platinum by putting out counties on Wed, Thursday and Friday in Mt and WY.

Thanks to everyone that rode along with me and to all for the people that helped me get the Master Gold Award # 16.



N9STL Temporary Mobile Set up in MT

ED Note: N9STL, like many others, already has a good start on MP, having worked mobiles like KC0JG, AA9JJ, KI0JD, N4CD, ND3T, KC3X, K5GE, W6TMD, who have their MG awards. Anyone at any time can start on the first part of the award...getting all 3077 counties. The second part requires you to transmit from 500 separate counties, working a MG holder from each, after you get your MG award.

## Dayton Hamvention Report

About 100 county hunters made the annual trek to Dayton – and attended the County Hunter Forum on Friday afternoon. Rob, W8YRB summed it up pretty well with his post on the KK7X Forum:

“Howdy All,

This was the first time I've attended Dayton and I must say I've never known what I've been missing all these years. You hear this and that from people, but interestingly enough you never realize the feelings until you've experienced it yourself.

First off, my hats off to everyone who was involved in putting the programs together. I felt the staff and organization was outstanding. I had no problems getting around and felt the entire program was very well organized.

County Hunters Forum was FANTASTIC, I must say probably the most satisfying portion of the entire trip was getting to actually meet a lot of the faces/people I've worked on the air in the past 35 years of being a ham, not only CH but others as well. I actually had a wonderful eyeball (face to face QSO) with one of my Elmers from when I was 13 years old and on the air. We had a great time talking about the old days, and went out for dinner to talk about things in the future (IE: My next Dayton Trip next year).

My hotel accommodations were fantastic. The locals were extremely helpful. I never realized Dayton was such a large city. I've always pictured as being closer to 35K to 50K, but wow, it's huge and a lot of interesting things to see. I brought home many of brochures to look over (Wright Pat. Air Force Museum articles, Wright Brother Museum articles). My wife will be going with me next year.

Hope everyone else had as much fun as I did and looking forward to next year. I will be there.

73 - W8YRB - Rob “

With nearly 100 in attendance, the CH Forum had a short ‘Year in Review’ introduction, updating the sunspot cycle, the start of CH on 3556.5, the first



year of the Single Band Award, the continued growth of CW county hunting and number of CW county hunters. Of the nearly 100 there, almost 95% were active on CW.....and were readers of the CHnews.

Tim, W8JJ gave an excellent presentation on installing a mobile radio in a vehicle, with extensive pictures and tips to get a top performing mobile set up.



W8JJ at Dayton County Hunter Forum



Lori, K8XTQ at Dayton County Hunter Forum

Lori talked about her experience of ‘accidentally’ moving into a deed restricted area where they bought a house, and where no outside antennas are allowed. She is slowly going crazy without access to a the ham radio.....and talked about what she was thinking about doing to get back on the air – and as usual, succeeded in getting a lot of laughs while entertaining the folks. Fred hadn’t got the radio in the car so they could go mobile. She needed a ‘radio fix’.

We then had time to go around the room for everyone to introduce themselves, giving call and Home County. \



### The Crowd at Dayton County Hunter Forum 2006

Afterwards, about 30 or so retired to the Ryans Steak House for an informal dinner and get together than lasted for several hours....

This year, the weather cooperated...if you got to Dayton after 1pm Thursday after the hail storm dumped on the flea market; there were several days of nice weather – good for the flea market. I bought just a few goodies this year. Charlie, WORRY picked up a set of paddles for \$20 for the mobile.



N9JF, K9WA, K8MFO, W0RRY, N4OO, N4CD

Dayton Flea Market 2006



AA9KH...one of the CW Net Controls



Steve, N0SM, one of the CW Net Controls

## N4CD/WORRY trip to OHIO, then KS

We had an excellent trip from Tulsa, OK up to Dayton the CH way – an extra 1000 miles to get there....and we had 51 pages of log before we got home to Tulsa. About 2600 miles of driving.

Now, Charlie was trying to finish up 5<sup>th</sup> time....he needed about 35 to finish, with 7 in KS, his worst state – and very tough distance wise for him. So after 2600 miles of CH already, we rested up another day and made a mad dash around KS – 1233 miles in 2 days.....moving, moving, moving...and another 25 pages of log..... .full trip report next month....probably 3000 plus Qs in 7 days on the road.....Hope we hit one you needed!....

Got home and as I drove along alley way to back where garage is, noticed water appearing to come out along the foundation for about 20 feet? Hmm...what was leaking? Faucet? Bad sprinkler? Toilet tank? I unloaded the car and went looking...the trail headed toward the closet where the hot water heater was....it was 15 years old, and decided to go kaput....I turned the shut off valve on top....seemed to stop it.....

I woke up next morning, and oops, water running out from under garage door...not a good sign....seems the brass shut off valve to stop cold water from going into the hot water heater was just as kaput....so I had two choices...shut off water to entire house, for 3-4 days until the heater could get replaced...or call for help on a Holiday weekend....I can do without hot water for 4 days...I can't do without any water for 4 days, and I'd been on the road for two weeks. My house watcher didn't notice it...

So help was called....problem temporarily fixed...there goes another week's worth of CH money..... Such is life....



N4CD C/L Allen KS. KA9JAC desperately needed this one

## “Out of Control” Net Control?

Every ham when they take the FCC test for their ham license has to study up on the rules and regulations regarding the use of the ham frequencies for ‘business purposes’ and what type of things are allowed, and what aren’t.

Below is the text of the FCC rules regarding 'prohibited transmissions'.

§97.113 Prohibited transmissions.

(a) No amateur station shall transmit:

- (1) Communications specifically prohibited elsewhere in this Part;
  - (2) Communications for hire or for material compensation, direct or indirect, paid or promised, except as otherwise provided in these rules;
  - (3) **Communications in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer.** Amateur operators may, however, notify other amateur operators of the availability for sale or trade of apparatus normally used in an amateur station, provided that such activity is not conducted on a regular basis;
  - (4) Music using a phone emission except as specifically provided elsewhere in this section; communications intended to facilitate a criminal act; messages encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning, except as otherwise provided herein; obscene or indecent words or language; or false or deceptive messages, signals or identification;
  - (5) **Communications, on a regular basis, which could reasonably be furnished alternatively through other radio services.**
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For the past 2 months, at least 10 times a day, each day an Officer of MARAC has been on the air, there has been a business promotion of the "MARAC CONVENTION". This has not been a 'news item' with a list of relevant county hunter events, but solely has been limited to paid admission functions of MARAC. (For instance, there has been no mention of the well attended CH Forum or CH dinner at Dayton, other than perhaps once). Or Field Day, where 'Clubs' normally go out as a group and show their ability for 'emergency communications' which is one of the MAIN purposes of ham radio licensing! Or contests, like the MARAC sponsored CW County Hunting contest.

As often as 30 times a day, and well over ten times a day, for the past 2 months, at an average of over 5 days a week, 4.3 weeks a month, that is well over several thousand 'announcements' that have been made seeking the 'paid admission' to a MARAC, Inc., sponsored event.

In addition, it appears that an Officer of MARAC is now openly 'electioneering' to the general public, describing who members should vote for, for the 'benefit' of the financial well-being of the Corporation. The entire MARAC board 'accepted' a list of candidates who were qualified by MARAC rules to be able to run for office.

While he may represent it as 'his opinion', while as an Officer of the Corporation, many would suggest a 'higher standard' applies to Officers of the Corporation using public airwaves. Did he allow 'equal time'?? You gotta be kidding, right? Just the same 'bashing and trashing' but now of MARAC qualified people running for office.

Certainly an 'occasional' mention of events of interest (not just MARAC events) would be warranted, but over 2000 broadcasts specifically to a MARAC Corporation event would not seem to be either 'occasional', nor 'news' or a list of events of interest. Certainly a few times announcements of latest award winners would be 'occasional'.

The MARAC Treasurer likely has a pecuniary interest in promoting the success of the Corporation's Annual Meeting/Convention. (With paid admission paid to the Treasury of MARAC and recorded by himself, the Treasurer of the Corporation).

The paragraph also states that notifications are permitted, provided that it is not conducted on a regular basis. Over the past two months, it has been twice an hour, every hour, day after day. Thousands and thousands of times.

MARAC, Inc., has other means of communications, including a monthly newsletter send to all members, a web-site available worldwide, so there is no justification for 'no other means of communications' other than using ham radio service to promote the business interests of a Corporation.

You be the judge on all of this. Would two thousand announcements of a paid admission event pass the 'business' practices test?

## Is MARAC Loosing 'Focus'?

Some are declaring MARAC is in the 'business' of selling awards. I thought it was a not-for-profit corporation. Not in any 'business'. Don't tell the local tax authorities you are a business...they'll want a 'gross receipts tax' on all your 'revenue' (before expenses).

The Constitution indicates that MARAC is a non-profit corporation in KS, with the following purposes:

<b>To Promote Amateur Radio;</b>
<b>To Promote efficiency and expertise in mobile and portable operation for emergency and general communications;</b>
<b>To recognize and award outstanding accomplishments in Amateur Radio, with emphasis on mobile operation;</b>
<b>To promote goodwill and fraternalism among Amateurs.</b>

I don't see anywhere in there where it says the primary purpose of MARAC is to put funds in the treasury by 'selling awards'. Somehow, I doubt that some on the BOD go out of their way to 'promote good will'....quite the contrary with the bashing and trashing and 'witch hunts'. Now, others have done everything in their power to promote good will, but it only takes a single rotten apple in the whole bushel basket to ruin them all.

What ever did happen to the ‘mobile **emergency** and county hunters net’? At least that had a ring of ‘for emergency communications’ in it, if little actual traffic got carried most days? Heck, you mention ‘emergency’ on 14.336, and you’ll be told to QSY to 14.300 and they’ll ‘help you there’. Or move off frequency, we’ve got mobiles to run here.....

What ever happened with **emphasis on mobile operations**? Most of the original awards issued were ‘Mobile Achievement Awards’ for giving out so many counties, so many LCs, giving out counties in so many states, etc. Given to mobiles. Not fixed stations! It was the **MOBILE** Amateur Radio Awards Club, not ‘Fixed Stations Awards Club’, or County Hunting in General. The Second Time, Third time, Fourth time awards were issued by others. Bingo was issued by others. MG was issued by others. Big Rig was issued by others. Slowly, MARAC muscled in on their ‘business’. Now, it seems many of the issued awards are for fixed stations. No?

OF course, we still have the LCs given to the Mobiles, and VE9DH and the Award Chairman need to be commended for the RANN awards issued to mobiles – a new and useful award (and colorful too).....still, most of the new awards are for Fixed Stations...umpteenth time, Bingo Ditto, and Ditto Again.... I guess if the folks give out LCs for the various awards that runs up the possibilities of more LCs for the mobiles...but most of the attention is on Nth Time, Bingo 1,2,3,4, etc, Five Star, Teams, YL, Big Rig.

And yearly we select the best Mobile of the Year, and CH of the Year, although CH of the Year seems to be going to retiring members of the BOD more often than MOBILES. Where’s that ‘mobile emphasis’ when it comes to CHOTY?

This year, the BOD nominated retiring secretary W2IBB (hello, mobile?) for CHOTY SSB..... Along with WQ7A, Terry, who among other achievements has put out over 1000 counties (definitely a mobile!), and N8KIE, Bob, definitely a “mobile” with a gazillion counties transmitted including that rare one, Kalawao several times! Hopefully, the members will elect a ‘mobile’ with outstanding performance, as CHOTY, not some ‘ex-board’ member as often in the past. After all, the first word in MARAC is “Mobile”.

You be the judge on all of this. Is MARAC focusing on its stated purposes?

## “K2JG” Wreaks Havoc with MARAC”

Yes, ‘HAVOC’ is the right word. The consequences of this are BIG.

Now for the ‘rest’ of the story. If you have been occasionally visiting the ‘chat room’ (aka trash room, where folks are trashed and bashed), or have been listening on 14.336 instead of watching the spots and just getting on when a mobile you need is running, you likely have heard some operator at ‘Club Station’ K2JG spouting off about ‘person A’ or ‘person B’ ‘allegedly cheating’, or ‘not being where they say they are’, etc etc etc. Except they don’t say ‘allegedly’. Bashing and trashing on the air. Not long ago, W7KQZ earned another award. He sent in his log to the awards chairman, KD9ZP.

Immediately, one of the BOD members who lives in California **demanded** to have a copy of the log submitted by W7KQZ so they could ‘check it’. OF course, a copy wound up instantly at ‘Club HQ’ in FL.

The first problem here is there is no procedure for anyone OTHER than the awards chairman to review or decide to ‘accept’ a log submission for an award. However, that didn’t stop the two from getting a copy of the submission, and trying to find a microscope to use the find an ‘error’ that would ‘disqualify’ a certain person from receiving the award.

KC6AWX immediately got in touch with the person Ernie had set up a schedule with, for 2<sup>nd</sup> AK. He asked if he could get a copy of the ‘log’ that showed Ernie in it for the contact. The AK station said he didn’t have a log that showed that. So KC6AWX went screaming around that W7KQZ never had a ‘valid contact’ with 2<sup>nd</sup> AK. If he had been more thorough the first time with his question, he would have discovered that the AK mobile did keep a log at all!...like many fixed stations. So there was no way to ‘verify’ that contact. Or was there?

Ernie had sent a QSL card to the individual. He got back a QSL card for the contact. That is more than sufficient proof for CQ magazine or ANY award in the world anywhere. Not only that, but Ernie needed a relay to complete the contact, and several others who had been alerted, and showed up to work 2<sup>nd</sup> AK, including some prominent west coast stations on the net frequently,

relayed him in and said 'Good contact' when reports were exchanged. Duh! But the bashing continued.

About this time, K2JG sent KA9PZS emails 'asking' for his logs. Multiple emails. To 'verify' certain contacts. When he heard nothing back, then he started 'calling' KA9PZS on the phone to get copies of his logs for certain dates. And likely others as well.

Jim, KA9PZS, who is an octogenarian county hunter, who's been active for decades, was 'afraid' that if he did not comply with the Club's wishes/demands, he would be 'run off the net'. He wasn't anxious to help out the KZ2P 'witch hunt', but was cowed into submission, afraid that if he didn't send the **demanded** logs, he would be 'banned' from the net. Not being a cw op, and with county hunting his passion, that would be very divesting after having lost his wife in the past year or so.

I'm sure others were emailed or contacted by K2JG 'demanding' copies of logs, with implied potential 'or else' consequences. Heck, all you have to do is make a comment that upsets him, as NV4Z did recently, and you are banned as a mobile running on net and 'for relays'. You didn't catch that? Now NV4Z is added to the banned list. And being bashed daily on the net by James. You needed counties in South FL? With a team or YL? Don't count on the 'club' going mobile any time soon...it hasn't been spotted running counties other than putting out phantom MG, Five Star, and others in MT with a 'guest' operator not qualified to give them out himself, or with the 'club' call. So 300 CH suffer with no SFL contacts so "the Club" can enforce its agenda?

So KA9PZS finally reluctantly sent copies of the logs.....who knows if he left out contacts that KZ2P didn't want to 'see in the log'.....he was 'intimidated' to say the least. And confused. And worried about being 'run off' as so many other senior county hunters have. After all, he is well up into his 80s, and still manages to get around all over ND and SD and MN.

Well, needless to say, after Ernie had a QSL contact for the AK contact, the awards chairman decided enough was enough, and the award was issued. He was tired of being caught in the middle of the 'personal agenda' of a few to trash and bash.

So was this the 'end' of the witch hunts and attempts to destroy reputations, and bashing and trashing. Not on your life. That is the way of life it seems for the Club of One and supporters.

It seems that N9STL was closing in on MG. She put a few counties down as 'reworks' as she closed in to intentionally throw some folks off the trail. It worked. KZ2P took the bait, hook line and sinker.....the last WBOW caught him by surprise...likely he was sure it would be 'months and months' for someone to go to Garfield who had their Bingo and a Star. He never expected what really happened!

KL1V, Kent, was going to run through her last county- Garfield. He posted his trip. I needed it, as did many others. Now, KL1V and KC6AWX, the 'puppet' in CA, whose strings seem to be pulled by K2JG, met at the DX meeting in CA. I guess Kent, KL1V, realized that if he 'accidentally' gave N9STL the last WBOW for MG, that like KA3DRO who gave KF0LZ the last for WBOW against the 'wishes' of KZ2P, he would probably be 'banned for life' from ever running on 14.336, or ever getting a relay on net while the Club was NC.

With no recourse. So KL1V did run Garfield, MT. At 6:30 am in the morning MT time (1230z), when there is almost no propagation on 20M. You hear maybe FL and a few in South CA. However, several others attempted to move him off frequency. KZ2P drowned them out, saying you can't talk to KL1V on MY frequency. They wanted to try and get him and Joyce together for a contact.

He was staying not far away that previous night.. Now, most folks will go out of their way for a last WBOW. He could have run it in the evening, with 59 propagation to Illinois. Or given her a contact on 30M so as not to 'upset' the club by using 14.336. Did he? Chuckle....chuckle...or even moved off freq to N9STL could get a relay with the really weak signals. KZ2P made sure nobody could move him. Nice, wasn't that?

So, he went to 40m? Nope, not on your life – there'd be propagation to IL at that time. So he went to 30M? Nope, there'd be propagation there. He worked a few folks on 20m, got his 'transmitted county' and MG contact, and was gone before the band was open to anywhere but 'long long' skip. A few contacts, and vanished like the wind..... Now this is last WBOW. Folks were trying to help out.....Oh, well, I guess we know whose camp he

is in, and how NC can intimidate mobiles to be 'afraid' of giving out last WBOW to 'banned mobiles'. Or make sure the mobile can't even be moved? Really makes you wonder, doesn't it? Just what has N9STL done to KL1V? Other than appear on the 'Club of One' trashing and bashing list?

If you read the last CHNews, you'll recall the NC rules were changed – making essentially all previous net control on other bands beside 20M 'useless' for submission for Net Control hours, or points for the MG award. That might slow down Ernie, W7KQZ and Joyce, N9STL in their quest for MG. The BOD at the last meeting 'referred' this back to the awards committee for action after folks pointed out that the awards chairman likely doesn't want to see 1000 pages of logs submitted..... Would she lose hundreds of required points for MG?

She had been very active on the 40M net, helping out. Of course, being 'banned' on the 20M net made it difficult to run on 20M, where most of the CH hang out, or wait for an announcement that someone has QSYed to 40M. Oh, net control doesn't even announce that mobiles are going to 40M any more? Of course not, the 40M net 'competes' with him.....Mobiles go down there and never come back to 20M – too much fun. But Joyce ran on 40M and put out county after county. (Unfortunately, many of the NC stations frequently there are too lazy to spot – W3CR, N5UZW, etc, or don't have internet access available in the hamshack)..... So CH miss getting those counties if they aren't listening on 40M as well. (The Zombie Mode - see Jan 2005 issue of CHNews).....I can tell you from running on 40M without the spots, only a few get to work the mobile...when the spot appears, another 10-15 appear quickly.

Now, did that and KL1V doing the intentional 'too early for band opening' to stop N9STL? Actually, plan B was already in the works....and I'll let N9STL tell here story later in this issue in the CHNews..... But the 'witch hunt' was about to begin again.....

Joyce had sent in here logs electronically to KD9ZP. All that needed to be sent was the details on the last county 3077 for Masters' Gold. The detail for the 1500 points was previously submitted. All transmitted counties, mostly on 40M SSB, but some on 30M CW, and a few on 2M FM with K9HUH when no one else was around for a contact.

Joyce took a trip to MT – to run Garfield County. The first thing out of the mouth of K2JG, after she was spotted, was ‘She’s not even mobile in MT’ ..... (I guess he couldn’t believe that airplanes fly from IL to MT? - Or that you can rent a car in MT? Or that N9STL is capable along with K9HUH to install a temporary setup and make contacts from Garfield MT? ). Just the bashing, trashing, routine that folks are very tired of hearing. Falsehoods, innuendoes.....and 99.99995 false or intentionally worded to be misleading. Oh, she’s not in MT? Let the pictures in her article tell the story.

Maybe the SC Director, W0MU, had to give up joining the bashing campaign when they had an eyeball in MT, and shut up K2JG’s proclaiming ‘She’s not even mobile in MT’ blathering? (This is the stuff that usually Percy dreams up.....).....and loudly proclaims on net.....Same story, different day...bash this mobile, bash that mobile, ban this one, ban that one....

After she made her MG contact from MT, next he was saying “She hasn’t completed all the reworks yet”....she can’t possibly be done!!! I guess he was having a temper tantrum like a 6 year old.... “It’s bogus, bogus, and bogus”...temper tantrum!!!! ...Little beknownst to him, there were no reworks...they were KZ2P ‘bait’, and he took it hook, line and sinker...he had been watching the posted needs, and he took the bait when N9STL added in the reworks just to throw him off the track when she was down to one.....He was WRONG WRONG WRONG again...just like Percy seems to always be.....Well, what would you expect? Same stuff, different day, different mobile – one of the 30 or so on the list, which continues to grow month by month.

So N9STL announced she had finished and submitted all her logs to KD9ZP.

Now, can you guess what happened? Immediately, KC6AWX demanded to have a copy of the log to ‘check contacts in his area’. Of course, within microseconds of him getting it, a copy of the entire log was flying electronically across the internet to ‘Club of One’ HQ in Collier County FL. Now, you can guess what happened next.....of course...the witch hunt went into high gear....they must have kept the wires humming, trying to hunt down anyone who actually would send them a log. But the story gets even weirder!!!!



Even before that, before anyone had a copy of the log submission, but after N9STL announced she had finished, KD9ZP received email messages saying “N9STL did not me, KL1V, in XYZ’ county in KS from KL1V...now, why would KL1V be sending email about a contact he didn’t have? I wonder who pulled his strings for him to send that email unsolicited....even weirder since it was for a contact she didn’t claim, but KZ2P ‘assumed’ she would use (made an ‘ass’ of himself in the process, didn’t he? ).

Oh, but she didn’t even have it in her log for that county. She worked W9GUY there!!!!...so now KL1V looks stupid (and obviously part of the bashing routine)...and just as much a participant in the bashing/trashing in the attempt to ‘discredit’ something he knew NOTHING about –but I guess KC6AWX and KZ2P didn’t let ‘facts’ get in the way. She didn’t use that contact...but KL1V didn’t know that....at that point....and he was sending in statements about a county that was irrelevant. But **HE THOUGHT** he was getting Club of One “baddie points” for bashing/trashing by sending in the email quick.

OK...great.....was that a problem for N9STL she didn’t work him, she didn’t log him. Tried, but didn’t succeed. Seems K2JG had heard the contact attempt, and kept notes from months ago to ‘use’ against N9STL, fully thinking she would log it because he likes to bash folks he doesn’t seem to get along with, with claims that ‘she cheats’, he ‘cheats’, blah blah, blah, he never QSLs, blah blah.....never is where they say they are, blah blah... Of course, Joyce, not being successful in making the contact with that mobile for that county, like most other county hunters, didn’t count it or even had it in the log. Did that stop the bashing and trashing? Who looks like the idiot here? You decide.

Likely, KA1JPR, KZ2P was hoping that that contact was in there, maybe on too many ‘meds’, but he still pulled KL1V’s strings and KL1V sent in an unsolicited email at his demand. Doesn’t he look stupid? Well, both stupid? Maybe stoopid and stoopider? Sense an organized conspiracy here? It gets worse.....

Now, can you imagine the expression on KL1V’s face when he learned that his contact wasn’t used, and he couldn’t help K2JG with the bashing?????? Yet he had sent in the email. Sort of leads you to believe there is a conspiracy at work. Makes one wonder about him – First he makes sure

there is no hope of a contact WBOW intentionally, along with K2JG, and then he attempts to discredit her application about a contact she didn't claim?????

Of course, would you believe K2JG was about to again **demand** copies of logs from KA9PZS for the contacts again? Joyce, fully aware of previously intimidation of Jim, KA9PZS, had MRCs signed by KA9PZS well ahead of time for the contacts she was going to use. She checked and double checked with him that she was 'in the log' on these contacts. IF you want to see it, I can send you a scan copy of the MRC (big file) signed by KA9PZS.

Maybe KA9PZS might be intimidated into having a case of 'amnesia' or 'senioritis' as in "I don't find her in my log now!"....Over time, she managed to work W0GXQ on cw on nearly all of the 'PZS' counties and replaced him in the log, in all but one, and she had a signed MRC on that and the others, just in case KA9PZS accidentally "lost" a record of her contact, or it got 'sanitized' between him giving to it someone and it arriving at the Award Custodians desk. She had written proof.....what more could you want?

So far, we have established that N9STL did everything right. K2JG did everything wrong.

Of course, that isn't the whole story either....turns out K2JG had one more dirty 'trick' up the club's sleeve.....one of the founding members of the "Joisey Gang", W2NWL, Roger, seemed to be struck by lightning and join the conspiracy. Lost his memory, it seems, or suffering from 'old timers' problems, and 'contacts' simply vanished from his logs...maybe by a special request to do a 'favor' for the Club? .... Without any request from the MARAC award chairman, he suddenly was 'inspired' to send in logs showing that N9STL had NOT worked him in certain counties in NJ. Huh? Now, why would Roger, W2NWL, be sending in unsolicited email saying "I didn't work person X in counties X, Y, Z, and Q to the awards chairman....."

Those counties being "**Atlantic**, Gloucester, Ocean, and Cape May". Huh? The awards chairman did not request those....Now, how did he have a clue she had him in her log? And had good contacts? But suddenly at the inspiration of K2JG, they disappeared?

If he was going to get 'amnesia', he should have gotten it early, as N9STL also worked KC0JG in all four of them, as well as KC1NA in 3 of them, NE9DH, WA4UNS, K2HVN, and K2NJ in some/all of them as well. (You quickly find as you are working toward awards you usually have multiple entries for most counties – just some of the last ones maybe just one – otherwise they wouldn't be 'last counties' for the WBOW!). Isn't it amazing how folks suddenly sent the awards chairman emails saying "N9STL didn't work me in county XYZ".....within 12 hours? Let's put this in perspective.....thousands and thousands of awards have been issued by MARAC.

When was the last time you heard that someone had finished up, and before their award was issued, checked back through thousands of pages of log, and you were instantly sending the awards chairman emails or making phone calls saying I didn't work person Z in county Q?????? Did you really go back and quickly check your thousands or tens of thousands of mobile runs for the call of the person submitting a log, and come up with a list of **counties you didn't work them in**? How would you do it?? And who really knows if their contacts were counted for a specific award? When was the last time anyone OTHER than K2JG and KC6AWX ever saw a submitted log, other than the Awards Custodian????????

Has anyone EVER done it, other than at K2JG's or KC6AWX's demand??? In his continuing 'witch hunt'?????? How would you know if you were or were not in the submission as the contact in one of the 3077 counties? Or whether your contact was counted? Or whether someone remembers relaying you in? Maybe there was a tape recording of it...still around.....where you did acknowledge reports, but somehow you didn't get it logged?

You wouldn't send in an email unsolicited, period. I don't think anyone has ever done it. Do you? Have you? Let me know if you have, and I'll put in the next issue of the CHNews...that would be news!....

It turns out that the awards chairman and others determined that the log from Roger, W2NWL, submitted unsolicited at the demand of K2JG, was so obviously altered that the awards chairman stated the 'log had clearly been altered' and was disqualified. Even more ironic that one of those counties was "**Atlantic**", as in "**Atlantic** Radio Club – Callsign K2JG". Roger is a

founding member, as listed on the roster of club members of K2JG submitted by the Club custodian in reply to the 51 page Enforcement Action Letter issued to KZ2P/K2JG.

Gene, KD9ZP, said he had had enough of the continued witch hunts, and attempts by certain folks (Club of One fans) to use the MARAC awards chairman for their trashing and bashing. . He issued this award since the application was valid, and all the ‘trashing and bashing’, and unsolicited logs saying “I didn’t work X in county Y” suddenly appearing sure appeared like nothing but a smear campaign, with the awards chairman caught in the middle of a something that **NEVER SHOULD BE, EVER**. When folks submit altered logs, send in emails about counties not even in the submission, it is nothing but an organized attempted smear campaign.

Is there a procedure for ‘review’ by anyone OTHER than the awards chairman? Does he have to ‘share’ submissions with anyone? There is nothing whatsoever in the MARAC award rules. The MARAC Awards Chairman should have SOLE discretion to review the awards to his satisfaction, whatever he chooses to do – **not bowing to the ‘demands’ of those who would use MARAC for their own personal agendas.**

With CQ Magazine, the award application has statement that the decision of the Awards Chairman, now Ted, K1BV, is FINAL. I’m sure he doesn’t need outside help from attempted bashers and trashers to determine if the application has met his requirements. It should be the same for MARAC.

The Awards Chairman should have SOLE discretion to review and issue awards – that would stop the ‘witch hunts’ and attempts to ‘trash and bash’ via the awards process.

However, as you note earlier, rather than doing that, say, passing a resolution giving the Awards Chairman sole discretion to review an application, the BOD threw out the baby with the bathwater. Rather than having the A/C check the application, now NO submission of log data is required. I guess the BOD figured that if no logs are submitted, the ‘Club of One’ fans can’t demand to see ‘copies’ to continue their trashing and bashing, and the Awards Chairman won’t be asked to do the trashing and bashing at the behest of the Club of One folks.

Quick fix to stop the trashing and bashing, but maybe not the right one. Maybe just a resolution giving the awards chairman sole authority in accepting or not accepting award applications the MARAC rule requirements and issuing the awards in accordance with the rules set up by the BOD and awards committee.

Of course, the Awards Chairman can only take so much of this abuse and the use of his position to trash and bash by others. According to one Director, KD9ZP has notified MARAC that he thinking about resigning after the convention because of all this ‘political stuff’ (aka Witch hunts) and attempts to use his office to ‘discredit’ certain county hunters.

**SO, now not only has K2JG run off 30 mobiles and banned more from ‘relays’, he has come close to ‘run off’ the best Awards Chairman MARAC has had. Maybe has. Maybe the BOD can get some help for Gene as he is up to his neck in awards, MARAC Logger, and everything else. I guess the KZ2P agenda is ‘more important’ to KZ2P/K2JG than the welfare of MARAC or county hunters in general.**

## More Oil/Gas News

In case you haven’t noticed, the price of gasoline is going up, and staying up. This is one of the reasons. You may hear about “light sweet crude” which is the most desirable. It contains the most useful hydrocarbons. WTI (West Texas Intermediate) is also a ‘top grade’ oil. However, as you use up the ‘good stuff’ first, you are left with lesser and lesser quality oil. Folks always go after the good stuff first, letting the lesser quality to sit, not even be sent to market. Heavy sour crude gets 60% of the price of a light sweet barrel of oil. So how does this affect you? Believe me, it does, and the picture is not getting better.

(from boukha69 of the CWEI message board ). In the oil business, the lower the API number, the ‘heavier’ the crude oil, and less desirable.

“Not only gasoline production in the US is going up the imports are also growing at a hefty rate. This will have to continue as demand for gasoline continues to grow and the trend of imported crude tending towards heavier API gravity leading to diminishing yield for both gasoline and distillates per barrel of crude.

If you plot gasoline yield versus API gravity, you get a perfect linear relationship.

$$\text{Gasoline Yield (\%)} = 0.9896 (\text{API}) - 8.3523$$

And the same thing for distillates

$$\text{Distillate Yield (\%)} = 0.7358 (\text{API}) + 5.0155$$

As a result, one barrel of WTI crude yields 30.2% of gasoline and 33.7% of distillate, whereas a barrel of Arab Heavy yields only 19.4% of gasoline and 25.6% of distillate. Venezuelan Medium and Maya yield even less than that.

If you now go back to the EIA website and calculate the percentage of total imported crude oil by API gravity and combine in three categories (light, medium, and heavy) as per Valero’s definition, you’ll see that the fraction constituting the heavy imports went from 30% in January 2003 to 41% in January 2006. **This means that in just 3 years, the output of gasoline and distillates decreased by 10% for the same amount of refined crude just because of the deteriorating quality of crude we’re importing, thus the record amounts of imported gasoline despite a huge increase in US gasoline production.**

**This is obviously very important as the trend towards heavier crude continues and adds the bleaker picture of future crude supply. Not only is the stuff becoming scarcer, its quality is also deteriorating leading to less and less amounts of gasoline and distillates per barrel of refined crude.**

This also indicates that in actual terms we will always have an increasing “real” demand growth (or need) for gasoline and distillates even though the “apparent” demand from consumer data is flat. In other words, if the demand growth for gasoline is zero for the next few years, and the API gravity of

imported oil is decreased from 32 to 24, refineries will need to import 4% more oil just to keep up with a flat gasoline and distillates growth.”

From Vaalie: (same subject, same board)

“A bigger problem with the shift toward heavier crudes is the higher levels of sulfur that they contain. Aside from added equipment to remove the sulfur, there is the problem of corrosion. The vessels in refineries designed for heavier crudes must utilize much more corrosion resistant stainless steel than those designed for lighter, lower-sulfur crudes. Putting high sulfur crudes through most US refineries is out of the question.”

Currently, the US only has a few refineries capable of handling ‘heavy sour crude’. Most of the refineries (and there are not many) that can handle it are overseas, so not only are we importing more, poorer quality oil, but now must import more and more gasoline from other countries because our refineries are not capable of handling heavy crude. It is very expensive to upgrade existing facilities, and you wind up with more pollution in the process of handling heavy crudes, which makes it nearly impossible to get permits for the needed modifications.

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**Answer to the trivia question** - (source – IEEE History Center Newsletter, March 2006). The answer is found on page 271 of David Shapiro’s book Old Electrical Wiring. In 1928, the three prong AC plug began to be used in industrial settings. It was decades later before it became widespread! Almost 80 years ago!

## Awards

3<sup>rd</sup> Time #192, KR5C, George, 4/26/06  
10<sup>th</sup> Time #1, KZ2P, James, 4/26/06  
ditto, ditto, 5<sup>th</sup> time #77, same date, same contacts, The Club of One, ditto  
USAPA "K" #9, W6TMD, Darrel, 4/22/06  
Bingo #281, KA9JAC, Bob, 4/29/06  
4<sup>th</sup> Time #125, AE3Z, Don, 4/30/06  
Masters Gold #16, N9STL, Joyce, 5/2/06  
USA-CW II #15, K8CW, Alan, 5/5/06  
Bingo #282, K0GO, Nell, 5/6/06  
Bingo II #41, WD9EJK, Paul, 5/9/06  
4<sup>th</sup> #126, W7KQZ, Ernie, 5/25/06  
Five Star #24, AA9JJ, Frank, 5/22/06  
5<sup>th</sup> time #78, W6TPC, Harry, 5/20/06

Note to users of Kwiklog. You'll find there is no place to enter Master Gold Award winners, necessary if you are working toward the MP award (and you can be!). Now, you have to track in manually, or track it as a special book after checking whether the mobile has their MG or not. Over 1700 MP counties have been given out. IF you want to have some fun, ask NC the next time he goes through the numbers for the last three Master Gold holders awards and dates.



## Blast from the Past N4CD does Alaska

(From the RoadRunner, published by MARAC, Inc, August 2002).

The weather in Texas was getting warm, so it was time to head “North to Alaska” to run the 4 ‘counties’ in that state. For many years, the sponsor of the USACA Award, CQ, has used the four Judicial Districts in Alaska as the counties. There are about 28 boroughs in that state, but they do not cover all of the land and population, so they are not inclusive. Several of them are only accessible by boat or plane, making ‘mobile’ operation a challenge. So, for over 30 years, the county hunters have used the 4 districts. At least, you ‘can’ drive to the 4 districts now. I’d never been to AK. Time to go!

Since several others had recently been to Alaska, I picked their brains to figure out the best way to do this. The third district is relatively easy, since that is the area around Anchorage, and includes the QTH of the several active AK county hunters (all of them! \_ KL7GN, KL7D, and KL1V). There are hundreds of flights there, so getting there is no major hassle, other than the increased security at airports which require all tools, antennas, and other ‘suspicious’ ham items to go as checked baggage. On this trip, I was loaded with stuff. Not only did I take the IC706, and the ‘big’ mobile antenna, and 3 magnet mount, power cable, log book, 2m handheld (pair), but also AC power supply, fixed antennas for 10 through 80m, 33 foot high collapsible mast, extension cords, coax cable, but a few winter clothes for the ‘cold’ north. In all, 80 lbs. of stuff. I was going to get contacts no matter how bad conditions were!

Soon it was off to Anchorage on the big bird. A cool 75 degrees when I got there. I rented a Kia Sportage, the smallest SUV there is (car rentals in tourist season, like everything else, are ‘high’!). I gave KL7GN a call, and he invited me to visit. That turned into an enjoyable stay at his QTH for many days. The local hams meet every week on Tuesday, so I got to meet 15 of the locals, including Bruce, KL7D. . The Kia is not bad – I could run with the engine off OK.

About S3 noise with the engine on, enough to cover most signals. The N4CD temporary setup was installed in 20 minutes, and I made a few contacts from the 3<sup>rd</sup> AK soon. One down, 3 to go. The plan was to do the next three on weekends to give the majority of county hunters a good shot at AK counties.

Soon, it was time to head to probably the single hardest county to run in the US, no matter where you start from! The second district of AK can be run at least two ways. One is to drive 300 miles up the gravel ‘pipeline haul road’, north of Fairbanks. And then back. Sometimes the road is in good condition –sometimes not. You have high probability of ruining a windshield due to flying gravel. None of the normal car rental companies will let you take rental car on this road. National will rent you a truck for this purpose. Also, you might go through one or more tires on the trip. Not an easy job, and you will spend at least one night in Coldfoot, maybe more, depending how long you want to stay and give out the Second District! You might get there when the band is dead, and be ‘out of luck’. This far north, the band has been known to go completely dead for days at a time! If you didn’t bring a ham buddy along, you could be without a contact!

Option 2 is to hop on a plane and fly to Nome (or Barrow), and then rent a vehicle. I elected to do this. Kent had tried this a few months ago, and wound up there for 2 days with abysmal conditions, no signal stronger than a 22. Jim, KB4XK, and Pete, K4QFK, did OK the day and a half they were there. I planned to spend 4 days there, hoping for at least one or two days of decent conditions. I also brought the bigger fixed antennas. It costs as much to fly to Nome from ANC, as it does from Dallas to ANC, which is 4 times as far! Ouch! Remember, “There’s no place like Nome”....

To make sure I had at least one QSO, I had contacted several hams in Nome via email, to arrange eyeball QSOs and at least 2m contacts to get credit for transmitting it. Ah, cold Alaska weather....It was 42 degrees and raining when I arrived. I kidded the host at the B&B I stayed at, and said I brought her 4 days of nice weather....she chuckled. Three hours later, the sun came out, the temperature went up to 75, and Nome had a 5 day streak of near record tying temps. Not bad! This far north, there is no ‘night’ in June. The sun dips at 1:45am, and comes up again at 3am. It never gets dark. At midnight, you can easily read the paper outside. Very strange, and hard to get to sleep. Right after I left, the temps went back to normal low 50s.

Well, it turns out one of the active VHF hams works at one of the two radio broadcast stations. NL7H now holds to call that used to belong to KK7GN, son of KL7GN...small world. There is only one active HF ham in all of Nome, but dozens of VHF types. During the winter, they give ham classes.

I rented a, gulp, Ford F-250 truck extended cab with camper shell on the back. Humongous vehicle, but great antenna platform. Within 20 minutes, the radio was in, and I made contacts from in front of the B&B. Later, I found better spots with zero noise. I was running the "Hawaii special" antenna – 8 foot of mast, with 20 and 15 meters on it. All of the operation in AK was from vehicle with engine OFF. No noise. The antenna was removed when I moved the vehicle, since it was not guyed. No sense taking chances with essentially irreplaceable resonators and masts here.

The local Chamber of Commerce advertises "Nome is in the middle of a 300 mile road system"...true...300 miles of gravel road, that essentially goes nowhere interesting. One of the other guests at the B&B turned out to be a ham KD3GA, Warren, and we went exploring the gravel roads in Nome, end to end! In the winter time, the roads are only plowed the first 3 miles, and not maintained further for six months. In the winter time, the famous Iditarod dogsled race ends here.

It was back in the 1920s when there was a diphtheria epidemic, and they desperately needed serum to keep kids from dying. A telegraph message was sent over the Alaska Military Telegraph System from Nome back to Anchorage, and a volunteer rushed it 1000 miles overland by dog sled to Nome in the middle of winter, saving many children.

Well, the propagation gods smiled upon N4CD, and I had 21 days of decent conditions. Best time to operate turned out to be 1400Z (6 am in Alaska, yawn). Over 200 county hunter contacts went into the log. Hope you got me, if you needed it. That was 2 down, 2 to go. Fifteen meters only opened a few days, in the middle of the day.

It was back to Anchorage on the big bird. After a few days of sightseeing there, it was off to Juneau for the next weekend (1<sup>st</sup> district). You can't drive to Juneau, the state capitol. You can drive to the first district, but not to this city. Another rental car, this time a Geo Prizm. This was field day weekend, so there were a few quick runs before the big mess started. Then I joined the

Juneau club -KL7IG group for field day. Their antenna was a 520 foot Vee beam wire antenna pointed at Texas (great choice)... 11 dB gain on 20m. It was still tough on SSB to make FD contacts, but we did OK on cw. After FD, I put the big antenna on 14.336 and got a few county hunter contacts, portable in the first AK. Without the FD QRM, signals were 20dB over S9 in Colorado and Texas!....then it was back to Anchorage.

I rented another car, this time a tiny Ford Focus. (Actually a very quiet car, electrically – See Ford, you really can design a quiet car!). Off to Fairbanks Alaska, and the 4<sup>th</sup> district. It's 250 miles to get to the 4<sup>th</sup> district, and 350 miles to get to Fairbanks. I did the 1400Z operating sked, and that seemed the best time. Conditions were actually better at 0200-0300, but all the US county hunters were asleep or off watching TV. I worked about 200 county hunter contacts in each district. Before you know it, it was back to Texas to answer piles of mail, take care of the house, and within a few days head to California for the convention. I sure enjoyed the AK hospitality, and it was fun doing those counties. The next time someone asks you for a county 100 miles away, just think of the AK folks, many who have to drive 300-800 miles, each way, to get to 'that county' that someone needs! Fun trip, but "expensive" with airfares between the cities, and 3 weeks of car rentals, and high priced motels. (Would you believe Super 8 motel at \$120 plus tax?). Lots of things to do, lots of fantastic scenery and wildlife, and lots of sunshine in the summer time!

## Operating Events for June

West Virginia QSO Party – 1600Z June 17 to 0200Z June 18. More info at [www.qsl.net/wvsarc](http://www.qsl.net/wvsarc)

ARRL Field Day – 1800Z June 24 to 2100Z June 25. More info in QST or at [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests) This is a good weekend NOT to plan a big mobile trip as there will be lots of QRM both SSB and CW, and many county hunters will be off with their local clubs operating FD.

If you are on VHF, you might want to check out the SMIRK 6 meter contest on June 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, and the ARRL June VHF QSO party, 1800Z June 10

to 0300Z June 12. Perhaps a good way to get some 'close' in multipliers, and if six meters opens, some further away counties. Mostly SSB, but some CW.

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## History of the Net Name on 14.336

From the K3IMC Forum Posts

**Subject:** No Controversy... Here is the history of 336 de K2NJ

**Message:** One day back in 1967 a few of us were on the CHC/FHC service net - running counties... it was Sunday and we had two mobile stations out running when K6BX the **Owner** of CHC came on and wanted to give his weekly update... I told him that he can do that when the mobiles were finished...

Well, this went about as good as a FAR^ in an elevator... He went nuts screaming and ranting on... we decided to move the mobile stations off **his** frequency and he can give his state of CHC address... we moved down 4 kHz from 14.340 - his frequency.

I was the first NCS on that frequency... WA4BMC was the ANCS and K5DAU and WA4NBC were the mobiles - after they ran we chatted a bit and K6BX told us we were now free to move back to HIS frequency... we thanked him, but declined his invitation. We at that time decided to call it the Independent County Hunters Net. Thus no affiliation with anyone...

Over the years WA6MAR Changed the name and it was changed again, but the real name is ICHN... and that is how I would love to see it remain... Independent from anyone and everyone... no matter who.

So there ya go... history, not venom...  
73' Bill K2NJ

**Subject:** Almost....but not exactly Bill.

**Message:** During the time you were inactive and during the time John B. Johnston was Chief of the amateur division (old terminology but what it was

at that time) who was leaning toward the FCC deleting rules that allowed nets to operate and claim privacy to any frequency this took place at the first Idaho National convention.

This was a sincere consideration of what might happen, so after much discussion and concern a proposal was made to change the name of Independent County Hunters Net to "The County Hunter Mobile and Emergency Net". The thinking was with this title and having it "chiseled in stone" so to speak, would preclude any of John B.'s possible changes that would eliminate the county hunting frequency 14.336.

At that meeting and with an over whelming vote to change the name it was duly voted by all county hunters in attendance that the name would be changed as described in the above paragraph.

There were old time county hunters in the meeting and I personally saw their hands raised in favor of the change. Some were "Uncle Ben" W5HDK, Ken W7LQT, Clete W1DIT, Paul WA3TUC, Al KG5J, Gwen and Jerry of Mobile QSL Bureau fame, Dave N7BKW, Mike K5OUK, Andy W3XE, Ed W5ILR, Gene N4ANV, John K0IFL, Bob W4OWY and more I can't recall.

For many years the net was duly announced as the County Hunter Mobile and Emergency Net. As time passed and leadership changed it was dropped and eventually, without fanfare changed to it seems whatever is deemed appropriate by whomever.

This is not meant as an argument with you Bill but it is factual and should be a recognized portion of the time of counting hunting, especially when referring to 14.336.

I have no knowledge of any voting taking place by the membership to change the name to anything else. If that is also factual, would you please let me know where it is documented? I am one of those with a lot of curiosity and would appreciate being able to see when and where.

Thanks for your consideration of this information Bill.

George KR5C, ex K5HT.

## Fixing the Mobile Noise – by Jim, K0ARS

I received the following email from Jim:

“Hi Bob,

Guess what! No noise! I have been fighting noise in this 2004 Ford 1 ton Diesel Pickup every since I bought it in October. (Had 67,000 miles on it when I got it and now has 139,000.)

When I would turn on the ignition, even before starting it, I had an S-9 noise level on 20 meters. Since it came on without the engine running I figure it must be the vehicle's computer. The noise wasn't as bad on other bands.

On 30 meter cw the noise was not from the computer but was ignition noise. Sometimes when I was getting a report I could let up on the accelerator and hear the report. This really makes for fun pulling a 14,000 pound 5th wheel trailer going up hill.

I got to the point I didn't like to run counties unless I was stopped or caught in traffic where the noise was not at bad.

I finally got the time and yesterday I started at 6am on what I figured would be an all day job to get rid of as much of it as possible.

I started by replacing the feed line as it had gotten moisture under the silicone at the antenna connection so I cleaned it up and replaced the feed line.

Noise on 20 meters without the engine running dropped from S-9 to S-8. Good start!

I have my antenna mounted in the first stake hole on the bed of truck right behind cab on driver's side. So I then ran one strap from the bed of the truck to the cab then to the frame. Got in and tried it and couldn't believe it. No noise on 20, 40 or 30 meters at all with or without the

motor running. None, zero, zip, nada. Can you believe that? One lousy strap. Since I was prepared for an all day job, I went ahead and ran one on the other side and also grounded the exhaust pipe to the frame.

I had a 69 Buick and a Chevrolet back in the 70s (both passenger vehicles and both of course gas engines) that I had to run ground straps to everything.

Hopefully now I can run counties again. Thanks for being so patient with me while I was fighting the noise.

73,s Jim K0ARS”

Ed: Jim’s picture appeared in the May issue of the CHNews – you can see where his antenna is mounted in that picture.

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## Picture Gallery for June 2006





W0NAC, Matt, at the mini in Weslaco, TX - A deer 'got him' in Texas on his way there. The driver side front is crunched. Fortunately, damage was not too bad. He's another member of the 'wounded car' group who have been hit by deer while out county hunting! He is usually on SSB, with team member KC0QER, but often heard chasing new counties on 30 and 40M CW as well. One of the county hunters on digital modes, from the mobile and at home.



AI5P in Donley, TX (last county 30m for N4CD)

That's it for this month....More to come.....de N4CD...hope you voted if you are a MARAC member.....