

County Hunter News

September 1, 2008
Volume 4, Issue 9A

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

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

1) Mobile Activity in late July/August 2008

July and August were very busy months. Lots of good weather, plus mobiles ‘putting out’ counties like the old days. Conditions were horrible, but folks had travel plans. Many finished up on awards getting needed counties around the country after a long spell of slim activity in many parts of the country.

Joyce, N9STL, took a nice trip from IL over to IN, OH, and KY to finish off the requirement for 500 separate transmitted counties after getting her MG award. Now she, along with a half dozen others, have completed the second part requirements for Platinum. With her trip last month to WI, she is over the magic ‘500’ number, but will likely continue to put out more counties. Now, all she has to do is finish off working the counties – not an easy challenge for anyone! Many are closing in, though.

Barry, N0KV, and N0DXE, were out on a nice trip – in NM, CO, OK. W0NAC, Matt, and Sharon, N0LXJ, are often heard in counties near their QTH.

Chuck, AD8W, detoured to get San Juan, CO, on his way to/from the convention for the folks. LC for KQ0B. He headed out to the convention in

back in his new 'Ford' made product, which unfortunately (but not unexpectedly) has so much noise one cannot run counties while moving.

Scottie, N4AAT, made a couple day trips to GA – ran Jeff Davis, GA on cw, my LC there! Ran lots of counties giving out the Master Platinum contacts. He is now trying to put out counties on cw as well. He'll be off on big trip come September 1, headed through 14 states!

AF3X, Jeffrey, wandered from TN over to OH, and ran in GA.

Larry, N2OCW, ran from his home county up to York, PA and back home putting out the counties. He's now good for Master Platinum, having received his MG award. He's 'allowed' on 20M, sort of. He ran another bunch of counties in mid-August as well. He also finished up Tom, K7REL, for the Part I of the MG award. (working all the counties).

Mike, KQ0B, took several trips, trying to run another 200 transmitted counties toward Masters Gold credit. He's worked all the counties, now just needs to accumulate the 1500 service points.

Ed, K8ZZ, took a nice trip to NY and New England putting out counties for a week. Very busy running those rare NY counties and also getting on 17M too! Then he was off to WI, putting them out on SSB and CW, including 17M.

Bill, KM1C, after a nasty infection, is back mobile again on his boat as he sails up the New England coast. He ran Dukes, and Nantucket – did a nice job – and all bands up through 17M (and above?)

Jim, NE9DH, headed down to NY, PA, through VT, putting out lots of needed counties in the NY City area.

Dave, KE3VV, after getting his MG, is off and running – ran up to NJ to put out the counties there for Platinum. He needs to run 500 separate counties to meet the second part of the Master Platinum requirements now that he has his MG.

Larry, NA7W ran a few in Washington. Conditions are very challenging out that way. Phil made a trip in WA for the folks – cw only.

AB4YZ, Ray, wandered back from the west coast putting out hundreds of counties as he headed east.

Jeff, W9MSE was wandering up in northern WI, and there were SSB mobiles out on trips.

Ron, KB6UF headed over to Dallas TX via MO (the county hunter way) then back to LA.

Ray, WG6X, and Carol, KA4TYG ran most of FL for the folks as a 'team' and with Ray also good for MP. Ray had some radio/antenna problems but they still did well.

Larry, W0QE, took a trip over to NE to give KF2O the last two for WBOW (Hayes/Chase, NE). Also got 2 of the last 5 for Phil, AA9ZZ, and ran 80-17M. Ran on 80 through 12M (or higher?).

Dick, K5VYT, headed up north through KS, NE to the Dakotas and back.

2) Natural Bingo

Dave, KE3VV, posted an interesting reply to comments on the K3IMC forum regarding the Natural Bingo proposal put forward at the July MARAC BOD meeting which was referred back to the Awards Committee when the 'X' suffix issue arose:

Dave: " Well... that is that. Bob doesn't like it, so it sucks. End of story? Of course not! "

Interesting theory, but I thought MARAC worked in the interests of its members - all of them. So one would think it would consider all input before 'jumping to a conclusion'.

Dave: "Anyway, the reason the Committee decided to have Natural Bingo as an unnumbered award is precisely that... to avoid the rush to be number one... even if it means just hauling out your old logs. Of course, the Committee also discussed an alternative - have a start date for Natural Bingo."

As if anyone actually has completed it....and of course, you always could consider the CQ Magazine approach for the first USACA-500.....they set a date, folks submitted their logs, and 1A was awarded by LOTTERY....as if anyone has completed natural bingo as of now.....by whatever rules. Some have close to 3000 done.

And, why not have a 'race', if you want to call it that, to finish? You mean now folks aren't trying to see who will get the first Bingo V? or IV? Or finish all counties on 17M? Or be one of the first five or ten to get Master Platinum? That is what SPURS activity! That is what gets mobiles going out to get 'last counties'.

If Dave 'bothered' to read the CHNews, he would have realized that Gene, K5GE, didn't travel to Nantucket and Dukes, make 20,000 miles of trips, to wind up with 'mobile achievement award category III sequence number #427'. Gene was interested in being NUMBER ONE again for MP. So? That was the challenge he took on, and won! What's wrong with a little competition? Do you really think anyone has natural bingo done?

Dave: "How do you feel about a "new" or "different" Natural Bingo Award with a start date in 2008? At least that would put everyone on an equal footing with folks who still have their old logs (I have mine all the way back to 1959)."

That is a good question, and one that should have been investigated before the awards committee came up with their 'final' recommendation to the BOD, no? Good question. Real good question. A bit late to be asking it one might suggest.

Dave: "Just because an award isn't numbered does not mean you can't keep track of it. Numbering only keeps track of being first or being ahead of someone else. Is that what you really want... Of course not...right? How about a list by call sign? Alphabetical? Date of birth? Makes no difference how the unnumbered list is kept unless you want to be FIRST."

Dave, please tell us all the folks who have completed MARAC YL mobile? I don't think the data exists anywhere.....It is a listed MARAC award, but I venture no one has a clue as to all who actually holds the award. We know some of the folks who have earned it – but that is only 'verbal history'.

Dave: "I don't need a number to be on a list of ops who earned an award."

Great, but again, who has earned the YL Mobile award? There isn't even a 'list' of that. So having sequential numbers starting at one for a list does provide something useful, no?

The people, like Ernie, who work everyone on net every time, whether currently needed for an award or not, which might be useful later, are going to 'be ahead' when it comes to the new awards with no start date....On the other hand, folks who don't need a county who stand by to let others who currently need it work it - don't have the tens of thousands of contacts in the log. So? No matter what the rules are, some folks won't be happy.

Dave: "Yep.... The essence of propaganda. MARAC could (and certainly would) keep track of who has Natural Bingo - and send them each a nice wooden plaque. But the award would not be sequentially numbered." -

Just like it did for YL Mobile and Big Rig? NOT! No clue who has the award and in what sequence they were earned. Now, that was a 'mistake' made in the past because the award was started by other organizations and picked up by MARAC, but there is no good reason to repeat the mistake!

Having it buried as an endorsement (or category III achievement award or similar which is what YL Mobile is, with sequential numbers) doesn't allow one to figure out who has YL Mobile. I don't think that Natural Bingo shouldn't be buried as an 'endorsement' somewhere...but more important is what the MEMBERSHIP wants.

Dave : "Swell. You know, Bob, you can keep bad mouthing MARAC and the Awards Committee and the members of the BOD (which is virtually guaranteed to get your opinion valued and listened to) or you can just sponsor your own award."

It wasn't me that sent the award back to committee, was it?

Or who sat on Natural Bingo for two years?

Perhaps if the award was presented to the board, with some discussion as to WHY it was presented that way, it would have sailed through. Instead, it seemed to catch the entire board by surprise. I didn't have anything to do with that either!

Dave: "And you keep wondering why I don't read your little "news" letter despite its **award-winning, world-wide circulation**..... "

Thanks for the complement.

Actually, if you read the CHNews, we tried to get MARAC, two years ago, to move forward on a Natural Bingo award. Two years ago.....24 months.....104 weeks.....which should have been enough time to consider the issues - and if your claim Bill, K2NJ, had already proposed what he wanted, it shouldn't have taken 2 years to write down what he wanted, and presented a solid case to the board for the award rather than as it was presented to the BOD in July as a 'surprise' with no justification. If they understood the presentation and the reasons why, then likely it would have passed. (however, there wasn't any way for the awards custodian to 'keep that list' if it was just an endorsement – any different than Bingo with no relays or Bingo all 20M SSB mobiles or all 75M SSB).

Now, maybe that concern can be addressed as well.

And do you really think anyone is 'done' with Natural Bingo if it had no start date? (maybe Ernie?)....and how would one figure it out? (Logger likely isn't up to it yet).....????? one heck of a lot of paper computation. Now, there is at least one station out there working on 'natural Bingo' of one sort or other – I've heard comments. Not done yet. Then again, depending on what the rules are, he may have to start over or delete contacts. Who knows?

If you read the last CHNews (August) , you'd find we reported that the Natural Bingo award, after the 'X' call question was raised, was referred back to committee. The BOD was uninformed on the rationale behind the award as presented to the BOD. Simple failure to communicate. That's all.

Does MARAC think it is above criticism? Like the 'guy in the chair' in SC? Don't dare question 'us'? I think the membership deserves better response times.

If the BOD meets more than 2 or 3 times a year, it could be rapidly reconsidered and approved. Last year, there were very few BOD meetings, right? If we assume it will be six months to the next BOD meeting, that will push it out to 2 1/2 years of 'consideration' if it passes then. Based upon recent history, it would then take 6 months to appear in the Road Runner

BOD meeting minutes, and another 6 months to show up on the Awards page – pushing it out to 3 ½ years or more.

I just report the news. MARAC makes it. Or doesn't make it, as the case might be.

Let's start the clock on Natural Bingo. Now at 2 years and counting. When will it get approved and be on the MARAC Awards Page? 2008? 2009? 2010? 2011? Never? How about this year?

3) LC WBOW Contacts

Remember back when, before the current NC, when you would hear at the break when NC asked for 'check ins, check outs, and moves' when someone would call in with "LC WBOW Contact!?" At that point, everyone would stand by and the contact would take place on net.

There was none of the current 'set of rules' where you had to be 'up to run' to make the contact' or else 'move off frequency' and try to make it there. It happened ON NET!

Indeed, many times just a LC when someone was closing in happened on net at the break. For years and years, KI0JD, who ran all over MN and IA on a regular basis, would call in 'KI0JD mobile, LC contact please!'...and it would happen immediately on net! Then, usually the station who just got the LC would move the mobile off frequency if it was not the mobiles turn to run.

Now look at what happens on net. N4AAT gets to the LC WBOW for Rich, W6XLR. It is not Scottie's turn to run. So what has to happen? He has to move off frequency and try it there!...a LC WBOW...because the new arbitrary rule is:

YOU CAN'T MAKE JUST ONE CONTACT ON NET! (KZ2P made up arbitrary rule #367 or so) - it must be your turn, and even then you must 'run' the county. Even if you ran in 10 minutes ago, and someone still needs it and just showed up – and there is 'no mobile ready to run'. Even if the station is hearing the mobile 22 (really) it takes an 'act of Congress' to be able to 'move a mobile' off frequency. Normally, you a SOOL.....'out of luck'.

Even a LC WBOW! Now, hundreds of CH from ‘way back when’ know that it didn’t used to be that way! LC WBOW had priority over everything but emergencies.

It’s gotten to the point where half or more of the LC WBOW don’t even happen on 336 these days – intentionally or otherwise. Let’s see...W6XLR..moved off frequency. KE3VV’s last for WBOW MG....on 40M CW at five in the morning. N2OCW’s last for WBOW – off frequency on 20M, assisted and verified by AA8R on 14.339. And on and on.

With the ‘spots’ many aren’t listening...but you can usually guess that the folks looking for the LC WBOW are listening, and usually will move the mobile off freq if they can hear the mobile better than 33. Is it ‘allowed’? Nope.....Don’t even bother asking for a LC contact or LC WBOW....on net. Not ‘allowed’ these days. Unless it happens to be your turn to run. Sad. Oh, for the ‘good old days’.

Likely, “Jimmy” is afraid an occasional mobile will go to a county just for one person, and not be interested in running the county for everyone else.

Actually, this made up arbitrary ‘rule’ resulted from a SINGLE incident a few years ago when someone arranged for a fixed station on Nantucket to get on frequency to give someone the last WBOW. What then happened was that the station needing the LC WBOW contact called the station, who exchanged reports. Then, the station in Nantucket, not familiar with the county hunting net procedure, said ‘anyone else need it?’ and a pile of county hunters jumped in, over net control, calling away. For a few minutes, James ‘lost control’ of the situation and got very, very, very, MAD! Steam came out his ears. He was yelling and screaming. The usually ‘you want the list, huh, huh?’ type comments quickly appeared. OK...one screw up that was over in a few minutes, but that resulted in two new ‘arbitrary rules’ being ‘made up’:

- 1) You can’t run a fixed station on net. Ever! Ever!
- 2) Even if you have a LC WBOW, it must be ‘from a mobile’ to occur on net, and the mobile must ‘wait his turn’ and ‘must run the county’. Otherwise, it isn’t going to happen on 14.336.

Now, back to normal operations. Maybe a mobile is stopped on an interstate where there is ¼ mile of the county? Wants to make a quick contact before the highway patrol comes along and gives them a ticket for illegally stopping there. Nope – not allowed to make a quick contact.

Maybe they don't have logging ability, or have a car full of people headed somewhere, and don't want to keep all of them sitting somewhere for 10 minutes? Nope! Not allowed. They 'must' give out the county, after waiting their turn, for it to happen on 14.336.

There could be lots of reasons. Some folks just aren't going to 'run a county for the folks' but are willing to go get a last WBOW...or maybe a fixed station shows up on frequency to give a last WBOW, but since that station isn't 'mobile' it is not going to be 'allowed'.

Silly arbitrary rules! Ah, the 'chat room cult' and the authoritarian rules! Got to have them silly rules, drink the chat room Kool-Aid, chirp along with the 'moderators' of the nightly indoctrination sessions in the chat, aka trash and bash room, where the 'facts**' are given and repeated over and over for the novices to learn by rote...hate this station, hate that station, mock this station, deride this one, that one. Enforce the 'black list'. Earn 'baddie points'.

So where did the friendly net of years ago go? When you had LCs and LC WBOW made on net, not 4:49am in the morning on cw (that was intentional). Or forced to be made on 14.339? Or other frequencies?

4) Belated credits

Thanks to Milt, KY0E, for the picture of Gene, K5GE, and Mary Ida, in the last issue of CHNews. Jerry, K1SO also sent along a picture of Gene. We appreciate the pictures as they help us provide an interesting newsletter each month!

5) W8QOI – Silent Key

In mid August, it was reported on the K3IMC forum that Raleigh, W8QOI, became a silent key. (Code Warrior #49). He was active up until his sudden death.

K3IMC Forum Closes

Don, K3IMC, has closed the County Hunter Net Forum after many years. Several long ranting attacking posts made him decide 'enough'. The K3IMC forum was not 'censored' or monitored and few posts were ever removed.

It will be missed as the forum was the main source of information for county hunting. The Special Needs page and planned trips page remain.

However, county hunters have another good forum to migrate to:

<http://countyhunter.com/forum1/>

Dennis, KK7X, has run this forum for over ten years on the County Hunter Dot Com website. I suggest you check it out. Registration is easy.

The 'chat room' crowd has tried to initiate another chat room monitored by, well, the chat room crowd. It started up, and within 24 hours, folks were seeing idiotic comments like:

KZ2P: "Don't forget this is a "radio trip", not one for bikini watching"

K0RCJ: "I think his "antenna" will be up, or arise, or whatever euphemism one wishes to place.. Har har"

And

KZ2P "I'm still better looking than you"

WG6X: "I find it hard to believe that anyone on this forum is better looking than me."

WG6X: "Jim only looks decent when he has a wine glass full after drinking a bottle or two."

W5UGD: "heh, I thought you mean, he only looks decent after WE have had a bottle or two!"

Well, if you thought their new 'forum' was going to be any different than their chat room, guess again. **You have to wade through their blathering, innuendos, and idiotic comments that will remain there for MONTHS!** At the current moment, the idiotic comments are more than half of what has been posted. Duh!

Try the KK7X forum at the above URL.

While you are at it...bookmark the main URL for the County Hunter News so you can find it at the end of the month, each month

www.chnewsonline.com

Larry, N2OCW finishes Masters Gold

Larry had been closing in for a while. Lincoln, OR was the one hold out that everyone seemed to be driving around, or didn't go near. Did that stop Larry? The 'chat room' crowd (cult) was figuring it might be another year before it got run again by a Bingo holder. With some determination, Larry still proceeded toward the goal – he had only one to go!

If you check the MARAC database, there is only one ham in the entire state with Bingo! (for the MG award, you must work someone with at least one star and the Bingo Award). KF7RU, a retired minister, is the only bingo holder in OR but does not have HF mobile. Larry talked Clarence, AB7PN, who is also a CH, into taking a day, driving over to KF7RU's house, then both heading toward Lincoln, OR to give Larry a contact!

As Larry noted – they are two terrific guys to go out of their way to give him the LC WBOW for Master Gold Award. It happened off 'net' naturally, with a half dozen helping out to insure that they got all the help they needed.

The contact happened on 14.339 with AA8R and others helping out. Randy was the relay station and verified it was a good contact.

Larry already had over 1700 transmitted counties, so the second part of the requirements for Masters Gold was completed. The info was sent into MARAC Award HQ, and Janet, KC5QCB, the Awards Chairperson, and shortly she announced that Larry received MG #30.

Now, here is how it happened:

“On the 18th of July, I was sitting at home about 6:30 PM, when I received a phone call. It was a ham radio operator, who lives in West Virginia. His name is Larry and he identified himself as a "county hunter" - one who works on securing contacts with hams located in all 3077 counties of the US. I am a "county hunter", too having worked all the counties twice, and also having worked all the counties for "Bingo". Bingo requires that I work a ham in each of the counties that has one of the following qualifications (1. Has worked all 3077 counties and has the corresponding USACA award; 2. Has the first letter of the county's name as one of the letters of his callsign; or 3. Has an "X" in one's callsign - which is a wild card for any county).

Larry was working on "Master Gold", which is working someone with Bingo in every one of the 3077 counties. [These multiplied levels of county hunting was dreamt up to keep people out there running around giving out counties - most of which are mobile ham stations]. Larry informed me that I was the only "county hunter" in the state of Oregon with Bingo. Larry needed me to finish all 3077 counties for Master's Gold, but he didn't need me in Lane County, OR, but rather in Lincoln County, OR, which is about 80 miles from here. He asked if I had a mobile ham station, and when I told him that I didn't, he asked if I knew any hams locally who would be willing to travel over to Lincoln County. Again, I was sorry that I didn't know anyone locally that might be able to do that. He then gave me a list of several "county hunters" in Lane County

Finally I found a number for AB7PN (Clarence), who lived on a street that I was familiar with (our church treasurer lived on that street and we had a weekly Bible study in her home - when I was a Triangle Lake). It was a street on the north side of Eugene so only about 10 miles from here. I called Clarence and found out that he indeed was a "county hunter" and had run a lots of counties mobile (about 1700) under his ex-callsign KA6SWI, when

he had lived in the Eureka area of northern California. When I mentioned knowing where he was located, he said that his wife, Carolyn was a teacher in the past at Triangle Lake School and that while there she had gone to a ham radio instruction class held by the then band teacher of T-Lake.

Clarence told me that he would look into whether he could get the mobile rig set back up, stating that he thought he had all the pieces (including the van he had used 14 years prior). He would let me know.

Larry had suggested that about 3 - 3:30 would be a good time in the afternoon to try to make the contact. Later on Monday evening I got a call from Clarence and found out that he had got the mobile up and running, so we could plan on going over to Lincoln County on Thursday, the 24th. I got ahold of Larry and we set it up for a try then. So I paid the gas and we took off on Thursday about 12:30 PM and about 2:45 PM we used a cell phone to tell Larry that we were in Lincoln, and then with the help of Randy in Michigan we were able to get the contact made. Clarence and I are about the same age, he was also a vet, his folks were from Arkansas (my wife's side of the family is also from there), we both enjoy bird watching, and we thoroughly enjoyed our trip. We made Larry a very, very happy county hunter and now he has applied for his next award. I have been in pretty good health this year. Radio propagation has been terrible - only 58 countries this year.

God bless, say hi to everyone back there who know me.
73 & 88, Jerry, KF7RU, and Berta

KA5TQF Fired!

It should come as no surprise. After several years of ‘assisting’ ‘the guy in the chair’ (aka K2JG –the mini-me of KZ2P), when Dave, KA5TQF, actually questioned some of the ‘charges’ tossed about on net and in the chat room, he was summarily ‘fired’ as assistant net control station.

Rule number #1NEVER, EVER, EVER question the statements or commands of the Mullah! He is 'superman'he is 'god'

Like in the Jim Croce's lyrics "Don't Mess with Jim"

"You don't tug on Superman's cape,
You don't spit into the wind,
You don't pull the mask off that ol' Lone Ranger,
And you don't mess around with Jim."
A-dooten-doo-da-da, dee-dee-ende-dee-dee."

Remember, don't even dare to 'question' the Mullah or doubt his blabberings and bloviating!

Now, as many will recall, for several years, Dave, with his big signal out of El Paso, TX, helped 'James'. He had to follow 'the black list' of approved mobiles and the 'relay list' of who was allowed and not allowed to have relays that week/month. It didn't seem to bother him. Once or twice he gave the mobile a county for another mobile (on the black list) and likely promptly heard about 'not doing the right thing' – according to James.

Finally, in order to be 'helpful' to James, he decided he would 'prove' the charges and what he was expected to believe and repeat from the 'chat room cult'. He would help them out. Prove that all the charges repeated daily were true! He would be a worker for the cause!

Now, what are some of the characteristics of a 'cult', like say the 'chat room cult'?

- a) The group is focused on a leader to whom members seem to display excessively zealous, unquestioning commitment. (if you don't, you are 'out of there')

- b) Questioning, doubt, and dissent are discouraged or even punished. Totalism - "Us against them" thinking. Strengthens group identity. Everyone outside of group lumped under one label. (the 'mal contents')

- b) Mind-numbing techniques (repeating the same lies, falsehoods, slander/libel, and misinformation over and over again) are used to suppress

doubts about the group and its leader(s).

c) The leadership dictates sometimes in great detail how members should think, act, and feel about others and what happens in daily life. (who is on or off the black list, who gets relays, who is in 'time out, who has 'been warned', etc)

d) The group is elitist, claiming a special, exalted status for itself, its leader(s), and members. (Hmm...who 'runs' the chat room? Who can boot people? Who gets to run? Who can 'help'?)

e) The group has a polarized us-versus-them mentality, which causes conflict with the wider society.

f) The group's leader is not accountable to any authority.

g) The leadership induces guilt feelings in members in order to control them.

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h) Attack Independent Thought - Critical thinking is discouraged as prideful and sinful, blind acceptance encouraged.

i) Absolutism - They insist on total, unquestioning obedience and submission to the group, both actions AND thoughts. Group "love" and acceptance becomes dependent upon obedience and submission.

Dave set out to prove, with absolute certainty, that the allegations made by 'the chat room crowd' were true. That they indeed were 'facts'. He was going to get the details and 'expose' everyone once and for all.

There were all sorts of charges tossed about by James and Percival about alleged offenses by N9STL, N4CD, KA3DRO, WA4UNS, and others. Dave went on a mission to find out the facts for himself. So what would he find?

Now, the allegations against Joyce were many. He started one by one to find out if any of them were true. It was 'alleged' that Joyce had filed many, many complaints at the FCC, not just one, and that is what got here 'banned' from 14.336. Well, after he examined the 'facts' he found out that Joyce was banned six months before she filed just ONE complaint at the FCC, and that one complaint consisted of about 20 hours of tape recordings of James with repeated vicious, nasty personal attacks on the character, honesty, and abilities of Joyce after he banned her. So did Joyce file 4, 5, or 6 'complaints' as the chat room cult leader alleged?

No.....falsehood number 1.

Did she get run off for filing the FCC complaint? No - she was run off 4 months before.

Falsehood #2.

Dave had posted:

“The black widow is very sneaky.. She likes to stick the knife in your back. Her m.o. is to get even with people she hates or gets in her way, by complaining to some organization or person of authority She’s done it with Jim and the FCC. Not once. Not twice. Not three times. Try SEVEN! With the crew 22/ rotten apple thugs it was the FCC and ARRL.”

James had also seriously ticked off a Swedish station (working on second time), who had filed a formal complaint via his FCC equivalent, which was escalated to high diplomatic levels, and a complaint lodged with the US State Department! Serious stuff! International Incident! For those not around 5 years ago, it was EVEN WORSE than today. The FCC had to take action to resolve an international complaint at the highest levels of government to examine whether KZ2P/K2JG was 'fit' to hold a ham radio license. Then report back to the Swedish government. That was the trigger for the FCC Enforcement Letter.

Did James tell you that? Or tell Dave?

The 'record' that Joyce and others submitted consisted mainly of the transcription and tapes made off the air of KZ2P attacking various people day in and day out. His own words. His own actions. Should he be exempt

from normal rules? Maybe he thinks so, the rest of the county hunters and the rest of the International community didn't think so.

From the W5YI newsletter:

“The FCC has held up the club station renewal of the *Atlantic Amateur Association* (Naples, FL) due to a complaint against the operation of the club station under the K2JG and KZ2P call signs. The trustee (James D. Grandinetti KZ2P, Johns Island, SC) must respond to the allegations within 30 days. The information he submits will be used to determine what action will be taken on the renewal.”

At the same time, in a non-related matter, the call WB2JKJ also received a formal FCC notice. It seems several other complaints about the actions of someone ‘using’ the callsign WB2JKJ, which is not a club call sign, but should be since it is used at Public School 22 in Flushing, NY for the ‘22 Crew’, were made formally to the FCC. Joyce, N9STL, had nothing to do with this, but the bloviating on 14.336 including charges of N9STL also filing against WB2JKJ. They were out to once again smear N9STL.

Indeed, if there had been ‘7 filings’ there would be 7 instances in the record of ARRL, FCC, and W5YI of FCC Actions. Do a web search – all you’ll find is one!

From Dave’s post telling what James, KZ2P ‘claimed’ was the ‘truth’:

KZ2P:

Now for the reason that I no longer announce. A little over a year ago N9STL and WA4UNS started a range war with the Crew 22 group and the Rotten Apples on 7.238. STL and UNS filed a complaint with the FCC against both of these groups.”

“In the past, I would always ask mobiles to QSY to 40 meters and would announce the frequency only when I was sure that one of the county hunter group was there occupying same.”

Well, what KA5TQF quickly found out was:

The charges of multiple filings by N9STL was FALSE. Same for WA4UNS, Doug, who filed one and only complaint with the FCC and that one against WB2JKJ's operation.

So did "STL and UNS" file a complaint against the rotten apples? No. Joyce filed not a word on WB2JKJ.

Falsehood Number 3. Actually a double, since neither 'allegation' against both persons was true.

And it was not six times. Not five times, Not four times. Not three times. Not even twice. So not only was the chat room cult wrong once, but 2, 3, 4 5 and six times. Well, we know Percy can't do math, but surely he can count to one? Really, he didn't have to get past one. Total fabrication on the 'chat room cult' crowd, but hey, what else is new? What did you expect? Now, can "James" do math? Apparently not when he claims there were complaints against multiple groups SEVEN TIMES!

But to allay any suspicions, Dave then asked James, KZ2P, to forward copies of the second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth and SEVENTH complaints that James constantly talked about. Well, golly, James got real upset that Dave would even dare to even question him about it. Now, of course, if James had received six or seven complaints from the FCC, with his bean counter mentality (remember the daily statistics he used to reel off before signing off.....so many mobile runs today – or he has one or two line left on the page), he'd have everything neatly filed, and it would be easy to send Dave copies of all the FCC complaints. Easy to 'prove' the case. It would have been 'end of discussion'.

Do you think Dave got anything? You gotta be kidding. James wouldn't even send him a copy the international incident complaint with 51 pages of attachment (the transcripts).

The only thing Dave got was being 'fired'. For 'daring' to ask for 'evidence'! To support the allegations made daily and repeated daily in the 'trash and bash' room. Whoa! You mean if you just ask for alleged evidence, you are in trouble? You bet.

Conclusion: The charges of N9STL complaining against WB2JKJ- FALSE

Dave contacted Joe, WB2JKJ, and when asked about N9STL, said “Who? Never heard of her.” He told his story to Dave , and it did not include N9STL. And then related what had happened (one of his friends was using his personal call at the ‘club station’ at PS 22 working him in his horribly insensitive mobile on the way to Dayton, where the friend expected that 7238 would be his exclusive ‘Club 22’ frequency for the entire day, and his friend told the county hunters to, to put it in family friendly terms, ‘take a hike’. Doug took offense and a complaint was lodged with the FCC.

They (Crew 22) had expected that the normal agreements that have existed for decades, where the Classroom net turned over the frequency to the county hunters every day at 8:30 am eastern local time, wouldn’t exist while Joe, WB2JKJ, went mobile to/from Dayton. Duh! That is the busiest time for CH as dozens of mobiles head to Dayton!

They talked over all the county hunters whenever they felt like it – even in the middle of county hunter runs with CH Net control stations. When asked to standby, (and WB2JKJ/m can’t hear anything less than 20 over signals), Joe’s friend got vicious and nasty. Claimed it was ‘their frequency’. He had to ‘keep track’ of Joe as he passed mile markers every 15 minutes or so on the trek to Dayton, no matter who was using the frequency.

WB2JKJ got into trouble for the actions of someone using his personal call. Nothing else. For talking over a net in operation. For some telling folks to ‘Go to h*ll, you F..... A\$\$hole’ and similar using the call WB2JKJ. For claiming it was ‘their frequency’ to use as they felt.

[That is one case where a club call should be requested and used! (of course, the ‘custodian’ of the club call would still be taken to task for things done at the club anyway).] Other complaints about the operation WB2JKJ had been previous filed by non-county hunters in the NYC area, so they were all lumped together.

The CH moved to 7188/85 to get away from a few of the idiot Rotten Apple group, who began to think that 7238 was ‘theirs’ at any hour of the day. It also solved a problem with the west coast “Baja” net that made using 7238 out west a problem. The Rotten Apples normally had 7238 the hour before

the classroom net, and after 6pm local central time. That agreement had worked well for decades until a few really, really rotten apples got dementia and started calling for other rotten apples all day long on 7238. Then they demanded the frequency at 5pm, then 4pm to start their early, early, early “net” with one or two stations. It was only two or three Rotten Apple idiots but it made life there unbearable. Even most of the regular Rotten Apple group were ashamed of these few idiots. But no one filed formal complaints about the Rotten Apple group with the FCC either!

So that is falsehood #4 – shot to smithereens by Dave’s investigations.

That part of the story fell apart. And other parts of the ‘chat room cult’ fabrications started to fall apart as well. No, N4CD did not file any formal complaints with the FCC. Joyce was banned months before she responded to the vicious, malicious attacks on net. The house of cards that James was claiming existed came tumbling down. He wouldn’t provide ‘anything’ to back up all his ‘claims’. Well, he didn’t have anything. Duh!

But the final straw came when Dave asked KZ2P and John, W5UGD, to provide the ‘chat logs’ that would show that Joyce had said that she had filed against WB2JKJ. That was another allegation that the chat room cult crew fabricated, and repeated over and over again, that “she had told everyone that she had filed against WB2JKJ”. Over and over again. Well, James didn’t want to be the only county hunter singled out by the FCC. So it was ‘defame the messenger’. Blame it on ‘someone’.

Well, it turns out that the computer whiz John, W5UGD, and his sidekick, Jeffrey, AF3X, who started U Tenn as a computer science major (and both who wrote all the code for the alarm programs that runs in the IRC), couldn’t ‘be bothered’. All it would take would be a simple search using “WB2JKJ” by “N9STL”. Easy to do. Likely a 15 year old kid these days could do it. 30 minutes of work to find the chat room logs that would show what was allegedly ‘said’.

That got James really upset more that someone would dare to ‘question his authority’! Or demand ‘proof’ of any ‘allegations’ that he and Percy made up!

Of course, in reality, what they would have found that Joyce was ‘banned’ from the chat room four months before the FCC filings, so there would be NO RECORD. How can there be a record when she wasn’t even permitted

to log in? There couldn't be! Did James overlook the fact that she wasn't allowed in for months before all the 'claimed' postings? Must have skipped his mind.

Liars need to have very good memories to recall all the lies and fabrications they have told!

Falsehood #5 shot to smithereens!

More total fabrications! So Dave found out the hard way that this, too, was simply fabrication of malicious lies.

Did James and 'the gang' provide any evidence of multiple filings? No. . Would James even provide the one and only FCC Enforcement Letter to Dave? No. Or the second, third, fourth, Nth as he claimed? Was there a 'chat room' log like they alleged? Heck no. Did N9STL have anything to do with WB2JKJ? No. Was there anything? Other than lies and fabrications? No! No! No! No! No! No! No! Not once. Not twice. Not three times no. Not four times NO. Not five times NO. Not six times NO. You get the picture!

So ALL of the fabrications fell apart. Soon, there weren't any fabricated 'allegations' that could be verified. **It turned out that ALL of the charges coming out of the chat room were false, every single one of them. Bogus, vindictive lies.**

Whoa! His world was being shattered. He had taken in the chat room Kool-Aid for years, believing every word of it.

What did you expect? Yet, night after night, some of the county hunters drink the Kool-Aid in the chat room as if it is the 'godspell truth'. Even worse, repeat the gossip (the cult mantra) as if there were 'facts' to back up any of it.

The 'chat room' cult crowd could not provide any 'evidence' to back up reams of their claims. Not one single document or chat room log record. Nothing!!!! **Not a single document. No logs. No 'testimony' from others allegedly involved.** In fact, everything pointed exactly 180 degrees in the other direction – that is was 'all made up'! Fabricated. Malicious

Lies! Smears. Falsehoods. Even worse, KZ2P or W5UGD would not or could not supply documents or chat room logs.

Since Dave had ‘dared’ to ‘question’ the ‘authority’ of James and John, W5UGD, and Percival, he was quickly dismissed as ‘net assistant’! Now, James simply ignores him. If he tries to help by saying a mobile is trying to check in that James doesn’t hear – well, he is ignored.

See the above at the top...you are either ‘in’ the cult, or you are out. If the ‘leader’ can’t trust you to swallow the Kool-Aid, you are no longer ‘worthy’. You are ‘history’. Gone. Dismissed. Unwanted. And soon to be vilified along with all the others. What charges will the Net Mullah dream up?

This isn’t the first assistant to be ‘dismissed’ or ‘burned’. Nor will it be the last. The least little thing will get you on the ‘banned list’ or the ‘get lost list’.

Dozens and dozens and dozens (Oh, and the chat room crowd mantra is ‘there are just a ‘few’’.) Is 100 or 150 just a few? That’s how many have either been subject to the tirades on 336, or have simply decided to do other things.

Every net helper has sooner or later been run off for one reason or another – usually ‘daring’ to ‘question’ something the NC does, or trying to ‘help’ with relays or a mobile. Just about all the experienced mobiles with 4 or 5 stars or more that ‘dare’ to say anything about ‘the old days’ and the way things were get run off (or will be) . Or if they support others who were run off. Over the past 20 years, it is up to over 100-200 stations that have felt the vicious attacks of James.

If you decide to help, it’s just a matter of time before you, too, will wind up one day getting dismissed or worse.

James doesn’t have ‘assistant net controls’. He has folks that are like ‘employees’ where you do, without a question, exactly what he tells you to do, when he tells you, only when he tells you, and where you must following his black lists of who is ‘allowed’ to run and who is ‘allowed’ to have relays this week, and who you must bash and trash nightly in the ‘cult chat room’ if you log in.

You are expected to ‘chirp along’ with his nasty comments – like the “ K9” in Indiana’, the “ KA 9” in WI ,the “KA3” in PA, the “ KC 5” in TX night after night in the chat room. (It’s amazing those folks even have the moral guts to call the mobiles they bash and trash night after night, but they don’t seem to have any sense – they drink the ‘chat room cult kool-aid night after night – bash the mobiles – then work them the next day in needed counties).

You must essentially worship the ground upon which the ‘guy in the chair’ sits. (Cult leader) Without a question! You must believe the blather and trash and bash, and the first time you ‘dare’ to question it, you are history! Or else!

Well, as Dave found out, 99.9999% of the bloviating from KZ2P/W5UGD/KA1JPR is just pure made up fabrications of ‘charges’ and ‘allegations’ with not a shred of evidence behind them. He did us all a favor exposing the lies, distortions, and malicious attacks from the chat room cult crowd. The chat room fabrications popped like a balloon hit with a sharp needle- disappeared into thin air.

Who is going to be next? Who wants to join the list of about 100-200 that have ‘gotten the treatment’ from the Net Mullah and minions?

Now, just because you are ‘banned’ or ‘no longer needed’ as assistant means you can’t have fun on 14.336 and in county hunting. As Dave discovered, half the active county hunters are on the ‘banned’ or ‘no relay’ list these days. Another friendly bunch is on CW, and Dave operates both modes. Dave didn’t take relays in the past, so nothing is lost there. He can have just as much fun, and work just as many mobiles. Maybe even more now that he doesn’t have to follow ‘the black list’ agenda! And he won’t have to feel bad about ‘not relaying’ in someone who needs a contact but ‘isn’t allowed’ by the Net Mullah.

All he lost was the ‘illusion’ that James and Percy actually had the least bit of evidence to support all the fabrications of lies and distortions, the ‘allegations’ of wrong, and everything else that went along with the ‘chat room cult’. So his investigations came up with solid answers. Not the ones he expected! We owe him some thanks for exposing all this!

Bill, KM1C, Trip Update

From the K3IMC forum

“Finally got a chance to finish up the rig installation on the boat last week and get Newport County, RI on the air from the harbor on Block Island. Rig seemed to work well and all was quiet, even while running the engine and the inverter, though it is super quiet when everything on the boat is "off", and the rig is running directly off of the batteries. Had about 60 or so QSOs on 40 & 20, CW and SSB.

The bad news is that I developed a serious knee infection while on Block Island. Thinking that it was bursitis, I did a regime of Advil and ice for a couple of days, and the swelling started going down. Then, BLAM! Full blown right knee infection (knee just about locked up), which then spread to the lower leg, ankle, and foot. So, last Monday, in heavy seas and heavier fog, we upped the anchor at Block Island and headed for Newport, RI. (I don't think there is better equipment for a boater than a chart plotter at the helm with super-imposed radar images displayed right on the graphics. That and a good autopilot.)

An hour after getting a mooring in Newport harbor, I was in a taxi bound for the ER at the Newport hospital. When the ER doctor looked at my knee/leg/ankle/foot, he admitted me on the spot. It had become a very serious infection and was on the verge of going systemic. Massive doses of antibiotics via IV were fed to me over the next 4 days, and I'm happy to report that they almost knocked the infection dead. However, it remained persistent in the bursa area of the knee, so I was booked for orthopedic surgery for a deep, surgical cleansing of the entire area. It did involve general anesthesia, so under I went on Thursday afternoon to awaken to a beautiful nurse and a much better knee. As gorgeous as she was, I liked my knee even better.

It is now Sunday night, and I finally feel well enough to do some computing. Now off of IV antibiotics, drain tube is pulled from the knee, and I'm down to oral antibiotics, a few surgical dressings, and an Ace bandage. Expectations are that I will be discharged tomorrow afternoon.

Plan is to hang out on the mooring in Newport for about 5 days or so to confirm no re-infection. If that is the case, we'll continue east toward the Cape and the Islands. While hanging around Newport, I'll run the county again. I have ham sticks for 40, 30, 20, and 17 and will try to run all 4 bands, CW on all 4, SSB on 3. If we get the boat moving again soon, I'm hoping to run the eastern MA counties plus Dukes and Nantucket. (Especially hoping to run Nantucket, last county to run in the state.) Sorry to bore you with the medical details, but they are sort of on my mind!

Lesson learned for me: At the first sign of an infection, I'm going for medical help. No more waiting around to see if I can beat it on my own. Too damn many counties still to run (2900 +/-) and to many still to work (601). No sense in checking out due to medical neglect on my part! 73 and see you on the bands. Y'all stay healthy!

de Bill KM1C

On the Road with N4CD - I

After the big 6,400 mile trip to MT/ID/WY, I arrived home with the car mileage at 199, 657 miles. Almost 200,000 miles. I had used up 75 pages in the 80 page notebook I used for logging. Why not bring the car up to 200,000 miles and fill the logbook in July? I checked the oil in the car – hmmm..down almost a quart – the 10/30W ‘syn blend’ oil seems to work quite well. The regular 10W30 oil usually was good for about 3500-4000 miles before it was a quart down. The syn blend, while costing 3 times as much, seems to stay in the engine better. I filled it back to ‘full’. The Buick tells you when you have ‘used up’ the useful life of the oil – usually about 7500-8500 miles with a digital oil life estimator. Almost time for an oil change.

Joyce, N9STL, was running counties in IN, OH, and KY, trying to finish off her 500 separate transmitted counties for Master Platinum. Scottie, N4AAT, Ray, WG6X, Ed, N4UJK, Silver, N9QS, and I were around to make sure she got an MP contact in all she needed. As you recall, you can get credit, after you get your MG award, by transmitting from a county and working another

MG holder. She ran mostly on 40M SSB, with a QSY to 20M for folks waiting there after her run on 40M, usually on 14.322 or 14.340-42. .

She headed east from IL for a three day trip, and I could use some of those counties. With current conditions, it gets more difficult to work further east, so I decided to head to Arkansas for a one day 600+ mile trip.

That would get the car over 200,000 miles, fill most of the empty log pages in the 'July 2008 book', and get me in better range to OH on 40M.

Amazingly, I checked the needs. W6TMD needed only 5 counties for MP in ARK, and 4 of them were in the SW corner. Scottie, N4AAT, needed only 4 counties in AR, and they were all in the SW corner of the state! Ray, WG6X, needed a couple down there, and Joyce, N9STL, needed four of the same counties down there as well for MP. Too many things said 'go to AR and run those counties for the folks'. Scottie and Joyce had just gone out and run counties that N4CD desperately needed to finish up the MP award, too.

I packed up the car and headed toward Little River AR. Just a bit over three hour high speed drive to get there. Little River is only 10 miles off the interstate but doesn't get run that often. Now, 10 miles isn't far, but if it takes you 15 minutes to get to the county, 15 minutes back, and you sit there for half an hour running the county on 40 SSB, then 20/30/40 cw, and maybe 20M SSB, you've lost an hour, so it is understandable that folks on trips skip it, as well as Cross, AR, which is only a mile or two off the interstate as well. If you are making tracks on a long journey, you can't afford too many detours and lost hours here and there. Then again, those 'transmitted counties' might come in handy some day!

I could also run over the 8 miles or so to McCurtain OK and run that county line, then head north a few counties. It was into Sevier, Howard and Pike, also 'needed counties', then over to Montgomery.

Things went well till I got to Montgomery, and discovered it was a 'wet line'. For newcomers, a 'wet line' is a county boundary marked by a river or lake or body of water. For a long time, 'wet lines' were forbidden and frowned upon, but now, if you can safely run the 'wet line', it is permitted by MARAC rules. The difficulties are usually several:

First, often you don't know exactly where the 'line' is. You'll see a sign for XX county often on one side of the bridge, and the reverse – but is the line at one side of the river, or in the middle? Or part way across? Often, you'll see 'entering XX' before you are on the bridge, but one side of the bridge is seldom the county line, even if you can safely park there. If you were coming from the opposite direction, you'd have the same dilemma. The bridge can't be in both counties! That's frequently what signs tell you, though! You'll occasionally hear an inexperienced CH running a wet line, and when asked, reply "I'm sitting right by the sign – this must be a C/L". Well, in the case of 'wet lines' usually the signs are not on the C/L, although I've seen one or two where the sign was hanging from above in the middle of the bridge. If you head across I-40 from TN to AR, the state line sign is right in the middle of the bridge! Logically, that would also be the county line as well.

Second, there are few bridges where you can park safely in the middle. Maybe on a really, really rural road, or on one that dead ends ½ mile ahead, but in most cases, it isn't 'safe'. That's why 'wet lines' are usually discouraged. Some have run 'wet lines' in boats, but unless you have a superb GPS and the ability to keep your boat within a few feet of the spot during the entire run, that could be a problem, too.

In rare instances, there are islands or peninsulas with a county line/state line that can be run, but they are the rare exception. Those are 'dry lines' if you have maps detailed enough to show where the boundary is.

When you suddenly get surprised by a wet line, you usually wind up running the two counties separately. I got to the unexpected bridge for Montgomery, AR, which was in a rotten radio location anyway. I went another 5 miles or so out of the way before I found a spot where the noise was low enough from the power line along the road, and the hills weren't blocking signals to be able to run it. As soon as you hit Montgomery on the road I was on, you hit the National Forest – unfortunately there were no side roads and there is a noisy power line that went on and on. Not fun to contend with. I backtracked after that run.

It was down through Hempstead to get to Lafayette. Joyce, N9STL was still on course, putting out those MP counties in OH. She needed Lafayette on CW as well (She is closing in on USACW) so she broke out the key and we

worked on CW as well as SSB for her LC in ARK. Look for her down on 7185 or so for cw runs when requested.

My car turned over 200,000 miles in Lafayette. I guess it is time to think about replacing it. It's still going strong, but there are lots of things that are still original on it, and sooner or later the reliability goes down.

The weather was hot (100 degrees). While it was snowing up in AK near Kent, KL1V in the mountains, down here it was pushing the century mark with moderate humidity. When I stopped to run a county line, I put the windows down and enjoyed the 'fresh air'. Yuk! No sense burning gas sitting for 20 minutes at \$4/gallon. Kent will get to see some TX heat even in Sept. when he plans to run a bunch of counties most likely.

Joyce, N9STL, was still heading toward Clermont, so I headed back toward Texas. I didn't want to go too far back west, so after running Miller, AR, I went into Bowie TX and found a nice spot to pull off and wait for Joyce to get to Clermont. After I ran Bowie, about 10 minutes later, Joyce came on 7188: "Is N4CD still in Bowie, TX? I need him". I was sitting in an ideal spot with no noise, so I immediately went back to her. She was sitting on the county line of Brown/Clermont, OH, and we exchanged reports. Clermont was the LC WBOW for me for MP! (Scottie had cleaned up the last few in NC a few days before, and I had run the counties I needed out west that remained after K5GE's trek to the Pacific Northwest).

The line was noisy where she was, so she moved off the line, and ran each county separately.

If you run counties, you'll find some county lines are great – out in MT and west TX, you'll find some with no power line in sight – high up, perfect 360 degree flat terrain, a wide space to park located out of the traffic lanes by 10-30 feet. Back east, you'll find quite a few that you either can't safely park at, or have noisy power lines above. Central/southern Oklahoma is real bad for running massive electrical power lines right along 'county line roads', often with multiple intersecting power lines at county lines you'd like to run. Your S meter might be up at 20 or 40 over S9 noise there! Not much hope for much of a run, if any. I did a most of the AR counties separately – takes time, but you avoid a lot of surprises that way.

I then headed home, very happy, stopping at the Cracker Barrel in Hunt County, TX for a county ham dinner. After dinner, I made a phone call to Scottie (late in the evening) and told him to fire up the radio on 40CW – he needed Rockwall and Dallas, TX for MP and I went home that way. Success. Two more off his needs list for MP, and several others showed up for Rockwall on CW.

Thanks, again, Joyce for #3077 for MP! Joyce continued on another day accumulating her 500 transmitted counties for Platinum. Hopefully, soon, we'll be hearing about her and many others getting their Master Platinum Awards! Everyone can be accumulating MP counties right now by working mobiles that have received the MG award.

When Joyce arrived home from the trip, she had completed 501 separate counties run with qualifying MP contact - so now she just needs to finish working the counties! So far, only 2 have done that, but with now nearly 30 Master Gold holders out there, most of them mobile frequently, the challenge should be a bit easier!

From East to West

How to complete Master Platinum from coast to coast By K5GE, Gene

This story actually started in the early 90's. I had been through many of the amateur phases which included almost all bands from 160 thru 1296 MHz. I had completed many awards including #1 DXCC. What is a guy to do?

One of my friends in our local DX club suggested County Hunting. Wow! What a thought. That should be easy since I had boxes full of QSL cards. There must be one in there from most of the counties. After checking, I found about 500 that I could use. I remember thinking, at that rate it would take forever to complete all counties.

I then discovered the nets and started working all counties for my first time. Was I in for a surprise when I learned that after you finished you were expected to start all over again just to earn stars. Not only stars, but other awards too, like bingo and all YL.

My first thought was to quit after completing USACA, but then I learned about Master's Gold. You mean to tell me that I can get credit for a county if I run it. I was told yes, as long as I work someone else who is qualified.

Now this changed everything. I was now on my way to wearing out 4 vehicles and having the time of my life. You probably know that I have finished Bingo, 5 times, Master's Gold and all YL.

Well, back to my story. In 2003 thru the efforts of W3CR and others, the Master Platinum Award was born. I was officially back in the mobile business.

It was quite a challenge to make a qualified contact back then because there were so few that had completed Master's Gold. We were blessed with good conditions, however, sometimes they were too good. We were on our way to Maine after the 3M convention in 2003 where I missed making a qualified contact in some counties. It was early in the morning and the VK's had great signals, but no Master's Gold holders.

That first year W3CR, KI0JD, N8STF, KC3X and I ran a lot of counties. We were all taking a lot of trips trying to help each other along the way. I must point out that we were also helping others to work counties that they needed for whatever award they were chasing.

The next few years brought more Master's Gold holders which surely lessened the burden on us. I need to take the time now to thank all those who helped in any way. None of these awards would be possible without the help of others.

As time went by I was sure that some of us were getting close to finishing. I make it a practice not to keep a running count, but I knew for sure that I had transmitted from many more than 500 counties. When I did check and learned that most of the counties I needed were either east or west, I realized that it was up to me to go get them.

Fortunately for me there were places in the North West that my wife wanted to see. She is an avid Lewis and Clark fan. I had managed to run many counties from TX to MO & MT because of our Lewis and Clark quest. I must admit I got caught up in their adventure also.

Now some of the eastern counties had been previously run by other Master's Gold holders, but unfortunately, I missed them. N8KIE had planned to run Dukes and Nantucket, but time was running out before the large crowds would visit the islands. I knew what I had to do.

My plan was to go east for the first trip and then west. Since the national was to be held in California, we could get some sightseeing in and attend also. The plan sounded good so off we went.

The first trip was going as planned making my way to Massachusetts. If all went well, I would take the car over by ferry to both islands. We got a motel on Cape Cod early one afternoon and I immediately called to make reservations for us to Dukes the next day. I also made reservations to Nantucket for the day after Dukes. The lady on the phone was amazed that I would spend so much money to take a car to both islands for such a short time.

We had the rest of the day to see Cape Cod. I must say we were not disappointed. The cape is full of history, if you have never been there you might consider it a place to visit.

I managed to run both islands about 5 times each on 20 and 40 meters. I apologize to those who did not get through, but I did the best I could with the conditions and short time that we had. The best location I found on Dukes was at the bus park & ride lot. It was not far from the ferry landing. I found several good spots on Nantucket, but the best was at the lighthouse.



Bus Park & Ride lot – Dukes County MA



K5GE - Lighthouse on Nantucket

We had a flat which caused us to replace a tire on the way back home. Then it was on to the second part of the plan. Who was it that said go west young man, go west?

After a new set of tires we were on our way north west. Things were going good and by the afternoon of July 3rd I was finally in Clearwater, ID. W6TMD had warned me that I might have trouble transmitting from the canyon, but I found a nice park beside the river and signals were very good.



LC WBOW – Clearwater ID for K5GE

WOW! I had just finished Master Platinum. We took some pictures, did some sight seeing and found our way to the motel in Lewiston, ID. Lucky for me they had Hi Speed internet, so I sent my application and data to KC5QCB. I had learned earlier that the awards computer was down which would slow the process.

As we followed the Lewis & Clark trail west I didn't think things could get any better. We were enjoying the sights and I was running Wasco, OR when all of a sudden W8FNW said thanks for my last county. I thought at first it was the last for the state, but Jim assured me that it was the last for the WBOW. Now that was as exciting as it gets in county hunting. Later that evening we had a nice visit with Jim K9JF and his wife. He filled me in that W8FNW had also worked me in his next to last which was Morrow, OR. The next day I got all the information together and mailed QSL's to

W8FNW for both contacts since it would be sometime before I would be getting home.

From then on we were sight seeing and running counties on the way to the convention. At the convention we were pleased to meet some new and old friends. We had a great time during all the activities. I was quite surprised when KC6AWX announced that I had completed Mater Platinum #1 at the banquet. Thanks to those behind the scenes that must have made this happen as I know the awards computer was still down.

Well there you have it, from east to west, and now my Master Platinum is complete. Again thanks to all for the help and good wishes.

In my humble opinion the Master's Gold & Master Platinum awards have done a huge amount, if not the most, to encourage mobiles to run counties. More of us are pursuing these awards and many are close to finishing (N4CD has #2) which has put a lot of mobiles on the road. Now I realize that everybody can not go mobile to qualify for these awards. On the other hand, everybody has an opportunity to work those that do go mobile. In other words not as many mobiles would be on the road if not for these 2 awards.

In closing, I hope that I have helped someone get closer to some award whatever it may be.

73,

Gene K5GE

Dave, KE3VV, finishes Masters Gold

The time was 4:49 am when normal people are sleeping. Not even a mouse was stirring. Dave, KE3VV, was on the radio, working KO1U/m in Plymouth, MA on 40M CW for his last county WBOW. Dave had already completed all the service points for the award.

Without hours, the awards chairperson KC5QCB, Janet, announced that Dave was awarded Masters Gold number 29! Well done!

An Engineering Analysis of ‘Magic Carpets’

Some N4CD humor

You know N4CD is a retired engineer? One night while on a recent trip, I woke up early wide awake and started to think about the ‘bloviating’ and ‘blabbering’ on the 14.336 net with the continual talk of imagined ‘magic carpets’, ‘ghost contacts’, a myriad assortment of strange occupants (black widows, compact discs (CDs), twinkies, and other strange things.

The magic carpet stuff all started about four or five years ago – and got several people ‘run off’ for Percy’s miscalculations. . Percy seems to have recurring nightmares about Arabian fantasies with ‘magic carpets’. Then he miscalculates speed/time/distance with faulty math, and declares that ‘so and so’ is running counties ‘too fast’ for his math computations and lack of current highway knowledge, so he labels them ‘magic carpet mobiles’. That is usually a mobile on the ‘W5UGD chat room/cult hate list’ that month. New ones get added on a regular basis.

So I figured an engineering analysis of ‘flying carpets’ would be in order. Hi hi.

a) History - Doing some research on line, we find:

“The Arabian Nights were a collection of Persian, Arabian and Indian folk tales handed down through several centuries.” “If you know only two things about the Arabian Nights, there'll be the genii and the magic carpets, which are ordinary rugs until a magic spell turns them into the greatest method of escape. I only know of two stories that involve flying carpets and one that involves a slightly more comfortable flying couch!”

The following scene is from the story of 'Prince Ahmed and the Fairy Pari Banou' is set in Bisnagar, the ancient Hindu capital city of southern India;

"After Prince Houssain had run through that division, street by street, his thoughts fully employed on the riches he had seen, he was very much tired; which a merchant perceiving, civilly invited him to sit down in his shop, and he accepted of it; but had not been sat down long, before he saw a crier pass by with a piece of tapestry on his arm, about six foot square, and cried it at thirty purses. The prince called to the crier, and asked him to see the tapestry, which seemed to him to be valued at an exorbitant price, not only for the size of it, but for the meanness of the stuff. When he had examined it well, he told the crier, that he could not comprehend how so small a piece of tapestry, and of so indifferent appearance, could be set at so high a price. The crier, who took him for a merchant, replied, If this price seems so extravagant to you, your amazement will be greater, when I tell you I have orders to raise it to forty purses, and not to part with it under. Certainly, answered Prince Houssain, it must have something very extraordinary in it, which I know nothing of. You have guessed it, sir, replied the crier, and will own it, when you come to know, that whoever sits on this piece of tapestry may be transported in an instant where-ever he desires to be, without being stopped by any obstacle."



Old Painting of Percy's Imaginary 'Flying Carpet'

"It has to be said that the description of the flying tapestry ride in that story is rather disappointing. The carpet is more of a dematerializing machine, like the famous Star Trek transporter device, than a flying experience."

Islamic tradition dictates that Solomon "had a carpet of green silk, on which his throne was placed, being of a prodigious length and breadth, and sufficient for all his forces to stand on, the men placing themselves on his right hand, and the spirits on his left; and that when all were in order, the wind, at his command, took up the carpet, and transported it, with all that were upon it, wherever he pleased; the army of birds at the same time flying over their heads, and forming a kind of canopy, to shade them from the sun."

So that's the mythological reality, but what about the physical reality? "

Yes, there were some 'flying carpets'

Real "flying carpets" were made from layered paper glued with gelatin and dried in a kiln. Appearing in Tibet, magic carpets were linked to Tantric practices. The carpet and pilot would be suspended from a ravine and hopefully(!) dropped into a natural flight path. Any volunteers?"

Per Wikipedia:

"Solomon's carpet was reportedly made of green silk with a golden weft, sixty miles long and sixty miles wide: "when Solomon sat upon the carpet he was caught up by the wind, and sailed through the air so quickly that he breakfasted at Damascus and supped in Media." The wind followed Solomon's commands, and ensured the carpet would go to the proper destination; when Solomon was proud, for his greatness and many accomplishments, the carpet gave a shake and 40,000 fell to their deaths. The carpet was shielded from the sun by a canopy of birds.

In the "Necklaces of Gems", Shaikh Abdul-Qadir Gilani walks on the water of the River Tigris, then an enormous prayer rug appears in the sky above, "as if it were the flying carpet of Solomon.

In Russian folk tales, Baba Yaga can supply Ivan the Fool with a flying carpet or some other magical gifts (e.g., a ball that rolls in front of the hero showing him the way or a towel that can turn into a bridge). Such gifts help

the hero to find his way "beyond thrice-nine lands, in the thrice-ten kingdom". Russian painter Viktor Vasnetsov illustrated the tales featuring a flying carpet on two occasions

b) Current History

Steppenwolf and other rock groups had a hit song "Magic Carpet Ride" years ago. Here's the YouTube version

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwDa5dMmfZ4>

According to Wiki:

"'Magic Carpet Ride' is a rock song written by John Kay and Rushton Moreve from the band Steppenwolf. The song was initially released on the album Steppenwolf the Second. It was the lead single from that album, peaking at #3 in the US, and becoming the band's second-biggest hit, surpassed only by "Born to Be Wild"."

Pop some psychedelic pills and off you go on a 'magic carpet ride' ...maybe that's a side effect of all those 'meds' they have talked about for ten years or more? Who knows?

c) Engineering Analysis

So what do engineers think about at 5am in the morning? Things like the power source for 'magic carpets'! Or is it just 'wind' that you also need to be able to control? That would be a tough challenge. Imagine 10 people with magic carpets each wanting to head in different directions!

With gas at \$4/gal, one could get terrifically rich if one could discover such technology. Be able to control local winds. Be able to make carpets rise and fall upon command. Just think how many counties you could get to, without burning gas. Kalawao, here we come! If we had Solomon's carpet, you could take everyone at a National out to Kalawao for the afternoon! The downside is, the carpet would be bigger than the whole island of Molokai.

Just think how much money you could make if you could guarantee Boone Pickens 24 hours a day of strong winds for all his wind turbines in West Texas? I'm sure you could strike up a deal!

Would you need to file an Environmental Impact study before landing this anywhere? One could just see the entire island flattened by the landing 60 by 60 mile carpet. How many thousands of tons would it weight? Poor tourists suffocated to death! If you stayed there for a day, would all the vegetation underneath die? How would you even find the county line if it is underneath all that carpeting? Would the edges in the sea get so waterlogged you couldn't take off again? Oh, the questions!

On the other hand, way back when, the writers of ancient tales likely never went more than 10 or 20 miles an hour in their lives – maybe on the back of a horse or camel, or if they jumped off a cliff. So what is going to happen if you are 'flying' through the air at, say, 200 or 2000 miles an hour and run into a swam of bugs or birds? Or an airplane? What happens if you get hit with a side wind? Or hail? If it is 20 below outside, how do you handle it at 15,000+ feet altitude, necessary to clear the Rocky Mountains? What happens in rain and snow? How do you handle fog? Are there headlights for night time flying? How many? The illustration above only shows one gigantic lantern you hang on to!

Would you need about two thousand tail lights? What would supply the power for the tail lights? Can you get it equipped for 'instrument flying'? How about navigation and communications radios? Weather radar? Turn signals? Transponder?

Are there oxygen masks on board? Or do you just 'materialize' somewhere else? Does it even have an electrical connection to hook up your transceiver? Would it provide a ground plane for your antenna? Is it 'noise free'? Or is there lots of 'static' from feet shuffling on the carpet?

Does it have seat belts (apparently not since 40,000 died when they fell off Solomon's gigantic carpet.) Would you need a pilot's license or just a driver's license? Maybe it would be a 'glider'? Would it be 'fixed wing'?

I'm sure 30 or 40 government agencies would jump into the fray with all sorts of regulations to insure 'passenger' safety and that of civilians underneath it. Could you ever get a flight plan approved with that big a contraption? "This is Jumbo Flying Carpet requesting landing permission at all 3 NYC airports..and everything in between!".....Now arriving...at gates 1 through 900...Flight 1 from Percyville. Would the Empire State building poke a hole in the carpet?

Heck, King Solomon's carpet would be larger than Rockwall and Somervell and most TX counties when it flew overhead. At that size, it would be easy to run county lines, if you could get it to hover or land without suffocating 100,000 people on the ground under it. What would happen to the big solar power installations underneath? And where would you land a 60 mile by 60 mile flying carpet? How much space would it take to store it, even if you rolled it up? Do they come in different sizes?

Maybe not everyone needs “King Size”?

Can you imagine the carpet cleaning bill to get it cleaned every now and then?

Would it need FAA certification, and how likely would you get it? What happens when a thunderstorm came up? And how do you control direction, and know which way you are going? Does it need refueling, and what does it use for fuel? Or do you 'just control' the wind? What happens if two magic carpets want to go in different directions at the same time? Does the 'magic' wear out after so many miles and you have to buy a new one? Or are the miles unlimited?

So many questions, and does it have a warranty? Who fixes it if it breaks? Does it need routine maintenance? What happens if the edges fray? Can you repair it with ordinary materials? What do you use to clean it? What happens when it rains or snows?

Well, after thinking about it for a while, leaving it to some youngsters similar to Bill Gates and Steve Jobs figure out the answers to the mysteries, or maybe the archives in Roswell, NM, I turned over and went back to sleep. Who knows, maybe they have some of these at Area 51 in Nevada?

Flying carpets and the like are part of Percy's nightmares. No sense to ruin my sleep over silly cooked up machinations in his nightmares like that.

If you really do run across any flying carpets, give me a quick call. We can make a bazillion bucks and be as rich as Warren Buffet and Bill Gates. We could buy our own jet planes or top end cars or motor homes and fly or drive anywhere and not worry about fuel prices. No need for unapproved risky 'magic carpets' and their inherent problems. We'll sell the one you find to some rich Arab sheik for 50 or 100 billion, and have all the money we need

for normal county hunting mobiling! For all the county hunters – for the next 100 years.

Sources:

http://www.phrases.org.uk/bulletin_board/7/messages/522.html

www.wikipedia.org

Now, the folks on the net know that Percy has had some bad nightmares. His allegations of ‘wrong’ against the dozen county hunters have no factual basis. **When in the past asked to supply his computations, or even log info, he suddenly fumbled like a 7 year old and got upset that someone would ‘dare’ to ‘question’ his allegations.** Yet, he’d repeat them over and over for months. No evidence. Simply fabrications. And now you know the ‘real’ story of mystical magical ‘flying carpets’..... Just part of the chat room cult crowd and their attempts at ‘total control’.

Net Shenanigans and Similar

a) **“Hurting Jim”** - It’s always interesting to ‘interpret’ what gets said on the K3IMC forum. Now, this is important stuff – pay attention, please! One poster recently posted:

“For those unaware of it, there is a small band of malcontents who have **decided to “hurt” Jim** and the 20m net by putting out their counties ONLY on 40m. To accomplish this, **a sudden rash of “broken” antennas has seemed to spring up.**” (it was posted 7/22/08).

OK...got that.....a small band of malcontents....now are having ‘broken antennas for 20M’....hurting “Jim”.....got it?

It continued: **“I have recently caught one of these malcontents making a run from Florida to Alabama.** Putting out county after county I could have used. Unfortunately, it was ONLY on 40m.”

I can just see James – like a ‘voodoo doll’ being stuck with pins that say “40M only mobile” or “CW only mobile” writhing in agony on the ground as he and his ‘helpers’ discover 40M only SSB mobiles or mobiles that have chosen to run primarily on 40M. Oh, the ‘hurt’.

Amazing...**the 336 follies** continues.....threats...extortion....time outs....and they keep adding to it...now it is ‘conspiracies about ‘broken antennas’ and the ‘Hurting Jim’ concept! What will the delusional minds ‘dream up’ next month?

Let’s see...in early August, Larry, N2OCW, was ‘allowed’ to run on net. However, KZ2P seemed to have trouble exchanging signal reports with him, and just announced the county and said ‘go ahead’. Larry now has MG, and many need the WV counties for Platinum and other awards. Larry ran the county and NC provided relays. Later, while Larry was mobile, he requested a relay to another mobile from Dave, KA5TQF. James jumped in and said “Not on my shift!” Larry did not get a relay.

Just like the CHNews predicted – the ‘chat room’ crowd – playing their ‘jerk folks around on a chain routine’ - Larry, N2OCW, is ‘half in/half out’they are jerking him around as we predicted. Well, what do you expect of the second grade mentality on 336 and the ‘bullies’? Always has to be playing some ‘game’ with folks. You can’t be ‘half way’ in the cult. You are either in or ‘out’. And they’ll happily cast you out for any doubt or daring to question the ‘authority’. Or failing to take the Kool-Aid.

B) Ghost Contacts – Latest Allegations by the Twin-Twins

Well, you know the twin-twin in FL wouldn’t be happy if he didn’t fabricate some new ‘charges’ monthly and loudly bloviate them around on 14.336. And certain stations like a “9” and another “9” seem to have nothing better to do that repeat the fabrications of Percy. Sad. They should know better by now. They too are drinking too much of the ‘chat room cult’ kool-aid.

But on to the ‘latest’ thing the twin-twins and their followers have ‘invented’. Ghost contacts!

Seems that N2OCW, Larry, worked a station off the net frequency with help from others on 14.339. Steve, AA8R, was able to hear the mobile and Larry, N2OCW well. Even though it was spotted, the twin-twin in FL is

bloviating about ‘ghost contacts’. That contact was the one that finished N2OCW for his Masters Gold Award. Several heard him make it successfully, including Randy, AA8R, who relayed in Larry. AA8R had a nice QSO afterward with Clarence.

What is even stranger, while Percy is bloviating and blabbering away about his ‘ghost contact’, he seems to forget that Jack, N7ID, worked his last for Masters Gold, and it wasn’t spotted. And it was made with a fixed station, to boot. Is Percy bloviating about this ‘ghost contact’? No! Why not? Was Percy there when it happened? No.

It gets even stranger, because Dave, KE3VV, worked his last for the WBOW for Masters Gold with KO1U, at 4:49 am on 40M CW. It wasn’t spotted. Percy was likely sound asleep at Club HQ in FL with his mini-me twin. Now where is Percy with his ‘ghost contact’ type allegations? Oh, Percy only does that ‘ghost contact’ bit for mobiles on the “W5UGD chat room” cult hate/trash and bash list? Ones that are banned, can’t get relays this month, have ‘broken antennas’ or just general bashing lists? Hi Hi.

That means the last three Master Gold awards were finished with contacts made on frequencies other than 14.336. Is Percy bloviating about all of them as ‘ghost contacts’ since none of them was ‘spotted’ or run on 14.336!? No, only on the ‘selected mobile’ bashing/trashing list. Good ole slime ball Percy. Another day, another way to trash folks. And another bunch of charges with ZERO facts to back them up.

Only the mobile ‘they’ want to jerk around some more as they dream up new ‘allegations’. More sadistic fun from the ‘W5UGD chat room cult crowd’. More deluded fabrications from Percy. What is even worse that one “9” in Indiana and one “9” in Wisconsin repeat such silly nonsense. Haven’t they learned yet? One really must wonder. Or the clueless “W0” that shows up from CO or MT.

Remember – this month the bloviating on net is about ‘**ghost counties**’! H hi

c) The “Percy Incident” on July 1, 2008

It was noted in the last issue of the CHNews that the BOD passed on examining whether KA1JPR had violated section 8:

“(c) Participating in activities that create an unfavorable impression of amateur radio, **such activities include malicious attempts to cause disruption or discreditation of an operation.**”

It has been shown time and time again, that KA1JPR, Percival Ford, has on multiple occasions insisted loudly and repeated that certain operations by county hunters were ‘void’. He went on for days (and in one case months) insisting that such operations had to be discredited. The KI0JD alleged ‘magic carpet ride’ is just one of a half dozen. The KA3DRO ‘he’s not mobile in MN’ and N9STL ‘she’s not mobile in MT’ are two more. The Director (or ex?) WOMU personally found out that Percy was a serial liar with his eyeball QSO in MT.

The MARAC President seems to think it is all about Percy’s outburst, which was only the ‘straw that broke the camel’s back’ as far as most folks are concerned. She wrote in the last MARAC Road Runner :

WB9NUL: “This “requested action” has to do with boorish behavior and nasty language used by Percy, KA1JPR against Joyce, N9STL.”

No, it is about his continued malicious activities to interfere and cause disruption of valid operations. That is what was requested to be examined. The record goes back at least 5 years, and those are not isolated one time incidents. That record is what was requested to be examined. No one is going to be ‘convicted’ of offensive language, but when it is part of a multi-year attempt to discredit the mobile operations and filed applications of awards by a MARAC member, then it might deserve consideration, no?

There is no need for the board to get all ‘Politically Correct’ on language. The ‘Percy Incident’ can be examined solely in the context of five years of malicious attempts to discredit operations. Repeated over months and years. Not one time incidents.

Now, even Joyce, WB9NUL, has had an encounter with such boorish behavior. She wrote in the MARAC Road Runner:

“About ten years ago I was called a f**king bitch on the same frequency about the same time of day. It was witnessed by a large group of Ch’ers.

The perpetrator was a District Director, now deceased who didn't like the fact that I was polling the membership concerning current events at that time. There were Ch'ers who were ready to beat this person to an inch of his life. In fact, they said they would stand in line to take their turns."

[Golly, not to cast any dark shadows on MARAC, but wasn't Percival Ford, KA1JPR, also a Director of MARAC? Not long ago?]

Joyce, WB9NUL, also seems to be upset that the CH news points out that MARAC seems to have a lack of leadership. Awards go in, and are lost for over 2 years in 'committee'. No follow up. No action items. No tracking.

Even when Natural Bingo was found 'not acceptable' at the July BOD meeting, was it referred back to committee with a requested action date? NOPE! Just send back to committee and who knows how long before it surfaces again! I would have thought that after a two year lapse, after all the discussion in the CHNews, that the BOD would have requested the awards committee to respond within so many days/months. Did that happen? No – just business as usual.....someday...maybe....lost in 'committee'.

Once again, it is the 'shoot the messenger' mentality. If no one points out things, then things must be fine, right? Ignorance is bliss.....NOT. The membership deserve better. MARAC is seen as not responsive by its own failure to actually track progress in the awards committee of various things, to set target dates to get things resolved. Isn't that part of what a corporation and the officers supposed to do? Conduct business in a timely manner? Follow up on things. Track progress. Get status reports.

Here's the shoot the messenger mentality:

"First of all, in terms of first reactions, the phrase being thrown around was "MARAC image has been tarnished...again". And I say 'wait a minute', if that's true, the tarnisher is N4CD....again. He is the one that puts every less-than-perfect occurrence at the feet of MARAC and the BOD. It's a wonder we're not blamed for the price of oil."

Once again, the fact that MARAC can't get an award out after more than 2 years – gets blamed on N4CD? Just because the CHNews pointed it out?

Or than an ex-**Director** of MARAC is throwing about the “B” word? And that reflects well on MARAC?

Once again, the ‘negative W5UGD chat room crowd’ seems to want to spin it the other way. Why? Ask yourselves

Then, she goes off on a “plan for failure”.

“I ask that you isolate your thinking to the actions of Percy, KA1JPR on July 1, 2008 and not include all he perceived wrongs of him and others then and at other times,”

Guaranteed plan for failure likely hatched straight out of the “W5UGD Negativity Chat Room”.

Guaranteed to let Percy ‘off the hook’ because there is nothing in the MARAC rules about ‘language’. Nothing will be done.

Why? For five years, Percy has been on a rampage – trashing and bashing at will, in total violation of Marac Sec 8 in regard to malicious interference and attempts to discredit operations. Rather than consider the real transgressions, the MARAC President is calling for a plan for failure since no one, including the FCC, is going to take action for ‘offensive language’. Just listen to Channel 19 to see that.

Once again, the ‘chat room crowd’ is working hard to relieve Percy of ‘all guilt’ and get a ‘free pass’ from MARAC for only the July 1 incident. Just consider July 1? Why? And did she mention that even though Ed, N4UJK, attempted to run N9STL on 14.336, Percy loudly and intentionally and maliciously interfered by calling for a ‘Mobile Ready to run’ when he had one running already? No! Simply forgotten. Intentional malicious interference to an ‘operation’. Not an issue in her book. Just ‘language’. Plan for failure.

So she’ll get input ONLY about the offensive language and then ‘conclude’ with advise from MARAC lawyer KE3VV that they are powerless to do anything about language? Skip the part about him interfering maliciously?

Right – a ‘plan’ likely hatched at Club HQ on the W5UGD chat room.

Now, even Joyce, WB9NUL notes:

“Believe me when I say that I can relate to the present situation. About ten years ago I was called a f**king bitch on the same frequency about the same time of day. It was witnessed by a large group of Ch’ers. The perpetrator was a District Director, now deceased who didn’t like the fact that I was polling the membership concerning current events at that time. There were Ch’ers who were ready to beat this person to an inch of his life. In fact, they said they would stand in line to take their turns. My reaction to this was he was a sicko!”

Well said...and the current perpetrator of the fabrications, lies, innuendoes, misinformation of the ‘chat room cult’ lieutenant, 3rd grade, at the FL Club ‘mee-too’ HQ, is in the same boat. ‘Sicko’ comes to mind.

Dave, KA5TQF, did all of us a big favor by investigating all the ‘allegations’ the chat room cult had been attempting to spread as ‘the truth’. The chat room folks drank too much of the Kool-Aid it seems. Dave conclusively showed that it was ALL false and fabrications. He did us all a big favor. Percival was one of the LOUDEST bloviators about all these ‘charges day in and day out. He just confirmed what most knew already. Malicious, vicious, lies, smears, and fabrications.

I’d bet the letter than Joyce, WB9NUL, spoke about at the National Convention hasn’t been written yet, and for sure, N9STL has not received a letter of apology from KA1JPR.

The clock is running on Natural Bingo. And Titanium, Plutonium, Diamond, KE3VV’s Unobtainium, and other submitted proposed awards. MARAC is ‘the Awards Club’. Action. Follow-up!

I love that KE3VV ‘Unobtainium’. I guess some awards of the MOBILE Amateur Radio Awards Club (ie, MARAC) are ‘unobtainable’ to those who do not run mobile. Likely some one never going mobile would have trouble getting the “Ran all 3077” Award? Or getting a plaque for 100 last counties? Or maybe even finishing the Master’s Gold Award? MARAC offers 100 different awards. Some will never get the Five Band Award. Some will never work all counties on 30M. So? Does that mean you do

away with awards that ‘some’ folks cannot get? **Much of the current mobile activity has been spurred on by those seeking the higher awards. Likely activity is going to fall off if there are no new challenges.**

It’s time for MARAC to get back to ‘awards’..the main part of its name!

As to Percy, after years of trashing/basing, many have already let him know that they really don’t want to work him. Tell him ‘please don’t call me when I am out mobile’. They have had enough of him. And his smart ass “Hey ugly” or “He’s the ugly one” and so on, day in and day out. . Inane idiotic comments. Like the ‘send me an 18 year old blonde with beer attached’ idiotic comments reflecting the immature “junior grade” school mentality and thinking of the chat room cult crowd. Do the YLs want to hear this blather? Do we set a good example of ‘net procedure’ when stupid remarks are tossed around daily? And 99% of it starts with one person – you got it, KA1JPR.

Likely, MARAC cannot apply retro-actively any changes it makes to allow ‘temporary suspensions’ for violations of Sec 8 para C about attempts to malicious attempts to discredit operations as Percy did in the past along with “KZ2P/K2JG”. The existing rules were taken from DXCC type awards with only ‘permanent’ disqualification. Well, maybe after everyone has learned the truth from KA5TQF’s investigations and from the “B” word incident, folks will just ‘uninvite’ Percy from being around 14.336 or feeling welcome to call him when they are out mobile. He’s been exposed.

On the Road with N4CD – II

The Austin Summerfest was coming up in Travis, TX the first weekend in August. I checked the needs for central Texas and found I could get a few with a 2 day trip. The car was packed and I headed off August 1 going down Interstate 35. Scottie, N4AAT, needed Williamson and Travis, TX,

and we connected. It looks like 17M CW is the best band for us to work. Joyce, N9STL, needed Travis for MP as well. I ran all the counties on the route down there.

Mike, KQ0B was down to two to finish up. One was in IA, and N9JF was headed there and they connected. The other was Wilson, TX, another 100 miles south of Travis. It was early afternoon, so I had another 4-5 hours until the hamfest started. I headed on down through Hays, which several needed, through Guadalupe, to Wilson to get the LC WBOW for Mike. Traffic in the Austin area (Travis County) is horrible! Creep and crawl!



Wilson, TX LC WBOW KQ0B

Larry, N2OCW also needed Wilson, so I called him on the cellphone. He was on his way to or at a Century Club convention. We hooked up on 20CW.

After running Wilson, it was back to Travis – for the hamfest which starts at 6pm Friday night (Swapmeet/vendors). I ran into Chuck, NO5W, who is one of the chief promoters of the Texas QSO Party and runs many counties during it. It's coming up the end of September and is usually quite good with some stations getting over 180 multipliers (counties) in a single weekend! (I think that was N8II, Jeff, in 2007).

I spent \$3 there at the swap meet (plus \$10 to get in) in 2 hours, then headed back to the Motel 6. The next morning, I hit the outdoor flea market at 7am, had an eyeball with Bob, KK5MI, and then went county hunting. So many counties, so little time.

Joyce, N9STL, needed Bastrop for MP, so that was next as I headed to Colorado, which several also needed and which Randy, AA8R, desperately needed for LC.



Colorado TX for AA8R – LC on CW

It was then time to head northerly, over to Madison and Houston, desperately needed by Dan, KM9X – he is closing in on MG – down to 10 to go now. Scottie needed Madison, so I called him on the cellphone and we did it on 17M CW easy.

Now, despite some unfavorable postings by KM9X on the K3IMC forum, in the true spirit of county hunting, I went looking for KM9X for his last 2 in TX. He didn't show up for Madison on cw – ran all bands. Dan occasionally works me on cw. So I got his phone number and called the

number - got the answering machine and left message – he apparently heard it and showed upon 40M and we connected – advised him his LC next. That is the ‘county hunter way’ when you make extra effort to try and get the LCs along the way for those closing in. Whether it is Hancock, TN, Roosevelt, MT, or Houston, TX.

This was a hot weekend, with record setting temps (104-106) expected in Dallas. Worse tomorrow, so it was just a short trip this time.



Houston TX (wet line) for KM9X – LC in TX for MG

You go over a very long bridge/causeway on Route 21 to get into Houston (wet line – although there isn’t much water in the river bed). It was in the upper 90s with beating down sun. I shut off the engine and sat for 30 minutes or so...sweat pouring down. Lots needed it – 10 or 20 on 17M once it gets spotted – sometimes more – and of course, good runs on 20M CW, and a handful of contacts on 30 and 40cw. Conditions on 40M are not that great – and lots of QRN. I worked Dan, KM9X, on 40M SSB in his needed counties – not many other takers on 40M and lots of QRN from thunderstorms. Glad we connected. At home, I checked who else had run Houston lately good for MG in the past year or so.. Hmm.... N4CD. I guess it needs to get run more often!

Lots of trees in east TX – a million plus acres of trees! In west TX, you have to look real hard to find a single tree in many areas. Millions of acres with no trees!

The NA QSO Party started in the afternoon, making a bit of a mess on 14.0565 – I ran there a few more times, as I headed up the interstate back home for 3 ½ hours through Leon, Freestone, and Navarro. The 17M gang was waiting for these ‘greenstamp’ counties. K8CW, Alan, is just about always there looking for counties. Conditions there sometimes better than the lower bands! {greenstamp county = one on the interstate and run frequently}

TopList Expansion

Jim ND9M and I(W6RK) have been discussing an expansion to CC Toplist. Currently we are tracking worked counties on different bands and modes (CW/Phone/Digital) but we were thinking of doing another similar list... but reversed: counties transmitted on different bands and modes (call it County Challenge Transmitted Toplist?). Requirement would be to have at least one QSO (and QSOs within same car would be deeply frowned if not disqualified totally) on each band/mode to count.

Do you think this would work and encourage mobiles to activate more bands and modes on each county?

De W6RK, Risto

(From K3IMC forum)

Peak Oil News

1) Obama on Oil

a) "It's unfortunate that, at least until this Friday, Barack Obama opposed off-shore drilling. Obama has also led a one-man crusade to keep the American people ignorant about what's at stake in the debate over off-shore drilling. This, it seems to me, is almost criminal, for it implies that there is no set of facts under which we should ever consider drilling off-shore. The absurdity of that position, always apparent is confirmed by Obama's willingness to flip on the issue.

Here's the background. In 2005, Congress considered energy legislation that included an off-shore inventory. The inventory would provide an estimate of our off-shore reserves. Taking it wouldn't mean drilling; it would just tell us what's out there. Yet Obama voted to kill the off-shore inventory provision. However, the effort to kill the inventory failed, and the first inventory report was issued in February 2006.

Obama, though, did not give up in his efforts to keep the public ignorant. In January 2007, he proposed legislation to eliminate the authorization to conduct the inventory, as established in the 2005 law. Obama's bill is S. 115. The key provision is section 101(a)(5). It provides that "Section 357 (42 U.S.C. 15912) (relating to comprehensive inventory of OCS oil and natural gas resources)" is "repealed as of the date of enactment of this act." Obama is the only sponsor of this legislation.

Ironically, Obama called his legislation "The Oil SENSE Act." How audacious a label for an act that would deprive the public of key information relevant to deciding whether off-shore drilling makes sense. Obama's legislation is still pending.

It's wonderful that Obama now thinks it might be ok to drill off-shore, provided that such drilling is part of an "overarching really thoughtful" energy package. Perhaps now, as part of the package, Obama will stop opposing an inventory of our off-shore energy assets. After all, if Obama is prepared to support drilling, he no longer needs to keep voters in the dark about what we are losing by not drilling."

From the 'powerline blog'

b) Obama on \$1000 Energy Rebates

“Barack Obama proposes to deal with rising gasoline prices by giving a \$1,000 "emergency rebate" to consumers - a rebate to be paid for by taxing the so-called "windfall profits" of oil producers ("Obama pitches \$1,000 energy rebate checks," August 2).

In other words, a critical part of Sen. Obama's strategy for reigning in high gasoline prices is to subsidize gasoline consumption and more heavily tax its production. This plan - which increases the demand for gasoline and reduces its supply - makes as much sense as trying to put out a fire by dowsing it with jet fuel.

<http://boards.fool.com/Message.asp?mid=26870396>

c) Obama saves the world – NOT!

Obama’s solution for solving the energy crisis? Inflate your tires! Tune up your car!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzZNP4tTfV0>

<http://blogsforjohnmccain.com/category/tags/obama-tire-inflation-energy-plan>

Now, while it true for the small percentage of car owners who do not have their tires properly inflated, that doing so will save them a few percent in gas mileage. And for the very few who need a tune up, that too would help save them a few percent. However, it might cost them \$150 or \$300 or \$500 for the tune up, to save 25 or 75 cents a week at the gas pump. Overall, you might get a few percent less gasoline consumed if nearly everyone rushed out to ‘get their cars tuned up’ and constantly checked tire pressure. In the big scheme of things, it is impossible for the ‘savings’ to be anywhere near the million or two or three million barrels per day potential of offshore drilling.

This ‘candidate’ when he doesn’t have a canned, teleprompter led speech in front of him, shows his absolute ignorance and contempt for ‘the working folks’. Silly recycled ideas from the 1970s. Back then, cars actually needed

tune ups occasionally. Now, they go 100,000 miles before recommended tune ups! He apparently just recycled 'old info' without digesting it. Dumb!

Even worse, when Carter imposed 'windfall profits tax' on oil production, domestic production plummeted and overseas providers, who didn't feel the tax bite, paid no additional taxes. The percent of imported oil went UP-exactly the opposite of what you want for 'energy independence'. This 'plan' of his is a proven failure, yet he recycles it.

Let's see..gas prices are double in 3 years, and he tells you to save maybe 3-5% on a thankful if, and only if, your tires are a bit low in pressure? If your tires are set right, you save NOTHING! And that is his energy plan? Then he plans to reduce domestic production through confiscation of profits while suggesting the US needs to become more energy independent? What is this guy smoking?

His crazy ideas on energy should ring alarm bells everywhere. While he is all for 'taxing the rich', and he made 2+ million last year, he stashes his 'savings' in tax free bonds, paying NOTHING in income taxes on it – despite his TWO MILLION income. Likely he doesn't worry about gas prices – he gets chauffeured around all the time. If he votes to raise taxes, he pays not a dime more on the income from his tax free bonds. However, your salary and dividends and other income will get taxed 25 to 35% more!

Then he tells you to 'check' your tire pressure. He will do NOTHING to help reduce the cost of energy, or keep it from climbing at elevator type rates for the next 10 years. Most cars don't need a tune up for 100,000 miles these days.

His idea of rich, in order to raise the 1 trillion he proposes in new spending , means anyone earning more than \$32K as a single or \$64K as a couple. The middle class pays most of the taxes and will feel most of the tax increases to fund his socialist programs. The threshold for 'rich' will have to drop so most taxpayers WILL wind up paying more! "Rich" to him means anyone with taxable income who currently pays income taxes. Remember, half the income earners in the country now pay no income taxes. The other half has to support all the give away programs.

The Obama NO NO NO NO NO NO energy policy continues. No drilling. No nukes. No new refineries (he calls for them, but blocks one being built).

No even thinking about what might be offshore! No windmills near Teddy Kennedy to ruin his view! (and the Atlantic coast). No nukes. Just NO NO NO NO NO. Meanwhile, your heating and auto gas bills keep climbing and climbing! He doesn't have a clue and seems to care less as he promotes the agenda of the Sierra Club (whose motto seems to be save the world for the critters and bugs and insects and the heck with humans and their needs) .

And, in the classic flip-flop maneuver, suddenly he is saying he "might" consider off shore drilling IF.....part of a comprehensive package likely including punitive taxes on Exxon Mobil and oil companies. Guess what! Exxon Mobil paid over \$30 billion in taxes to make \$10 billion. 75% tax rate. Just how much more blood does he want? (all of it!). The guy is an idiot, and any 'windfall profits' tax will be paid for by, no kidding, you and me at the gas pump.

That's the Obama plan. Less supply, increase demand by subsidies, increase taxes. A lose/lose/lose situation all around.

He's done so many flip flops now on his 'positions' that we should consider sending him to the Olympics to compete in gymnastics!

d) Economic Justice – Obamanomics 101

"Before friendly audiences, Barack Obama speaks passionately about something called "economic justice." ...During his NAACP speech earlier this month, Sen. Obama repeated the term at least four times. "I've been working my entire adult life to help build an America where economic justice is being served," he said at the group's 99th annual convention in Cincinnati.

And as president, "we'll ensure that economic justice is served," he asserted. "That's what this election is about." Obama never spelled out the meaning of the term, but he didn't have to. His audience knew what he meant, judging from its thumping approval.

It's the rest of the public that remains in the dark... **"Economic justice" simply means punishing the successful and redistributing their wealth by government fiat. It's a euphemism for socialism."**

e) Obamanomics 102 Windfall Profits Tax

Lets examine the cost of Obama's radical new \$500 per worker Energy Rebate proposal. The cost of the proposed rebates, to be paid through a Windfall Profits Tax on oil companies, would amount to \$75 billion or about 62.5% of the combined \$120 Billion net profit of the big 5 in 2007.

How will he collect them?

According to Obama's website, the Windfall Profits Tax is a penalty on oil companies for excessive profits. Obama claims that the tax would actually encourage oil companies to increase investment in alternative fuels. Yet, according to Obama's plan the tax itself would not be collected based upon the actual net profit's of the oil companies, **but rather upfront based upon the market price of a barrel of oil.**

Barack Obama supports imposing a windfall profits penalty on oil selling at or over \$80 per barrel.

Source: barackobama.com

In reality, Obama's WPT is not a tax on net profits at all, but rather a tax on the market price of a barrel of oil. The idea of Windfall Profits Tax is to penalize excessive profits, therefore you would expect such a tax to actually be based upon profits. Oil companies do not control the price of a barrel of oil, and therefore taxing a barrel of oil based upon market prices is not a tax on oil profits but rather a tax on oil production.

Wait a minute! First he tells you it is a windfall PROFITS tax, but then the plan calls for taxing production? And what will taxing production do?

Reduce production! Increase the cost of oil!

National Convention CW Meeting

Via the Grapevine (MARAC Road Runner), Ed, KN4Y reports:

“The first item on the agenda discussed that often during poor band conditions, two mobiles end up running on the same county hunters CW frequency at the same time. The group agreed that any station that hears both mobiles try to straighten out the mess. One method was simply to send the wait sign (Pro sign AS) until one of the mobiles was contacted. Once the attention of one or both mobiles is obtained, ask one of the mobiles to QSY D2 (down 2).

The second item was when you hear a new call on the county hunter’s CW frequencies send them an email welcoming them to CW county hunting and offer to answer any questions they might have.

The third item was when a station works a mobile and enters the spot on the spotting network, the group suggested to let the mobile know that they have been/will be spotted. It was suggested to work the mobile and give RST es spot. The mobile can reply RST TU SPOT.”



CW Ops at the National Convention

Pic Courtesy of K1SO

In the picture: AD8W, N6PDB, WA6OCV (is the YL), W9OP (hidden)
K6JN, W6TMD, AC0B, W0NAC, KY0E AF3X, AB7RW, W0GXQ,
AB4YZ, W3ZUH and K5GE

Antenna Hardware

Alan, K8CW, advises that he can still provide mast sections and might make some multi-way adapters if you need them, along with his heavy duty mast coupler sections. If you are in need of such, get in touch with him by mail or phone.

Folks have posted on the web that if you need the stainless 'studs' for connecting resonators to the multi-way adapters, or for the top/bottom of mast sections, you can go to:

www.mcmaster.com

look at parts

92311A637 (3/8x24 x 3/4" long) or
92311A639 (3/8x24 x 1" long)

Reserving Counties?

In another section of the KA5TQF post, he goes on about how N4CD decided to run some counties in MT that AB4YZ would run. Not all of them, but some of them.

“. Think about AB4YZ’s current MG trip. Posted months before Seedy’s western trip”

Well, I'm not sure what to "think" about. Ray posted a trip that would last for months and cover about half the counties west of the Rockies and most of SD and ND (but not all). So? Were mobiles west of the Rockies supposed to stop running? Simply because AB4YZ was eventually going there? Was no one 'allowed' to run any counties that Ray 'planned to run' on their way to and from the National Convention in CA? Simply because he posted a trip of 300+ counties? Maybe 500 counties? Ya gotta be kidding, right?

As folks know, I was working on MP and needed about half of Montana and many in ID, a few in UT, WY, and one in NM. So I figured out a trip to get the ones I needed. Plain and simple. I wrote about the trip in the August issue of the CHNews.

Should I wait on Ray to run some I needed in the hopes I could work him? Why? Obviously, needing half of MT, it was not my strong area to work with my vertical antenna at home! He doesn't have the loudest mobile signal. Would I get a relay on SSB? You gotta be joking, right? He wasn't even going to run all I needed! Nor would N8KIE in August.

So I planned my trip to get what I needed, and the counties in between – probably running 30-40 counties out of the 300+ that Ray would run a month later. Also, he would not run all my needs. It was summer time (the best time to run in northern ND, ID and MT before the snow flies in fall).

Now Dave (likely with prompting from 'the chat room crew') gets 'upset' that, wait..let's take this in order...

K5GE runs up through MT and ID putting out counties on his way to the convention. Oh, where was the "outrage" that K5GE would 'dare' to run counties that Ray was planning on running? There wasn't any, naturally.

Then AB7RW runs down the west coast, headed toward the National – going through counties that Ray was going to run in a week or two. Where was the 'outrage' from KA5TQF at someone daring to run the counties that 'Ray was going to run'? There wasn't any naturally. WQ7A had planned to run down through even more (but that trip had to be cancelled).

Eddie, W7/G4KHG, is out running in the west – going through some that Ray is set to run a month or two later. Where's the outrage from Dave? There wasn't any, naturally.

AA9JJ/N9QPQ run California counties that Ray is going to run. Where is the outrage! There wasn't any, naturally.

So when N4CD plans and executes his trip during 'friendly net time', Dave had no problem and working N4CD on SSB and CW in nearly every county on the trip. But afterward, after getting back in the 'chat room' and probably being chewed out for 'helping' N4CD run, and "daring" to work N4CD on cw and SSB, he seems to have serious 'guilt trips', and is doing the bidding of the chat room crowd regurgitating all the inaccurate information and making silly allegations again. [That was before he discovered the 'truth' about the chat room fabrications.]

Oh, and a new rule got invented by the chat room cult – "reserved counties!" but that only applies to mobiles 'on the bash/trash list' like N4CD, you'll note! Hi hi

Did AB4YZ 'reserve' counties for only him when he posted his trip for the next three months? Hardly. He planned to run 300-400-500 counties in 3 months. Half the west coast. Obviously, others were going through those counties for various other reasons. Some just going to the convention, or adding to their transmitted county total. Some on trips. AA9JJ/N9QPQ all over California and NV.

Just by posting a trip weeks out or months out, you are letting folks know you are going there. That's all. Maybe- if you don't have health problems, rig problems, mobile problems or other issues pop up. Dave makes a 'big issue' out of it (from the chat room group, naturally) for one mobile, but shows his true colors when he doesn't apply his imaginary 'new rule' about 'reserving counties' that no one else can run - to the other 6 or 8 people who ran at least 50% of the counties Ray was going to eventually, ahead of him. How silly.

Let's go over that again – probably half of the counties that AB4YZ planned to run were run by others before Ray got to run them. So? That's the way things work out. When you have a convention out west, counties out west get run!

And no, ...there is no expectation that you 'reserve' a county months out by posting a trip. I was happily surprised by Gene's unposted trip – shortened mine up by a few hundred miles as I caught him in some I needed and didn't have to run. Did he wait for Ray or Bob N8KIE to run "Ray's" counties? Another resounding NO! Gene ran the counties he needed, and the ones in between. Just what N4CD wound up doing. The good news – both finished up for Master Platinum – mission accomplished. And Ray was running counties he needed to run for one reason or another!

Reader Feedback

1) Natural Bingo

re: the coverage of the Natural Bingo Award being referred back to the Awards Committee at the last board meeting -

Jerry, W0GXQ advises: "Jeffery (AF3X) did not speak out for himself about the Natural Bingo letter "X"; he was the meeting recorder for those members on the internet. One (or two) of the Board members asked the question."

2) Net Control Hours

Jerry, W0GXQ, wrote:

"Here are my thoughts on the CW Nets:

For the past few years you would be hard pressed to find anyone who met the rule requirements for Net Control Hours. Only those stations who "Announce" and do "Relays" for a mobile can take any kind of credit.

When I am NCS I take credit for the time starting with the announcement at the beginning and ending with the closing announcement. I might do 30 minutes a day or eighty; and a spreadsheet (.xls) is a good way to record it. JUST DATES AND TIMES. The Summary is a separate MS Word doc with TOTAL HOURS.

I always have a list of mobiles in front of me who are running during the time I am near the radio. **The log that I will forward to the Awards Manager will include the dates and times - nothing more!** My "lists" are tossed at the end of the day. **My accompanying Summary will show the Total Hours.** The rules say maintain a log - I do, until the time I toss them in the round file.

I used to sit at the radio for hours "maintaining" the net frequency when there were mobiles out. This way I never had to send "QNF" indicating that the net was no longer a "directed" net (even though we do not send QND to start the net). No one does this any longer partly because of the use of "spots" on the web."

"There are those who believe that by "calling for mobiles" or "spotting mobiles" is considered a Service under the awards rules - I don't think so."

On the Road with N4CD III

I had finished up my Master Platinum. There were no counties I needed to run. I could have stayed at home and relaxed. Conditions were still miserable. However, it was hot in Texas – record setting days above 100 degrees. Yuk. I figured out that Colorado would be a nice place to be up in the mountains to have nice, cooler weather.

Joyce, N9STL, and Scottie, N4AAT, needed a bunch for Master Platinum in Texas and CO and north. There was no active resident mobiles good for MP in Colorado these days. Almost no one on CW mobile there either. I packed 8 days worth of clothes figuring on a short trip to CO and back. Well, you know N4CD by now.

It was west out to get Knox, TX and then over to Lynn, Andrews, Winkler, Loving, Gaines – some of the most needed frequently in TX. Jerry, W0GXQ, needed Lea NM right in the same neck of the woods. The first night I stayed in the Kermit Inn in Winkler County. \$80 with tax – ouch. It was then up into NM headed through Roswell (home of lots of UFO stuff) north to run Los Alamos – one I hadn't run a second time and a LC. The

road into Los Alamos still consists of part of the original road put in during WW2 – a narrow winding cliff hanging road. The government wanted a very isolated spot for security to house the scientists to develop the A-bomb in secrecy. Even today, there is no four lane road into the town!

That worked out fine. Then the trip continued north into Colorado along the southern tier, which seemed to be really needed on CW and for MP. One could appreciate the 70s and low 80s temperatures there after broiling at 107 in TX for a while.

There is one MG holder in CO (N0ZA) , but he wasn't too active mobile. Larry, W0QE, had finished up all the requirements for MG, but 'hadn't gotten around' to sending in his logs. He hadn't been mobile in 200 days either. That doesn't get folks finished up. So it would take someone from outside the state to run the needed CO counties for MP. (N8KIE had passed through the middle, and Chuck, AD8W, ran only 1 or 2 due to "Ford Noise" problems). The needs for USACA and Nth time were minimal as several good mobiles had run around the state (W0NAC/N0LXJ Matt/Sharon, and others).

That night was at the Narrow Gauge Railroad Inn in Antonio, CO – at one of end of the Cumbre/Antonio narrow gauge railroad line – like 500 feet away! \$45 – not bad! I got to see one of the steam engines arriving late. It's a nice all day train ride if you haven't been on one of the narrow gauge rides before.

Then it was west to LaPlata, then up through San Juan. Bob, N8KIE, had tried to run it, but ran into the construction at the north pass. The south route was clear, and you have 10 or more miles to run it from high up. Then you go down into Silverton at 9300 feet elevation (the north end of the Durango/Silverton narrow gauge railroad – another excellent ride). One train was arriving as I arrived in the town! Second narrow gauge steam powered railroad moving train seen in 2 days!

Next it was over the north end pass into Ouray, with a mile of construction right at the top where you sat for a long time – single lane, with construction going on for 30-45 minutes at a time, then traffic allowed to pass. That took the better part of an hour to get through it, and follow a construction truck at 15 mph the entire way down the other side. AD8W had run it on SSB, but no one lately on CW or good for MP. That night I wound up in Delta at the

Westway 1946 built motel (right on the sign). Not bad. I was born in 1946. A good year! Motel was full by 7pm – no vacancy. Half a dozen motorcycles returning from the big rally at Sturgis were there.

I didn't get to Hinsdale – LC CW for N9STL – maybe N0ZA can fire up the mobile and get over there before the snow flies? Several others asked for it, too! That's another one that is tough to get to – and back out of – one road in the county. You have to 'want to go' there.

I had only been gone for 3 days – so I had plenty of time. Scottie needed 8 more in COLO – pairs – Park/Teller, Douglas/Elbert, Larimer/Jackson, and Phillips/Sedgwick. Hmm...getting to all of them would take a while. The next day I wandered through the middle of CO, up and down mountain passes – through Leadville (town above 10,000 feet - highest city in the USA). I bought a sandwich in Leadville, one of those sealed in plastic. It was bulging due to high elevation (low air pressure) – almost like a balloon! Then it was down into Teller where I stayed overnight in a small motel in Woodland Park – the Coachlight. All the rooms at the motel were taken by 7pm. Hmmmm. It was Sunday so it was Pizza night.

The next day I decided to head NORTH – to get Douglas/Elbert. I zipped up the interstate – Larry, W0QE, called me as I zipped through Broomfield but unfortunately I didn't have time for an eyeball – headed north on a mission at the moment to get to Larimer and Jackson. There is no easy way to get to Jackson – off the beaten path. I headed west from Larimer – it's about a 90 minute or more drive – 35-45 mph along a twisty road, then up to the pass at over 10,000 feet. No one heard me at the county line – down in a little valley with big mountains around especially toward the east– I moved 500 feet to sit by a small recreation area in the parking lot, running only Jackson, and that was better – caught up with Scottie. I'm glad someone heard me because there is ZERO cellphone service in lots of the mountains of Colorado.

Many times, 17M was the best band at that distance. 30M also worked well for hours in the morning and afternoon after things 'peaked' on 20 and 17M. Alan, K8CW, was almost always on 17M when I went there. He's worked over 700 counties so far now on 17M, aiming to work all of them!

I could head home, or??? Well, you know N4CD – I went to WY to get the last four MP for Joyce, N9STL (and I hadn't run those for second time

transmitted either). Wyoming is a big place, so I would up staying overnight in Casper WY. The Super 8 motel wanted \$98 plus tax, and that was the 'senior AARP/AA' rate. Ouch! The Motel 6 was \$60 plus tax. I stayed at the Motel 6! You can buy a lot of breakfast for \$40. By 7pm, there were no more rooms available. All taken. I guess that's a hint – if you are going to be arriving late, reserve ahead! (often I reserve room about 3pm for 150-200 miles ahead).

The next day, it was too early to head home, so I headed to MT. I did take a detour to stop by the Devil's Tower – managed to drive around it a few times in the past but never get there, and this time I figured if I was in the county (Crook WY) it was time to take a detour. Worth a 50 mile detour!



Devils Tower – Crook County WY

If you saw the movie Close Encounters of the Third Kind – well, you saw a lot of the 'Hollywood version' of the Devils Tower!

I hadn't run Petroleum or Garfield, MT, and Joyce, N9STL, needed Petroleum for a LC for CW in the state. I saw a gravel road, MT 500. This one had a route number and looked like it went along a creek. It would save the better part of 75 miles of driving. Should I take it after the last gravel

road in MT fiasco? Was it worth a gamble? Would it be as bad as the last gravel road in MT? Did I want to get nearly stuck again?

I took it – it was a ‘piece of cake’ – 25-35 mph the whole way, mostly flat with small rolling hills – not much along it though – passed one other vehicle on the entire road of about 25 or 30 miles. When you get to the end, you are right near the C/L for Garfield/Petroleum, but it is a wet line so you need to run them separately. That worked out fine – then I headed east. It would be then quickly down through ND, SD to get to NE where both Joyce and Scottie needed counties. I’d also hit Phillips and Sedgwick, LC for both of them!

Now a complication set it – as I was about to head south, Larry, W0QE, posted on the K3IMC forum that he was planning on heading to Hayes and Chase NE, the last two WBOW for KF2O and he had set up a sked for Tuesday, Aug 19th. Not only that, but AA9ZZ needed both for 2 of his last 5 and he would get them for AA9ZZ.

Oh, dear – those were two that Scottie needed for MP. I was trying to clean up his needs in western NE. Larry posted no other counties he would run at that point, but I knew he and I would cover some of the same ground.

Hank, KF2O, sent me an email after I got back:

“as it happened, when I got down to just those 2 a couple of weeks ago, I spoke to W0QE about possibility of going there. All that was before you started your latest trip. Then I went off on a week-long golf trip last week. I learned later that you were in the area and eventually went to the 2 counties. I was also away from home earlier this summer when I believe you also went through the 2 counties! I missed a couple of other people in those counties this summer too (KY1T and WT0A)...seemed like I would never be on at the right time. “

Unfortunately, Larry, W0QE, had finished up all the requirements for MG a while back, but hadn’t bothered to send in his logs. He hadn’t been mobile in 7 months either. If he had the MG, I could have skipped NE and just headed south to KS. Well, since he did not have Masters Gold, and Scottie needed someone with MG to give him the contact for MP, I would have to head there. Oh, well. That really left me no choice. Larry said that Hank, KF2O, would not be around when I got there as he would still be on

vacation, so that would not be an issue. Larry would still get the WBOW counties.

I headed basically straight south out of SD to get the 4 that Scottie needed. I had to tell Phil, AA9ZZ, to please wait for Larry to get his last two counties in NE, since Larry had already arranged that. He wasn't happy! In that corner of the state, you can get to Phillips and Sedgwick, CO, which I did finishing off Scottie in CO after 2000 miles of driving...doing it the 'long way'. Larry, W0QE, could have got those for Scottie and Joyce if only he had the paperwork done. -would have saved me a thousand miles of driving, too! By the way, Scottie has now worked over 1000 counties on cw in the past six months!

I ran Chase, NE only on one band (30M) (no SSB) to leave most of the contacts for Larry, W0QE. It was then down into KS, where Scottie had a 'disaster area' of about 25 needs. [Iowa is another disaster area for him]. Overnight at another Motel 6 in Thomas, KS. It was 'no vacancy' by 7pm. Glad I called 3 hours earlier! I'm not sure why all the motels are full by 7pm, but there are still lots of folks traveling! Many are full up by 6-7pm, so plan ahead! I tend to figure out where I'll wind up about 3pm, then call ahead using the cellphone and the Motel 6 and Super 8 books.

I had to zig/zag a bunch to get what Scottie needed, and Joyce only needed 1 in KS, (Lane) so had to hit that one too! I 'connected the dots'. Of course, lots of others needed those counties, too. I passed through Greenwood – which got wiped out recently by a F5 tornado. A few years back I stayed there – motel no longer there.

The next night it was a small motel in Coldwater, KS (Comanche KS). I was getting tired, so I stopped early. It was full by 7pm, too! Jerry, W0GXQ needed only Harper for MG, so I had to hit that one too the next day! He is down to handful to finish up MG! Then down through OK and quickly home. About 11 days on the road and I ran out of fresh clothes...but who cares when you are having fun! The car is still running with 205,000 miles on it...so I guess there will be more counties!

Gas was down to \$3.50 in places, but still near \$4 in many places in the boonies (MT, WY, and western CO in the mountains). I saw as high as \$4.19, and as low as \$3.46.

This was a ‘connect the dots’ trip, but for others and for ‘most wanted counties’. I didn’t ‘need’ anything myself, but still managed to work some new band counties. I hit about 10 new ‘transmitted counties’ second time.

There’s no new awards after Platinum to work on. So no ‘need’ to go mobile other than to get counties for others. That will likely be on trips going somewhere now for other reasons. No trips for ‘missions’ to complete an award, other than going out now and then to get someone some desperately needed counties. Scottie and Joyce need some MP counties in TX I can get for them. Same for Larry, N2OCW. Otherwise, it looks like TX needs are minimal – a county here or there in a big, big state.

Wow – conditions not great, but in one county, I worked both KH6G (Clarence in Kauai, HI) and Kent, KL1V/m in AK, and Gordon, KL7GN – AK and HI from the same county – like the old days. DL3DXX was in there many times, along with LY2ZZ who is just starting over again. At times, DL8MLD and DL5MC also in on cw, and occasionally OH3JF who is closing in on finishing. Whoa! Was that VK4AAR working mobiles on 40M CW for an hour in the morning? You bet! One day, a JJ0 from Japan worked me in few counties on 30 meters – 599 for an hour or so each morning!

Maybe we’ll get back to some sunspots soon? Clarence, KH6G, (formerly KH7B and AH6CG) worked me in about half dozen counties and Kent, KL1V/m, worked me in a few. I also worked KF9D/m, Merv, from Molokai (Maui county) mobile to mobile, so when Kent gets there to run Kalawao, maybe we’ll be able to hear him! Maybe he was checking out the mobile to make sure things were working?

N5MLP/m was running down in TX on 20M (tough from my QTH) and Ron, KB6UF/m, was in LA (caught him in LC there). I also worked N8KIE/m on 40M SSB up in MT and ID on SSB, something that is real hard to do from TX except late in the day sometimes, maybe. More band counties. And I snagged some 17M counties from K8ZZ/m and W9MSE/m out in WI. Other mobiles were out and about as well. (KD4POJ/WT0A, WG6X/KA4TYG, KB6UF, AB7RW, AC0B). It was a busy summer with lots of mobiles out running.

When you are hunting band counties or Nth time CW, any mobile will do fine. No ‘star’ mobiles are fine. Just as good as anyone else! I’ve been

filling in band counties – county hunters, contests, whatever. I'm not the least bit interested in Bingo Nth time. Did that once. That's enough! With 'band counties' there's almost always something new to try to get.

Next big trip – California – in mid September as I head to a conference in Sacramento! Joyce needs 1 in NM and 2 in AZ. I need to run 2 in AZ for 2nd time transmitted counties, and about 80% of California. Scottie needs Reagan, TX for MP. You never know where N4CD will wind up. So many counties, so little time!

One can tell how many folks are working on USACA – the fan mail arrives as soon as you are home! (MRCs). It takes a few days to sort out logs, unwind, and get the MRCs processed and back in the mail. It looks like about 20-25 ops are working diligently toward USACA at the current time. Probably another 20-25 are waiting for some of their last counties to be run, patiently.

Awards Issued

Wow! What a month for awards issued! You know it is summer time when those rare counties get run to help finish up the folks! Certainly a record month for the past several years! Send up the fireworks. Ring all the church bells!

KE3VV, BINGO II #49 7/20/08

KE3VV, MASTER GOLD #30 7/26/08

K8QWY, USA-CW #95 7/21/08

K4XI, USA-CW #96 7/21/08

NW6S, BINGO #300 7/22/08

AB2LS, 5-STAR #35 7/22/08

KB6UF, BINGO II #50 7/23/08
N2OCW, MASTER GOLD #29 7/24/08
N8CIJ 5TH TIME #91 7-26-08
N4CD MASTER PLATINUM #2 7-28-08
KI7WO BINGO #301 7-29-08
KQ0B 3RD TIME #216 8-1-08
KQ0B BINGO II #51 8-5-08
AB2LS, BINGO III #13 8-6-08
LY2ZZ 2ND TIME #382 8-6-08
KA1NX BINGO II #52 8-5-08
AB2LS 4TH TIME #135 8-5-08
W9JL 2nd TIME #383 8-9-08
WU3H, 4th TIME #136 8-10-08
WU3H, USA-CW III #7 8-10-08
K8CW 7th TIME #11 8-11-08
N4UJK 9th TIME #5 8-13-08
N4UJK BINGO V #2 8-14-08 N4UJK
W0GXQ USA-CW III #8 8-15-08 W0GXQ
W8FNW USACA #1167 8-20-08

Corrections – from previous info – by KC5QCB

5-STAR #35 WA9DLB 7-14-08

5-STAR #36 AB2LS 7-22-08

Operating Events for County Hunters

1.8-28 50+ Tennessee QSO Party RS(T) and county or S/P/C www.tnqp.org
7 Sep 1800Z - 8 Sep 0300Z

3.5-28 Arkansas QSO Party RS(T), county or S/P or "DX"
www.arkanhams.org
13 Sep 0600Z - 14 Sep 2400Z CW-50kHz above band

1.8-28 50+ Colorado QSO Party - Call sign, name, and county or S/P/C
www.ppraa.org/coqp
Sep 1000Z - 21 Sep 0400Z

3.5-28 50+ South Carolina QSO Party RS(T) and county or S/P/C
carc.ham-radio-op.net
20 Sep 1300Z - 21 Sep 2100Z

3.5-28 Washington State Salmon Run RS(T) and county or S/P/C
www.wwdxc.org
20 Sep 1600Z - 21 Sep 2400Z

1.8-28 50,144 Texas QSO Party RS(T), county or S/P/C www.txqp.net
27 Sep 1400Z - 28 Sep 2000Z CW - 20-60 kHz above band edge; Phone - 25
kHz above edge of General segment

That's it for this month! CU next month.