

County Hunter News

September 1, 2010

Volume 6, Issue 9

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

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

CW County Hunter Nets run on 14.0565, 10.122.5, and 7056.5, with activity occasionally on 3556.5 KHz. Also, with low sunspot activity, most of the SSB activity now is on 'friendly net' 7188/7185 KHz. The cw folks are now pioneering 17M operation on 18.0915. (21.0565, 24.9155, and 28.0565 when sunspots better). Look around 18135 or 18.132.5 for occasional 17M SSB runs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

De N4CD (email: telegraphy@verizon.net)

Notes from the Editor



N4CD Bob USACA #883

1) N4CD Rumblings

August has been a good month. Mobiles have been out in all parts of the country from WA and OR, to New England to FL to TX to CA, and many have finished up this month for the various awards.

It's been hotter than heck (29 days over 100 so far) in TX and the power lines have been kicking up QRN in massive amounts, but folks are still being worked. I've spotted a lot, sometimes with a ? when I didn't catch the county right away, and there are some other dedicated spotters. Some seem

to have broken ‘spotters’ – they watch the spots but never seem to spot the mobiles. Whatever works, but it sure helps the mobiles to get spotted. Activity continues at a good level. The schools have started here, but the good weather continues for another couple months. We’re entering QSO Party season with many good ones coming up, plus a VHF contest for those chasing 6M band counties. E-skip season might be over, but you never know.

The sunspots are higher, but dang – there just doesn’t seem to be much propagation on 17M and up with few spotted runs there. Some days are ‘disturbed’ and you wonder if your radio is still working at times, but with 30 and 20M, usually something can be heard. 40M seems to have been suffering in many areas of the country. I stayed close to home for most of the month, with only one trip, but maybe more coming up if the Mobile Diamond situation gets resolved. More on that later.

2) CW Mobile Activity in late July/August 2010

Rick, **AI5P**, was out in CA and OR and headed back to NM. Trip report later.

Pete, **NN9K**, was in MT heading back home to IL.

Jim, **W4HSA**, was out in VA and NC on a couple of short trips.

Dave, **KE3VV**, ran some counties in the MD QSO Party. Maybe the ‘only mobile’ out.

Ace, **N3AHA**, was in SC running them for the folks.

W6OUL headed north from CA up to OR and WA.

Hollis, **KC3X**, was out mobile in NC.

Don, **N5XG**, was spotted in TX.

NT2A, Gene, was out and about in NJ and NY getting to Hudson, Cape May, and some other rarer ones.

Mark, **W9OP**, was out and about putting them out in IL, IA, and WI.

Ed, **K8ZZ**, spotted in MI and OH and KY, then headed to IA and SD for many counties before heading back home.

He noted:

“3100 miles.. About 131 counties. Contacts: A whole bunch..Great trip as always, never had a bad County Hunting trip. The highlight of the was not the piece of dirt we all chase. The highlight was having the phone ring and Ralph, WB4FFV, said when you get to Early, IA we are going to have a first eyeball. After all the contacts I have from him over the years from the Big Rig. Wow! The next day, I have a visit with Pete, NN9K, and Tim, N9BIL, in Milan, IL. Wow! Folks that is County Hunting at its best meeting my peers. 73 and will listen for u all on my next trip. Ed K8ZZ”

W8JJ, Tim, took a trip to KY to get the LC WBOW for W4YDY for USA-CW.

Bob, **W0BH**, returned from weeks in MT/ID and ran counties all the way home to KS.

KL1V, Kent, took a 3 week trip to finish running all counties in the USA, and finish up his Master Gold needs. He succeeded on both goals hitting TX, OK, up to MT, then back home via airplane to AK. He also ran on SSB.

Barry, **N0KV**, and Pat, N0DXE, headed back home through MT and ID.

Abe, **W7GQK**, was in GA running them on 40M SSB and 20 CW.

Scottie, **N4AAT**, went out one day in GA to get some counties for the folks.

Joyce, **KD8HB**, took a trip to IN, putting them out on CW. She ran into thunderstorms and some car problems cutting the trip short. This was the first venture out in five years.

Jimmy, **K4YFH**, was out in OR, ID, MT headed slowly back east putting them out on cw. Occasionally ran on SSB as well.

Ed, **KN4Y**, was out in FL on a few short trips.

Ron, **KB6UF**, headed up to the Dallas, TX area running them on cw. (and some on SSB, too).

NU0Q headed out to CO from IA via KS. Then up into ID and points west.

Wayne, **WE7G**, took a short trip up north in UT to check out the new mobile install. He wrote:

“Got thru the short trip in pretty good shape. My apologies for the sloppy keying at times. I did learn to strap everything down TIGHTLY in the cockpit or IT WILL MOVE! Sometimes with serious consequences. Good thing the ICOM 706MKIIG has an extension cable for those who break the little faceplate locking tab off! The antenna performed quite well and I was able to give several needed ones which was the original goal, so from that standpoint it was a success. Again Thanks. It is certainly tough to be the fox in these hunts.”

Art, **N4PJ**, took a week long trek all around NE. He found a few spots there with horrendous line noise that made it difficult to even find a spot to run the county.

Jim, **VA3VOX**, made a nice trip to NC and back.

Mike, **W0MU**, headed from MT to CO and then back a few days later.
Karl, **K4YT**, popped up in a few on CW.

Hollis, **KC3X**, headed to PA with Ed, N3HOO. Hollis ran on CW, and both ran as a team on 20M SSB.

Art, **N4PJ**, headed to NE to run the entire state on cw. Ran with N4BU, Marsha, on SSB. He noted:

Things I'm Learning in Nebraska

1. In Nebraska the wind blows *all* the time. Sometimes it blows really, really hard. Ask Marsha - she's done every bit of the driving.

2. Just because you're trying hard doesn't generate good propagation from the radio gods!

3. Some people spot, some don't. Some people hog the freq, some don't.

4. It's about 100 miles across Cherry county! Custer County is only a little smaller.

Today we thought the trip was over. We thought the rig died. Turned out we sat on the Hooker/Grant line so long we tried to run the battery down. When the voltage got too low, the IC-7000 bitched by just shutting down. Once we realized what had happened, we changed our tactics a little bit. We have a battery jumper gadget in the back - yes, it's charged! - so we're not worried about the battery.

Having a good time and glad all you guys (and some gals) are calling us (when the propagation lets you) from county to county. We'll probably never meet all the people who call us, but we feel like we know you.

The lucky guy of the week award goes to Hollis, KC3X. We got semi-snookered by a detour and were trying to figure out a way to get into Deuel County because of it. We stopped, pondering how to get past the barricades (it did say local traffic - I figured we could always say we're lost!). While we were debating, KC3X called, hoping we were still in Garden County.

Because we had stopped at the barricades, we were. We finally took the "low road" and drove around the barricades into Deuel County. We almost got arrested until the officer saw we were from out of state. I think he thought we were either lost tourists or just stupid - maybe partially right on both counts!"

Kent, **KL1V**, headed back to the lower 48 and ran WA, OR, UT and ID counties.

Scottie, **N4AAT**, headed to WI, and ran on CW, and ran a few on SSB. He wasn't spotted half the time.

Bill, **K2HVN**, was out on a few trips in MD/DE, then headed down to SC.

SSB Notable Trips

KM9X, Dan/**KB9MGI**, **Judy**, took a long trip from IN out to the west coast, then north, and across MT back to home. Dan was working on finishing up his Master Platinum needs and finishing off Judy for Bingo.

Barry, **N0KV**, and Pat, **N0DXE**, wound their way down from AK going through MT and WY to get back home in CO.

Joyce, **N9STL**, headed out on a trip to Hamilton, IL to give K9AAA the LC WBOW for Bingo.

Jack, **N7ID**, drove 7500 miles to get most of the counties he needed for Master Platinum other than southern GA and HI. He still needs a few in GA but has commitments for those. (He had to run the ones he needed in VA and WV despite the fact they were within 150 miles of TWO prominent active mobiles who never seem to clean up the needs around their QTH despite multiple distant trips each year.)

N5UZW, Joe, was out on multiple trips running a lot on 40M SSB

NA8W, Darl, took a long vacation out to the west coast putting out over 100 counties. He reported:

“we traveled on our 25 day vacation out west and back to Ohio. 8500 miles and 145 counties with over 2000 contacts. Had a great time with my new ham radio adventure.”

K8AO was spotted all over MN.

Duane, **WV2B**, headed to ME. Not much heard on cw. \

Ed, **N8OYY**, was down in MS putting them out.

Alan, **KI7WO**, and **KA0HAE** ran some counties in KS.

Brady, **WA4RNN**, spotted in TN.

W8GEJ, **W8FNW**, **W4FNW** made trips in OH. **W8GEJ** on CW, rest on SSB.

4) KD8HB Trip

From the K3IMC Forum:

“We made it home yesterday evening. BUT WHAT A DAY! My first run in about 5 years! Don't know what happened to 30 meters. It was okay when we checked things out on Monday. Developed car problems. We thought it was the brakes. We came home by way of roads less traveled and got lost. While on these back roads we had torrential rains; ran over a small limb of tree (no damage to car); then a large limb hanging across the road (no damage to antenna). Yes, What a day! I was glad to help those that I could with counties they needed. You may have missed a county or two, but so did I!”

5) One Happy County Hunter – W4SIG

Kerry, W4SIG noted on the K3IMC forum:

Please excuse my behavior on the net yesterday! Ed, VA3XOV gave me my last county for WBOW (Gates, NC) and I couldn't contain myself! After yelling and jumping up and down in the house I realized the kids were at school and there was no one to notice. So I went outside, yelled and made a fool of myself and no one, not even the postman was around (at least I don't think so!). So I came back inside and tried to tell Ed, K8ZZ during one of his runs on 20 SSB. But our copy wasn't good enough after I tried twice to get the words out! So, anyway I've settled down now but am still on cloud nine! Thanks for all y'all's help. Now for the paperwork.....”

De N4CD: Ah yes.....everyone who finishes the first time, after a long hunt and chase, whether it be for a few years or a few decades – suffers the same euphoria. Finishing up the first time is something that few will forget – that last WBOW elusive county, and who went there to get it.

Reader Feedback

1) On the last issue, from one reader:

“Just a note to let you know that I think your account of events published in your August newsletter are pretty damn accurate.

2) From another obviously unhappy reader:

“Until you realize that the only respect you garner is from those who get a contact from you, you won't have to face the(sic) fact that you are the most reviled county hunter that ever walked the face of the earth..... or, of course, the other malcontents who have nothing else significant to contribute but imagined discord. , .did your mother have any kids that lived?”

3) From another reader:

“I just downloaded "The Seedy Times" for the first time in many moons, so that I could read info on the W9UCW antenna, but I see no such subject, was this not mentioned that such data would be in The Seedy Times ?”

de N4CD – info is in this month's County Hunter News. Last issue ran long with the story on the CHOTY SSB and Travesty in Texas articles. I don't recall any 'promises' of any coverage anywhere.

The first printed mention of the “Flying Saucer Antennas’ did appear in the spring issues complete with pictures. Now we bring you even more info

It looks like many of the ‘chat room chirpies’ are faithful County Hunter News readers now, despite claiming they never, ever would dare to read the County Hunter News. All are welcome.

Master Platinum #8- Larry N2OCW

Wow...the 8th Master Platinum Award was earned this month by Larry, N2OCW. Larry worked Kent, KL1V in 3rd AK, now with his Master's Gold after his last trip to the lower 48, for the last county WBOW, to finish up.

For those finishing up using Logger, you will need to send both the file for all 3077 counties, plus your MP transmit log with qualifying contacts as well to meet both parts of the award (500 separate counties).

“Flying Saucer Resonators”

A few issues ago, we showed pictures of the W9UCW ‘flying saucer’ flat pie wound resonators.



Resonators – Pie Wound ‘Flying Saucer’



Stack of FS resonators

The original version of the antenna exhibited almost twice the bandwidth as standard mobile resonators. Barry noted that in rain, the windings tended to fill up with water so he has now included water proofing instructions to avoid that problem of detuning when wet.

Barry has come up with a detailed construction article, materials list, complete construction instructions, dozens of pictures, patterns for the resonator forms, winding data for each band...on a CD which he will send you for \$7 post paid. Here's the table of contents of the main Word document.

Contents:

Page 2-----Preface—Background

Page 9-----Materials and Source list

Page 11-----Tools, Equipment & Supplies List

Page 12-----How to Make Flying Saucer Resonators

A. Making Patterns for Resonator Forms

B. Making the Resonator Forms

C. Winding the Resonator Coils

D. Cutting, Forming & Mounting the Capacity Hat Wires

Page 28-----How to Mount and Use the Resonators

A. Possible Combinations, Spacing and Interaction

B. Making Short Mast Sections

C. Possible Collar Mounting

Page 33-----How to Tune the Resonators

A. Preparations

B. Tuning by Shaping the Capacity Hat Loops

C. Tuning by Modifying the Coil or the Capacity Hat

Page 36-----How to Weather-Seal the Resonators



W9UCW 10, 12, 15, 17, 20, 30 and 40M on 8 foot mast

In addition to the extensive text and pictures, he includes files with the patterns to cut the resonators and winding data for how many turns to put on, and how to form the capacitor wires.

Barry, W9UCW, has a gigantic file of everything you'll need to build them. \$7 for the CD mailed to your door. Lots of pics, material list, how to make them, etc.



Resonator Plastic Discs to Start

Tracking Down A Ham QTH

Jerry, W0GXQ, sent along the following URL which will show the location of many US hams. Just type in the call sign and it locates them on a map (at least their official address)

<http://hams.mapmash.com/hammap.php>

Ran All USA – Number 11

Kent, KL1V, has earned the “transmitted from all counties award”. He notes he did it all ‘rental car mobile’ and with a 20M SSB contact from every county.

AI5P Trip Report

My trip to California and Oregon in July was a nice change of pace from New Mexico. I had four attractions I wanted to visit as well as run some counties. Conditions were so-so most of the time and the West Coast propagation always proves to be a challenge. Most of the 40 meter contacts were with west and southwest stations.

Ended up driving just over 5,000 miles and making over 1600 contacts - mostly on 20 and 40 meters SSB and CW. A handful of contacts on 17 and 30 meters. Managed to give out a few last counties with the special one being the WBOW for Master's Gold for Rufus, KD4HXM, in Trinity County, CA.



AI5P in Trinity CA – LC WBOW for KD4HXM

The weather was excellent most of the trip with some fog along the coasts of CA and OR.

The four attractions I visited (among others) were:

de Young Museum in San Francisco <http://www.famsf.org/>

Crater Lake National Park,

California Railroad Museum in Sacramento, <http://www.csrmf.org/>

and Yosemite. All outstanding!’

de N4CD – Rick noted his van died at 225K miles, so he now drives a 2010 VW Jetta TDI (diesel) which gets 32 around town and 39mpg on the road. He has a single resonator on the mast and stops and changes resonators to run different bands. He’s using an IC706 and notes there is ‘no noise’ from the car.

State QSO Parties I

Maryland QSO Party

The season got off to a very slow start after summer break with the MDC QSO Party. From this QTH, I worked only 1 mobile, and never heard another station in the QSO Party or calling anyone in the QSO Party. There were two other stations spotted on W6RK for the duration of the QSO Party. With likely 25,000 hams in MD and nearby VA, it is sad that there was such a poor turnout.

The only station I heard was KE3VV/m – and I caught him in six counties on 20M. There was a lot of QRM on the ‘suggested’ frequency of 14.045 from the WAE (Work All Europe) contest and not a single MD fixed station was heard in the QSO Party on 20M either on SSB or CW.

From the 3905 reflector:

K4JSI (Fixed in Montgomery MD) – 5 QSOs – “This is the first time I've operated in the MDC QSO Party. I'm surprised there isn't more CW activity, as the scoring does favor CW and Digital QSOs. Having said that, 40M propagation seemed pretty poor, and the WAE folks were all over 20M. “

W7KAM (AZ) – 7 SSB QSO – 11 hours

WA7LSH (AZ) – 3 SSB QSO

KS4X (TN) – 21 SSB QSO, 2 CW QSOs – 11 multipliers (counties)

On the Road with N4CD

It was hot. Texas Hot at 100 plus sizzling degrees. Day after day it was hot and it never cooled off at night for over 45 days. This was time for a trip to the mountains and cooler temps for a summer break. There were counties to run despite the fact that ‘some’ thought that N4CD and N9STL were ‘having too much fun’ and there was the MD award in ‘limbo’ so some would argue why waste gas when the counties wouldn’t count for anything.

Jerry, W0GXQ, needed two in NM for MP so that seemed to be a good way to go. K9AAA needed a few. Art, N4PJ needed a few. Despite what the Club ‘chirpies’ think, there were counties to run even if they might or might not count for Mobile Diamond someday. Joyce, N9STL was working on second time CW and needed counties. Gene, K5GE, was working on doing them all CW and both were chasing band counties along with a hundred of others who wanted the 17M or 30M Counties as well. Oh, we could be having ‘lots of fun’, too.

The first day I went west on Highway 380 then northwest up through Amarillo TX up the interstate, stopping at Santa Rosa, NM at a Motel 6. (\$45). Dinner at the Sante Fe grill down the street. It was still hot there but it cooled off more in the evening due to higher elevation.

The second day I headed to Los Alamos. The road getting there is a nice four lane road for about 10 miles, then it suddenly turns into a 2 lane 1940s

style road hanging on the edge of the mountain, with speeds down to 25 mph or so for the last few miles. I hit the county line, found a spot to run, ran it then headed back out the same way. There is no easy way 'through' Los Alamos. I took the north round-a-bout way to go – 150 miles or so the get back going west over to San Juan NM, the other that Jerry needed to finish him off for MP in NM. He should be down to 25 by the time you read this.

The fast way from Los Alamos is to back track, hit the interstate and trek west, then to northwest – but I took the scenic route. Lots of miles of driving with sparse population out that way! Maybe 3000 people in a few towns along the entire way on the north loop.

I finally got to San Juan, NM, after miles through the middle of nowhere in NM. Shortly after I hit LaPlata, CO and Durango – the destination for the end of the second day. Days End Motel. Dinner at Moma's Boy Italian restaurant – nice but pricey.

I goofed off the third day – taking the train to San Juan County, CO – Silverton. I've been on it a long time ago and decided to take an easy 1880s style train ride 55 miles to Silverton. When you travel solo, you can often score a seat at the last minute. The amount of tourists is down, too. Folks are happy to see you. The weather was great and the ride nice. I was smarter this time and rode inside a coach car rather than the outdoor seating. This is a coal fired steam train (the engine on this trip was made in 1926) and you get lots of smoke, soot and cinders as it chugs along at an average speed of 15 mph! It got up to about 75 degrees! Lovely. Durango is at 6500 feet elevation and Silverton is over 9200 feet AMSL.



Durango Silverton Train

I picked the right day as two days before, there was a rock slide that shut the railroad down. None of the trains could get through and 1000 passengers were disappointed and sat for hours waiting for the track to be cleared. There was rock 20 foot deep on the tracks and they couldn't clear it fast enough. I suppose with progress, now you get to sit for hours at airports on planes waiting to take off – for six hours at times! Different century but same transportation woes!

About half the route goes through Primeval forest – totally off the 'beaten path' with no road access – and parts of the line are literally hanging on the cliff with 500 foot and 1000 foot steep cliffs 3 feet from the edge of the train tracks!

More info on the train/ train ride and pics at:

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

Oh..and the temps were nice and cool with the high about 75 degrees. The water temp in the river was 42 degrees but that didn't discourage the rafters and tubers from riding down the mountains in it!

The next day, I decided to go over and get the 4 counties I needed to run for second time transmit in Utah in the southwest corner, and Lincoln NV. It was an all day trip to get over that way. Hot, too! I ran the 3 in UT, then ran over to Mesquite NV. My Mapquest map showed I could run Lincoln NV on Mesquite Heights Road which ran right to the county line. It seemed to dead end there.

Mesquite is actually in Clark NV. I navigated to the road, and sure enough, the good news is that not only does it go to the county line, with a nice sign, it goes on for miles into Lincoln County. So does the power line along side the road that produces S9 plus noise on cw and 20 over on 20M SSB! You aren't going to run this county line on this road!



Lincoln/Clark, NV (20 over S9 noise!)

Well, there wasn't much to do but head north on the road hoping for a break. Five miles later the power line turned to the west and the noise dropped to zero. It was 108 degrees outside when I ran Lincoln NV. Yuk! Worse than TX temps but they'll tell you it is 'dry heat'. Dang, it is still hot! I ran the county on all bands (40-17), headed back to Mesquite, ran Clark NV (Good for Natural Bingo there), then back to St. George, UT for the Motel 6. Dinner at the Golden Corral. Excellent.

I got up early, had a nice \$4 special breakfast at Denny's, then headed over to Kane UT, the last to finish off UT for second time TX. I took the 'scenic route' through Zion National Park. If you are over 62, you can get a lifetime pass to the national parks and monuments. You get in 'free' so you can go to and through the parks. (including everyone in the car).

Well, it turned out to be very scenic and slow. Lots to look at, but the road hasn't been upgraded in the last 80 years. You go up and up with switchbacks through a long, long tunnel. The road is gravel for about five miles. Lots to look at as you go along at 25 mph. You have to take a shuttle to see the main canyon as no private vehicles allowed. (that's free too for seniors). Otherwise it's 25 bucks a head to get in to the park. Fortunately I had lots of time to spare and no hurry to get anywhere other than someplace cool again!

I wound along the AZ/UT border hitting Coconino (good NB), Navajo and Apache, then back into Montezuma CO and over to La Plata where the temps were in the 60s. It was early enough so I went up to San Juan, CO on route 550. It's about 33 miles from Durango to get up to Coal Bank Pass rest area which is a good place to run it from. Ran it, then turned around and back to the Days End motel. (\$75 plus tax).

Saturday started out in La Plata County (Durango). I grabbed a quick breakfast at the local McDonalds then headed east on 160 through Archuleta and a corner of Mineral. I stopped and found good spots to run as there are lots of valleys in which you hear almost nothing. It was then over to Rio Grande – no one must go there a lot as there were humongous pileups. DL3DXX was in early and later OK2EC and OK1VD made it in the log for the day. G3WPF was also in the log a few times.

I headed north through Saguache, Chaffee and Park. Jerry, W0GXQ needed Gilpin for a last for MP, and I figured I'd spend a few more days in the mountains before heading back to 100 degree temps. It didn't get over 77 degrees today and most of the day was in the 60s, and at a few spots was 52 degrees up at the higher passes! In TX, it hasn't dropped below 70 for 2 months.

I passed through the town of Breckenridge – talk about your tourist trap and expensive place. It was Saturday. There must have been 10,000 day trippers there from ‘the city’ trying to escape the heat. The sidewalks were 10 deep along a mile long main street with every type of tourist trap destination, art studio, clothing store, upscale bar, upscale restaurant, etc. In the winter it’s a big ski area town like Aspen. Of course, motels are sky high, too! I got out of there as fast as possible after creeping through the traffic and pedestrian traffic and wound up in a little town of Frisco. There was a small motel (Snowshoe) and I decided to stay there. (\$75/night).

I checked in to the motel, but this was Summit County and I had to get over to Gilpin 40 miles to the east to get Jerry finished off. It was up the big grade to the Eisenhower tunnel on the interstate, then down the other side to get to the Central City exit. I hit Gilpin and put out the county - good run on 20M, a handful on 17M, then W0GXQ and a few others on 30M, and no one showed up for 40M CW. That finished off Jerry for MP in CO.

He is closing in and N7ID should get a bunch for him in WV and other places. I headed back to the motel to do some sightseeing. Frisco is an interesting town. Nice museum on Main Street to fill you in on the history.

In the 1870s, they discovered gold and silver. Prospectors started west out of Denver. First it was Idaho Springs – then as they moved up the Rockies, it was Silver Plume, then further west. Frisco had two railroads in the 1880s (narrow gauge). Unfortunately, the mines petered out after tens of millions had been removed in ore and the price of silver plummeted in the 1920s. The big tycoons set up hundreds of ‘paper companies’, issued all sorts of stock, and had leveraged things to the hilt and got wiped out by the 1929 crash. So did all the investors. Sound familiar?

The last mine turned off the power to Frisco in 1931, and during the 1930s the population dropped to 18! It stayed very low until a water reservoir was built nearby in the 1950s, growing to population of a few hundred as the water provided jobs. In the 1970s the interstate brought easy access and the town grew to a thousand. Now, is on the main route to Breckenridge and other ski areas. There are 3 motels, a half dozen B&Bs, and probably 30 restaurants and bars. It’s at 9097 feet in elevation. This time of year, the daily high is about 75, and the low in the upper 40s or low 50s. Delightful! No Motel 6 or Super 8 here.

The motel has 'air conditioning'. They give you a window fan and a window that opens so you can make it as cool as you want! By 10pm, it should be 55 degrees outside so no need for expensive A/C. Of course, in the winter time, you use a lot of heat!

Dinner was next door at one of the fancy restaurants – a nice baked stuffed trout with a plate full of veggies and rice. No fast food in this town. No Denny's or Golden Corral or IHOP. Some days are more expensive than others. I think I'll head to Rocky Mountain National Park and do some sightseeing.

The next day I headed north then east through Rocky Mountain National Park on the Trail Ridge Road. This is the scenic way to go – you'll take the better part of a day as it is a lot of 25 and 30 MPH driving with gaggles of tourists. Again, the senior Parks Pass got me in free – otherwise it's a bunch of change. I spent half the day enjoying the view from 11,000 and 12,000 feet up, then by afternoon headed back down and started on the way home. I hit the interstate I-25 and peddled south fast – well, until the major backup on I-25 north of Denver.

It was then time for Plan B. I switched the radio over to Channel 19 (I program that in memory for just such cases) and listened in to what was going on. It's no fun sitting in a backup on the interstate nearly stopped, creeping along at 5 mph stop and go, and not knowing how many miles it is going to last. I turned out there was construction ahead and an oil tanker had overturned and spilled a load of heavy oil/tar on the road, so the interstate was closed and they were routing traffic off the interstate on a detour.

The truckers were talking about a way around it, and I decided to join them as the exit was right ahead.....it wasn't all that fast, but it was better than just sitting for the next 8 or 10 miles. It took about 30 minutes to get through that mess, but then it was pedal to the metal for the next 300 miles down to New Mexico. I ran all the counties – although as it got later, only the DX was there on 20M.

I drove late and stopped in Colfax County, NM at the Motel 6 in Raton, NM (\$45). Dinner was at a Chinese Buffet place even though it was Sunday. I was just not up for a big pizza after all the fancy (and fattening) meals for the past few days.

The last four counties in the late afternoon on Sunday had not been spotted despite working 6 or 8 folks including many EUs. I guess it was late for the spotters. Not to worry, I ran the counties, but no one followed me down to 30 or 40M since there had not been a spot – but there would have been US propagation on those bands. Few listen down there these days.

Monday it was a long haul home. I woke up early and hit Denny's for their \$4 special breakfast. I was on the road at 6am, but lost an hour changing time zones. The temps hit over 100 before long, and it was 104 degrees as I pulled into the driveway at dinner time. After unloading the car, I headed to Cici's Pizza to make up for a missed Sunday pizza night.

A few thousand miles of driving – and now up to 40,000 miles on the 18 month old car. I didn't count the counties or contacts. Five more counties and 2 new states whacked off the list for second time transmit. Now, the nearest counties to run for second time transmit is Teton, WY, most of ID, most of OR, all of WA, and half of CA, plus of course AK and HI...plus a handful on the east coast, and lots in MN. Someday I'll get to them all again. It happens when it happens.

Right now, N4CD is 'just having too much fun' putting them out and helping others get finished up. (giggle giggle).

When I got home, I had to take care of a slow leak in one of the tires. It turned out to be half a screw in the tire, and that got fixed, so sooner or later the car will be back on the road hitting more counties.

New Jersey QSO Party

I'd like to tell you there was lots of activity and everyone had a good time making contacts in the NJ QSO Party. Apparently, either massive poverty has struck NJ, with every mobile operator not being able to afford gas or even run the home rig for a few hours, or having to sell the rig to pay the

high local taxes and mortgage payments and put food on the table, or the folks in NJ were off 'having a good time' at everything else other than ham radio.

From what I can tell, it looks like N2UU was on for an hour or so, but the regular county hunters heard not a peep on CW, and there were no spots on SSB or CW for the entire two day duration of the NJ QSO Party. That despite over 5,000 licensed hams in the state.

They should either promote this internally a lot more, or kill it. (or some nearby county hunter head there and clean up, winning with any amount of effort). When you sink below the activity of DE QSO Party (3 stations), or MD QSO Party (1 mobile and 2 fixed stations), you have hit the bottom of the barrel. Sad.

An interesting contact – KZ2P/m

On July 27, 2010 at 1139Z, a very interesting spot showed up on the W6RK spot page. It seems that James, KZ2P, went mobile to get the last county WBOW for Scottie, N4AAT for the 2x1 prefix.

On the K3IMC Forum, Scottie posted: "Thanks Jim, KZ2P, for the WBOW, 2x1 combo, Lee, SC, this morning. "

It turns out that James, KZ2P hopped in his mobile and drove over to Lee, SC. When he arrived, Scottie N4AAT was already there to greet him. James, KZ2P took the antenna out of the back of his truck, put it on the mount, and worked Scottie on 20M SSB. He may have made another contact or two. Since he and Scottie were in the same county, he may not have gotten credit for a MP transmitted county. (Depends if he worked another Master Gold holder while there who was not 'in the county').

KZ2P, James, will have to finish running the 500 separate counties to get his Master Platinum Award, but now that he is 'out mobile' that shouldn't take all that long. He might even have some from his previous trips from

FL to SC and back, if that was after the start date for MP. Plus, of course, the 'home county' also counts.

There's just about no reason why dedicated county hunters can't earn the Master Platinum Award by running those 500 counties with a qualifying contact. Heck, James went through a few other counties to get there and back, so he is off to a good start on those 500 qualified transmit counties.

Mobile Installation – KA3DRO

Ron, KA3DRO sent along the following installation in his new Escape. He plans to be out mobile this summer/fall.

“Here is the installation of the operating position so far in the Escape. I still need to run the power line and then secure the wiring in a manageable package. The Tarheel is controlled from a 12V power outlet behind the console normally used for rear4 seat passengers. The front outlet has a double outlet so I can power the G.P.S. as well as keep the phone charged. I will have the power line set up thru the dash on the passenger side, then back thru the cab to where the CPU is secured in the rear storage area behind the second row of seats. The wiring is snaked thru the slot between the seats up to the control area. I still need to make a board to sit on the center console to hold a yellow pad to copy calls, CW, etc., but it is well underway.”



KA3DRO Mobile Install in the Escape

AB7RW Report

While making our way to the MARAC Convention in Weslaco, TX., I began to hear a sound like my hand key was shorting when the first character was being sent. During several of our rest stops, I checked out all the wiring to the hand key and the Icom 706. I made sure that both wires were firmly attached to the key. I did note that the ground screw was turning and would not tighten up, but it was working OK.

I traced the keying wire under the seat to the 706 without noting anything out of order. After a while the keying would stop altogether and after a few frustrating moments it would start keying again. Jiggling the wiring brought

the keying back to life. It was frustrating losing the keying in the middle of sending a report.

At one point, I accidentally bumped the ground wire. There the problem was. A plastic fitting that covered the ground screw was split. When we hit a good sized bump on the road the ground screw would lose contact with the plate built into the plastic base.

When we got to Northern Utah, I could not get the key to operate at all. I always carry tools, wires etc., in the trunk just in case something goes wrong. I also took along a spare hand key just in case. Well, I did not find the spare key in the trunk. Found it on the kitchen counter when we got home, hi hi.

Searching the box of parts, I found a piece of seven strand wire. I snipped off about a quarter of an inch and pushed it into the ground screw hole. It worked fine for a couple of minutes. Back to the box again, I found an Allen wrench that just fit in the screw hole. I attached the ground wire and was back in business.

Our trip covered 5250 miles. We enjoyed every minute of it, except for the keying.



AB7RW Hand Key Fix

Mobile Diamond Award

Let's hope that things get 'back to normal' and the Mobile Diamond Award issue is promptly addressed and the situation resolved without much further ado.

As noted last issue, there was a 'controversy' over the start date of the Mobile Diamond Award that resulted in strange doings.

From the President's Column in the August 2010 RoadRunner:

"In the days before that meeting, I received conflicting pieces of information

concerning the approval of the Master Diamond Award and its start date. The Awards Committee had worked long and hard to develop and fine tune the Award before it was submitted for approval. That's always a lengthy and tedious process."

She continued:

"I learned that a number of persons who would be eligible to seek the award had been assured that the "start date" would be two years ago, in June, 2008, and had been making contacts toward the award for some time."

Oh...this sounds ominous. You really mean that mobiles were out running counties? And that people were working them? Maybe hundreds of county hunters?

The proposed date was in July 2008, not June 2008. Minor details...but they seem to be 'overlooked' all the time.

Mobiles who had achieved the Master Platinum award 'dared' to go out and run counties for the folks? Go out and get the last counties for those needing them? Go out and give them stars and prefixes and call combos. Horrors! How dare those mobiles with Master Platinum run on several bands, try to make as many contacts as possible, and dare to even work each other! Horrors! Horrors! Or run in state QSO Parties, or actually work each other!

Getting back to reality, it seems that the chat room chirpies think that N4CD, N9STL, K5GE, N8KIE, N4AAT are just 'having too much fun'! And that county hunters should be punished if they 'dare' to work them! Or better yet, they all should just go away. Get Master Platinum, and that's the last you'll hear from them. Is that what the President is saying? Can't go out and run more counties as you go from A to B.

And, yes, Steve, AA8R, had announced that the AWARDS Committee had finished, and after all that 'careful consideration' after 2 years of work, had come up with the start date in July of 2008. Glad the President acknowledged their hard work.

Even more telling is that the award submitted to the BOD was titled the **Mobile** Diamond Award, not the “Master” Diamond Award as the President refers to. Another minor detail...but can we believe the ‘other details’ when that isn’t right? Two sentences, two errors.

The MARAC President, in her column, wondered:

“I did a little research and found that when the preceding award, the Master Platinum Award, was first submitted for approval in January 2003, it was returned to the Awards Committee for additional revisions. When it was resubmitted to the Board in February 2003, a motion to approve the Award was defeated because of a similar start date issue.

Another motion was made and passed at that meeting mandating the start date of this Award to be the date that the Board approved the Master Platinum Award. The BOD’s thinking was, “How can one work for an award before it is an award?”

It must have been nice when they had board meetings every month. Or when the President actually let the Board of Directors speak at a meeting, other than to say ‘aye or nay’ on passing the minutes from previous meeting.

OK...so great...the Board was meeting again now for the first time in lots of months – maybe six? . If she thought the ‘BOD thinking’ was worth actually finding out by letting them speak, then surely the BOD would have the same ‘thinking’ it had before, right? And resolve the issue. Right? But she didn’t trust the BOD it seems. Or let them speak on the issue.

1) Let’s start with the basic assumption that the President did no research, but that someone else spoon fed her the above information to include in the likely ‘ghost written’ column in the Road Runner. Since we saw the President didn’t check who had actually received the Karl Adkins Award before she pointed to the wrong people – clueless-, got the start date for MP wrong by a month, even got the name of the Award wrong, it is hard to believe the claim of ‘research’ on her own before the meeting.

The way it is written also re-enforces the idea that the ‘chat room chirpires’ are more concerned with running mobiles off or with giving mobiles no incentive to go out and run counties.

Master Platinum holder Gene, K5GE recently took a big trip out west to MT, ID and other seldom run counties. Was she targeting him about ‘giving out counties’ for an award? Scottie, N4AAT, Joyce, N9STL, Bob N4CD, all with Master Platinum, also worked him in many counties, and Gene was giving out counties on 17M SSB for those looking to increase their band-county totals. Dozens worked him.

Master Platinum holder Bob, N8KIE ran from MI through counties in many states putting them out on his way to TX. Was the President referring to him about ‘running counties for an award that doesn’t exist?’ Of course, Scottie, N4AAT, Joyce, N9STL, Bob N4CD, plus dozens of others worked him through the various counties he ran on his way south. But was he ‘having too much fun’? (giggle giggle). I’d bet that at least 100 other county hunters worked one or more of them, too! Or was he being accused of ‘giving out counties for an award that doesn’t exist’?

Bob, N8KIE, got so upset with the Travesty in Texas BOD meeting fiasco that he simply turned off the radio on the way home from TX, and promised never to put out a single county again. Worse....a month later he wound up with double bypass surgery.

He’s put out likely 500 counties after he got his Platinum. OOPS, I guess he should have just stayed home? ` Or not put them out? For any reason or award? Or was he upset that the BOD didn’t even have the chance to look at the issue?

That’s the way some interpreted what she said with that remark. He turned his radio off and drove home without a contact.

The ‘collateral’ damage caused by the intentionally actions of the President to avoid a vote on the Mobile Diamond Award was major. Let’s examine the claim of ‘start date’.

2) Start Dates

Let's start with Natural Bingo, just recently created as a separate award. What was the start date on that? Was it the date the Board voted to accept the award? Nope, there was no start date.

Let's look at Teams. For years and years, folks had been working teams – usually for the extra stars as that was the only thing 10-15 years ago that they would count for. There was no prefix award. There was no natural Bingo award. In most cases, the second team member did not give you a Bingo – either one or the other already had a star, or the probability was low on the matching suffix of the call. So for teams, when the award was created, what was the start date? Ya got it! There was none at all. How about all those people who 'had been working on an award before there was an award'? If this really was an 'issue' of monumental proportions, how come no start date on all these awards at the time the award was created?

How about call combos? Start date? About 1900 when radio was invented. How about the claim of folks 'working on an award before there was an award'? If this was really an issue, then why was there not start date when the award was created?

Prefixes? Recently created award. Start date? Back in 1900 or when you first got your license, NOT the date the award was 'accepted' by the board.

The only recently approved award with a 'start date' was the No-Star award, and since the goal was to spur new activity by no-star mobiles, it had a start date of Jan 1, 2010. Otherwise, some old timers might qualify immediately for it.

So for most recently created awards, here is no start on the date when the award was accepted.

Folks talked about Natural Bingo for years. Some had over 2900 counties back in the late 1990s the 'no wild card' way which turns out to be Natural Bingo. (for the most part if you didn't use 2x2 call signs).

3) Delay, Delay, Delay

This 'controversy' really comes from the delay tactics of KE3VV who made sure the Award committee never saw the award for almost 18 months after two different individuals submitted an idea for the 'Mobile Diamond' or

“Master Titanium” award. Had the Awards Committee acted in a ‘timely fashion, rather than being torpedoed by KE3VV at the behest of the ‘Club Station’ in SC, we wouldn’t be in the situation we are in today. The award would have been done a year ago, with a start date about the time of the 6th MP Award. But nooo.....Jimm didn’t want that. Just think – this all could have been done a year ago if Jimm and Davve had not obstructed it.

4) Master Gold started on June 1, 1994. All contacts had to be after this date. There were about 77 Bingo holders who were eligible to start work on it, but only half of them were active. It took 5 years for someone to finish (K5GE).

Master Platinum started on February 12, 2003. All contacts had to be after this date. **There were 8 Master Gold holders at that time who were eligible to start working on part II of the requirements.** Anyone could start to collect the MP counties after Feb 12, 2003, even if they did not have their Bingo. (one could actually finish Part I of this award before getting your Master’s Gold award).

It’s now 2010. There are now 8 people, with a few more closing in real fast, who have completed Master Platinum. One more may finish within a month or two(Jack, N7ID). The time is now overdue for the Mobile Diamond award to be created – actually it is LONG overdue.

5) She continued:

“I also found that a majority of the Awards Committee had voted to reopen the discussion concerning the proposed start date but that the award had been sent for Board for approval before allowing that discussion to occur. That, too was disconcerting.”

That appears to be an out and out lie.

The Awards Committee, by consensus, agreed to forward the Mobile Diamond Award to the Board for action. I also talked with more than half the Awards Committee. They never heard from her before the meeting or after the meeting.

Now that seems a bit strange when she previously stated:

“The Awards Committee had worked long and hard to develop and fine tune the Award before it was submitted for approval ”

If the Awards Committee had worked hard and long, and the consensus was to forward it to the BOD for action.....well....it seems only the clamoring of Dave, KE3VV, convinced a few chirpies to chirp to the President about the ‘alleged’ start date controversy from the MINORITY side. Likely KZ2P in there telling the President about how ‘some’ of the Awards Committee (KE3VV and likely the few chat room chirpies – KA9JAC for one) disagreed. Suddenly that became a ‘majority’? Really? Did she bother to call them, or even call the Award Chairman who would know? Don’t bet on it.

Now, one should note that the Awards Committee had some discussion about the idea that all new awards should have a start date after that award proposal was approved by the BOD. **However, that suggestion was never implemented or agreed to by the Awards Committee.** It is still a topic of discussion. As shown above, MARAC has created multiple awards without start dates (Natural Bingo, Prefixes, Call Combos, Teams, etc) and who knows what in the future.

The Awards Committee by consensus had approved the proposal and sent it to the BOD. Not to ‘the President’ for action. If the BOD voted to change it, they could have voted to have it referred back to the Awards Committee with a request. Now, it is still an action item for the BOD to act on. The BOD was ‘bypassed’.

To this date, the ‘majority’ of the award committee members support the proposal, and likely only want to ‘revisit’ the issue of the start date IF the BOD refers it back to them.

Did she really find – i.e., poll all the awards committee members (and by what authority) to determine this, or just listen to the clamoring of KE3VV and KZ2P? No.....most award committee members got no email or phone calls from the MARAC President. I checked. Another Lie.

Likely the latter(Clamoring from KE3VV/KZ2P), since she acknowledged the committee had worked hard and ‘fine tuned’ it before it was submitted.

Only the two out to 'kill' the award or delay it infinitum seems to be able to convince her that a 'few' was "a majority".

Bottom line

Even more telling, she did not consult the Awards Chairman, nor even trusted her Board of Directors to make the decision on whether to accept the 'fine tuned' award proposal or not.

She notes:

"Just hours before the meeting I decided to make sure that the members of MARAC would have an invitation to be heard before the date issue is revisited."

It was simpler than that. They had counted votes. KC6AWX would be absent. That would mean the award would pass at a minimum 5-4. With KC6AWX, it would be a 5-5 tie and the President would get to vote to break the tie, and it would have been defeated, making KZ2P and KE3VV overjoyed.

The 'members of MARAC' as Dave, KE3VV noted, have no say on the matter. A 'vote' doesn't count. The members elect their Directors (BOD members) to represent them.

The vote could not be allowed to happen...and it didn't happen, nor could new business be brought up to even discuss it. Or let the BOD actually take any action they felt appropriate AFTER discussion. You read last month how fast she, Jimm and Davve managed to shut down the meeting neglecting new business or allowing the Directors even a voice at the annual BOARD OF **DIRECTORS** meeting!

The President goes off into space with this comment:

"One really laughable example is when somebody uses a term like "MARAC Headquarters," or other references suggesting that there is some conniving, conspiring oneness to the Club"

Regular readers to the CHNews know that 'Club HQ' is in South Carolina, and the chat room chirpies have to call in to see which way to vote on various issues and will be told which way to vote – otherwise they won't get to run on 14.336 or get relays. Club HQ in SC should not be making MARAC policy, but seems to be able to do so.

She continues:

“If that effort fails to satisfy their needs, they should run for election themselves.... rather than “blogging” a distorted spin in cyberspace.”

Short memory! She might take note that some of the very folks that she seems upset at WERE on the MARAC Board until the 'chat room chirpies' including KE3VV and KZ2P worked to make sure that MARAC went for nearly six months without a President or Vice President and was 'dead in the water'. It is just before she became the current President. And that some of those individuals who now 'blog' were kicked off the Board and out of office. As Director at the time, she did nothing to rectify the situation, either. Worse, she was even 'the blogger's Director'. Club HQ in South Carolina was calling the shots. She went along.

That was the main driver behind the County Hunter News being created and you can read about it in detail in the first few issues of the County Hunter News. That's another 'minor' detail the current President seems to have overlooked.

So who knows how to resolve this?

Well, I'll support either the Awards Committee proposal, or if enough are bent out of shape not to accept that date, then I'd support the date of issuance of the SIXTH MP award as originally proposed in the award proposal submitted over two years ago now.

It really needs to be resolved quickly so things can move on. Or will MARAC go back into a comatose state until next spring when it comes time to wake up for the Annual Convention. Awards Dinner and Board meeting?

A Blast From the Past

Here's a YouTube Video of an Atwater Kent Model 10 Breadboard Radio (rare in good condition) that was found in the original shipping box. It's extremely lightly used, and up for sale on Ebay. This is circa early 1920s, maybe 1922 or 1923. (Sold for \$900 plus bucks - ouch.)

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

Notice how funky it was to tune in stations. Imagine finding them the first time.

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Here are some links to Morse Code You Tube Videos forwarded from W5EEG

1942 Signal Corp Code Records:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eTizFjjVXh0>

1941 Navy Code Class:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8Pq6cosm2A&feature=related>

Two 10 minute segments from a 1966 film (part 2 is good for some laughs!) :

http://www.southgatearc.org/news/october2009/us_army_morse_code_training_movie.htm

You will probably never see a bigger key than in the video.

Sunspots

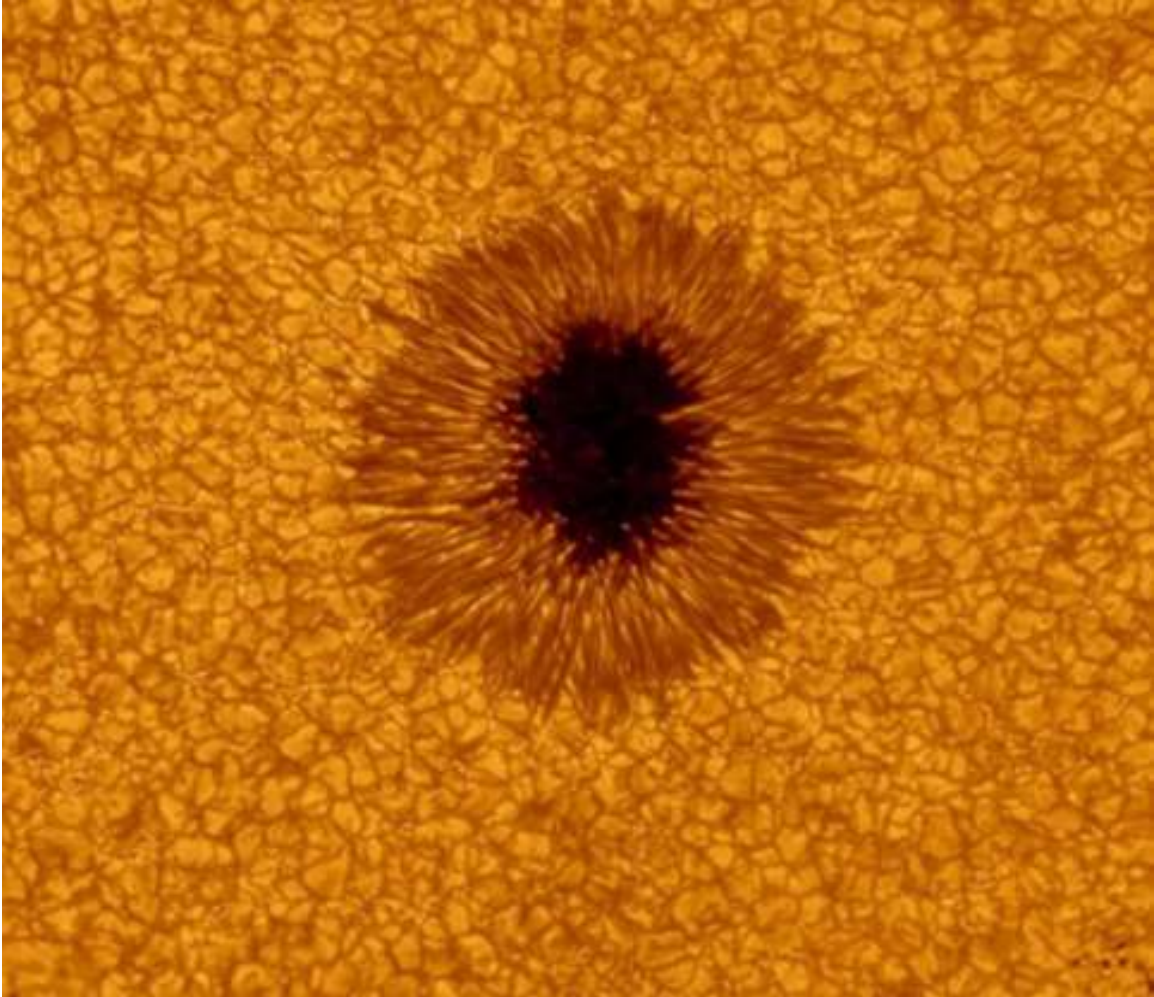
Telescope captures most detailed image ever of a sunspot that is bigger than Earth

“This is the most detailed image of a sunspot ever captured using visible light.

The stunning picture was taken using the Big Bear Telescope in California and is the best photo of a huge sunspot that is around 8,000 miles in diameter.

At the centre of the sunspot the temperature is around 3,600C, while the surrounding regions are much hotter, more than 5,800C.

The irregular shapes that surround the sunspot are known as granulation and are made of hot gas rising from inside the Sun. Each one is around 1000km in size.”



The telescope that took the picture is known as the New Solar Telescope which uses adaptive optics, parts that change to adapt to disturbances in the atmosphere and correct distortions in the signals.

'This photo of a sunspot is now the most detailed ever obtained in visible light,' according to astronomy magazine *Ciel et l'Espace*.

Professor Philip R. Goodwill at the New Jersey Institute of Technology said that the images were achieved with the 1.6 m clear aperture, off-axis New Solar Telescope (NST) at BBSO.

The telescope has a resolution covering about 50 miles on the Sun's surface.

The Big Bear Observatory is located in a clear mountain lake which is known for its atmospheric stability.

The new telescope now feeds a high-order adaptive optics system, which

in turn feeds the next generation of technologies for measuring magnetic fields and dynamic events using visible and infrared light. A parallel computer system for real-time image enhancement highlights it.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1305960/Most-detailed-image-sunspot-caught-camera.html#ixzz0xd0g7yLe>

National Convention 2011

Mark your calendars and save the date to attend,

The 43RD National Convention
July 6th – July 9th, 2011 Duluth, MN
We have some great tour and forum ideas in the works.

Any questions please email:
Brian – NX0X or Shari – KB0MHH
Duluth2011@aol.com

More information will be coming after the first of the year.

Awards

CQ Magazine Issued Awards

USA-CA 3077 #1201	NT2A, Gene	8/5/2010
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MARAC Issued Awards

Bingo #319	Leo, WY7LL	8/11/2010
Bingo #320	Judy, KB9MGI	8/14/2010
Bingo #321	Dave, K9AAA	8/15/2010

Bingo II #71	KD4HXM, Rufus	7/16/2010
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USA-CW #112	Jim, K4AMC	8/14/2010
USA-CW #113	Dave, W4YDY	8/14/2010

Fourth Time #148	W4YDY, Dave	7/22/2010
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Fifth Time #98	WB0CQO, Joe	7/16/2010
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Sixth Time #36	NG9L, Dick	8/4/2010
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Masters Gold #41	AD8W, Chuck	7/31/2010
Masters Gold #42	KL1V, Kent	8/4/2010
Masters Gold #43	KA9JAC, Bob	8/5/2010
Masters Gold #44	Rufus, KD4HXM	8/07/2010

Ran all USA #11	Kent, KL1V	8/06/2010
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Master Platinum #8	Larry, N2OCW	8/16/2010
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Call Combo 1x3 #7	Hollis, KC3X	8/16/2010
Call Combo 2x1#2	N4AAT, Scottie	7/27/2010
USA-PA- K #20	Ray, AB4YZ	8/26/10

Events for County Hunters

Colorado QSO Party

Sep 4, 1200Z - Sep 5, 0400Z

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

www.ppraa.org/coqp

CW--1.850, 3.550, 7.050, 14.050, 21.050, 28.050;

Phone--1.870, 3.850, 7.250, 14.250, 21.350, 28.450.

Tennessee QSO Party

Sep 5, 1800Z - Sep 6, 0300Z

RS(T) and county or S/P/C

www.tnqp.org

Arkansas QSO Party

Sep 11, 0800 - Sep 11, 2000 –local time

RS(T), county or S/P or "DX"

www.arkanhams.org

CW--3.550, 7.050, 14.050, 21.050, 28.050;

Phone--3.980, 7.260, 14.260, 21.360, 28.360, 145-147.

50+ ARRL September VHF QSO Party

Sep 11, 1800Z - Sep 13, 0300Z

Grid square

www.arrl.org/contests

September 11th - 19th, 2010

Route 66 on the Air

Amateur Radio Clubs using 1 X 1 call signs will operate from 17 cities, 3 rovers and 5 mobile stations along the highway during the special event period, 11th September (00:00:00z) through 19th September (24:00:00z) aiming to contact as many amateur radio operators as possible who would like to take part in this annual event.

Mobile stations traveling along RT 66 can use /m66 or ‘mobile on Rt 66 to participate in the event! It also includes operation on WARC bands and digital modes.

N5XG/m66 will run from Tucumcari NM to Amarillo TX during the event.

Here’s the web site for more info:

<http://www.w6jbt.org/Route66OTAEvent/General%20Pages/Guidelines.htm>

Connecticut QSO Party

Sep 18, 0000Z - Sep 18, 2359Z
RS(T) and CT county or S/P/C
www.ctqp.org

South Carolina QSO Party

Sep 18, 1300Z - Sep 19, 2100Z
RS(T) and county or S/P/C
w4cae.org
CW--1.805, 50 kHz above band edge;
Phone--1.845, 3.86, 7.261, 14.27, 21.37, 28.37.

Washington State Salmon Run

Sep 18, 1600Z - Sep 19, 2400Z
RS(T) and county or S/P/C
www.wwdx.org

Texas QSO Party

1400Z on SATURDAY, September 25 to 0200Z on SUNDAY. September 26 and from 1400Z to 2000Z on SUNDAY, September 26
RS(T), county or S/P/C
www.txqp.net

That's all for this month. See you next month with coverage of the KS, HI, and OH QSO parties – end of August, plus the CO, AR, TN, and others coming up! 8/26/10