

County Hunter News

December 1, 2009
Volume 5, Issue 12

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 occasionally on 3556.5 KHz. 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, 24.9155, 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

For information on county hunting, check out the following resources:

The USACA award is sponsored by CQ Magazine. Rules and information are here: <http://countyhunter.com/cq.htm>

For general information FAQ on County Hunting, check out: <http://countyhunter.com/whatis.htm>

MARAC sponsors an award program for many other county hunting awards. You can find information on these awards and the rules at: http://countyhunter.com/marac_information_package.htm

The CW net procedure is written up at: <http://www.wd3p.net/ch/netproc/netproc.htm>

There is a lot more information at www.countyhunter.com . Back issues of the County Hunter News are available at www.CHNewsonline.com

De N4CD (email: telegraphy@verizon.net)

Notes from the Editor



N4CD Bob USACA #883

1) **N4CD Rumbings** - It's been an interesting month to chase counties. A few folks finished up this month – but not like summer time where the rare counties get run up north in snow country frequently. We're now into busy season where holidays, winter weather, and other things divert attention from county hunting. Also there are some major contests clogging up the band, making one mode or the other impossible to use on the weekends – SS CW, SS Phone, DX contests, etc. However, lots of counties have been run, and there are always ways to get needed counties in most places. (AK and HI usually take a county hunter trip for the rarer ones).

Sweepstakes provided lots of opportunities for CW county hunters to snag new counties and new band counties. 15M was open for many, but nothing spotted on 10M. Three districts in AK were on, along with two counties in HI. Toward the end of the month, the SSB Sweepstakes provided more opportunities for band counties and SSB counties. I heard many county hunters in SS. One problem, though, is some folks operate at guest locations (using some one else's station) so you often follow up with email to ask them where they really were. Some of them are obvious like when an ID station is running from MT, but again others may be two counties over from where they live. You can't be sure on all of them. Risto, W6RK, ran from El Dorado for both modes. I sent out about half a dozen emails when I worked someone in a county I needed, just to be sure that is where they operated from. On SSB, sometimes you can quickly ask their county.

Jerry, W0GXQ, created lots of excitement with 80M contacts for many on his trip to NE. It seemed to work quite well all day long with lots of folks working him. He did the other bands as well, of course.

Not much happening on 17M for most of the month – still long but the east and west coasts enjoyed many new band county contacts there – working the center of the country. Also, there were quite a few spots on 15M and some on 12M during W0GXQ's trip.

December should bring the 10M contest, the 160M contest, and the last QSO Party of the year – South Dakota. They plan to move it to spring next year for better weather. You never know about driving conditions in December that far north!

For CW folks, there's always a few other contests to participate in each weekend – some rather strange, some limited to certain groups. In some of them, you can still make contacts and give a contact point. There was a Western Electric contest for employees and ex-employees of that company and Bell System subsidiaries.

Having worked all of two months as a summer job in 1962 for NY Tel, I gave out a few contacts. Folks kept asking for a repeat on 'years worked' when I sent '1'. Hi hi. I actually worked three new counties for 4th time and gave out two dozen contacts in between chasing mobiles on the county hunter frequencies. (in that contest, you could have worked them even as a 'guest' with no years). When things get slow, you can look for other

opportunities. See the weekly WA7BNM contests listings. There's always QRP events, things like Light Houses, Special Events, etc, to snag some new counties or band counties.

The sunspots stayed very low with the flux index in the low 70s most of the month. Around the 18th, the SF headed up to the high 70s for a while. We had a few sunspots – sunspot number got up into the teens. At the end of the month, it was back to zero sunspots the last week.

2) **New on CW** – Paul, NU4C, now joining the fun on CW.

3) **Mobile activity in November** -

Jim, **KS7S**, made a trip from AZ north to WY running the counties. Ran into some snow that slowed him down in WY.

Jerry, **W0GXQ** and Mike, **NF0N**, hooked up to run a lot of NE counties. Jerry also ran a bunch in SD for his MP award. Here's a quick synopsis

“Six days on the road (three with NF0N): 6,740 contacts. The three day CW total in Nebraska was 4,508. Mike will send me the SSB logs later, but I'm sure there were also several hundred contacts there too.

The weather was perfect for mobile county hunting - mild temps, light breeze, overcast to partly sunny (glad the snow out of Colorado went south into Kansas).

Friday band conditions were good, Saturday was great, and Sunday was just so-so. Forty meters was the hot band due to our location and 80m was a surprise for day time propagation. In the six days I was out, I made 580 Q's on 80 CW and a few on 75 SSB. I think we gave out 31 Last Counties! And, there were several who missed theirs. I got all of my MP contacts thanks to the MG gang who followed me the entire trip. “

Pete, **N4AKP**, took a short day trip in VA. Followed up the next day with more.

Jim, **W4HSA**, Jim, **KB4XK**, Alex, **K5XY**, Barry and Pat, **N0KV/N0DXE**, Matt and Sharon, **W0NAC/N0LXJ** were also spotted out mobile. **AA8R/W8TAX** Randy and Patti, were out mobile headed to WI and back again.

Barry, **N0KV**, and Pat, **N0DXE**, took a trip to TX to get the last county **WBOW** for Pat (Somervell).

Ed, **K8ZZ**, ran in MI, and **KD5JWC** was on in a few counties on cw.

A few mobiles were returning from trips to SC. Gene, **WB4KZW**, was down on a trip and ran some headed north from GA. **K4XI** put out some in FL on cw.

Greg, **NM2L** took a trip to Washington DC and back home. Don, **W9GUY**, was spotted in AL on SSB. **K4YFH** slowly headed back east from out west. Slowly getting back home. Also spotted were **KD7KST**, **WD4OIN**, **W0BH**, **N8OYY**, and **WB5TMW** in a few.

Duane, **WV2B** reports on this trip to Delaware County, NY

“Delaware County trip - Contacts- 74 on 5 different band/modes. 43 minutes spent parked running the county. Otsego- 47 contacts on 5 band/modes. A nice little trip. Reminded me of the old days, and I enjoyed using my rusty CW again, even though my paddle started acting up! A beautiful day outside, I may try a little metal detecting and see if I can find my wife another ring before winter ends the hobby til spring. 73, Duane”

Bill, **K2HVN** headed to VA for the holidays putting them out on cw.

4) **Call Change** – Once again, George, **KR5C**, has changed calls. He is now **K5JF**. Not to be confused with **N4JF**, **N9JF**, **K9JF**, **KJ8F**, and a raft of other similar calls heard on the county hunter net.

5) **N4CD Trivia**

Last issue I talked about having a White Clam pizza in CT. In the November 14 issue of Parade Magazine included in the Sunday paper – I learned some interesting trivia in their article called ‘American Food’. One of the original American foods they talked about was, of all things, the

White Clam Pizza, was invented in New Haven CT in 1950s, by the same guy who introduced pizza to CT in 1925 – Frank Pepe. He took the suggestion of a local clam vendor and created a pie topped with dainty, just opened little =necks and a dash of their briny liquor. A scattering of grated sharp Pecorino cheese provides a bit to balance the sweet meat of the clams – add a slvo of minced garlic and a drizzle of oil – and you have a ‘new’ pizza. Likely you have to go to New Haven CT to get one! I’ve never seen it on the menu anywhere else! (The white clam pie is a Pepe's innovation, though certain other places, including New York's Lombardi's, have adopted it.)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Whiteclampie.jpg>

6) Question of the Month – de KA3DRO: “question asked but not answered..... AA9JJ asked why 20 M SSB has been deserted.... was it lack of interest? Propagation? or what?”

Doing the Numbers

Here some stats from the MARAC database – Number of people completing USA-CA in the last 10 years, per year – as we noted last month:

2000	23
2001	23
2002	22
2003	27
2004	22
2005	23
2006	16
2007	18
2008	13
2009*	14* (year not over yet)

Well, that is not a good trend. Starting about 4 years ago, the number of folks finishing up for first time has taken a serious nose dive. Unlike DXing, where when the upper HF bands die, county hunting has activity on 80, 40, 30 and 20M – and folks can go and get your counties, you can work them at 10 feet mobile to mobile, and have other ways to work around bad propagation. In the past, when DX has gotten abysmal, hams have gravitated toward county hunting, which you can do regardless of the sunspot cycle. Will things turn around? We need to keep interesting folks in county hunting to keep it alive, and get new mobiles out there to work.

More important, let's look at the trend in people who finish up, and then continue county hunting. Most of the fun in county hunting comes in working toward other awards. By the time you get USACA, about half the folks have formed a social network of other county hunters, and continue. They go to conventions. They attend the forum in Dayton. They meet others on trips when they have eyeballs. They get 'hooked'. At least they did in the past. So let us look at the last 10 years to see how we are doing.

I'll check to see if they got second time, and then if still active. Some did it once, and quit. Some may be SK, and not noted in the MARAC database.

Year 2000	Second Time	Active?
1013 W6IYS 12/18/2000	No	No
1012 AC4PY 11/22/2000	No	? (no)
1011 N9STL 10/8/2000	Yes	Yes
1010 W0RRY 10/6/2000	Yes	Rarely
1009 AE3Z 9/25/2000	Yes	Yes
1008 KI7SN 9/23/2000	No	No
1007 KN6ZB 8/27/2000	No	Rarely
1006 W0GXQ 8/18/2000	Yes	Yes
1005 N9QPQ 8/16/2000	Yes	Yes
1004 KD5CXO 8/14/2000	Yes	Yes
1003 AA4QE 6/24/2000	No	No
1002 KB6HW 6/10/2000	No	No
1001 K7TED 5/22/2000	Yes	SK
1000 N9CAR 5/19/2000	No	No
999 KB2ZL 5/6/2000	Yes	SK
998 K7VAY 4/19/2000	No	Yes
997 AB7PX 3/6/2000	No	No

996	N0LN	2/26/2000	Yes	No
995	VE7JMC	2/23/2000	No	No
994	KA1YZV	2/9/2000	No	Yes
993	VE2NW	1/10/2000	No	No
992	KQ4FA	1/5/2000	No	No
991	KD9ZP	1/3/2000	No	rarely

That's 14 no's, or 'not yet's' on getting second time, and only 9 yes's. Not a good record with more than half not getting second time in 9 years or so.

Not only that, but according to my counting, only six are still active, with another 3 rarely getting on for a contact or two. Not a good trend.

So in 2000, that was 23 getting USACA. In 1990, it was 30.

Let's just, for the sake of analysis, look at 10 years after those who got USACA in 1990. That year, the following folks got their USA-CA. A "Y" after means they got second time within 10 years. A "Y*" means they got second time after 10 years more effort.

689	AB4OI	12/30/1990	Y
688	W9DC	12/26/1990	Y
687	KD2N	12/21/1990	N
686	N5AWE	12/20/1990	Y
685	K5XY	12/17/1990	Y*
684	KX8Z	12/15/1990	N
683	W0HEV	12/12/1990	Y
682	N8HAM	11/6/1990	Y*
681	K9ZWH	11/5/1990	N
680	KC5P	11/5/1990	Y
679	WU4S	10/25/1990	Y
678	W2EMW	9/10/1990	N
677	KA1LSD	8/27/1990	N
676	N2CWG	8/25/1990	Y
675	W2WC	8/20/1990	N
674	N6QA	8/3/1990	N
673	K0OJG	8/2/1990	Y
672	K7OQZ	8/2/1990	N
671	W2RPZ	7/20/1990	N
670	NT9V	7/5/1990	Y

669	N4UMR	7/3/1990	Y
668	K0GEN	7/2/1990	Y*
667	W9MYY	6/30/1990	Y
666	CT1TZ	6/27/1990	N
665	KA9JOL	6/20/1990	N
664	K9ETB	6/9/1990	Y
663	WB9NUL	6/6/1990	Y*
662	KA4IFF	6/2/1990	N
661	K5IID	5/22/1990	N
660	WB7QID	4/30/1990	N
659	I2PHN	4/24/1990	N
658	WB4HN	4/23/1990	N
657	KA9ZRW	4/5/1990	Y
656	K7DM	2/3/1990	N
655	WA4KER	2/3/1990	Y
654	WA8RSQ	1/25/1990	Y
653	WA0ZBK	1/19/1990	N
652	WB9STT	1/18/1990	Y
651	WA4NBC	1/6/1990	Y
650	KD8HA	1/2/1990	Y

Total – 30 - How many of them got second time? In less than 10 years?
 There were 18 who got second time in less than 10 years, and 4 more who were active, and got second time in more than 10 years. Out of 30, that's pretty impressive to think we kept more than half the county hunters interested, and more than two-thirds got second time . 1990-2000.

Contrast that to the year 2000 stats, where well under half finished up second time, and few are still active. What's going on? Have we managed to lose so many people? Were hams different around 1990? Or have we failed to maintain the interest? Or run them off nets? Or not done much to retain interest in county hunting?

There are more and more mobiles out there – just go to Dayton hamvention and the parking lot is loaded with screwdriver antennas on thousands of cars. I'm sure they are all not chasing DX. How about state QSO Parties? If it weren't for a handful of county hunter mobiles and a few dedicated in state hams, many would be total disasters. NJ? DE? AR?

DX seems to be alive and well – just listen to the pileups on DXpeditions. Some of the state QSO Parties (CA, TX) generate tens of thousands of contacts. But listen to the CH net during the week, and you can go for two days with next to no activity.

In the past, the truckers often provided a background of activity – we usually had four or five on the road headed back and forth putting out the counties. There don't seem to be as many truckers on – either been 'run off', discouraged, or also have new trucks with massive amounts of QRN from all the electronics in them. So that is missing.

Conditions haven't been great, but when mobiles go out, the activity is good with lots of contacts – but we don't have as much 'new blood' as we used to – it seems we are not interesting many new prospective county hunters – and if they tune across the net frequencies, often there is no one there so they simply keep tuning.

I like county hunting. It's sad to see it slowly fading away. Anyone have any ideas for a 'fix'?

The Left Wing Socialist Lurch

You'd think the folks in the UK must be nuts after you read this.....coming your way, care of the 'left wing socialists'....

The Nationalization of Your Children [by Mark Steyn]

Increasingly in Britain, the state's basic assumption is that everyone's a pedophile until proven otherwise:

A council has banned parents from supervising their children in public playgrounds until they have undergone criminal record checks.

Adults have been excluded from two adventure play areas in Watford, apart from a handful of council-vetted 'play rangers' who will assist youngsters, it emerged today.

Parents will be forced to watch their children from outside the perimeter fence.

Watford Borough Council claims it is just following Government guidelines and cannot allow adults to walk around playgrounds 'unchecked'.

But parents are furious that they are all being labeled 'potential paedophiles' and branded the ban 'a joke'.

Mother-of-five Marcella Bergin, 35, said she was disgusted when she heard she would not be allowed to stay in the park with her children...

Council Mayor Dorothy Thornhill said they are merely enforcing government policy at the play areas, in Vicarage Road and Leggatts Way.

She said: 'Sadly, in today's climate, you can't have adults walking around unchecked in a children's playground and the adventure playground is not a meeting place for adults.

'We have reviewed our procedures, so although previously some parents have stayed with their children at the discretion of our play workers, this is not something we can continue to do.

I keep getting e-mails saying, "People will reach a tipping point and they'll no longer put up with this stuff." I doubt it. Right now the way to bet is that once free societies will retreat incrementally, one trivial step after another, into a totalitarian hell."

Source:

<http://corner.nationalreview.com/post/?q=ZDYwZGIyYmQ2YWQxMDRkOGJiYzI1M2I1NWViNmNIZTk=>

Well...we don't know any left wing socialists, do we? You mean like Obama, most of his advisors like the former Van Jones, avowed communist, his White House press person, who turns to Chairman Mao as 'guidance', and the other loonie czars in Washington DC? The ones who think 'Big Brother' can run everything better than you or I can, or have 'better uses' for your hard earned dollars?

Manassas BPL – Dying Quickly

From ARRL Letter 11/19/2009

“ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, once termed the battle of Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) in Manassas, Virginia as the "Third Battle of Bull Run." While the war against harmful interference to Amateur Radio via BPL is not yet over, the battle in Manassas might soon be coming to an end.

In a Special Meeting on Monday, November 16 of the Manassas City Council, the Council voted "To allow the [City of Manassas] Utility Commission to make a recommendation to the [Manassas] City Manager as part of the FY 2011 Budget regarding the decision to continue offering Internet service; additionally, staff was instructed to discontinue all marketing and advertising of Internet service." This motion passed 4-2.

At the meeting, Manassas Director of Utilities Michael Moon told the Council that "it is not cost-effective to continue the internet service on the Main.net BPL communication system as a stand-alone cost center" and that the City "need[s] to make the decision for internet service in the context of what communication system will be used for the City's AMI [Advanced Metering Infrastructure]."

Sumner said that the Manassas BPL system was "once touted as 'the most successful BPL deployment in the nation.' Manassas actually has demonstrated that there is no business case for BPL as a consumer broadband delivery medium."

According to the *News and Messenger*, a local newspaper that serves the Manassas area, Councilman Jonathan Way said that the City "needs[s] to get out of BPL forthwith. It's not a good product. The whole business is not financially sound and it never has been." Councilman Mark Wolfe agreed with Way, saying he wanted to see the system shut down by the end of the fiscal year on June 30, starting the shutdown process now.

The newspaper reported that the City of Manassas' Utility Commission proposed to make the decision whether to shut down the system by the end

of the fiscal year, June 30, 2010. While Wolfe and Way want it shut down before that date, Councilmen Marc Aveni and Vice Mayor Andy Harrover argued to leave BPL out of the City's next budget; by doing this, there will be no funding for the service and it will go and die what the *News and Messenger* called "a natural death."

According to the newspaper, Way said that waiting until the end of the fiscal year to make the decision "would cost more money because the city couldn't just turn off the service overnight once the decision is made." Forecasts by the Utility Commission show that the City's BPL service is projected to lose up to \$171,353 each year over the next nine years. Way said that's money the city could ill afford to lose: BPL, he said, "should go and be over and done with."

Manassas residents pay \$24.95 each month to receive Internet service via BPL. The Utility Commission showed the Council that little more than 500 residents and 46 businesses currently subscribe to the service, which since 2008, has been run by the City. "It's costing a little more to maintain the system than we projected in the budget," Moon told the Council. "The original projections were that the customer base would be double this." In September 2008, the Manassas City Council voted to assume control of the BPL service from Comtek, the private company that served (back then) approximately 675 residents.

Manassas' Assistant Utilities Director (Electric) Gregg Paulson told the ARRL that as for now, Internet service in the City of Manassas will continue, but the Council will make the decision to continue it in the next fiscal year during the budget approval process. "We'll work it through the budget," he said. ""We have every intention of putting BPL Internet service in the budget and the Council can decide its fate as they work through the budget process."

Paulson said that while Internet service to consumers would "probably" be the only thing that would be cut if the Council decided to forego BPL, he left the door open as to using the BPL infrastructure for other purposes: "We still own the BPL network, but we may or may not use this network for utility monitoring or other AMI purposes."

The Council considered two motions concerning BPL during the Special Meeting. The first motion, made by Councilman Way was ultimately

defeated 2-4: "To direct the Utility Commission to discontinue Internet service in an expedited but orderly manner by the end of the fiscal year, to instruct the Utilities staff to refrain from Internet marketing efforts and promptly advise its customers of the intent to discontinue service, and to authorize the Utilities Department to sell or franchise the BPL system and hardware to third parties, but avoid leasing or partnering or developing other relationships which would involve continued Utilities participation in the Internet operation."

Once that motion had failed, Councilman Aveni made the motion that passed 4-2, clearing the way for Manassas to keep BPL Internet service in the upcoming budget.

Manassas and BPL

BPL and its interference with Amateur Radio has a long history in Manassas: "The story of BPL in Manassas begins in May 2002, when the City of Manassas launched a field trial to test BPL technology using equipment provided by Main.net," wrote Sumner in his June 2006 editorial, *It Seems to Us*. "Based on a positive report of the test results from its Utilities Department, in October 2003 the Manassas City Council voted to grant a 10-year franchise to an unknown company called Prospect Street Broadband to expand the field trial and offer high-speed Internet service to the entire community of 35,000. At the time the utility estimated it would take 120 days to roll out the entire system. The City was told it could expect as much as \$4.5 million in revenue -- an utterly fanciful figure -- from the 10-year franchise."

According to *BPL Today*, Manassas was the "first city in the world to have BPL deployed to all its residents and has been a demonstration center for utilities, integrators/operators and government entities from around the globe." It was in Manassas that then-FCC Chairman Michael Powell and then-Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Chairman Pat Wood announced completion of the FCC's BPL rules and FERC's support for FCC jurisdiction over BPL before the October 2004 meeting at which the BPL rules were finally adopted, prompting an ARRL complaint. *BPL Today* was a weekly journal for the BPL industry; it is now called *Smart Grid Today*.

Sumner wrote that Manassas "knew about the [Amateur Radio] interference issue. Because the equipment [they chose to use] was known to be

problematic, a few days after the franchise was awarded, I wrote to the Mayor of Manassas to advise that 'tests conducted by ARRL technical personnel have shown that the system planned to be deployed in Manassas causes harmful interference to the Amateur Radio Service' and that the ARRL 'will ensure that there is full compliance with the FCC regulations.'" Section 15.5 of the FCC Rules states that "the operator of a radio frequency device shall be required to cease operating the device upon notification by a Commission representative that the device is causing harmful interference. Operation shall not resume until the condition causing the harmful interference has been corrected."

In a letter dated April 6, 2006 to Katherine Power of the FCC's Spectrum Enforcement Division, COMtek attorney Tom Grady said COMtek had plans to upgrade the Manassas system "as soon as practicable" and that COMtek "expects that the upgrade of BPL equipment along the Route 234 corridor will be completed by the end of July 2006. A system-wide upgrade to G2 BPL equipment to improve service to existing customers is slated to be completed by the end of November 2006." Grady explained that this equipment upgrade "should resolve any remaining question as to whether the Manassas BPL system is causing harmful interference to mobile operations."

As for today, Sumner said that "the BPL system in Manassas failed financially a long time ago and has only been kept operating through local taxpayer subsidy and neglected maintenance. As for interference, it's worth noting that while attorneys for COMTek told the FCC in April 2006 that a system-wide upgrade to G2 BPL equipment was to have been completed by November 2006, this week's report to the City Council said that only 23 percent of the system was G2 -- three years after the system-wide upgrade was promised. No wonder the interference problems in Manassas have persisted right up to this day."

According to ARRL Lab Manager and BPL expert Ed Hare, W1RFI, the only way that BPL can avoid causing harmful interference to licensed radio services "is to have sufficient filtering of the BPL signal on locally used spectrum. State-of-the-art BPL equipment can achieve 35 dB of filtering easily. This level of suppression of BPL noise has been shown to be a good general solution to avoid widespread interference problems. In residential areas, it is common to find people using Amateur Radio, Citizens Band and international shortwave broadcast spectrum."

George Tarnovsky, K4GVT, of Manassas, is President of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club. "We hams in Manassas have 'battled' BPL and the harmful interference issue since 2002," he told the ARRL. "We tried to work with the City and the suppliers, only to be misled, belittled and lied to, but we never gave up. The amateur community could not coexist with the system as it was initially designed. Despite big money influence and BPL-FCC alliance, the truth prevailed -- BPL as installed in Manassas is flawed. We spent countless hours educating the BPL consortium that they were causing interference to licensed services. We filed numerous complaint letters to the FCC before getting their attention. But all was not lost; we did what we had to do in order to prove this system as rolled out here in Manassas, was flawed."

In 2008, Way was one of two members who voted against the City of Manassas taking over COMTek's BPL services: "If we really feel compelled to compete, we should do so with modern, fast and reliable technology. The current operator of the BPL system cannot make a go of it and wants out. There should be a lesson hiding somewhere in that fact."

Harrover was one of the four who, in 2008, voted in favor of taking over BPL service from COMTek. He told the News and Messenger he had a "fundamental problem" with the city providing Internet services: "The philosophical question is should the city be in the Internet business and the answer is no."

Tarnovsky thanked the Manassas-area hams "who put so much into field monitoring, complaint letters and meetings, as well as their undying perseverance in the face of powerful entities as government, and big money BPL. I would also like to thank the ARRL and their team: Ed Hare, W1RFI, and ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, for their support. Without this support, it would have been impossible come so far. To those of you still entrenched in the fight against BPL's harmful interference: Don't give up -- it's because of the individuals like you that our Amateur Radio privileges will not be infringed upon."

BPL technology uses the electricity grid in a city and the wiring in individual homes to provide direct "plug in" broadband access through electricity sockets, rather than over phone or cable TV lines. Because BPL wiring is physically large, is often overhead and extends across entire

communities, these systems pose a significant interference potential to over-the-air radio services, including Amateur Radio.”

Source: Courtesy of ARRL Letter, by the ARRL, Newington, CT 06111

Greenie Cars

Latest news:

“Chrysler has disbanded a team of engineers dedicated to rushing a range of electric vehicles to showrooms and dropped ambitious sales targets for battery-powered cars set as it was sliding toward bankruptcy and seeking government aid.

The move by Fiat SpA marks a major reversal for Chrysler, which had used its electric car program as part of the case for a \$12.5 billion federal aid package.

As late as August, Chrysler took \$70 million in grants from the U.S. Department of Energy to develop a test fleet of 220 hybrid pickup trucks and minivans, vehicles now scrapped in the sweeping turnaround plan for Chrysler announced this week by Fiat CEO Sergio Marchionne.”

Source: Fox News

The Honey Trap for Obama

November 11, 2009, 10:15 am

I argued last week that all the electric vehicle talk we heard so much of at Chrysler and GM during their restructuring (remember all those GM electric car ads on TV, which have now disappeared?) were just a honey trap for Obama. Auto makers knew that they were not designing a car for the masses, but for one man, to get him to put taxpayer money into their companies. Now that they actually have to think about selling these cars to

the public, the ads have disappeared and now Chrysler is ending its EV program.

I want to take you back to their restructuring plan. The plan had 7 steps, listed in priority order. The first and second priority was restructuring. The third priority was a deal with Fiat. The next priority, ahead of any others beyond the initial restructuring and Fiat deal, was their EV car program

in fact, this was very clearly a business plan aimed at Obama. Look at the #4-7 priorities and their order. Only one potential investor in the whole world would appreciate these priorities. Any private investor would find these priorities nuts:

- 4) Commitment to Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability
- 5) Compliance with Fuel Economy Regulations
- 6) Compliance with Emissions Regulations
- 7) Achieving a Competitive Product Mix and Cost Structure

So “achieving a competitive product mix and cost structure,” arguably the problem that drove them into bankruptcy is their dead last priority!

Welcome to government motors, where commitment to energy security is more important than having a competitive product mix or cost structure.”

- - - - -

Tens of billions of your tax dollars – for a plan that was a sham – for cars that will never be built in the near future, or if ever.

It's Greek to Me

Ask any high school physics student and they'll tell you that electrons govern pretty much everything we do. We call electrons in motion an electrical current, and those radio waves that we hams are so fond of are the result of high frequency electrons traveling in our antenna conductors. Think

of a 40 meter wave as an accidental tourist who wants to go somewhere (somewhere nice and warm, maybe a rare DX station). But how to get there? It needs some mode of transport -- think of electrons as the transport providers.

We use our transmitters to move the electrons in our antennas to-and-fro to produce radio waves, hopefully to that rare DX destination. When the radio waves get there, they set electrons in another antenna in motion. That current -- electrons in motion -- is amplified and detected at the receiving location and a QSO is made.

But why do we call them electrons? The ancient Greeks noticed that amber attracted small objects when rubbed with fur; apart from lightning, this phenomenon is thought to be man's earliest known experience of electricity. Back in the year 1600, the English physician William Gilbert -- in his treatise *De Magnete* -- coined the New Latin term *electricus* to refer to this property of attracting small objects after being rubbed. Both *electric* and *electricity* are derived from the Latin *Ā“lectrum*, which came from the Greek word ἤλεκτρον (*Ā“lektron*) for amber. ***Now you know.***

Source: Courtesy of ARRL Letter, November 19,2009, ARRL, Inc, Newington CT 06111

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>

KY QSO Party

The KY QSO Party was the only state QSO Party during the month, and it was fairly good. There were a few mobiles out – AE8M, W9WI, K4Y (NY4N), KY4DXA (ssb), plus a good handful of fixed stations to snag some other counties. There was a lot of activity from county hunters. Conditions were fairly decent until later in the afternoon/evening when RTTY moved in on 40M.

From the 3830 reflector:

AE8M/m(KY): “The mobile setup is an Elecraft K2 with the 100W amp and tuner in the trunk. The antennas were Lakeview hamsticks.

I operated a total of 7 counties along I-71 between Cincinnati and Louisville. It was necessary to venture away from the interstate highway to operate in Trimble County. It was difficult to find a suitable spot to stop to operate, and I felt somewhat like Daniel Boone must have felt wondering along a narrow path in a gully surrounded by hills.

I must park to operate which cuts down on the number of counties that can be visited and the score. Nevertheless, going mobile in a state QSO Party is great fun. It is amazing how well a modest mobile setup will perform.

Thanks to all who called me. For fear of leaving someone out, I hesitate to give individual thanks. That notwithstanding, I worked the following 7 or more Q's: W4UCZ, AD5WI, NW6S, WB2ABD, KM1C, W5MX, KJ4AOM, WA3HAE, K9JF and KO1U. It was particularly fun to work DL3GA 3 times and K9JF in WA 8 times.

There is no Writelog module for this contest, so I produced my own Writelog entry form with a separate file for each county. It took some time to go from the Writelog files, to a spreadsheet format, and finally into the correct Cabrillo text format.

Several times during the contest my microKEYER decided to send gibberish instead of what the laptop was telling it to send. This happened at least once when several stations were calling and I felt like an idiot.”

W4UCZ: (GA) – 53 cw Q, 40 multipliers: “Worked only 8 fixed stations and 3 mobiles - all 3 from out-of-state.

Thanks to K4Y/M (Jeff, NY4N) for 20 Q's, W9WI/M (Doug) for 10 Q's and AE8M/M (John) for 8. For me, the mobiles WERE the contest.

Worked several all-time new ones so the effort was worth it.”

NO5W (TX) : 30cw Q, 20 Mults – “Thanks to the mobiles AE8M, W9WI, and K4Y for keeping it interesting. Some good pileups on W9WI and K4Y toward the end. Never heard the special bonus station

KY4DX. Conditions seemed excellent on 40 and 20 although the RTTY contest QRM made it tough on 40 toward the end. “

N4ARO (TN) : 54 CW 19 SSB 50 Mults “Hope to see this close-to-home QSO party grow. Needs more KY hams to take part.

Mobiles are key to providing interest in the contest. NY4N, W9WI and AE8M did a great job this year providing contacts with many counties. Also it was fun working the bonus station 5 times - only complaint, bonus station should include some CW operating time so the CW guys can get a crack at the bonus points. “

WB2ABD (NY) 43cw 8 ssb 40 mults

K4BAI (GA) 27 cw 7 ssb 23 mults

W0BH (KS) : 24 cw 9 ssb 23 mults : Even though the computer showed 1.5 hours of op time, I actually had the radio on most of the day and kept stopping by to look for mobiles. No luck finding the bonus station.

Good job by the mobiles who kept things interesting: K4Y/m (13), W9WI (2), AE8M (2).

Greenie Fuels

A Lesson in Biofuels from Tennessee

By Jeffrey Folks

“In 2007, to great fanfare and amid ever-greater expectations, a large-scale demonstration project was initiated to turn switchgrass into biofuel. For an investment of \$70 million, the taxpayers of the state of Tennessee were promised a lucrative new industry that would benefit farmers and create thousands of other "green jobs." The project, which was expected to produce five million gallons of biofuel from switchgrass within two years, would soon be fiscally self-sustaining and afford a "significant return" on investment. As the largest switchgrass demonstration project in the country, it was to have been the foundation for a whole new industry.

Sounds great, and it is just what the Tennessee legislature approved in 2007. When it began, "the University of Tennessee Biofuels Initiative," as it is called, excited favorable comments in newspapers and media across the country. Finally, there would be a practical alternative to those nasty fossil fuels, and the great thing was that it would be produced from a hearty plant that could be grown on marginal land almost anywhere. Switchgrass was the answer to America's dependence on foreign oil. It would restore the trade balance, boost the economy, and save the earth, all at the same time.

Now, according to the Knoxville *News Sentinel*, the Biofuels Initiative has reported that it is not yet producing 5 million gallons of switchgrass fuel. In fact, according to published reports, it would seem that it is not producing any fuel at all. The 250,000 gallons of ethanol that it is producing have been distilled from corn cobs -- a process akin to one already quite common, if not notorious, in the state of Tennessee.

According to figures from the U.S. Department of Energy, a biofuels facility of the sort envisioned would not be feasible unless it produced five million gallons per year. But according to a report by the executive director of the Fiscal Review Committee of the Tennessee state legislature, it appears certain that the Biofuels Initiative will not be "self-sufficient," as promised, within five years. Having initially promised that the plant would produce

five million gallons with the goal of demonstrating the feasibility of switchgrass, the project director now seems to regard the initiative as a "research project." The feasibility issue will have to wait until some time in the future.

The project has cost the state \$55 million, not counting additional federal funding and state subsidies to farmers growing switchgrass. Now members of the legislature are quoted as saying that the project is "not good stewardship of taxpayer dollars" and that continued funding "may need re-evaluation." The director of the project insists that the State Building Commission approved changes, but it appears that the legislature at large was not aware of them. Whether the legislature will continue funding the Biofuels Initiative, and at what level, will be determined after November 15.

Altogether, more than \$90 million has been spent on the University of Tennessee Biofuels Initiative with no end in sight. On the national scale, tens of billions of dollars are being spent on similar alternative energy subsidies and research with little to show for it. “

“Meanwhile, the Obama administration seems determined to kill off as many jobs as possible in well-established energy businesses here in the United States. The administration has placed a moratorium on mountaintop coal mining, affecting jobs throughout Appalachia. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar has delayed shale exploration in the western United States and reneged on promises to permit offshore drilling in Alaska and along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

At a time when Chinese and other foreign oil companies are buying up leases in the Gulf of Mexico, Obama is making it harder for our own energy companies to explore through the threat of cap-and-trade legislation. Domestic drilling for natural gas now stands at half of what it was just last year. The world's big new discoveries of oil and gas are taking place outside the U.S., offshore in Brazil and West Africa. Foreign countries will reap the economic reward of this exploration and production. Meanwhile, the value of U.S. currency continues to decline, and unemployment has risen to 10.2%.

How many energy-sector jobs has this administration killed off? Estimates are that new oil and gas discoveries in Brazil will create 400,000 new jobs (real jobs, not the "created or saved" variety). “

Source: American Thinker

ARK QSO Party Feedback

I received a note back from one of the few stations that actually showed up for part of the ARK QSO Party. He mentioned that the big hamfest in Mena, AR was held the same weekend as the ARK QSO Party. Well.....they were the ones who scheduled both the QSO Party and the Hamfest! You'd think they'd be on the same page! Or at least a few of the mobiles who went to the hamfest bothered to put out the county that the hamfest was in!. NOT! As you recall, there were just a few stations who made it on during the ARK QSO Party, which lasted two full days.

On the Road with N4CD I

This was a trip that almost didn't happen – Murphy almost changed things at the last minute. However, serendipitously, things fixed themselves, and it was off on another N4CD trip.

A county hunter looking for the last WBOW had the need posted for a while – Aransas, TX. His needs slowly had whittled down to one leaving that one. It seemed that I was giving out a bunch of 'Next to Last for WBOW'. Well, this was a LC WBOW – so why not help out?

Hmmm...this is not exactly on the 'beaten path' and you have to want to go there – not much reason for passing through either, unless you are a county hunter. There aren't too many active mobiles in that part of TX, so normally you wait for a TX mini or National Convention, when a few dozen mobiles descend and run lots of TX counties. Or someone just out running a

bunch of counties or the TQP. There aren't too many people living in Aransas, TX either.

The TX QSO party was over for the year – many caught dozens (or hundreds in the case of DL3DXX and N8II) of counties in the QSO party held the last weekend of September each year. The needs list had been whittled down a whole lot. The "really needed" counties were out in ID and OR according to the latest KM9X Most Wanted List. Texas didn't even have one county in high demand.

My car had barely cooled off from the last 3 week trip – but, heck, folks desperately needed counties so I planned an overnight trip to get Aransas, TX – and indicated I would check back with Scott, KA3QLF the day before just to confirm things. No sense driving 700-800 miles round trip if the folks weren't able to show up. It was Halloween weekend, so the attempt had to be on Friday or very early Saturday to fit in to both our schedules.

The weather was also a factor – a weather front, with 60 mph winds, potential tornadoes, and lots of rain was passing through. Shreveport, LA, about 3 hours east, had just had the rainiest October in history. There was major flooding there. I didn't want to get caught in that out mobile – the bad weather was supposed to be through by Friday – but things can change fast. Thursday night on the weather channel, they were showing pictures of flooded roads in LA with lots of cars under water. No thanks! Finally, it looked like going straight south would be OK weather wise. All the bad weather was to the east now.

Thursday evening I try calling Scott on the phone. The phone rings and rings and rings. Many times. Up to 10PM his time. Not good. I tried calling Scott on his cellphone. The message I get is 'the number is not registered'. Hmm...that's a new one on me. Well, I'll try again in the morning – same thing except both phones just ring and ring – no answer. I sent him email saying the trip is off and posted notice on K3IMC forum saying trip is canceled. Then a bit later I get call from Scott – seems with the deluge of rain there (8 plus inches), the phone company was really messed up, and the phone system wasn't working right. OK....it was late, almost a hour after I expected to leave normally, but the suitcase was packed, so I headed out.

It turns out he could callout on the phone, could get some calls, but I couldn't call him. OK....as long as he was going to be around, we'd figure out how to get him if needed, and get a relay if needed. He wasn't all that strong into TX. (propagation isn't all that helpful these days at that distance).

Friday morning had seen some light rain after 2 days of heavy rain. The rain really dumped on Shreveport, LA (10-18 inches) Thursday night, and ARK, and southeast TX. . The light rain still messed things up. You either leave here early on a weekday, or after 'rush hour' to go south through the 'Metroplex'. I left about 9 am and rush hour had not ended – there were accidents that backed up everything for hours that morning. What should have been an easy 40 minute trip through Dallas took 1 ½ hours with lots of stop and go driving and lots of 10-20 mph speeds. Arrggh! Three or four accidents that were being cleaned up made things move slowly. Finally, I got clear of all of that traffic mess, and it was time to zip to south TX.

From my map, I figured it was down I35 to route 77 most of the way – then run the C/L on highway 35 on the way to Rockport, TX. The GPS said to go the same way, so I just followed it the whole way, running the counties as I went through them.

The weather turned nice, the sun was out and it was near 70 degrees. Scott, KA3QLF worked me along the route a few times. That helps as it calibrates the expectations of what bands are working and signal strengths between our two locations. His wire antennas don't give a 'big signal' in TX, but on CW he was still in there –sometimes better on 30M, sometimes better on 20M.

About 7 hours later, I reached the Aransas/Refugio line. I've been there a few times, and it was usually a decent line to run with near zero noise. However, you never know – sometimes my favorite lines wind up with a new nasty power line installed nearby! (In TX and OK, the power companies seem to delight in running major, noisy power lines along the county boundaries, and around the country, for some reason, there are lots of residential power lines that cross exactly at the county line signs – hi hi).

The further south I got, the weaker Scott's signal was, so I needed to find a real quiet spot. Down along the gulf, there are LOTS of very noisy power lines from the salt, humidity, storms, and general rural nature of much of the roads and areas. (ie, swamps and low lying areas unsuitable for building).

Bands were decent – 30 and 20M were the bread and butter bands. I made only a few contacts on 17M going down – just not good yet.

I parked the car facing northeast at the C/L– that’s the best way for my car with the antenna on the back trunk deck (about 2 S unit difference front to back) – knowing I might need every dB to make the contact. I gave Scott a call – “KA3QLF KA3QLF from N4CD N4CD K”...and in 30 seconds the contact was complete. It’s a good thing I found a real quiet spot – I needed it. I doubt we could have done in on SSB. Success! Quite a few needed Aransas, so it was a great run – KC3X, Hollis, W0GXQ, Jerry, and others needed it for MP.



Aransas/Refugio County Line, TX

LC WBOW for KA3QLF

The state QSO party is great for working counties, but most of the mobiles out this year were only good for USACA, USACW, or maybe Bingo with the right letters, so there were needs for Bingo, MG, and MP. One CH with a star was out in the TQP, (K5OT) , but as part of a multi-op team using a

different call, so that wouldn't count either. Norm, W3DYA, was off in TN this year.

It had been a long day, but I ran over to Calhoun next door, then back up to Victoria County – finding a Motel 6 (\$40.35 senior rate) in Victoria. Dinner was next door at the Bayfield Seafood restaurant – might as well enjoy some fresh gulf seafood while in the neighborhood. I woke up early – too early – it was dark at 6:30 am. It was still daylight savings time.

Nearby was a Skillet's Restaurant – the sun wasn't going to come up for an hour, so I enjoyed a nice pancake and egg breakfast and a couple cups of coffee, then headed back toward home.

A few had missed Lavaca on the way down – KM1C needed it for a last, along with K9JF- so on Saturday I headed north to get it, then over east a bit to get Waller for W0GXQ who is working hard on his MP. Others wanted Waller as well. No problem – other than lots of stretches of road with S7 to S9 noise with the cw filter in – you can't work much through that – so often I stopped when I found a nice quiet spot and ran the counties. After Waller, Grimes and Madison, it was back up the interstate to home, arriving before dinner. 17M was working better, with Darrel, W6TMD pounding in 599 for 2 hours on 17M.

Success.....a last county WBOW for Scott, KA3QLF, a LC for KM1C and others, and hopefully I whacked down the list of needed counties for some.

Miles – a bunch. Gas – \$2.50-\$2.60 gal (about 28-30 mpg with lots of stops to run counties with engine running). Motel – cheap. Dinner – good. Hey, it's about having fun, right! And getting folks finished up for awards. On both counts – Success.

Global Warming Hysteria – the Video

Super Video by Lord Christopher Moncton – Nobel Prize winner – grab your favorite beverage and watch. Well worth your time.

Every kid, repeat, every kid should watch this. Every adult should watch this.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4zOXmJ4jd-8>

and if you want to gag a bit, here's Al Gore telling you how the center of the Earth is a few million degrees hot!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ns_4pzfOSTc

Al Gore: "People think about geothermal energy — when they think about it at all — in terms of the hot water bubbling up in some places, but two kilometers or so down in most places there are these incredibly hot rocks, because the interior of the earth is extremely hot, several million degrees."

And Al Gore got a Nobel Peace prize for science like this? You'd be fried to death right now if the core of the planet were several million degrees hot. A cinder. It would likely be 10,000 degrees on the surface of the planet if this were true.

In case you were wondering, the temperature in the Earth's core is estimated to be 4000-7000 degrees C. Maybe 13,000 degrees F. Or more than two orders of magnitude less than Al Gore's hype. (factor of 100).

Source: <http://hypertextbook.com/facts/1999/PhillipChan.shtml>

More Pictures from the "M" Reunion

Taken at the "M" reunion in Manchester, TN – 2009



Gene, N4ANV USA-CA #270



Bob K8DTO USA-CA #619



Bob W4UB – USA #619 Scott K4SL USA-CA #695



Lloyd, K0GEN USA-CA #668

Al Gore – Carbon Tax Billionaire

It's official. Al Gore is now a 'billionaire' having created 'Global Warming Hysteria', and profiting highly from it.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/03/business/energy-environment/03gore.html>

“As a private citizen, Mr. Gore does not have to disclose his income or assets, as he did in his years in Congress and the White House. When he left government in early 2001, he listed assets of less than \$2 million, including homes in suburban Washington and in Tennessee.

Since then, his net worth has skyrocketed,profits from books and his movie, and scores of speeches for which he can be paid more than \$100,000”

12 / 15/ 17 Meter Report

The November SS gave many contacts on 15 meters. From TX, it was open to the east and west on 15M, also HI and AK. Zip on 10M.

Spotted on 17M were K8ZZ in MI, W0GXQ in MN, ND, SD, NE, IA, and N0KV, KB4XK, and NM2L, along with N4CD. Others may have run and not been spotted.

On 12M, not much activity. With W0GXQ the only mobile spotted in past month.

Jerry also ran 15m, but not spotted frequently, although I bet a half dozen worked him in each county there. Some of the spotters seem to be a bit slow (like never). Then again, you had to be fast – he might be gone in 30 seconds if no more were calling. If you work him on 17, you follow him up to 15 and 12.

With increasing sunspot numbers, there is more hope for better propagation on the higher bands.

Peak Oil Deception

“The world is much closer to running out of oil than official estimates admit, according to a whistleblower at the International Energy Agency who claims it has been deliberately underplaying a looming shortage for fear of triggering panic buying.

The senior official claims the US has played an influential role in encouraging the watchdog to underplay the rate of decline from existing oil fields while overplaying the chances of finding new reserves.

The allegations raise serious questions about the accuracy of the organization’s latest World Energy Outlook on oil demand and supply to be published tomorrow – which is used by the British and many other governments to help guide their wider energy and climate change policies.

In particular they question the prediction in the last World Economic Outlook, believed to be repeated again this year, that [oil](#) production can be raised from its current level of 83m barrels a day to 105m barrels. External critics have frequently argued that this cannot be substantiated by firm evidence and say the world has already passed its peak in oil production.

A second senior IEA source, who has now left but was also unwilling to give his name, said a key rule at the organisation was that it was "imperative not to anger the Americans" but the fact was that there was not as much oil in the world as had been admitted. "We have [already] entered the 'peak oil' zone. I think that the situation is really bad," he added.

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/nov/09/peak-oil-international-energy-agency>

Dark Matter Cosmic Rays?

“Nov. 19, 2008: An international team of researchers has discovered a puzzling surplus of high-energy electrons bombarding Earth from space. The source of these cosmic rays is unknown, but it must be close to the solar system and it could be made of dark matter. Their results are being reported in the Nov. 20th issue of the journal *Nature*.”

““This is a big discovery,” says co-author John Wefel of Louisiana State University. “It’s the first time we’ve seen a discrete source of accelerated cosmic rays standing out from the general galactic background.”

Galactic cosmic rays are subatomic particles accelerated to almost light speed by distant supernova explosions and other violent events. They swarm through the Milky Way, forming a haze of high energy particles that enter the solar system from all directions. Cosmic rays consist mostly of protons and heavier atomic nuclei with a dash of electrons and photons spicing the mix.

To study the most powerful and interesting cosmic rays, Wefel and colleagues have spent the last eight years flying a series of balloons through the stratosphere over Antarctica. Each time the payload was a NASA-funded cosmic ray detector named ATIC, short for Advanced Thin Ionization Calorimeter. The team expected ATIC to tally the usual mix of particles, mainly protons and ions, but the calorimeter found something extra: an abundance of high-energy electrons.

Wefel likens it to driving down a freeway among family sedans, mini-vans and trucks—when suddenly a bunch of Lamborghinis bursts through the normal traffic. “You don’t expect to see so many race cars on the road—or so many high-energy electrons in the mix of cosmic rays.” During five weeks of ballooning in 2000 and 2003, ATIC counted 70 excess electrons in the energy range 300-800 GeV. (“Excess” means over and above the usual number expected from the galactic background.) Seventy electrons may not sound like a great number, but like seventy Lamborghinis on the freeway, it’s a significant surplus.

“The source of these exotic electrons must be relatively close to the solar system—no more than a kiloparsec away,” says co-author Jim Adams of the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center.

Why must the source be nearby? Adams explains: “High-energy electrons lose energy rapidly as they fly through the galaxy. They give up energy in

two main ways: (1) when they collide with lower-energy photons, a process called inverse Compton scattering, and (2) when they radiate away some of their energy by spiraling through the galaxy's magnetic field." By the time an electron has traveled a whole kiloparsec, it isn't so 'high energy' any more.

High-energy electrons are therefore local. Some members of the research team believe the source could be less than a few hundred parsecs away. For comparison, the disk of the spiral Milky Way galaxy is about thirty *thousand* parsecs wide. (One parsec approximately equals three light years.)

This uncertainty gives free rein to the imagination. The least exotic possibilities include, e.g., a nearby pulsar, a 'microquasar' or a stellar-mass black hole—all are capable of accelerating electrons to these energies. It is possible that such a source lurks undetected not far away. NASA's recently-launched Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope is only just beginning to survey the sky with sufficient sensitivity to reveal some of these objects.

An even more tantalizing possibility is dark matter.

There is a class of physical theories called "Kaluza-Klein theories" which seek to reconcile gravity with other fundamental forces by positing extra dimensions. In addition to the familiar 3D of human experience, there could be as many as eight more dimensions woven into the space around us. A popular yet unproven explanation for dark matter is that dark matter particles inhabit the extra dimensions. We feel their presence via the force of gravity, but do not sense them in any other way.

How does this produce excess cosmic rays? Kaluza-Klein particles have the curious property (one of many) that they are their own anti-particle. When two collide, they annihilate one another, producing a spray of high-energy photons and electrons. The electrons are not lost in hidden dimensions, however, they materialize in the 3-dimensions of the real world where ATIC can detect them as "cosmic rays."

"Our data could be explained by a cloud or clump of dark matter in the neighborhood of the solar system," says Wefel. "In particular, there is a hypothesized Kaluza-Klein particle with a mass near 620 GeV which, when annihilated, should produce electrons with the same spectrum of energies we observed."

Testing this possibility is nontrivial because dark matter is so, well, dark. But it may be possible to find the cloud by looking for other annihilation products, such as gamma-rays. Again, the Fermi Space Telescope may have the best chance of pinpointing the source.

"Whatever it is," says Adams, "it's going to be amazing."

Author: Dr. Tony Phillips | Credit: Science@NASA

On the Road with N4CD II

The car had not been out on a road trip for a while. (2 weeks?) Normally, I head back east to MD for Thanksgiving, but the entire family had all gotten together in NY for the wedding five weeks ago, so I decided to pass on the trip back east, and instead head out county hunting in Texas for a few days. There were some needs posted that had gone on for a year – folks needed one or two or three to finish up the state for an award. Well, without too much planning, I loaded up the suitcase and the car for a trip around Texas.

Checking the most wanted needs on the K3IMC page gave me an idea of what to hit, and Ed, K8ZZ, had needed Terrell for a long time. Silver, N9QS, was down to 4 in the entire country for the N prefix, and Mason was one of them. Hollis, KC3X needed a handful for Platinum as did Jerry, W0GXQ, and I could hit some Platinum needs for N0ZA as well. So it was west to get Crosby and Dickens, with a route through Archer and Baylor. Also, Kent was the last for Five Star for W4YDY. Well, I'd connect the dots somehow.

The weather was supposed to be decent, but a bit chilly in the mornings. I headed west and things worked out well. There was no other mobile out, so I was 'the mobile'. Conditions were good, with good runs on 20cw and 17cw. The further west I got, the better 17M worked – the skip is still fairly long, but at times it gets short. I was working K5GE in the late afternoons at 559 or better in some counties – at maybe 400 miles distance! The first day I wound up in Scurry County at a Days Inn I had stayed at before. Dinner at 'The Shack' which was a decent meal and a good price.

Breakfast included. The motels seem to be jacking up the price these days. No bargains on the trip. Ran on 40M SSB a few of the lines.

When you get west in TX, the packet mailbox on 10.1228 makes a mess of 10.1225 when it comes on. It is 30 over S9, and a half KHz wide, putting S5 noise or higher on the cw freq. It's a real pain – it comes on at 1500Z and pages for 20 minutes. Then is on several times during the day. You can't hear any weak station – even down 1, you can hear it in the background and it simply overloads the receiver. It's a pain in the butt! You get east and you don't hear it.

In the morning, it was 30 degrees at the motel – just a hint of frost/ice on the car. I headed out west – and there were spots with the temp down to 21. That was colder than Jerry, W0GXQ had it in MN. Brrrr. It warmed up to the 60s though and the sun was out so it was fine in the car. Good county hunting weather.

Hollis had indicated he needed Cochran – all the way over on the NM border. OK...so it was west in the morning to get that – through Borden, and other sparsely populated counties. I went to 40M SSB a few times. Other mobiles running, and after waiting 10 minutes to run my county line, well, another mobile got started with no break...so after that happening twice, I just didn't go back to 40M SSB for the rest of the trip. Tried to move myself twice, and the mobile was too fast to even hear the "XYZ county going down 3" - I didn't have time to wait 20 minutes to run on SSB, if I ever could get in, so I didn't. For the rest of the trip, QRM from QSOs, maybe out west, wiped out 7188 when I checked it.

Lots of nothing out west in TX - good for zipping along at 70+ mph (speed limit is 70 around there on 2 lane roads – but they usually have paved wide shoulders). That night I made it down to Crockett, TX – Super 8 Motel in Ozona – no bargain, but the other choices there are Hilton Express and Best Western(\$\$\$). There are few towns with any kind of motels out that way.

I got on the interstate headed west– still 360 miles to get to El Paso TX from there – 4 ½ hours at 80 mph. A tank of gas. There wasn't any reason to go there. I didn't.

That morning (turkey day) it was out west to get to Terrell – 80 mph speed limit out that way – still took 55 minutes to get there. Ran it, and hooked up with Ed, K8ZZ, for his last CW in TX. He's been busy lately and not on the

air much – had to change QTHs and the big antennas had to come down. He had a big signal today, so I suspect he was visiting W8JJ (son) for the holiday.



Terrell/Pecos TX – LC for K8ZZ

Then it was back east on the interstate at 80 mph for 120 miles to get a bit east to Kimble/Kerr, then down south to Uvalde via Real, Bandera, and Edwards and other ones not run that often – not much there as a reason to run them! I was doing lots of county lines this trip – makes it less hectic. I put a window down and enjoyed the fresh country air. The county lines were nice a quiet – many have no power lines nearby. Doesn't get any better. You go through places on 'farm roads' or 'ranch roads' like Utopia TX – in the middle of nowhere. Five or six houses – that's it. Not much traffic! It's mile after mile of barbed wire fences and ranch land.

I decided to end a bit early to get some turkey and trimmings before the restaurants closed, so it was up to Kerrville – Motel 6, but even they have jacked up rates pretty good in TX, and it seems most of the towns have jacked up the tax on motel rooms to 15 to 23% - making your \$55 or \$60 motel room have another 8 to 10 bucks in Tax on top of things.

17M was great the whole trip, with 10-15 contacts per county – on 20M CW it would go from 12 – 30, and 30M went from 10-35 per stop. The bands were fairly decent most of the time. Gene, K5GE, worked me in 2/3rds the counties on at least one band from 300-600 miles away – sometimes 17M, sometimes 20 or 30 or 40M. It's weird working folks at 200-300 miles on 17M!

I headed over to the Cracker Barrel around 5pm for their 'special' – turkey/ham, stuffing, sweet potato casserole, a veggie of your choice, rolls, beverage, and a big piece of pumpkin pie for \$9. Good deal. Oh, I was 'stuffed'.

Next day, I headed north – to Kendall and Mason – finally getting up to Shackelford and Stephens, running them two by two (county lines)

Mason was the last "N" prefix for N9QS – and he was off at a meeting, but county hunter friends called his cellphone and he went out to the car and worked me! He is now down to 3 to finish up the USA-PA – prefix award.



Mason, TX – LC for N9QS – N prefix

While sitting at Callahan and Eastland, running the county, I got entertained by two cows ON the road (well, the side) munching away on the grass - 100 feet away. No fences, but cattle guards every few miles keep them in – you have to watch carefully as you drive as there might be cows right in the middle of the road for miles. Quite a few dead deer along the roads down here. That's a good reason for not driving at night. It's also hunting season.

I decided I'd had enough fun for a while, and decided to head back home – 4 hours away, so it was back to the house for the night. 1600 miles in 4 days, a handful of last counties – and whittling down the needs. It was also CQ CW DX contest weekend – another reason for not being out – although with 30M and 17M you can still have fun on CW.

I went to 17M SSB once just for the heck of it – worked about 10 county hunters, and another half dozen stations passing by – maybe a few new band counties there – but it took a minute or two to work each one, and I didn't have the time to catch too many of them.

Jimmy, K4YFH was headed east running along the interstate in LA. Don, N5XG was out for a day in OK. That seemed to be about in on Friday, along with AA8R/W8TAX on SSB. I managed to work the cw mobiles a few times for needed counties.

Hope you caught something you needed. After the first day or , 40M SSB always seemed to have a QSO on or near the freq, so I just skipped it. (plus hard to get heard).

I diidn't hear much activity on 20M SSB, other than one net control running KD4MAF (who he could barely hear) off the frequency half a dozen times on one day. He got on to give out Appling, GA, a few weeks ago, and needs a bit of help learning the ropes (like not using phonetics). It's sad to see new potential county hunters told to 'QSY' for trying to work a mobile using phonetics. Or not understanding how relays work. Well, I guess that is why 20M SSB is so empty these days. We used to have folks take them off frequency, or explain on net while no one was running (Lots of time these days to bring on board new county hunters!).

I gave a holler once or twice there, when the net was open, and worked one or two of the few mobiles to give them my county, but that was it – didn't stick around. Seems everyone watching spots and not many listening there. Maybe nearly all are on cw these days. I dunno but it works for me.

Overall – very good trip – expensive motels – good food. Got to some of the rarer ones again, so hopefully the needs list will shrink. The weather is good most of the ‘winter’ in TX, so likely more to come, and the mini is coming up in February (Weslaco). However, you still have to keep an eye on the weather since it snows in the panhandle (sometimes 2 feet) and west TX (El Paso way), and half of Texas can get ice storms occasionally – which will definitely slow you down. But its not like North Dakota or Vermont with blizzards (not to pick on those states).

The other hazard in much of central Texas hill and ranch country is low water crossings – I probably passed 100 of them on the farm or ranch roads – with the flood gauges by the side to show you how many feet of water are covering the road in the dips. You don’t want to be here during the tail end of a hurricane, or when flash flooding is occurring – you could get stranded on a section of highway with no way of getting out! Some of these folks don’t go anywhere when it rains hard – no way to get out.

Here’s a sign from up in IA on the trip back in October – don’t plan on using this road unless you have a big Hummer or Jeep!



Rutted mud trail to left

Sign Reads: Not Passable winter and wet weather!

You never know where N4CD will wind up.

Managing Your Life

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper once famously described the Kyoto Protocol as “a socialist scheme to suck money out of wealth-producing nations.”

“As reported by Kevin Libin in the *National Post* last week, a good chunk of the agreement being negotiated for the Copenhagen Conference is about

payments from developed countries to developing ones. The documents do not as yet stipulate an exact level of payment but even Britain's left-wing *Guardian* newspaper estimates those payments to be in the tens of billions of dollars annually if not over, the \$100 billion mark.”

None of this is cause for pause for Copenhagen’s backers. In fact some, such as scientist Tim Flannery, say it's a mistake to view Copenhagen as a climate change agreement; to him it is much more than that. During his visit to Ottawa earlier this week to promote his new book *Now Or Never*, Flannery said, “We all too often mistake the nature of those negotiations in Copenhagen. We think of them as being concerned with some sort of environmental treaty. That is far from the case. The negotiations now ongoing towards the Copenhagen agreement are in effect diplomacy at the most profound global level. **They deal with every aspect of our life and they will influence every aspect of our life**, our economy, our society, our relationship with the developing world, our relationship with the environment as well.”

www.examiner.com/x-22884-Canada-Politics-Examiner~y2009m10d1...

New Bands in Norway

Norwegian hams get new frequency bands!

As well as the new 70 MHz allocation Norwegian radio amateurs have also gained new bands at 500 kHz and 5.2 MHz as well as a 150 kHz extension to the 24 MHz band

In addition to 135,7 - 137,8 kHz and 7,1 - 7,2 MHz Norwegian Amateurs can now use:

LF:

493 - 510 kHz on secondary basis, 100 W, A1A (CW) only.

HF:

5260 - 5410 kHz on secondary basis, all modes (6 kHz max bandwidth)

24740-24890 kHz on secondary basis, 1kW (6 kHz max bandwidth)

VHF

70,0625-70,0875 MHz on secondary basis, 100 W, max bandwidth 16 kHz

70,1375-70,1875 MHz on secondary basis, 100 W, max bandwidth 16 kHz

70,2625-70,3125 MHz on secondary basis, 100 W, max bandwidth 16 kHz

70,3625-70,3875 MHz on secondary basis, 100 W, max bandwidth 16 kHz

70,4125-70,4625 MHz on secondary basis, 100 W, max bandwidth 16 kHz

Note the new wider band at 12M –

Global Warming?

“The USA just slogged through its wettest October on record, the federal government's National Climatic Data Center announced Tuesday.

The nationwide precipitation of 4.15 inches was nearly double the long-term average of 2.11 inches, the center noted in an online report. Precipitation was most extreme in the central USA, where three states — Iowa, Arkansas, and Louisiana — saw their wettest October ever.

Only three out of the 50 U.S. states had below-average amounts of rain and snow: Florida, Utah, and Arizona.

In addition to the damp, **October was also extremely cool, measuring the third-coldest since records began in 1895.** The average national temperature of 50.8 degrees was 4 degrees below average. Only the Octobers of 1976 and 1925 were cooler.

Oklahoma shivered through its coldest October on record, while Nebraska and Kansas were the second-chilliest ever. Temperatures were below normal in eight of the nation's nine climate regions, and of the nine, five were much below normal.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/tech/science/2009-11-10-october-climate-usa_N.htm

Radio Shack – Blast from the Past

If you want to see what radio was like in the past, you can go through any of the Radio Shack of New England Catalogs on line at

http://www.radioshackcatalogs.com/catalog_directory.html

This is not the recent “Radio Shack” but New England’s largest distributor of ham radio gear.

Check out 1939 for the latest in ham gear – Hammurlund Super Pro, Hallicrafters – all tube gear.

Global Warming - Caught Red Handed

“The director of Britain's leading Climate Research Unit, Phil Jones, has told Investigate magazine's TGIF Edition tonight that his organization has been hacked, and the data flying all over the internet appears to be genuine.

In an exclusive interview, Jones told TGIF, "It was a hacker. We were aware of this about three or four days ago that someone had hacked into our system and taken and copied loads of data files and emails."

"Have you alerted police"

"Not yet. We were not aware of what had been taken."

Jones says he was first tipped off to the security breach by colleagues at the website RealClimate.

"Real Climate were given information, but took it down off their site and told me they would send it across to me. They didn't do that. I only found out it had been released five minutes ago."

TGIF asked Jones about the controversial email discussing "hiding the decline", and Jones explained what he was trying to say.... “

What he was trying to say is there is a long email trail about how they fudged the data, adding in false data points to show that there was ‘warming’ when there was none in the data.

Emails like: “I’ve just completed Mike’s Nature trick of adding in the real temps to each series for the last 20 years (ie from 1981 onwards) and from 1961 for Keith’s to hide the decline.” - .. We’re talking about year’s of emails and 100 megabytes of data. They’ll probably call it ‘inconvenient loss of data’. It never ends.

Now Britain’s premier Global Warming ‘Institute’ is in hot water (pun intended).

Some other choice emails:

“Dear Phil and Gabi,
I’ve attached a cleaned-up and commented version of the matlab code that I wrote for doing the Mann and Jones (2003) composites. **I did this knowing that Phil and I are likely to have to respond to more crap criticisms from the idiots in the near future**, so best to clean up the code and provide to some of my close colleagues in case they want to test it, etc. Please feel free to use this code for your own internal purposes, but **don’t pass it along where it may get into the hands of the wrong people.**”

Note..this code was erroneously produced the Al Gore Hockey Stick. Any data would have produced a hockey stick, including your checking account history for the past 30 years.

“The Korttajarvi record was oriented in the reconstruction in the way that McIntyre said. I took a look at the original reference – the temperature proxy we looked at is x-ray density, which the author interprets to be inversely

related to temperature. We had higher values as warmer in the reconstruction, so it looks to me like we got it wrong, **unless we decided to reinterpret the record** which I don't remember. Darrell, does this sound right to you?"

Right..fudge the data so it makes things look like they are warming when they aren't!..

“Land warming since 1980 has been twice the ocean warming — and skeptics might claim that this proves that urban warming is real and important.”

Oh...but they haven't heard of 'heat islands' with all the concrete and asphalt streets? That would mess up their beautiful models, and they would fail to show 'warming' unless they simply ignored it!

“The fact is that we can't account for the lack of warming at the moment and it is a travesty that we can't. The CERES data published in the August BAMS 09 supplement on 2008 shows there should be even more warming: but the data are surely wrong. Our observing system is inadequate.”

Or maybe the data is right, and you can't believe it?

“erhaps we'll do a simple update to the Yamal post, e.g. linking Keith/s new page--Gavin t? As to the issues of robustness, particularly w.r.t. inclusion of the Yamal series, we actually emphasized that (including the Osborn and Briffa '06 sensitivity test) in our original post! **As we all know, this isn't about truth at all, its about plausibly deniable accusations.”**

Wow..spoken like true scientists....NOT.....

“The skeptics seem to be building up a head of steam here! ... The IPCC comes in for a lot of stick. **Leave it to you to delete as appropriate!** Cheers Phil

PS I'm getting hassled by a couple of people to release the CRU station temperature data. Don't any of you three tell anybody that the UK has a Freedom of Information Act ! “

When your data doesn't fit your model, what do you do? Delete it quick! Make sure no one else has access to it!

“f FOIA does ever get used by anyone, there is also IPR to consider as well. Data is covered by all the agreements we sign with people, so I will be hiding behind them.”

The ‘truth’ is out about the ‘premier’ global warming institute in Britain. Sad. Looks like they’ve been fudging data, deleting data which did not show global warming, telling lies, hiding behind freedom of information requests, and everything else they can to obstruct getting to the real answers.

That should tell YOU a lot about the global warming hype.

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de N4CD: So not only have major high profile climate scientists been ‘fudging’ the data, they’ve been criminally violating the UKs Freedom of Information Act by destroying data after years of delaying release of it, have attempted to smear others with a different viewpoint, attempted to keep them from getting published, and admit they had to fudge their data to meet the ‘political objectives’ of the UN IPCC panel! The fallout is huge, but the main stream media is trying its best to quickly sweep this major scandal under the rug.

It calls into question, as well, one of the major climate models and sections in the IPCC which relied upon this data to ‘draw its conclusions’.

We’ve been telling you that the books have been cooked on this, and that this is a political agenda to redistribute the world’s wealth via taxing mechanisms. Now we know that much of the science is ‘cooked’ and fudged to meet the ‘desired objective’, not the actual result.

However, with tens of billions of dollars of research dollars at stake, and 2500 UN delegates slobbering at the mouth for the trillions in UN imposed carbon taxes – to be redistributed to ‘newly emerging countries’ to ‘help them out’, it isn’t likely to derail the ‘global warming express’. Too many blindly follow the herd.

Sunspot News

From ARRL Propagation Report, ARRL, Inc, Newington CT 06111

“Sunspot activity seems to be increasing steadily of late. Daily sunspot numbers for November 5-19 were 15, 16, 11, 0, 14, 13, 11, 11, 0, 0, 11, 12, 0, 29 and 30.

Sunspot 1029 made its trip around the Sun and has re-emerged as sunspot 1032, and a new sunspot 1033 has come over the eastern limb. This steady appearance of sunspots has raised the MUF over many paths, and 15 meters is beginning to open regularly”

- - - -

“Last Friday's Propagation Forecast Bulletin ARLP047 reported sunspot numbers for November 12-18 as 11, 0, 0, 11, 12, 0, and 29, and since then, November 19-24 they were 30, 31, 14, 13, 0 and 0. Nice conditions for the ARRL SSB Sweepstakes last weekend.

Although recent activity seems a good trend, we have no indications when sunspots will return.”

- - - -

Back to no sunspots for six days at the end of the month...dang!

Ohio QSO Party Winner

Sharon, KJ8F, won the Ohio QSO Party last year - here's a pic of her getting the big plaque from AC8E!



AC8E presents KJ8F with 2008 OH QSO Party Plaque!

Peak Gold – What it Foretells

“Yesterday the President of the largest **gold** mining and production company, Barrick Gold, noted that after ten years of declining production it is time to recognize that the world has seen **the peak in gold production**. To maintain production ore is being mined with increasingly less gold in it. (The grade of the ore, or metal content, defines whether it is profitable to mine.)

South Africa's output has halved since peaking in 1970.

As with peak oil, the fact that global production has peaked does not mean that there is no gold left to mine. Rather it means that less gold will be mined each year into the future. For there are deposits of gold still in the ground that are being not mined, in part because of the environmental cost

Gold has been a valuable mineral for a long time and for nations all around the world. All the good and easy places to find it, therefore, have been sought after and largely found. The gold deposits that are worked have become smaller of lower value and found in places that are harder to get to. With lower availability, greater demand and higher price, it became more practical to mine and process lower grade deposits and to go deeper into the Earth for the higher grades. Mines in South Africa and in South Dakota have been worked down to more than 2 miles below the surface, to recover the ore. And techniques have been developed that recover it in even very small quantities – 3 gm per tonne is an ore that contains very little gold (3 divided by 1000 = 0.003 kg divided by 1000 = 0.000003 tonnes or 3 parts per million). So, while miners can still find the odd nugget when they pan for gold in streams around the country (and there are lots of maps available to tell you where to look), for the large scale levels of production that make a significant impact on the market, you need large deposits of gold with the potential for greater yields, and those places are getting harder and harder to find. And even as one goes deeper, the grade of the gold doesn't necessarily continue

But production will continue to fall as the reserves become even harder to extract. Beyond a certain point there is not a lot that technology can do, except perhaps to fund ways of getting gold out of veins that are too small and costly to mine at present. But that won't yield the millions of ounces that are needed to maintain supply. And the industry was not one, in recent years, to invest in that future. When gold can be recovered by soaking crushed rock in a solvent at relatively low cost, there is not a lot of incentive for new ideas. The days of the industrial innovations that used to come from the research labs in South Africa are likely now over.

So, as the oil industry starts its travels down a similar path past peak and into decline, there are a couple of thoughts I would offer.

Firstly it could be pointed out that the gold industry has been able to see the declining production and lack of available prospects for some time. **But it is**

only now, some 9 – 10 years after the decline started, that the industry is publicly recognizing the problem.

Secondly one might ask whether there should not be an agency of the government that can independently warn the government and the nation of this before it happens, so that either better mining methods, access to restricted reserves, or the development of alternate materials could be hastened. Well actually there was--it was called the U.S. Bureau of Mines, and all those tasks were in its charter. But the mining community is a small one, and has not nearly the clout or popularity in Washington that it is thought to have. Thus, in 1996 the agency was closed.

Thirdly, even though the story is out there it is unlikely, for a while, to get much media attention, and the vast majority of the world's population will not either know of the predicament that is now approaching, nor understand why it is going to be something that will impact many aspects of their lives. Until, of course, it does.”

Source: <http://www.businessinsider.com/understanding-the-dynamics-of-peak-gold-production-2009-11>

In case you haven't noticed, gold is now selling for over \$1300/oz. In part due to the dollar declining by 50% in the past ten years. The major part, though of gold quadrupling in 10 years, is, well, simply the fact that gold production is dropping, while demand keeps the price increasing.

Now, have you also noted that oil is selling at 8 times the price it was 10 years ago. What should that be telling you?

Global Climate Change Corruption

Long video with Lord Moncton on the utter corruption of the UN IPCC (Climate Change Committee), Al Gore and the left wing socialist “environmental movement”.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4zOXmJ4jd-8>

New Evidence –

New data show that the balance between the airborne and the absorbed fraction of carbon dioxide has stayed approximately constant since 1850, despite emissions of carbon dioxide having risen from about 2 billion tons a year in 1850 to 35 billion tons a year now.

This suggests that terrestrial ecosystems and the oceans have a much greater capacity to absorb CO₂ than had been previously expected.

The results run contrary to a significant body of recent research which expects that the capacity of terrestrial ecosystems and the oceans to absorb CO₂ should start to diminish as CO₂ emissions increase, letting greenhouse gas levels skyrocket. Dr Wolfgang Knorr at the University of Bristol found that in fact the trend in the airborne fraction since 1850 has only been $0.7 \pm 1.4\%$ per decade, which is essentially zero.

The strength of the new study, published online in *Geophysical Research Letters*, is that it rests solely on measurements and statistical data, including historical records extracted from Antarctic ice, and does not rely on computations with complex climate models.

This work is extremely important for climate change policy, because emission targets to be negotiated at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen early next month have been based on projections that have a carbon free sink of already factored in.

Another result of the study is that emissions from deforestation might have been overestimated by between 18 and 75 per cent. This would agree with results published last week in Nature Geoscience by a team led by Guido van der Werf from VU University Amsterdam. They re-visited deforestation data and concluded that emissions have been overestimated by at least a factor of two.”

Source: <http://www.physorg.com/news177059550.html>

Awards

Second Time #395	N0KV, Barry	11/1/09
USA-CW #108	WB4VFN, Rich	11/15/09
Mobile to Mobile #11	KC3X, Hollis	11/18/09
USA-CA #1191	N0DXE, Pat	11/19/09
USA-CA #1192	AA1VA, Terry	11/25/09

Operating Events for County Hunters

There is one QSO Party, but some other opportunities for band counties

December 4-6,

ARRL 160 Meter Contest RST and ARRL/RAC section if US/VE

www.arrl.org/contests

Dec 4, 2200Z - Dec 6, 1600Z

December 12-13

ARRL 10 Meter Contest RS(T), and State/Prov or serial

www.arrl.org/contests

Dec 12, 0000Z - Dec 13, 2400Z

December 26-27 (note the date!)

12-26-2009 1200Z Dec 26 to 1200Z on Dec 27th

<http://www.w0blk.org/files/qsoparty.htm>

South Dakota QSO Party RS(T) and SD county or S/P/C

Note: Another informal (no awards or scoring) SD QSO Party will be held on New Years EVE 2009, for those wishing to simply check in and talk to old friends and socialize.

And finally

ARRL Straight-Key Night General QSO www.arrl.org/contests

Jan 1, 0000Z - Jan 1, 2400Z

Upcoming Events

Don't forget the mini in Weslaco coming up in Feb 11-13, 2010.

That's it for this month's edition. Happy Holidays and see you in the January 2010 issue.