

# County Hunter News

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Volume 5, Issue 8

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, 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.

County Hunter Nets run on 14.0565, 10.122.5, and **7056.5**, with activity nights on 3556.5 on Tuesday evenings around 8-9pm Eastern Time. Also, with low sunspot activity, most of the SSB activity now is on 'friendly net' 7188/7185 KHz. The cw folks are now pioneering 17M operation on 18.0915. (21.0565, 24.915.5, and 28.0565 when sunspots better). Look around 18135 or 18.132.5 for occasional 17M SSB runs.

You can see live spots of county hunter activity at [ch.W6RK.com](http://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](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](http://www.countyhunter.com) . Back issues of the County Hunter News are available at [www.CHNewsonline.com](http://www.CHNewsonline.com)

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

## Notes from the Editor



N4CD Bob

Summer is here - folks are out traveling all over the country with the good weather. It is cool up north – record COLD temperatures despite frantic cries of ‘global warming’ from Al Gore and the lib dems – running 10 degrees below normal and setting 100 year temp records. Meanwhile, down south, 100 degree temps across much of the south. That’s good for wind power as it is temperature differential that drive wind speeds.

Propagation – still ‘blah’ with next to zero sunspots and no quick recovery from a longer than the average minimum most of us remember – and for the last 50-60 years. Predictions for the next peak aren’t too great either – but

any sunspots are better than none! The summer months bring lots of power line QRN as the lines are carrying record amounts of power, and the cheap insulators that ONCOR uses crap out every summer in the heat. They are slow to fix it. S7 noise at times on 30 and 40m, and S3 on 14M, and most sigs these days are not much above that.

The flux (SFI) got down to 66. Bad news for propagation. It seems we'll never get back to sunspots and a flux well above 70. Things were supposed to be getting bad, but most of July was spent at SFI from 66 to 70, and most of it at the low end of that range!

### 1) Mobile Activity in July (starting 6/24)

At the end of June, mobiles were out and running with the good weather.

**AB4YZ, Ray**, was in IA, IL, IN, MI and other states putting out counties. He headed to the convention in MI, then was off again to run another 150 counties in WI, MN, down to TX - before getting home.

**Ron, KB6UF**, returned from CA to LA.

Quite a few mobiles headed to the convention. Don, **KA1YZV**, probably had the record, driving 15,000 miles from his home to the west coast, then to MI, and that was before he headed back home.

Darrel, **W6TMD**, headed from CA to MI, along with Terry, **WQ7A**, and Phil, **AB7RW**. Phil wrote:

“Total miles: 5934  
Total Q's: 3980  
Total Counties: 168  
The highest Q's in one country; 54 - Malheur, OR”

The electric fences in OR made it tough to hear anything for him. “Most of Oregon was a struggle, it took all the fun out of making and logging contacts. The worst road we went over was Tooele, UT. It was being repaved in some areas but the older part was the worst washboard road I have ever been on.”

Jerry, **W0GXQ**, headed over from MI, and Lloyd, **NX4W**, came from down southeast. Don, **K3IMC**, Leo and Chris, **WY7LL/WY7ML**, Bill, **WG9A**, Lowell and Sandra, **KB0BA/N0XYL**, Matt and Sharon, **W0NAC/N0LXJ**, Jim, **KB4XK**, and more headed to and from Petoskey, MI (Emmet County) for the get together.

Frank, **AA9JJ** and Kay, **N9QPQ**, headed to MI then headed east running much of New England included Dukes and Nantucket on their way back eventually to AZ. They are working at getting to all 3077, plus filling in counties for Platinum.

Scottie, **N4AAT**, zipped up the convention and back, and put out MI from A-Z. Hollis, **KC3X**, came up from NC and zipped all over MI, too. Jeffrey, **AF3X**, and Tim, **KD5CXO**, were spotted in a few on their way up and back. Silver, **N9QS**, was active on the way up and back to MI from IL.

Jim, **K0ARS**, was running counties for the folks. He made some trips over to southern Colorado. Jim, **ND9M**, was on in many counties in NC, and then down in FL. Bob, **KA9JAC**, and Ann, **KB9YVT**, mobiled over, too. Dan, **KM9X**, and Judy, **KB9MGI**, headed to MI, then were off on a big trip back east. Jerry, **N4JR**, spotted in a few states, too, on SSB. Dan, **AA0TT**, ran some for us. Rick, **KG4NNK** was out running solo in PA. Jack, **WD4OIN** was spotted in MI, TN, and IN, and Pete, **N6HH**, pops up occasionally for a few.

Bill, **K2HVN** returned from Canada running some Maine counties on CW. Then he headed the "LA" land to play DX for a while, showing up on the CH freq in the evening.

**NT2A** is now out and running counties mobile!

**KA4RRU** ran counties on 20 and 17 meters! We're getting lots of 17 meter activity these days. **KB4XK** and **W6RLL** and **N0ZA** have big sigs from home stations. Same for **KF2O**.

Ed, **K8ZZ**, took a trip from MI to MT and back, running most counties on 18 MHz, as well as 3556.5, 40,30, and 20M CW. He is using Risto's self spotting feature.

Jim, **W4HSA** was out and about in VA. On SSB, Gene, **K5GE**, was spotted out on a mobile trip north from TX. Bob, **N8KIE**, was over in New England finishing up his transmitted counties – he needs less than 100 to have them all – look for MS coming up where many of them are. **N8OYY**, Ed, headed from WV going south putting out counties. **KB6HWD** spotted on SSB going here and there. Brady, **WA4RNN**, also spotted on SSB. Richard, **WB5TMW**, was on many short trips in TX and OK on SSB. Seth, **N3MRA** ran a few on SSB.

Larry, **NA7W**, ran in ID on CW. Jim, **N9JF**, also on trips around the country and ‘radio active’. Scott, **KA3QLF** ran on CW, and Bill, **KD7KST** spotted on PSK31 in quite a few out west. Bob, **N2OO**, ran in NJ.

Jack, **N7ID** was out and about on SSB, and Fred, **W4DF** put ‘em out on CW. Joe, **N5UZW**, was putting out AR and MS counties frequently on SSB. **WB0M**, Jeff, hit some NE counties. Bob, **W0BH** also about in NE. Look for him in the upcoming KS QSO Party.

Greg, **NM2L**, was up in NY and PA running the counties, then headed back home. Karl, **K4YT**, ran some on the way to WV and back from his home in Fairfax, VA.

Eddie, **G4KHG**, left HI and ran in UT putting out some rare ones. Duane, **K8AO** was over in ND running on SSB. He chases both on SSB and CW from home.

Chuck, **W4QNW**, got his antenna situation fixed at the mini-with the help of antenna guru Barry, **W9UCW**, and was off running counties afterwards. Barry, **N0KV**, and Pat, **N0DXE**, made some trips in CO. Dale, **K0PY** was out and about, and Jeff, **W9MSE** mobiled from WI over to OH, running on all bands 40-10, including 12M. Didn’t hear much of him above 17M though here.

Ross, **N0ZA** headed over to Denver and back putting out many CO counties.

In mid July, Rick, **KG4NNK**, and Sheila, **KI4GKA**, again out working on putting out all of the KY counties this year. That’s their goal. They make one trip a month.

Mark, **W8MP**, was spotted up in NY state and New England, and John, **K4BAI** now has the mobile set up and has put out a few counties. Ed, **K8QWY**, was busy in KY – he also ran on 17M.

**KW1DX**, Dave, made a trip from up north down to FL, running on SSB. **VA3XOV**, Jim, was mobile in VA and IL. Bob, **W0BH**, was spotted out in UT and WY.

## 2) **KI0JD – Silent Key**

Carol, KI0JD, USACA # 795 is now a silent key. Formerly N0LDT (long distance telephone), she ran counties by herself for many, many years out of Freeborn County, MN, with winter jaunts to south Texas. Then she got the call KI0JD, and a few years later was running counties as a ‘team’ with KA0DDJ, Birger. She would get on CW for special requests. Carol had six stars, Bingo, Masters Gold, and ‘was good for every award’ - (except Big Rig and the other prefixes.) She was likely in everyone’s log book hundreds of times in the 1990s for any award as she was one of the most active mobiles out there. She would go the ‘extra mile’ to get last counties on comprehensively planned trips.

## 3) **12 Meter Spots**

W0NAC spotted on 12 meters on cw! W9MSE spotted on 24.915.5 as well in a few counties on his last trip! (and he ran 17, 15, and 10, too). This should be a fun band once the sunspot cycle gets going! Some of what we are seeing may be helped by summer type E-skip propagation.

## 4) **State QSO Parties**

I’m getting ‘withdrawal symptoms’ from no weekend feeding frenzy of new counties. . There were no state QSO parties and no easy way to snag lots of counties in a single day in July. However, the situation fixes itself with activity in August and September!

## 12M County Hunting!

Wow.....There are now spots for 12m activity. The bands aren't cooperating, but occasionally you can work mobiles now on 24.9155 MHz. W0NAC was spotted, K8ZZ ran up to 10M, and W9MSE was putting them out on 30/20/17/15/12, and 10M. I caught him in a few, but still its few and far between. It would sure help to have a beam that covered 20-10, but the R5 vertical snags a county now and then. Let's hope for a great sunspot cycle and lots of activity on the higher bands! Jim, N9JF, and Larry, W0QE, and Jerry, W0GXQ, have put some out in the past, too.

Hey, with conditions the way they are, when you have some E-Skip or actually have a decent day for propagation, grab some 'band counties'. Most of the 17 and up activity is CW, but there is room for SSB on some of the bands if you are so inclined. Signals are often weak (339), but a county is a county, whether 599 or 339! I've had days where the sigs on 17 were stronger than on 14 MHz. Put the CH frequencies in your memories. You might be able to tune your 10M antenna to 12 with a tuner. Maybe your 40M antenna will tune up on 17M. Try it to see.

For over a year now, folks have been running on 17M. Conditions seem to vary quite a bit. Now I'm getting to the point where I have already worked mobiles in some counties – and don't need them when they are run again! That's good – but there are thousands and thousands I still need. Same on 15 and 10M. I wonder who will be the first to work all counties on 17m. Or 12m. Now that's a real challenge.

## Magnetars 101

Once N4CD gets on a track, you never know where it will lead. It was sunspots and solar flares and atmospheric disturbances and weather. So where do we head this month?

If you took astronomy back more than 20-30 years ago, you probably would have a hard time passing the latest tests. Not only is Pluto no longer a planet (been demoted to a 'planetoid'), but the universe is considerably different with expanded knowledge. Dark matter. Dark energy. You did know that dark matter and dark energy (the kind you can't see) make up more than 75% of the universe? And that there is an anti-gravitational force making the universe expand at an ever increasing rate? There's lots to learn to be up to date.

Back to solar flares.

"Solar flares that scorch Earth's atmosphere are commonplace. But scientists have discovered a few each year that are not like the others: they come from stars thousands of light years away."

On August 24th, 1998, there was an explosion on the sun as powerful as a hundred million hydrogen bombs. Earth-orbiting satellites registered a surge of x-rays. Minutes later they were pelted by fast-moving solar protons. Our planet's magnetic field recoiled from the onslaught, and ham radio operators experienced a strong shortwave blackout.

None of these things made headlines. The explosion was an "X-class" solar flare, and during years around solar maximum, such as 1998, such flares are commonplace. They happen every few days or weeks. The August 24th event was powerful, yet typical.

A few days later - no surprise - another blast wave swept past Earth. Satellites registered a surge of x-rays and gamma-rays. Hams experienced another blackout. It seemed like another X-class solar flare. Except for one thing: this flare didn't come from the sun.

It came from outer space. (hey, that sounds like a 1950s sci-fi monster movie title!)

"The source of the blast was SGR 1900+14 - a neutron star about 45,000 light years away," says NASA astronomer Pete Woods. "It was the strongest burst of cosmic x-rays and gamma rays we've ever recorded."

SGR 1900+14 is a special kind of neutron star called a magnetar.

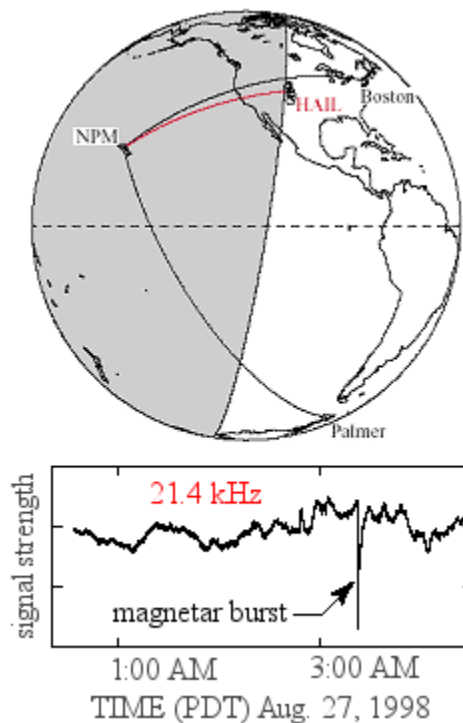
"Magnetars have the strongest magnetic fields in the universe: a million billion ( $10^{15}$ ) gauss," he says. For comparison, the magnetic field of the sun



is less than 10 gauss in most places, and about 1000 gauss near sunspots.”  
[1]

By using arrival times at the different satellites, scientists can track back to the source where the bursts came from. At least five magnetars have been detected.

“It happens more often than most people know. Since 1998, Earth has experienced "about 10 similar ionization events," says Umran Inan of Stanford University. "Five of them were caused by SGR 1900+14, and the rest from unknown sources.””



Stanford University's network of VLF receivers registered a fadeout of 21.4 kHz signals on August 27, 1998, when the magnetar burst reached Earth. The shaded area denotes the part of our planet illuminated by the burst.

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“It all started when two young physicists, between lectures at Princeton University, began to wonder why radio pulsars are so highly magnetized. Little did Robert Duncan and Christopher Thompson suspect, seventeen years ago, that the magnetism of radio pulsars is feeble compared to the powerful magnetic fields that their work would reveal: fields that alter the very structure of the quantum vacuum. Five years later, they predicted a new class of ultra-magnetic, X-ray luminous, flaring stellar corpses, thousands of times more magnetic than pulsars. This prediction and the eventual detection of what the two theorists called "magnetars" earned them, along with observational X-ray astronomer Dr. Chryssa Kouveliotou, this year's Bruno Rossi Prize from the American Astronomical Society (AAS).”

Magnetars and radio pulsars are two types of "neutron stars": compact remnants of massive stars that have ended their normal lives in supernova explosions.

One end-result of this process, the radio pulsar, has been known since the 1960s. Radio pulsars are swiftly-rotating neutron stars that give off radio waves from charged particles streaming above their magnetic poles. Their signals appear to pulsate as their radio beams sweep past Earth, like lighthouse beacons. A typical radio pulsar has a magnetic field that measures about a trillion Gauss. (For comparison, a common refrigerator magnet has a magnetic field of 100 Gauss; and the Sun's magnetic field can reach 5,000 Gauss within magnetic sunspots.)

Duncan and Thompson's calculations, first done in 1987, predicted a new type of neutron star with a magnetic field that is 1,000 times stronger than a radio pulsar's.

A magnetar, Duncan and Thompson soon realized, is a strange, powerful beast, like a radio pulsar on steroids. Magnetar magnetic fields are strong enough to radically alter fundamental physical processes in their vicinity, splitting photons in two and polarizing the vacuum. These bizarre stars had never been seen, or so most astronomers thought.

The two spent almost a decade theorizing and hoofing it through scientific meetings trying to convince other scientists that magnetars were real, and that the bursts from SGRs, and the pulsating X-rays from AXPs, were powered by the decay of stupendously-strong magnetic fields.

Descriptions of magnetars can now be found in dictionaries, encyclopedias and some introductory astronomy textbooks. Perhaps more tellingly, magnetars have become part of the popular culture, appearing in science fiction stories and novels. ‘Magnetar Games’ is a popular video-game company, and ‘Magnetar Technologies’ makes ‘magnetar’ magnetic brakes for amusement-park rides, among other commercial products. There are at least two rock bands named ‘Magnetar.’

The Rossi Prize is named for Dr. Bruno Rossi, who was a pioneer of X-ray astronomy. It is awarded annually, and internationally, for outstanding contributions to high-energy astrophysics. Duncan is the first Texas scientist to receive the Prize. Only three previous Rossi Prizes have been given to theoretical astrophysicists, since the award was endowed 19 years ago”. [2]

Lots of good reading at pictures and more at Duncan’s web site on Magnetars!

<http://solomon.as.utexas.edu/magnetar.html>

Sources:

[1] [http://www.firstscience.com/home/articles/space/revenge-of-the-magnetar-page-3-1\\_1473.html](http://www.firstscience.com/home/articles/space/revenge-of-the-magnetar-page-3-1_1473.html)

{2} <http://mcdonaldobservatory.org/news/releases/2004/0102.html>

# Annual Awards at the Convention

Each Year, MARAC gives out the awards at the convention for the ‘best’ in several categories. For the following five awards, any MARAC member is eligible each year to receive the award.

**Team of the Year** –Frank, AA9JJ and Kay, N9QPQ. Both are working on Master Platinum, and working toward getting to all 3077 counties.

**CW Mobile of the Year** - Jerry, W0GXQ. Now, Jerry is on 80, 40, 39m 20, 17, 15, and 10 meters. Occasionally, if you are in the right spot and the band cooperates, you can work him on 4 or 5 bands. He’ll occasionally get on SSB for last counties and special requests.

**SSB Mobile of the Year** - Scottie, N4AAT

**CW Net Control of the Year** - Jerry, W0GXQ

**SSB Net Control of the Year** - Joe, N5UZW

For the following two awards, issued to MARAC Members and voted on by the membership, a person may only win this award once in his/her lifetime. (Those who have previously received this award are no longer eligible. )

**County Hunter of the Year SSB** - Scottie, N4AAT

**County Hunter of the Year CW** - Silver, N9QS

Congrats to all the award winners!

Three lucky folks won brand new IC-7000s from the ticket sales, and there was a nice pre-registration prize as well.

# Australia says NO to AGW Deception

FOR more than a decade public opinion on human-caused global warming has been molded by pronouncements from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and its army of acolytes.

Arguably the zenith of acceptance was the IPCC's fourth assessment in early 2007 followed soon after by the release of the Al Gore movie *An Inconvenient Truth*.

The accompanying recognition by way of an Academy Award for the movie and awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize jointly to Gore and the IPCC only heightened awareness of the message.

During more recent months it is not overstating the case to say that there has been a perceptible shift in public opinion.

Rejection of some of the claims made in the movie by a British court in itself has had little effect.

Nevertheless, the public and their representatives are showing innate common sense.

The Australian Senate is poised to reject the "cap and trade" legislation designed by the Rudd Government to implement the Orwellian carbon pollution reduction scheme; it is unlikely the US Senate will ratify similar legislation to limit carbon dioxide emissions any time soon, despite the rhetoric of Barack Obama; and the UN's post-Kyoto dreams of global industrial regulation are destined to fail in Copenhagen later this year.

Economist John Quiggin appears so concerned at the direction of events that he claims "mainstream science is on the verge of being overturned by the efforts of a group of dedicated amateurs" (*The Australian Financial Review*, April 23).

With public perceptions changing so dramatically and quickly it is little wonder Ian Plimer's latest book, *Heaven and Earth, Global Warming: The*

Missing Science, has been received with such enthusiasm and is into its third print run in as many weeks.

The public is receptive to an expose of the many mythologies and false claims associated with anthropogenic global warming and are welcoming an authoritative description of planet Earth and its ever-changing climate in readable language.

In an interesting slant on logic, Robert Manne, writing in The Weekend Australian last Saturday, takes the position it is not what citizens should believe that is important but who they believe.

What is often forgotten is that the UN established the IPCC in 1988 only because of the then raging scientific debate over the veracity of the anthropogenic global warming hypothesis. The debate has continued because the dire predictions violate fundamental scientific laws and the real science cannot be suppressed.

Recognition of the essential flaw in the dangerous global warming hypothesis predates the IPCC and has been there for the world to see in the title of a paper published in 1966 by CSIRO division of meteorological physics former chief Bill Priestley: "The limitation of temperature in hot climates by evaporation."

Seventy per cent of the Earth's surface is made up of ocean and much of the remaining surface is transpiring vegetation.

Evaporation and the exchange of latent energy from the surface is a strong constraint to surface temperature rise.

It is not rocket science that water from a canvas bag is cool even on the hottest days.

Furthermore, the surface temperatures of the warmest tropical oceans seldom exceed 30C and for millions of years the underlying cold sub-surface waters have provided a powerful thermal buffer to warming.

The suggestion of anthropogenic global warming exceeding a tipping point and leading to runaway or irreversible global warming is a violation of conservation of energy principles.

Computer models are the essential tool for prediction of future climate. Since the IPCC fourth assessment, several independent analyses of the characteristics of the various models have been published in the scientific literature. These analyses reveal serious defects.

As the Earth warmed during the 1980s and '90s, it was observed that the convective overturning of the tropics (the Hadley circulation) increased. In contrast, the overturning of the computer models is portrayed to decrease as increasing carbon dioxide generates global warming.

Separately it is found that the computer models underspecify (by a factor of three) the important rate of increase of evaporation with projected temperature rise, meaning that the models underspecify rainfall increase and exaggerate the risk of drought.

The same evaporation problem causes an exaggeration of the temperature response to carbon dioxide, but the exaggeration is a model failure and not reality.

The greenhouse effect is real, as is the enhancement due to increasing carbon dioxide concentration.

However, the likely extent of global temperature rise from a doubling of carbon dioxide is less than 1C.

Such warming is well within the envelope of variation experienced during the past 10,000 years and insignificant in the context of glacial cycles during the past million years, when Earth has been predominantly very cold and covered by extensive ice sheets.

Fundamental science has always identified that it is quixotic to attempt regulation of climate through management of carbon dioxide emissions. The pity is that community leaders have been beguiled by the mystery of powerful computers and have failed to critically assess the predictions within the context of Earth's history.

Plimer's authoritative book provides the excuse and impetus to re-examine the scientific fundamentals and redress that failure. “

Source: The Australian

## On the Road with N4CD

July rolls around and it is MARAC National Convention time once again. Let's see...that is about number 15 now I've attended or something like that I think – fun to meet the county hunters. I head north out of Collin County – the county hunter way, going straight north to KS – stopping at Belleville, KS for the first night. I had the regular antenna with 20/30/40 meters, plus the hamstick for 40M SSB, and the 17M hamstick on top so the new car (Chevy Malibu) looked like an electronic porcupine. The trusty IC 706 original was in the car.

I learned a new trick. I've stayed at the same motel for years and years – it's a day's drive north. I looked on the internet to find the name, and saw the price you could book it for was \$41 on line. I called the motel direct rather than book on line and they wanted \$50 for the room. I mentioned I could get it on line for \$41, and he gave me that rate instead- saving me \$9 bucks. I'll take it. That can buy dinner. There aren't too many choices for dinner there – Pizza Hut, taco place, and similar.

The next day it was up through NE through some counties I needed to run a second time, then up to SD. I need to run another 330 to have put them all out twice, but its getting to be slow – all of them are far away – like in WA, ID, OR, ME, AK, HI, and places like that.

It took all day getting through NE and just up into SD, where I stopped in Mitchell, SD at a Super 8. I called about 3pm to reserve it – so I could run to near 7pm and not worry. Motels seem only half full, but you never know if you'll hit a town with a special event that is 'all full up'. Band conditions were so-so, but with all the mobile activity, there was plenty to keep you hopping from one band to the next, and contacts up to 18 MHz- sometimes with a pileup of 10 or 15 calling all at once!

Next day it was north again up to ND. Around 3pm, I called ahead and reserved a room in Bottineau County. Mel, WA1UDI, need that as one of his last 10 or so for USACA. We hooked up early the next morning on 20M



SSB with the help of N5UZW, Joe. That's what county hunting is about – getting other folks finished up while having fun. Joe received the 2009 Net Control of the Year Award, too – he's there early and doesn't play games as on 'the other frequency'. He helps out all the county hunters. I headed east from there across the top of ND and into MN.

The plan was to run Pennington and Red Lake, but Murphy struck as the road there was closed, the detour took me 20 miles or more north, and I decided I was getting behind schedule so I skipped them. I need to run most of MN, so that will be 'another trip'. Conditions were so-so, but at times 17M was good with up to 20 contacts per county. I ran 20/17/30/40 meters in most counties on cw, and occasionally would go over to SSB. I didn't hear too many other mobiles as they all converged on MI. I could have used a bunch of them on cw and especially on 17M.

Ray, WG6X, needed St. Louis, Lake and Cook. I had just been there a year ago on that long detour to the dead-end Cook county, but it was time to head back to get Ray finished up for Master Platinum. He was down to less than 5. I stopped overnight stop in Eagle River, at a Budget Host Motel, after running the county line of St Louis/Lake. It was in the 60s temp wise during the day. I was talking with the nice lady at the counter, and mentioned I must get cold there in the winter. She said 'Yes...we are a few miles from Embarrass, MN, and that town vies with International Falls most of the time for 'the coldest temperature in the country' during the winter.' I'm glad I was there in July, not January! No wonder you don't hear too many mobiles up that way in the winter time! Brrrr.

I saw a new road sign – one I had never seen before – in Itasca County – 'Dispersed Bumps'. OK – I know they have lots of signs for 'bumps' or 'bump ahead', but I didn't know they made special effort to 'disperse' the bumps along the road randomly! Hi hi

In this neck of the woods, you see lots of warning signs for deer or elk, and lots of snowmobile crossing signs. I didn't have to worry about the snowmobiles, but there were abundant dead deer along the roads in the morning as a reminder that driving at night might be very hazardous to your health. In MN, WI, and especially MI.

Next morning I headed east to get to Cook. That is a long detour for that county.

Happily, Ray got the others he needed for Platinum quickly and is finished up for MP. Larry, N2OCW got him the last 3 he needed in VA for the WBOW.

If you travel the north part of MN and WI and MI, you might get tired of seeing mile after mile after mile after mile of trees and forests. I think I burned out on trees – pine trees, hardwood trees, birch trees – tens of millions of trees mile after mile. The weather was great – it was 100 degrees in TX and in the low 70s up north. At night in TX, the temp would get down to 80 if you were lucky, while up north it was dipping into the 40s. It was a nice break. Texas is setting records for high temp days above 100. Meanwhile, WI had the coolest July on record going.

I arrived at the convention hotel in Petoskey, MI (Emmet County) on Wednesday. The parking lot was full of cars with antennas. My room was available after 4pm so I went and checked in to the main meeting place. The hospitality room was in full swing with folks trading tall tales of county hunting and various adventures. The Odawa Hotel was adjacent (short shuttle ride) to the Odawa Casino – where you had discount coupons for meals, and for those so inclined, folks could lose their money slowly or quickly and slot machines and blackjack.

(Note: According to article in Wall Street Journal on 7/18/2009, Americans gambled over 80 billion dollars last year – and that is only the ‘known’ gambling take at casinos and state lotteries. They only saved \$52 billion, total. Now you know why the smart folks can afford to build all those expensive lavish casinos to take even more money from the suckers, er, gamblers). And why Americans can’t save.

If you ‘registered’ at the casino, you received a \$30 discount on the hotel rooms before Friday night, so most of us saved a few bucks that way. Oh, I did put a buck in the slot machine, to get my \$5 ‘free’ play, and lost my buck, but the great lunch buffet for \$2.95 made up for it. Ray, AB4YZ, actually won \$5 with his free ‘coin’, and stopped at that point. Smart. He enjoyed the discount lunch buffet, too.

On Thursday, many headed north on the convention trip to see the Icebreaker Mackinaw – built in 1944 and decommissioned in 2006 after 60 years of service. As a ham group, we got to see the radio room, usually not

included on tours of the ship. Several made contacts using the radio gear on the ship – nice RT-9000 \$6000 apiece units – on county hunter frequencies from Cheboygan County, MI.

Now we are talking about a seriously big ‘mobile’ – 300 feet long and 70 feet wide, capable of moving through 2 feet of solid ice, and breaking six feet of ice to keep the commercial traffic going on the great lakes! Alas, now it is tied up permanently at the dock and running off commercial power, so it really isn’t ‘mobile’ any longer. The local group puts it on the air during field day - so you might have worked it – W8AGB.

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



Chuck, W4QNW USACA #1176 – Radio Room W8AGB  
Icebreaker Mackinaw

After lunch, the tour group headed over to Fort Michilimillimack – center of the fur trading empire, first run by the French, then later the British. The early fort (1700s) was being excavated and rebuilt. One thing I remember – there were about 200 people who stayed there during the winter – each fireplace – and there were about 20 of them, burned 17.5 cords of wood a

winter. To put that in perspective – that is about a six foot wide, six foot high, 20 foot long pile of split wood for each cord – or 350 feet per fireplace. For all of them, that pile would extend 7000 feet, or more than a mile. By the time the fort had been moved to Mackinac Island, they had chopped down every tree for 30 miles around.

<http://www.mackinacparks.com/colonial-michilimackinac/>

Thursday evening, a large group went off to see the Young Americans at a local dinner theater. Wow – talk about a high intensity great show – the audience was exhausted from watching the performers do singing and dance routines that took incredible endurance. If you ever are up that way, do stop by and see their show!

[http://www.boyne.com/Summer/Young\\_Americans.html](http://www.boyne.com/Summer/Young_Americans.html)

On Friday, a group headed up to Mackinaw Island. I goofed off that day taking a break.

The annual national convention was great. We had a good CW meeting that lasted an hour – covering everything from new bands (17M and up), relays or lack thereof, spotting, band rotation – what band do you start on, what sequence to you do (ie, maybe 20/17/30/40, or 40/80/30/20/17). Of course, when there is lots of activity, for conventions and such, many times you'll come to an occupied frequency and have to decide to QSY down, or wait, or skip that band and come back. For those with separate resonators, that is no problem other than folks may not be looking for you on the band you went to. For folks with a screwdriver, they like to run from low to high, or high to low frequencies to minimize the number of times the motor has to work and how far it goes each time.

Barry, W9UCW, held the antenna forum, and showed an interesting resonator that covered 4 bands – 17 through 10 meters – with four internal coils, and four tuning stubs at 90 degree angles. You would put this part way up your mast, with the regular resonators for 40/230/20 at the top.

There was a digital seminar and one on E-QSLs for the folks, and one on Logger as well. Lots to do on Saturday.

On the way up and back, I was hopping from band to band, working on SSB and CW, picking up a few band counties along the way, but as I got closer

in, hearing less and less because of skip going right over me and the other mobiles.

Overall, CW activity has been good, with not too many complaints other than 'no sunspots!'. We have a bunch of new mobiles out there. About 2/3rds the attendees (40 or 45) had 17 meter capability and about 15 mobiles were currently equipped. A few had higher bands and used them – up to 10M.

Not much happened at the MARAC meeting. The regular business of approving minutes and the treasurer's report, appointing Randy, AA8R as awards chairman, and some other routine things were done. Nothing to write home about and nothing to write here about either.



KM9X, Dan USACA #1117 – heard on CW occasionally

Dan often helps out/runs the 40M SSB net



KB9MGI #1178, Judy – occasionally heard on CW

After 4 days, it was time to head back to TX. There were 4 counties in the lower half of MI to hit on the way home, and that would finish off all of MI for the second time. There was a special request for Gladwin on CW for a LC, so I took a detour to get it for them on the way home – zigged instead of zagged – no problem! There were still a few needs left despite mobiles running all over the state!



N4CD mobile – Gladwin MI

Then it was into OH, and across IN to get Pulaski, IN, and into Iroquois County IL for the night at a Budget Host motel. I checked the Nav system and it said it was 834 miles to home – 14 hours if you keep the pedal to the metal, so they next morning I hit the road before 6am. The Nav system said I'd be home by 7:04pm if I didn't stop. I ran through two counties with no contacts, then the bands opened and I ran on 40 SSB and 30 CW most to the way home.



Bob, KA9JAC #1079 and Ann, KB9YVT #1170

## Bob chases counties on CW

With so many mobiles 'on the list', and my running through interstate counties, I let the others run on the main frequencies. It was going to be a long day, so I didn't run every county on as many bands as possible. I did hunt for the cw mobiles since I'm working on 4<sup>th</sup> time CW and need thousands of counties as I just started over a few months ago. I'd work the SSB mobiles to give them my county, and I still need a bunch of 40M band counties on SSB, so it was 'work first' and worry later on 40M SSB, too. Someday I might worry about prefixes and teams, too. When you are up north, it's a lot easier to work other mobiles there, rather than from TX on 40M SSB – hi hi.



Bill, AB8JF

(closing in on USACA)

Well, it was in the 40s in the morning up in MI – a bit chilly but refreshing – great driving weather - and the high temps during the convention got up to the low 70s – delightful. As I hit the OK border, the car thermometer said it had hit 100 outside, and from then on it never dropped below 100 – hitting 104 in places. I arrived home in the driveway at 7:45 pm with the temp there 102 degrees. (Had to stop for gas twice and one or two quick pit



stops). Yuk! Summer time in TX, but then again, everything is air conditioned, and the pool was nice. I remember folks in northern MI, when the outside temp was 62 degrees at noon, 'swimming' in Lake Superior as I drove by – the water temp was probably in the low 50s, if that. I hopped in my pool in TX, and the temp was in the high 80s. It's all relative and what you are used to. It's been a hot summer, so it was good to be away for 10 days.

The Garmin Nav system is good – it estimated 834 miles, but the speedometer showed 829 miles, and that included another mile or two getting to gas stations off the interstate. Close – within 1% so I can't complain! Not far off on the time either – I probably stopped for a total of an hour, but if you keep it a few MPH over the speed limit, you can make up a few minutes here and there. I only saw 1 speed trap on the way up to MI, and about 6 on the way back. OK, MO, and IL were out in full force trying to raise revenues. I normally go along at 3-4 mph over the posted limit to keep up with traffic.

As a county hunter, I can escape every now and then to the cooler climates.

The bands were so-so. 30M was fairly good with coast to coast propagation most of the time. 20M was 'long' for much of the day from the central Midwest – which means I didn't hear too many mobiles leaving MI! On occasions, the DX came in, with OK1VD, OH3JF, DL3DXX, SM6VR and others chasing the mobiles. I worked about a dozen counties on 17M, and it was good when I was 'far north'. Otherwise, no hope of working mobiles at 50-800 miles on 17M.



K800K Mike USACA #480

When I did get on 17M (first half of the trip) I worked from 2 to 20 stations, so it should be a good band. I was 'too close' for most of the stations on the way home. It should be real fun when we get some sunspots.

## Cosmic Rays – Clouds – Warming

A new theory links climate change to cosmic rays, high-energy particles from space that wash over the planet. The idea is controversial because most scientists believe that heat-trapping greenhouse gases, spewed out by human activities such as burning fossil fuels, are to blame for most of the temperature increase this century.

Dr. Svensmark presents data from satellites that have taken pictures of Earth's cloud cover for the past 20 years. He noticed that the average amount of cloud cover could vary by 3 to 4 percent from year to year. The cloud changes matched changes in the 11-year cycle of the sun; so, Dr. Svensmark concluded, something related to the sun must be affecting Earth's climate.

He believes that the solar wind, a wave of charged particles from the sun, interacts with cosmic rays as they approach Earth. How many cosmic rays get through the solar wind determines how many clouds form, he suggests. The amount of cloud cover then determines how hot or cold the planet is.

"There are so many things that connect so well, it's such a beautiful agreement," said Dr. Svensmark. The work shows a correlation between the amount of cosmic rays and cloud cover, Dr. Kirkby said, but not whether one causes the other or through what mechanism. And that's where the CERN experiment comes in. Dr. Kirkby has designed a chamber full of atmospheric gases into which he will shoot high-energy particles to represent cosmic rays.

Source: Dallas Morning News

From Dr Svensmark Paper:

During the last solar cycle Earth's cloud cover underwent a modulation more closely in phase with the galactic cosmic ray flux than with other solar activity parameters. Further it is found that Earth's temperature follows more closely decade variations in galactic cosmic ray flux and solar cycle length, than other solar activity parameters. The main conclusion is that the average state of the heliosphere affects Earth's climate.

For more than a hundred years there have been reports of an apparent connection between solar activity and Earth's climate [1,2]. A strong indication of a link between long term variations in solar activity and Earth's climate was found in 1991 by Friis-Christensen and Lassen [3,4] who showed that an empirically constructed measure of solar activity, the filtered solar cycle length, matched very closely variations in northern hemispheric temperature during the past 400 years. Another example is the 11 year variation of stratospheric pressure levels found to be in phase with solar activity [5]. In spite of these reports an accepted causal link between solar activity and effect in Earth's lower atmosphere has not been found. The initial speculations were directed towards the most obvious and direct way

solar activity could affect Earth's climate, namely, via changes in the solar irradiance. But based on recent satellite measurements of the solar constant it is found that the variations are too small (0.1%) to explain the observed temperature changes [6].

Recently it was found that the Earth's cloud cover, observed by satellites, is strongly correlated with solar cycle variation of galactic cosmic ray flux (GCR) monitors [7]. Clouds are important in Earth's radiation budget, and a systematic variation will have climatic effects [7]. GCR consists of very energetic particles (mainly protons) that are produced in stellar processes in our Galaxy. Some of them enter Earth's atmosphere where nuclear processes take place and produce secondary particles which can penetrate still deeper into the atmosphere [8]. Ionization in the lower part of the atmosphere is almost exclusively produced by GCR and is the meteorological variable subject to the largest solar cycle modulation [9]. Previous and current speculations on the effect of the ionization have been mainly related to optical transparency, by either changes in aerosol chemistry or an influence on the transition between the different phases of water [7,9-13].

It will be shown that the Earth's cloud cover within the last solar cycle follows variations in GCR more closely than the 10.7 cm radio flux, the latter being indicative of other solar activity parameters.

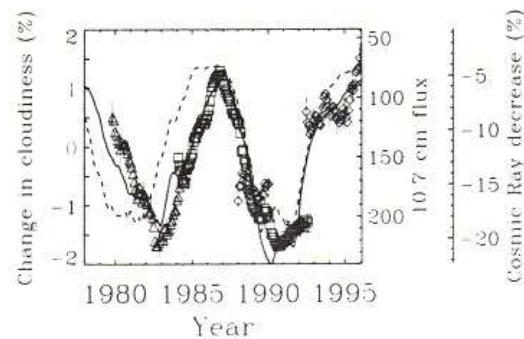


Figure above - Composite figure showing changes in Earth's cloud cover from four satellite cloud data sets together with cosmic ray fluxes from Climax (solid curve, normalized to May 1965) and 10.7 cm solar Bur (dashed curve, in units of  $10^{-22} \text{ Wm}^{-2} \text{ Hz}^{-2}$ ). Triangles are the Nimbus7 data, squares are the ISCCP C2 and ISCCP\_D2 data, diamonds are the DMSP data. All of the displayed data have been smoothed using a 12 month running mean.”

Soon, the CERN experiments will be up and running, and the exact particle interactions will be deciphered – showing exactly the mechanism for cloud formation on Earth and the tie in to solar winds/cosmic radiation changes over the centuries.

Source: <http://www.tmgnow.com/repository/global/CREC.html>

## Kansas QSO Party

**August 29, Sat 9am-9pm and August 30 Sun 9am-3pm  
CDT**

**Begins:** 1400UTC 29 Aug

**2009 Begins:** 1400UTC 30 Aug 2009

**Ends:** 0200UTC 30 Aug **2009**

**Ends:** 2000UTC 30 Aug 2009

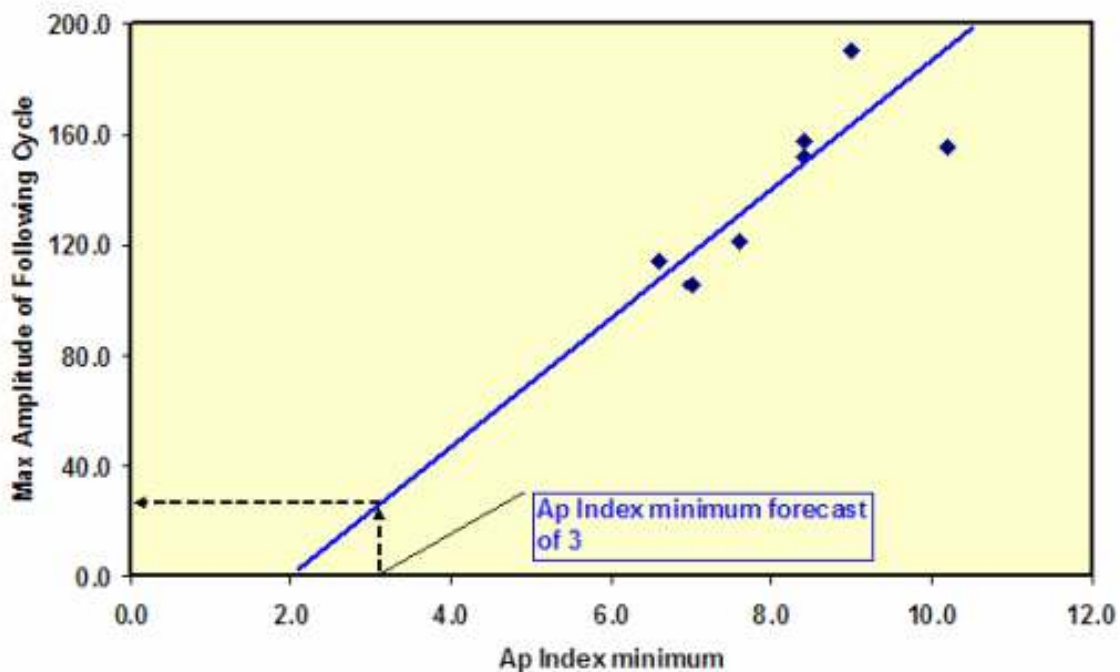
The 'New' **Kansas QSO Party** is a go! There hasn't been a KS QSO Party since 2002.

Bob, W0BH, has promised us lots of counties from his home state over that weekend!

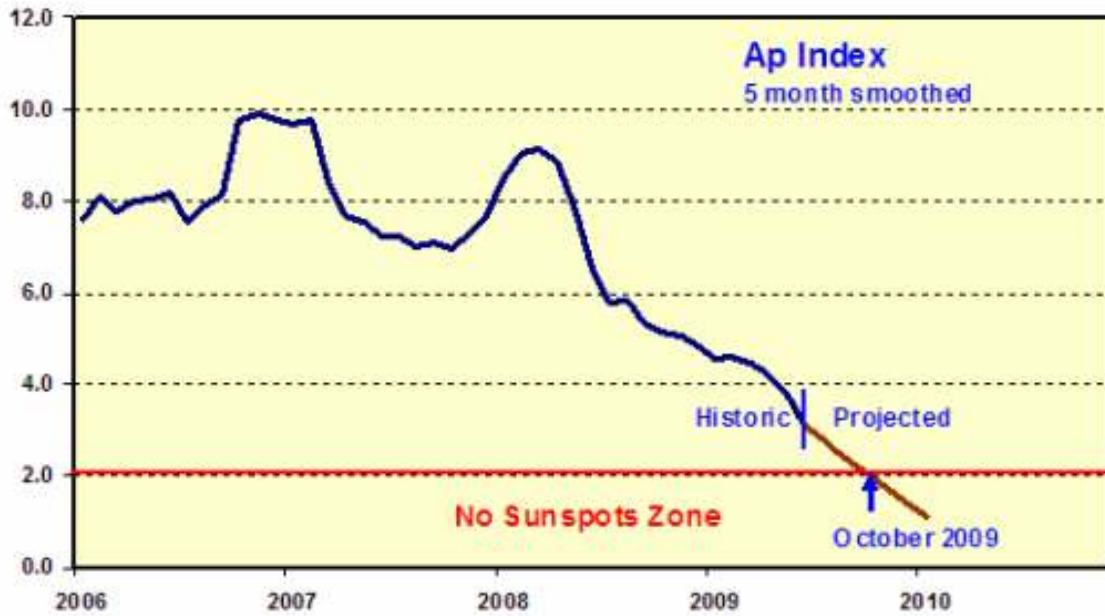
<http://www.ksqsoparty.org/>

## Sunspots – Prediction

Frank Hill says that his sunspots will be with us in three to six months. The Ap Index suggests otherwise. There is a correlation between the geomagnetic indices (aa Index and Ap Index) at minimum and the amplitude of the following solar cycle. Earlier this year I produced this graph of the Ap Index plotted against solar cycle maxima when I thought that the Ap Index would bottom out at three, giving a maximum amplitude of 25:



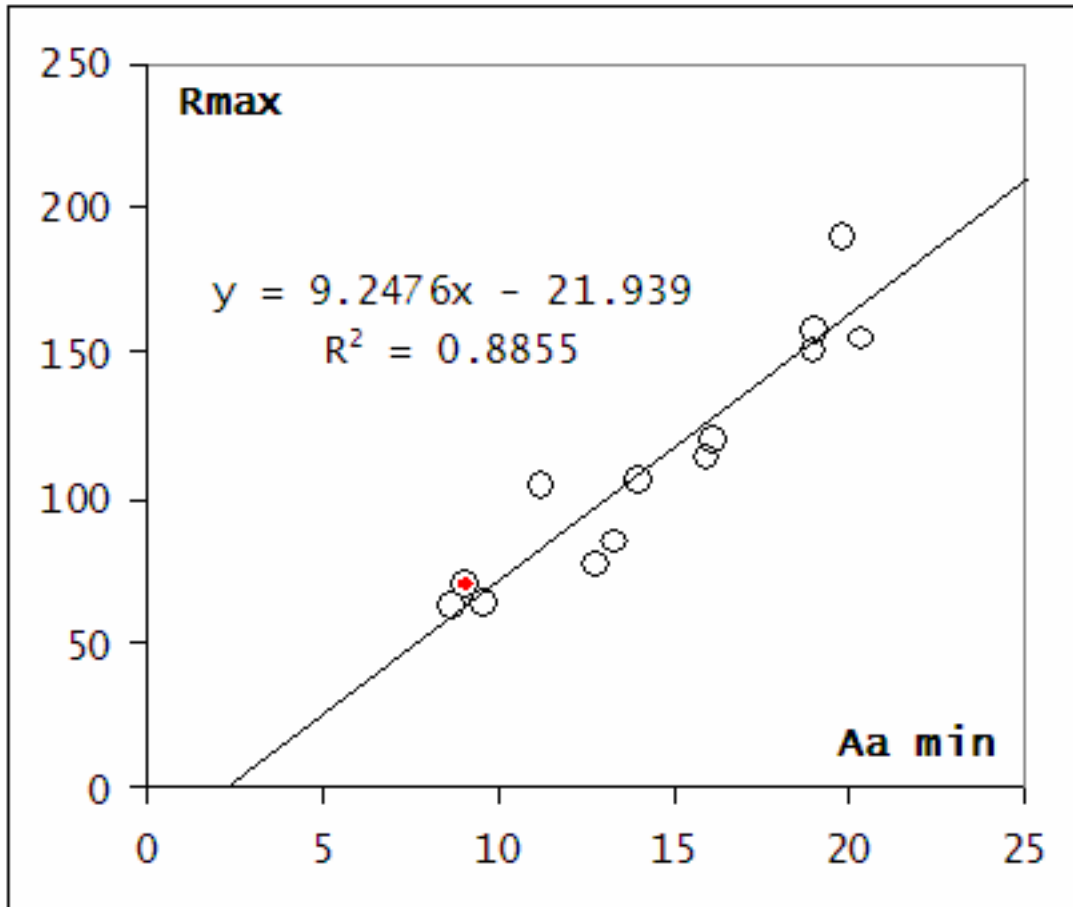
This is June and the monthly average of the Ap Index is 3.1. What is interesting from that graph is that there will be no sunspots if the monthly Ap Index goes below 2. The heliospheric current sheet is telling us that the month of minimum is possibly a year off and the Ap Index is showing no signs of pulling out of its glide slope of 0.28 per month, as shown in this graph:



The Ap Index enters the no sunspots zone in October at its current glide slope. Will it pull out in time? The Sun is bleeding magnetic flux (for a very good reason), so I don't think so.

\* \* \* \* \*

Using Aa which goes much further back than Ap, the relationship between Aa and the size of the next cycle has been used by many people to forecast the next cycle. [one of the standard methods]. The data point with the red dot is the predicted Rmax for SC/24 using the polar fields and is plotted at the 2009 yearly average so far of Aa



No spots for Aa = 2.4

Source: <http://wattsupwiththat.com/2009/06/23/archibald-the-ap-index-says-there-will-be-no-sunspots/#more-8797>

## Self Spotting - from W6RK

W6RK: "Have you wondered what are those spots with \* in the spotter field that you can see at ch.w6rk.com? They are self spotting using email.

I created this feature two years ago and it has now been re-implemented. If you have a cell phone/blackberry that is capable of sending emails, you will be able to use it to spot yourself from the road as long as you have the cell phone coverage.



It requires setup from my part to recognize the sender email address but after that all you need to email is "County State FQ" to a certain email address and spot will be added to the system.

Lloyd NX4W is currently using this feature on his way to the National. Please see [his self spots here](#).

This also works from SMS text messages if your provider offers gateway from SMS to email. “

W8JJ: “This is handy when you wish to get something going on 17m or 80m without having to rely on being "discovered" and spotted by others. I did a test run this evening in Oakland, MI and it worked like a charm and it's easy to use. I highly recommend anyone with a cell phone that has email capability to get with Risto and have it set up...it only takes a few minutes.”

Lloyd, NX4W, made extensive use of spots for PSK on his way to and from the convention. Ed, K8ZZ, was spotting himself on his trip from MI to MT and back.

## Self Spotting Comments by NX4W

### PSK31 and email spotting

On my recent trip to the convention in Petosky, Michigan, I had a great time giving out almost 600 separate qso's on 3 bands, 30, 40 and 20 meters. They were given out in 300 contacts because most were on county lines. This mode cannot be given out on the move when you are alone because you of course cannot give psk31 contacts on the fly. I think this mode is going to be very popular as we add new mobiles. It is very easy to get into and you can visit my web site [www.nx4w@nx4w.com](http://www.nx4w@nx4w.com) for help and links to free psk31 programs. There are also links to some great videos by K7AGE that will help you to understand how it works and how to hook up a base station.

One of the reasons for my success on this trip was the ability to make my own spots via email and texting. I inquired from Risto, W6RK if he could make it possible to spot myself by email and he responded and made it possible rather quickly and he should be commended for his effort. If you would like the ability to spot yourself then please get in touch with Risto,

[risto@kotalampi.com](mailto:risto@kotalampi.com) and he will advise you how to sign up and register the email or SMS text message address you will be using. After that all you do is send to [spot@w6rk.com](mailto:spot@w6rk.com). Since you set up the email address in advance you do not have to add your call as it is entered automatically. There is nothing put in the Subject field and the following would enter a single or a county line in the message field:

Alachua FL 14072.5

Alachua/Marion FL 14072.5

As you can see you can put a period . in the frequency, but no other punctuation is allowed, just a space between the county state and frequency. As of this date you cannot enter a county state line entry and you would have to enter those with separate spots. I think this is one terrific addition to our county hunting hobby. Now a mobile can find his own frequency, make the spot, and about 60 seconds later start calling CQ. This will be especially helpful as the sunspots increase.

73' Lloyd, NX4W

## The Solar/Climate Connection

“Atmospheric levels of CO<sub>2</sub> are commonly assumed to be a main driver of global climate. Independent empirical evidence, however, suggests that solar activity and galactic cosmic ray flux (CRF) variations may play an important role in the observed climate variability.

We review the historical development of this link – from the apparent correlations between solar activity and climate, to independent indications that cosmic rays are indeed the missing link between solar activity variations, which modulate the CRF, and climate change. We review in particular the evidence demonstrating that this link is most likely through the role played by the tropospheric ionization in the process of cloud formation. We show also that independent CRF variations arising from the periodic passages through the galactic spiral arms coincide with globally cold epochs.

A variable CRF, whether modulated by solar activity or by our galactic journey, seems therefore to be a dominant climate driver.”

Very good link with loads of info and pics at:

[http://physicaplus.org.il/zope/home/en/1105389911/1113511992\\_en](http://physicaplus.org.il/zope/home/en/1105389911/1113511992_en)

too long to put much of it in here....Al Gore – take note!

## Master Platinum

At the convention, the new awards Chairman, Randy, AA8R, presented award plaques for Master Platinum to Bob, N8KIE, Bob, N4CD, Scottie, N4AAT, Darrel, W6TMD, and announced that Ray, WG6X had finished. That brings the count to 7 for folks now having finished Master Platinum. (other two – K5GE and N9STL).

Ray, AB4YZ, probably should be done after his long trip now when he gets back home. He’s running his needs for Platinum.

As everyone has noted, people went out and ran counties all over the country. Gene, K5GE, first to receive Master Platinum, headed east, then west on two major trips to finish up his needs. That was after many other trips filling in counties. Bob, N8KIE, headed all over the country, and wound up in AK to get the last four he needed for Master Platinum.

Of course, you’ve likely followed N4CD around as he headed just about everywhere to fill in the missing counties, and get counties for N9STL and N4AAT and WG6X. Likely the better part of a quarter million miles has been run by mobiles working toward finishing their awards, and getting the last counties for others closing in.

That was a continuation of the trend started with Master Gold. Master Gold was the first award in a long time ( the USA-CHA offered by Clif, K6BX and his awards club) that let you have credit for running the county yourself.

For Master Gold, if you have your bingo and a star, you can get credit for the county by working someone FROM the county. Naturally, that leads folks who are getting close to go out and run counties for everyone else! (Sadly, just a few are content with 1 or a handful of contacts from counties rather than making big efforts at putting them out.) Fortunately, there aren't too many of those folks around.

Now, over 35 have Master's Gold, and nearly all of them were earned by active mobiles. Not only that, but for Master's Gold, you need to accumulate points, and most people do that by running counties to get to the 1500 count. (you can also earn other service points for MG and a few have gone that route. ).

For Platinum, a requirement is that you must run 500 separate counties – 1/6<sup>th</sup> of the US. For those seeking the highest award for county hunting mobiles, that takes a while, but between heading to conventions here and there, and going to get the counties you need yourself, that number has been reached by 7 people with more on the way soon.

Just think of all the activity and counties activated – from Dukes and Nantucket by K5GE – and everything in between TX and MA. From the four judicial districts in AK, put out by many good for MG, and a good handful good for Platinum, with the last being N8KIE just two months ago. From HI to ME to you name it – mobiles going for gold or platinum.

For anyone with MARAC Logger, they soon find that they can be working on Platinum from day one – so they can chase mobiles good for Platinum as well, just like they chase mobiles good for Bingo, Natural Bingo, prefixes and combos, from day one. Likely, many are approaching the 2500+ counties worked for Platinum with all the activity that was spurred on by the 'race for the Platinum', and of course, the continuing 'race for the Gold'.

MARAC is the MOBILE awards club, and one goal of the awards club should be to continue to spur on mobile activity and give incentives to mobiles to go out and seek new awards. There should always be a new challenge.

It took over five years from when Master's Gold was created until the first award was issued. It took over five years from the time the Master Platinum was created until the first award was issued. The next award should

continue the trend of spurring more and more MOBILE activity – and that makes it fun for everyone, even if they aren't going to seek the highest awards, or are working on getting to the 'first award' or step 2 or 3 on the awards ladder (bingo, Nth time, etc).

Yes, for 'mobiles' there is incentive from day one. At the beginning you are a 'no star' mobile – only good for Bingo in counties with the right letters, unless you have an 'X' in the call. But each run is a 'transmitted county' that will count to help you with Masters Gold later on. Occasionally you hit the jackpot in a county for Natural Bingo. So you work on getting that first star – to be good for Bingo everywhere, and contribute toward the five star award count for folks. And you work on the second and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> stars too – to help out folks for five star award. Folks want to earn their Bingo, so they can start on MG and be 'good for MG' as well. That sequence is what keeps county hunting interesting for folks. If there was nothing beyond 'first time', it would be pretty quiet on the bands.

MARAC was created to issue awards to mobile. It later picked up the awards for fixed stations, including Bingo, Nth time, Big Rig, etc, as other groups bowed out of the awards business. So there is something for everyone. You can work on 15<sup>th</sup> time if that is your bag. You can work on Bingo Five. But 15<sup>th</sup> time or Bingo V won't get mobiles out running.

Thus, MARAC and the awards committee should be focusing on creating a new award to keep the challenge alive. If seven people have earned an award, and there is no award that someone has not earned – there is no incentive to go out and try to get the 'unobtainium'. Beyond Platinum.

If MARAC wants to put a big crimp in awards – well, just wait until 100 have MG, two dozen have platinum, and no one feels excited about anything since they have 'topped out' and there is nothing left to get excited about. Now would be an excellent time for the new Awards Chairman to build a fire under the awards committee to come up with 'beyond Platinum'.

# Global Warming Hysteria

It looks like the AGW hysteria folks are in full retreat worldwide. That is the scientists and technical people. Of course, the politicians are only using 'global warming' as an excuse to impose trillion dollar tax burdens and micromanage every part of your existence from toilet flushing to cars you can buy to energy retrofits whether you can afford them or not, while jetting around themselves burning billions of gallons of jet fuel on 'date weekends' and pleasure and business travel in personal jets they can't 'do without'.

"Steve Fielding recently asked the Obama administration to reassure him on the science of man-made global warming. When the administration proved unhelpful, Mr. Fielding decided to vote against climate-change legislation.

If you haven't heard of this politician, it's because he's a member of the Australian Senate. As the U.S. House of Representatives prepares to pass a climate-change bill, the Australian Parliament is preparing to kill its own country's carbon-emissions scheme. Why? A growing number of Australian politicians, scientists and citizens once again doubt the science of human-caused global warming.

In April, the Polish Academy of Sciences published a document challenging man-made global warming. In the Czech Republic, where President Vaclav Klaus remains a leading skeptic, today only 11% of the population believes humans play a role. In France, President Nicolas Sarkozy wants to tap Claude Allegre to lead the country's new ministry of industry and innovation. Twenty years ago Mr. Allegre was among the first to trill about man-made global warming, but the geochemist has since recanted. New Zealand last year elected a new government, which immediately suspended the country's weeks-old cap-and-trade program.

The number of skeptics, far from shrinking, is swelling. Oklahoma Sen. Jim Inhofe now counts more than 700 scientists who disagree with the U.N. -- 13 times the number who authored the U.N.'s 2007 climate summary for policymakers.

The collapse of the "consensus" has been driven by reality. The inconvenient truth is that the earth's temperatures have flat-lined since 2001, despite

growing concentrations of CO2. Peer-reviewed research has debunked doomsday scenarios about the polar ice caps, hurricanes, malaria, extinctions, rising oceans. A global financial crisis has politicians taking a harder look at the science that would require them to hamstring their economies to rein in carbon.”

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124597505076157449.html>

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Of course, we all know that politicians salivate over the trillions in taxes they can collect and redistribute for favored constituent groups (unions, farmers, major supporters) and the massive government social redistribution programs. They could care less about the ‘science’. It is all taxes, taxes and taxes and giving money and subsidies away to those who elect them.

What’s even more amazing, is that since China and India have told the world they have no intention of limiting carbon output, and will have 3 billion people by 2050, it is useless to cripple our economy for something that will do exactly zero for anything. Even the ‘carbon cap’ bill, after all the giveaways, does ‘just enough’ to reduce temperatures by 0.1 deg by 2050. All that for trillions of dollars in taxes, and even more in lost economic activity. In case your math is rusty, that is over \$30,000 in taxes and lost economic activity for each person by 2050. To accomplish – basically nothing.

## No Star Award

Once again, the subject of creating a ‘no star’ award was brought up at the annual convention. Maybe it’s been sitting on the back burner at the awards committee now for 3 or 4 or 5 years and the recent awards chairperson was too inundated with awards work and other goings on in her life to ramrod through a ‘no star’ award. It’s been discussed for years and apparently never has either been raised to the level of creating an award, or making a firm decision not to have one.

Likely the folks who suggested it each now have a few stars and Bingo...but there are still many mobiles out there, starting out, who have no stars, Bingo – and only luck out in a few counties they are good for Bingo or Natural Bingo. Of course, they are always good for prefixes, call combos, teams if applicable, and for first time and Nth time, and there are always folks needed them for that!

So if you have any feelings on a ‘no star’ award, where you have to work someone without stars in every county, let your director and the awards chairman know! They always look for feedback to see what members are interested in.

## Pictures from Rick, AI5P

Rick sent in a few pictures from his last trip out in the Dakotas.

Here’s the Geographic Center of the US – Rugby ND



AI5P/m



Rick Noted: “Geographic Center of North America in Rugby, ND.  
Surprised to find the monument in the parking lot of a local restaurant.... at  
least no parking problem!”

Many county hunters travel back roads, and see signs like the one below in  
Miner, SD!



“Minimum Maintenance – Travel at Your Own Risk”

Can you find the road in the pic below after the sign?



If you put out lots of counties, sooner or later you'll encounter a situation like this where the road might be on the map, or the GPS has it...but unless you are traveling in a high clearance 4 wheel drive vehicle or on horseback, you might not wish to take your car down a 'road' like this! What road?

## Circular GW Logic

From the Resilient Earth

Submitted by Doug L. Hoffman on Wed, 07/15/2009 – 13:19

A new paper in Science reports that a careful study of satellite data show the assumed cooling effect of aerosols in the atmosphere to be significantly less than previously estimated. Unfortunately, they assume greater cooling has been used in climate models for years. In such models, the global-mean warming is determined by the balance of the radiative forcings—warming by greenhouse gases balanced against cooling by aerosols. Since a greater cooling effect has been used in climate models, the result has been to credit CO<sub>2</sub> with a larger warming effect than it really has.

This question is of great importance to climate modelers because they have

to be able to simulate the effect of GHG warming in order to accurately predict future climate change. The amount of temperature increase set into a climate model for a doubling of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> is called the model's sensitivity. As Dr. David Evans explained in a recent paper: "Yes, every emitted molecule of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) causes some warming—but the crucial question is how much warming do the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions cause? If atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels doubled, would the temperature rise by 0.1°, 1.0°, or by 10.0° C?"

- - -

The absorption frequencies of CO<sub>2</sub> are already saturated, meaning that the atmosphere already captures close to 100% of the radiation at those frequencies. Consequently, as the level of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere increases, the rise in temperature for a given increase in CO<sub>2</sub> becomes smaller. This sorely limits the amount of warming further increases in CO<sub>2</sub> can engender. Because CO<sub>2</sub> on its own cannot account for the observed temperature rise in the past century, climate modelers assume that linkages exist between CO<sub>2</sub> and other climate influences, mainly water vapor (for a more detailed explanation of what determines the Global Warming Potential of a gas see my comment "It's not that simple").

To compensate for the missing "forcing," models are tuned to include a certain amount of extra warming linked to carbon dioxide levels—extra warming that comes from unestablished feedback mechanisms whose existence is simply assumed. Aerosol cooling and climate sensitivity in the models must balance each other in order to match historical conditions. Since the climate warmed slightly last century the amount of warming must have exceeded the amount of cooling. As Dr. Roy Spencer, meteorologist and former NASA scientist, puts it: **"They program climate models so that they are sensitive enough to produce the warming in the last 50 years with increasing carbon dioxide concentrations. They then point to this as 'proof' that the CO<sub>2</sub> caused the warming, but this is simply reasoning in a circle."**

# Wow! N9STL Completes ALL CW

Starting just five years ago on cw, and pretty shaky at the beginning, Joyce, N9STL has now worked all 3077 counties on CW. She got on 30M, which helped her work hundreds of counties, and between 40, 30, and 20m, filled in those 3077 counties in five years. Phil, AB7RW, gave her the last with Lander, NV on his way home from the convention.

## CARBONGATE

by Richard Morrison, Competitive Enterprise Institute

Washington, D.C., June 26, 2009—The Competitive Enterprise Institute is today making public an internal study on climate science which was suppressed by the Environmental Protection Agency. Internal EPA email messages, released by CEI earlier in the week, indicate that the report was kept under wraps and its author silenced because of pressure to support the Administration's agenda of regulating carbon dioxide.

The report finds that EPA, by adopting the United Nations' 2007 "Fourth Assessment" report, is relying on outdated research and is ignoring major new developments. Those developments include a continued decline in global temperatures, a new consensus that future hurricanes will not be more frequent or intense, and new findings that water vapor will moderate, rather than exacerbate, temperature.

New data also indicate that ocean cycles are probably the most important single factor in explaining temperature fluctuations, though solar cycles may play a role as well, and that reliable satellite data undercut the likelihood of endangerment from greenhouse gases. All of this demonstrates EPA should independently analyze the science, rather than just adopt the conclusions of outside organizations."

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2009/06/25/online-global-warming-study-censored-by-epa/#more-8907>

## Multiple Resonators

If you don't have a screwdriver, just how are you going to cover 80,40,30,20, 15, 17, 12, and 10M? My gosh – that's a lot of resonators, and where are you going to put them all? Here a few antenna ideas from the convention in MI.

In the following two pics, taken at the National, you'll see two levels of resonators. You can put resonators down from the top, and they'll work fine for the higher bands.



W0NAC Antenna System



W0GXQ?

Here, the lower resonators are pointed back in a Vee.

## Solar Magnetic Output – Climate

Another interesting article in the Scientific Journals. Where is Al Gore when you need him?

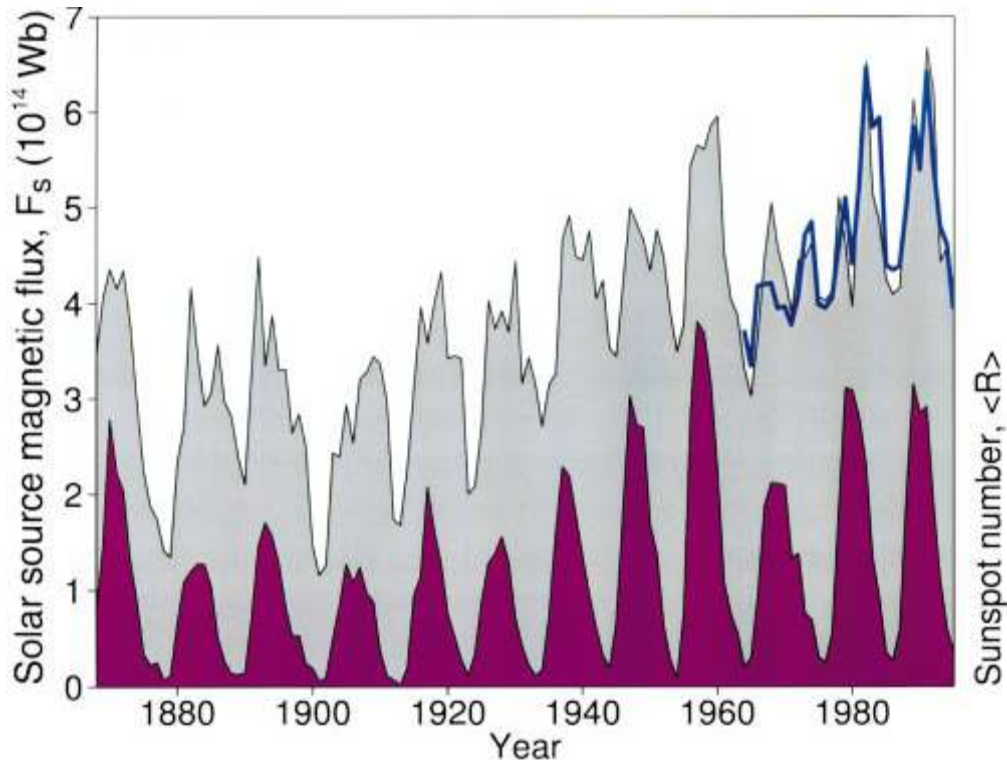
### **A doubling of the Sun's coronalmagnetic field during the past 100 years**

M. Lockwood, R. Stamper & M. N. Wild

“Moreover, changes in the heliospheric magnetic field have been linked with changes in total cloud cover over the Earth, which may influence global climate. Here we show that measurements of the near-Earth interplanetary magnetic field reveal that the total magnetic flux leaving the Sun has risen by a factor of 1.4 since 1964: surrogate measurements of the interplanetary magnetic field indicate that the increase since 1901 has been by a factor of 2.3

The ‘*aa*’ index has been compiled from the range of variations in the geomagnetic field over periods of 3 hours, recorded since 1868 by pairs of near-antipodal magnetometers in England and Australia

Figure 1 demonstrates that the annual means *haai* show a marked variation with the sunspot cycle, but have also drifted upward throughout most of this century.”



Source: [http://www.eiscat.rl.ac.uk/Members/mike/publications/pdfs/1999/170\\_Lockwoodetal\\_nature.pdf](http://www.eiscat.rl.ac.uk/Members/mike/publications/pdfs/1999/170_Lockwoodetal_nature.pdf)

\* \* \* \* \*

Once again, demonstrating that solar activity controls cloud formation which controls climate. And also the fact we have been in the most active 100 year period in the past 8000 years during our lifetime. Global warming? Barely, and not caused my man.

# Getting Folks Finished Up

From the K3IMC needs – many are getting down to almost finishing up awards. Here are some that maybe you can help out. Time to get a mobilizing. Some are almost there to first time around. Others are closing in on Bingo, MG, MP. Check the K3IMC needs to see if you can help out. Some are down to just one – a last county WBOW just waiting for someone to get it!

**K1SO (USACA)** : CA:Tuolumne ID:Benewah, Boundary, Caribou, Latah  
MT:Lincoln, Wheatland OR:Crook WA:Jefferson

**WA1UDI (USACA)** : CA:Trinity MN:Houston, Winona ND:Renville

**AA1VA (USACA)** : CO:Moffat, Rio Blanco, Routt NC:Rutherford, Yancey  
NV:Esmeralda, Mineral, White Pine OR:Lake UT:Kane, Carbon, Rich  
WA:Ferry, Island, Stevens

**VE1WT(3<sup>rd</sup>)** : ID:Adams, Bonner KY:Greenup LA:Beauregard OR:Crook,  
Grant, Harney, Jefferson, Wheeler TX:Edwards, Red River UT:Wayne,  
Weber WA:Pend Oreille

**WB2ABD (4<sup>th</sup>)** : ID:Valley OR:Columbia

**N2OCW (Plat Needs)**: AK:Third District AL:Cherokee CO:Crowley,  
Custer, Dolores IA:Polk, Washington ID:Twin Falls IL:Edwards  
IN:Vermillion KS:Osage, Rawlins, Rooks KY:Breckinridge MN:Pipestone,  
Rock MO:Lincoln, Ray MT:Liberty, Park, Teton NE:Cedar, Johnson,  
Wayne OR:Tillamook UT:Rich, Wayne WA:Grays Harbor, Okanogan,  
Wahkiakum WI:Manitowoc, Sheboygan

**K3IMC (3<sup>rd</sup>)** : CA:Alpine, Humbolt, Plumas CO:Gunnison GA:Pike  
HI:Hawaii ID:Clark IN:Benton KS:Graham, Sheridan MT:Ravilli, Toole  
ND:Burke NV:Storey PA:Potter UT:Sanpete, Wasatch



**KA3QLF (USACA) :** CA:Mariposa, Tulare MT:Lincoln NE:Brown  
OR:Klamath, Tillamook, Wheeler TX:Aransas, Zavala

**VA3XOV (USACA using CW) :** KS:Barton, Rice KY:Martin TX:Fisher  
UT:Duchesne, Wayne WA:Skamania

**N4AAT (USACW) TX:**Dimmit, Kinny, Maverick, Zavala WY:Crook

**K4DI(USACA) :** CA:Butte, Del Norte, Imperial, Marin, Monterey  
CO:Conejos ID:Latah MN:Fillmore OR:Benton, Crook, Lane, Lincoln,  
Umatilla, Wheeler TN:Lincoln, White WA:Benton, Jefferson, Okanogan

**KD4HXM (MG) CA:**Trinity IA:Guthrie KY:Calloway, Greenup  
MI:Jackson, Mason MT:Madison OK:Delaware OR:Curry UT:Beaver,  
Wayne VT:Windsor WA:Douglas, Yakima

**WB4KZW (2<sup>nd</sup>) :** AK:Fourth J.d.c. AR:Carroll IA:Pocahontas MT:Carter,  
Powder River OK:Cherokee OR:Crook WA:Ferry, Mason, Okanogan

**WB4VFN (CW) ID:**Valley IL:Crawford, Hamilton IN:Switzerland, Union,  
Pulaski TN:Bledsoe

**K4YFH (bingo) :** MT:Meagher

**K4YFH (30Meters) AL:**Lauderdale IL:Du Page, Edgar, Menard.  
MO:Andrew, Atchison, Platte. NH:Hillsbrough NJ:Camden NM:Harding

**K4YFH (CW) AL:**Jackson, Macon, Washington, Winston. CT:Hartford,  
Litchfield. MA:Bristol NH:Cheshire RI:Bristol

**K4YT (SSB only) CA:**Sierra MS:Stone NE:Banner, Sioux UT:San Juan

**K4YT (Bingo) CA:**Yola GA:Pulaski KS:Finney, Gray, Kingman  
MO:Maries ND:Adams NE:Kearney NJ:Camden, Cumberland NY:Bronx  
OK:Adair OR:Deshutes, Malheur, Wheeler PA:Monroe TN:Lauderdale  
VA:Northumberland, Richmond WI:Buffalo

**K5OH: IA:**Guthrie, Louisa KY:Todd NC:Rowan, Washington  
NE:Jefferson, McPherson PA:Huntingdon TX:Franklin, Kent

**K5OH** (2<sup>nd</sup> time) **AR**:Crawford, Newton **KY**:Allen, Bullitt, Letcher, Owsley, Powell **NC**:Washington **NE**:Jefferson **NY**:Madison, Tompkins, Yates **OH**:Harrison **OR**:Curry, Jefferson **PA**:Bradford, Sullivan **TX**:Cochran, Floyd, Franklin, Howard, Liberty, Llano, Mason, Roberts **VA**:Highland

**K5VYT** (6<sup>th</sup>) **CA**:Fresno, Marin, Mariposa, Nevada, San Francisco, Santa Cruz, Siskiyou, Tehama, Yuba **IA**:Clay, Kossuth **ID**:Boundary, Madison, Owyhee **KY**:McCreary **MS**:Lafayette **NY**:Onondaga, Ulster, Warren **OH**:Harrison **OK**:Cherokee **OR**:Clackamas **TN**:Bedford **VA**:Alleghany **WA**:Island, Whatcom

**W6TMD** (CW2) **CA**:Madera, Solano **IN**:Spencer **KY**:Marion **MT**:Daniels **WV**:Mingo

**KB6UF** (4<sup>th</sup>) : **CT**:Litchfield **MS**:Pike **MT**:Pondera, Toole **OR**:Benton **WV**:Webster

**W6XLR** (Bingo) **OH**:Pike

**WQ7A** (4<sup>th</sup>): **AL**:Monroe. **IA**:Shelby. **ID**:Benewah, Gem, Valley. **IN**:Lawrence, Washington. **KY**:Lewis. **LA**:Assumption. **MD**:Calvert. **NC**:Clay, Graham, Macon. **NY**:Washington. **PA**:Cameron, Fayette. **TN**:Marshall. **VA**:Highland, Lancaster.

**KI7WO** (2<sup>nd</sup>) : **CO**:Jackson

**AK8A** (cw – 6<sup>th</sup>) **VA**:Northampton

**WA8OWR** (USACA): **CA**:Calaveras, San Mato **IA**:Ida, Sac **KS**:Stafford **KY**:Morgan, Union **MO**:Ozark, Shannon **MS**:Lafayette, Madison **NY**:Wyoming **OR**:Clatsop, Columbia, Coos, Washington **PA**:Armstrong, Warren **TN**:Obion **VA**:Charles City, Highland, Lunenburg **WV**:Webster

**K9AAA** (USACA) **CA**:Alpine, Lake, Sierra, Trinity **IA**:Calhoun, Shelby **ID**:Blaine, Clearwater, Franklin, Owyhee, Washington **IN**:Owen, Perry **KY**:Caldwell, Marion **MO**:Andrew, Gentry, Holt, Pettis, Worth **MS**:Walthall **MT**:Golden Valley, Lincoln, McCone, Musselshell, Petroleum, Pondera, Teton **NE**:Cheyenne, Nuckoles, Webster **NV**:Lincoln, White Pine

**OH:**Athens, Geauga, Hardin, Monroe **OR:**Crook, Curry, Polk **VA:**Lee  
**WA:**Ferry, Whitman **WI:**Door

**WA9DLB** (3<sup>rd</sup>) **IA:**Madison **ID:**Butte **IL:**Hamilton **KS:**Hamilton, Kearney  
**MO:**Worth **OH:**Morrow **OK:**Murray **OR:**Crook, Jefferson, Multnomah,  
Polk, Sherman, Wallowa **TN:**Cannon **VA:**Goochland, Lancaster  
**VT:**Bennington **WA:**Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap, Wahkiakum **WI:**Burnett,  
Taylor

**WA9DLB** (MG): Miller, MO

**WD9EJK** (MG): **CA:**Contra Costa **ME:**Kennebec **MO:**Caldwell  
**MT:**Cascade, Lincoln **NM:**Lea **OR:**Jefferson **VT:**Bennington, Windsor  
**WA:**Clallam, Ferry, Okanogan, Walla Walla **WV:**Boone

**W9JL:** **WA:**Jefferson

**W9MSE** (4<sup>th</sup> CW) : **ID:**Boise, Lewis, Valley **MT:**Lincoln **NV:**White Pine

**W9MSE** (MG on CW) **AK:**2nd **AZ:**Yavapai **CA:**Contra Costa, San  
Francisco, Ventura **ID:**Ada, Boise, Gem, Lewis, Valley **KS:**Johnson, Ness  
**LA:**Allen **MA:**Dukes **MT:**Lincoln **NM:**Otero **OR:**Clackamas, Crook,  
Deschutes, Jefferson, Marion, Wallowa **TX:**Chambers, Kimble, Mason,  
Maverick, Uvalde **WA:**Chelan, Douglas, Ferry, Grant, Island, Kitsap,  
Kittitas, Okanogan, San Juan, Whatcom

**K9WA:** **IA:**Chickasaw, Dallas, Guthrie, Shelby **IN:**Crawford, Fayette,  
Lagrange **MT:**Petroleum, Toole **TN:**Gibson

**KB9YVT** (bingo) : **AK:**First **DE:**Sussex **IA:**Henry **ID:**Shoshone **LA:**St.  
Bernard **MO:**Grundy, Mercer, Sullivan **MT:**Daniels, Petroleum  
**OR:**Sherman, Wasco, Wheeler **VT:**Bennington **WA:**Adams, Clark,  
Okanogan

**KE0AY** (2<sup>nd</sup>) **KS:**Geary **KY:**Breathitt Livingston **MS:**Alcorn **ND:**Lamoure  
Trail **NE:**Cuming, McPherson, Merrick **NV:**Mineral **NY:**Franklin  
**OR:**Columbia **PA:**Elk Wyoming

**WB0CQO** (MG): **GA:**Greene **IN:**Ohio **KS:**Pawnee, Republic **KY:**Breathitt,  
Carlisle, Harlan, Letcher **MN:**Isanti **NE:**Clay, Garfield, Holt, Nuckolls

**OH:**Crawford **OR:**Curry **TN:**Fentress, Moore **VA:**Amherst, Isle Of Wight, Wise **WA:**Douglas, Ferry, Okanogan, Stevens **WI:**Marquette, Sawyer **WY:**Washakie

**N0KV (2<sup>nd</sup>) :** **AL:**Choctaw **CO:**Delta, Montrose, Ouray **GA:**Franklin, Glasscock **IN:**Spencer **KS:**Norton, Washington **MS:**Clay **OH:**Harrison **OK:**Murray **PA:**Bradford, Clinton, Venango **RI:**Bristol **TN:**Rhea **TX:**Milam, Sterling **WA:**Klickitat, Skamania

**WB9NUL (bingo) :** **CA:**Plumas **KY:**Johnson, Nicholas **MO:**Bates **OH:**Carroll **SD:**Spink

**NU0Q (CW) :** **AR:**Drew, Van Buren. **KS:**Linn. **KY:**Nelson. **MO:**Grundy. **OR:**Klamath **SD:**Hanson. **TX:**Hemphill, Lipscomb. **WV:**Pendleton, Wirt.

**W0RRY (MG):** **ID:**Clearwater, Latah **MI:**Benzie, Missaukee, Muskegon **NY:**Hamilton **VA:**Amelia, Wise **WA:**Garfield, Snohomish, Stevens, Whitman **WI:**Wood

As always, check with the person who has the needs to be sure they still need it, and will be around when you get there! Some are within 10 or 15 of finishing, and it is now prime travel season. Lots of opportunities for mobiles out west to clean up on last counties, but many still exist back east. Let's clean up those last counties for the folks and help them get their awards. Conditions aren't great, but with advance planning and the right time of day, contacts are getting made.

Special Needs Page is at

<http://208.178.228.13/cgi-bin/flynn/needs.pl>

## It Ain't Over till its Over

A small new sunspot is trying to form in the middle of the solar disk. It belongs to Cycle 23. Just when you think that Cycle is over, another sunspot

appears. The Micro-spot disappeared quickly. A new solar cycle doesn't start until the count of 'new' sunspots exceed the count of 'old' sunspots.

Spotless Days as of July 24, 2009

Current Stretch: 12 days

2009 total: 154 days (76%)

Since 2004: 665 days

Typical Solar Min: 485 days

Courtesy: Spaceweather.com

## Newseum – Washington DC

If you get to Washington, DC, be sure to check out the Newseum – The Museum of News on Pennsylvania Avenue.

The museum includes 14 major galleries and 15 theatres. It currently features a special exhibit on President Lincoln. This includes two telegraph operators at work, members of the Morse Telegraph Club. 2009 is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birthday (1809-2009).

You'll see a Washington DC MTC member sending the alarming message that President Lincoln has been shot, then another MTC member receiving that devastating message on the 'big screen'.

Admissions is charged. (about \$20) .

## More from NASA on the “Connection”

Scientists find link between solar cycle and global climate similar to El Nino/La Nina. Credit: NCAR

**Establishing a key link between the solar cycle and global climate, research led by scientists at the National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, Colo., shows that maximum solar activity and its aftermath have impacts on Earth that resemble La Niña and El Niño events in the tropical Pacific Ocean.**

The research may pave the way toward predictions of temperature and precipitation patterns at certain times during the approximately 11-year solar cycle.

"These results are striking in that they point to a scientifically feasible series of events that link the 11-year solar cycle with ENSO, the tropical Pacific phenomenon that so strongly influences climate variability around the world," says Jay Fein, program director in NSF's Division of Atmospheric Sciences. "The next step is to confirm or dispute these intriguing model results with observational data analyses and targeted new observations."

The total energy reaching Earth from the sun varies by only 0.1 percent across the solar cycle. Scientists have sought for decades to link these ups and downs to natural weather and climate variations and distinguish their subtle effects from the larger pattern of human-caused global warming.

Building on previous work, the NCAR researchers used computer models of global climate and more than a century of ocean temperature to answer longstanding questions about the connection between solar activity and global climate.

The research, published this month in a paper in the *Journal of Climate*, was funded by NSF, NCAR's sponsor, and by the U.S. Department of Energy.

"We have fleshed out the effects of a new mechanism to understand what happens in the tropical Pacific when there is a maximum of solar activity," says NCAR scientist Gerald Meehl, the paper's lead author. "When the sun's output peaks, it has far-ranging and often subtle impacts on tropical precipitation and on weather systems around much of the world."

The new paper, along with an earlier one by Meehl and colleagues, shows that as the Sun reaches maximum activity, it heats cloud-free parts of the

Pacific Ocean enough to increase evaporation, intensify tropical rainfall and the trade winds, and cool the eastern tropical Pacific.

The result of this chain of events is similar to a La Niña event, although the cooling of about 1-2 degrees Fahrenheit is focused further east and is only about half as strong as for a typical La Niña.

Over the following year or two, the La Niña-like pattern triggered by the solar maximum tends to evolve into an El Niño-like pattern, as slow-moving currents replace the cool water over the eastern tropical Pacific with warmer-than-usual water.

Again, the ocean response is only about half as strong as with El Niño.

True La Niña and El Niño events are associated with changes in the temperatures of surface waters of the eastern Pacific Ocean. They can affect weather patterns worldwide.

The paper does not analyze the weather impacts of the solar-driven events. But Meehl and his co-author, Julie Arblaster of both NCAR and the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, found that the solar-driven La Niña tends to cause relatively warm and dry conditions across parts of western North America.

More research will be needed to determine the additional impacts of these events on weather across the world.

"Building on our understanding of the solar cycle, we may be able to connect its influences with weather probabilities in a way that can feed into longer-term predictions, a decade at a time," Meehl says.

Scientists have known for years that long-term solar variations affect certain weather patterns, including droughts and regional temperatures.

But establishing a physical connection between the decadal solar cycle and global climate patterns has proven elusive.

One reason is that only in recent years have computer models been able to realistically simulate the processes associated with tropical Pacific warming and cooling associated with El Niño and La Niña.

With those models now in hand, scientists can reproduce the last century's solar behavior and see how it affects the Pacific.

To tease out these sometimes subtle connections between the sun and Earth, Meehl and his colleagues analyzed sea surface temperatures from 1890 to 2006. They then used two computer models based at NCAR to simulate the response of the oceans to changes in solar output.

They found that, as the sun's output reaches a peak, the small amount of extra sunshine over several years causes a slight increase in local atmospheric heating, especially across parts of the tropical and subtropical Pacific where Sun-blocking clouds are normally scarce.

That small amount of extra heat leads to more evaporation, producing extra water vapor. In turn, the moisture is carried by trade winds to the normally rainy areas of the western tropical Pacific, fueling heavier rains.

As this climatic loop intensifies, the trade winds strengthen. That keeps the eastern Pacific even cooler and drier than usual, producing La Niña-like conditions.

Although this Pacific pattern is produced by the solar maximum, the authors found that its switch to an El Niño-like state is likely triggered by the same kind of processes that normally lead from La Niña to El Niño.

The transition starts when the changes of the strength of the trade winds produce slow-moving off-equatorial pulses known as Rossby waves in the upper ocean, which take about a year to travel back west across the Pacific.

The energy then reflects from the western boundary of the tropical Pacific and ricochets eastward along the equator, deepening the upper layer of water and warming the ocean surface.

As a result, the Pacific experiences an El Niño-like event about two years after solar maximum. The event settles down after about a year, and the system returns to a neutral state.

"El Niño and La Niña seem to have their own separate mechanisms," says Meehl, "but the solar maximum can come along and tilt the probabilities toward a weak La Niña. If the system was heading toward a La Niña anyway," he adds, "it would presumably be a larger one."



Source: National Science Foundation

Where is Al Gore when you need him? Oh, right. Off selling and trading phony useless carbon credits to become a bazillionaire at your expense. One cartoon going around shows a subsistence African farmer being tossed off his land, so the government can 'plant trees' and 'sell carbon credits' to the carbon trading brokers in the US and Europe Anyone who thinks all the 'science is settled' on climate change needs to have their heads examined quickly.

## Master Platinum and CW

A year or so ago, in the June issue, I looked at the first 16 Master Gold holders. It's now up to 38. In that analysis, I concluded that 17 of the first 26 Master Gold holders had used cw from home to get their award. A large percentage also put out counties on CW for the folks.

Of the other people other than those listed initially, we have the following folks who used CW to get MG. (KE3VV, N2OCW, AE3Z, KQ0B, W0GXQ, KM9X, KN4Y). That is 7 of the 11 who have qualified since for Master Gold. Again, it's about 2/3rds have used cw who have reached MG.

Now, as of 7/24/09, seven people have Master Platinum. Let us look at the statistics on those receiving their Master Platinum Award.

<u>Call</u>	<u>Active on cw from home</u>	<u>Active cw mobile</u>
K5GE	Yes	No
N4CD	Yes	Yes
N9STL	Yes	Yes
W6TMD	Yes	Yes
N4AAT	Yes	Yes
N8KIE	Yes	No*
WG6X	Yes	Yes

\* runs CW on special request only in AK.

Wow! 100% of the people qualifying to date have worked stations from home on cw, most aggressively. A great majority are also active putting out counties on CW. In fact, only one has never put out a county on CW.

Looks like the CW capable folks really have the edge when it comes to working the counties needed and getting the contacts! For both Master Platinum and for Master Gold. If you are only cw, that's a handicap as using both modes will get you more contacts per month. Only one or two have reached Master Gold 'all cw' – as logically if you use both modes you have more opportunities to work counties you need. Each month more and more venture over to cw from the SSB ranks. Isn't it great to have SSB, CW and digital for county hunting!

## 79 Billion Down the Toilet

Climate Money, a study by Joanne Nova revealing that the federal Government has a near-monopsony on climate science funding. This distorts the science towards self-serving alarmism. Key findings:

Ø **The US Government has spent more than \$79 billion of taxpayers' money** since 1989 on policies related to climate change, including science and technology research, administration, propaganda campaigns, foreign aid, and tax breaks. Most of this spending was unnecessary.

Ø Despite the billions wasted, audits of the science are left to unpaid volunteers. A dedicated but largely uncoordinated grassroots movement of scientists has sprung up around the globe to test the integrity of "global warming" theory and to compete with a lavishly-funded, highly-organized climate monopsony. Major errors have been exposed again and again.

Ø Carbon trading worldwide reached \$126 billion in 2008. Banks, which profit most, are calling for more. Experts are predicting the carbon market will reach \$2 - \$10 trillion in the near future. Hot air will soon be the largest single commodity traded on global exchanges.

Robert Ferguson, SPPI's president, says: "This study counts the cost of years of wasted Federal spending on the 'global warming' non-problem. Government bodies, big businesses and environmental NGOs have behaved like big tobacco: recruiting, controlling and rewarding their own "group-think" scientists who bend climate modeling to justify the State's near-maniacal quest for power, control, wealth and forced population reduction.

"Joanne Nova, who wrote our study, speaks for **thousands of scientists** in questioning whether a clique of taxpayer-funded climate modelers are getting the data right, or just getting the "right" data. Are politicians paying out billions of our dollars for evidence-driven policy-making, or policy-driven evidence-making? The truth is more crucial than ever, because American lives, property and constitutional liberties are at risk."

<http://www.transworldnews.com/NewsStory.aspx?id=104031&cat=12>

## Awards

Masters Gold #38	Ed, KN4Y	7/2/09	All CW
Master Platinum #7	Ray, WG6X	7/10/09	
Bingo II #62	Jerry, W0GXQ	7/5/09	
Mobile to Mobile #8	Ron, KB6UF	7/14/2009	
USACA #1186	Cliff KI0AZ	7/16/2009	
USACW #102	Ray, WA5OPO	7/17/09	
Fifth Time #97	Don, W9GUY	6/14/09	
USA-CW #103	Joyce, N9STL	7/18/09	
Second Time #389	Jack, WD4OIN	7/19/09	

# Operating Activities for County Hunters!

It's going to be a better month for QSO Parties than July! We have activity!

## August 8-9

### **Maryland/DC QSO Party**

August 8th to August 9th, 2009 - 1600-0400 UTC

August 9th - 1600-2359 UTC

Rules at: <http://www.w3cwc.org/2009rules.htm>

CW 3.557, 7.045, 14.045, 21.045, 28.045, 50.045, 144.045

SSB 1.895, 3.821, 7.230, 14.271, 21.371, 28.371, 50.131, 144.141, 432.141

Exchange: your state/province and category. MD/DC stations will give their county/city and category.

Category: CLUB, MOBILE, QRP, STANDARD, ARE SCORING CATEGORIES

ALSO INDICATE ON YOUR SUBMITTED ENTRY IF YOU ARE A YL OR VHF-UHF ONLY

Stations will send the category that reflects their highest point value to the station worked.

## August 15-17

### **New Jersey QSO Party**

2000 UTC SATURDAY, AUGUST 15th TO 0700 UTC SUNDAY, AUGUST 16th, 2009

1300 UTC SUNDAY, AUGUST 16th TO 0200 UTC MONDAY, AUGUST 17th, 2009.

ALL STATIONS SEND A SEQUENTIAL SERIAL QSO NUMBER AND QTH AS FOLLOWS:

NJ STATIONS SEND THEIR NJ COUNTY, OUT-OF-STATE STATIONS SEND THEIR STATE, PROVINCE, OR COUNTRY AS APPLICABLE.

<http://www.qsl.net/w2rj/>

August 22-23

### **Ohio QSO Party**

Start-Finish: 1600Z on 8/22 to 0400Z, August 23rd 2009.

Frequencies: CW 3545, 7045, 14,045, 21,045, 28,045 kHz;  
SSB 3825, 7200, 14,250, 21,300, and 28,450 kHz.

Exchange: Serial Number and state or province, DX stations send "DX

<http://www.oqp.us/>

### **Hawaii QSO Party**

07:00 UTC Aug 22, 2009 to 22:00 UTC Aug 23, 2009

Exchange: Non-Hawaiian stations use RS/T, State, Country, Canadian Province, or maritime region.

Hawaii stations use RS/T and County (5 counties)

Freq: CW- 30 kHz up; Novice/Technician Plus 30 kHz up.

PHONE- 25 kHz up in General segments and 28.300-28.500 MHz.

RTTY- XX.080 to XX.090 for 10, 15, 20m; 7025-7045 and 7080 - 7090 on 40m; 3525 - 3535 and 3560 - 3580 on 80m; 1800 - 1810 on 160m.

[http://www.karc.net/NewWebLayout/OperatingEvents/HawaiiQSOParty/hi\\_qso\\_party.html](http://www.karc.net/NewWebLayout/OperatingEvents/HawaiiQSOParty/hi_qso_party.html)

August 29-30

## **KANSAS QSO PARTY**

August 29, Sat 9am-9pm and August 30 Sun 9am-3pm CDT

Begins: 1400UTC 29 Aug 2009

Begins: 1400UTC 30 Aug 2009

Ends: 0200UTC 30 Aug 2009

Ends: 2000UTC 30 Aug 2009

Exchange: Kansas stations send signal report and county. Stations outside of Kansas send signal report and state, Canadian section, or "DX".

HF CW - 40kHz up from band edge

HF Phone - 3840, 7240, 14240, 21340, 28440

HF Digital - around customary calling frequencies

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

That's it for this month. See you next month! In Sept, there is TN, CO, AR, SC, WA, and TX QSO Parties! Lots of activity coming up. Let's hope for decent band conditions!