

County Hunter News

March 1, 2015
Volume 11 Issue 3

Welcome to the On-Line County Hunter News, a monthly publication for those interested in ham radio 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, there is SSB activity now is on 'friendly net' 7185/7188 KHz. The cw folks are now pioneering 17M operation on 18.0915. (21.0565, 24.9155, and 28.0565 when sunspots better). Look around 18136 or for occasional 17M SSB runs usually after the run on 20M SSB. (21.336 and 28.336)

Many mobiles are now using 14.271 plus or minus for SSB runs when .336 is 'occupied'.

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

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

The USACA award is sponsored by CQ Magazine. Rules and information are here:

<http://countyhunter.com/cq.htm>

For general information FAQ on County Hunting, check out:

<http://countyhunter.com/whatis.htm>

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 . Please check it out.

Back issues of the County Hunter News are available at www.CHNewsonline.com

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Want county lines on your Garmin GPS?

<http://pages.suddenlink.net/w4ydy/hamlinks.html#County>

Download the file to a flash card that fits in your GPS unit, turn it on, and the county lines should appear!

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

Notes from the Editor

1) N4CD Rumblings – Wow – the winter weather is unrelenting in the east half of the country. If you live in New England, you're tired of shoveling snow. Way below normal temps from the “Polar Vortex”/Siberian Express have set record low temps. Naturally that has slowed down mobile activity this month. At the end of February, in my home county of Collin, TX, it's good weather for a few days followed by ice/sleet/wintry mix and bitter cold as the fronts move through. Winter is still with us. Out west – it's above normal temps.

The bands have been decent many days for propagation although activity is usually one or two mobiles a day and 10-20 counties run. Shortly a few mobiles will be off on bigger trips cross country.

The MI Mini is coming up with 80 folks registered. This could be a record setting year for that one. There's still room and time to join the fun in Traverse City.

2) **New SSB frequency for many** – as of the past couple months, many mobiles are now running on 14.271 to get away from problems on .336. Within the past month, N0KV/N0DXE, W4FNW/W8FNW, NA8W, and others have joined those self spotting and using 14271 for SSB runs.

3) **RoadMaster Award** – at the last Board meeting, MARAC eliminated this award. Apparently no one had applied for it recently. We mentioned it a few issues ago.

USA-CW Nth time - The BOD also approved a change so that you can now earn USA-CW more than once. They have given out 2nd, 3rd, 4th, etc for years yet the rules never specified you could earn in multiple times. Now fixed.

USA-SSB Award - The BOD also approved a new USA-SSB award with a start date in Feb 2015. Same type rules as USA-CW.

No action seems to have been taken on multiple time **Ran All USA** award.
(You would expect that with KZ2P/KE3VV/KC6AWX in control of MARAC)

4) **Gas Prices** – Gas prices are creeping up down here in TX – up 30-40c/gal from the lowest point. Still not too bad at \$2.10-\$2.20 a gallon. Some refinery worker strikes might be the cause as well as somewhat higher crude oil prices. It would be nice if they stayed low for a while!

Mobile Activity

End of January

W7IN spotted in AZ

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Ed, K8ZZ continued putting out WA, ID, OR counties on his vacation there. CW and SSB on 14271 and 14346 there.

He noted on the K3IMC forum:

Home safe - Great trip..

Biggest event on this trip was to see my son Tim, W8JJ, successfully defended his research dissertation study in Seattle, WA. He now holds a PhD in organizational leadership and change from Antioch University. BIG thanks to Terry, WQ7A for being my trip adviser and help desk on the road. BIG thanks to W0GXQ - K0DEQ - NM2L - W4SIG - N4CD and others for helping with relays. Wow, you guys were the best under poor conditions out west, in knowing when I was struggling on CW in the mountains.

Big thanks to all the spotters, and county hunters are the best people I have ever been involved with. Nice surprise to give K0PFV the WBOW. Big thanks to all for the last county awards I have received.

Nice visit with Terry WQ7A, and his lovely wife Bonnie - Kate really enjoyed the visit also. Also nice visit with Paul, N7JPF, who was so kind to come to my hotel as I had a long day on the road.

Big thank you to Phil, AB7RW, for receiving my antenna's via FedEx in advance and helping install on rental car. Kate and I had a great visit with Phil and his lovely wife Barb, and dinner at a favorite local place in Vancouver, WA

Transmitted all 39 counties in WA - 15 in OR - 6 in ID for a total of 65 new transmit counties. 897 left to finish all 3077 for transmit. I hope God gives me enough time to get them all.. Cost of the trip: Airfare - Food - 10 nights lodging - Gas - 3,000 plus miles on the rental car: **PRICELESS**

Look forward to seeing you folks at the MI Mini. 50 plus already signed up.. Catch you on the next trip.. 73 Ed K8ZZ

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W5QP was active in MO and KS on digital modes.

Kyle, WA4PGM, was spotted out on cw in VA

Barry, N0KV, was noted in CO on cw. Ran SSB on 14271 with N0DXE.

Darl, NA8W, ran SSB on 14271 plus or minus. Plus digital – in OH. Then headed down to FL putting them out on digital and 14271, plus or minus, SSB

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W3DYA, Norm, took a short trip to LA putting out a couple counties. Spotted all the way up to 10m CW (30,20,17, 15, 12 and 10).

He sent in the following picture and comments:



W3DYA trip to Jackson, LA

It took me 30 minutes to get out of Tyler, and I didn't really check the mileage carefully (hardly at all). Even with 75MPH speeds it was farther than I thought.

Anyway, adding De Soto, LA and Rusk, TX made it a really long day. But I feel it was a good trip with almost 200 contacts in three stops. Even some on 12M, which surprised me.

Gee, I guess I'm not active enough; had trouble with a couple of the new calls. Of course, NM1G might be a new call but the op isn't new to CHing!

73, Norm, W3DYA”

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Ed, KN4Y, headed up to GA and ran there – cw of course. He announced he'll be attending more bowling tournaments so there will be more trips.

Kerry, W4SIG was down in AL and MS putting them out.

KA4TLC, Ricky, ran a few in NC. (he is brother of K4YFH).

N8BGF and KC8WRP headed from OH to TX. Ran on SSB.

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February 2015

N9AC spotted in FL.

W8OP ran some rare ones in WV. He noted on the K3IMC forum:

“The weather here today was not very nice. Started out with snow on the road, snowing, changing to sleet and then to rain. Finally cleared up about 1600z. Sure was a good feeling to get back on the CH road. Sure missed it. 243 mi. and 8 hrs. Some lane and a half roads too ! “

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Jim, N9JF was out in IL, IN, MO, IA and other states on cw.

Greg, NM2L, took a day trip in GA putting them out on cw.

KB9AIT/N9AOT, headed to VA (Frost Fest) then continued on down to Orlando, FL for the hamfest there. SSB. Then headed back to the frozen northland in WI.

KB6UF was active in MS and AL, ssb only.

KB0BA/N0XYL headed out on a 3 week trip through KS, OK, TX, NM and west. Lots of digital from the counties.

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Jerry, W0GXQ, took another two day trip to SD. Conditions were good and there were contacts up to 10m cw. One day Jerry was delayed – ice on the antenna



W0GXQ Antenna Ice

He reported:

This is what happened when I forgot to spray the antenna with "PAM"

before I left on the South Dakota trip. The picture was taken at 0630 local time on the 9th of February (Faulk county), just before heading out to run Potter for SM7ZDI.

It was still dark when I took the flash picture, and it captured the "mist" in the air.

About 1/8 inch of ice had accumulated the previous day, and then the "freezing fog" began collecting on everything!

When I got into Minnesota, I stopped and took the antenna off; which took me about fifteen minutes to chip all of the ice from mast, resonators, and guy lines!

73,
Jerry, W0GXQ

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W4FNW/W8FNW were running around in FL.

AC0HW, Richard, big rig operator, was putting them out on SSB.

Jack, K0MAF, was running counties in GA and FL.

Steve, AK8A, headed from MI to south TX. Got stopped by bad weather one day.

KC7QOP was out in CA/OR. Had trouble getting heard on 20M SSB. Rotten band conditions.

Book Review of the Month

The Secret Wireless, or the Spy Hunt of the Camp Brady Patrol - by Lewis Theiss



This is another good read from the way back days of wireless. It takes place in 1916 as World War I is underway. The US is fighting Germany, and there are German spies and saboteurs all over the country. Henry is a self taught youth in wireless. He and others form a local wireless club and help each other out get on the air. (We're talking spark gaps and tuned crystal detectors and the like). It doesn't take a license to operate.

In the first book in the series, Henry, one of the Camp Brady Wireless Club members in Central City, PA, , along with several other members manage to track down German spies who have been ordered to blow up a nearby reservoir. Using the wireless to track down the spies, they eventually find, and with the help of the police and secret service, catch the bad guys. That episode makes national news and they get their 15 minutes of fame. Captain Brady is the head of the group. He is suddenly called to NYC on a matter of national urgency.

This following episode takes place the following summer, and their mentor, Captain Brady, again summons them to help out the Secret Service in the New York City area. The service is severely understaffed, yet German spies are everywhere. Transports are being sunk by submarines and no one is sure how the submarines know when a convoy

is about to leave. Henry and 3 others head to NYC to help out. From a Manhattan location provided by the Secret Service, which is equipped with the latest wireless, they find and intercept the wireless messages on 'short waves' not commonly used - of a suspected gang and determine how they are able to send messages about transport ships leaving NY harbor.

Those messages wind up directing submarines to then try to sink the convoys of transports.

With a lot of hard work, they track down the spy network, manage to decode the coded messages of the spies, and determine how the messages get back to Germany in time. One of the spies uses a 'mobile' transmitter – with a large collapsible portable antenna, from different locations, confusing and making it hard to track. Eventually, the group finds out the identity of the mobile operator and how he operates. They determine how messages are sent via messenger as well.

They close in the spy network, but at the last minute the spies escape.

Luckily they are able to figure out the rendezvous location for the getaway, and in an exciting finish, capture the entire ring of spies just as they are leaving US shores.

In the book, there is a fair sprinkling of the use of the wireless but very little detail of the radios themselves. Written for the youth market of the 1910s and it's a good couple hour read if you like Carl and Jerry type adventures less the technical detail.

Available in Ebook, online, or Kindle – free – on the web.

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/21955>

Lewis Theiss wrote a series of wireless adventure books and a few more reviews will follow. Most of the follow on books have the same characters as they develop into experienced wireless operators in various businesses.

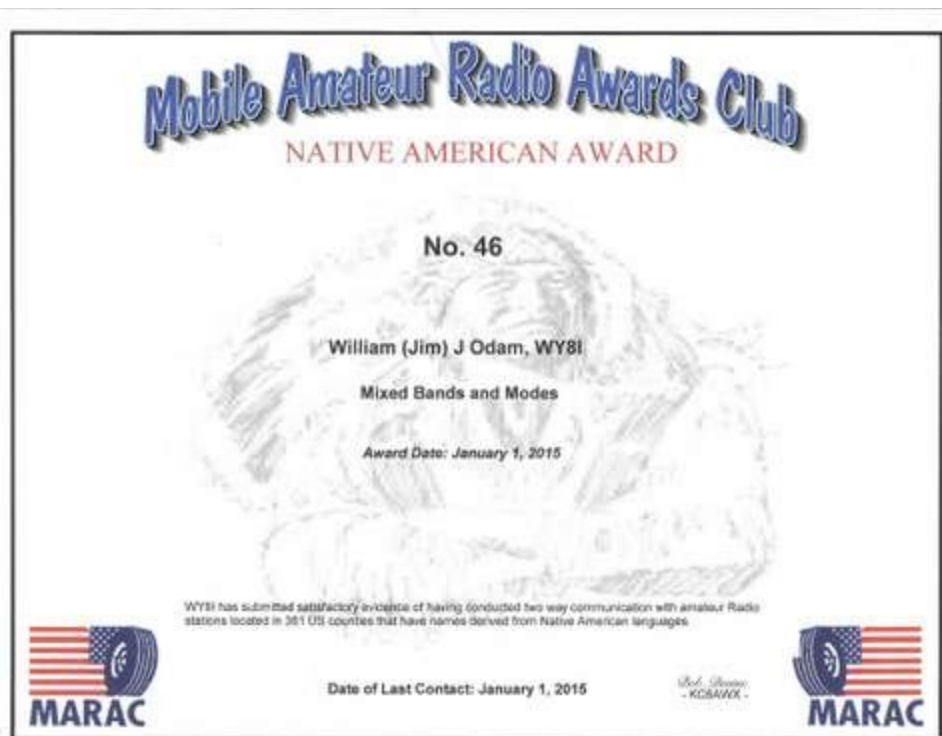
If you want to set up your own 1913 ham station, check out

<http://www.jumpjet.info/Pioneering-Wireless/eBooks/youth/1913a.pdf>

Here's another 1915 book by A F Collins - The Book of Wireless

<https://books.google.com/books?id=IPVUAAAAMAAJ&pg=PR7&lpg=PR7&dq=wireless+boy+book&source=bl&ots=KbDO8lC-Kc&sig=p9Yi89D7gBikIbXEFbSeYDmJRgo&hl=en&sa=X&ei=ebzaVOaEJIKlgwTD64P4Bw&ved=0CDoQ6AEwCTgK#v=onepage&q=wireless%20boy%20book&f=false>

Native American Counties Award



Awarded to WY8I - #46

Native American Counties Award

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with amateur radio operators in USA Counties that have names derived from Native American languages.

SPECIAL RULES: Any Valid Contacts submitted for other MARAC awards may also be used for this award. The list of required counties is available from the Awards Manager or **on the MARAC web site.**

AWARD LEVELS: This award requires making Valid Contacts with all of the counties on the Native American counties list.

APPLICATION AND FEES:
Standard application, logs, and fees.

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P25 of MARAC Award rules

Well, dang.....I searched the web and found no list of the 381 counties required. If you use Logger, it's in there. If you don't, well, good luck. In fact, I didn't even know there were 381 counties needed – other than the fine print on the award above which reads:

“WY8I has submitted satisfactory evidence of having conducted two way radio communications with amateur Radio stations in 381 counties that have the name derived from Native American languages. “

I guess if you work all the counties, you'll work all the Native American ones, but this award and the US Presidents award could be earned before someone gets their USACA number. From what I can tell, you don't even have to have these contacts confirmed, just provide log data.

Climategate – The Sequel

Climategate, the sequel: How we are STILL being tricked with flawed data on global warming

Something very odd has been going on with the temperature data relied on by the world's scientists, writes Christopher Booker

Although it has been emerging for seven years or more, one of the most extraordinary scandals of our time has never hit the headlines. Yet another little example of it lately caught my eye when, in the wake of those excited claims that 2014 was “the hottest year on record”, I saw the headline on a climate blog: “Massive tampering with temperatures in South America”. The evidence on Notalotofpeopleknowthat, uncovered by Paul Homewood, was indeed striking.

Puzzled by those “2014 hottest ever” claims, which were led by the most quoted of all the five official global temperature records – Nasa’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies (Giss) – Homewood examined a place in the world where Giss was showing temperatures to have risen faster than almost anywhere else: a large chunk of South America stretching from Brazil to Paraguay.

Noting that weather stations there were thin on the ground, he decided to focus on three rural stations covering a huge area of Paraguay. Giss showed it as having recorded, between 1950 and 2014, a particularly steep temperature rise of more than 1.5C: twice the accepted global increase for the whole of the 20th century.

But when Homewood was then able to check Giss’s figures against the original data from which they were derived, he found that they had been altered. Far from the new graph showing any rise, it showed temperatures in fact having declined over those 65 years by a full degree. When he did the same for the other two stations, he found the same. In each case, the original data showed not a rise but a decline.

Homewood had in fact uncovered yet another example of the thousands of pieces of evidence coming to light in recent years that show that something very odd has been going on with the temperature data relied on by the world's scientists. And in particular by the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which has driven the greatest and most costly scare in history: the belief that the world is in the grip of an

unprecedented warming.

How have we come to be told that global temperatures have suddenly taken a great leap upwards to their highest level in 1,000 years? In fact, it has been no greater than their upward leaps between 1860 and 1880, and 1910 and 1940, as part of that gradual natural warming since the world emerged from its centuries-long “Little Ice Age” around 200 years ago.

This belief has rested entirely on five official data records. Three of these are based on measurements taken on the Earth’s surface, versions of which are then compiled by Giss, by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and by the University of East Anglia’s Climatic Research Unit working with the Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction, part of the UK Met Office. The other two records are derived from measurements made by satellites, and then compiled by Remote Sensing Systems (RSS) in California and the University of Alabama, Huntsville (UAH).

In recent years, these two very different ways of measuring global temperature have increasingly been showing quite different results. The surface-based record has shown a temperature trend rising up to 2014 as “the hottest years since records began”. RSS and UAH have, meanwhile, for 18 years been recording no rise in the trend, with 2014 ranking as low as only the sixth warmest since 1997.

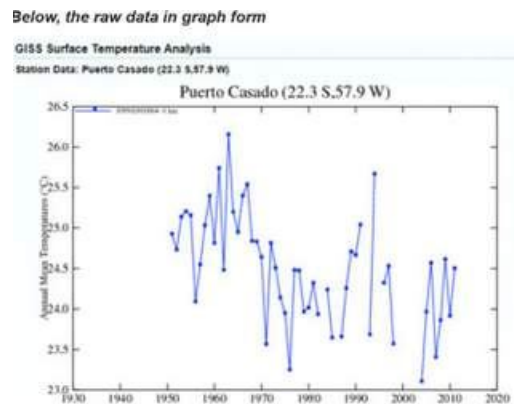
One surprise is that the three surface records, all run by passionate believers in man-made warming, in fact derive most of their land surface data from a single source. This is the Global Historical Climate Network (GHCN), managed by the US National Climate Data Center under NOAA, which in turn comes under the US Department of Commerce.

But two aspects of this system for measuring surface temperatures have long been worrying a growing array of statisticians, meteorologists and expert science bloggers. One is that the supposedly worldwide network of stations from which GHCN draws its data is flawed. Up to 80 per cent or more of the Earth’s surface is not reliably covered at all. Furthermore, around 1990, the number of stations more than halved, from 12,000 to less than 6,000 – and most of those remaining are concentrated in urban areas or places where studies have shown that, thanks to the “urban heat island effect”, readings can be up to 2 degrees higher than in those rural areas where thousands of stations were lost.

To fill in the huge gaps, those compiling the records have resorted to computerized “infilling” or “homogenizing”, whereby the higher temperatures recorded by the

remaining stations are projected out to vast surrounding areas (GISS allows single stations to give a reading covering 1.6 million square miles). This alone contributed to the sharp temperature rise shown in the years after 1990.

But still more worrying has been the evidence that even this data has then been subjected to continual “adjustments”, invariably in only one direction. Earlier temperatures are adjusted downwards, more recent temperatures upwards, thus giving the impression that they have risen much more sharply than was shown by the original data.



Raw data

An early glaring instance of this was spotted by Steve McIntyre, the statistician who exposed the computer trickery behind that famous “hockey stick” graph, beloved by the IPCC, which purported to show that, contrary to previous evidence, 1998 had been the hottest year for 1,000 years. It was McIntyre who, in 2007, uncovered the wholesale retrospective adjustments made to US surface records between 1920 and 1999 compiled by Giss (then run by the outspoken climate activist James Hansen). These reversed an overall cooling trend into an 80-year upward trend. Even Hansen had previously accepted that the “dust bowl” 1930s was the hottest US decade of the entire 20th century.

Assiduous researchers have since unearthed countless similar examples across the world, from the US and Russia to Australia and New Zealand. In Australia, an 80-year cooling of 1 degree per century was turned into a warming trend of 2.3 degrees. In New Zealand, there was a major academic row when “unadjusted” data showing no trend between 1850 and 1998 was shown to have been “adjusted” to give a warming trend of

0.9 degrees per century. This falsified new version was naturally cited in an IPCC report (see “New Zealand NIWA temperature train wreck” on the Watts Up With That science blog, WUWT, which has played a leading role in exposing such fiddling of the figures).

By far the most comprehensive account of this wholesale corruption of proper science is a paper written for the Science and Public Policy Institute, “Surface Temperature Records: Policy-Driven Deception?”, by two veteran US meteorologists, Joseph D’Aleo and WUWT’s Anthony Watts (and if warmists are tempted to comment below this article online, it would be welcome if they could address their criticisms to the evidence, rather than just resorting to personal attacks on the scientists who, after actually examining the evidence, have come to a view different from their own).

One of the more provocative points arising from the debate over those claims that 2014 was “the hottest year evah” came from the Canadian academic Dr Timothy Ball when, in a recent post on WUWT, he used the evidence of ice-core data to argue that the Earth’s recent temperatures rank in the lowest 3 per cent of all those recorded since the end of the last ice age, 10,000 years ago.

In reality, the implications of such distortions of the data go much further than just representing one of the most bizarre aberrations in the history of science. The fact that our politicians have fallen for all this scary chicanery has given Britain the most suicidally crazy energy policy (useless windmills and all) of any country in the world.

But at least, if they’re hoping to see that “universal climate treaty” signed in Paris next December, we can be pretty sure that it is no more going to happen than that 2014 was the hottest year in history.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/11367272/Climategate-the-sequel-How-we-are-STILL-being-tricked-with-flawed-data-on-global-warming.html>

Minnesota QSO Party

Yes, there was a MN QSO Party, and every county was on the air. Mobiles were out running. The weather cooperated.

K0BBC – multi op mobile 263 SSB contacts (K0BBC W0ZF)

This was our first attempt at HF mobile with my Jeep. The weather forecast caused us to switch our operating plan from NW to SW Minnesota and the winter road conditions were great. There was no snow on the roads and the sun made an afternoon appearance with temperature peaking at 45F.



K0BBC Mobile

Our intention was to run on 20 meters, but at 100W, all the dashboard lights lit up and gas gauge went dead. The Jeep still ran, but, this situation freaked us out. 40 meters was our mainstay and gave us at least one QSO in each county.

WX0Z was our lone contact in Rock, our last county. WX0Z and KD0ZSM gave our only two contacts in Pipestone. Thanks for helping us avoid a skunk. We drove corner to corner in Southern Minnesota activating 22 counties along the way. The excellent road conditions allowed us switch to gravel roads to get closer to county borders and shave time off the route allowing us to operate the final 15 contest minutes in Rock county.

Some summer tasks have emerged from this effort: Bonding some of the Jeep's large metal parts and applying to ferrite chokes to various cables are going to be attempted to eliminate interference with the Jeep's electrical system and make the antenna more efficient. To celebrate our collective contest efforts, we met AC0W, in Luverne, for dinner and swapped stories of our day's adventure. I see freezing rain moved into our operation area, on Sunday, and am so thankful for the terrific weather we had and all the operators who followed us across the state.

FT-857 100W into a Tarheel 200A-HP with a MFJ voice keyer to save the vocal cords.

N0IJ mobile 923 cw

First off, a big thanks to Brian, NX0X, for a great job driving me around on a very challenging 24 county course through much of northern MN (excluding the far north border counties). We were actually within 2-4 minutes in each county of the projected time. We gained a bit at the end giving me 19 minutes in Cook instead of projected 11. Weather was not a factor UNTIL we got to the north shore.

All day we enjoyed sunny skies and temp in the 30's, but the final 2 counties, Lake and Cook, had other plans for us. Once we reached Castle Danger, the snow came enough so that the plows were out. We made it to the Cook county border in time to make 40 QSO with the deserving. The log shows two five minute qso gaps for the contest--525 miles.

Total miles for the day was 725.

As Brian suggested, I consider the conditions in the North about as hard going as I have ever had. At times it was great, but a lot of time, there was just weak signals that I couldn't pick a call out of. I now think that often, one was Bill, HC1WDT or Laci, OM2VL just below critical mass for me.

The toughest time was between 10-2pm local time. At times I would scan 40 and not hear any signals at all. Looking back, I should have keyed more on 20, maybe, but often it sounded pretty dead, as well. The strange part was that out of a totally dead sounding band, either one, suddenly K9NW, N8II, or W0BV would come crashing in. Then, a bit later, K9NW would be just above the noise. I feared antenna problems, but the SWR never changed from almost flat on all bands with the screwdriver. Then, as we made our way east and a bit south, things improved dramatically, and we made up a lot in the last 4 hours.

I caused myself some grief in Norman and Clay when I must have bumped the "shape" knob and caused a kind of roar which I couldn't figure out in the heat of battle. We passed someone while we were going south and they were going north in NOR. I figured it must be Doug, but he said he wasn't going into Norman?? Anyone else go up there?

Thankfully, we ran over NO skunks, like Mark, MHJ, did! Laughed out loud when I read that.

Mults came hard, and if I hadn't run down 4 mobile counties near the end, it would have been worse. Only heard and worked 3 VE's--3,5,& 7. No AZ, NM, LA, OK, OR, ND, ME, SD???

Always fun to work OM2VL (3 times on 20, once on 40) and Bill, HC1WDT 3 times near the end plus a couple of Germans.

QSO leaders were: K9NW with an amazing 45, W0BV, 32, N2CU, NU0Q and AF9T with 26, plus the following with over 15: VE3KZ, W0AIH, NT2A, N2WN, N0AT, N0UY, WA6KHK, W7GKF, K0FVF, W0PI. Thanks, guys!!

I realized that we travel 106 miles (round trip) to get to one county--Cook for the usual 15-20 minutes. Not sure if anyone else was on from Cook, and that what keeps me going back. It is important to give folks the chance to make all 87--especially near the end on cw!

Still a ton of fun--even at 73-3/4.

73, John, N0IJ

NE9U mobile 993 cw 116 ssb

First time back to the MNQP mobile in a few years. Fun time as usual.

Ron KK9K, and I have been teaming up the past couple years in the WQP and MIQP. More fun to work on radios, antennas, vehicles together than on your own!

This year we brought out new software (TR4W) because our old DOS 486 laptop was on its last legs. TR4W work great. I highly recommend it!

Also new this year was the Vehicle. We used Rons GMC truck, which two weeks ago had 20/9 noise on all bands. Ron thought we could reduce the noise by following the RF suppression cookbook (I was pessimistic). But after putting ground straps on just about anything we could find metal on his truck, we had just about ZERO noise!!! The result is I think we were hearing pretty well this year. Plus, theoretically our antenna was more efficient....who knows!

Murphy pretty much stayed away...except when we pulled into our hotel parking lot Friday night and forgot we had a 13 foot tall whip sticking up....tree branches were about 8 feet off ground...SNAP went the mast. Luckily it wasn't anything two hose clamps couldn't fix.

Only other problem was Ron taking a wrong turn early on that cost us a half hour and me not taking the turn I thought I should late in the contest (road sign and map did not agree on hwy number)...cost us another half hour....and that resulted in us not quite ending up where we wanted to at the end. We still got to 26 of our 29 planned counties.

Not sure if it was us, conditions, or participation, but it seemed like the runs stopped sooner than in past years. The usual suspects would call in and then the usual stream of casual participants didn't show up. 80 was a real disappointment...especially late in the day....

All in all, a good time. See everyone in WQP and hopefully MIQP.

Scott NE9U
Ron KK9K

Equipment:

Elecraft K3 (Ron's radio....i'm still not convinced. :-)
TR4W logger (highly recommended by both of us)
Antenna (home brew all band vertical)

W0ZQ mobile 683 cw 289 ssb qso

It was a fine day to be out and about in MN with dry roads, temperatures in the mid-30's, and lots of sunshine. This year I operated from 11 different counties adding two new ones to my goal of having operated from all 87 MN counties during the MnQP. Only 30 left to go! 20m was the money band with very short skip most of the day. From west central MN 20m stations from WI, IA, and SD were booming in. 40m for most of the day was limited and only really opening up in the later hours.

I did make some noise on 15m cw for ten minutes mid-day with only 5 Q's ... not uncommon for latitude 45 degrees, longitude 94 degrees propagation. DX stations were often very weak and watery with just a few occasional exceptions. Thanks for all the stations that called in, I hope that you had as much fun as I did. See you in the WiQP in a couple of weeks.

73, Jon.

AA0EE – fixed – Le Sueur, MN 199 cw 107 ssb

The plans for being a rover fell through due to some logistics issues, so I operated fixed in Le Sueur county.

When things started going at 1400z, though, what a blast! This was my first

year operating in MN for MNQP; last year I had participated for about two hours from California as W6BB, and the contest strategy was very different. There I could reliably catch the mobiles on 20 m. This year I had a hard time hearing stations on 20, especially on SSB.

It was lots of fun chasing the rovers, even if it meant I had to give up my run frequency every now and then to do so.

Activity was pretty low on 10/15 m, but I managed to make a few QSOs there, including the highlight of the day: working Bill, HC1WDT, 5 times, and successfully moving bands/modes several times. Thanks, Bill!

Sadly, although my ears were primed for it, I wasn't able to pull K1N on Navassa in from the pileups I had. It is, of course, quite incredible that they would miss such a great opportunity to get Le Sueur county in the log.

Many thanks to all the participants, and especially to the organizers and mobile/rover stations. It was a lot of fun, and I'm already looking forward to the next MNQP!

N0HJZ mobile 1472 ssb QSO

I was trying to beat my QSO record of 1,515 and came close. I'm a rate junkie and the pile-ups were incredible! Thanks to everyone that followed me around to all 27 counties! What a fun time! See you from the road again next year!

K0PC with W9DND mobile - 961 cw qso

2015 is the twelfth and final year of the K0PC/W9DND team in the MN QSO Party. John is hanging up the driving gloves after the WIQP in March. I have been very lucky to have his steady hand at the wheel all these years. I will miss him.

For years we have had a pretty lucky streak without a visit from Murphy. He must have known this was our last run and decided to come along for old time's sake. We used a new laptop this year and had problems with RF getting in on the USB cable. 40M was fine but the computer hung up on 20M. I

normally pack ferrite cores but forgot them this year. After three hours stuck on 40M I finally realized I had some cores on the power line and antenna control line. I stole those to use on the USB cable and that solved the problem. Nothing showed up during my smoke test a few days before the contest so I was expecting smooth sailing.

Some statistics:

972 QSOs (including dupes) for an overall rate of 97/hr

Top ten minute rate: 198/hr

Top sixty minute rate: 136/hr

183 Unique calls in log

Top Ten List (QSOs)

28 N2CU

27 K9NW

21 W0BV

20 NU0Q

19 N2WN, W0AIH

18 AF9T, K0HNC, N8II, WA0MN

Special credit goes to AF9T, K9NW, NU0Q, and W0AIH for a Clean Sweep of the eighteen counties we activated.

Thanks to everybody who participated in MNQP 2015.

73,

Pat K0PC & John W9DND

KE0G Rover - 219 CW - 3 counties put out

K1 at 5 watts to an inverted vee, up 30' at center and cut for 40M, fed with parallel line and a Matchbox tuner. The day was great with temps about 32 F, lots of activity, had a great time. Thanks for stopping by for a Q ! Big sigs were k0fvf and k0tk, Tom, ex wa0iaw, both in MN. C U next time, 73, Dan ke0g

K0TG -fixed – Ramsey 230 cw 19 ssb

Conditions seemed pretty good. I was even able to work some of the mobiles on 20 in the far reaches of the state. Had to wait until I could get their attention though.

Must have had a pipeline to DL. A few of them were the only DX worked.

I show NE9U/M in the log 15 times. Scott had a pretty consistently good signal of the mobiles heard.

N0IJ 10 times

N0EO (good old Neo) 9 times

W0ZQ 7 times.

There did not seem to be the activity that there was last year. Last year I could CQ and get a lot of action. This year it seemed different. I hope it was just me and not the overall participation.

73, John K0TG

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AC0W Mobile



NU0W KC0MKS mobile

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N2WN- fixed TN 164 cw 76 ssb 85 counties

The highlight was working Kilee ND0C. She was calm, cool and collected. I know many adults who get flustered with contest exchanges, she handled it like a trooper. Great job, Kilee!

My hat is also off to the K1N team, was worried as they were sitting on 14045 just prior to the contest working up. They were gone, or elsewhere during the contests on 20. Really appreciated that thoughtfulness.

40 was kinda punk here down 11 QSOs from last year, mobiles were weak too often. 20 SSB was also down. 15 was a bright spot, but lacked much activity.

As always many thanks to the mobiles for hitting the road to entertain us. The breakdown is: NE9U (the speed demon!) 30, N0HJZ 27 (sweep), N0IJ 19, W0ZQ 18, W0AA 17, N0EO 9, KC0DMF 9, W9FZ 4, KE0G 3 (sweep too I think).

My QSO count was down 6 from last year, mostly on SSB, but added one more county, missed CRL and HOU this time around. Heard CRL, but not HOU. Maybe a sweep next year.

A big tip o' the hat to the sponsors, I enjoy the rice and tin as much as anything. Last year's certificate design was lovely too! See everyone down the log.

72,
Julius
n2wn

K9NW- Fixed – IN 241 cw 162 ssb 87 counties

That was fun! Excellent condx on both 20 and 40 made for never ending QSO possibilities. There was plenty of MN activity. The fleet of mobiles did a superb job! COO went into the log at 23:40z for the county sweep thanks to

N0IJ. (I'd heard someone on 40 SSB work someone in Cook earlier but I couldn't hear the Cook station)

Thanks to mobiles: NE9U, N0IJ, N0HJZ, K0PC, W0AA, N0EO, K0BBC, KC0DMF, W9FZ, W0ZQ, AC0W, W0ZZY, K0ARF, NU0W (and any others I may have missed) for an outstanding effort!

I grew up in Minnesota (HOU) so it's always nice to party with friends back home. Thanks for the QSOs!

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K0ARF mobile (ops N0UV K0SV)

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ND0C – fixed – Nicollet MN

My 7 year-old daughter, Kylee, was the op for this year in a limited-time

operation. As always, we ran QRP (5 watts), but since I did the logging while Kylee operated, that, of course, puts us in the "multi-single" category. We stayed on 20 and Kylee had a blast, handing out Nobles County to 33 out-of-state stations.

Right now I'm enjoy Kylee enjoying it, and hopefully she'll get her license in the near future.

73,
Randy, ND0C

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W0ZZY KC0LMX

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KN4Y – fixed – FL - 100 cw 50 counties

I got on CW and worked seven mobiles during the QSO party. I gladly missed my PM

naps. I had hoped more fixed stations would get on CW. I made contacts on all bands to calm down enough to take a nap before retiring for the day.

Note de N4CD: Ed worked 3 stations on 10 and some on 15. Not many QSOs noted on 15m in the contest. There were more stations on 15 and 10ssb

WI9WI – fixed WI – 54 cw - 36 counties

Kudos to the organizers for activating every county

Kudos to the mobiles. These state QSO parties would get boring very quickly without them. Most QSOs, NE9U with 9. Loudest mobile, W0ZQ, Jon was right in the sweet spot for the 20 meter short skip when he was in western MN.

K5KG fixed FL - 85 cw 21 ssb 534 mults

SOAPBOX: I noticed a lot of MN-to-MN Qsos going on all afternoon on 40 m because you guys can work each other. This made working you on 40 during the day tough due to the poor mid-day propagation between FL and MN. It would be much better for us far-away-guys if the MN stations would stay on the high bands all day long, and save 40 for early morning and late afternoon. I worked a few MN's on 10 & 15 CW and SSB, but those bands were pretty devoid of activity probably due to many of you being on 40 working each other. Otherwise, 10 and 15 were wide open.

BOTTOM LINE - Good Qso party, and I will do it again.

Stn: K3 + Acom 2000A

Tribander and 2el 40.

Logged with WriteLog11

OM2VL – DX 74 cw 37 counties

Score is less than last year, but this year the priority was to make contacts with K1N Navassa Island DXpedition my #339th DXCC.

Thanks a lot for the QSO's, especially for mobiles:

N0HJZ 20/20 (QSO/Cty)

W0ZQ 14/9
NE9U 13/13
W0AA 10/10
N0EO 5/5
K0PC 5/5
N0IJ 5/5
AC0W 3/3
W9FZ 3/3
KE0G 1/1.

N8II – fixed WV 174 cw 123 ssb 85 mults

It was pretty clear in the first hour that activity was focused on 40 M and I was just too far away with a dipole to be a big part of the action. The rules encourage MN working MN for multipliers, so I don't fault the strategy that much. But, it was frustrating that some mobiles spent very little time on 20 especially the first 3 hours and the only one heard on 15 was W0AA. From here. 20 was open from the start until almost 24Z, but 15 was the best band with strongest signals from at least 16-21Z and despite trying to milk the band for all it was worth, it was not worth much due to very low activity. Also, I would guess I only ran half as many MN stations on SSB as the year before when i was running only 200 W vs. a KW; this is a disturbing trend! More non-contesters need to be encouraged to operate. Mobile activity was higher on 20 this year, but some were buried in QRM as one might expect. Kudos to Rich, N0HJZ who stayed on about the same frequency on 20 phone and was easy to work from every one of his long list of counties. I know operating mobile is far from a joy in the middle of a cold MN winter. Thanks to all mobiles for their efforts.. I missed Houston and one other county,

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W1N was active in Winona,MN with a multi-op station for those collecting 1x1s and also a 'Natural Bingo'.

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Thanks to W0AA website for the pictures above

The 14.336 Saga

KW3F: “Thanks to all of the mobiles that put in there time running them on CW.... it's greatly appreciated. I'm glad that I'm a CW only person these days with 314 to go 2nd time. In the early 70's (USA-168 here) putting out counties on the SSB net was terrific with great net controls. 20, 40, and in the evening 75... all very active and productive. Even with a full time career I think I put out close to 600 counties, all SSB. Fun times. many conventions, and many friends. I tried to put out counties about 2 years ago and of course got "read the rules" on the SSB net. I just went up freq. and did my own thing. Glad I was able to put out a few on CW. Due to disability my days as a mobile are over.”

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It seems that Dave, KW1DX, ran a county or two off net frequency up in Maine one day. Not long after, he found he could not get into the 'chat room'. The MARAC chat room run by W5UGD, and admission controlled by KZ2P. Dave inquired why he couldn't get into the chat room. He got a blistering email from James, “His Eminence” in South Carolina telling him that if he wasn't going to run counties on HIS net, he wasn't going to get into the chat room. Things escalated from there – and in a bad way. Dave wasn't about to be 'extorted' where you only stay in 'good graces' with “His Eminence” by running every county on 14.336. We call it 'mobile extortion.

Dave decided he had enough of MARAC, which is dominated by, well, “His Eminence”. He resigned as Vice President. He also resigned from the awards committee where he was doing most of the database work on Logger II development.

At the last BOD meeting, it was stated that Logger II development has stopped. MARAC is now looking at spending \$20,000 or \$30,000 or more to hire an outside

consultant to continue the work on Logger II now that Dave has left the team. No one else has the expertise now – so outsiders will be required IF Logger II is to go forward. Great, isn't it?

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Out in Colorado, it seems that Barry, N0KV and Pat, N0DXE, ran a few counties off net frequency. Oh dear! His Eminence got upset. A bit later, Barry asked for a relay to work a mobile. James, His Eminence, said 'no relays' till you start running all your counties on 14.336. Barry decided at that point that he wasn't going to be extorted into bowing and groveling to His Eminence. On his next upcoming trip, expect to see SSB operation off frequency, down around 14.270-14.285 or 14323 plus or minus. Another mobile team has left the frequency.

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The Witch Hunt – History Revisted

Do you remember the 'witch hunts' from a few years ago? It seems that James, KZ2P, and his invisible, imaginary sidekick friend Junior, K2JG, who often gets to run the net with Papa in the background, that is until Papa needs the county and chimes in, too, has a thing about Joyce, N9STL, a nice YL who goes mobile and puts out lots of counties. Over 500-600-700 in just the last couple years. She's given out a couple hundred last counties, too!

It wasn't long ago that Joyce finished up for an award – I think it was Masters Gold back in 2006. Well, James was incensed. He topped out at Master Gold. James never went on to try and earn higher awards – since he stopped running counties for the folks. Couldn't be bothered. However, he was on a 'witch hunt' to discredit N9STL.

You know it was the usual B.S. She's not actually in the county she said. She really didn't work that mobile or county. Same stuff we endured for years with him calling folks 'drunks' all the time, yelling at DX to 'get off his frequency' in not so nice terms, tearing into people who used phonetics, putting people in 'time out', and worse.

Joyce needed one to go for the WBOW for Master's Platinum. However, she intentionally listed a few other 'reworks' on the needs page so Garfield, MT, would not seem to be the last WBOW. It was 'bait'. It seems that one of KZ2P's buddies is going to run the county. Great. However, Kent runs it at 6:30am local time (Mountain Time) on 20M when there is no propagation other than the east coast and bugs out. Doesn't go

to 40m. James figures it will be a year before anyone good for Master's Gold is there again! He's delighted. "The mobile" isn't anxious to get run off the net. Others try to move him off .336 but James drowns them out of the next few minutes. Nice, isn't he? "The mobile got the one contact he needed.

Joyce has an ace up her sleeve. Seems she has some frequent flier miles and the next thing you know, she's out in MT headed for Garfield, her LC WBOW for MG. (you can get credit for the county for this award by working someone FROM the county who has Bingo). Oh, no, this can't be thinks KZ2P. Percy blabs loudly 'she's not in MT'.....blah blah.....can't be. She's running the county from her driveway. That went on for hours. And days.

Even better, Joyce had sent in all the info to the Awards Chairman, KD9ZP. For all but Garfield, MT. Joyce made her contacts from Garfield and was quickly and submitted that to complete the award. Then James and his cronies jumped in to stop it. First it was endless 'she's got reworks to do! Blabbering! Heh heh – they fell for the 'bait'. She had no reworks to do.

Well, if this had happened 15 years ago, folks would have had no other source of info. It wasn't more than a few weeks before the picture of N9STL in Garfield County MT was published in the County Hunter News with her story of the trip. She also happened to meet one of the MARAC officers for lunch in MT – W0MU. Still, the vitriol spewed forth on .336 daily.

You can read of her adventure here. It's not often to you see a YL go off on an expedition (for the first time) with mobile rig, antennas, etc via airplane.

<http://chnewsonline.com/CountyHunterNews-June2006.pdf>

The fact that Joyce 'claimed' finished up really ticked of James. How much? Well, he demanded to see the log that N9STL submitted to the awards chairman, Bob, KC6AWX demanded, as Pacific area Director, the logs for his district from KD9ZP, Awards Chairman be sent to him. They demanded it be 'checked' and 'verified'. They would find 'an error' or a 'busted contact' and simply not issue it. Next thing you know, various parts of the log are being sent to various county hunters around the country asking them to 'verify' contacts she had in her log. The first time ever such was done! (and with the likely threat that if they didn't comply those county hunters might not get relays or run on 336 again – ever!).

Even funnier, Kent, KL1V, declared that he did not work N9STL in a certain county in KS!.....now imagine. How good is your memory on who you **didn't** work years ago from a certain county? You didn't log it, did you? Now, just for the heck of it, give me a list of counties you didn't work N4CD from, but he 'might have been calling you', just off the top of your memory, back in say, June 2009 in KS? har har.....But Kent had a 'perfect memory' of who he didn't work from a certain county. Well, it seems James had made a note in his log which he intended to use as 'ammo' later, and fed that info to Kent, who then 'remembered' the non-contact! Yes, that really happened! Turned out N9STL worked someone else there after not making the contact with Kent. How silly Kent looked.

Now, nearly all the of 20 or so folks that received portions of N9STL's log for verification gave those folks asking for it the 'one finger salute'. They knew it was a witch hunt. Plain and simple. I think only Kent and one or two others responded. Or folks said, without checking, nothing looks wrong. Gene, KD9ZP, said enough! No witch hunts. (that's not the first time, either, that KZ2P has gone on witch hunts. He did it with W7KQZ and the 2nd District of AK. Turns out Ernie had a QSL for that QSO).

It gets weirder. Roger, W2NWL, sends in logs showing that N9STL did not work him in 4 counties in NJ. Obviously 'edited' logs photocopied. Duh! Not to worry as N9STL had worked N9QS in those four counties. Isn't it amazing that Roger just seemed to know what counties he didn't work N9STL? Or 'lost is logs' for one of those counties? You've got to be incredibly stupid to believe there wasn't a major conspiracy underway. Roger's copies were declared suspect and invalid.

No one, ever, has had contacts 'verified' by the awards chairman or KZ2P for any award before these two episodes. No one was about to start doing it for the sake of Jame's vendetta against certain county hunters for this and that award

In fact, there was a lot of upset folks with the skulduggery, and MARAC had a big discussion, and the awards chairman was directed NOT to ever do something like that again. It was a contributing factor as to why KD9ZP gave up being Awards Chairman.

Rumor has it these folks still haven't give up on their witch hunt and vendettas. You've got to be seriously deranged to keep doing that. Stay tuned.

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Interesting Items from eBay

An estate showed up on eBay – purchased by an eBay seller from someone who collected lots of 1930s type radio. Here's a few of them – things your grandfather might have used – (or if you got into ham radio in the 40s or 50s, might have seen or even used.) The US was in the midst of the Great Depression at this time so not many could afford these units.

This one is a ultra rare National “Flying Spot' television Receiver – 1928 vintage. That was the year that WX2R, soon to be WRGB TV in Schenectady NY, went on the air with very early mechanically produced TV signals. You'd use a Nipkow scanning disk and a flying spot video camera. The signals would be sent over HF or VHF radio with a bandwidth under 1 MHz. This radio came with 3 plug in coils.



Sold for \$1000 on eBay

This is another early receiver made by the A.H. Ross Company – early 1930s. It covered 4 bands



A.H. Ross receiver
Sold for \$147

Ross made receivers from 1933-35. The first was a model 2B (2 band), then followed by a Jupiter and 4B production models. Both were 4 band models. The 2B and Jupiter are 6 tubes while the 4C was an 8 tuber. The latter had a meter while the 2B and Jupiter did not. In addition they made some custom receivers.



A H Ross Receiver
8 Tube

Here is one you probably haven't seen. It's a Harvey Radio Labs model UHX-10 transmitter covering 1500-60,000 Kc/sec. Time frame – late 30s. 5-160 meter coverage. AM/CW 10w output. Crystal control.



Harvey Radio UHX-10 Transmitter
Sold for \$243



It has plug in coils. There was an external power supply either AC or DC. Here's a web page with more pictures. It uses a 6L6 oscillator/multiplier and 6L6 final tube with a 6N7 audio tube and 6N7 plate modulator. For portable use, you'd use a dynamotor off your 6v battery to produce 300v at 100ma.

<http://www.swedearth.com/harvey/html/uhx-101.html>

An early maker of high quality receivers was Patterson. He made a series of good performing sets in the 1930s.



Patterson 16c
Sold for \$304

“Patterson introduced their 16 tube receiver in 1935. Though the PR-12 appeared in a few advertisements in late 1934, it was never in production. Karl Pierson designed the PR-16 in just a few weeks as the "new" Patterson receiver. The PR-16 featured parallel RF amplifier tubes (2-6D6s) which, in theory, increased the gain and reduced thermal noise. It also allowed the receiver to be advertised as having two RF amplifiers, even though there was only one set of RF coils per band and the receiver is essentially a single preselection front-end. The incredible audio section has three stages of Push-Pull audio using a 6A6 dual triode, two 76 triodes and two 42 output tubes supplying 18

watts of low distortion audio power. The BFO adjustment is a "swing-arm" lever accessed under the cabinet lid. Chrome chassis, band-in-use dial masking, illuminated R-meter, crystal filter, two-speed tuning - all for the low price of \$101.70, (1936 price.) Even though the parallel RF amplifiers are unconventional and no other manufacturers ever tried to market the configuration - the PR-16C is a good performer with good sensitivity, nice mechanical bandspread and powerhouse audio “

<http://www.radioblvd.com/Pre-WWII%20Ham%20Gear.htm>

Here's another from the sale seller:

Radio Manufacturing Engineers, Inc. started in business in the early thirties, founded in Peoria, Illinois by two hams - E. Shalkhauser, W9CI and Russ Planck, W9RGH. Their first receiver, the RME-9 and RME-9D (built from 1932 to 1935,) incorporated all of the basic ham requirements into a nine-tube, bandswitching superhet with built-in power supply. For its time, the RME-9D was a first-class receiver that suffered with an archaic tuning and bandspread dial. The RME-69 was announced in November 1935. Using nine tubes, a stout chassis and a tight, compact layout, the RME-69 provided the user a receiver with lots of sensitivity along with great performance features and a tuning and bandspread dial system that was "velvet smooth" - even though the dial nomenclature was miniscule. The "Compensator" control (located between the two main tuning knobs) allows the operator to keep the RF and Mixer stages "peaked" for any frequency tuned. "Stand-by" is actuated by pulling the Audio Gain control knob. A terminal on the rear chassis allows the station transmitter's AM signal to be monitored through the receiver. The Carrier Level meter is calibrated in both "R" units and in db (with 48db equal to R-9.) The standard RME-69 covered .55 to 32MC and sold initially for \$135 - the price was raised to \$151 in 1937. Throughout production various improvements were incorporated into the design. The RME-69A was an AC or Battery operated version and the RME-69B was battery operation only. Late in production changes were made to the mounting of the BFO switch and headphone jack, the mounting of the two dial lamps and the Crystal Filter design. Another late offering was the Lamb Noise Silencer, designated as the LS-1 option (there was also an LS-2 variation for battery operation.) The LS-1 added two extra tubes to the circuit.



RME 9D
Sold for \$1077.55

There were a half dozen more – wow – flashback – most of these I've never seen in person even if museums!

New USA-SSB Award

New New New New New New New

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with amateur radio operators in All USA Counties using SSB Mode.

SPECIAL RULES: Any Valid Contacts using SSB submitted for other MARAC awards may also be used for this award.

AWARD LEVELS: No intermediate levels. USA – SSB is awarded for working All USA Counties

After completing USA - SSB, each sequential award (USA - SSB II, etc.) can be worked by Starting Over and working All USA Counties for the sequential award.

APPLICATION AND FEES:

Standard application, logs, and fees.

NOTE: The Start Date for the USA - SSB Award is February 5, 2015

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de N4CD

That would seem to be that all contacts must be on or after 2/5/2015.

I note the revision date on the Awards Page is still 2 years ago....yet it was updated. Oh well. Details...details.....

Also, they didn't seem to change the Ran All State award section. You can get an award for each state – up to fifty of them if you apply for them all..... but if you run ALL the counties, there is no award mentioned for that yet. You magically just get a trophy and get listed in the database under Ran All Counties. They didn't address the issue of “Running All States” a second or third time, either.

County Sign Database Project

There were new additions to the database this month. Here are some of the new counties added. The county is getting up there at now



De Kalb, IL by KB0BA



Caldwell/Watuaga Line, NC by N4AAT



Orange/Caswell NC by N4JT



Ector TX
AB7NK / K7SEN
252th of 254 counties in TX

There's only two left to finish up Texas! (and N4CD snagged them on the last trip!)

Thomas Sowell Wisdom

Thomas Sowell is not only one of the finest columnists in the business, he's a prolific author, a brilliant economist, and he has an incomparable knack for simplifying complex concepts that few other human beings can match. Enjoy the distilled wisdom!

25) "Since this is an era when many people are concerned about 'fairness' and 'social justice,' what is your '**fair share**' of what someone else has worked for?"

24) "Imagine a political system so radical as to promise to move more of the poorest 20% of the population into the richest 20% than remain in the poorest bracket within the decade? You don't need to imagine it. It's called the United States of America."

23) "Four things have almost invariably followed **the imposition of controls** to keep prices below the level they would reach under supply and demand in a free market: (1) increased use of the product or service whose price is controlled, (2) Reduced supply of the same product or service, (3) quality deterioration, (4) black markets."

22) "What sense would it make to classify a man as handicapped because he is in a wheelchair today, if he is expected to be walking again in a month and competing in track meets before the year is out? Yet Americans are given 'class' labels on the basis of their transient location in the income stream. If most Americans do not stay in the same broad income bracket for even a decade, their repeatedly changing 'class' makes class itself a nebulous concept."

21) "There are few talents more richly rewarded with both wealth and power, in countries around the world, than the ability to convince backward people that their problems are caused by other people who are more advanced."

20) "The poverty rate among black married couples has been in single digits ever since 1994. You would never learn that from most of the media. Similarly you look at those blacks that have gone on to college or finished college, the incarceration rate is some tiny fraction of what it is among those blacks who have dropped out of high school. So it's not being black; it's a way of life. Unfortunately, the way of life is being celebrated not only in rap music, but among the intelligentsia, is a way of life that leads to a lot of very big problems for most people."

19) "The first lesson of economics is scarcity: there is never enough of anything to fully satisfy all those who want it. The first lesson of politics is to disregard the first lesson of economics."

18) "Each new generation born is in effect an invasion of civilization by little barbarians, who must be civilized before it is too late."

17) "The vision of the anointed is one in which ills as poverty, irresponsible sex, and crime derive primarily from 'society,' rather than from individual choices and behavior. To believe in personal responsibility would be to destroy the whole special role of the anointed, whose vision casts them in the role of rescuers of people treated unfairly by

'society'."

16) "No one will really understand politics until they understand that politicians are not trying to solve our problems. They are trying to solve their own problems — of which getting elected and re-elected are number one and number two. Whatever is number three is far behind."

15) "Life has many good things. The problem is that most of these good things can be gotten only by sacrificing other good things. We all recognize this in our daily lives. It is only in politics that this simple, common sense fact is routinely ignored."

14) "There is usually only a limited amount of damage that can be done by dull or stupid people. For creating a truly monumental disaster, you need people with high IQs."

13) "Civilization has been aptly called a 'thin crust over a volcano.' The anointed are constantly picking at that crust."

12) "We seem to be moving steadily in the direction of a society where no one is responsible for what he himself did, but we are all responsible for what somebody else did, either in the present or in the past."

11) "For the anointed, traditions are likely to be seen as the dead hand of the past, relics of a less enlightened age, and not as the distilled experience of millions who faced similar human vicissitudes before."

10) "It is hard to imagine a more stupid or more dangerous way of making decisions than by putting those decisions in the hands of people who pay no price for being wrong."

9) "Intellect is not wisdom."

8) "The charge is often made against the intelligentsia and other members of the anointed that their theories and the policies based on them lack common sense. But the very commonness of common sense makes it unlikely to have any appeal to the anointed. How can they be wiser and nobler than everyone else while agreeing with everyone else?"

7) "Much of the social history of the Western world, over the past three decades, has been a history of replacing what worked with what sounded good."

6) "Experience trumps brilliance."

5) "The problem isn't that Johnny can't read. The problem isn't even that Johnny can't think. The problem is that Johnny doesn't know what thinking is; he confuses it with feeling."

4) "One of the consequences of such notions as 'entitlements' is that people who have contributed nothing to society feel that society owes them something, apparently just for being nice enough to grace us with their presence."

3) "Weighing benefits against costs is the way most people make decisions — and the way most businesses make decisions, if they want to stay in business. Only in government is any benefit, however small, considered to be worth any cost, however large."

2) "In short, killing the goose that lays the golden egg is a viable political strategy, so long as the goose does not die before the next election and no one traces the politicians' fingerprints on the murder weapon."

1) "There are no solutions; there are only trade-offs."

Vermont QSO Party

Yes, there was a Vermont QSO party – as usual, activity was light on 20M with only a few stations spotted. There was more activity on 40M and on data according to the spots on W6RK.

Noted were:

cw - K4TT Essex; W1JXN, K1TNT Chittenden

ssb - K1VMT Lamoille; AB1NJ Caledonia; KB1FRW W1NVT Chittenden

data - N1GB Essex; W2HDI Lamoille

from the 3830 reflector:

OM2VL – fixed – DX 16 cw 19 ssb 5 counties cw 7 ssb

3 QSO Party + expedition of the year on same weekend

The priority was made contacts with K1N Navassa Island DXpedition my #339th DXCC. K1N on the LOG :) on 160, 80, 40, 30, 20, 15, 12m but spent many time on pileups and missed many contacts ...

I made also 111 QSO on MN QP and 8 QSO on BC QP. Neverending CQs (made about 400 QSO with USA but none answer on my CQ from VT) ... :(I made 6 QSO with W1JXN and 4 with W1NVT CLUB STATIONS.

73 Laci OM2VL

W1VE Bennington, VT 9 cw 505 ssb qso (using K2LE station)

Fun to give out BEN county!!! Was remote from NH.

73, Gerry W1VE

W7KAM - fixed – MO - 14ssb 7 mults

KS4X – fixed – TN 11 ssb 5 mults

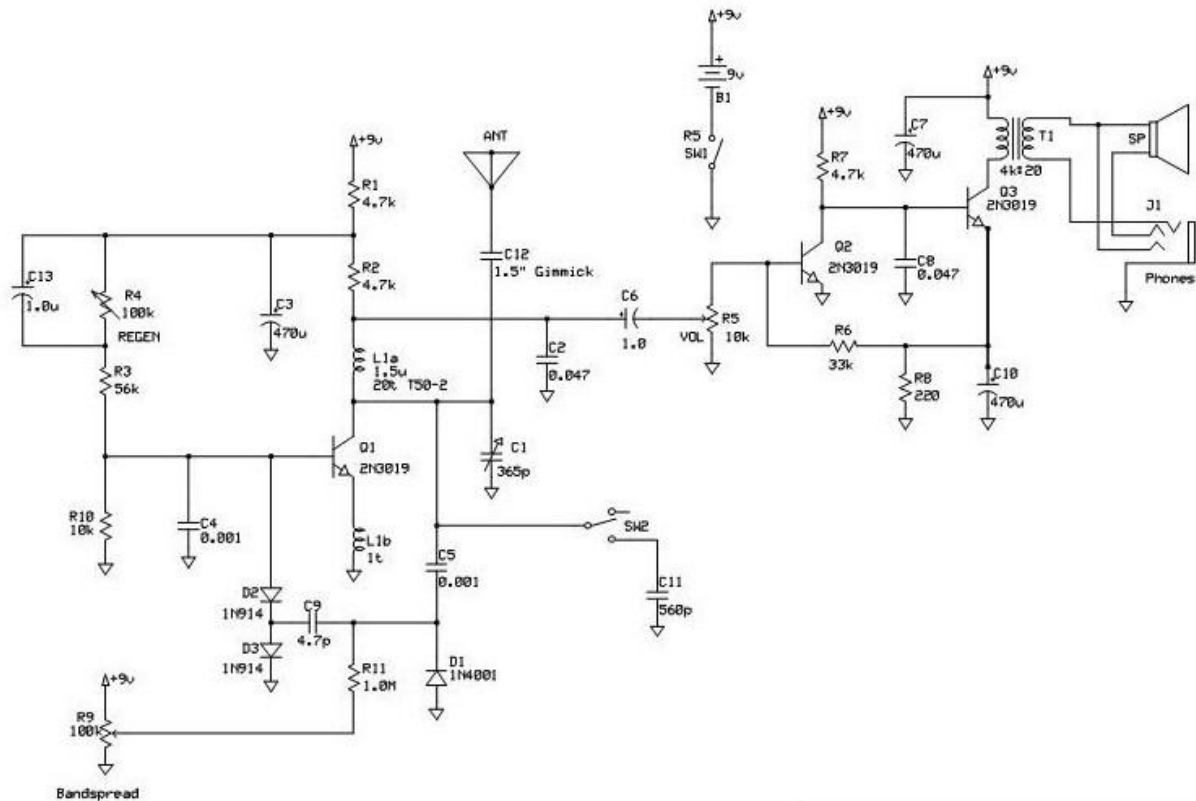
On the Trail of Regens

Another one of my favorite type receiver kits showed up on the web. It's from the Four State QRP group – and it's a simple regen kit you can build in an evening. This is back to the days of being an SWL and listening in across the bands for foreign broadcasts with an inexpensive radio.

The Ozark Patrol is a two-band shortwave receiver, using only three NPN transistors in its circuit. It employs a reflexed regenerative detector to maximize gain from its simple design, followed by a two-transistor audio amp. It is capable of operating from a simple wire antenna. \$40 price range.

This kit features a pre-drilled and silkscreened circuit board front panel with a total of 38 through-hole components mounted on pads etched on the opposite side. Component values and reference numbers are silk screened by each part location for fool-proof assembly. This style of PC board was invented in 2003 by our own Joe Porter, WØMQY as an optional board for the NJQRP RF Sniffer, a field strength meter designed by Joe Everhart N2CX. Since Joe lives in Pittsburg, KS, the board design was dubbed the "Pittsburg" style.





Here's the web page on it – with manual, lots of detail and more pictures.

<http://www.4sqr.com/ozarkpatrol.php>

On the Road with N4CD

It was time for another road trip. Let's see...the Orlando Hamfest was coming up – that's 1000 miles from my house – a long trip – and the odds of finding something interesting in the flea market are pretty small. The Houston Vintage Radio Association

also was holding their annual convention the same weekend,. Oh dear! Can't be in two places at once. I elected to go the 250 miles to Houston rather than the 1000 miles to Orlando. Maybe next year they will be on different weekends.

Gas prices had gone up 30-40 cents/gallon since the lowest prices of \$1.68to \$1.70/gal here. Now you'd be paying \$2.12 plus or minus at most stations. Oh well, it's still cheap compared to a year ago with over \$3/gas. My car gets 30-32 so I don't sweat the gas prices too much these days.

The Malibu was back from the Chevy repair garage. On the last trip coming home, there was a small 'whine' coming from the front end – above 40 mph. Well, it got to be a medium whine. The car also was getting in need of new brakes at 155,000 miles. One can't complain too much about replacing the brake pads once in that many miles. So.....N4CD left the better part of \$1,000 at the dealer to fix and keep the 2009 Malibu going smoothly. It needed a 'right front hub' – think it's like a CV joint. If it wears out too bad, your wheel can fall off.

Of course, few county hunters go the direct route and that was sure the case in this trip. Jerry, KB9AIT, needed Houston County TX (over 100 miles from the city of Houston) for his last county for the first time around. He was now mobile – headed first to the Frostfest in Richmond, VA (a good one) to sell some mobile/fixed antenna parts, and then on down to Orlando for the hamfest there. Somehow we'd have to connect and he only has SSB in the mobile. So the route headed from Collin TX on Thursday down to Houston to catch up with him around noon. It was a week day, so I had to wait for rush hour to be over. The route was straight south through downtown Dallas to I-45. You don't want to leave much before 9am as you'll just sit and sit. At rush hour, it's a 60-90 minute drive, assuming no accidents, for the 25 miles to downtown. Once there, you usually scoot out from downtown without too many hassles.

It was chilly – around 40, but expected to get up to the mid 50s to 60 with sun – great county hunting weather for February. Further south, it might be hitting 70. I loaded up the car for a couple day trip and headed out. One or two slow downs occurred, but relatively easy to get into and out of Dallas on Thursday morning with a course set for Houston County. The bands were in good shape, and there was a friendly net on 14.336 so I ran most of the counties on SSB this trip headed south – down through Dallas, Ellis, Navarro – over to Anderson and down into Houston by noon time. Jerry was watching the spots, and I also gave him a jingle on the cellphone as a heads up. We connected on 14.336. Scottie was running mobiles. I did what we used to do all the time on the frequency – said 'Last County Contact, please!' and Scottie said “ Go ahead with the last county contact”. I did and worked Jerry, KB9AIT for his last in TX.



Houston TX - LC for KB9AIT
Genuine Percy Pic

Before I left on the trip, I checked the needs. Dang – almost nothing needed in the east side of TX. That means one of two things Either everyone has everything there already, OR...they need so many they don't list them. Makes no difference to me – I'm just putting out counties for the 3rd time and I'm sure someone will 'need' some of them and work me. So it was down to the south corner of TX – through Jasper, Tyler, Newton to Orange. Orange was one of the two missing 'county line signs'. It's hard to get the picture on the interstate. There is none coming in from LA on the east –and if you are going east, the highway is so busy you won't have time to stop if you even could. I'd try it on a small road – seems I remember from way back there's a county line you can run. Sure enough, you can run Newton/Orange TX with a nice easy place to park at the county line! One down, one to go.



Orange TX
Next to LC for the CH database!
Genuine Percy Pic

It was getting a bit late so it was time to hit the interstate and find a motel for the night. I wouldn't be too far to Beaumont – a large town – with lots of motels. I got off an exit with several motels. One of them was a former Super 8 – you could see where the signs had been on the sides of the building. This was now the Heritage Inn. I've stayed at quite a few former Super 8s. I checked it out – cheap - \$46. My room was OK...but it is definitely low rent district with cars coming and going. After I looked at the Trip Advisor report.....which I should have checked first.....I probably would not have stayed there. It worked out OK. There was a Red Lobster 500 feet away – so I had a nice seafood dinner for \$18 then walked back to the motel. Jefferson County TX.

I slept fine – but had to wander the next day to find breakfast at a nearby IHOP. (\$10) No breakfast at his 'budget motel'. With a short detour up highway 69 I could hit Hardin County – and did – and put it out. The time was early and not too many were around but I wanted to get to the convention around noon time.

Just before I left on the trip, Lowell., KB0BA, had gone out of his way early, early in the morning - to give me Deaf Smith TX....the next to LC for WBOW on CW. They were on the road at 7:15 am and in the county by 7:45 – just about sunrise time there. We made it on 40M cw. (last one to go for WBOW is Iberville, LA now for N4CD).

Sandra, N0XYL, was down to 3 in TX to finish up Masters Gold. Two were in the panhandle (they missed the last N4CD trip when I ran them).....so they ran them themselves. You can do that for that award even if you are solo - just work another ham with Bingo from the county. With two of them in the car – they can just work each other! The last remaining county was Brazoria – just south of the city of Houston in Harris County. Hmmm.....

So after putting out Liberty, Chambers, you head on into Harris County on I-10. This was the last 'missing' county line sign for TX. I managed to snag it. There's 254 counties in TX and we got 'em all now!



Harris County TX sign
LC!

I checked the map and sure enough, there would be just enough time to get there and then north through downtown Houston to the convention on the north side of town. Houston has lots of Tollroads and I contributed a few bucks getting on south I-45. In a few miles, you can zip west on 2513 for a few miles, which gets you first into Galveston – then into Brazoria TX. You have to stop to run each - One time on a wide side street, the other time in a parking lot. Whatever works!

The distance from Brazoria to where N0XYL was fairly short for 20M. I didn't hear a peep out of them on 20M in the morning. They were running counties but NIL copy. That's not unexpected. Not good but it would take a while to get to her needed county.

Maybe by then 20M would 'shorten up'. I hit Harris and they were in there – running a county and worked them. Then they faded out – gone! My antenna is tuned for cw and I get just maybe 10w out on .336. Conditions have to be decent for me to get through. I didn't have 40M SSB operational. Was this going to work, or just be a 50 mile detour for nothing?

Fortunately, just before I hit Brazoria, KB0BA/N0XYL were coming in 59 while running a county. We worked and she's got all of TX in the log!



Brazoria TX
LC in TX for N0XYL for MG
Genuine Percy Pic

Now I had to make tracks to get to the convention. Murphy had other plans and I sat for five miles creeping and crawling through downtown Houston. Arrrgh!.....traffic is almost guaranteed to be bad there. Morning, noon or night. By noon, I had arrived at the Marriott North where the Houston Vintage Radio Association has the convention. About 200 attend and things would kick off soon. Room rates are a decent \$79/night, but you can add about \$15 in taxes on top of that. Folks and radios were arriving.

The trip down was a success. Two LC given out (they are tough to give out in TX – the odds are about 1 in 254). Not bad. Good weather, too.

I unloaded my stuff – I had two radios to sell – one would be today, one tomorrow. I'm trying to thin down at home – but somehow radios (and ham stuff) seem to follow me home.

Like the Dallas convention, this one starts out with a 'tubes and paper' auction in the afternoon, followed by a 'plastic radio', 'parts' and misc stuff auction for \$10 and up items running through the evening hours. There would be some things from two or three estates along with 200-300 items from members of the club. You need a good hour or two to scan what's being offered before things start. I didn't see a single regen other than 1920s broadcast sets, and there were only a couple things I would bid on. I had my notes on what to bid on and how much I thought I'd pay, max. Condition is everything on these old radios.

There were boxes and boxes of tubes. Early tubes – late tubes – likely some of just about everything. Top dollar was paid for 1L6 tubes – that go in the Zenith Transoceanic radios. They are 'rare' and you can pay \$25 or \$50 for a single good tube. There is no substitute like many others where you can use a 12AU7 instead of a 12AX7 in many uses. Not many radios used the 1L6 and they go bad frequently. Remember...if you see a 1L6 for sale for a buck or two at some out of the mainstream hamfest, buy every one of them you find!.....(not a 1L4 – common).....the 1Lsex.....

There were stacks of Riders – the annual editions with all the service information on the latest models of tube sets – 30-40 years – cheap – but you'd need 15 feet of bookshelf to hold them. If you fix old radios you need something like that. No one was selling any ham related paperwork/magazines. Nothing to buy. I took a break and had some dinner. The next auction would start soon – but I didn't spy any radio I had to have.

My little plastic case Crosley broadcast set sold for \$10 – probably what I paid for it a couple years ago, and it was sitting in the box for 3 years untouched. Won't be missed. One less box taking up space. Some years you hit the jackpot with items to bid on. This year – I just resisted. Hundreds of table radios were sold along with everything from phonographs, turntables, speakers, Laser disc player, 8 track tapes and 8 track tape players, and on and on. The auction ran till 9:30 and checkout took a while longer. Since I didn't buy anything, I skipped the checkout. Normally if you buy something, you've got to pay and you can then take your items. The place has to be cleared for all the stuff coming in the next morning for the \$20 minimum bid items – wood radios, consoles, ham equipment, etc.

I hit the hay about 10pm. Oh...4 large pillows on the Hilton bed. I put two of them in the closet – won't be needed.

Morning came and I was up at 6am. As part of the convention deal, you get a discounted \$10 breakfast coupon for their buffet which starts at 6:30. (regular price \$18). It was

great with strawberries, blueberries, blackberries, bananas, apples, oranges to start. Then a bowl of oatmeal, followed by scrambled eggs and bacon, egg burritos, orange juice, decaf coffee. I got my \$10 worth.

I staked out my front row seat again – where you can see the items up for bid easily. Every now and then, something seems to appear from nowhere – you didn't see it out on the preview floor – and it could be the one thing you really want. They put items on a turntable so you can see front and back. The 'big' auction starts at 11 am.

Radios were streaming in to the auction room and I spent a good two hours on and off checking things out. Dang. NO regens other than BC sets. You could bid on Collins 75A2s, 51J4s, a National RC3-4, a Hallicrafters SX-28, several S-20Rs, a Heathkit HW-100 with power supply, SWR meter, and Mic, and tons of consoles and wood radios.

I brought just one for sale – a Philco 140-37 AM/SW radio that 'also receives television sound' when used with a Philco TV wireless receiver. Cabinet was fair. Set never tested. It sold for \$20. No home run there. It was just taking up space at home.

The highlight of today's auctions would be six valuable (\$\$\$\$) Catalin radios. These were made in the 1930s from a special substance – that cracks every easily, discolors, and fades. These were in immaculate condition with NO chips, NO cracks, totally electrically restored. That's unusual. These radios tend to self destruct.

From Wiki: “Catalin is a brand name for a thermosetting polymer that was popular from the 1930s. It was developed and trademarked in 1927 by the American Catalin Corporation, when the company acquired the patents for Bakelite. Similar to Bakelite, Catalin is a phenol formaldehyde resin, and can be worked with files, grinders and cutters and polished to a fine sheen. Catalin is produced by a different manufacturing process, a two-stage process, than other types of phenolic resins. It does not contain fillers, such as sawdust or carbon black. Catalin is transparent, near colorless, rather than opaque. Unlike other phenolics, it can be produced in bright colors or even marbled. .”

The high dollar items would be sold about half way through. They had them on display. No touching, and there was an auction person sitting there watching them very closely. There was also an original 'Coke Radio' in a cooler case from 1948, and a Sparton BlueBird 506. Think of a large number of dollars for these radios – and we'll come back to the prices a bit later. Coca Cola cooler radio on left in below picture.

There's sandwiches and salads outside, so you don't have to miss much of the action while the auction goes on. I grab one of each. You never know when something 'new'

you didn't see in preview pops up.



The very valuable radios
\$15,000 plus in radios there



Motorola "S" grille Catalin
Sold for \$3,300

Yes, that one table top Catalin radio sold for \$3,300! One radio that probably sold for \$19.95 when new. The picture doesn't do it justice. It literally 'shines'.

At this auction, you could buy a 'grandfather clock radio', or a Sebring jukebox and hundreds of radios of all types (other than regens).

OK...so the least expensive Catalin sold for \$1700! Wow! Four sold in the \$2000 plus range. You've got to be a very serious collector to collect these! (there are dozens of types of them, too). If you have one, you need to keep it out of sunlight or fluorescent light. Only turn it on for five minutes – no longer – you don't want to heat up the Catalin – every couple of months. Keep it in a safe place where no one can touch it, knock it onto the floor, etc. One crack or chip and the price drops 30-50%! The stuff is very fragile.

The Coke cooler 1948 radio, working, in nice shape, sold for \$500. Someone paid \$3600 for the Sparton Bluebird! See it here – nice tall radio with mirror surface finish but just a plain old AM receiver behind it.

<http://www.radioatticarchives.com/radio.htm?radio=7005>

Lots of radios went by – maybe 300-350 of them. So far nothing of interest at a price I wanted. The HW101 with HP23 PS and nice SWR Bridge sold for \$80. The Collins 75A2, which was in sad shape, didn't meet minimum bid of \$150. They'll take it back and clean it up for the next auction. The big receivers like the SX-28 sold for over \$150. Same for the National NC3-D. About 3% of the items didn't sell and were passed. Many sold for \$20. On some of the estate sales, the price was dropped just to move the stuff. If you wanted 'heavy' – like old chassis, some lots sold for \$5 or even \$3

It was getting late near the end of the auction. I had bid on a few things but they quickly escalated to prices that 'weren't worth it' for me. What's this? A Silver Marshall All Wave 644 SG unit up for bid? I didn't see that out in the preview area? Where was it hiding, or did I just overlook it. From the front, it looked like a large BC radio.

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I'm glad I'm less than 20 feet from the turntable. As it is rotated I see it looks somewhat like a Pilot Wasp from the back, with two shielded compartments. OK, I'll

take a chance on it. Bidding goes up to \$30. No one else seems to know what it was. I had high bid, they announce it had a \$40 minimum. Auctioneer says “do you want it for \$40?” and I nod my head. It's mine - whatever it is. It's a pig in a poke.

It was in a home made case and looked just like a run of the mill BC set from the 1920s. Nothing special. It's about a foot high, 2 feet wide, and a foot deep.

Here's the front view after I figured out how to take it out of the crudely made cabinet.



The Mystery Regen

It was announced by the auctioneer as a Silver Marshall All Wave Radio. Silver Marshall was one of the makers of kit radios. They would sell the parts for them as the patents were still in effect and you would have to pay royalties that increased your price by another 25%. This appears to be about a 1928-1930 assembled radio by someone who highly modified the design. Later updated some of it.

It has a split dial with two 0-100 vernier dials, an on off switch, and two knobs on the front panel, and jacks for ear phones.

Here's a top view:



You'll note there are two shielded compartments. The one on the right appears to be an RF amplifier – tuned – with a plug in coil. There's a type 58 tube (tetrode) with plate cap – in a 4 pin socket. The center compartment is the regen detector. It's got a grid leak resistor/capacitor in the grid circuit. It uses a 5 pin socket. There's a type 56 tube (triode) plugged in it, indicating this radio ran with 6.3v tubes at some point in its life. Likely it started life with a type 224 and 201A tube.

Along the left side are 3 tube sockets with audio interstage transformers. Likely 201A tubes in the original design. Maybe 100 mw audio on a good day output.

No covers were on the shielded compartments. (dang). There is no way to change the coils without taking the radio out of the cabinet.

Silver Marshall used unique coil forms and a unique socket. Probably 'unobtainium' these days to find two sets of coils for the radio. The coils are 6 contact 2 1/2 inch diameter special units made only by Silver Marshall. It looks like the BC set is in it, but nothing else. Those coils are 'rare'.



Six pin socket/external coil contacts

Silver Marshall did sell an 'All Wave Tuner' (2 tubes) Kit....it's in a 1928 catalog. Someone apparently built it, with a different than normal dial, and added audio amp tubes from some other design. This is all custom hand wired. There are some newer 1970s era mylar caps added underneath.

A note says it takes 135v, 90v, 22v, 6.3v to run the radio. It's fairly crudded up – being now 85+ years old, but we'll see if it ever gets going.

It was a nice find. You never know what will show up at an auction. It was almost the last item auctioned. The only thing I bought.

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The Philco AM/SW radio I brought for sale sold for \$20. It tuned from 1.5 to 5 MHz on the shortwave band. On the back it had a sticker that said "this radio receives television sound when used with a Philco Wireless TV receiver". I'm not sure how – this is pre 1940s TV.

Soon, things are over. It's 4pm and it takes another 45 minutes to check out and get my 'mystery radio'. It's even more of a mystery when I get it.

There's the usual Saturday night banquet for the awards. It's mostly for the HVRA members and I skip it to head out for Panda's Chinese Buffet. Back before dark and goofed off till bedtime. Slept well.

Sunday morning arrives – and I check out the breakfast buffet. What's this? There's 100 people eating breakfast at 6:30am. Ah.....a travel agent has booked a load of people headed to a cruise ship at the port of Galveston into the hotel. They need to leave by 7:15 to catch the bus that takes them down to the cruise ship dock for boarding. OK. Buffet not as good today with no strawberries, blueberries, blackberries. Have oatmeal, eggs, bacon, OJ, a banana, cantaloup, and decaf coffee. Missed my healthy, good for you berries. Soon it's time for departure from Houston (Harris County).

I check the weather. Outside it is 60 degrees and low hanging clouds – no sun. Almost fog – everything damp. Forecast for Dallas – warm today, then into the 30s tonight as a cold front moves through – possible thunderstorm – then cold rain turning to freezing drizzle possible with wintry mix just north of Dallas. OK – time to get on home and hunker down. Winter is still around. In Boston – they are at zero or below tonight with even more snow. So far they've had 7 feet in the past month! Lots of places will be cold and snowy tomorrow. I decide it is time to get home – and not spend another day off county hunting. I'm just not in the mood and the weather isn't going to cooperate. Most of my 'return' parts of the trip are fairly direct to home.

I'm home by noon – total trip 787 miles.

Global Warming Fraud

When the folks at the Pentagon went looking for photos to illustrate how global warming is “already beginning” to affect their 7,000 facilities, they must have been thrilled to discover an alarming image of a four-story building that collapsed when the permafrost melted right out from under it on a military base in Alaska.



There's just one problem with that photo, which appears on the cover of the "Adaptation Roadmap" the Pentagon issued last fall: The building is not on a military base. It's not even in Alaska.

It's in Russia.

Moreover, the collapse of the building, a block of flats above the Arctic Circle in Russia's eastern reaches, had nothing to do with climate change, according to the photographer, Vladimir E. Romanovsky, a geophysicist at the Permafrost Laboratory at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. "It's not global warming; it's bad maintenance," Romanovsky said in a telephone interview. "For the whole winter, there was hot water leaking in the basement."

Pentagon officials were mortified when we here at the Energy and Environment blog alerted them to the photo's provenance

That the photo isn't the only instance of Pentagon climate hype. The agency has been praised for taking a relatively proactive approach, compared with other federal agencies, to a problem that presents undeniable risks to property and national security. But at the Department of Defense, the immediacy of the threat has, at times, been a little overstated.

For example: Conger, who regularly discusses climate change with the press and in other public forums, often mentions that sea-level rise has forced Cape Canaveral Air Force Base to move its launch pads a quarter-mile inland so "they wouldn't flood anymore."

But that's not true, said officials with both the Air Force, which manages one set of launch pads, and NASA, which manages another.

While Cape Canaveral has been battling beach erosion due to storms, its launch pads have never flooded. And while there is a revised development plan for the cape that involves building future launch pads farther back from the sea – an "adaptation strategy for assured national access to space," as one presentation put it – those launch pads have yet to be built.

"I think you just got a bad rumor somewhere along the line," said Nancy Bray, deputy director of operations at John F. Kennedy Space Center.

In an interview, Conger acknowledged the error.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2015/01/30/is-the-pentagon-hyping-climate-change-here-take-a-look/?postshare=5241422652227132>

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US citizens are fed a bunch of crap by the Obama Administration week after week after week. Every government department and agency now spends 25% of its time trying to tie in 'global climate change' to their mission, no matter what it is. Work on tax returns? Oh, in 80 years there won't be any paper left in the world....all the trees will be dead? No? Well, just invent some kind of story, then! How about killer tree bugs?

Here's another 'warming hype' fraud you didn't know about:

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As this week's blizzard rumbled toward the U.S. Northeast, many media outlets posted the top-10 snow events for major cities. An unusual number of snowfalls in those top 10 lists have been within the last 20 years, even in cities that have records going back to the 1800s. Why is that? Could it be climate change? Are other factors involved?....**Quite simply, our measuring techniques have changed, and we are not necessarily comparing apples to apples. In fact, the apparent trend toward bigger snowfalls is at least partially the result of new—and more accurate—ways of measuring snowfall totals....**

Official measurement of snowfall these days uses a flat, usually white, surface called a snowboard (which pre-dates the popular winter sport equipment of the same name). The snowboard depth measurement is done ideally every 6 hours, but not more frequently, and the snow is cleared after each measurement. At the end of the snowfall, all of the measurements are added up for the storm total....Earlier in our weather history, the standard practice was to record snowfall amounts less frequently, such as every 12 or 24 hours, or even to take just one measurement of depth on the ground at the end of the storm.

You might think that one or two measurements per day should add up to pretty much the same as measurements taken every 6 hours during the storm. It's a logical assumption, but you would be mistaken. Snow on the ground gets compacted as additional snow falls. Therefore, multiple measurements during a storm typically result in a higher total than if snowfall is derived from just one or two measurements per day.

That can make quite a significant difference. It turns out that it's not uncommon for the snow on the ground at the end of a storm to be 15 to 20 percent less than the total that would be derived from multiple snowboard measurements. As the cooperative climate observer for Boulder, Colorado, I examined the 15 biggest snowfalls of the last two decades, all measured at the NOAA campus in Boulder. The sum of the snowboard measurements averaged 17 percent greater than the maximum depth on the ground at the end of the storm. For a 20-inch snowfall, that would be a boost of 3.4 inches—enough to dethrone many close rivals on the top-10 snowstorm list that were not necessarily lesser storms!

Source: <http://www2.ucar.edu/atmosnews/perspective/14009/snowfall-measurement-flaky-history>

W7OLY Mobile Installation

from Aubrey, W7OLY:

A picture of my new mobile antenna installation. It's almost identical to yours except I have a 54" mast on a roof mounted mag mount. Two support lines using non stretchable cord connected to 6mm screws in the roof rack mounting slots, and a ground strap to the frame. It's an MFJ mag mount with 5" magnets but I removed their coax and installed RG-8X.

As soon as my new laptop is delivered (this week) and I get logging software, etc. installed I'll be mobile CH



W7OLY Mobile

New Hampshire QSO Party

There was a NH QSO Party – I didn't find too many on cw – but didn't look too hard as was busy most of the weekend and that Sunday. Many of the big contesters wait for the New England QSO Party when all of the counties should be on the air. However, there were stations to work. Not many were spotted – like 2 or 3 total!

from the 3830 contest reflector:

WN4AFP – fixed SC 15 cw 19 ssb 9 counties

KG4IGC – fixed – SC – 3 qso ssb 2 counties

Just was not able to find any NH stations. Took a break from the CQ WPX RTTY contest to see if I could work this QSO Party, but the bands obviously were not in my favor.

W0GXQ's Quest to Reach 1000 LC's

Jerry, W0GXQ, is on a quest to reach 1000 transmitted last counties. He's now reached 900 and counting – trying to reach the 1000 number that only a handful of county hunters have ever done. He's got more trips planned, and will be attending the MI Mini – maybe picking up some LC's along the way. Up to 913 as of 2/10/2015.

CW Stats from Dennis

Dennis, KK7X, compiles the annual CW totals as of the end of the year. Here's the updated version for year end 2014

	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
AA8R			2274 #2	2194 #2	1930 #2	751 #2
AB4YZ		3074	3073	3063	3054	
AB7RW	3015 #3	2886 #3	2656 #3	2040 #3	3073 #2	3062 #2
AC0B	1128	1124	1124	1117		1101
AD1C	3076	3070	3069	3067	3064	3057
AE3Z	3058	2771	2411	1886	1854	1818
DL3IAC	2518	2304				
DL5AWI			2756	2744		2670

DL6KVA	3066	3011	2919	2810	2636	
K0DEQ	445 #2	3025	2739	2637		
K0FG		2987				
K0LG				2708		1968
K0PY				1679		
K1TKL	3002 #2	2628 #2	1463 #2	3065	2967	2705
K2MF	1681	1917				
K2RP			2605	2520		
K4AMC	3065 #2	3036 #2	2978 #2	2717 #2	1594 #2	
K4EXT	1294 #2	1050 #2	3077	3049	2782	1814
K4XI	2250 #3	3076 #2	3074 #2	3062 #2	2962 #2	2462 #2
K4YFH			2987 #2			
K4YT			1743 #2		2959	
K5GE	3075 #2	3057 #2	2996 #2	2721 #2	627 #2	
K5JF				1718 #2	1608 #2	1047 #2
K5WAF		2837	2606	2154	1627	1540
K5XY	417	416	131			131
K5YAA	2014	1769				
K7DM			2821			
K7REL	2302 #5	3064 #4	2971 #4	2551 #4	433 #4	2949 #3
K7TM			1436 #2	3077	2602	
K8IW	3021	3013	3012	3010		2997
K8OOK	2258	2201	2182	2115		1900
K8QWY			2992 #2	2927 #2		2570 #2
K8ZZ			1726 #2	1512 #2	1064 #2	605 #2
K9AAA			3067	3040	2402	
K9EN	2577					
K9MIX	223	41				
KA3MMM	324 #7	53 #7		3077 #6	3032 #6	2872 #6
KA4RRU	3020	2943	2890	2794	2162	1636
KA9JAC	540 #2	296 #2	255 #2	108 #2	3049	3014
KB0BA		2162				
KB6UF			3071	3059	3023	2957
KC3X	2476 #4	2958 #3	359 #3	3060 #2	3035 #2	2786 #2
KC5P	2939	2777				
KC7YE	2321	1992	1693	1286		
KE3VV	3076 #2	3063 #2	3013 #2	2638 #2	3074	3074
KK7X	2208	2154	2123	2069	1965	1814
KM1C				2771		
KM6HB	3056	2975	2901	2680	2305	1561

KN4XP			2349			
KN4Y	3072 #5	3069 #5	3060 #5	3041 #5	3008 #5	2868 #5
KR4OE		1881	1881	1879	1842	1678
KV7N	2140	2129	2111	2101	2078	1943
KW1DX	935	752				
KW4V		2829 #3	2236 #3	241 #3	3062 #2	2874 #2
KY0E			482 #2	188 #2	3068	3018
N1API	2726	1673				
N2JNE	2476	215				
N2OCW	2877 #2		2487 #2	2238 #2	940 #2	649 #2
N3DLM	2711					
N4AAT	3069 #3	2472 #3	1311 #3	3057 #2	2524 #2	1050 #2
N4AKP				1731 #3	263 #3	3037 #2
N4CD	3073 #5	2883 #5	1781 #5	3052 #4	2977 #4	2394 #4
N4RS	1256 #5	3029 #4	2971 #4	2871 #4	2629 #4	1924 #4
N5PR			3065	3056	3023	2968
N5XG	2365 #2	2244 #2	1827 #2	3077 #1	2950	1984
N6PDB		2764		2162		
N7JPF	1745	1336	974	378	18	
N7WO		2627		2504	2449	
N8CIJ	3054	3011	2950	2750	2445	1132
N9JF	2998		2962	2937	2896	2851
N9QS	2901 #3	2529 #3	2011 #3	3077 #2	3039 #2	2908 #2
NA8W	468	285	143			
NF0N	2583 #2	2056 #2	1178 #2	3067	3046	
NM1G	3034	2993				
NM2L		2689		1958 #2	1686 #2	1125 #2
NN9K		2350 #4	1985 #4	919 #4	1470 #3	1555 #3
NT2A	3073					
NU0Q	2901 #2	2713 #2	2415 #2	1811 #2	542 #2	3072
NU4C	2556	2503	2455	2321	1766	
NW6S	2929 #2	2724 #2		2131 #2	121 #2	3050
NX0X	2520	2444	2323	2077		2009
ON5XL		2179 #2				
SM6VR	2352 #2	1072 #2	3073	3060	3029	2998
VA3XOV			3002 #2	2376 #2	668 #2	3073
VK4AAR			2212	2005		
W0EAR	3072 #2	2920 #2	2466 #2	3075		
W0GXQ	3076 #6	2763 #6	3077 #5	2987 #5	1207 #5	2912 #4

W0UM				2159		
W3DLM	2711	2384	2051	1552	1300	984
W3DYA	3036 #3	3009 #3	2962 #3	2870 #3	2311 #3	1489 #3
W4RKV	2984 #2	2969 #2	2957 #2	2929 #2	2844 #2	2810 #2
W4SIG	3067 #2	2900 #2	2745 #2	2478 #2	794 #2	
W4XT				2479	2447	
W4YDY	2952 #2	2654 #2	2207 #2	1715 #2	986 #2	3053
W5CD	2533 #2					
W5QP	2980		2295			
W6TPC	911			280		276
W7FEN	2955	2939	2832	2641	2316	2252
W8FNW	858 #2			2922		
W8OP	1129					
W8JJ			1838	1788	1599	1356
W9GBH			2731	2540	2182	
W9MSE	3008 #6	2652 #6	922 #6	3054 #5	2835 #5	1401 #5
W9WOC	1764	1588	1318	805		
WA3QNT	3028	2981	2943	2890		
WA4EEZ	2023					
WA4UNS	3043	2997	2947	2840	2093	835
WA7JHQ	3048 #2	3036 #2	3036 #2	3014 #2	2965 #2	2897 #2
WB2ABD			2314 #3	1572 #3	3070 #2	2964 #2
WB4KZW	3069 #2		2555 #2	3077	3052	2937
WC5D		2361 #2	2281 #2	2243 #2	2164 #2	2155 #2
WD4OIN	3069	3068	3064	3040	3011	
WD6CKT		1500	1300 #3	1200 #3	700 #2	500 #2
WD8OWA			3072			
WE5EE			499			
WE7G	3067	3047	3025	2978		
WQ7A	168 #2	3047	2961			
WU3H		2271 #4 (QRP)	2150 #4 (QRP)	2019 #4		1150 #4
WY8I	1669					

Kalawao - Often Elusive

If you are a county hunter, you likely know about Kalawao. It's hard not to know about it if you've read the County Hunter News for a while, either. It's often one of the hardest to work counties, with operations on average about once a year by someone – but maybe 18 months to 2 years apart at times. [Some regular counties are only on the air, though, once a year on a given mode – or less, as well. Unlike Kalawao, someone just isn't going to take a detour to get here.] Of course, Kalawao, being about 5000 miles away from the east coast, is also tough propagation wise! Signals are often not very strong – and it helps to have a big beam. Mobiles and people just don't accidentally wander through Kalawao.

Some years there are 2 or 3 operations from there – some years none. As we've noted before, you really have to want to get there to run it. It's not cheap to get there, either, these days.

If you are one of the few who has Run All Counties (all 3077), you've been there – N8KIE, KL1V, N4AAT, N8RLJ*, AA9JJ and N9QPQ, AF3X, AI5P, N4CD, WA0SBR, KK0L, KB0QO, N7ID, K0GO, AB4YZ*, W1TEE. (* 2M operation only). Others have been there on vacations – including AA8R/W8TAX, K3IMC, N0KV/N0DXE, NF0X, KS5A, K1ER, etc. Over the years, several non-county hunters have gone there on 'expeditions' – but they have been sparse – just a handful in 15 years. (KH7C/p, KH6BWG, etc).

A county hunter recently finished up (again) - I was just curious as who had been there in roughly the past year it took for him to work all 3077. Who was there or spotted in the last year?

Who did this county hunter worked in Kalawao, HI since he did not work N4CD when he was there last fall (he doesn't work N4CD). He did not work KH6BWG according to the QSL manager, AH6NF, Bev, for that multi-op expedition there for the HI QSO party last summer either. KH6BWG didn't work a single station in his state during the trip and just a handful on SSB the whole time. No one else was spotted there other than Merv, K9FD, who was there 3/14/14 but only made a handful of contacts, all cw, and this county hunter was NIL – not in his log. Merv doesn't think anyone else was there or operated from there. He lives 15-20 miles away so he most likely would have heard whoever it was. Makes you wonder who this county hunter worked.

There is one station 'down below' who did get on 10M SSB every blue moon. I've never met anyone who actually worked him. I think it was the county sheriff, but he has left – as of two years ago according to Merv. Is one of the 'new' licensed hams ever on? Merv, K9FD doesn't think so. He tried to find someone for a sked from a fixed station there not long ago, and there is no antenna set up for HF. Could be....but makes you wonder.

Did anyone work anyone other than KH6BWG, KF9D, or N4CD in the past year in Kalawao? (say between 3/1/2014 and 2/28//2015)? Was anyone else there?

It's sad to note KH6BWG was spotted over 40 times on the DX clusters(DX Summit)but only 6 times on the W6RK site. All on cw. They did operate and have just a few SSB contacts on 17 and 12m before the contest. [This county hunter wasn't in that log then either.] Not too many were worked on SSB during the contest. No other call was used in 2014 by the group while on Molokai.

I received a note from Bev, AH6NF, about the KH6BWG operation which may be back there again this summer. [She volunteered to check the KH6BWG for last summer for the callsigns of this county hunter. Zippo. N4CD didn't make it through either – too many others calling from the west US dominated the frequency]

Sometimes strange things happen. Maybe “he thought he got a 22?”

The precedent set prior, with the attempted vengeance witch hunts and burning at the stake – is that we operate on the 'honor system' when you submit a log. So we have to assume that someone did work all the counties. Likely in every log there's an error or two – busted QSOs, busted callsigns (just watch the 'corrections' on the spots pages), Brown OH logged accidentally instead of Brown, TX, etc. But we can still wonder.

- ---- - --
N4JT, KG5PQ and KG5UZ will be in HI running all the counties by the time you read this. We have included the schedule at the end of this newsletter.

- ---- -
A few other counties haven't been spotted in a year – the last time other than N4CD that Val Verde, TX was spotted was 2/2/14....(not during the 3/1/14 to 2/28/15 period this

county hunter worked it.) It was run during the TQP (all counties were! - but on on . 336). Another strange one! OK...maybe he worked it but didn't spot them? Could be.....maybe it was a 'mobile contact '. Who knows?

Same for Cape May, NJ. Maybe I'm just looking things up wrong? There are no SSB spots for Cape May, NJ in the past year....could have been a passer by.....or a 'mobile contact' – then again, who knows? A few spots on cw.

Ontario NY? Not spotted on 20M SSB. One or two spots on 40M and 80M SSB during the NY QSO Party in the evening. Lots of cw spots. Then again, who knows? A 'mobile contact'? An unspotted contact on 20M? Worked K8MR on SSB off net freq if he went to SSB here in the NY QP? This person who finished up usually isn't in the state QSO parties. Or chasing counties on 40M. Hmmm.....dunno.

Oliver, ND – never spotted on SSB in the last year. Jerry, W0GXQ, was there on cw – lots of bands, but did not run SSB. No other station was spotted there. A 'mobile contact'? Or what?

Likely every log has an error..error...error....erro....error...err -erin it. Stuff happens. Contacts get busted or not completed or someone with a 'similar' call worked them, but not you. Of course, we try for zero, but I'll bet few actually have zero errors out of the 10,000 logged contacts typically made to work USA-CA or Nth time or other awards. Of course, working counties that weren't even on the air could be a problem.

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Do let me know if you worked anyone in Kalawao last year other than N4CD, K9FD(cw only), or KH6BWG (last summer). I'm really curious about that. Maybe someone else made it there? We'll publish that next newsletter.

Good luck on catching up with it if you now need it! Mike, Cheryl and Jim are headed there!

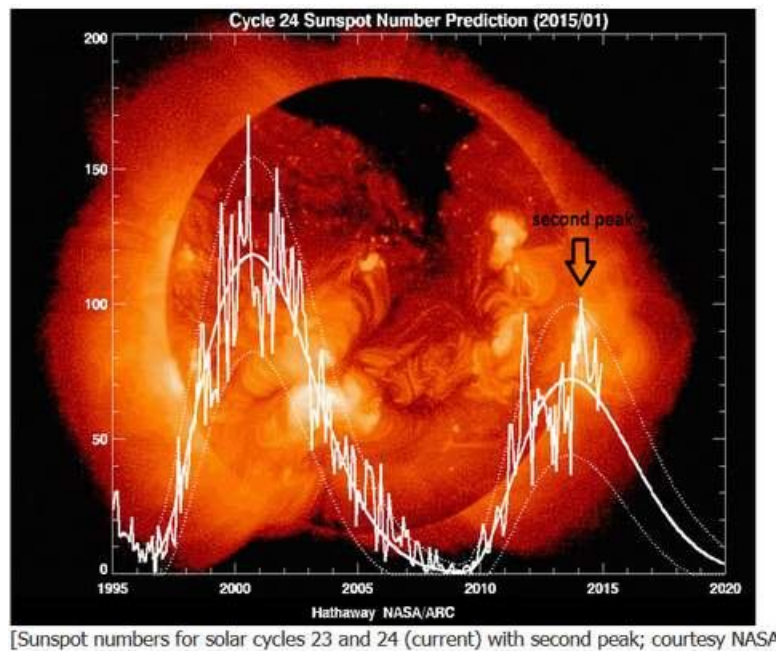
Kalawao – one of the unique county hunter 'counties'.

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Solar Cycle News

The main driver of all weather and climate, the entity which occupies 99.86% of all of the mass in our solar system, the great ball of fire in the sky – has gone quiet again during what is likely to be the weakest sunspot cycle in more than a century. For the past 5 days, solar activity has been very low and one measure of solar activity – its X-ray output – has basically flatlined in recent days (plot below courtesy NOAA/Space Weather Prediction Center). Not since cycle 14 peaked in February 1906 has there been a solar cycle with fewer sunspots. We are currently more than six years into Solar Cycle 24 and today the sun is virtually spotless despite the fact that we are still in what is considered to be its solar maximum phase. Solar cycle 24 began after an unusually deep solar minimum that lasted from 2007 to 2009 which included more spotless days on the sun compared to any minimum in almost a century.

There was an uptick in the number of sunspots in April 2014 which produced a second peak during solar cycle 24 and it is looking increasingly likely that this will be considered the solar maximum point for this particular cycle (figure below courtesy NASA). Many solar cycles are double peaked; however, this is the first one in which the second peak in sunspot number was larger than the first peak which occurred in February 2012. Going back to 1755, there have been only a few solar cycles in the previous 23 that have had a lower number of sunspots during its maximum phase.



Consequences of a weak solar cycle

First, the weak solar cycle has resulted in rather benign “space weather” in recent times with generally weaker-than-normal geomagnetic storms. By all Earth-based measures of geomagnetic and geoeffective solar activity, this cycle has been extremely quiet. However, while a weak solar cycle does suggest strong solar storms will occur less often than during stronger and more active cycles, it does not rule them out entirely. In fact, the famous Carrington Event of 1859 occurred during a weak solar cycle (#10). In addition, there is some evidence that most large events such as strong solar flares and significant geomagnetic storms tend to occur in the declining phase of the solar cycle. In other words, there is still a chance for significant solar activity in the months and years ahead.

Second, it is pretty well understood that solar activity has a direct impact on temperatures at very high altitudes in a part of the Earth’s atmosphere called the thermosphere. This is the biggest layer of the Earth’s atmosphere which lies directly above the mesosphere and below the exosphere. Thermospheric temperatures increase with altitude due to absorption of highly energetic solar radiation and are highly dependent on solar activity.

Finally, if history is a guide, it is safe to say that weak solar activity for a prolonged period of time can have a negative impact on global temperatures in the troposphere which is the bottom-most layer of Earth’s atmosphere - and where we all live. There

have been two notable historical periods with decades-long episodes of low solar activity. The first period is known as the “Maunder Minimum”, named after the solar astronomer Edward Maunder, and it lasted from around 1645 to 1715. The second one is referred to as the “Dalton Minimum”, named for the English meteorologist John Dalton, and it lasted from about 1790 to 1830. Both of these historical periods coincided with below-normal global temperatures in an era now referred to by many as the “Little Ice Age”. In addition, research studies in just the past couple of decades have found a complicated relationship between solar activity, cosmic rays, and clouds on Earth. This research suggests that in times of low solar activity where solar winds are typically weak; more cosmic rays reach the Earth’s atmosphere which, in turn, has been found to lead to an increase in certain types of clouds that can act to cool the Earth.

Outlook

The increasingly likely outcome for another historically weak solar cycle continues the recent downward trend in sunspot cycle strength that began over twenty years ago during solar cycle 22. If this trend continues for the next couple of cycles, then there would likely be more talk of another “grand minimum” for the sun. Some solar scientists are already predicting that the next solar cycle, #25, will be even weaker than this current one. However, it is just too early for high confidence in those predictions since some solar scientists believe that the best predictor of future solar cycle strength involves activity at the sun’s poles during a solar minimum and the next solar minimum is still likely several years away.

source: <http://vencoreweather.com/2015/02/17/29475/>

Getting Folks Finished Up

Time to see if you can help out. Some of these folks have been putting out the counties for the folks. Now is time to see if you can give some 'payback' for all their efforts.

Gene runs around in NY and NJ putting out those tough NYC area ones:

NT2A - USACA using CW - Updated: 01/23/2015

VA: Middlesex, Northumberland

- - - - -

K2MF - USACA using SSB - Updated: 02/04/2015

CA: Del Norte

W3DLM - 2ND using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated: 02/14/2015

GA: Toombs

LA: Tensas

W3DLM - USACA using CW - Updated: 02/14/2015

AK: 2nd

CA: Santa Barbara

MA: Barnstable

NJ: Ocean

NV: Douglas

SD: Jerauld

VT: Orange

- - - - -

Don, K3IMC has done tremendous good for the county hunters keeping his site up and running. You wouldn't be reading this if it weren't for his efforts. Let's get him done on his awards.

K3IMC - BINGO2 using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated: 09/19/2014

CA: Alpine, Plumas

GA: Dawson

KS: Graham

OH: Clinton

K3IMC - MASTER'S GOLD using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:
09/19/2014

KS: Graham

MO: Knox

NC: Martin

NY: Queens

OH: Brown, Highland

VA: Franklin

- - - -

OH3JF - USACA using 20 CW mobile- Updated: 02/02/2015

CA: Alameda, Merced And San Benito

KC3X - 2x2 Calls using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated: 02/04/2015

CO: Hinsdale

KY: Breathitt

MI: Arenac, Clare

Maybe some mobile headed to the MI Mini can hit these 2x2 needs in MI for Hollis?

- - - -

AE3Z - BINGO3 using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated: 02/01/2015

That's it..!! ONE to go...

MT: Beaverhead.

AE3Z - USACA using CW - Updated: 02/19/2015

AL: Perry

GA: Bacon.

KY: Franklin, Larue.

ME: Washington.

MT: Flathead, Lincoln.

ND: Golden Valley.

OR: Curry.

UT: Sanpete.

VT: Windham.

N4AAT - USACA using CW #3 - Updated: 02/13/2015

AR: Garland

CO: Eagle

KY: Knox

NC: Alleghany, Lee

SD: Buffalo

WI: Buffalo, Pepin

AA4GT - USACA using CW - Updated: 01/28/2015

FL: Hernando, Lake, Sumter

GA: Lincoln, Madison, Terrell

IA: Lucaus

IN: Fulton, Harrison, Randolph

KY: Bracken, Fleming, Harlan, Johnson, Marion Wayne

LA: Desoto

MT: Glacier

NE: Hayes

NV: Mineral

OH: Perry

Email to aa4gt@comcast.net

WD4OIN - MASTER'S GOLD using All Modes - Updated: 02/09/2015

IL: Jasper

NY: Sullivan, Wayne

PA: Beaver, Sullivan

TX: Brewster, Parmer

VT: Bennington

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Kerry has been giving out counties left and right. Let's get him done!

W4SIG - MASTER'S GOLD using All Modes - Updated: 02/18/2015

IL: Macon

KS: Clay

MD: George, Frederick

MT: Blaine, Phillips

OK: Logan

OR: Morrow

PA: Bucks

VA: Dickens, King William, Lunenburg

VT: Bennington, Orleans, Windham

W4SIG - 3RD using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated: 02/18/2015

IA: Chickasaw

ID: Caribou, Power
IN: Fayette
KY: McCreary
MS: Tishomingo
NC: Alexander, Anson, Graham, Pender
TN: Chester, Clay, De Kalb, Hardin, Henry, Houston, Macon, Perry
VA: Amelia, Charlotte, King And Queen, King William, Lunenburg
VT: Orange, Orleans
WY: Sheridan

- - - -

K4XI - BINGO3 using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated: 02/14/2015
MT: Lake

KM6HB - 3RD using All Modes - Updated: 01/25/2015
GA: Pierce
NC: Bladen, Chowan, Clay, Columbus, Currituck, Davie, Jackson, Transylvania,
Washington

KM6HB - USACA using CW - Updated: 02/08/2015
KY: Knox, Lewis
NC: Allegany, Burke, Harnett, Haywood, Scotland
TX: Bastrop, Glasscock
WV: Hancock, Hardy, Wetzel

DL6KVA - USACA using CW - Updated: 02/17/2015
CO: Rio Blanco
ID: Clearwater
KY: Estill
LA: Evangeline
NE: Cuming
NM: Sierra
TX: Caldwell, Gonzales, Jackson
WV: Mingo

WE7G - USACA using CW - Updated: 01/24/2015
GA: Crawford
KY: Lawrence, Menifee, Mercer

TN: Rhea
WV: Barbour, Doddridge, Hampshire, Upshur

N7JPF - BINGO using All Modes - Updated: 02/13/2015

MI: Benzie, Leelanau

MN: Morrison

If you are headed to the Mini, keep Paul in mind!...

- - - - -

N7LFX - BINGO using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated: 02/09/2015

GA: Wayne

IA: Ida

IN: Montgomery

KS: Lincoln

KY: Larue

MD: Carroll

MN: Aitkin

NJ: Hunterdon

NY: Sullivan

OH: Madison

OR: Benton, Lane

VA: Page

AB7NK - MASTER'S GOLD using All Modes (- Updated: 02/16/2015

IL: Wayne

KS: Decatur, Geary, Nemaha, Norton

KY: Boyle, Green, Marion, McCreary, Meade, Mercer, Taylor

NC: Hertford, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Richmond

NJ: Hudson, Monmouth

NY: Nassau, Suffolk, Warren

SC: Marlboro

SD: Kingsbury

VA: Gloucester, Mathews, Nottoway

VT: Bennington, Rutland

SM7ZDI - USACA using CW - Updated: 02/18/2015

AL: Clarke, Perry, Sumter, Wilcox

CO: Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Dolores, Mineral, San Miguel

GA: Evans, Tattnall, Wheeler, Wilkes
IA: Allamakee, Clayton
KY: Clay, Magoffin, Martin
MT: Broadwater, Chouteau, Fallon, Meagher, Toole
ND: Divide, Sioux
SD: Bennett, Hanson, Lake, Miner, Sanborn
TX: Donley, Hudspeth, Irion, Mason, Menard, Mitchell

WY8I - USACA using All Modes - Updated: 02/16/2015
ND: Emmons, Morton, Oliver

KG8N - 2ND using All Modes - Updated: 02/06/2015
AL: Choctaw, Geneva
GA: Warren
KY: McLean
MN: Kanabec, Lake Of The Woods
NY: Orleans, Oswego
VT: Windsor

NA8W - USACA using SSB - Updated: 02/06/2015
GA: Calhoun, Haralson, Walker
VA: Bath

NA8W - BINGO using SSB - Updated: 02/06/2015
AR: Cross, Van Buren
GA: Calhoun, Chattooga, Haralson, Harris
MD: Harford
MI: Wayne
NJ: Bergen
OH: Carroll, Seneca
PA: Blair, Clinton, Potter, Wyoming
VA: Bath, Hanover, Madison

K8ZZ - MASTER'S GOLD using All Modes - Updated: 02/18/2015
FL: Calhoun
KS: Wyandotte
MT: Deer Lodge, Flathead
OK: Hughes, Le Flore, Seminole

TX: Menard

KB9AIT - USACA using All Modes - Updated: 01/21/2015

The last I need for work them all first time.

AR: Ouachita, Montgomery

CA: Sierra

IA: Hardin, Shelby

KS: Linn, Cheyenne

MI: Tuscola

MN: Morrison, Waseca, Wabasha

MO: Audrain, Howard

MT: Musselshell

ND: Rolette

NY: Cayuga, Genesee, Schuyler

OH: Noble, Ottawa

SD: Moody

WI: Door

WV: Wayne, Wirt

NN9K - 4TH using CW - Updated: 02/09/2015

OH: Washington

OR: Crook, Grant, Wheeler

SD: Buffalo

W9MSE - FIVESTAR using CW - Updated: 01/30/2015

CA: Nevada 1), Placer 1)

IL: Boone 1), Carroll 3), Dekalb 4), Dupage 1), Kane 1), Lawrence 1), McHenry 1)

MI: Charlevoix 3), Kalkaska 3), Missaukee 1)

WI: Buffalo 1)

Looks like a good opportunity headed to the Mini to help get Jeff closer to done!

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AS always, check out the needs page before heading out, and contact the county hunter to make sure his/her needs are up to date.

<http://www.cquest.com/cgi-bin/flynn/needs.pl>

Awards

Some of the awards issued this month:

USA-CA 12th Time #2	Scottie, N4AAT	2.1.15,
USA-CA CW #139	Terry, WQ7A	2.5.15,
USA-CA CWII #34	Dave, KE3VV #34	2.7.15,
Bingo #365	Gene NT2A	2.1.15
Mobile to Mobile #22	Kerry, W4SIG	2.4.15
17th Time #1	James KZ2P	2.7.15

Events for County Hunters

North Carolina QSO Party
NC county or S/P/C, RS(T)
rars.org/ncqsoparty

Mar 1 1500Z - Mar 2 0059Z Mar 1, 1500Z - Mar 2, 0059Z
CW 3.54,7.04,7.14,14.04,21.04,28.04,50.04,144.04;

Phone 3.86,7.26, 14.26, 21.36, 28.365

Louisiana QSO Party

Call sign, RS(T), LA parish or S/P/C

laqp.org

Mar 14, 1400Z - Mar 15, 0200Z

CW 1.84,3.54,7.04,14.04,21.04,28.04;

Phone 1.865,3.865,7.255,14.255,21.365,28.465;

Idaho QSO Party

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

www.idahoarrl.info/qsoparty

Mar 14, 1900Z - Mar 15, 1900Z

CW 35 kHz above band edge;

Phone 7.260, 14.260, 21.335, 28.470 MHz,

Wisconsin QSO Party

WI county or S/P/C

www.warac.org

Mar 15, 1800Z - Mar 16, 0100Z

CW 3 550 7 050 14 050

Ph 3 890 7 230 14 290 21 350 28 400

Oklahoma QSO Party

RS(T) and OK county or S/P/"DX"

www.k5cm.com/okqp.htm

Mar 21, 1300Z - See website

CW 40 kHz above band edge;

Phone 3.860, 7.195, 14.260, 21.335, 28.470, 50.130 MHz

Virginia QSO Party

Serial and VA county/city or S/P or "DX"

www.qsl.net/sterling

Mar 21, 1400Z - See website CW 1.805, 50 kHz+ band edge;

Phone 1.845,3.86,7.26,14.27,21.37,28.37; 50.130,

Future Planning

Michigan Mini is hosted by Ed, K8ZZ and Joe, W8TVT and will be held April 23 - 24 & 25th at the

West Bay Beach - Holiday Inn Resort 615 East Front Street • Traverse City, Michigan 49686 Phone: (231) 947-3700 • Toll Free: (800) 888-8020)

Room rates of: \$89.95 plus tax per night if reserved by March 27th, 2015.

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Dayton Hamfest May 15-17 Hara Arena (same place as usual).

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The MMM will be held in Murfreesboro, TN October 8-11 this NOT a MARAC sponsored event so don't look for info in the RR.

Hotel will be the Clarion (previously Holidome) at 2227 Old Fort Parkway. Mention "The Old Timers Radio Club Group" to get our discounted rate of \$80/ night including a full hot breakfast and parking right outside the rooms. Cracker Barrel next door plus other places for meals. Pets are free... remind them so you get an outside room. Reservations at: 615-896-2420 .

Friday lunch group at Mary BoBos being planned as well. You do not have to be an Old Timer to attend..... just be a friendly face wanting to meet other kindred spirits and honor Bill Bell... KM4W.... who initiated this meeting and ran it for 25 years.

Hawaii Trip

KJ5PQ, KG5UZ and N4JT, will be in Hawaii and plan on transmitting from all 5 Hawaiian counties.

We will be running SSB, CW and Digital modes.

We hope to start our runs around 1700Z.

For SSB, we will first run the Team of KJ5PQ and KG5UZ on 20M. Our current plan is to follow this with Jim, N4JT, running 20M CW. Next, we hope to run on 17M, then 15M.

Next, we will run 4 Modes on Digital. Our Frequency, and Modes, will be as follows:

Our Frequency will be **14.068 +/- QRM.**

The order of our 4 Modes will be: **DOMINO22, MFSK32, CONTESTIA 4/500 and PSK63.**

Our operating schedule is currently:

Hawaii County: Feb 22nd (The ARRL CW Contest will be in full swing, so our CW and Digital Runs may move to find a clear frequency).

Kalawao/Maui County Line: Mar 2nd and Mar 4th.

Kauai County: Mar 6th with a possible 2nd run on **Mar 8th.**

Honolulu County: Mar 26th.

This is will be a Holiday Style operation. So our run days could change, depending on what comes up.

Our goal is to put out all 5 Hawaiian counties at least once, and hopefully more, as time permits. The day, or so, before each run, we will try to put our operating schedule on K3IMC's Site.

We hope we have chosen a time slot that will give all County Hunters an opportunity to make contact with our team.

That's all folks - 73