

# County Hunter News

January 1, 2012  
Volume 8, Issue 1

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, the SSB activity now is on 'friendly net' 7188/7185 KHz. The cw folks are on 17M operation on 18.0915. (21.0565, 24.9155, and 28.0565 when sunspots cooperate). Look around 18136 or for occasional 17M SSB runs usually after the run on 20M SSB. (21.336 and 28.336)

You can see live spots of county hunter activity at [ch.W6RK.com](http://ch.W6RK.com)

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

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

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

MARAC sponsors an award program for many other county hunting awards. You can find information on these awards and the rules at:  
[http://countyhunter.com/marac\\_information\\_package.htm](http://countyhunter.com/marac_information_package.htm)

The CW net procedure is written up at:

<http://www.wd3p.net/ch/netproc/netproc.htm>

There is a lot more information at [www.countyhunter.com](http://www.countyhunter.com) . Please check it out. Back issues of the County Hunter News are available at [www.CHNewsonline.com](http://www.CHNewsonline.com)

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

## Notes from the Editor

1 ) Things were up and down during December – mostly down - especially the temperature, but also mobile activity. The bands heated up at times with the solar flux and sunspots sitting in the 100 plus range – making contacts on 17 plentiful, and quite a few on 15, 12, and 10m if you were 'far enough away' or had a big station like K0DEQ who seems to get that RF through under very weak signal conditions.

Blizzards hit NM, the TX and OK Panhandles, KS, CO and the snow was flying out in WA, ID, MT, the Sierra Nevada mountains, and New England, so mobile activity was down a bit in those regions. There weren't any QSO parties but the annual ARRL 10M and 160M contests provided opportunities for band counties.

We're about to start a new year with another cycle of contests, trips, conventions, and high gas prices. There should be ample opportunities for counties as mobiles head all over the country, to hamfests, for family visits, and to the national convention in WA state this year in the summer.

### 2 ) **Man Who Saved Christmas**

Must have been something at work like ESP, but as I was surfing some seldom checked TV channels way up at the high end, I stumbled across the 2002 made movie “the Man Who Saved Christmas” - about A.C. Gilbert back in the 1917 time frame. We noted this in the last issue with the article about A.C. Gilbert and his toy factory. The war had been going on for a while, and everything needed to make toys was needed for the war effort. People turned in 'scrap metal' and lots of things got melted down. Congress was all set to ban totally all toy production so everything could be put toward the war effort and every factory could be 100%

converted to making war materiel. His factory had been converted to making munitions, and his brother Frank was drafted and sent overseas.

There were patriotic posters about 'giving up toys for the sake of the boys overseas'. After months of going along with the effort, and converting all his factories and machinery to make toys, Gilbert suddenly realized that kids needed something to help them through the hard times of rationing and shortages. At least simple toys could be made out of cardboard and pot metal. So he fought the rationing board to allow some toys to be made. He finally won them over.

It turns out, that year was the year Germany signed the armistice in November and the war was over before Christmas arrived. That year, they still had Christmas, and A.C. Gilbert churned out Erector Sets, Microscopes, Magic Kits and Chemistry sets by the hundreds of thousands and was credited with 'saving Christmas'.

Last month the CHNews had a big article on the A.C Gilbert Company and its toys, including radio sets. And a blurb about the movie. The movie was shown again xmas eve and day on the Inspiration Channel. If you missed it this year, we'll maybe next year.

### **3 ) Links in the CHNews**

We do the CHNews and it's published in PDF Format. If you want to follow the links from a PDF document, hit the 'control key' and hold it down while clicking on the link. That will normally open the link in a new window. The other alternative is to copy the link address and paste it into your browser.

4 ) **Greenie projects issue** – lots to discuss this issue about 'green projects' and the horrendous waste going on there. Your tax money at work. If you've followed the CHNews – you know that the world is headed to tight constraint on resources. Having more energy efficiency is highly desirable. Unfortunately the political system we have of rewarded those who recycle those funds back in political donations and power hasn't gotten us anywhere but deeper in debt. You decide.

### **Mobile Activity – Nov 20 – Nov 30<sup>th</sup> 2011**

Ron, **KB6UF**, continued his trip through ID, WA, OR and down into CA. Snow, ice and bad weather many days up north.

Dan, **AA0TT**, was out mobile nearly all month long.

Barry, **N0KV** and Pat, **N0KV** took a nice trip out to UT and NV and back.

Ed, **N3HOO**, continued his cross country trip back to PA.

Jim, **N9JF**, was out in MO then out to NE.

Dan, **KM9X**, headed out to Lawrence/Orange, IN. A bit later he was over in OH. Later in the month, he headed down to Elliot, KY running them down and back.

Bill, **K2HVN**, put out counties in MD and DE area.

Jeffrey, **AF3X**, seen in KS headed west through NV. On the way back, he took a detour to Knox, MO then into IL.

Jack, **WD4OIN**, was out and about in NC putting out the counties.

Frank, **AA9JJ**, and Kay, **N9QPQ**, took a trip down to Santa Cruz, AZ, then circled back via Greenlee and Graham.

Ron, **N5MLP** ran Louisiana. Had lots of takers on 17m SSB, too.

Mark, **N2MH**, headed home from being portable, and ran QRP mobile up through VA.

Jeff, **W9MSE**, headed up to Door County, WI and back on a one day trip. Lots of contacts from 17m up to 10m with at least 10 working him on 17, 15, and 12 in many many counties. He commented:

“It was just a day of giving out counties, not trying to get anywhere on a schedule, so stopped in most counties that were not long enough to run all 7 bands. Made about 663 QSOs total spread across the bands 40m 43, 30m 120, 20m 122, 17m 119, 15m 108, 12m 94, and 10m 59.”

The team of **W8FNW/W4FNW** ran FL counties.

### **Starting December 1**

Dan, **KM9X**, headed a bit southwest to get some IN counties

Bob, **K7TM**, was up in ID and MT

Ron, **KB6UF**, headed out to CA on a long trip. He'll return the end of December. One day he went off to get Ventura, which was a LC for someone.

Mike, **KA4RRU** headed to southeast VA to run a dozen or so. Mike was on many other days during the month as well.

### **N6PDB/WA6OCV- Mini trip report:**

The stats for our trip that you all helped with, are: 1050 miles 31 counties contacts 20 M 1234 17 M 132 15 M 28 40 M 32 thanks all of you for making the trip great. from: Susan, Dennis and Stormy..

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Ed, **KN4Y**, headed over to AL for a bowling tournament and ran the counties to and from it.

Mark, **N2MH**, put out a few in NJ.

Terry, **WQ7A**, ran a few in WA and in OR.

Jim, **N4JT**, was up in VA putting them out on all bands up through 10 meters. It was fun tracking him up there, but the sigs often died on 12 and 10 meters – just 'too close'.

Kerry, **W4SIG**, was down in MS putting them out.

Cliff, **K6JN**, and Nelda, **W6XJN**, left FL, ran a bunch in GA, then headed over to TX. Spent a few days there, then headed on to CA.

**N5KGY** was out and about in MS putting them out on SSB.

Jim, **N9JF**, headed over to PA and up in NY. Next thing you know he was down in MS, running some of them at night, too.

Dave, **KE3VV**, ran some counties in FL Ran up on 15 cw, too.

Scottie, **N4AAT**, was spotted in a few in FL.

The weekend of Dec 10-11 was the ARRL Ten Meter Contest – lots of activity with zillions of Europeans coming in, South Americans, some AK stations spotted. Ed, **KN4Y**, said he was going to run 10M in the test, but did not see any spots for him.

George, **AA4GT**, reported that he did well in the 10m contest making 225 contacts on 10cw and 6 on SSB.

Terry, **WQ7A**, and Bob, **KA9JAC**, and many others were on chasing the counties. Hundreds of thousands of contacts were made, and you could work at least 50 countries easily. A few of the AK districts were on as well. (CW or SSB).

**Rob, K0PVW notes:**

“I just want to put a big thank you out to all who helped me have a fun and exciting trip. Trip Stats were 18 Run Counties across Kansas, into Colorado and Oklahoma. The kids had fun playing in the snow in the Colorado corner, as I ran the CL of Baca(CO) and Cimarron(OK). As I said 18 Counties run, 258 QSO's, 796 Miles and 14 and 1/2 hours on the road. Thanks again to all and those who put up with a new guy on the block still learning to run the counties correctly. 73's “

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**KH6BB**, the Battleship Missouri anchored at Ford Island in Honolulu, was worked on 17M cw by quite a few county hunters. It's the first time I've actually been able to work them. I've heard them on 20M but never got through the pile ups or over their noise level.

Dan, **AA0TT**, was on many days during the month from the Big Rig.

Gary, **K4EXT** and Jason, **KG4VBK**, hit a few counties in TN.

Matt, **W0NAC**, and Sharon, **N0LXJ**, were out in AZ and NM.

Don, **K3IMC**, headed out from GA going to TX. Ran 100 counties along the way. Then headed back to GA later.

Brian, **K7RE**, ran in SD.

Ed, **K8ZZ**, was on the road in MI

**KG4GCF** was out in TN

**AA9JJ**, Frank, and Kay, **N9QPQ** headed up to Clark NV and back.

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

Jerry, **W0GXQ**, headed down to run 20 plus IA counties with Mike, **NF0N**.

## CW Stats to Dennis, KK7X

Normally, Elwood, KA3MMM handles the year end stats for cw operators. Elwood is taking January off. This year, Dennis, KK7X will be doing the processing to come up with the CW stats.

Please send in your CW total – how many worked toward USACW , or Nth time CW, to Dennis right after the first of the year.

If you are using MARAC Logger Click on VIEW/EDIT and then Book Summary. You will find your WORKED statistics under USA-CW, or if you are working on multiple time under USA-CW II etc.

His email is: [dennis@kk7x.us](mailto:dennis@kk7x.us)

## How's that Again?

*'We'll fund additional research in cutting-edge methods of producing ethanol, not just from corn but from wood chips and stalks or switch grass. Our goal is to make this new kind of ethanol practical and competitive within six years.'*

—George W. Bush, 2006 State of the Union address

Years before the Obama Administration dumped \$70 billion into solar and wind energy and battery operated cars, and long before anyone heard of Solyndra, President Bush launched his own version of a green energy revolution. The future he saw was biofuels. In addition to

showering billions of dollars on corn ethanol, Mr. Bush assured the nation that by 2012 cars and trucks could be powered by cellulosic fuels from switch grass and other plant life.

To launch this wonder-fuel industry, the feds under Mr. Bush and President Obama have pumped at least \$1.5 billion of grants and loan subsidies to fledgling producers. Mr. Bush signed an energy bill in 2007 that established a tax credit of \$1.01 per gallon produced.

Most important, the **Nancy Pelosi Congress** passed and Mr. Bush signed a law imposing mandates on oil companies to blend cellulosic fuel into conventional gasoline. This guaranteed producers a market. In 2010 the mandate was 100 million barrels, rising to 250 million in 2011 and 500 million in 2012. By the end of this decade the requirements leap to 10.5 billion gallons a year.

When these mandates were established, no companies produced commercially viable cellulosic fuel. But the dream was: If you mandate and subsidize it, someone will build it.

Guess what? Nobody has. Despite the taxpayer enticements, this year cellulosic fuel production won't be 250 million or even 25 million gallons. Last year the Environmental Protection Agency, which has the authority to revise the mandates, quietly reduced the 2011 requirement by 243.4 million gallons to a mere 6.6 million. Some critics suggest that even much of that 6.6 million isn't true cellulosic fuel.

The EPA has already announced that the 2012 mandate of 500 million gallons is unattainable, so it is again expected to lower the mandate to fewer than 12 million gallons for next year.

One reason the mandates can't be met is the half-dozen or so companies that received the first round of subsidies to produce cellulosic fuel never got off the ground. Some 70 million gallons, or 70% of the cellulosic supply to meet the 2010 mandate, was supposed to come from Alabama-based Cello Energy. Incredibly, those projections were made before Cello had built its plant to produce the fuel and before the technology was proven to work.

In 2009 a jury in a civil fraud case ruled that Cello had lied about how much cellulosic fuel it could produce. Some of the fuel that Cello showed to investors was derived from petroleum, not plants. The firm produced little biofuel and in October 2010 it declared bankruptcy.

It gets worse. Because there was no cellulosic fuel available, oil companies have had to purchase "waiver credits"—for failing to comply with a mandate to buy a product that doesn't exist. In 2010 and this year, the EPA has forced oil companies to pay about \$10 million for these credits. Since these costs are eventually passed on to consumers, the biofuels mandate is an invisible tax paid at the gas pump.

And for what? An October 2011 report on biofuels by the National Academy of Sciences concluded that the mandates "may be an ineffective way to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions." Because production is so low, advanced cellulosic fuels also do very little to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil. The report notes that "currently, no commercially viable



biorefineries exist for converting cellulosic biomass to fuel."

Why? Because of what the National Academy report calls "the high cost of producing cellulosic biofuels compared with petroleum-based fuels, and uncertainties in future biofuel markets." The report does say that technological breakthroughs could make cellulosic fuels cost-competitive in the future, but that same leap of faith has driven subsidies to alternative energy for 40 years.

Still, the subsidies roll on. In August 2011 the Obama Administration funded a \$510 million program in partnership with the Navy to produce advanced biofuels for the military. In September the feds loaned \$134 million to Abengoa Bioenergy to build a cellulosic plant in Kansas. The optimistic forecast is that this plant will produce about 23 million barrels a year—a fraction of what Washington promised in 2006. In September the Department of Energy provided POET, which advertises itself as the "world's largest ethanol producer," a \$105 million loan guarantee for cellulosic.

**To recap: Congress subsidized a product that didn't exist, mandated its purchase though it still didn't exist, is punishing oil companies for not buying the product that doesn't exist, and is now doubling down on the subsidies in the hope that someday it might exist. We'd call this the march of folly, but that's unfair to fools.**

Source: Wall Street Journal

## On the Road with N4CD I

### At the Vintage Radio and Phonograph Society Meeting

One of the local clubs in which I am a member held their annual convention and auction just down the road in Mesquite. Dang, Ron, KB6UF, was running some rare Mobile Diamond counties in WY and ID, and Joyce, N9STL was on the road, too, so I'd miss a few of those. Oh well – can't be at the radio 24/7 like some seem to be!

I headed over Friday in the morn to preview what was going to be auctioned off. There's a big 'tube and paper' auction in the afternoon starting at 1 pm, followed by a 'lower budget' item auction of ten dollar minimum stuff. I managed to avoid buying too much (already got 'lots of stuff') but did come home with some Popular Electronics magazine, a nice triple DeForest style coil, and a broadcast radio 'kit' from the 1920s with some parts that will be useful – the vernier dial seemed good as did the variable, and the filament pot. The wood cabinet of radio was too far gone. The auction lasted till 10:30pm with only a 15 minute break to grab 'dinner'.

Probably 10,000 tubes got sold. Boxes of 'pulls' – large storage crates with 500 tubes of more...for \$10 or \$15. Crates of 250 tubes – for \$10 or \$20, likely New Old Stock, in original boxes. Transmitting tubes – for \$10 to \$100/box. 8 pin, loctal, miniature tubes by the case. Lots of TV type tubes like 19GK7 and similar for which I have no use whatsoever.

Whew....probably 400 lots of stuff went by. Hundreds of plastic Bakelite radios (table tops) from the 50s. Large consoles, Victrolas in giant cabinets, some 50s-60s style phonographs, a few hi-fi amps (big bucks for high power), and lots of 'stuff' from intercom amps to novelty radios ( an M&M promotional radio, etc, that looked like a giant M&M), a giant tube 'radio in a lamp base' deal, and more. Boxes of parts from Jones connectors to military connectors, tank radios, military radios, and two or three ham items like a Knight R-100A receiver and the rare speaker for it, a grungy Lafayette HE45 six meter transceiver, etc.

The most expensive thing I recall was a top of the line Tripplet tube tester that sold for \$560, followed by a Hallicrafters 'Morale Radio' from the WW2 era in mint shape that went for \$350. It looked like it just came out of the packing crate. Most things sold for \$10 (min bid) to \$30.

On Saturday, the 'higher price' items are sold with \$20 minimum bid, and there was everything from boxes of 01A tubes to UV-199s to other rare tubes for the early radios. Some of the radios sell for hundreds of dollars – the rare top of the line models – with lots of chrome, or fancy glass front panels. There were only a few ham items, like a Yaesu FT-101 in nice shape. I spent a good hour going over what was to be sold on Saturday and decided to head home to chase the Mobile Diamond mobiles instead. I didn't really need any more radio stuff, and there were no cool 50s regen kits. I did score one last year, along with a repro kit and some other nifty stuff, but none there this year.

On Saturday morning, there's also a 'silent auction' of about 50 items from books on old radios, to maybe a power supply, some capacitors for replacing the old ones, some novelty radios, etc. I did manage to buy a nice little power supply with taps for the common voltages of the tube radios – like 22.5, 30, 45, 67.5, and 90V. Reasonable.

Another couple hundred items went by in 5 hours of auction on Saturday - but I skipped that part.

During the weekend, there's also a contest for different categories – best table radio, best console radio, best 'collection', best new radio built to be exact to old radio using old radio parts, etc with about 8 categories. You get to see some impressive restorations and units. One was a 1939 LARGE console about 5 feet high, 4 feet wide that was a combination AM and TV set. The picture tube was 9 inches maximum! This was 1939 – the year that TV was

demonstrated for the first time at a World's Fair. It was a sensation. This was the model at the World's Fair.

There weren't too many stations on the air. The set could be internally tuned for any of five channels from 36 to 100 MHz. Black and White, of course, and the set had 38 tubes in it! The little picture tube just took up a fraction of the front of the cabinet which probably weighed in at 300 lbs. It had two 'decks' full of electronics.



RCA Model TBK-9 set circa 1939  
Nine Inch Screen

One of the other cool things was a collection of tubes/boxes for the 201A tube. As you may recall, the first sets used the 201A triode tube. A TRF set would have five tubes in it. Hundreds of millions of 201A tubes were made by over 130 manufacturers under 700 'brand names'! For some of the makers, it was trying to stay one step ahead of RCA, which had most of the tube patents and went after manufacturers one by one to get royalty money. Some manufacturers simply changed names and continued with 'new brands'. That's why there were over 700 brand names. A lot of money was spent advertising why you should buy

this makers tubes vs that one. Sears had their own brand, as did every major department store and every other 'chain' type store. Major radio stations would sell their own brand of tube.



140 different brand names of 201A Tubes

The collection had over 140 different boxes with brand names on it – and nearly all had the correct tube inside. (some were empty waiting for the correct tube to show up anywhere). Imagine trying to put together a collection like that! Most were in 'mint' condition, too. Row after row of tubes in original boxes.

Then sets began to go to superhet designs in the late 1920s, and worse, the depression started in 1929 and deepened under Roosevelt and the 'New Deal' with the progressive policies. That drove 90% of the tube manufacturers out of business, and by 1940 there were only 30 or so tube makers. The replacement market for 201A tubes dried up, and hundreds of new tube designs hit the market, changing every few years as things rapidly improved.

On Saturday morning, there was a 'silent auction'. I 'won' one item - an old Antique Radio Supply power supply for battery radios – with outputs for 22.5, 45, 67.5, 90 and 135v, plus a C battery supply of -4.5 volts. Should come in handy for testing those old tube radios. You can use a wall-wart for the filament supply of 5v or 6v at an amp or two.

I skipped Saturday afternoon – came home and chased the mobile diamond mobiles, then headed back over for the dinner and evening program. The featured speaker was Cecil – who had been visited by the 'stars' on American Pickers TV show. It turned out the 'crew' of 12 had

spent the entire day at his place, getting it set up, taking various shots, staging things. They came before 9am and left at 4:30 to make a ten minute segment. There is little actual unplanned visits – everything has been vetted ahead of time! (plus the necessary paperwork, authorizations to use on the air, legal forms, etc filled out). None of the visits are spur of the moment. At least not for the TV show version!

One other thing Cecil remarked on – don't believe everything you see on the show. He sold them a Cushman motor scooter. He wanted \$3400 for it. On the show, you'll see him 'agreeing' to take \$2800 after a minute of negotiating back and forth. In actuality, they paid him \$3400 for it. So much for the 'reality' of TV. Dang, another illusion busted. If you recall from the last issue, the Dallas and Houston Vintage Radio clubs had a meeting down at this place in November so we got to see first hand what the 'pickers' went through. Well, American Pickers is still a good show, but don't believe all you see!

There is little actual unplanned visits – everything has been vetted ahead of time! (plus the necessary paperwork, authorizations to use on the air, legal forms, etc filled out). None of the visits are spur of the moment. At least not for the TV show version! The crew is already in the house before the “Pickers” arrive. And of course, you see them leave, but just who is taking the pictures? Yep, the film crew. The entourage is at least 4 vehicles including a motor home (where they stay overnight at times), a truck to haul things like cars. The stuff that gets put in the van actually goes about 1000 feet before the van stops and the stuff is moved to larger trucks to haul it back to IA. Most of the time, there is 'nothing' in back.

After a long day, I headed home. The next day I was going to be on the road to Montgomery County, MD – the county hunter way with a bunch of new Mobile Diamond counties to 'clean up' for me and the others.

Continued in Part II

## Your Tax Money at Work

Consider the current 30% federal solar energy subsidy. A home solar system with 60 solar panels produces about 15,000 watts of power, enough to completely offset the \$6,000 annual electricity bill of a typical upscale California home. The system costs about \$90,000 prior to the 30% federal income-tax credit, which reduces its cost to \$63,000. After a simple payback period of about 10 years, the homeowner literally enjoys free electricity for the remainder of the guaranteed 20-year system life, a very profitable 10 years.

But what if that \$27,000 tax credit, the accelerated-depreciation tax savings, and most of the hefty post-payback profits went to Wall Street firms with a "tax appetite," not the homeowner? That's just what happens with the majority of new home solar-system installations today.

Washington and consumers are both notoriously shortsighted investors. Washington thinks in two-year election cycles, and consumers will usually choose a financially unfavorable option if it offers no money down. Today's most successful pitch for home solar financing goes like this: "Why pay a lot of money when you can get your solar system installed free and immediately reduce your utility bill?" Most homeowners find that proposition compelling. They ignore the fine print: "You must give your tax credit and depreciation to us and sign a long-term contract to buy power from us at prices just below market."

Today, most new home solar systems are purchased by special Limited Liability Corporations (LLCs) that are specifically created by Wall Street firms to purchase home solar systems and to sell power to the homeowner on a cell-phone-like contract. The homeowner does not mind giving up the tax benefits as long as the "free" system reduces utility bills.

However, when the system is paid off and the monthly LLC profit jumps to 100% of the electricity bill, the LLC solar electricity price to the homeowner is maintained just below market—and the profit really begins to roll into the LLC. Since the risks to the LLC grow as the solar systems age, many banks offload their risk by selling the LLCs before their 20-year lifetime is up, locking in much of the long-term profit. There is now a growing market for what might be called "solar-backed securities." Wall Street understands the time-value of money; the federal government and consumers do not.

One of the largest solar-system installers in the U.S., SolarCity Corp., uses the LLC strategy and currently buys a majority of its solar panels from the low-cost Chinese supplier, Yingli. Thus when President Obama said that we must subsidize our solar industry to remain competitive with the Chinese, it would have been more accurate to say that we subsidize Wall Street to create employee-less corporations that buy and install Chinese solar panels in the U.S. Wall Street and consumers understand that free markets are borderless; Washington does not.

Just last week, the U.S. International Trade Commission found the Chinese solar industry guilty of "dumping" solar panels in the U.S. Tariffs are likely to be levied against Yingli and others. Here then, is a practical guide to the Obama administration's nonsensical solar policy: Washington gives tax breaks to Wall Street to fund LLCs that buy solar panels from the Chinese to "help" the American solar industry, while the ITC threatens to levy a tariff on those solar panels, which would raise the price of solar energy to U.S. homeowners. In short, Wall Street pockets the money and consumers get higher solar-energy prices.

We should stop reflexively indicting Wall Street "greed" and focus instead on Washington as the disruptive force in one market meltdown after another. Solyndra, the poster child of the Law of Misguided Subsidies, borders on irrelevancy compared to the full impact of bad

economic policy.

Mr. Rodgers is the founder, president and CEO of Cypress Semiconductor.

## Doing the “Paperwork”

One of the traditions of county hunting, going back to day one, is rewarding the mobiles for making special trips, and running counties left and right..

From a thread on the K3IMC forum:

WB4KZW: A”ward the mobiles that give you Last County .....We should all be rewarding the mobile operators that give us LC particularly if it is for WBOW and/or he/she made a special trip for us.”

KR4ZH: “I have always given the mobile a LC award. I just thought it was standard procedure.”

WA4UNS: “ I kept track of any station that told me it was his last county when told after the exchange. I would then enter that information into a database. When I received the LC-1, I would at the cert #/seal color (as appropriate) and the sequence # to the database entry. I have 218 entries in the database and have entered only 178 sequence numbers. The 40 difference is primarily from my early days of running counties. I have never failed to receive a LC-1/2 from anyone that I've made prior arrangements with “

Always... I keep a separate database and send in LCs on a quarterly basis... I've been averaging 30-40 LCs per quarter... easier to budget on quarterly basis. “

N4AAT: “I have kept track of LC's since 1976 and only recieved 45 %. Even WBOW's 65 % “

WY7LL” interesting how ... one famous county hunter comes to mind as soon as I read this thread AND the one posted just previous.... THE BOTTOM LINE HERE IS IF YOU TAKE CARE OF YOUR MOBILE....YOUR MOBILE WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU.... maybe another way to look at it..... YOU ONLY GET OUT OF THE GAME WHAT YOU INVEST IN THE GAME.....

AA8R: “There are two events that occur when I do the “Paper Work” - First, when I apply for the LC1/LC-2 for the mobile giving me a LC I will forward the automated response that I

get back for “doing the paperwork” to the mobile and second I pay for the LC1/LC-2. That way the mobile is presented with two “Thank You” for spending their \$’s and time for me. “

WQ7A: “Been doing that for years. It reinforces that you appreciate the mobile running your needs.:

K1TKL: “I submit, usually, the same day as I work a station for LC for that state. The awards manager has been excellent on getting those papers out in a timely manner. It is an excellent way to recognize the mobile's time/money and effort. “

NX4C: “I agree on my last 2 trips. I worked 8 stations for a LC and one for a WBOW. That was back in October. I worked all cw because after looking up the needed list cw was needed a lot more the SSB. One trip in TN spcial for the WBOW and the other into KY. So far I've received 2 LC certificates plus be chewed out for not running SSB on 20 meters. Because of not running SSB I can't get relays on 20 meters any more. Other than just going and running counties because I enjoy doing it, the gas money, the time, being chewed out, not getting relays.....makes you wonder if going mobile is worth it or not.“

W0MU: “Keep on putting them out. Many folks wait until they are completely done with an award before sending out LC's. As Larry said ignore the trouble makers.

Comment de N4CD – You'll find a few folks wait until they work ALL the counties, then send out all 50 state LC's at the same time. Others will send them in once a year. I've gotten them 2-3 years after they happen.

### **The current MARAC awards are:**

For a 'Last County' in the state – you get a certificate and/or stickers for each Last County – plus a listing of who gave you the last county and for what award (ie, LC in the state, LC for last CW, LC for N prefix, LC for YL/OM teams, etc)

When the mobile has been awarded 25 last counties by others, MARAC then issues a plaque – in the shape of a car, with mobile antenna, for 25 last counties. If you accumulate 25 more LC, you get a car at 50 and 75 last counties. When you reach the 100 level, you get a nice rectangular plaque for 100 counties, and then 'bars' for each additional 25 counties. After it fills up, you get another plaque at that point.

At one thousand last counties, you get a nice TALL trophy for having given out 1000 last counties. Only a few have reached that point. It's the same trophy one gets for running all counties in the USA – big.

If someone rewards you with a plaque for “Last County” for all of them, known as a LC-2, for



the Whole Ball of Wax (WBOW), then you get a nice MARAC car with a plaque on it from the person who finished up an award. This month, a nice plaque arrived from AA9JJ to N4CD for the LC WBOW for N-prefix in Bath, VA. I hit that one on the way back from Thanksgiving in Maryland with a detour through the hills, ridges and mountains of north central VA.

Yes, when mobiles make special trips, detours off their planned routes to get that LC, it is sure nice to reward mobiles for burning gas, motels, wear and tear on the car, etc. As we've noted before, it can run \$50-\$80 bucks just for gas, plus motels and meals on the road.

No one in the DX community is going to North Korea next month..... to give some folks 'the last country' they need to be at the top of the Honor Roll for the folks. Worse, if someone goes there, you'll be fighting half a million others trying to get through. Nor are any of your DX buddies headed to the Spratleys to give that to you. Just doesn't happen, but folks are always finishing up for the county hunting awards – maybe a hundred a year.

Remember the old days of KI0JD (aka N0LDT)? She'd plan a route on her trips, often through IA or other midwest states, to try and run all the needed counties. When she got to a county that someone needed for a LC, when Net Control went through the next few mobiles, and she wasn't about to be up, and NC asked “Any ins, outs, or moves?”, she'd chime in and you'd hear “Last County Contact Please”. That's when we had a friendly net on 20M SSB. Don't try that today or you'll get a nasty chewing-out.

Then, likely the CL contact would take place on NET, and the station would then move her off net so she could run the county. If it took a relay, that would be done on net. Then someone else would move her off frequency. Ah, yes, the good old days. “KI0JD - Last County Contact, Please”.....

## Peak Oil Update

Some tidbits:

China's crude oil imports in November rose 8.5 percent over a year earlier to about 5.52 million barrels per day (bpd), the second highest on record on a daily basis, as refineries ramped up production to ease a domestic diesel shortage.

China, the world's second-largest crude buyer after the United States, brought in 22.69 million tonnes crude in November, according to preliminary trade data posted at the website of the General Administration of Customs ( [www.customs.gov.cn](http://www.customs.gov.cn) ).

That amount, equivalent to about 5.52 million bpd, rose 620,000 bpd, or nearly 13 percent from October's level at 4.9 million bpd, and was just behind the all time high hit in September 2010 at 5.67 million bpd.

The hefty imports match China's refinery production which hit a record last month at about 9.22 million bpd, as plants revved up output to cover a diesel shortage.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/12/10/china-crude-imports-idUSL3E7NA01Q20111210>

## New 60 meter Rules

USA's Federal Communications Commission released a REPORT AND ORDER on November 18, 2011 with new 5MHz rules for the Amateur Radio Service. Effective date: 30 days after publication in the Federal Register.

The FCC adopted the use of the name "60 meter band", to refer to 5MHz amateur radio in the frequency range 5330.5-5406.4 kHz, but USA hams are still only allowed to transmit on 5 specific channels in the band.

The FCC changed the rules to allow:  
Phone (Upper Sideband), RTTY, Data, and CW;  
with specific limitations on the use of these modes.

Amateur radio is a "secondary user" in this band, and must not cause harmful interference to other services! Amateur Radio Service must accept interference from other primary services and other nations services.

Operators transmitting data or RTTY must exercise care to limit the length of transmission so as to avoid causing harmful interference to US Government stations.

New 60 meter band 5MHz Channel List:

General, Advanced, or Amateur Extra Class license only.

Suppressed Carrier

VFO Dial freq

5330.5 kHz USB (center of channel = 5332.0)

5346.5 kHz USB (center of channel = 5348.0)

5357.0 kHz USB (center of channel = 5358.5) New!

5371.5 kHz USB (center of channel = 5373.0)

5403.5 kHz USB (center of channel = 5405.0)

Note: FCC deleted the channel at 5366.5 USB (center=5368.0)  
and "replaced" it with channel 5357.0 kHz USB (center=5358.5)

The maximum allowed power level is now 100Watts PEP (ERP)  
effective radiated power referenced to a dipole.

If another type of antenna is used, the station licensee  
must maintain a record of either the antenna manufacturer's  
data on the antenna gain or calculations of the antenna gain.

Upper SideBand Phone, Data, or RTTY transmissions  
may use dial (VFO) USB suppressed carrier frequency  
at 1.5kHz below the center of the channel.

Transmissions must not exceed the 2.8kHz bandwidth channel.  
RTTY modes such as PSK31 must not exceed 60Hz necessary  
bandwidth. Data modes must not exceed 2.8kHz bandwidth.  
CW bandwidth must not exceed 150Hz bandwidth and the CW  
frequency should be at the center of the channel.

Data stations operating under section § 97.221  
automatically controlled digital station, are not  
allowed on these 5MHz channels.

The 60m rules will go into effect 30 days after the rules are published in the Federal Register.  
Stay tuned! CW on 60M!

## More Greenie Fail

Thanksgiving didn't have much to offer by way of thanks for about 125 employees of A123  
who were laid off from the lithium-ion battery maker's Livonia and Romulus, Michigan

factories last week.

The layoff announcements came just weeks after A123 reported rising third-quarter losses and lowered its annual revenue forecast, a sad state of affairs it blamed on reduced orders from big customer Fisker Automotive.

A123 has said it hopes to hire back the workers after six months or less, and still employs about 700 workers at the two plants and at A123's engineering center in Ann Arbor, Michigan. "The part we really want to stress is we expect it to be temporary: hopefully, a blip we all get past," A123 spokesman Dan Borgasano told local reporters.

**Still, for a company that built its Michigan plants with the help of a \$125 million state grant and a \$249 million Department of Energy stimulus grant, it's a bad way to enter the holiday season.** Given the troubles that bankruptcies at DOE loan guarantee winners Solyndra and Beacon Power have foisted on the Obama administration, A123's layoffs aren't going to be welcome political news in the White House, either.

A123 has laid blame for the layoffs squarely on Fisker's decision to reduce its orders for battery packs. The two companies inked a partnership last year which came along with a \$23 million investment by A123 into Fisker.

But Fisker has struggled to deliver its first car, the high-end hybrid Karma sports car, with only about 40 cars delivered to date. Earth2Tech reported that A123 said Fisker is now looking to delay full-scale Karma production until mid-2012 -- despite the fact that it's raised close to \$700 million, most recently with a \$58 million tranche of a \$150 million "pre-IPO" round.

A123, for its part, has been posting losses since it went public in September 2009. What's more, the company's third-quarter earnings call didn't inspire confidence. The company reported a loss of \$63.7 million, or 51 cents per share, compared with a loss of \$43.7 million, or 42 cents per share, for the same quarter last year. That came despite revenues of \$64.3 million, more than double the \$26.2 million reported in the same quarter last year.

A123 has also reduced its 2011 annual revenue forecast to a range of \$165 million to \$180 million, down from its previous forecast of \$210 million to \$225 million, largely due to the slowdown in orders from Fisker, the company said. With key consumer electronics battery customer Black & Decker shrinking its orders, and grid energy storage systems a growing but small part of its business, A123 really wants the automotive battery segment to pick up. That's also the reason it landed a combined \$374 million in state and federal loans to build its Michigan plants, of course. (To be fair, Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey told local reporters that A123 has hired several hundred more people than the 500 it pledged to hire, giving the local economy a bigger-than-expected boost.)

Whether A123 can compete against Asian battery giants in the long game of supplying batteries for electric cars remains quite unclear, particularly if it keeps manufacturing onshore. Fellow U.S. lithium-ion battery maker Boston Power, which raised \$125 million in September, has focused on manufacturing in China to compete. Noted greentech investor Vinod Khosla has

predicted that A123 would “not be around” in 10 years

## On the Road with N4CD Part II

The Vintage Radio Convention was over., so it was time to head north to visit my sister and family for Thanksgiving in Maryland. I'd have 4 days to get there for turkey day and that would allow a day and a half of goofing off along the way. I checked the needs and my Mobile Diamond book, and Virginia was pretty bare for contacts. I missed N8KIE on a day or two of his trips, and without CW, AB4YZ's mobile is real tough to copy on my vertical. So I'd run most of what I needed between going up and coming back.

I packed up the car and headed out the interstate – same boring interstate but you need to make some time to get to where the 'new' counties are – so up I-30 to Little Rock (Pulaski County) over to TN on I-40. That's a good 500 miles just to get to some more interesting ones and ones needed for Diamond. I had about 12 missing counties in TN, and I'd spend some time zigging and zagging to get some of them. It was dreary with drizzle much of the day. It was off the interstate to get Crockett, TN – and by the time I did that, it was 5pm and getting dark, so I pulled into a Super 8 in Jackson, MS for the night. Dinner was pizza, naturally – Sunday night! At the Pizza Hut - right next door.

Then next morning I headed southeast to get Perry and Lewis – then on back roads over to Rhea, Bledsoe and Meigs. There are lots of ridges there – so you need to choose route carefully. You can go northeast/southwest easily, but east to west over the ridges takes lots of time with switchbacks. The counties slowed me down a bit, and I just made it to Bristol TN back on the Interstate by dark- another Super 8 and dinner at the nearby Shoney's. It had rained the whole day on and off. The forecast was more rain and drizzle. Yuk! After a year of drought, us Texas folks didn't know what rain was – it was strange stuff. Where was the sun?

In the morning it was up to Virginia – I was a bit behind schedule. I skipped Grayson as it was real early and likely wouldn't have a good run. Same for Franklin. I needed to get to eastern VA and run those. I headed across and spend the next two days zigging and zagging down in the east half of VA, with lots of 'dead end' counties as there are hundreds of 'wet lines' down there preventing you from running county lines. It rained all day – no sun. There were also lots of folks needing those eastern VA counties, too.

Ron, KB6UF was out in the west – with ice and snow and real cold weather up in ID. At least in VA the temps were moderate – in the 50s and 60s. Many were chasing him including me. He did well on 17M – often easier to work than 20M when no QRM on 17M. Weekends get

real busy there on 17M. Some days it is tough to squeeze in.

I made it over to Surry VA by dark – but no motels around there. It would either be try the ferry to James City County (Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown) and hope to find a motel during Thanksgiving week, or backtrack 20 miles to Petersburg for a motel along the interstate.

Well, the big news in the UK paper was a story about finding the oldest church in Jamestown.

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### **Discovered after 400 years: The oldest church in America... where Pocahontas married Englishman John Rolfe**

The site where legendary Native American heroine Pocahontas married tobacco planter John Rolfe in 1614 has been discovered by a prominent U.S. archaeologist. William Kelso says the remains of the oldest U.S. Protestant church which hosted the ceremony has been uncovered in Jamestown, Virginia. The area was excavated to reveal several large post holes six-and-a-half feet deep and remnants of four graves.

Mr Kelso told AFP: 'It's fantastically exciting and significant because Jamestown is usually depicted - the whole early settlement depicted - as it was carried out by lazy gentlemen who wanted to get rich quick, and go right back to England.' And he is certain this is where Algonquian chief Powhatan's daughter said her vows.

The colony - the first permanent European settlement in North America - was founded in 1607 by a group of about 100 men who landed on commission from England.

Pocahontas, well-known in American history, was immortalised with the 1995 release of an animated Walt Disney film that focused on her meeting Englishman John Smith, turning it into a romance.

But it is her meeting Rolfe that is credited with easing tensions between the British and the Indians for nearly a decade. Pocahontas was later renamed Rebecca after she was captured by the English and held for ransom at the height of hostilities.

Source: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2066951/Found-After-nearly-400-years-site-Pocahontas-married-Englishman-John-Rolfe.html>

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I elected to head back toward the interstate. I found an Econolodge – called it and the rate was \$39 so I stayed there. (Exit 41). No place to eat nearby so I had to venture to next exit to find a nice Hong Kong Buffet (exit 47). Motel was nothing to write home about – it worked. It poured that night. In the morning it was still pouring down rain, the parking lot was flooded, and it was 300 feet to the breakfast room. The umbrella was in the car, too, unfortunately. I got drenched getting to the car 20 feet away....then drove over to the breakfast room, had a nice breakfast, then drove back to my room, loaded up the car, and left. The rain finally just changed to a constant drizzle all day that day. I finished running the eastern half with Matthews, Lancaster, Northumberland, etc – again, lots of wet lines so you run them all individually. Most of the roads are narrow enough you can't park on the shoulders, either! You've got to find a driveway or other spot to pull over and run. Sometimes you need to go a half mile or more into the county just to find a spot to pull over (a driveway). Otherwise, you wind up on a 45 degree slope, or worse, down in the gully.

17M was working great – as many contacts were made on 17 as 20 in many counties. YV5OIE is there, and OH3JF and DL3IAC are there part of the day as well.

It was getting late. I decided to skip Stafford and head up 301 through MD to avoid the usual mess on I95 on holiday weekends – it can back up for hours. Well, Maryland 301 wasn't much better through Charles County – you have about 20 miles of traffic lights and everyone was out shopping it seems. That took an extra hour but fortunately pulled into the driveway at 6pm on Wednesday before Turkey Day. It had been 4 days of dreary skies and lots of drizzle and a few real gully washers on the way up.

Like most, I ate and ate and ate – lots of turkey and other good things. Not much was going on.

The family usually heads over to the Birchmere on Friday or Saturday night to see the Dry Branch Firesquad and Seldom Scene. This year was a 40<sup>th</sup> year one night only re-union for the Seldom Scene – and dang, tickets sold out before we could get some. Just one show on Saturday and they were gone early. There wasn't too much reason to hang around and things are usually mobbed at places like museums and attractions, and the last place to be is the shopping malls. I had caught a cold, so I just decided to head back home two days early. I could pick up a few of the missed stragglers along the way.

Continued in part III

## More Epic Greenie Fail

Minnesotans for Global Warming report that in the last 30 years, the United States has had 14,000 wind turbines abandoned. Apparently, once the subsidies and the wind run out, these 20-story high Cuisinarts are de-bladed and retired. This means more bats and migratory birds will live.

From Minnesotans for Global Warming: “The symbol of Green renewable energy, our savior from the non existent problem of Global Warming, abandoned wind farms are starting to litter the planet as globally governments cut the subsidies taxes that consumers pay for the privilege of having a very expensive power source that does not work every day for various reasons like it’s too cold or the wind speed is too high.”

Andrew Walden of American Thinker explored nearly 2 years ago the demise of the 37-turbine wind farm at Kamaoa Wind Farm in Hawaii: “Built in 1985, at the end of the boom, Kamaoa soon suffered from lack of maintenance. In 1994, the site lease was purchased by Redwood City, CA-based Apollo Energy. Cannibalizing parts from the original 37 turbines, Apollo personnel kept the declining facility going with outdated equipment. But even in a place where wind-shaped trees grow sideways, maintenance issues were overwhelming. By 2004 Kamaoa accounts began to show up on a Hawaii State Department of Finance list of unclaimed properties. In 2006, transmission was finally cut off by Hawaii Electric Company. California’s wind farms — then comprising about 80% of the world’s wind generation capacity — ceased to generate much more quickly than Kamaoa. In the best wind spots on earth, over 14,000 turbines were simply abandoned. Spinning, post-industrial junk which generates nothing but bird kills.”

When an honest history of this period in the United States is written, it will no be kind to the corporate cronyism that preyed upon public ignorance of earth science to create a crisis — global warming — to exploit and loot the Treasury.

Source: <http://blogs.dailymail.com/donsurber/archives/46519>



## On the Road with N4CD Part III

The weather was supposed to get rainy again, so I headed from Montgomery MD Friday instead of the usual Sunday. I could squeeze in a day before the big CQ WW CW contest made a mess of 20 and 40 meters hitting some new counties. It was chilly – 30 degrees and it took five minutes to warm up the car, get the windshield scraped free of frost, and get underway. I packed up the car then headed for Stafford County VA straight down the interstate. Traffic was light – many had the day off, and the huge influx to the malls hadn't happened yet – it was Black Friday.. Stafford came up quick, and then it was west over to Highland, VA. You pass through a lot of historic Virginia – this time Civil war battle grounds where the war raged back and forth as union and confederate troops spilled a lot of blood fighting battle after battle.

We've got a few county hunters really interested in civil war history, too, back that way.

In a few hours, I made it over to Highlands, VA – up on Shenandoah Mountain at the County Line up 3000 feet with a great view, a small area with restroom, and place to put it out. I had missed AB4YZ there a few months before – just couldn't copy him.



Highland County VA  
Genuine Percy Pic

Then I headed south on a small road (40 mph) down to Bath, VA another one I needed and many others did. (LC WBOW for AA9JJ). It was a small one and half lane twisty cow path. Paved, but you worked turning the steering wheel back and forth as it meandered along a small stream and the road was between the stream and hillside. Continuing on the small road finally got me to Allegany – and then down to the Roanoke area where I picked up an interstate spur and route 220 down to Franklin. Success. It was getting dark, so the next thing was finding a motel.

I found an Econolodge in Salem VA. The Super 8 wanted too much money, and the Econolodge across the road had outside door units – making it easier to carry the stuff into the room. \$49 including the tax.

I walked over to a nearly Shoney's for dinner- it was Friday night, and they had a 'seafood buffet' for a extra 2 bucks (no choice) so that's what dinner was. Or you could order off the menu. I like places with buffets because you can get fruit and veggies as well as meat and potatoes, etc. Otherwise the diet suffers on a trip. I was fighting a head cold so I was just interested in getting home after that. The forecast was for 'wintry mix' in two days so it was time to 'get out of dodge' and miss any winter weather. I had to scrape the windshield again that morning.

The next day was mostly on the interstate, with a detour down to Grayson. The CQ WW DX contest was raging on CW, and the usual frequency of 14.0565 was useless. Same for 7056.5 much of the day. I spent a lot of time on 40M SSB and 17M, which worked well. I'd QSY to 20cw on 14.113, but usually not all that many takers, and I was making tracks and not stopping to try to spot myself. It was nearly all 'green stamp' counties on the way home after one in VA and one in TN off the interstate.

I punched in Speedwell, the town I wanted to get to down near Grayson, and the GPS took me down lots of cowpaths. Sometimes you just have to look at the map and go your own way. Likely I could have saved time by going down highway 21, but the cowpath route must have been 'shorter' but certainly was no faster!. Oh well. I need to learn to ignore the GPS more!

30-40 years ago, I spent 11 years in central VA. That was about the time of the Carter 'Energy Crunch' (self made 'shortage'). There were wood stoves popping up everywhere. I remembered the smell of wood stove smoke (pretty intense when you were in valleys with no breeze). It was the same on many of the roads in VA with the temps in the 30s and 40s. You'd go down into a 'hollow' with a house, and you'd often almost choke on the strong smell of wood smoke. Lots of the rural houses there burn wood all winter long. Same in New England, too. Or all over the midwest outside the big towns.

I ran up to the county line. It's just before a ridge but not a great spot going west with hills blocking the signal. The K3IMC site listed a bunch of needs for Grayson, VA. I tried two spots – had decent runs but it could have been better. I have 3 left in VA for MD. Maybe some else will run Lee, Wise and Page – or I'll get them on another trip. I headed back to Rural Retreat and the interstate zipping down to TN.

About that time, Ralph, WB4FFV, indicates that he needs a rework for Scott, VA. He had worked them all, but waited and waited to send out MRCs. It seems some were now for silent keys and no way to get confirmed, and some others just never came back. So he is having to fill in about 20 or 25 'reworks'. Terry, WQ7A, indicated it was a few miles off exit 1. I checked the map and sure enough, not too much of a detour, so I took it, ran up the highway to the county line sign, took the next road to the left and found a driveway to park in. (noisy at the county line). Worked Ralph and that need is gone. Then back to the interstate.



Washington/Scott County Line  
detour for WB4FFV  
Genuine 'percy pic'

Well, Murphy has a way of changing plans and mucking things up. Just east of Knoxville on the interstate, a green BMW headed east lost control, crossed the median, and tangled with two cars and an 18 wheeler headed west, killing one and sending two in critical condition to the hospital. I put Channel 19 into the IC-706 in memory for just such backups. Without an resonant antenna, it still receives local signals and of course, the east bound truckers were yakking away indicating what the problem was. Not good. A giant mess with all lanes shut down. I don't have an AM filter in the radio, so it's not the worlds greatest audio, but it works. Better than sitting clueless wondering what is going on. I saw a lot of others checking their

iPhones to see if they could find out what the backup cause was.

The interstate was closed westbound just before noon – and didn't re open for 5 1/2 hours. I was 4 miles from an exit and it took 2 hours to move those 4 miles. All traffic was routed off the interstate onto back highways. That took another 45 minutes to go about five miles and get back on the interstate. So I was 'behinder'. Oh well. Three hours of creep, crawl, and sit. It wasn't fun but there was no alternative. I'd bet the interstate backed up 20 miles or more. I did see a few 4 wheel SUV and trucks manage to cross the median and head back miles to an exit, and maybe find an alternate route – which likely got backed up too quickly. Cars would get stuck.

Later than evening as I checked the Knoxville news, folks were blogging about the need for 'median cables'. You'll see them in some places along the interstate. 3 or 4 heavy cables down in the median gulch to prevent cars from getting across the median and causing such accidents.

Later, the east bound lanes backed up 10 miles as rubber neckers simply backed up traffic. The east bound lanes were moving 3 mph even though nothing was blocking any of the traffic!

I still managed to get to Morgan TN, then it was time to zip on for a few more miles.

I headed west on I40 to Cookeville – I had stayed at a Super 8 there many times. I noticed a sign for 'the new Red Roof Inn' and a special of \$42.99/night as I drove along. OK...good reference point.

I pulled off the interstate as it was getting dark. I had gained an hour moving from Eastern to Central time. I drove to the Super 8 – duh! It was now a Red Roof. Same place, new name! Well, it worked fine before, their sign said free breakfast – so I decided to check in. They quoted me \$49.99 with AARP or AAA or senior rate. I said 'What about that highway sign that advertised \$42.99?' She said 'Oh, that, you have to ask for it!' “ Saved 7 bucks plus the tax on it! Almost paid for dinner.

I took it....saved a few bucks by having noticed the sign! Dinner over at the nearly Golden Corral. Sneak out the back truck entrance and avoid all the lights and traffic. Same free breakfast with waffles at the motel.

In the morning it was chilly again, and once again I got to scrape the windshield to get the frost off. Then it was westbound on the interstate, hoping to get home by dark – a long 600 plus mile drive. No major backups, but heavy traffic but it kept moving. It was the Sunday after Thanksgiving and many folks were traveling home. As I hit Texas, the sun came out and it was nice the rest of the way home (160 miles).

I pulled in the driveway by 6pm as it was getting very dark. It was going to get down to

freezing. The cold had followed me home. It looks like winter has moved in to much of the country. 3350 miles on the trip, piles of counties, got MD contact in every needed county and gave out a lot of contacts for the folks. Hope you got something you needed.

## More Greenie Epic Fail

### More Green Energy Fail

Google has quietly abandoned an alternative energy program that it launched with great fanfare just two years ago. Google's "Renewable Energy Cheaper than Coal" project featured all the hallmarks of the pie-in-the-sky energy mongers, especially the "it's-just-around-the-corner" trope. Google's green energy czar at the launch, Bill Weihl, predicted that renewable electricity cheaper than coal would be achieved quickly: "In three years, we could have multiple megawatts of plants out there."

A few months after that announcement, Google invested \$38 million in two North Dakota wind farms built by NextEra Energy Resources, with 169 megawatts of capacity, enough to power 55,000 homes. Here's what the *Wall Street Journal* said about it at the time:

"Google said it is investing directly in projects to accelerate the deployment of the latest clean-energy technology while providing attractive returns to Google and more capital for developers to build additional projects."

But the next paragraph gave away the game:

"Google's stakes in the wind farms are 'tax equity' investments, in which investors buy into a project and use federal tax credits granted to the project to offset their own taxes."

And this is even more illuminating:

"A Google spokesman said the electricity generated by the wind farms wouldn't be used to power the company's data centers, which house networks of computer servers. Google's power usage is unclear; it doesn't disclose how many data centers it operates or where each is located. Last year, it said its data centers were the most efficient in the world, so far as it was able to determine, but declined to say how much power it actually uses."

So, you can't power data centers on windmills? Who knew? But now Google has said "never mind" to the whole idea. And their green energy czar, Weihl, left Google a month ago. I'm sure he can get a job at Solyndra.

Source: <http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2011/11/more-green-energy-fail.php>

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Bottom line: Google won't use wind power – too unreliable, and it only embraced the concept because it could purchase many dollars more 'tax credits' than it cost to buy them – thus scamming the taxpayers and laughing all the way to the bank with taxpayer dollars thrown at greenie projects!

When there were no more tax credits to be bought, suddenly it's not so good an idea. Windfarms are failing left and right.

## More Greenie Climate Corruption!

### **Newsbytes: BBC In Cahoots With Climategate Scientists,**

Britain's leading green activist research centre spent £15,000 on seminars for top BBC executives in an apparent bid to block climate change sceptics from the airwaves, a vast new cache of leaked 'Climategate' emails has revealed. The emails – part of a trove of more than 5,200 messages that appear to have been stolen from computers at the University of East Anglia – shed light for the first time on an incestuous web of interlocking relationships between BBC journalists and the university's scientists, which goes back more than a decade. They show that University staff vetted BBC scripts, used their contacts at the Corporation to stop sceptics being interviewed and were consulted about how the broadcaster should alter its programme output. BBC insiders say the close links between the Corporation and the UEA's two climate science departments, the Climatic Research Unit (CRU) and the Tyndall Centre for Climate Research, have had a significant impact on its coverage. —

Using research money to evangelise one point of view and suppress another defies everything I ever learnt about the scientific method. These emails go to the heart of the BBC's professed impartiality... its actions must be investigated. —

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2011/11/27/newsbytes-bbc-in-cahoots-with-climategate-scientists-prime-minister-green-guru-publicly-doubts-climate-change/>

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It turns out millions of dollars of BBC pension funds were invested in European Carbon Credits and AL Gore type investments in greenie energy, and if they failed, the BBC pension funds would take a big hit. It seems BBC execs were out to protect their pocketbooks and make a killing extorting money out of consumers for greenie taxes and fees. They had every reason to push 'climate change' whether there was scientific evidence or not. It was profit motivated!

## Stuff From Ebay

Way back in the day of mobiling, one of the devices you might use in your antenna system was made by Master Mobile. Normally you use something like an 8 foot high whip, mounted low on the car on a body mount, or maybe on a bumper mount. Inside the car, you'd have some sort of tuning unit.

Here is something from Ebay – a complete Master Mobile set up – the tuning coil, which was electrically operated, and the control box which went up front in the car. You put a six or 8 foot mast on your bumper mount or body mount, and ran a short lead to the tuning coil. It was a predecessor of the 'screwdriver' antenna.





You had a VSWR meter, so you could tune for minimum SWR. This one ran off 12V. Earlier ones ran off 6 volts because cars had 6v electrical systems way back when. Sold for \$50 on Ebay. Also included was 'Mobile Matcher' to help provide your rig with a better match.

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Now that you've been exposed to all those Boy Scout radios of the 50s, 60s in previous issues, a really rare Air Champ B battery eliminator showed up on Ebay. Ever since entertainment radios were invented in the 1920s, people were coming up with B battery eliminators. Of course, part of the problem was that only half the homes had A/C power back in the 1920s. Another part was that you had to use tubes to rectify the a/c line current to DC, meaning that you needed a power transformer, filament windings for the rectifier tube, and another winding for the B+ voltage, plus the cost of the rectifier tube and associated parts. There were no diodes, and selenium rectifiers didn't show up till the 1950s. Before that, it was a tube rectifier. There was no easy way to provide DC current at the right voltage to the battery radios at the current needed.

Well, fast forward to the 1950s and the 'selenium' rectifier, then soon after the silicon diode rectifier, but simple radios (like those offered to Boy Scouts) ran off batteries. The B batteries were often a couple bucks back in the 60s. Batteries for the filaments were cheap flashlight batteries or bigger lantern type batteries. The B battery cost a lot but lasted a long time if you remembered to turn the radio off, and didn't turn the volume up too high.

Air Champ must have made a few of these. I've never seen one before, and just saw one ad for them in back issues of Magazines. Likely most of the scout radios got built, played with for a while, then put on a shelf or back in a closet.





This would power either of the two tube type radio kits they sold – the one tube one which took 22.5 volts, and the two tube one which used a 90v battery and could drive a small speaker on loud stations (with an outside antenna). You still had to have a big 1.5v battery (F cells) which were very common back then for filaments.

You'll see some of the 1920 vintage 'battery eliminators' go by on Ebay. Nothing but trouble with 80 year old transformers, 80 year old insulation and 80 year old capacitors. Then at the end of the 1920s, nearly every set quickly moved to A/C. A few farm type radios were still made, most of which ran off 24V, the common power of wind charger systems.

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From the way back machine, circa 1962, here's a Progressive Edu-Kit. This kit would allow you to build 12 different radios. They were all simple radios with grid-leak detectors! You had a triode grid leak, a pentode grid leak detector, a triode detector with a triode RF amp in front, a triode grid leak with a one stage audio amp. It used a 'resistance' power cord – to drop the line voltage down for the filaments. For example, it was designed for an average of 2 x 12v of filament power. One tube ran hot, and 3 a little bit undervoltage. It dropped the 117v down to 6-18v with a resistance wire built into the power cord. Yes, it got quite 'warm' in operation, and this was a 'hot chassis' where you could electrocute yourself if you weren't careful. There was no cabinet. This kit was sold in the 40s and 50s and 60s and on its last legs in 1962 when this was sold. Those resistance line cords, since they heated up significantly, also made the insulation crack fairly quickly and they became real safety hazards quickly. You didn't want the cord under anything and you wanted it out in the open.

During the late 1940s, the 1950s and 60s, a column or full-page ad for the "Progressive Radio Edu-Kit" appeared in nearly every issue of **Popular Electronics**, **Electronics Illustrated**, and similar magazines. **Build 16 Radio Circuits at Home. Become a Radio technician for only \$22.95.** The ad said you could build 12 receivers and learn much about electronics while building the various radio circuits. The "Edu-Kit radio course" was sold by L. I. Electrolabs, Inc., of Hewlett, NY. The company was also listed as Progressive Edu-Kits, Inc., 1184-86 Broadway in Hewlett, NY in other ads.

Resistance line cords were popular in many radios and electronic devices in the 30s and 40s. Some things like 'phone oscillators', which allowed you to play a phonograph turntable through a normal AM radio (they were micro broadcast stations) used maybe two 50v filament tubes, and there were actually some 117v filament tubes. Others used a 'resistance line cord' to save on putting in an expensive transformer and rectifier tube, and maybe two 6 or 12v tubes.

Some resistance line cord sets continued into the 50s. You had a 3 wire cord. The 'common'

wire, the resistance wire for the dropping of the voltage for the filaments, and the 'hot wire' rectified to get the DC to run the radio. If you had 3 12v tubes, you would have to drop 80 volts or so across the line cord resistance. If those tubes took 150 milliamps of current for the filament (typical), then according to ohm's law, there would be  $E \times I$  watts of power ( $80v \times 0.150$  amps) dissipated in the line cord resistance, or 12 watts in a 3 or 4 foot long line cord! Can you say 'hot'? UL regulations did away with them on most 'consumer devices' after WW2. Folks didn't want 'fire hazards' around and neither did insurance companies.

You could buy them in half a dozen standard specific resistances. They were finally replaced for most applications with the 'All American Five' set that used five tubes that totaled up to 117V or very close to it – such as a 50C5 audio tube, 35W4 rectifier, and 3 12v tubes like 12-xxx's.

In the early 1960s, the National Electric Code was changed. That made it impossible to sell kits that allowed the 'final kit' to have exposed 117v on the bottom, back, top, or side of the unit. In other words, it had to be in a cabinet. It meant that the Knight Ocean Hopper and Span Master had to be sold with the former 'cabinet option'. It meant this kit vanished as they didn't even have a cabinet for it. Same for other kits at the time.





It was all wired point to point. Exposed power on the chassis top, side and bottom, and HV on the headphone leads.

Here's a page with even more info;

<http://www.ohio.edu/people/posr/bapix/EduKit.htm>

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Here's another interesting goodie – an MRL Kit receiver from the 1960s. It's a one tube regen with plug in coils and was sold by Modern Radio Labs, which advertises that it is the oldest radio manufacturer and publisher in existence, starting in 1932

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

This MRL kit on Ebay used a single 1C5 pentode vacuum tube, plug in coils, and would cover the BC band and some short wave bands.



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Here's another kit from the 1960s. It's a Norelco brand, made by Phillips, 3 transistor "Radio Engineer" kit. When assembled, you would have a 3 transistor radio which would drive a loudspeaker. It included a cabinet. You could also build one or two other radios with fewer transistors.



Norelco, the name Phillips used, was located in Europe, had 2 or 3 'educational kits' for youngsters. (Electronics lab and a mechanical lab). This particular one, brand new in the box in the original packaging, never touched, sold for \$113.50 on Ebay. Ouch! (It was a 'reflex' design to be able to drive a speaker with only 3 transistors, and had a large ferrite loopstick antenna. These kits were advertised in Boy's Life in the 1967 Time Frame (you can find the ads on line on Google Books).

Here's a page on Phillips (Norelco) kits sold world wide

<http://www.hansotten.com/index.php?page=ee8-a20-e20>

That's the highlights of Ebay surfing. Lots of boatanchors from the 50s, 60s, and 70s each month. Likely the old rig you used way back when is being sold by someone at some point during the year. It brings back lots of memories....and you can surf to your heart's content for free.

Well, found one more!

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Here's another rare goodie from the 1950s. It's a Science Electronics "Erec-Tronic" set made by Science Electronics, 485 Main Street, Cambridge, MA. The instruction book for the unit has a 1955 copyright date on it.

They advertise you can make '12 different radios, plus a code practice oscillator and phono oscillator type transmitter.

Most people who are familiar with mid 20'th century electronics and the name "Electronic"\* associate that name with A.C. Gilbert Company's "electronic Erector sets", sold around 1960. These sets allow someone, even a child, to assemble a working radio set in a few minutes without using tools, or soldering.

What the Electronic set consists of and how it is used can be summed up by the following "instructions" almost quoted from the box lid of one of the sets:

1. Place template (printed page) on mounting board (pegboard, also called a breadboard) with holes in template lined up with holes in board.
2. Place electronic parts, already mounted on numbered plastic bases, in places shown on template.
3. Use clip-on wires to make solderless connections with terminal posts on each component's base.

The unique feature of the Electronic set was its Jiffy Connector (tm) which was the wire with clips at the ends. The clip itself was patented by an A.R. Jubenville in 1951, the patent number is 2,578,360. The U-shaped clip is typically of solid steel or bronze wire, and for the Electronic set parts, clips onto a metal terminal post about 1/8" in diameter.

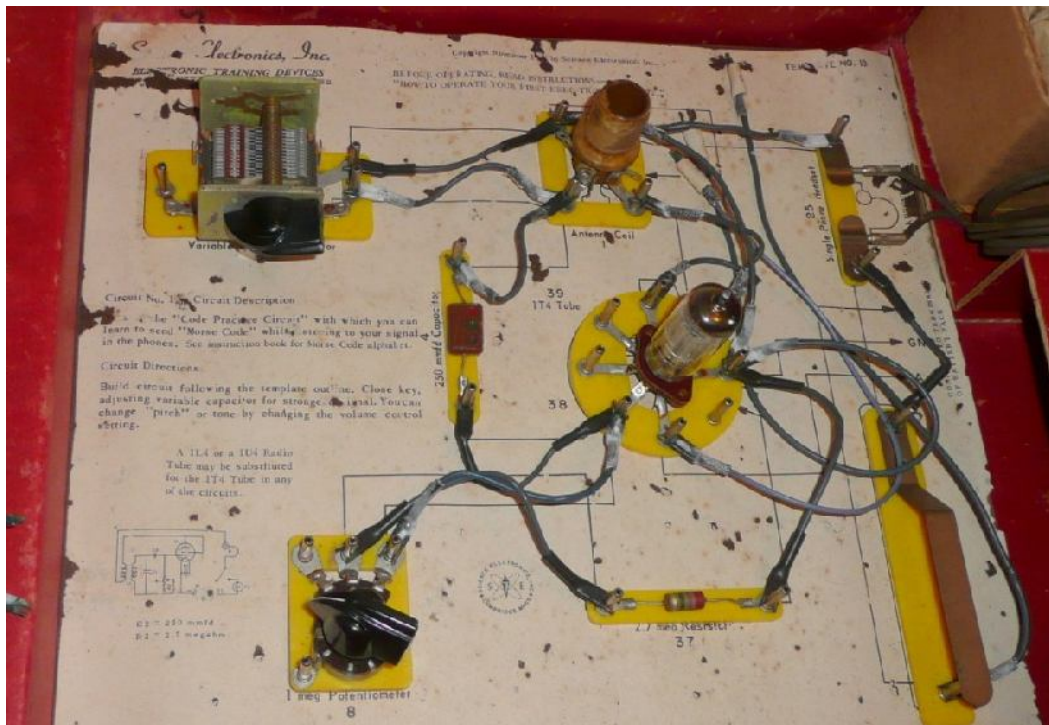
A.C. Gilbert introduced its line of Erec tronic sets around 1958. But for a few years prior, a small company in Cambridge, Mass. named Science Electronics, Inc. manufactured, marketed,

and sold them, under the names "Electronic Set" and "Electronic System". Undoubtedly the name "electronic" alluded to "Erector", a famous Gilbert trademark for the latter's metal girder toy construction sets.

Some later sets are labeled "Science Electronics, Inc. division of General Electronics Laboratories".

According to the dates on their instruction manuals, the first toy Erec-tronic set that Science Electronics produced was their model T-200 (one vacuum tube, 1955) followed by the T-150 (one transistor, 1956) and then the T-175 (two transistors, 1958). The tube set used one flashlight battery (cell) and a 45 volt radio "B" battery. Portable radios of the era were similarly powered, with a 1-1/2 volt "A" battery to heat the tube filaments and a 45 to 90 volt "B" battery as the primary power supply. The Electronic transistor sets used just a single flashlight battery that was supposed to be able to power the radio for ten days playing continuously.

Below is one of circuits. – You put an overlay over the basic frame, then put on the press on parts. The circuit is wired with 'push on' "Jiffy Clip" terminals. No soldering necessary. It's a 1T4 tube, battery operated, naturally.



Erec-Tronic T-200 kit



Literature for the toy sets proclaimed "This is not a dead-end set. ... with Add-to-it kits more circuits can be built ...".

#201 -- Booster stage with one vacuum tube

#202 -- Booster stage with vacuum tube and loudspeaker

#203 -- Geiger counter kit

This writer has not seen any descriptions of Add-to-it kits for the transistor Erec-tronic sets although the above Add-to-it kits together with a 45 volt battery could be used with those sets also.

Science Electronics' primary product line was industrial grade sets for use in trade schools and colleges. Most were packed in wood cases about the size of attache cases or suitcases depending on sophistication. Usually the perforated breadboard was in the lid. These sets also bore the Erec-tronic name. Some were quite large, with hundreds of components, for example the model BE-8 which came in a 26" x 22" x 12" wood case with plastic parts drawers and which weighed nearly 90 pounds

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and one more....

Here's something from the 60s and 70s. It's a rare Ten Tec S-30 Signalizer, which is a unit with speaker and AVC'd Audio Amp and 400 Hz CW Filter.



Ten Tec Model "S-30 Signalizer" Audio System Accessory for use with the Ten-Tec Models 505/509 Argonaut Series Transceivers, as well as the Ten Tec 315 receiver i

This unit is styled to match the 505 / 509 Argonauts, as well as the PowerMite(QRP) and

Triton I and II series of transceivers.

## Aptera - Another Greenie Car Fail

Bummer for fans of teardrop shaped three-wheelers, as your favorite chariot, Aptera's 2e, will never see the light of day. Despite getting the ball rolling on a \$150 million loan from the DOE, subsequent funding and time just weren't on the startup's side. An unfortunate prognosis, as CEO Paul Wilbur revealed the company had been working on a \$30,000 mid-sized sedan that would have touted 190 miles of electrical range. He's still adamant the company had "never been closer" to realizing its vision, but hopes someone else can carry on Aptera's torch. Those nuggets and more await in what is possibly the company's final tell-all after the break.

“After years of focused effort to bring our products to the market, Aptera Motors is closing its doors, effective today. This is a difficult time for everyone connected with our company because we have never been closer to realizing our vision. Unfortunately, though, we are out of resources.”

Source: Aptera press release.

## Gored Enough, Yet?

As in Al Gore and the Greenies

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The billionaire investor Warren Buffett has agreed to buy a solar power farm in California worth \$2bn .

Buffett's MidAmerican Energy Holdings will take over Topaz Solar Farm, which is expected to produce enough power to run 160,000 homes when it is up and running in 2015. The farm, halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco, is the world's second-largest photovoltaic plant under construction and is expected to generate 550-megawatts of electricity or about half the power of a nuclear reactor.



The deal comes hot on the heels of a string of green energy investments by the famous investor. MidAmerican, which is part of Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway empire, is the largest wind energy provider in the US where it operates more than a dozen wind farms.

MidAmerican sealed the deal for Topaz on Wednesday, a day after the seller, First Solar, failed to secure a US government loan guarantee for the project. The terms of the deal were not disclosed, but First Solar's difficulties securing funding for the vast project suggests Buffett probably got a good deal. First Solar will continue to build the farm on behalf of Berkshire and it is due to open in early 2015.

Greg Abel, chief executive officer of MidAmerican, said: "[Topaz] demonstrates that solar energy is a commercially viable technology without the support of governmental loan guarantees."

**Analysts suggested Buffett is moving from wind to solar power to take advantage of lucrative tax breaks. Gerard Reid, an analyst at Jefferies, said: "The reason for the move from wind to solar is very simple. Tax credits for wind in the US expire at the end of next year, while solar ones run till 2015."**

In February Buffett, the world's third-richest man, said he was keen to make a fresh wave of "major acquisitions". "Our elephant gun has been reloaded, and my trigger finger is itchy," he told investors in his annual letter to shareholders.

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2011/dec/07/warren-buffett-invests-in-solar-energy>

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How's that?

He takes hundreds of millions of tax credits (from you, Hayseedian)....laughs all the way to the bank....and, with those tax credits, winds up paying no income taxes to the feds. He laughs a bit more. He's the one not paying taxes. He could care less what the tax rates on the rich are, because, thanks to you and all the subsidies and tax credits, he's not going to be paying much in income taxes! Either by his company, or personally. (you can raise the tax rates on the 'rich' all you want – he won't be paying your tax rates).

Oh, but like most of the greenie investors, he seems to be buddy buddy with Mr Obama who keeps the greenie money flowing like honey. And those more important 'tax credits' for these greenie projects that get bought and sold, or get taken whether the company succeeds or not!

## Your Tax Dollars at Work

This is going to help the Defense Department weather looming budget cuts, for sure. Teaming up with the Department of Agriculture (which has a cheery Rotary Club ring to it), the Navy has purchased 450,000 gallons of biofuel for about \$16 a gallon, or about 4 times the price of its standard marine fuel, JP-5, which has been going for under \$4 a gallon.

You won't be surprised to learn that a member of Obama's presidential transition team, T. J. Glauthier, is a "strategic advisor" at Solazyme, the California company that is selling a portion of the biofuel to the Navy. Glauthier worked – shock, shock – on the energy-sector portion of the 2009 stimulus bill.

The Navy sale isn't Solazyme's first trip to the public trough, of course. The company got a \$21.8 million grant from the 2009 stimulus package.

Solazyme's partner in the biofuel sale is Dynamic Fuels, a Louisiana company owned jointly by Tyson Foods and Tulsa-based Syntroleum. Tyson and Syntroleum are distinguished by having profitable lines of business that do not rely on government grants to unprofitable "green" projects. This does not make their biofuel product price-competitive with fossil fuels, however. (They were induced to develop biofuel manufacturing processes by a combination of subsidies and tax breaks.)

At a time when federal debt is spiraling and the Defense Department is facing budget cuts that are guaranteed to gut the fighting forces and render them ineffective, it seems to border on insane to eschew a ready, significantly cheaper alternative and require the armed services to quadruple what they pay for fuel as a proof of concept – apparently with the idea that the forces should buy more of the 4-times-as-expensive fuel.

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Sure doesn't hurt to have 'high level' connections to the Obama administration does it? How do you like being ripped off by greenie corruption?

<http://hotair.com/greenroom/archives/2011/12/10/navy-buys-biofuel-for-16-a-gallon/>

At the same time the pentagon is complaining it 'can't cut any spending', we're throwing billions down greenie rat holes. (oops, make that well connected DEMOCRATIC campaign contribution folks bank accounts).

# Brain Test

Good example of a Brain Study: If you can read this you have a strong mind:

F1gur471v3ly 5p34k1ng?

7H15 M3554G3

53RV35 7O PR0V3

H0W 0UR M1ND5 C4N

D0 4M4Z1NG 7H1NG5!

1MPR3551V3 7H1NG5!

1N 7H3 B3G1NN1NG

17 WA5 H4RD BU7

N0W, 0N 7H15 LIN3

Y0UR M1ND 1S

R34D1NG 17

4U70M471C4LLY

W17H 0U7 3V3N

7H1NK1NG 4B0U7 17,

B3 PROUD! 0NLY

C3R741N P30PL3 C4N

R3AD 7H15.

# Antique Radios

There's an interesting free newsletter out there that folks with interest in old radios might wish to check out. It's on line.

This month, there's a good article on early tubes, an article on selecting a soldering iron, and an article on fixing up your old battery operated radio

Check it out at:

<http://www.antiquewireless.org/pdf/GatewayV1no4.pdf>

# Solyndra – European Edition

This week Solon became the first publicly traded solar-power company to file for bankruptcy in Germany. Despite cost-cutting and a round of last-minute negotiations, the Berlin-based photovoltaic equipment maker can't make its deadline to repay €275 million in loans. You could call Solon a European version of Solyndra, the California solar-cell maker that filed for bankruptcy in September after blowing through a \$535 million loan guaranteed by U.S. taxpayers. But Solon also represents a broader bust in alternative-energy sources that's been more than a decade in the making.

Germany's Northern European climate never made it an obvious boom-site for solar power. Nevertheless, since 1990 Germany has been imposing some form of what are now called "feed-in tariffs"—mandates that force utilities to pay above-market prices for wind, solar and other so-called renewable sources of energy. These guaranteed long-term prices deliver renewable-powered electricity at retail prices 46% above conventional sources, according to research by Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

For that premium, Germans bought an electricity market that relies on renewable energy for more than 20% of capacity today, compared to 6.3% in 2000. They have installed more solar panels than any other country in the world. Between 2010 and 2011, the number of photovoltaic installations in Germany increased 76%, according to the German Association of

Energy and Water Industries.

As the solar glut grew, the government of Angela Merkel decided it wouldn't make Germans subsidize high-cost energy forever. Berlin has been ratcheting down the mandated tariffs for the last few years, and in October it said the price-floor for solar power would drop by 15% in 2012.

The only wonder in all this is why anyone is surprised. Spain offered a gloomy precursor to the Solon bust in 2008, when it reduced its own solar giveaways and saw the industry tank. German solar-cell manufacturer Q-Cells is cutting 250 jobs and said in November it expects its full-year operating loss to come to "hundreds of millions" of euros. The same month Bonn-based SolarWorld announced a 30% revenue drop from the year before and continued to trim jobs.

Over in Britain, solar firms SolarCentury and HomeSun remain in court, trying to force their government to abandon its plans to cut feed-in tariffs. If they succeed, they'll buy themselves a few more years with enough subsidies to keep them off the Solyndra/Solon path. Maybe they'd be better off dropping the lawyers and adopting a business plan that makes profit less dependent on political favor.

Source: Wall Street Journal

## Curry County Oregon – or Not

**In Curry County, Oregon's financial dependence on federal forest policy brings ruin in sight**

On any given day, there may be no place in Oregon prettier than Curry County. Broad flat beaches, many littered with agate and quartz. The Rogue, Elk, Illinois and Chetco rivers rushing from forest to sea. The Kalmiopsis Wilderness.

And on any given day, in winter, at least 10 degrees warmer than where you're at. The far southwest corner is Oregon's banana belt.

On this given day, however, in a chilly, unadorned room at the Curry County Fairgrounds, 24 people sit at bare tables shaped into a U. Powerpoint presentations flash up front. A pair of mediators bustle a cordless microphone here and there, because you have to take turns speaking.

It's the end of November. Curry County government may fold next summer. The federal faucet that poured \$230 million a year into Oregon counties is shut off. The political stalemate in Washington stymies a restoration.

Curry's not alone, just the first. Coos, Josephine, Klamath and Lane counties -- all deeply dependent on federally owned natural resource land -- are bunched up to follow Curry off the cliff.

Curry knew this day was coming but didn't do anything. About 61 percent of its general fund and 65 percent of its road fund revenues came from federal payments.

Without timber payments, Curry's expenses will exceed general fund revenue by more than \$350,000 in 2012-13. The deficit grows to more than \$3 million the next year, the county projects.

"It's anybody's guess," Commissioner Dave Itzen says, "how long we last."

The federal and state governments own 60 percent of Curry County, much in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. Sometimes, county residents approach Alan Vandiver on the street and let him know things would be better if the U.S. Forest Service just opened up the woods for more logging.

Vandiver, the Gold Beach district ranger, is a patient man with a mustache. He hears them out, then asks, "Are you aware we sold 20 million board feet off the Powers and Gold Beach ranger districts last year?"

He acknowledges the districts might have produced 80 million board feet of timber annually, back in the old unsustainable days. Today, logging is part of a puzzle that includes jobs, owls, fish, recreation, watersheds.

"Could we responsibly cut more for the right reason?" he asks. "Yes."

It is gospel in Curry County that Mike Keiser, developer of the internationally acclaimed Bandon Dunes golf courses and resort, first wanted to build near Gold Beach. True or not, missed economic opportunity is a sour spot in the community memory. Bo Schindler, general manager of Freeman Marine Equipment recalls attending a meeting at Bandon Dunes and stepping outside to count 110 golf bags at the first tee.

"At \$225 a pop!" he exclaims.

Imagine that tourism money here, the grumblers say, not to mention property taxes. Instead, Keiser built in Coos County, just north.

When the commissioners tried to jump into golf course development last summer, the deal fell apart. It required a land swap of more than 600 acres in the state-owned Floras Lake State Natural Area, and the state wasn't interested.

The commissioners approved another golf course and destination resort development at Crook Point, between Gold Beach and Brookings, but environmental groups appealed. The state Land Use Board of Appeals sided with them and sent it back to the county.

Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden sponsored a bill to restore federal funding four more years, at reduced amounts. The bill has a chance in the Senate, but not in the House, Griffin says.

Meanwhile, a bill in the House to restructure federal resource land management and designate land for harvests might pass the House, Griffin says, but not the Senate. Even if either passed, counties wouldn't immediately see more money.

Finally, the state has no money to cover county losses. Sorry.

Source:

[http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2011/12/in\\_curry\\_county\\_oregons\\_financ.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2011/12/in_curry_county_oregons_financ.html)

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Will there be a Curry County in a few years? Stay tuned. The eco-whacks love living there, but when police, fire and school systems collapse, they may not find it so nice any longer. The county can no longer afford to pay the ultra high gold plated pension and benefit plans of the retirees and current public service workers – which is quite predictable as year after year they got voted up – with no money in sight to pay for them.

Can you spell bankruptcy?

## Gas Prices

### **Missing \$4,155? It Went Into Your Gas Tank This Year**

When the gifts from Grandma are unloaded and holiday travel is over, the typical American household will have spent \$4,155 filling up this year, a record. That is 8.4 percent of what the median family takes in, the highest share since 1981.

Gas averaged more than \$3.50 a gallon this year, another unfortunate record. And next year isn't likely to bring relief.

In the past, high gas prices in the United States have gone hand-in-hand with economic good times, making them less damaging to family finances. Now prices are high despite slow economic growth and weak demand.

That's because demand for crude oil is rising globally, especially in the developing nations of Asia and Latin America. But it puts the squeeze on the U.S., where **unemployment** is high and many people who have jobs aren't getting raises.

In 1981, when the economy was sliding into recession and oil prices were high because of Middle East turmoil, gas ate up 8.8 percent of the typical family budget, says Fred Rozell of the Oil Price Information Service.

Over the past decade, gas has taken up 5.7 percent of the family budget. If families had spent only 5.7 percent this year, they would have saved \$1,300.

For this year, gas should average \$3.53 per gallon. That's 76 cents more than last year. It's 29 cents per gallon more than 2008, when gas last set an annual record, \$3.24. That year, the price of oil hit a record in the summer but collapsed when the financial crisis struck in the fall.

Besides leaving families less money to eat out and go to the movies, high gas prices take a disproportionate toll on consumer confidence. People are more aware of small changes in gas prices because they drive past the signs all the time.

And a buck spent on gas has less bang in the economy than, say, a dollar spent at a restaurant. The U.S. is an oil-importing country, so many of the dollars spent on gas ultimately leave the country instead of being invested here in new ventures and jobs.

James Hamilton, an economics professor at the University of California, San Diego, who studies energy prices, estimates that high gasoline prices reduced economic growth by about 0.5 percent for the year — a substantial hit for an economy only growing at an annual rate of about 2 percent.

Still, it could be worse. The U.S. economy is much more fuel-efficient than it was during the oil spikes of the late 1970s and early 1980s. In 1980, for every \$1,000 of economic output, 1.07 barrels of oil were consumed to produce Compact Power. The \$256,824 figure includes adding up the subsidies to both companies.

The \$3 billion total subsidy figure includes \$690.4 million offered by the state of Michigan and \$2.3 billion in federal money. That's enough to purchase 75,222 Volts with a sticker price of \$39,828.

Additional state and local support provided to Volt suppliers was not included in the analysis, Hohman said, and could increase the level of government aid. For instance, the Volt is being assembled at the Poletown plant in Detroit/Hamtramck, which was built on land acquired by General Motors through eminent domain.



“It just goes to show there are certain folks that will spend anything to get their vision of what people should do,” said State Representative Tom McMillin, R-Rochester Hills. “It’s a glaring example of the failure of central planning trying to force citizens to purchase something they may not want. ... They should let the free market make those decisions.”

“This might be the most government-supported car since the Trabant,” said Hohman, referring to the car produced by the former Communist state of East Germany. By 2010, it took half that — 0.53 barrels, says Judith Dwarkin, chief energy economist at ITG Investment Research. Today, the U.S. uses almost no oil to generate electricity. The percentage of households using heating oil has fallen. And vehicles are less thirsty than ever — 20 percent more fuel-efficient than they were in 1980.

Also, the low price of natural gas has kept heating and electricity costs down for the same households spending more on gas.

Relief from high gas prices is nowhere in sight, though. Ed Morse, head of commodities research at Citibank, expects oil to average \$100 per barrel next year, which would eclipse 2011's average of about \$95 per barrel.

Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst at OPIS, expects gasoline prices to approach \$4 per gallon again next spring.

Drivers are keeping gas guzzlers in the driveway, combining trips and buying more efficient cars. Compared with the year before, American gas consumption has been down every week for more than nine months, according to MasterCard SpendingPulse, a spending survey.

Source: <http://www.cnbc.com/id/45727242>

## Greennie Follies

### **Chevy Volt Costing Taxpayers Up to \$250K Per Vehicle**

Each Chevy Volt sold thus far may have as much as \$250,000 in state and federal dollars in incentives behind it – a total of \$3 billion altogether, according to an analysis by James Hohman, assistant director of fiscal policy at the Mackinac Center for Public Policy.

Hohman looked at total state and federal assistance offered for the development and production of the Chevy Volt, General Motors’ plug-in hybrid electric vehicle. His analysis included 18 government deals that included loans, rebates, grants and tax credits. The amount of government assistance does not include the fact that General Motors is currently 26 percent

owned by the federal government.

The Volt subsidies flow through multiple companies involved in production. The analysis includes adding up the amount of government subsidies via tax credits and direct funding for not only General Motors, but other companies supplying parts for the vehicle. For example, the Department of Energy awarded a \$105.9 million grant to the GM Brownstown plant that assembles the batteries. The company was also awarded approximately \$106 million for its Hamtramck assembly plant in state credits to retain jobs. The company that supplies the Volt's batteries, Compact Power, was awarded up to \$100 million in refundable battery credits (combination tax breaks and cash subsidies). These are among many of the subsidies and tax credits for the vehicle.

GM has estimated they've sold 6,000 Volts so far. That would mean each of the 6,000 Volts sold would be subsidized between \$50,000 and \$250,000, depending on how many government subsidy milestones are realized.

If battery manufacturers awarded incentives to produce batteries the Volt may use are included in the analysis, the potential government subsidy per Volt increases to \$256,824. For example, A123 Systems has received extensive state and federal support, and bid to be a supplier to the Volt, but the deal instead

Source: <http://www.michigancapitolconfidential.com/16192>

## Your next Computer?

### **IBM predicts it will be making 'mind-controlled' PCs within five years**

Apple, Google and Microsoft are already investigating voice-controlled gadgets - or gadgets controlled by moving your body in front of a camera.

But IBM thinks the tech giants might be a little shortsighted - and predicts that mind-controlled computers will be on the market within five years.

'Mind-reading has been wishful thinking for science fiction fans for decades, but their wish may soon come true,' said a spokesperson. The company is investigating smartphone and PC technology where, 'You would just need to think about calling someone, and it happens.'

The prediction was part of IBM's annual 'Five in Five' report. The company also predicted that by 2016, passwords would have disappeared.

Instead, the complex, hard-to-remember strings of numbers and letters will be replaced by biometric readers that 'work out' who you are by reading unique things about you.

Neither of these predictions is hugely 'out there'.

Primitive mind-control is already used in games such as Mattel's Mindflex, where you wear a brainwave-reading headband and concentrate to raise and lower a ball - held mid-air by jets of air that respond to your brainwaves.

Mattel is set to unveil a new version - Mindflex 2 - at the Consumer Electronics Show in January.

It's not by any means impossible that more sophisticated technologies might allow us to at least move a mouse pointer by 2016 - although it seems more likely that PC makers would use existing technologies such as webcams to allow us to control PCs via our eyes instead.

The password prediction is also not too far-fetched - and might come true sooner than IBM thinks.

Microsoft has said that the new version of Windows - Windows 8 - will offer users a 'graphical' way to lock their computers instead.

Instead of memorizing a sequence of letters, users will be asked to, for instance, circle their mother in a photograph, or circle their best friend.

Computer makers such as Alienware already use 'biometric' security - where laptops recognize people via biometric markers such as the shape of their face - which does away with the need for complex passwords.

Source: : <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2077019/IBM-predicts-making-mind-controlled-PCs-years.html#ixzz1hBSgJqc4>

## An Adventure with GPS

From ARES Newsletter December 21, 2011 <http://www.arrl.org/ares-el?issue=2011-12-21>

Also posted on K3IMC forum

## Hams Help Save the Life of Fellow Ham

It was 10:00 PM as I reached for the power button of my ham radio and call it a night. Just before my finger touched the switch I heard a faint call -- someone was lost and needed help. Naturally, I would stick around to hear more. After all, this is one of those rare moments many hams live for.

Ron, KB6UF was not only lost in the Sierra Nevada mountains but also stuck. While driving alone from Louisiana to California to visit his grandkids for the Thanksgiving holiday the 68 year old missed the exit where he was scheduled to stay at a hotel. So he turned to his GPS. It instructed Ron to turn here and go there. The road turned into a gravel road and Ron knew something was wrong. "I felt like I was going in circles," he later said. He was 8 miles from the main road.

Pitched black and no street lights for miles, Ron hit a ditch. The front wheels of his small truck were in the air and it was clear he was going nowhere fast. He checked his cell phone. No cells. He has a 2 meter radio in his truck. No answers on any local repeaters. He turned to 40 meters, remembering there are usually a bunch of hams on 7.195 MHz. Within minutes, multiple hams were offering advice; use the low gear, fill in the hole with brush and sand, rock the truck back and forth. Somebody asked if Ron's GPS was working. It was. Ron gave out his coordinates over the air.

Now as many as 100 hams monitoring the frequency knew Ron's exact location: in the hills near Mono Lake, California, near the Nevada-California border. Dave, N5SDO in New Mexico stepped up and became net control. Everyone including Ron can hear Dave.

Dave assessed Ron's predicament by asking pertinent questions: Are you alone? How much fuel do you have? Do you have food or water? Is there somebody we can call for you? Ron gave Dave an 800 number to the Sheriff's office. Dave tried the 800 number but it was a non-functioning number. I thought about that non-working 800 number for a second. Maybe the Sheriff's office discontinued the 800 service due to budget cuts, so I Googled the 800 number and found the local dispatch number to Mono Lake Sheriff's office in California.

I called it. I had to explain I'm a ham radio operator in Chicago and I'm monitoring a man stranded and lost in hills near Mono Lake. The dispatcher said she would bring this info to her sergeant. Ten minutes later the sergeant returned my call. I quickly explained what had been happening over the past 90 minutes. "Does he need a tow or is this a search and rescue?," asked the sheriff. I relayed the question to Dave who then asked Ron. Ron said he was requesting an officer. As soon as the sheriff heard "requesting an officer" he said someone will be there in 30 minutes.

When Ron announced on the radio he could see the lights of the sheriff's car approaching, many hams monitoring the frequency cheered on air. Working together Ron doubled the nylon rope the sheriff had in an attempt to pull Ron's small truck out of the ditch. The rope snapped. Luckily, there was a piece long enough to triple fold the line and that proved strong enough to pull Ron's vehicle free. Again, hams cheered on the air as Ron was following the Sheriff back to town. The sheriff said, "It's a good thing you had that radio otherwise we would have found you in the Spring. Nobody comes up here this time of year."

HF was the only way Ron was able to get help. Thank goodness he had a good HF mobile or he might have been out there for days (or longer). Several comments were heard stating "that does it, I was thinking about putting an HF rig in the mobile but now I'm convinced and going to do it" after listening in that night.

Thanks to all the hams that helped a fellow ham in need, especially Dave N5SDO in New Mexico, Nick W9ZXT in Illinois, Jerry N0VXE in Colorado, Dan KD0LYK in Kansas and Dave W7DBS in Nevada and of course the Mono Lake Sheriff's Office. --

Henry Schleichkorn, K9KDE, Chicago, Illinois

## 17 Meters and Up Report

Wow! It's been a good month for county hunting on 17 through 10 meters. A few county hunters are now equipped with 15, 12 and 10 meters to put out the counties. It seems dozens are now on 17M, either SSB or CW or both.

The sunspots and solar flux was way up in the 150 region for two weeks, then dropped back to much lower numbers, making propagation on 12 and 10 'long' for many. That meant the east coast and west coast could talk to each other, but there wasn't much skip for less than 1200 miles or longer.

Here's a bit of a summary of the activity in the last 30 days

Jim, N4JT, was out in NC and VA many days on the month, putting them out on cw all the way up to 10M. Often, I'd hear him only on 17m and 15m, but in the middle of the day it might work on 12m and occasionally on 10 meters. Ran dozens and dozens of counties.

Dave, KE3VV, went to 15m cw and ran quite a few in FL.

NH6JC/m was spotted out in Kauai, HI, and the Battleship Missouri at Ford Island in Honolulu county was on 17M CW.

Paul, WD9EJK was spotted on 17M SSB in IL and IA.

Ed, N8OYY, was noted on 17M SSB in MD and WV.

Larry, W7FEN, noted on 17M SSB and cw and bands up through 10M on a trip to AZ.

Bill, K2HVN noted on 17M in PA and MD and DE, and occasionally up through 10M

Jeff, W9MSE, put them out on cw from 17 to 15 and 10M

NX4C, Wes, noted on 17M on his trip to Hancock, TN.

Mike, KA4RRU, put them out on 17M in VA.

Ron, KB6UF, ran 17M cw and SSB on his trip to CA and back.

The team of KG4VBK, Jason, and K4EXT, Gary, put them out on 17M SSB and CW in TN.

During the ARRL 10m contest, there were hundreds of thousands of contacts made on 10 meters!

Ed. KN4Y, put out 15 and 17M counties on this trip to AL and back.

Dennis N6PDB, and Susan, WA6OCV, ran CA counties on 17m sSB

Kerry, W4SIG, spotted on 17M during his trip to MS.

Jim, N9JF, spotted on 17m in MO

Terry, WQ7A, took advantage of 17M to get a second band for Mobile Diamond.

Bill, KM1C, spotted out in NC on 17M. Then up in CT.

Doug, WA4UNS, noted out mobile on 17M

K8ZZ was spotted out in MI.

W0GXQ

Likely there were other runs, not spotted, but that's a good snapshot of the activity. Likely well over 100 counties put out on 17M during the month, and two dozen on 12 and 10m.

## 73 Magazine – Now On Line

From post by KW3F on the K3IMC Forum:

73 Magazine now online for free

Brings back many memories. Glad they could pull this off -

"My friends over at The Internet Archive and Textfiles have given us an early Christmas present: every issue of Wayne Green's 73 Magazine ever published, for free. 73 Magazine was published from 1960 to 2003, and was full of technical articles, news reports, ham ads, and the editorials of the irrepressible Wayne Green, W2NSD. Read 73 online, or download PDF files here:

<http://www.archive.org/details/73-magazine>

Magazine articles were scanned, quality corrected, and indexed by an army of individuals, and collected together for Internet Archive by Jason Scott of textfiles.org.

See <http://www.textfiles.com/hamradio/> for more ham radio related collections. Archive.org was started by internet pioneer Brewster Kahle in 1996, with the goal of archiving internet history. While the resulting "Wayback Machine" is one of their best known projects, the Archive also engages in curated projects, such as the recent archive of all TV coverage on 9/11/01 at [september11.archive.org](http://september11.archive.org).

Leigh/WA5ZNU

P.S. If you want to return the favor, visit <http://www.archive.org/donate/> to donate to Archive.org or visit <http://www.textfiles.com/support/> to upload files off that old Micropolis disk in your garage. "

## On the Road with N4CD II

Things had been slow in TX. There weren't too many mobiles running counties that I needed. In fact, it was pretty quiet on CW. Don, K3IMC had been running on 20cw, but all I heard in TX was stations calling him – too close for 20M propagation, and I didn't need the ones he was running through. He did have quite a bunch calling him, though. On SSB, the runs came close to the 10 minute limit lots of times.

Doug, WA4UNS, had been needing Delta, TX for a LC for his Master's Gold. He's closing in on that one with about 40 to go. The weather was supposed to be nice for the shortest day of the year (Solstice Day – Dec 22), with sunny skies and temps in the high 50s. Doug also noted that he had needed 2 in TX for the 4<sup>th</sup> time, with those being Bee and Hopkins, TX. On Wednesday he worked K3IMC in Bee, so Hopkins would be a LC for him.

There weren't too many needs posted for TX in that neck of the woods, but with the new Star XX award, some folks needed the county for that, and some needed so many they couldn't list them on K3IMC. I hadn't run them in quite a few months. The Lamar County hamfest got canceled – didn't happen this year, so there was no trip over there in October. Don't know if it will be next year, or is just fading away from lack of volunteers. Last year it was slim pickings in the flea market. Of course, last year it was bitterly freezing cold, which didn't help the outdoor swap area.

The weather had been flakey with two days of rain, one day heavy. Out in west TX panhandle, over most of NM, and the west side of OK and KS had just gotten clobbered by a good size snow storm – well, make that blizzard and white out. I-40 in TX and NM was shut down for a day, and 2 days in NM. Going north from the panhandle wasn't possible for a day or two. There were six and eight foot snow drifts. Another snow event was coming. So it seemed like a good time to get in a day of county hunting well away from SNOW!

Al, N1API, needed Rockwall. I'd hit that one too for him.

In addition, a new 'extension' of the President George Bush Tollroad had just been opened the day before. It connects highway 75 (the main road from Dallas to eastern OK) with Interstate 30 just before Rockwall County. From my house, it's about 5 miles to Rt. 75, and it usually took about an hour and 15 minutes to get to Greenville, TX over in Hunt County. I'd see if using the new tollroad (about 10 miles shorter) would work out better. It's also like an 'outer beltway' that keeps you off I-635 and the 8 to 10 lanes of traffic there – usually 24 hours a day, and often backups – especially at rush hour. It connects to I-30 about 5 miles outside the beltway. Of course, you get to pay about 15c for each mile you use the tollroad, but since you save 10 miles, that's about \$1.33 in gas, so it's not quite a wash, but close. If you use the



official government 'cost' of driving at 55c/mile, which includes depreciation, oil changes, insurance, taxes, etc, then it comes out ahead. It was 'new' so part of the trip would simply be to 'check it out'.

Now, it seems, when I leave home, going east involves a tollroad. Going west involves a tollroad. Going north involves some tollroad. The only way out of here without a tollroad is south, and that is straight through downtown Dallas and I'd love to have a tollroad to bypass the giant traffic mess you usually hit there no matter what time you go. I guess tollroads are becoming a way of life around the big cities. At least ours are reasonable – you hit the tollroad around Austin TX (private) and the ones up in Denver and they are 35 to 50c per mile! Ouch! Ouch again! Those folks sold out to foreign investors and now are getting gouged severely.

I grabbed a bit of breakfast before leaving home, and headed out about 7:45 in the morning just after the sunrise. Dang...I like the sun coming up at 6:10 better. Traffic was light, so I made good time. There's 7 traffic lights to get to 75 – then it was clear sailing with only 3 traffic lights all the way to Delta County. I hit Rockwall County 40 minutes later, which is only about 10-13 miles long, so I pulled over and put out the county on 20, 17, and 40 SSB, and 20/17/40cw. Al showed up on 17M SSB so that 'need' is done.

Next it was over through Hunt to the county line of Hunt/Delta on highway 24. There's a nice place to pull over and run the county, so I parked there for half an hour and ran all bands. Doug, WA4UNS, showed up on 40M, so we got a LC for him in the log. Joe, N5UZW, needed that one too and we caught up with him on 40M SSB. Wow...I filled a log page from there. Up on 17M, I had 3 or 4 non-county hunters call after the run, and I had a few short QSOs. One ham had a visiting grandkid and he was demonstrating radio in the hamshack. It was good to help out with the demo.

Well, I got hungry, so I hit the McDonalds in Commerce a few miles back for some hotcakes and another cup of coffee (senior price). After that, it was a short trip on highway 11 into Hopkins County. I found a spot to pull over and ran all the bands again. There wasn't any hurry as I wasn't going to far today. Hopkins was a LC 4th time for Doug, WA4UNS. It's hard to give out LC in TX with 254 counties. Many trips you go on, run 30 counties, and don't get any LC's. Sometimes you go a year or two without giving out a LC. This was a good day – hi hi. It was back on the road going southeast, then south.

It was still early, so I headed south on 19 down to Rains County – the 'Eagle Capital of Texas'. That's what the sign says. I started on 20cw. At route 514, I headed east and within 5 miles or so you hit the C/L of Wood/Rains TX. I sat there for half an hour putting out the county on 20/17/30/40M. I need to add a few more bands for cw. 17M SSB worked well, with WQ7A booming in, and KL7D in the log. Bruce and I tried to do it on 20M, but signals not strong enough. It was good on 17M. I have 15m on the mast, but it doesn't want to tune. I'll have to

put it and 12 and 10m on the 20m SSB mast. Then it might take 40 minutes to run a county – hi hi.

After all the runs, I turned the car around and headed back home through Hunt and Rockwall once again.

Don, K3IMC, was still out in south TX putting them out. He'll likely miss the snow that far south in TX – west TX was getting set to be clobbered again soon. Matt, W0NAC, and Sharon, N0LXJ were in NM. It was going to be storming over that way too, so hopefully they headed home and missed the bad weather, or planned on staying way south. Dan, AA0TT was out in south KS. Had to go QRT a few times due to bad road conditions, but he was on much of the day. KG4GCF was running in TN putting them out.

The trip was 211 miles. Hope you caught something you need. Let's see..there's a bunch of needs down by Jasper and Newton. Hmmm....and then there are scattered needs, one here, one there, all over the parts of TX with not much reason to head to – other than folks need the counties. Well, January is coming up and we'll see where the N4CD mobile winds up heading. I need to run a bunch up in ID and WA and OR, but you likely aren't going to see me there until winter is long over! Hi Hi!

## BP Exits Solar

After prominently featuring solar panels in its brand advertisements and at some of its gas stations, BP PLC is planning to shutter its BP Solar operation, according to reports on Wednesday.

BP PLC said global economic challenges have impacted the solar industry, making it difficult to sustain long term returns, according to an internal BP email cited by press reports. The move will affect 100 jobs.

BP, which has been in the solar business for decades, had featured solar panels prominently in its Beyond Petroleum advertising campaign.

BP said the solar business, which has been flooded by excess supply from China, has become commoditized.

BP will hold on to other alternative energy businesses, including wind.

BP inked a supply contract with JA Solar in 2010 as it started scaling back its own solar panel factories and trimming jobs.

Sam Wilkinson, senior market analyst of IMS Research said BP's decision comes as global photovoltaic module manufacturing capacity reaches 50 gigawatts, while demand is expected to total only 24 gigawatts this year. Average prices are now 44% lower than they were one year ago.

"Rapid manufacturing expansions have coincided with a slowdown in the growth of global demand," Wilkinson said in a statement emailed to MarketWatch. "The result has been intense competition and a fierce price war, and not enough demand to support all of the industry's hundreds of suppliers."

The move comes just days after First Solar, the only pure-play solar panel maker in the S&P 500, issued a profit warning for 2012 and said it'll refocus its business toward large-scale utility projects, rather than residential solar panels.

Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/story/bp-shutting-solar-unit-as-industry-struggles-2011-12-21?siteid=yhoof2>

- -

Note de N4CD. Spain chopped subsidies tremendously. Germany is axing its high 'buy in' tariffs for solar installations, and the US is running out of money for greenie projects. Thus, demand is 'plummeting' – but a lot of panels will be made, sold, and installed. Solar might get to 2% of all power generation in a few more years (or decades).

## Getting Folks Finished

This month we pick a few from the K3IMC needs page who are closing in, or who have just one or two in many states to 'get it done'. See if you can help out. There's a lot of folks with just a few needs per state.

A lot of these folks are under 20 – some with only 2 or 3 to finish – and most have a few needs in a state. Maybe you can help get them done!

OK folks...keep your needs updated. If you work some of your needs, update them on K3IMC. If you don't update them once a month, they go into 'limbo'. You can resurrect them by simply clicking on 'update needs' and they will re appear, but folks get leery when a mobile is running your needs and you aren't reducing your needs count month after months.

**KØRCJ** - USACA using both SSB and CW - Updated: 12/17/2011

ID:Caribou, Fremont, Lincoln, Valley, Washington

**KS:**Wallace  
**KY:**Casey, Knott, Perry, Todd  
**MN:**Koochiching, Wright  
**NC:**Hyde, Pender, Washington  
**NE:**Sioux  
**NY:**Seneca  
**OK:**Comanche  
**OR:**Jefferson, Polk, Yamhill  
**SD:**Bon Homme  
**VA:**Cumberland, James City  
**WA:**Gray's Harbor, Lewis, Pend Orielle

**NUØQ** - BINGO using both SSB and CW - Updated: 12/04/2011

Only 19 to go. All needs are listed here. Emails welcome. Thanks for your help.

**GA:** Jenkins, Schley, Washington.

**KS:** Republic.

**MO:** Cass, Cedar, Johnson.

**NC:** Chatham, Lee.

**NM:** Curry, Lincoln.

**OH:** Hardin.

**OK:** Grady.

**PA:** Lancaster.

**SC:** McCormick, York.

**VT:** Windsor.

**WV:** Brooke, Hancock.

**WØNAC** - FIVESTAR using both SSB and CW - Updated: 12/04/2011

Only 10 Left For The WBOW! Nothing held back..

**CO:** Alamosa, Archuleta, Gilpin, Routt, Saguache

**IN:** Benton

**KS:** Wichita

**NE:** Knox

**NM:** San Miguel

**WY:** Weston

**NFØN** - USACA using CW - Updated: 12/12/2011

No special trips as I work part time. Cell 712-223-3164.

**AL:** Perry, Randolph

**GA:** Baker

**KY:** Menifee  
**MO:** Knox, Putnam, Worth  
**MT:** Carter, Fallon  
**TN:** Warren

**WØMU** - USACA using both SSB and CW - Updated: 12/12/2011

Done as soon as W0TOL and I run over to Grand, CO. Thanks everyone for all the help and counties!

**MT:** Richland,

**UT:** Grand,

**WØEAR** - MASTER'S GOLD using both SSB and CW - Updated: 12/21/2011

Thanks for your help!! Cell is 612-964-8226, home 651-481-3133. Let me know if you plan to be in these counties 73 Don

**GA:** Bibb Jenkins, Morgan, Murray

**IA:** Fayette

**MI:** Iosco, Keweenaw

**MN:** Cook

**MT:** Glacier

**PA:** Sullivan

**TX:** Bailey, Leon, Presidio

**VT:** Washington

**WA:** Whatcom

**WØEAR** - USACA using CW - Updated: 12/21/2011

Thanks for your help!! Cell is 612-964-8226, home 651-481-3133. Let me know if you plan to be in these counties, 73 Don

**AL:** Wilcox

**MS:** Pearl River

**Email** to [d6rep@live.com](mailto:d6rep@live.com)

**WØEAR** - FIVESTAR using both SSB and CW - Updated: 12/21/2011

Thanks for your help!! Cell is 612-964-8226, home 651-481-3133. Let me know if you plan to be in these counties 73 Don

**KS:** Hodgeman

**MI:** Baraga, Keweenaw

**MN:** Isanti

**TX:** Newton

**WA:** Whatcom

**WI:** Ashland

**WB9STT** - 6TH using SSB - Updated: 12/05/2011

SSB ONLY

**IA:** Mitchel

**KS:** Kiowa, Pottawatomie

**KY:** McLean, Meade, Monroe

**MN:** Waseca

**TN:** Cannon, Jackson

**UT:** Washington

**VT:** Franklin

**W9MSE** - - Updated: 12/13/2011

THIS IS FOR MOBILE TO MOBILE CW

**KY:** Jefferson

**LA:** Madison

**Email** to [w9mse@yahoo.com](mailto:w9mse@yahoo.com)

**N9QS** - MASTER'S PLATINUM using both SSB and CW - Updated: 11/29/2011

These are my needs for MP. Any heads up will be appreciated. 618-610-1151 or [n9qs@att.net](mailto:n9qs@att.net) My magic number is now 15.

**CO:** Grand.

**IA:** Adams.

**MA:** Hampden, Hampshire.

**MI:** Midland, Newaygo.

**NJ:** Camden.

**NY:** Kings, New York.

**OR:** Polk.

**PA:** Bradford, Tioga, Wyoming.

**WI:** Dunn.

**WY:** Weston.

**W9MSE** - 5TH using CW - Updated: 12/08/2011

**AL:** Coffee, Macon

**KS:** Anderson, Osborne

**KY:** Jackson, Leslie, Meniffee

**MD:** Harford

**MO:** Grundy, Henry, Monroe, Sullivan, Worth

**NJ:** Passaic

**OK:** Harmon

**SC:** Barnwell

**SD:**Bennett, Custer  
**TX:**Bandera, Concho, Irion, Matagorda, Real, Schleicher  
**WV:**McDowell

**K9AAA** - USACA using CW - Updated: 12/18/2011

These are the last 36 counties left to finish USA-CW. I'm retired & home most days. PH #269-664-4305

**AL:** Perry, Wilcox  
**GA:** Calhoun, Clay, Heard, Jasper, Jones, Macon, Pierce, Quitman  
**IL:** Cass, Christian, Coles, Effingham, Jo Daviess, Mercer, Moultrie, Randolph  
**IN:** Floyd, Harrison, Lagrange, Steuben  
**MO:** Adair, Bates, Benton, Gentry, Mercer, Schuyler  
**TX:** Coke, Loving, McMullen, Mitchell, Nacogdoches, Newton, Sutton, Washington.  
**VA:** Prince Edward

**N8OR** - BINGO using SSB - Updated: 12/21/2011

**NE:** Burt  
**OK:** Blaine  
**Email** to [n8or@arrl.net](mailto:n8or@arrl.net)

**N8OR** - 2ND using SSB - Updated: 12/21/2011

**NE:** Burt  
**WI:** Menominee  
**Email** to [n8or@arrl.net](mailto:n8or@arrl.net)

**N8OYY** - BINGO using SSB - Updated: 12/23/2011

Down to 10 to go for Bingo, any help would be greatly appreciated!!

**CA:** Madera  
**IL:** Hardin  
**IN:** Floyd  
**KY:** Union  
**NE:** Saline, Wayne  
**NJ:** Mercer  
**PA:** Cambria  
**WA:** Klickitat  
**WV:** Tyler

**K7VAY** - 2ND using CW - Updated: 12/11/2011

**ME:** Piscataquis  
**ND:** Grant  
**NM:** Catron

**TX:** El Paso, Martin, Presidio  
**Email to** [k7vay@msn.com](mailto:k7vay@msn.com)

**W8FNW** - BINGO using both SSB and CW - Updated: 12/05/2011

This is all I need for WBOW, please let me know ahead of time so I can be home. Cell phone 740-272-0694 or by email, [jimashton@earthlink.net](mailto:jimashton@earthlink.net), Thank you everyone.

**AR:** Fulton  
**GA:** Pulaski  
**KS:** Harper  
**LA:** Union  
**OH:** Lorain, Paulding

**WY7LL** - USACA using SSB - Updated: 12/20/2011

**GA:** Randolph  
**ID:** Bear Lake, Clark  
**UT:** Rich  
**VA:** Pulaski, Smyth

**W7GQK** - 4TH using both SSB and CW - Updated: 12/03/2011

**CO:** Pitkin  
**NE:** Clay, Frontier  
**NJ:** Sussex  
**PA:** Montour

**KL7D** - BINGO using both SSB and CW - Updated: 12/19/2011

No special trips, due to generally poor band conditions, but you can email me: [kl7d37@alaska.net](mailto:kl7d37@alaska.net) or phone 907-248-2106...many thanks, Bruce

**GA:** Clarke, Cook  
**KY:** Leslie, Russell  
**LA:** East Carroll, Franklin  
**Email to** [kl7d37@alaska.net](mailto:kl7d37@alaska.net)

**W7FEN** - BINGO using both SSB and CW - Updated: 11/28/2011

Nothing held back, Cell Phone (509)552-9226. E-Mail [w7fen@live.com](mailto:w7fen@live.com)

**GA:** Bacon, Hancock, Jenkins, Lumpkin, Talbot  
**KS:** Lincoln  
**KY:** Lewis  
**OH:** Darke, Holmes  
**VT:** Orange

**KD5YUK** - 2ND using SSB - Updated: 12/15/2011



Cell: 903-277-1884

AR: Perry, Sevier

**KC5QCB** - BINGO using SSB - Updated: 12/04/2011

Down to my last 19 for Bingo. Please contact me if you will be going to any of these. 325-812-3234.

Thanks for all the help. 73 Janet

GA: Effingham, Fayette

IL: Crawford

KY: Estill, Logan, Todd, Washington

MO: Holt, Madison

NJ: Monmouth

NY: Columbia

OH: Clermont, Morrow

OR: Benton

PA: Delaware

SC: Abbeville, McCormick

VA: Westmoreland

VT: Bennington

**N5MLP** - MASTER'S PLATINUM using SSB - Updated: 11/24/2011

These are all of my 16 needs. Still working Mon - Fri but have mobile rig at work. Call cell at 713-542-8999 if going to these or send email. Thanks.

CA: Amador, Calaveras, Nevada

CO: Washington

IA: Bremer

KS: Franklin, Gray, Lane

NM: Harding

OR: Lincoln

PA: Butler, Forest, Greene, Mercer, Snyder

WV: Mineral

**KG5J** - BINGO2 using CW - Updated: 11/27/2011

my needs are up to date

OH: Hardin, Lawrence

PA: Northampton, Philadelphia

Email to [alevkg5j@arbbs.net](mailto:alevkg5j@arbbs.net)

**N5KGY** - MASTER'S GOLD using SSB - Updated: 12/02/2011

This is it for MG Nothing held back! 662-465-6225

CA: San Mateo, Santa Clara

WA: Kitsap

Email to [n5kgy@bellsouth.net](mailto:n5kgy@bellsouth.net)

**N5KGY** - 4TH using SSB - Updated: 12/02/2011  
MT: Fallon

**WA4UNS** - - Updated: 12/23/2011 MOBILE TO MOBILE

8 and counting for mobile-to-mobile. Advance notice of a trip appreciated. Thanks in advance.

CA: Nevada, Sacramento  
NE: Clay, Gosper, Howard  
TX: Roberts, Sabine  
WA: Kitsap

**N4PJ** - USACA using CW - Updated: 11/28/2011

ND: Kidder  
OK: Beaver, Caddo, Ellis  
Email to [aburkefl@gmail.com](mailto:aburkefl@gmail.com)

**W4RKV** - 7TH using both SSB and CW - Updated: 12/21/2011

These are everything I need. None held back, except last one must be a cty hunter.

IN: Clark  
MI: Branch  
MS: Chickasaw, Leflore, Sunflower

**WB4KZW** - 3RD using both SSB and CW - Updated: 11/29/2011

MT: Carter

**WB4FFV** - USACA using both SSB and CW - Updated: 12/22/2011

AL: Limestone.  
AR: Ashley  
CO: Phillips.  
GA: Baker, Clarke, Douglas, Fayette, Irwin, Johnson, Talbot.  
IA: Floyd(rework), Lucas, Marion.  
IL: Pope  
KS: Anderson, Cowley, Graham, Miami(rework).  
MN: Sherburne.  
MO: Cedar, Johnson  
MS: Lamar  
MT: Wibaux  
NC: Clay, Lincoln, Stanly  
NE: Colfax, Frontier, Howard, McPherson, Phelps.  
SD: Dewey(rework), Grant, Yankton.

**TN:**Crockett.  
**TX:**Collingsworth,s Gillespie, Jasper  
**UT:**Morgan.  
**WI:**Pepin,

**N4AAT** – USACW II - Updated: 12/20/2011

These are for CW II. All counties listed. Any help would be great. 803-260-1137

**AL:** Clay, Coffee, Hale, Marshall  
**GA:** Berrien, Meriwether, Terrell, Wayne  
**IL:** Clay  
**MO:** Cass, Putnam  
**NC:** Jackson, Lincoln  
**NE:** Chase, Frontier, Hays, Scotts Bluff  
**OK:** Harmon  
**SC:** Barnwell, Marion  
**VT:** Essex

**N3HOO** - USACA using CW - Updated: 12/10/2011

Seem to be holding at 16 to go for quite some time now. Need more CW ops :-)

**GA:** Clay, Jones, Walker  
**IA:** Taylor  
**KS:** Neosho  
**KY:** Lee, McLean, Meade, Owsley, Spencer  
**MO:** Howard, Putnam, Scotland, Sullivan  
**NH:** Belknap  
**WV:** Mason

**K1TKL** - USACA using CW - Updated: 12/21/2011

The following counties needed to complete CW UASCA. 13 to go!

**AL:** Bullock  
**CA:** San Luis Obispo  
**GA:** Berrien, Bleckley, Talbot, Worth  
**IN:** Union  
**LA:** Red River, Winn  
**WV:** Lincoln, Mingo, Wirt  
**Email to** [paulwisiol-at-peoplepc.com](mailto:paulwisiol-at-peoplepc.com)

**VE1WT** - USACA using CW - Updated: 12/19/2011

**AL:** Coosa  
**CO:** San Juan

IN: Martin, Owen  
KS: Grant, Greeley  
KY: Edmonson, Taylor  
LA: Beauregard  
MO: Moniteau, Morgan  
ND: Dickey  
OH: Fulton, Hocking  
OR: Crook  
WV: Pendleton, Pocahontas

**N1BY** - 5TH using both SSB and CW - Updated: 12/22/2011

GA:Murray

MS: Bolivar, Clarke, Humphreys, Issaquena, Quitman, Sharkey

NE: Saline

TX: Angelina, Trinity, Walker

## Your Tax Dollars at Work

The American Wind Energy Association has begun a major lobbying effort in Congress to extend some soon-to-expire renewable-energy tax credits. And to bolster that effort, the lobby group's CEO, Denise Bode, is calling the wind industry "a tremendous American success story."

But the wind lobby's success has largely been the result of its ability to garner subsidies. And those subsidies are coming with a big price tag for American taxpayers. Since 2009, AWEA's largest and most influential member companies have garnered billions of dollars in direct cash payments and loan guarantees from the US government. And while the lobby group claims to be promoting "clean" energy, AWEA's biggest member companies are also among the world's biggest users and/or producers of fossil fuels.

A review of the \$9.8 billion in cash grants provided under section 1603 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (also known as the federal stimulus bill) for renewable energy projects shows that the wind energy sector has corralled over \$7.6 billion of that money. And the biggest winners in the 1603 sweepstakes: the companies represented on AWEA's board of directors.

An analysis of the 4,256 projects that have won grants from the Treasury Department under section 1603 over the past two years shows that \$3.37 billion in grants went to just nine companies -- all of them are members of AWEA's board. To put that \$3.37 billion in perspective, consider that in 2010, according to the Energy Information Administration, the total of all "energy specific subsidies and support" provided to the oil and gas sector totaled

\$2.84 billion. And that \$2.84 billion in oil and gas subsidies is being divided among thousands of entities. The Independent Petroleum Association of America estimates the US now has over 14,000 oil and gas companies.

The renewable energy lobby likes to portray itself as an upstart industry, one that is grappling with big business and the entrenched interests of the hydrocarbon sector. But billions of dollars in 1603 grants – all of it exempt from federal corporate income taxes – is being used to fatten the profits of some of the world's biggest companies. Indeed, the combined market capitalization of the 11 biggest corporations on AWEA's board – a group that includes General Electric and Siemens -- is about \$450 billion.

Nevertheless, the clock is ticking on renewable-energy subsidies. The 1603 grants end on December 31 and the renewable-energy production tax credit expires on January 1, 2013. On Monday, AWEA issued a report which predicted that some 37,000 wind-related jobs in the US could be lost by 2013 if the production [tax credit](#) is not extended.

But the subsidies are running out at the very same time that a cash-strapped Congress is turning a hard eye on the renewable sector. The collapse of federally backed companies like solar-panel-maker Solyndra and biofuel producer Range Fuels, are providing critics of renewable subsidies with plenty of ammunition. And if critics need more bullets, they need only look at AWEA's board to see how big business is grabbing every available dollar from US taxpayers all in the name of "clean" energy. Indeed, AWEA represents a host of fossil-fuel companies who are eagerly taking advantage of the renewable-energy subsidies.

Consider NRG Energy, which has a seat on AWEA's board. Last month, the *New York Times* reported that New Jersey-based NRG and its partners have secured \$5.2 billion in federal loan guarantees to build solar-energy projects. NRG's market capitalization: \$4.3 billion. But NRG is not a renewable energy company. The company currently has about 26,000 megawatts (MW) of generation capacity. Of that, 450 MW is wind capacity, another 65 MW is solar, and 1,175 MW comes from nuclear. So why is NRG expanding into renewables? The answer is simple: profits. Last month, David Crane, the CEO of NRG, told the *Times* that "I have never seen anything that I have had to do in my 20 years in the power industry that involved less risk than these projects."

Or look at E.On, the giant German electricity and natural gas company, which also has a seat on AWEA's board of directors. In 2010, the company emitted 116 million metric tons of [carbon](#) dioxide an amount approximately equal to that of the Czech Republic, a country of 10.5 million people. And last year, the company – which has about 2,000 MW of wind-generation capacity in the US -- produced about 14 times as much electricity by burning hydrocarbons as it did from wind.

Despite its role as a major fossil-fuel utility, E.On has been awarded \$542.5 million in section

1603 cash so that it can build wind projects. And the company is getting that money even though it is the world's largest investor-owned utility with a market capitalization of \$45 billion.

Another foreign company with a seat on AWEA's board: Spanish utility Iberdrola, the second-largest domestic wind operator. But in 2010, Iberdrola produced about 3 times as much electricity from hydrocarbons as it did from wind. Nevertheless, the company has collected \$1 billion in section 1603 money. To put that \$1 billion in context, consider that in 2010, Iberdrola's net profit was about 2.8 billion Euros, or around \$3.9 billion. Thus, US taxpayers have recently provided cash grants to Iberdrola that amount to about one-fourth of the company's 2010 profits. And again, none of that grant money is subject to US corporate income taxes. Iberdrola currently sports a market cap of \$39 billion.

Another big winner on AWEA's board of directors: NextEra Energy (formerly Florida Power & Light) which has garnered some \$610.6 million in 1603 grants for various wind projects. NextEra's market capitalization is \$23 billion. The subsidies being garnered by NextEra are helping the company drastically cut its taxes. A look at the company's 2010 annual report shows that it cut its federal tax bill by more than \$200 million last year thanks to various federal tax credits. And the company's latest annual report shows that it has another \$1.8 billion of "tax credit carryforwards" that will help it slash its taxes over the coming years.

The biggest fossil-fuel-focused company on AWEA's board is General Electric, which had revenues last year of \$150 billion. Of that sum, about 25 percent came from what the company calls "energy infrastructure." While some of that revenue comes from GE's wind business, the majority comes from building generators, jet [engines](#), and other machinery that burn hydrocarbons. The company is also rapidly growing GE Oil & Gas, which had 2010 revenues of \$7.2 billion. GE Oil & Gas has more than 20,000 employees and provides a myriad of products and services to the oil and gas industry.

GE has a starring role in one of the most egregious examples of renewable-energy corporate welfare: the Shepherds Flat wind project in Oregon. The majority of the funding for the \$1.9 billion, 845-megawatt project is coming from federal taxpayers. Not only is the Energy Department providing GE and its partners – who include Caithness Energy, Google, and Sumitomo -- a \$1.06 billion loan guarantee, as soon as GE's 338 turbines start turning at Shepherds Flat, the Treasury Department will send the project developers a cash grant of \$490 million.

On December 9, the American Council on Renewable Energy issued a press release urging Congress to quickly extend the 1603 program and the renewable-energy production tax credit, because they will "bolster renewable energy's success and American competitiveness."

But time is running short. Backers of the renewable-energy credits say that to assure continuity on various projects, a bill must be passed into law by March 2012. If that doesn't happen, they

are predicting domestic investment in renewable energy could fall by 50 percent. A bill now pending in the House would extend the production tax credit for four additional years, through 2017. The bill has 40 sponsors, 9 are Republicans. The bill is awaiting a hearing by the House Ways and Means Committee.

Source: Fox News

The US Congress – the best that money can buy.....

## More Al Gore Lies

### **Major UN IPCC Prediction Failure: Global Warming Does Not Cause Spread of Disease, Scientists Find**

***The United Nation's IPCC agency has long predicted that the infectious disease malaria will spread due to global warming - new study says that's false***

Like so many of the catastrophic claims and predictions that the IPCC has ginned up to scare policymakers and the public, the fear of malaria's spread from global warming was very effective. The only problem with the malaria claim was that the empirical evidence did not support it. It's another failed prediction by the very troubled UN climate agency.

New research by Paaijmans et al finally buries this specific piece of IPCC B.S. fear-mongering that left / liberal media "science" pundits lways push on their gullible, anti-science audience.

*"A common assumption is that rising global temperatures will increase the spread of malaria — the deadly mosquito-borne disease that affects millions of people worldwide. But a study...finds that warmer temperatures seem to slow transmission of malaria-causing parasites, by reducing their infectiousness...Simon Hay, an expert in malarial epidemiology at the University of Oxford, UK, who in 2010 reported a scant correlation between malaria and global warming, says that the study could have wide significance...Rising temperatures "may well contribute to the host of other changes that have occurred during the last 100 years that have caused malaria to contract in extent and intensity globally," he says."* [Krijn P. Paaijmans, Simon Blanford, Brian H. K. Chan, Matthew B. Thomas 2011:

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# Handwriting on the Wall

Once again, the global hysteria of New York City under 100 feet of water, 'killer hurricanes' of unheard of proportions, and malaria wiping out the northern USA.....are shown to be ridiculously false.

Those 5000 UN IPCC representatives are still anxious to extort 20 trillion out of you for them to divvy up among 150 third world countries and the leaders Swiss bank accounts. Are you ready to contribute to them via carbon taxes? For 'hysterical' reasons?

**Source:** <http://www.c3headlines.com/2011/12/major-un-ipcc-prediction-failure-global-warming-does-not-cause-spread-of-disease-scientists-find.html>

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The US passed a milestone in December. With the continued spending and borrowing binge of the current administration, the US debt reached a major milestone. We now have debt exceeding 100% of our GDP. That puts us in the class of countries like Spain, Italy and Greece. Even worse, there is no plan to reduce the spending which will drive it to 'worse than Portugal, Spain and Greece' within 2 years at the current rate of borrowing. If you think things are bad now, just wait two more years.

On Dec 22, 2011

Congratulations, America ... our debt-to-GDP has just passed 100%, which means that we've now joined with Greece as members of the triple digit "debt to GDP" club:

“US debt, net of all settlements for all already completed bond auctions, is now at precisely \$15,182,756,264,288.80. Why is this relevant? Because the latest annualized US GDP, according to the BEA, was \$15,180,900,000.00. Which means that, as of today, total US debt to GDP is 100.012%. “

[http://www.hyscience.com/archives/2011/12/us\\_debt-to-gdp.php](http://www.hyscience.com/archives/2011/12/us_debt-to-gdp.php)

Did you miss the ceremony in DC where the fact we had jointed with Greece, Portugal, Spain in the 'world bankrupt nations club' wasn't held?

Did you see in on your local TV station or in your local newspaper? Nope..not a peep.

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What are our politicians fighting about? You got it...whether to blow another 130 billion on tax breaks for another year, while, of course, borrowing that money and gutting the Social Security system by starving it of contributions. Fighting about hundreds of billions of new and continuing subsidies for greenie energy projects, and new 'jobs programs'. What ever happened to Obama's insistence for new jobs programs? (Porkulus III - the distribution of even more hundreds of billions to unions, state bailouts, teachers, and greenie projects?) Oh, but Michelle Obama can 'afford' 4 million dollar two week Hawaii vacations. Could you?

## Lightsquared vs GPS Users – Round 6

The federal government has confirmed reports that tests conducted by a joint Technical Working Group show that signals from a nationwide wireless broadband network proposed by from LightSquared interfered with the majority of commercial GPS receivers that it tested. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the newsroom with the latest on this controversy between the government and private industry that can affect every GPS user:

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A joint statement issued December 13th by the Department of Transportation and the Department of Defense confirms that testing did show that LightSquared signals caused harmful interference to the majority of tested general purpose GPS receivers. A separate battery of tests, conducted by the Federal Aviation Administration has shown the LightSquared like signals also interfered with Terrain Avoidance and Warning Systems. These rely heavily on GPS signals for reference to an aircraft's proximity to the ground.

In response, LightSquared executive vice-president Jeffrey Carlisle sent a letter on December 12th to FCC Secretary Marlene H. Dortch. In it, LightSquared offered to surrender authority over use of the upper part of its allotted spectrum to the National Executive Committee for Space-Based Positioning, Navigation and Timing which is a government organization of military and commercial telecommunications officials. The move would effectively shut LightSquared out from utilizing that bandwidth, which is immediately adjacent to the spectrum used by G-P-S receivers.

But here is a catch. In exchange for the concession, the company asked for immediate access to the lower 10 MHz of the spectrum initially granted to LightSquared by the FCC in December 2010. LightSquared claims signals utilizing this bandwidth will not interfere with most GPS devices, provided they are fitted with narrow bandwidth sharp cutoff filters. “

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, Im Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in The City of Angels.

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Lightsquared position is that YOU should go out and buy a better GPS unit so you won't be interfered with – totally in opposition to normal procedures where they would have to compensate you. Now imagine your GPS goes nuts in any populated area, giving you false or no results when you are trying to navigate, then try complaining to your car dealer about that \$2000 option you just paid for – for built in Sat Nav system – and them telling you the 'upgrade' is only \$800. Or throw out your Garmin GPS unit because it gets wiped out because Lightsquared wants to make lots of money and could care less about 100 million users with GPS having to throw them out and buy more expensive new GPS units. So 100 million people have to spend another \$150 or \$200 to buy a 'better' GPS system (that's billions and billions of dollars) so Obama's buddies can reap in some profit? Or, if you watch TV, you'll see the lady drive the car off the cliff because the GPS tells her to take a turn 'here'....and it leads to the cliff and a 1000 foot drop.

Stay tuned – oh and Al Gore and Obama and other prominent dems were investors in Lightsquared. I'm sure they are anxious to reap the benefits of their 'insider' deals. Who will win? You or the well connected dems?

## Postal Rate Increases

Effective January 22, 2012, the price of a first class stamp will increase to \$0.45, up a penny. A post card will go up to \$0.32.

For mail overseas, it will go from the current \$0.98 to \$1.05...up 7 cents.

More info at:

[http://about.usps.com/news/national-releases/2011/pr11\\_factsht\\_pricechnng\\_1018.pdf](http://about.usps.com/news/national-releases/2011/pr11_factsht_pricechnng_1018.pdf)

# Your Media at Work

## **Revealed: Solyndra Was About Politics and Only Politics**

On May 26, 2011, the White House posted a video praising Solyndra as a Recovery Act success story.

In August, Barack Obama's gleaming example of green technology – Solyndra – filed for bankruptcy. The solar panel manufacturer squandered \$535 million of stimulus money in a little over a year.

### Why Solyndra?

Top Obama bundler George Kaiser made multiple visits to the White House in the months before the company was granted a \$535 million loan from the government. And top Solyndra officials also made numerous visits — 20 — to the White House, according to logs and reporting by The Daily Caller. Solyndra officials in the logs included chairman and founder Christian Gronet and board members Thomas Baruch and David Prend. The company secured the \$535 million loan despite the fact that it was widely known Solyndra was in deep economic trouble and had negative cash flows since its inception.

Kaiser said he did not use political influence or talk to administration officials about a massive government loan to Solyndra. However, the Solyndra investor made multiple visits to the White House in the week before the Department of Energy approved a \$535 million guaranteed loan to Solyndra on March 20, 2009

Now we find out that the Solyndra decisions were infused with politics at every level. The New York Post reported:

President Obama's got some 'splainin to do. According to The Washington Post the administration entire green energy/clean energy program was about politics not good policy:

“Meant to create jobs and cut reliance on foreign oil, Obama's green-technology program was infused with politics at every level, The Washington Post found in an analysis of thousands of memos, company records and internal e-mails. Political considerations were raised repeatedly by company investors, Energy Department bureaucrats and White House officials.”

The White House of course denies this is the case and claims about Solyndra in particular that only the Obama administration only meant for the best: “This administration is one that will fiercely fight to protect jobs even when it's not the popular thing to do.”

Only trouble is that with Solyndra, as with the Keystone XL pipeline, as with natural gas development, as with the payroll tax holiday, as with EPA regulations of every industry, this kind of claim is so false it is laughable.

Just listen to one person involved in the Solyndra debacle after Obama had already done his photo-op at the company's plant and the business was clearly failing: "Its investors pitched bailout plans, **seeking help from what a Solyndra executive referred to as the "Bank of Washington" — his apparent term for U.S. taxpayers.** The Energy Department rebuffed the plans, at least initially.

If we had a responsible media they would be all over this. Sadly, we don't.

Source: Gateway Pundit

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Note de N4CD..if the media spent 1/10<sup>th</sup> as much time investing this, as they did crawling all over Alaska checking out Sarah Palin and digging for dirt.....you'd really be upset – as if you shouldn't be now.

The corruption in the current Administrations 'energy policy' is almost beyond belief. Unfortunately, we are all paying for it.

## Sunspots

From ARRL Propagation Bulletin – December 23, 2011

The predicted maximum for the current sunspot cycle keeps increasing and being moved closer, as detailed at

<http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/predict.shtml>.

There is no archive of these monthly (usually) announcements, but we've been tracking the changes here.

Back on September 2 we reported the forecast for the peak had been revised from June-July 2013 at 69 to May 2013 at 70. (This is a smoothed, Geneva sunspot number, different than the higher scale

used in this bulletin.) On October 7 our report noted a change to 77 in April 2013, then last month it changed to 89 in May 2013, and the latest now predicts a maximum of 99 in February 2013.

## Awards

Fourth Time #154	Randy, AA8R	December 10, 2011
Fifth Time #105	Terry, WQ7A	December 4, 2011
Seventh Time #17	Tom, K7REL	December 3, 2011
USACW #123	Bob, K7TM	November 15, 2011
USACW #124	Gene, WB4KZW	November 29, 2011
USACW II #28	Silver, N9QS	November, 29, 2011
Sixth Time CW #1	Elwood, KA3MMM	November 23, 2011
USAPA-N #13	Frank, AA9JJ	October 25, 2011
Bingo #336	Susan, WA6OCV	December 2, 2011
Bingo #337	Paul, NU4C	December 7, 2011
Bingo II #85	Gene, WB4KZW	November 29, 2011
Master Gold #58	Gene, WB4KZW	December 8, 2011
Five Star #57	Ron, N5MLP	November 19, 2011
Five Star #58	Joe, WB0CQO	November 23, 2011
Five Star #59	Gene, WB4KZW	December 4, 2011

# Operating Events for County Hunters

There are no scheduled State QSO Parties in January.

The ARRL Contest Corral lists a few operating events like the January VHF Contest – good for snagging some band counties perhaps on 6 meters, or grid squares if you are into that all the way up through laser light.

There's the North American QSO Party – CW one weekend, SSB another weekend – good for working lots of people in a short amount of time.

There is a CQ sponsored 160M contest – oriented toward working DX. That's about it. Of course, counties count toward Nth time regardless of the band – 2M FM, 2M SSB, 220, 432, 903, 1296 and up.

See the list of all the events including half a dozen QRP events at:

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2012-01.pdf>

There are a few scheduled hamfests, so maybe folks will be traveling to the FrostFest in Virginia, or the Fort Worth TX Cowtown hamfest and put out a few extra counties along the way.