

# County Hunter News

April 1, 2013  
Volume 9, Issue 4

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' 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)

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

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

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

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

For general information FAQ on County Hunting, check out:

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

MARAC sponsors an award program for many other county hunting awards. You can find information on these awards and the rules at:

[http://countyhunter.com/marac\\_information\\_package.htm](http://countyhunter.com/marac_information_package.htm)

The CW net procedure is written up at:

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

There is a lot more information at [www.countyhunter.com](http://www.countyhunter.com) . Please check it out.

Back issues of the County Hunter News are available at [www.CHNewsOnline.com](http://www.CHNewsOnline.com)

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](mailto:telegraphy@verizon.net) )

## Notes from the Editor

1 ) **Spring has sprung** – although in mid March, snow was flying in the Mid Atlantic, up in the Dakotas, it never got above freezing for a few days in Minneapolis, Fargo ND was still getting down below zero.....and the temps in the eastern half of the country were significantly below normal. Winter seems like it is holding on for a while more. Rumor has it there is a 'hit contract' out on the groundhog who really messed up on this one! Snow at the end of the month in Denver, in St Louis, and Washington DC to Boston. Temps at 'near record lows' in Dallas in the mornings. Whew!

Soon we'll be into tornado and thunderstorm season and you'll be looking over your shoulder out the window for potential bad weather, and watching the Weather Channel or app on your iPhone device to see if you are headed toward trouble – or it headed to you.

That weather has put the crimp on a lot of county hunting trips, but a few ventured out on long

trips.

Propagation has been decent many days – we may be heading for a another 'sunspot' peak in a double peak cycle, but who knows? There have been some awful propagation days where the Earth got hit by a CME – and the bands died for a few hours, then was rotten for a day or two with the A index up at 65 for a while, and K at 5. Really bad. You take the bad with the good at the sunspot peak.

It's tax season so hopefully you are well along the way filling out the dreaded tax forms and getting them sent in. Deadline coming up soon.

There weren't many awards issued this month. Those 'needed' last counties are often way up in counties with serious winters, mountain passes snowed it, and frequent snows and worse. Hopefully the travel season will start and we'll get a few more finished up.

The race is on to see who is first to finish for Mobile Diamond. Many are down under 50, some down to 30. The big challenge is AK. No one with MP has run the AK districts since the award started – so 'everyone' needs them. Otherwise, the needs are scattered here and there. Who will be first? Who is going to AK?

## 2 ) State QSO Parties

Wow – we've started out the year with a bunch more state QSO Parties – keeping folks busy for two or three weekends in March. We report on each one separately. Some states have folks who like to submit comments to the 3830 contest reflector. Other states are where almost no one sends in comments. We try to get in all the mobile operators' comments for you to ride along. Some send in detailed accounts of their trips. In other QSO parties, almost no one comments so we can't pass along interesting tidbits.

## Mobile Activity

Paul, **WD9EJK**, headed east on a long trip east putting them out on SSB. Then back again.

**K7TM**, Bob, headed up from south NV to Reno running them on cw. Ran around Reno putting the counties out there.

**K7RE**, Brian, was busy in SD on a short trip putting them out around the state.

**NM2L**, Greg, Headed back from KY to home in GA.

Jim, **N8HAM** took a trip down through WV down though SC, GA, into FL and back. SSB

**KC7YE**, Jack, headed north from southern CA/AZ up through CA and OR back to home.

**N4JT** Jim, headed on down to FL.

Jeff, **W9MSE** was on in WI – getting set for the WI QSO Party that he entered as a mobile.

Rick, **W5QP**, took a several day trip out to western OK, then up into KS running some 'rarer' ones.

Fred, **K0FG** was noted on cw in MO then he headed north to IA and points west in NE – where will he wind up? Now in CO.

Kerry, **W4SIG** was mobile here and there

**W5IL**, Richard, took a trip...through NE into CO and south,

The Team **N6PDB/WA6OCV** headed east from CA running them on SSB and data modes. Made it almost to the east coast and returned to CA.



Susan, WA6OCV and Dennis, N6PDB  
C/L Haskell/LeFlore, OK

Norm, **W3DYA**, was out running in the OK QSO party and ran into Susan and Dennis and took the picture. Dennis gave Norm the LC for OK on CW. They are in front of the W3DYA mobile with flying saucer antennas. (pic by W3DYA)

**W8DCD**, Kirby, spotted out mobile in IA and WI

**AC0HW** and **N0ZDZ** were roaming all over the country – SSB only

Jim, **VA3XOV**, ran a few in PA/NY on cw for the folks.

Ron, **N5MLP**, headed out to complete running his 500 counties for the MD award on a multi-day trip in TX, AR, KS. He did reach the 500 number and submitted his application for Master Platinum award.

Gene, **K5GE**, was spotted running counties in FL then headed back to TX.

Steve, **AK8A**, was down in FL putting them out.

Bob, **K7TM** took a trip over to Wallowa, OR for the folks.

Mike, **N8MD** put out a few in WI for the folks on SSB.

Jim, **WB5YDH** was out in NM

Darl, **NA8W**, put some out on data modes in OH.

Eldon, **N8STF**, was spotted running counties in Azthen headed east into NM headed toward home

Dan, **KM9X**, took a trip down to KY to get the last for WBOW for KL7D – first time. They had success.

## Ron, N5MLP, Achieves Master Platinum

Ron, N5MLP, has earned the Master Platinum Award, #21. He completed running his 500 counties this month and submitted his application. In order to earn MP status, one must work all 3077 counties with qualifying contacts. You can do that in two ways.

Master Platinum is a quirk in that you can start working on it from 'day 1' when you start making contacts. You can work a mobile/fixed station who has already earned the Master Gold award, and that will give you credit for the county. Alternatively, once you have earned your own Master Gold award, you can get credit for a county if you transmit from it and work someone who already has the MG award.

The second part of the award rules require that you 'put out' 500 separate counties. No repeats allowed as for other awards such as MG. That's 1/6<sup>th</sup> roughly of the US county total. One of contacts must be a MG holder. It takes a while, a lot of gasoline and travel to reach that total. Ron has been busy on several major trips adding to his total and finally reaching the 500 mark.

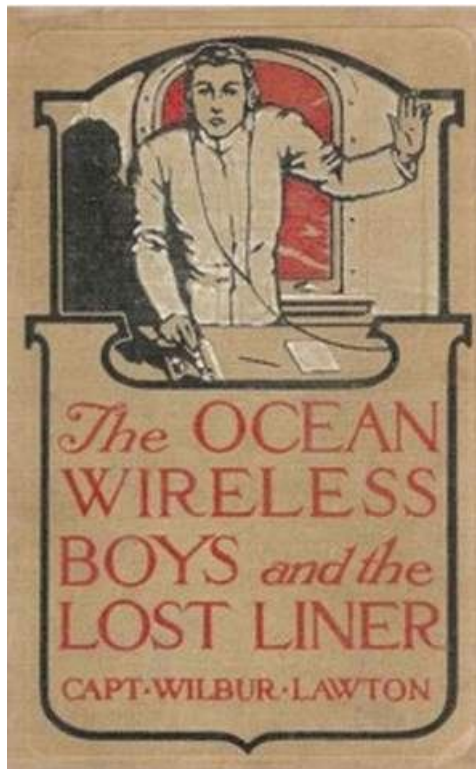
Now, he can start work on the Mobile Diamond award – one of which no one yet has earned.

CONGRATS RON.

# THE OCEAN WIRELESS BOYS AND THE LOST LINER

BY CAPTAIN WILBUR LAWTON

Copyright, 1914,



Here's a bit from Chapter 1

"Readers of the first volume, dealing with Jack Ready and his friends, will recall how he lived in a queer, floating home with his uncle, Cap'n Toby. They will also recollect that Jack, who had studied wireless day and night, was coming home late one afternoon, despondent from a fruitless hunt for a job, when he was enabled to save the little daughter of Mr. Jukes from drowning. The millionaire's gratitude was deep, and Jack could have had anything he wanted from him.

All he asked, though, was a chance to demonstrate his ability as a wireless man on the Ajax, a big oil tanker which had just been equipped with such an outfit. He got the job, and then followed many stirring adventures. He took part in a great rescue at sea, and was able to frustrate the schemes of some tobacco smugglers who formed part of the crew of the "tanker." This task, however, exposed him to grave danger and almost resulted in his death.

At sea once more, after the smugglers had been apprehended and locked up, Jack's keen wireless sense enabled him to solve a problem in surgery. The Ajax carried no doctor, and when one of the men in the fireroom was injured, and it appeared that a limb would have to be amputated, a serious question confronted the captain, who, like most of his class, possessed a little knowledge of surgery, but not enough to perform an operation that required so much skill.

The injured man was a chum of Jack's, and he did not want to see him lose a limb if it could be helped, or have his life imperiled by unskillful methods. Yet what was he to do? Finally an idea struck him. He knew that the big passenger liners all carried doctors. He raised one by means of the wireless and explained the case. The injured man was carried into the wireless cabin and laid close to the table. Then, while the liner's doctor flung instructions through space, Jack translated them to the captain. The result was that the man was soon out of danger, but Jack kept in touch with doctors of other liners till everything was all right beyond the shadow of a doubt.

This feat gained him no little commendation from his captain and the owners. Next he was instrumental in saving Mr. Jukes' yacht which was on fire at sea. In the panic Mr. Jukes' son Tom, who was the apple of the ship-owning millionaire's eye, was lost. By means of wireless, Jack located him and reunited father and son.

His promotion was the result, when the regular operator of the Tropic Queen went west to receive a big legacy left him. As the services of the retiring operator's assistant had been unsatisfactory, Jack was asked to find a successor to him. He selected an old school chum, Sam Smalley, who had owned and operated a small station in Brooklyn and was an expert in theory and practice. The ship had now been at sea two days, and Sam had shown that he was quite capable of the duties of his new job."

- -

So he goes off to sea on the Tropic Queen. The ship is carrying some interesting characters, some of them dastardly characters who attempt to steal top secret information from a high ranking military officer on a secret mission with the defense plans of the Panama Canal. Keep in mind this is just before World War One breaks out. Someone is attempting to steal the documents and tries several times.

A 'shadowy' ship trails the steamer. Coded messages are sent to one of the passengers on

board, and at one point, the ship is close enough so the spy is sending messages by light to the other ship. Something is up.

They stop on a Caribbean island. Jack, the wireless operator, whom the spies think is a liability, is drugged and thrown down into an 'inescapable' pit – from which, he naturally manages to escape and get back to the ship with help from his friends who track him down.

The ship's safe is blown up after a diversion and the critical papers stolen. Then it's a race to catch the bad guys on the shadowy ship that has been trailing them.

That leads to all sorts of adventures, getting stranded, shipwrecks, and rescue – much of it facilitated by wireless. Once again on exploding volcanic islands – that seems to be a big thing back then for some reason!

Unfortunately, almost no technical detail of the wireless, but a good adventure yarn.

<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/41265>

Better yet, it's 100% free for download.

## Late MS, LA, and NC QSO Party reports

This came in after publication date – or from other sources. February was a short month and the MS and NC QSO parties were right at the end of the month. We're usually done with the issue by about the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month, so everything after that – well, we include some of it a month later.

### **W3DYA MSQP County Results - Mobile, no driver, CW, LP.**

I posted my MSQP results on the 3830 reflector but don't think it was accepted. It was waiting, and waiting, and waiting, so I left the screen displayed and went away but couldn't find it in the archives. ( - - probably forgot to put ZERO qsos in the SSB box – it won't take it unless you do that!) I didn't get an email that it was received (yes, I checked the box).

Here are my results:

Band QSOS: 80-16, 40-188, 20-412, 15-50, and 10M-6 total 672 QSOs.  
Activated 14 counties.

Soapbox:

Good weather and lots of activity made this a fun contest.

Thanks to all who helped, especially the high QSO count for KN4Y (29), KC3X (27), W0GXQ (26), K8MFO (26), NT2A (23), K4BAI (21), WB2ABD (18), W9MSE (17), N6MU/W7GKF/WA6KHK (15).

Although DX conditions weren't great, 15M was useful most of the day, and 10M and 80M were better than usual!

I operated and drove about 9 hours and quit at dark. Actual operating time was about 5 hours and driving about 4 hours.

For those interested in the "Flying Saucer" antenna, it worked without any problem - which has become normal. I didn't even haul my Hustler antenna as backup.

Trivia: Averaged about 20 minutes operating in each county.

73, Norm, W3DYA

### **K5ZZR mobile – LA QSO Party - 72 SSB QSO**

Had a great time roving in the LA QSO Party this year but only hit 3 parishes. Vermillion, Iberia and St. Mary. Always wanted to see the southern part of LA and certainly ate my fill of gumbo and seafood. As a fan of the author James Lee Burke, of course I had to check out the draw bridges and eat at Victors Cafeteria. Also visited the Tabasco factory on Avery Island.

My mobile equipment is a 20 year old Yaesu FT890AT transceiver and a Tarheel 200 antenna. Vehicle is a Chevy Tahoe. I've been licensed since 1964 but have only recently caught the rover bug.

### **K4ZGB mobile – MS QSO Party**

“I had battery supply problems this time so had to end early, missing the last

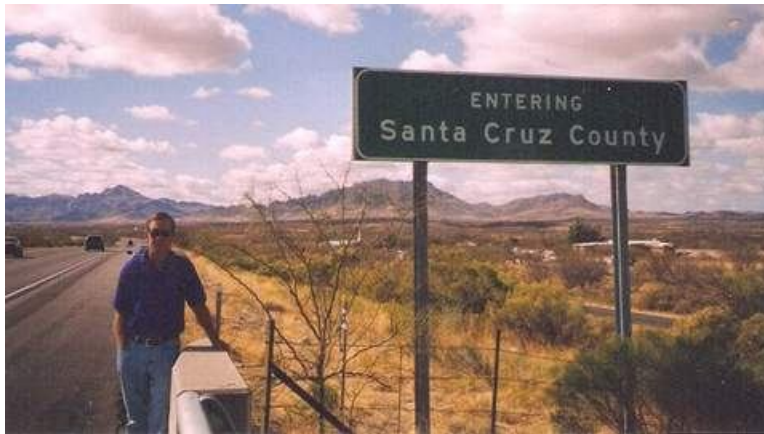
five counties on my route. Thanks for following me around. tom-zgb

## County Line Database Project

This month county line sign pictures were sent in by W5QP, KC3X, KC7YE, KB0BA/N0XYL, N4AAT, and others. Over two dozen more were added. The database is now over 1000 counties in numbers. Here's a few with faces and or/mobiles in the pic.



KC3X , Hollis C/L Huron/Seneca MI



Pat K7VAY Santa Cruz AZ



KB0BA/N0XYL Bon Homme, SD



KC7YE Pacific, WA

## On the Regen Trail

### A) Compactron Regen Receiver

Here's a goodie from Ebay. It's a homebrew one tube regen set using a Compactron tube. They were invented back in the 1960s to try and stave off the influx of transistors into the TV business. They typically had 3 separate tubes within a glass envelope – reducing the 'tube count' in a TV set, and the number of sockets required and circuit board. Quite a few TV sets of the era incorporated them.

Of course, most of the sockets were designed for PC board layout. If you try to use one with discrete parts on a chassis mount socket, the number of components going to the tube socket make it a real exercise in layout to get them all connected and going in the right direction. Just think of about 20 or 25 resistors and capacitors and wires all going to the tube socket. Then think of 1w and 2w type resistors and the old large paper capacitors to make the job even harder! New parts are a lot smaller.

Apparently this set was made from an article. It's a line operated – hot chassis – 6AF11 set with a detector, audio amp and power amp stage. It looks like the only controls are tuning and regeneration, not even a volume control – built into an old UHF tuner box!

Thee 6AF11 tube had two triode sections and a pentode section in it.



He used a ferrite loopstick antenna – there's apparently just enough gain to bring in some loud local stations – plus you can add a longer antenna for more 'DX' – hi hi

GE published a shortwave version of this back in the day in the 1965 GE Hobby Manual. You can see a scanned copy of the construction article [here](http://www.jvgavila.com/compac.htm).

<http://www.jvgavila.com/compac.htm>

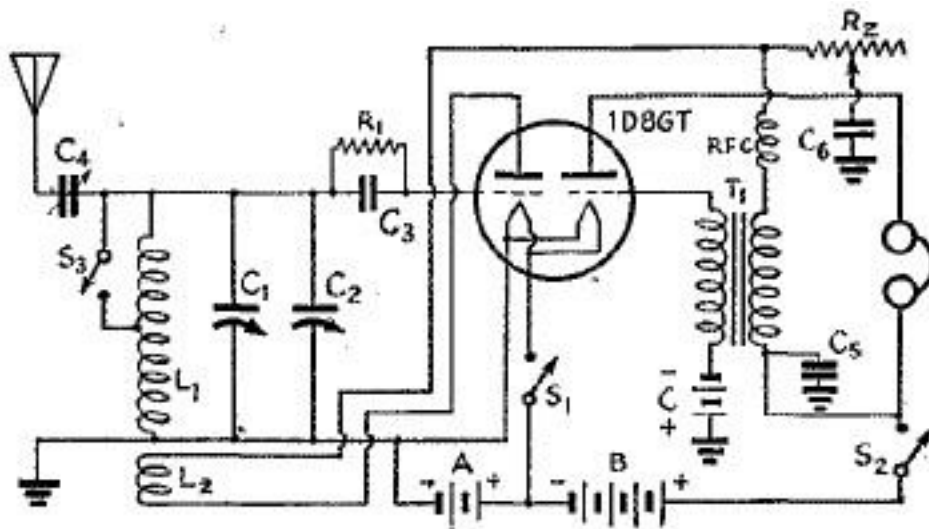
Someone bought this for \$50 and paid \$17 shipping to get it. An ugly duckling and home made, too. Oh well..just about anything will sell on Ebay if you take nice pictures and tell a good story.

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## B) The 1944 Tiny Tim “QSL Card Size” regen

On another 'dead band' day with no mobiles running, I browsed through a few more issues of QSTs. What did I find? A few more regen gems that don't show up in normal searches on line. They don't have many keywords for the older ones so if it isn't regenerative in the title, it doesn't show up. .

In the September 1944 Issue – It's the Tiny Tim Regen!



It uses a 'multi purpose' tube, the 1D8GT – which has a diode, triode and pentode section in it. The diode section is not used. It's a conventional regen design and uses a 1:3 audio interstate transformer. It runs off a mercury cell (2 of them – hearing aid type batteries) and a C or D cell for the 1.5v filament.

Why an interstage transformer like many designs of the time? When you don't run much voltage on the plate of the detector – and you use a triode - you need a very high impedance load in the plate circuit – preferably an audio transformer or audio choke. The input impedance to the grid of the audio amp tube is also high, so a 1:3 transformer steps up the impedance – and voltage – for the grid of the tube. When you have a pentode – you often just use R/C coupling at higher voltage. Its plate impedance is a lot lower – but it takes more current to run it. Whenever you see a triode regen detector – it most likely uses an audio

choke or transformer in the plate circuit.

You control the regeneration by  $R_z$  – which places resistance to ground – shunting some of the feedback to ground.

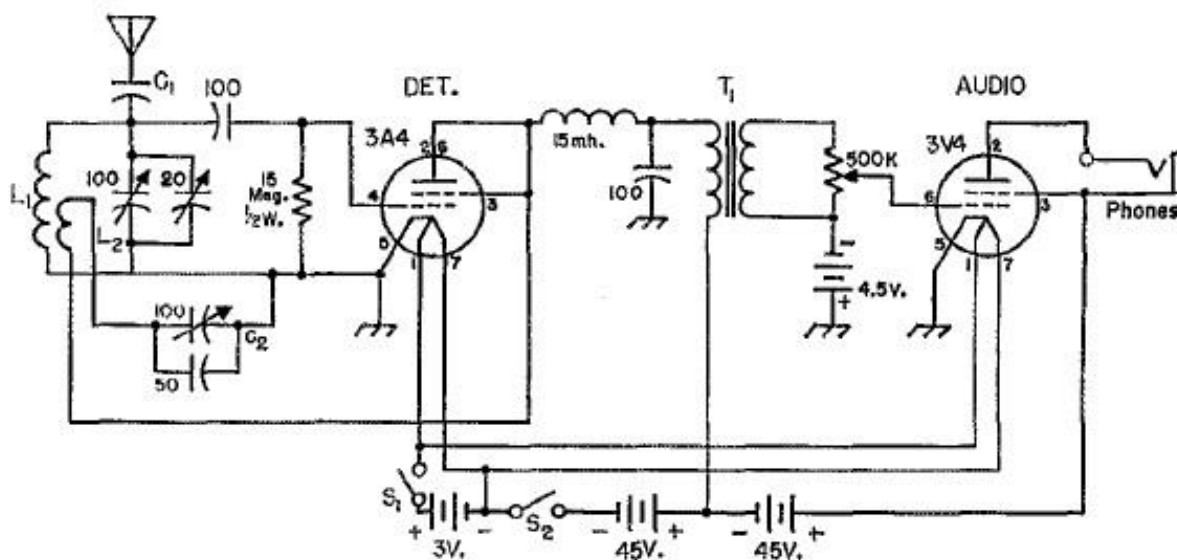
They had a companion “QSL CARD” size transmitter with a push-pull crystal oscillator. They went out of style because they are nice harmonic generators. You could get away with it in 1947 because – there were no TV sets out there!.....just a few and very expensive ones! Not to worry – you couldn't even transmit a signal in 1944- the ham bands were shut down during all of WW2. Many hams sold their commercial gear to the military that would buy them up at fair prices and refurbish and reuse them. You could listen and that was about all. Or build a transmitter – but never use it till the bands came back after WW2.

You can find it on the QST archives by searching for 'Tiny Tim'. After I went hunting for the PDF on line to download and save a hard copy and found another 'Tiny Tim' project – a portable transceiver for 40/80m!

**C ) The Tiny Tim Portable, by W1RST** - April 1956 – Another decade longer, they revived the name “Tiny Tim” for yet another project. This is a battery power transmitter/receiver combination.

It's a regen receiver using a 3A4 tube, interstage transformer and 3V4 tube. The detector ran off 45v and used transformer coupling into the audio amp (which ran on 90V). If you put 90v on the regen stage, it likely would be hard to keep it out of oscillation and a poor performer with no sharp 'knee' where it went smoothly into regeneration.

In most designs , you'll see 22.5 to 45v typically on a triode in a regen circuit.



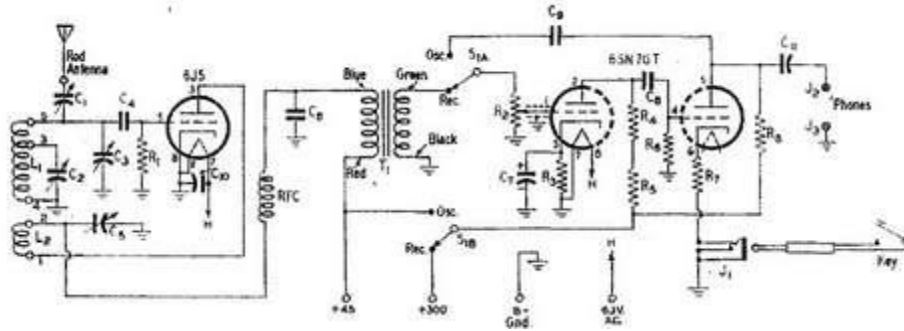
Note it used a bias battery on the audio stage – 4.5 v – usually a couple of penlight cells or mercury cells that would last almost forever. When running on dry cells, you can't afford to put a resistor in the cathode circuit of the tube, like the design below. The grid needs to be negative with respect to the cathode otherwise you get serious distortion. A small bias battery, that has to supply near zero current, does the trick. You'll even find them in some 30s and 40s portable sets that ran on dry cell batteries as well. They'd last for 10 years. Of course, for cw – most ops don't mind some distortion – makes it even easier to copy!

The article covered construction of the transmitter that went along with this. For portable use, you'd use an 8 foot telescoping automobile antenna, with 4 10 foot ground radials. The set ran a couple watts input, crystal control CW.

#### 4 ) Building A Code Practice Receiver – W1FTX – December 1947 QST

Wow.....did you see 'regen' in that title? Aha! NO!.....sometimes you stumble upon things by looking through actual paper copies of QST. Otherwise, it won't show up in a search of keyword or other way of finding it! Regens will be 'outed' one way or another.

This was an interesting unit – it was a simple regen AND a code practice oscillator in one! Sort of nifty – and ham radio had just been back for a short time, and loads of military folks wanted to get their ham licenses. You had to pass 13 wpm then – there were no Novice or Tech licenses.



It's a 6J5 regen detector – with throttle cap to ground for regen control, and the usual interstage transformer. (They are now 17 bucks each new if you can find them, or more on ebay for them – let me know if you got a stash of them! ). The audio section has a switch. In the receive position, the receive audio is coupled in to the grid of the triode audio (half a 6SN7 dual triode) which then is coupled to the output stage – which will drive headphones.

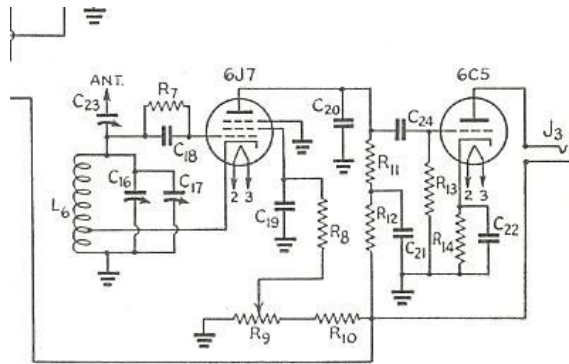
To make a code practice oscillator, the switch is thrown to the other position which through the capacitor from the plate of the output state to the input of the first audio grid turns it into an audio oscillator. They drop the voltage down to 45 v on the plates for that mode, too. The key when in gives you cathode keying. When the key is up, the tube is biased off. When the key is down, current flows in the tube.

So you get two items in one.

**5 ) A Soldier's Portable** – yet another regen rx – from the November 1941 issue of QST – describing how to make a 'midget station that will fit in an Army Foot Locker. It was off to war – but ham radio ceased during the war- no transmitting and you were supposed to take your antennas down and 'disable' your transmitter.

You'd never find this regen design unless you read through the years of QST.

This is the receive part of it. The transmitter was a 6N7 osc followed by a 6L6 output tube. The circuit below is a conventional Hartley (tapped coil) design with regen controlled by varying the screen voltage. This was a 'cw only' rig. You would use about 250V on the plates – either from a built in A/C power supply or a 'vibra pack' supply that ran off 6v. (Cars were all 6v back then).



## On the Road with N4CD

There's a medium size hamfest held each year up in Rogers County, OK, in Claremore. It's called the Green Country Hamfest – and it's close to Tulsa OK and Joplin MO. Folks come down from Kansas City and from a couple hundred miles around. This one takes place in a big convention center so there's lots of room for seller's tables which are only \$10 each. The main flea market takes place in a big gymnasium type room. You can bring your car up close to the rear large door, and they have small propane powered carts (little bigger than a golf cart) that take you and your stuff to your table! Easy!

It's also an ARRL Convention – a thousand or two show up. I made it up there last year for the first time, and decided to see if any goodies would show up this year. I still had a bunch of stuff from auctions to sell as well. I just had about 20 extra projects I likely was never going to get around to – so it was time to pass them on to others.

That's also a good excuse to 'go mobile' and 'put out some counties'. I checked the OK needs and most were really scattered. Seems W5QP has been doing a great job of getting counties in OK for the folks on his various trips. Not only that, the OK QSO Party is scheduled for the week after – so mobiles will be running all over for that one.

So on Friday morning after breakfast, it was 250 miles up the road – US 75 to highway 69 most of the way up – frequently run counties by mobiles headed from Dallas toward MO. Five hours or so with a short break is what it took to get there in the Malibu with the trusty IC 706. There were a few mobiles out on cw – N4JT was down in FL, and AK8A, Steve was headed

from south TX to points east. Norm, W3DYA was on for a bit. By early afternoon, I was up in the Claremore, OK area and checked into the Microtel motel for one night. (Rogers County)

Then I headed over to the convention center to claim a flea market table (\$10 – a deal) and set out some things. The general admission starts at 5pm, but they let folks in pretty much as they arrive, and a couple hundred were there to sell things, so it was all swap and trade by 2pm. I set out my stuff that was for sale – some I'd picked up at local auctions, the auction in Saline County AR a few months ago - thinking that some day I'd find a use for them, but the shelves were bending from the weight. It was time to let go of the old Heathkit VF-1 VFO, some QRP prototype EMTECH rigs I'd never fired up, an MFJ 30M transceiver, a Swan Wattmeter. And some old CQ and QSTs.



Green Country Hamfest, Claremore OK  
from their website+

The QSTs were fun to look through. I had nearly a year of 1923s, some 1935s, and 3 years of 1942-45 during WW2 when hams were off the air. Most folks didn't even look but it only takes one buyer who wants them. Of course, if you look on Ebay, some of them sell for ridiculous prices – or at least folks ask ridiculous prices. You can look up the old QSTs on line if you are a member - but you won't see a lot of the advertisements which are a real hoot to look at. I had two years of 50s vintage CQ Magazines – those aren't on line yet. Well, not for free. CQ is on line but you got to pay some big bucks to get to them.

Someone got the 1923 QSTs – which were slowly turning to dust and flaking apart, and someone else wanted the remainder – so that chunk of the QST collection is GONE – passed on to the next reader. Those magazines were printed on paper that was not designed to last 60 or 80 or 100 years – and they slowly disintegrate. You've got to be real gentle with them, and even then the covers detach. Maybe if they were kept in a temperature and humidity controlled environment they'd be better, but most of us know they wind up in a closet, attic, basement – or the kiss of death- the garage or storage unit. If you have moldy damp magazines, just recycle them.

Even in 1923-24, they were talking about making super hets – and crystal controlled transmitters. Superhets were 'really advanced' technology. The problem was tube noise and they needed to develop better tubes. That happened quickly. Well, I didn't have to haul 20

lbs of magazines back home. Maybe even made a buck or broke even and had enjoyed hours of reading them. Newer QSTs like 60s and 70s and 80s you can barely give away. You see stacks of them at hamfests for 'free'.

I walked around the flea market half a dozen times. Nothing big tugged at the wallet enough for me to open it....there were two or three mobile rigs like the IC-706, but not much in the way of transceivers. You could buy a nice a/c powered BC-348 WW2 receiver – they sold surplus for over \$100 back in the 1940s.....then dropped a whole lot in the mid 50s. It had an asking price of \$100. I saw very few boatanchors. There was a nice National NC-109- brand new looking with original box – but who needs one? 80% of the hams walking around were on 2m FM and that's what their interests were. Not a single regen receiver of any type was for sale (well – you seldom see them – even at Dayton – you might see a few Knight Kits but that's about it – but you never know!).

One fellow was selling new/tested tubes for 25c each. He probably had a couple thousand. Didn't see too many I needed. I can always use 35W4s, 50C5s, 12AT7s – for the tube regens.

Troy, K5OH, was the only other county hunter I spotted. The Hamfest hosts several program sessions from National Weather Service to ARRL forum and DX session, plus runs VE tests for new hams and upgrades. Troy attends a meeting of Collins Radio enthusiasts each year there.

It's a two day affair.

So Friday night it was back to the Microtel motel. Breakfast is included in the room rate – and they have waffles so folks enjoyed them on Saturday morning, including me.

After 4 hours of looking for new stuff (not many more sellers showed up on Saturday to sell) and selling stuff to the Saturday crowd, it was time to head on home about noon.

The ID QSO Party was going on , but I didn't find too many on cw to work from the mobile. K0DEQ was out running counties in MO and we hooked up. Mark, W9OP, came on from Monroe, FL. That seemed to be the mobile activity.

I ran the counties – and 17m seemed to work well with DL6KVA, SM7ZDI and others coming through. It looks like Barry, N0KV is about the only one out there with a receiver on 30M and 40M all the time, and if folks aren't expecting you to QSY there – it's tough to get even one QSO. Thanks Barry for being around and listening. When he's off doing other things, you can call on 30M and no one is there. There are about 8 counties on the way home so I put them out going up and coming back- some are only around on weekends.

It drizzled most of the way home, but the temps were in the 60s. I listened a bit to 20M SSB which seemed to be quite active with a couple SSB mobiles on trips – N8HAM and N6PDB to start. One of the net controls back east said he had to take a break and go out and shovel more

snow!...Yuk!...winter is still with us in parts of the country. On the evening news, they were talking about a major snow storm in Denver canceling a hundred flights. Oh well – here we were just expecting potential thunderstorms/hail as the weather front moved through. That's one of the reasons I didn't take any longer route coming home or run around for a day in OK..

I did find a bunch of FT-243 crystals to buy in the 7020-7050 kHz range. If you have a boatanchor transmitter, that's what they take. My novice xtals are all in the old 'novice band' which was 7150-7200. Remember that far back? Wouldn't be very good for cw work these days!.....If you try to run these old rigs with the new little HC-6 crystals, they'd probably crack – those old rigs ran a bit of power through the crystal. The FT-243 holder is physically larger.

So that was about it. I caught a few new ones in MO, gave out over 100 Qs from 40-17m, and was home by dinner and dark. 550 miles or so.

There weren't any nifty 'goodies' to buy – no radios tugged at my heartstrings – no 'gotta have'. No regens – not a one for sale. Oh well. I'll have to wait till Dayton to see if some show up.

Sure enough, Saturday night it put down 2 inches of rain in an hour – some places had golf ball size hail and the winds hit 60 mph. No problems here other than the wind/lightning woke me up. It's springtime in the plains – where you keep your eye out for the weather while county hunting.

More trips will be coming up.

## From Ebay this Month

### **Lafayette HE-50 10m AM transceiver**

Here's something you don't see often. They apparently weren't too popular so there aren't too many out there. It's a Lafayette Radio HE-50 ten meter AM transceiver from the 1960s. They sold a lot of the HE-45/A/B models for six meters, but I've never seen one of these other than this one on Ebay.

It's a simple receiver with 1650 KHz IF, and runs 12w input, plate modulated, crystal control. They might have had an external VFO like the six meter unit you could buy.



Here's the manual that came with it:

<http://www.k7jrl.com/pub/manuals/lafayett/he50a/Lafayette%20HE-50A.pdf>

The nice thing about it was that it came with both an internal AC power supply, and an internal vibrator for running off 12v DC so you could take it mobile easily. The six meter ones were popular and they operated a lot better than the Heathkit Lunchbox that had a receiver as wide as a barn door. This one would be overloaded by strong signals but at least it had some selectivity. You could separate stations on the band.

Back then, there were no broadcast stations on the 1610 to 1700 band – and that is where this radio IF is. I suspect that if you have a 50KW station on 1650, this radio is going to pick it up very well!..... times have changed.

[Way back in the day, my dad, WB2MHR, bought one of these for six meters (HE-45B) I ran it 'mobile' on 'hilltops' in NJ one summer. The mobile antenna was a Saturn Six halo – and I had a collapsible “Hill Topper” 3 el beam that would go together in five minutes. I put it on two sections of 5 foot long masts on the second highest point in NJ (Sunrise Mtn – 1630 feet AMSL) and maybe work 35 miles around with the 5-8w output, AM. That's before the days of FM and handi-talkies when 2 and 6m AM were full of tens thousands of operators. Nostalgia. Now, you get on 2M and you can't even find any activity even on repeaters as you drive through major areas of the country on 2M. Part of it was due to tens of thousands of technician licensees who never got around to passing the 13 wpm code required to get their general license. They could operate on bands above 50 MHz) ]

Do you recall Lafayette Radio from the 50s and 60s? They were one of the largest, if not the largest, retailers of electronic parts, kits, stereos, radios and electronic stuff. Want to see what hams could buy in 1935, 1937-8, 1961?

Here's a nice web page on them:

[http://www.ohio.edu/people/poster/bapix/LafArt\\_60.htm](http://www.ohio.edu/people/poster/bapix/LafArt_60.htm)

### **A sub miniature Tube National SW-3 Clone Homebrew on Ebay**

ad reads: "This receiver appeared in the Antique Wireless Assoc. "Old Timer's Bulletin" some years ago. It's a four-tube design based on the famous National SW-3 of the 1930s. Small – it measures 6 ½ by 3 ½ by 3 inches deep. You power this from a 12-volt AC wall wart transformer. Tube lineup is: 5636 RF amplifier, 5636 regen detector, 5840 audio amp, 5902 audio output. The ferrite RF coils are toroidal and mount in 8-pin IC sockets. Coils supplied are for the broadcast band – SW coils are easy to make and don't need shielding.

This receiver is really just a fancy breadboard; it looks pretty good in its simple case. I sprayed it with black and brown wrinkle paints – the case should be resprayed to look its best. Controls on the front panel are: RF tuning; Detector tuning; Regeneration; Power on/off; Audio gain. There is a red LED power light and the speaker is a 2 ½ inch Quam part. No phone jacks. Antenna connector on the back, along with the 12 volt AC input. As a radio, I will say only that it works OK with a longwire antenna – your average SW table set is going to be a better DX performer. I'll include a 12 volt transformer. "

Here's the schematic:



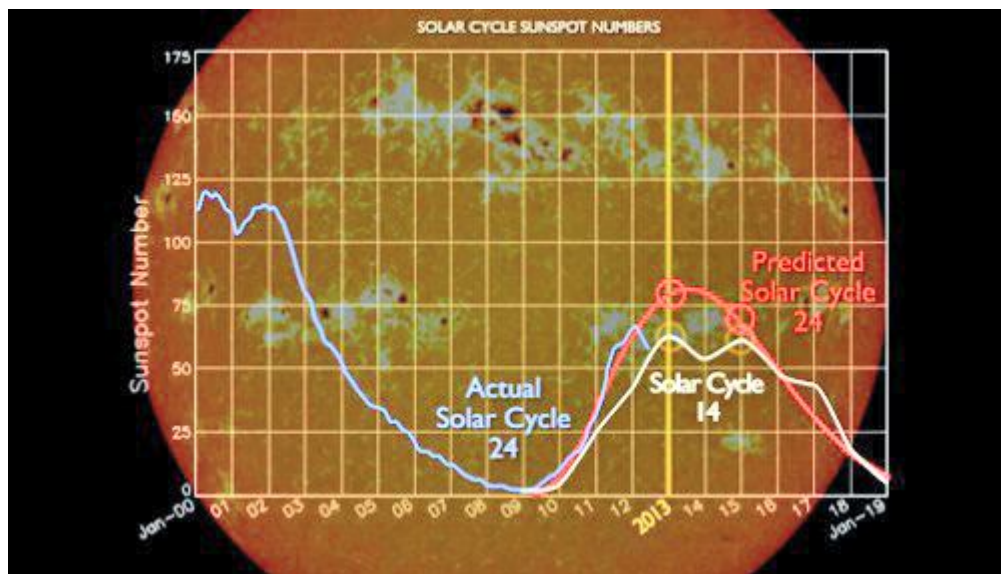
one bought it. It's back on at a lower price.

## Sunspot News

From ARRL Newsletter – courtesy of ARRL, Newington, CT and NASA

03/14/2013

According to NASA, the current solar cycle -- Solar Cycle 24 -- should hit its “solar max” sometime in this year, but so far, solar activity has been relatively low. According to an article by NASA’s Dr Tony Phillips, this period of quiet has led some observers to wonder if forecasters missed the mark. But solar physicist Dean Pesnell of NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center has a different explanation: “This is solar maximum. But it looks different from what we expected because it is double peaked.” Pesnell noted similarities between the current cycle and Solar Cycle 14, which happened between February 1902 and August 1913 and experienced a double peak. If the two cycles are in fact twins, he said that “it would mean one peak in late 2013 and another in 2015.”



Solar activity tends to swing back and forth: At one end of a solar cycle, there is a quiet time with few sunspots and flares, while at the other end, solar max brings high sunspot numbers and solar storms. Even so, astronomers -- who have been counting sunspots for centuries -- have noticed that a solar cycle is not perfectly regular, with the swing in sunspot counts taking anywhere from 10-13 years to complete. In addition, the amplitude of each cycle can and does vary, with some solar maxima being very weak (such as Solar Cycle 6), while others can be very strong (such as Solar Cycle 19).

“The last two solar maxima, around 1989 and 2001, had not one but two peaks,” Pesnell explained. Phillips’ article explained how “solar activity went up, dipped and then resumed, performing a mini-cycle that lasted about two years.” Pesnell said that the same thing could be happening now. Even though sunspot counts jumped in 2011 and dipped in 2012, he said he expects them to rebound again in 2013: “I am comfortable in saying that another peak will happen in 2013 and possibly last into 2014.”

According to Phillips, solar activity in the Sun’s hemispheres does not always peak at the same time. “In the current cycle, the south has been lagging behind the north,” he said. He explained that if a second peak occurs, it will likely feature the Sun’s southern hemisphere displaying a surge in activity.

Pesnell is a member of the NOAA/NASA Solar Cycle Prediction Panel, a group of solar physicists that assembled in 2006 and 2008 to forecast the next solar max. “At that time, the Sun was experiencing its deepest minimum in nearly a hundred years,” Phillips’ article explained. “Sunspot numbers were pegged near 0 and x-ray flare activity flat-lined for months at a time.” The panel issued the following statement at the time, explaining its prediction:

“The Solar Cycle 24 Prediction Panel has reached a consensus. The panel has decided that the next solar cycle (Cycle 24) will be below average in intensity, with a maximum sunspot number of 90. Given the date of solar minimum and the predicted maximum intensity, solar maximum is now expected to occur in May 2013. Note, this is not a unanimous decision, but a supermajority of the panel did agree.”

But according to Pesnell -- given the lack of solar activity in February 2013 -- a maximum in May now seems unlikely. “We may be seeing what happens when you predict a single amplitude and the Sun responds with a double peak,” he said. –

Thanks to NASA, Dr Tony Phillips and Science@NASA for the information

## Idaho QSO Party

A good turnout was seen for the ID QSO Party. Regular county hunters KK7X and AB7CB put out their home counties, and there was at least one mobile running CW – WW7D. Another half dozen fixed stations were noted on cw, plus a dozen or more on SSB.

A few contacts were spotted on 15M.

From the spots, about 20 counties made it on the air – either cw or SSB, up through 10M.

Dennis, **KK7X**, commented on the K3IMC forum:

“Thank you for the contacts during the Idaho QSO Party. I ended up with 308 Q's. A little better compared to my 76 from last year. This year I operated CW Only. “

**NF7T** ran the 3 way county line of Ada/Elmore/Owyhee on SSB

**WJ9B** – fixed – ID - 380 cw QSO

From the 3830 reflector:

### **WW7D mobile/rover**

This was my first IDQP, and I had a blast activating ADA, ADM, BEN, BNR, CAN, ELM, GEM, IDA, KOO, LAT, NEZ, PAY, WAS.

I did the contest in a new (to me) vehicle--a 1988 Toyota pick-up truck, purchased just weeks before. I barely managed to get power and antennas installed, and ran out of time to improve body bonding or minimize electrical noise (and some wind noise).

Rigs were a Kenwood TS-480 and a Yaesu FT-857. Antennas were two homebuilt screwdrivers mounted on the bed near the rear of the bed, and two stalks carrying 2 or 3 Hustler resonators on the rails near the front of the bed. Gusty winds did a number of the finger stock on the screwdriver antennas. A couple of times I had to bend things back into shape.

I enjoyed coming across, and briefly chatting with, NF7T on the PAY/GEM/CAN county line.

One little operating snag was that I did a LONG CW run from the PAY/GEM county line sending out PAE instead of PAY. Oops!

Thanks to all the folks that tracked me from county to county, like N6MU (24 QSOs), NT2A (18), WA2YVA (16), K5WAF (11) and lots of others. I enjoyed the company. And thanks to everyone who spotted me...those really made a difference! Finally, thanks to everyone for their patience and perseverance as I strained to copy calls and exchanges over road noise, electrical noise, and with my attention primarily given to driving.

- - - -

Note de N4CD: WW7D/m was spotted in six counties on cw and SSB.

**K4BAI** in GA reported working 14 cw and 25 SSB stations during the contest.

**KN4Y- FL- fixed**

“Part time in shack, worked all the CW stations I heard. Did not hear any mobiles.

## A Never Before Told Story

### The A/N X-15 Galactic Transceiver

BY: DARRON SANCHEZ WA5TCZ

The unexpected visit at precisely 4am in the morning on June 9th 1950 from the Secret Service was a shock, but I am getting ahead of my story.

It all dates back to the 1950's. I was a young Ham Just up graded from novice to General. New call W7TCZ. I was 26 years old then, and lived in Nevada By the way my name is Darron.

This whole story starts with my interest in Ham Radio, and without the help of my kind Elmer Al W7OVV There would be no story.

Al was old beyond his years, always had a smile and a kind word for everyone, you see AL was the proprietor of AL's Army/Navy Surplus store the largest in Nevada.

AL delighted in traveling around California and Nevada buying up all electronic equipment that he could get his hands on at government surplus sales. At that time in the 50's there was a big demand for electronic gear built to government specifications, and the hams came from far and wide to purchase great gear at rock bottom prices, and convert it for the Ham bands.

As I look back now after 65 years and never have told anyone this story I'm sure that one shipment must have come from AREA 51!!! As everyone now knows some very strange things happen in AREA 51.

Al would always call me after a government auction when it was time to pick up another shipment and unload all that electronic equipment into the big Surplus store and as always the

case he would tell me to take something home for my trouble.

I had all kinds of neat surplus equipment Arc 5s receivers and transmitters. National, Hallicrafters, Collins, and many more to numerous to mention that had been converted to the ham bands.

On this particular day June 9, 1950 Al told me to look in the special store room and let him know if I wanted to take those 6 heavy crates home, play with the gear and report back to him as to what they were. I was always excited when he told me to play with unknown gear. I loaded the boxes in my truck and boy they were heavy. I told Al good day and was off happy to have something to experiment with tonight.

When I got home I unloaded the six boxes, and started to examine them more closely. The first thing I noticed these were not the run of the mill government boxes they were precision built to exact standards. Water proof, shock proof, and made of a metal I did not know. I had to look very hard to find the locking device it was so well concealed, and when I pushed the lock the door opened with a swooshing sound that scared the heck out of me.

There inside of the box were six manuals, and I thought now I'm getting somewhere. I started flipping through the manuals, and was at first disappointed they were so technical and crammed with math and formulas that were over my head, but a diagram of how to set up the six boxes was there. I lost no time setting up each box. Box number six had special directions. It was marked antenna, and stated CAUTION SET UP IN OUTSIDE OPEN AREA AND STAY BACK 100 feet. The rest of the instructions were straightforward, except for the 2" cable that stated do not kink mirrored surfaces, and now I know this was the first fiber optic cable of some sorts that led out to the antenna.

I finally got everything hooked up and there was just one last thing there was a warning stating caution 5volts @1/2 amp only.

I applied the correct voltage and to my surprise some how the imprint of a hand appeared on what looked like the front of the unit, I placed my hand on this imprint and thought to myself how do you turn this thing on. Much to my surprise a screen appeared one like I had never seen before, and now I know after so many years that I was looking at the first Liquid Crystal Display. Still not totally grasping what had just happened I thought again how do you get this thing tuned to a frequency like 7.015 and this popped on the screen now I really knew what was happening, stopped for a few minutes and read the screen. There flashing on the screen was Beacon on and transmitting. I looked out side and saw a very bright light and slowly walked

out side making sure to stay 100 feet away.

What I saw was a hologram of the brightest lights I had ever seen all colors and shining into the night sky, spread out over 1000 feet to the East and West. I'm guessing over 1000 feet straight up into the night sky, the biggest, the most beautiful FAN DIPOLE I had ever seen. I knew this was going to be the best antenna I had ever used. Now I know after all these years I was looking at the first lasers or phasers.

I went back inside, placed my hand on the imprint and the screen started flashing again and a title came up .The A/N X-15 Galactic Transceiver - TOP SECRET. I was thinking what the heck is a Transceiver? They were not invented in the 50's.

I wondered to myself what does the rest of this thing look like, and all the doors came open with a loud whoosh and scared the heck out of me. All of the sub assemblies had been built in different states and shipped to either Nells AFB or Roswell, NM. This was done to keep any one from building one of these on there own. As every one knows this is definitely AREA -51.

There inside as I looked at all the parts there were long black plastic looking objects with as many as 40 electrical contacts on each. There were literally 100s of these. Electronic parts I had never seen before. What I did not know then I was looking at the first integrated circuits.

By this time I was getting pretty shook up and was going to pull the plug when this thing started selecting frequencies on its own. Out of nowhere I started hearing stations, and there was no speaker, it finally hit me this thing was sending these broadcasts to me by Telepathy.

I started listening very close to what was coming into my head, in amazement as I heard Mr. Marconi's first Atlantic transmission the letter S sent over and over, from England to New Found land. I also heard the call WLMO the first flight over the North Pole by Richard E. Byrd, and Floyd Bennett from 1926. I listened some more and heard KDKA the very first commercial radio station, also heard was NBC, ABC and RCA commercial stations. Let's not forget the hams 8XE the first Ham station in America. Danny Weil and his famous DXpedition VP2VB, also heard was Leon Deloy 8AB from Nice France working Fred Schnell 1MO, and John Reinartz 1XAM. The first Atlantic contact between American Hams. These famous Hams were also heard W4CGP Chet Atkins, K4LIB Arthur Godfrey, W5CY Howard Hughes, WB6RER Andy Devine, and K7UGA Barry Goldwater. I heard the very first satellite Sputnik sending HI HI the laughter on CW. I had read some where that the scientist had figured out that R.F. radio waves never dissipated that they just kept on going through space for ever. I guess this proves that theory beyond any doubt.

That's when the realization of what I had here before me, finally sank in. This thing was so powerful with that enormous FAN DIPOLE shining in the night sky; it could transmit and receive on any frequency at any time of day or night on any band regardless of band conditions or sun spot cycle I had to try this rig out. There was a big SSB contest going on and I only had to think and I was working all kind of rare DX stations and was breaking some of the biggest DX pile-ups on just the first call. Also worked many rare CW contacts and buster some large CW pileups with just one call and, with the same results the DX station giving me the strongest signal report on the band.

I could be King of the hill I could win every contest over and over again and my name and call W7TCZ would forever be inscribed in all the log books and ham Magazines in the world as being the best ever. Like being DX in reverse, and what ham do you know that hasn't had this dream?

Well I did not dream long because it was 4 A.M. the morning of June 9, 1950. There was a loud banging on the shack door. I looked out side and my house was completely surrounded by cars with red lights flashing. A voice shouted out open the door Secret Service agents; this snapped me back to reality in a hurry.

I got up opened the door and standing there were about 30 guys dressed in black and one had his Secret Service badge out and shoved in my face. They pushed there way into my shack. I did not notice at first but there was an older gentleman in a white lab coat, he walked over to the machine put his hand on the imprint and shut every thing down. He looked at me and smiled.

While the agents were busy dismantling the A/N X-15 this gentleman in the lab coat guided me to the corner and stated: I'm glad a Ham fount the X-15. I'm a ham to you see. My call is w0cxx. He never said his name. Did you have fun playing with my little toy? I started out by asking am I in trouble. He answered no.

I told him it was the most amazing radio I had ever used: he stated the world is not ready for this kind of radio and I don't know if it will ever be ready, you see it can transmit into far off galaxies and we don't want anyone upsetting any aliens do we? I asked how did you find me. He said remember the screen that said beacon on and transmitting it's the only beacon like it in the world and we knew it was the X15 the minute you turned it on. He asked is it yours? I replied no it was for Al that ran the surplus store here. He told me to tell Al to fill out the proper forms that the government usually bought back surplus items they let go by mistake. He also told me to keep my mouth shut about this and if I went public with the story they would deny

any and all claims and try to discredit Al and I.

All this took about 15 minutes and they were gone along with the 6 boxes. It was 4am in the morning and I was so wired up I just had to phone Al.

Al answered a sleepy hello and I rattled all to him. He said I will call you today some time; But Al did not call me for over a month. I thought he was mad at me for losing such a great piece of surplus gear. Al finally came over with a bunch of papers. He was very excited and told me to sign all these papers. When I finished signing all the papers he handed me the key to Al's Army/Navy surplus store. He said now you are the owner. The government gave me enough money for that X-15 whatever you called it, I can now go Island hopping and it's my time now to be the DX station.

Al moved on and true to his word. From time to time I would here him and see his DXpedition written up in the magazines.

Well it's been over 50 years for me now and, the sale of surplus electronics has been good to me. It made a good living for me. Now with all the fancy Transceivers, hardly anyone builds gear now except the QRP gang and that's taking over like wild fire.

I had made up my mind to give the remanding surplus inventory away, and offer the 60 acres of dusty sandy Nevada desert up for sale on the local TV station.

The very next day I got a call from the Nevada Gaming commission they offered me an eight figure number starting with the number 9, for this worthless desert sand.

Now I'm the one that's running DXpeditions from exotic islands.

73 -- hope to work you soon Darron  
(reprinted with permission)

# Wisconsin QSO Party

The weather forecast for Sunday evening was grim, and not too great during the day for the Sunday running of the Wisconsin QSO party. However, that did not stop the intrepid mobiles who were out in force, putting out about all but a handful of the WI counties during the event.

Propagation seemed good and the pileups were huge when mobiles changed counties and folks realized it. If you were looking for the mobiles and got there first, you had an easy chance, otherwise, once the spot hit, the pile was 20 deep. 20M worked fine from TX and I heard quite a few county hunters in there snagging counties left and right. 40M is a bit too far during the day from TX for me, but the spots were flying left and right as those closer in spotted them. There weren't too many spotters though, but it seemed quite a few were watching the spots to lull them out of whatever else they were doing.

Most of the activity for the mobiles was on CW, with one mobile out on SSB. WI borrowed a few from MN for the event. (and WI mobiles were active in the MN QSO party just last month). Sunday evening the snow started flying and some areas got 8-12 inches of snow, plus the southeast got quite a bit of rain. Most of the mobiles did all or most of their routes so it was fun for all.

The DX was in – the DL's first on 20M, then later in the evening working WI on 40M with big signals. It's nice the WI mobiles tend to do nice write ups on the 3830, so we've included their stories and tales of their travels below.

from the 3830 reflector:

## **W9DND (K0PC oper) mobile**

It was a busy day in Wisconsin on Sunday. The wonderful weather of the last few years was not in sight this year. Snow on the way to the start and snow in the last couple of counties made it an interesting day. Our route kept us out of the worst of it at the end of the contest where there was a large area of freezing rain in southern Wisconsin. We got spoiled over the last few years with sunny days and 50-60 F temperatures. This year reminds us we are still living in the Great White North.

This was our best effort yet in WIQP with over 219k points and 967 QSOs. That tops our previous best by 20% so it shows a combination of good conditions and excellent turnout. The pileups were deafening at times but it seems the same stations always got through quickest by making themselves stand out from the crowd with a slight frequency offset or sending speed.

Conditions were good on 40M & 20M all day. We had a lot of noise on 80M at times near the end. I don't know if that was caused by the snow or something else.

One gremlin in the radio returned that I thought was solved. The IC-7000 would occasionally jump frequency by up to half a kHz. I think this is related to the ground in the cable from the control face to the radio mounted in the trunk. I tried to fix it mid day but didn't have a screwdriver small enough to do it right. My apologies to everyone for jumping away from you, it was nothing personal.

As I said, the turnout was excellent, we had 242 unique calls in the log. The Top-Ten list contains these outstanding operators:

20 - N2CU, NT2A

17 - AA4FU

16 - NA0N, W0GXQ

15 - K9PG, N9AUG, W0ZQ

14 - KB9OWD, NY4N, KQ3F

Nobody worked us in all 15 counties, we had less than 8 minutes in the last county, Pierce, at the end. However, there are four that had 14 of 15 counties.

14 Counties - N2CU, NT2A, NA0N, W0GXQ

Thanks to everyone who followed us throughout the day. The rates were very good all day long with the numbers remarkably constant.

The West Allis Radio Club and the WIQP Team deserve a big round of applause for organizing this event. The behind the scenes work really makes for a smooth day. We owe a special thanks to Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR, who chaired the QSO Party committee for many years and retired after the 2012 event. Lynn did a great job and gave the new committee a high mark to shoot for. I just wish Lynn had given them the secret to controlling the weather.

73 and we look forward to next year,

John W9DND and Pat K0PC

### **N9NE – fixed – WI 382 CW 243 SSB**

Wanted to go mobile as usual, but having had rotator cuff surgery eight weeks ago meant that my right arm would be in a sling, so I stayed home. As it turned out, driving was a bit challenging for some of the mobiles, as rain over icy roads followed by snow forced re-routing and at least one early 'retirement'. All operating was done with left (non-dominant) hand, so apologies for slower come-backs at times. Bands (20-80) were in good shape IMHO. Lots of participation in and out of state. Always great to greet friends in this party. Was very heartened by the numerous 'new calls' (e.g., KC9xxx) running FB CW!

### **KE0G rover**

“K3/10 Elecraft at 4.5 watts. Used a 34' vertical antenna with 3 radials, and added a 66' wire from the 34' tip angling toward the ground when 80 M was open. Tuner was a Johnson Matchbox, feedline 10' of 300 ohm foam-insulated twin-lead. Ran 3 counties: La Crosse, Jackson, and Buffalo. Had fun running them, lots of activity, but left WI early to get home to MN before a snow storm rolled in from the west. I made it home just in time, with only the last 10 miles snow-covered and slippery. After unpacking the radio, and hooking it up at home, why not work some WI stations from MN too? I'll log those contacts as a checklog so all my WI friends are sure to get QSO points. “

### **N0IJ mobile with NX0X**

We were fortunate in that we didn't really see a lot of ice, and only had to be super careful for about 45 minutes in the back woods of Sawyer and Bayfield Counties. In order to make this route, it requires a start about 100 miles from home (Duluth), and a lot of 2nd and 3rd level roads, but it encompasses a solid block of 18 NW counties. For the seven hours of the contest, the car never stopped! We just about ran it out of gas!

My expert navigator/driver, NX0X did a magnificent job keeping us as close to schedule as possible. There was a time that we didn't think we would make it to Douglas, our 18th county, but he got me there with 7 minutes to spare and found a hungry group which netted 25 Q's!

Getting edged out by K0PC (W9DND) is getting to be a bad habit! I'm happy that I at least got 5 more Q's, but sure couldn't find those extra counties that he had. Knowing his skill and quality, I'm happy to be so close.

What fun it was dealing with almost constant pile ups, and it made me appreciate having the K3 in the car to accomplish this. I join, Pat, K0PC, in saluting Lynn, K9KR, for his years of outstanding leadership in this contest. It was nice to get Lynn in the log at least once!

Big thanks to the loyal group following us around and these great ops:

N2CU 22, NY4N 21, N5DO 19, WA2VYA NA0N NT2A 16, K0TI 15, N9AUG W0GXQ K9UIY KQ3F N4CD 14, and special mention to the westerners WA6KHK and W7GKF 13.

Lots of fun hearing so many of the MWA group and thanks to all for the Q's.

John, N0IJ, Brian, NX0X

### **W0AA mobile (WA0MHJ opr)**

Since plans for ARRL DX fell through, I found myself rested (and bored). I decided to take my former mobile vehicle which I stripped all the radio stuff out and tried to sell last fall, and resurrect a mobile setup. Five hours of re-installation on Saturday, and I was ready to go. I needed to be back in Minnesota at precisely 5:00 P.M., so I picked a four county route which allowed four fifteen minute operations in each county, and got me home exactly on time. I had no driver this year, and the mobile setup is in the third (far rear) seat in a Suburban. Drive and then dash to the rear seat, and then drive some more.... Did I mention I was really bored? The setup worked flawlessly, and honestly better than it had before I dismantled it. Zero noise made it fun. It was also nice to not have the bumpy roads of being in motion while operating, but it sure hurts the time on the air. Thanks to all who pulled my signal out

## **NE9U mobile (With KK9K and N9CBA)**

A couple months ago, KK9K talked me into doing this as a multi-op with him and my long time driver of 22 years (N9BCA). The more we talked about it the funner it sounded! We ended up using KK9K's K2 radio and made some tweaks to our normal antenna system that ended up working pretty good!

As is normal tradition, we headed for the Northwoods Saturday afternoon so we can get a steak dinner Saturday night. Winter weather was already moving in, but we had a snow/ice free trip for 150 of our 180 mile drive. Last 30 miles got a little slippery on good roads, so I was worried what awaited us when we got on the Forest Roads that lead into my cabin. Well, the Forest Roads were very slippery, but we made it to cabin, turned the heat on and went back into town to get food. By the time we headed back to cabin, the Forest Roads had turned to glare Ice and we failed in our first 5 attempts to get over the last hill before the cabin. So we got creative and backed up the last 1/2 mile to get over the hill and into my driveway. :-) I guess pulling works better than pushing.

Now.....we still had to get back out in the morning. Luckily I was able to find the town Sand-man's cell phone number and told him our problem. Within an hour he had the 4 mile road leading to my place sanded and we got out in time for the start of the contest. I'm gonna have to buy him a case of Point Beer! Wish I could say the rest of the day was good driving, but it wasn't. We probably only drove 200 of our planned 350 mile trip. And hit only 9 of our planned 16 counties. But we made it home safe and sound.

Before the contest we were able to confirm Florence County on 17 meters for Vic, SM7DZI

But by only running 9 counties, we were able to dig deeper into the pileups and our multiplier total was by far the best I've ever done in this contest. And our rate didn't seem to suffer. Other than the bad hour 3 we had. I noticed the K2 was only putting out a few watts. Ne9u/qrp!!! Tried a few things on the fly to no effect. So we had to stop and disassemble and reassemble everything. Still didn't work! Ohm meter on the coax showed that as OK, but as a last resort we replaced it anyway. And Voila! We were in business again!

Thanks to N9BCA for doing our excellent up-north adventure for about the 22nd year in a row. And thanks to KK9K for joining in the fun. KK9K is scheduled to be in Florida next winter, but he may have to fly back just for WQP!

73

Scott NE9U  
Ron KK9K  
Art N9BCA

**W9HB multi op mobile 780 CW 55 SSB QSO**

Started out in the fog, less than hundred foot visibility for the first hour, then various degrees of rain for duration of contest. Lots of broken pavement, but, no snow or ice on this years route. Thanks to my great driver and v/uhf op Roger, KF9D. Ran out of contest time two counties short of plan. Another enjoyable sunday drive in WIQP. 14 hours, 644 miles, home to home.

## Marconi's Nantucket Island Wireless

If you get to Nantucket Island (Nantucket County), you might be interested to know about the following historic information. It seems the best spot for county hunting on the island (where most wind up) is the lighthouse just north of Siasconset.

While there is a tourist site in Wellfleet, MA, on Cape Cod, that is still a good place to visit (nothing survives other than the foundation of one of the towers – plus a small pavillion with information on the site), that station was started at the same time as Siaconset, but the masts blew down in a storm and it didn't get on the air until 1903. It did, however, provide much of the ship to shore communications once it got going. But two years before, wireless was up and running on Nantucket Island. If you are looking for a good spot to run Nantucket, you probably will head east from the 'village' to the east end of the island to the teeny village of Siaconset, then just a bit north to the lighthouse there. Here's some history you might not have time to check out.

## **Siasconset Wireless Stations**

### **By Captain John Lacouture**

This 'Sconset story began in Europe in the late nineteenth century with Marconi's wireless experiments in marine communication, first in his native Italy and then in Great Britain. He installed his equipment on lightships and lighthouses, on British naval vessels and ocean liners, and on shore stations, transmitting and receiving messages which ranged from reports of popular racing regattas to accidents at sea. Impressed by Marconi's accomplishments, Commander John D. J. Kelley, senior writer-manager of the New York Herald, alerted its owner and publisher, James Gordon Bennett, who was also a yachtsman and racing enthusiast, to the usefulness of wireless to newspapers. At Bennett's direction, Marconi put up stations on shore and on two ships to cover the 1899 America's Cup Races in lower New York Harbor. He became a national hero by sending 1200 messages that updated the races' progress, and his success confirmed the Herald's confidence in the potential of wireless communication as a tool of the press.

The news vacuum which had for so long frustrated those on the high seas could now be eliminated. Transatlantic liners could report their position and estimated time of arrival. Their passengers could keep informed of world events and could exchange messages with persons ashore.

The enthusiasm of Kelley and Bennett for using the Marconi system to communicate with ships at sea would move the focus of events closer to Siasconset. As western stations the Herald selected Nantucket Island and, forty-two miles away, South Shoals where Nantucket Lightship was the first point of contact for ocean liners bound for New York City. Crookhaven on the south coast of Ireland became the eastern location.

When Siasconset was chosen as the specific site for a wireless station on Nantucket, Guglielmo Marconi was not present. He had worked continuously since the America's Cup Races to improve transmission distance and reception clarity and was deeply involved in preparing for his most spectacular triumph of transatlantic communication, which linked Poldhu, England, with St. John's, Newfoundland. His representative, W. W. Bradfield, and Commander Kelley selected a lot owned by Samuel Pitman on Bunker Hill behind 'Sconset village as the ideal spot for a marine communication station. They rented the Hussey cottage already on the site to hold the wireless equipment and to house the operators.

Twenty-five hundred feet of wire arrived on August 3 from New Bedford. Spars for the mast were also built there. The location of Nantucket's wharves and the narrowness of its streets complicated the arduous task of dragging the huge masts, mounted on wheels, to 'Sconset. The largest spar required a team of eight horses. The 186-foot mast, located on land 55 feet high, placed the receiving wire 241 feet above sea level. Meanwhile, Bradfield and his assistants were busy in the Hussey cottage erecting the apparatus for the large receivers, the transmitter key, and other equipment. Within twenty-four hours after the mast was in place, the Siasconset wireless station was ready to transmit and receive.

Bradfield and Lockyer along with Perry and the riggers then planned to set out immediately by tug for treacherous South Shoals and Nantucket Lightship No. 66 where they would secure a 45-foot wooden spar to her 60-foot steel mast, rig the cables, and install the wireless equipment.

At 9:00 a.m. on August 12, 1901, as many curious Nantucket citizens watched on 'Sconset's Bunker Hill, the signal from South Shoals came in loud and clear: three dots and a dash, the letter V in Morse code. "We've got her!" shouted Bradfield, and signals were quickly exchanged.

In the meantime, the New York Herald built up publicity prior to receiving the first official message from a transatlantic liner. One article trumpeted that the Herald's wireless station on Nantucket Lightship would shorten the Atlantic crossing by one day and that westbound passengers could communicate with the American continent fourteen to sixteen hours earlier. The paper announced that the route of communication from the liner would be first by wireless from the lightship at South Shoals to the 'Sconset station, then by telephone to the Nantucket office of the Southern Massachusetts Telephone Company and finally by telephone to the mainland and the Herald office in New York.

The Cunard liner *Lucania*, sailing from Liverpool on August 10, was selected as the first transatlantic liner to greet the New World with a wireless message sent from midocean. The long ocean voyage would be robbed of the terrors of isolation.

While everyone awaited the much-publicized approach of the *Lucania*, the first message to reach the Siasconset station actually came on Wednesday evening when the westbound German liner *Lahn* asked to be reported. On Thursday, a passing tramp steamer made the same request. As Friday, August 16, approached and the *Lucania* reached transmission range, Commander Kelley of the Herald assigned men to forward messages from the *Lucania* quickly and sent the lightship a series of latest news bulletins to be transmitted.

Finally, the historic message from Captain Horatio McKay was received at Lightship No. 66, and was transmitted by Marconi operator Lockyer to Siasconset. As Kelley and Bradfield listened and watched breathlessly, operators Tom Tierney and E. Mitchell wrote out the words:

"All well on board. We are 237 miles from Sandy Hook. Expect to reach New York Harbor Saturday." Within thirty minutes the Herald office had the story.

By midnight, Siasconset station could read Lucania's messages directly, and by 2:45 a.m. there was good two-way communication between the ship and the station. Eight hours elapsed from the initial exchange of signals between Lucania and Lightship No. 66 until the final exchange between 'Sconset and liner. As the passengers of the Lucania disembarked, they received a souvenir issue of the Herald covering the vessel's historic voyage. Copies were sent to 'Sconset and the lightship so that all participants would be able to show their grandchildren the story of the inaugural operations of the first, permanent Marconi system in the United States.

Although its novelty wore off as more and more ships installed the equipment, wireless communication continued to prove its worth; and 'Sconset station settled down to a busy routine. Messages from New York, including the closing stock market prices, came in for transmission to passing liners. Ships that met in mid Atlantic could exchange messages that were relayed to Siasconset or Crookhaven and received days before the vessel reached its destination.

In spite of increasing general, business, and marine communication, the New York Herald did not continue to operate its own wireless stations. Two years after James Gordon Bennett and Commander John D. J. Kelley opened the 'Sconset relay and demonstrated the commercial uses of the wireless telegraph between ship and shore, they sold the Siasconset station to the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of America.

The Marconi Company's 'Sconset station became one of the most important in America; but as its work load increased, its facilities were no longer adequate. In 1904, an enlarged, refitted station was moved across the road and two taller wireless poles were erected. In 1907, an overheated exhaust pipe caused a fire that left only the chimneys, the foundation, and the generator standing by the time the chemical fire cart came from town. The structure was rebuilt, and the station's important operations routine continued until the end of World War I.

During the most famous sea-going disaster of the twentieth century, the Siasconset station played a critical role. Late on the night of April 14, 1912, duty operator Matt Tierney received distress signals from the sinking Titanic. Siasconset was the first mainland wireless station to receive them, and he immediately alerted all other stations of the tragedy.

With the start of World War I, new factors complicated the work of Siasconset station. On September 25, 1914, the government closed it for an alleged violation of neutrality laws. A Navy ensign assigned as censor had reported the violation. The company questioned the legality of this closure but was overruled by the government. On January 17, 1915, the station reopened under Navy supervision, which lasted for the duration of the war. On October 8, 1916, prior to our entry into the conflict, the station picked up, within a period of six hours, the distress signals of six ships, all torpedoed and sunk off Nantucket by one German submarine,

the 17-53. Soon after World War I ended, the second Siasconset station closed permanently; but this was not quite the end of wireless communication on Nantucket.

In 1920, the International Wireless Telegraph Company thought a commercial wireless operation was still needed on the island and built a large station just south of Sankaty Golf Club. This third, short-lived station had the latest equipment and could communicate with steamers out to 1800 miles. Placed in operation on October 13, it did a thriving business for a while. For some reason—probably new, competitive communication developments—this last 'Sconset wireless station shut down for good in April 1922.

Source: <http://www.nha.org/history/hn/HN-fall90-wireless.htm>

## OKLA QSO Party

Once again, the mobiles were out and running. AF5Q, W0BH, K5CM, K5YAA, W3DYA, AD0DX and possibly others on SSB. (K0WHY xyl of W0BH/m)

One little hiccup though...

from Space Weather dot com:

As predicted, a coronal mass ejection (CME) hit Earth's magnetic field at 0600 UT on March 17th. The impact lifted the solar wind speed from 300 km/s to 700 km/s and sparked a moderately strong (Kp=6) geomagnetic storm. Northern Lights spilled across the Canadian border into the United States as far south as Colorado:

**AF5Q mobile 283 CW - 198 SSB QSO**

Started out with dead battery Saturday, but made do. Operated single op unassisted. Ran all my counties except Jackson for the day. CME took me out

for noon to around 4pm while in NW Oklahoma, so nothing to listen to except static. Also changed out the Tarheel to an MFJ whip where I could run 100w on CW for 20/40.

Glad to help out with John' sweep, but thought LOL Love county was the final one. Ah well... this QSO party is fun and I like going out to see Oklahoma.

Also great to see W5LE and K5YAA back in the contest!!

Sunday set me a new personal record going from Tillman/Jackson to love county...1/2 the state...even made it to Carter then back to Stephens.

### **K5CM mobile 1003 CW and 279 SSB QSO**

It was great to have such good activity from the mobiles. It would seem they stayed busy. I know N6MU made a sweep again this year. Congrats John and Congrats to all the mobiles and fixed station that supported him. It was crazy on Saturday morning with good conditions to Eu and all the Russian contest participants, not to mention the VAQP. Then Sunday brought very unstable conditions as a result of the CME that impacted Earth Early Sunday morning. The K index was at 6 near the end of the QP, making 15m very difficult. Absorption was very noticeable on 20 meters, making signal fade and very weak at times.

Some of the most worked stations:

N6MU(88), NT2A(52), VE3KZ(36), VE5KS(32), KV8Q(24)  
WA2VYA(23), W0GXQ(21), VE7CV(20), K0HNC(20), N5XG,,KN4Y(16),  
AD0DX(11), DL5ME(10)  
,N4PN,N4JT,K7INA,K1TKL(9), W9MSE,,N8II,N4CD,(8)  
YV5OIE,W4UT,W0PAN,,K5KDG,(7), W1END,VE9AA,,KM1C,K4YT(6)

### **W3DYA mobile**

If anyone was wondering what happened to me as mobile in the OKQP, I was feeling pretty bad and went back to TX.

It started early Friday morning and I didn't get much sleep that night. By noon Saturday I was

struggling to stay awake (after taking an allergy pill) and decided I'd better go home. I never had an allergy problem but I guess that's what it is.

It wasn't all bad. I met N6PDB, Dennis and wife and dog, on Le Flore and Haskell C/L for my last OK county for 3rd time.

Still taking pills and wasting tissues, but mostly feel worse having to leave the contest - it was going pretty good!

73, Norm, W3DYA

### **K5YAA multi op mobile with AK5X**

Murphy started riding with us in the first few miles when the Amp would not stay on line for us and the generator suddenly developed a noise level of 7 on the receiver. The amp was so bad we went to 100 watts for the rest of the contest. Probably didn't make 10 QSOs high power before deciding it wasn't worth having to keep resetting the amplifier every few seconds. It just wouldn't stay on line for more than a q or two. Second Murphy attack was software not changing bands for us automatically. We had to do it manually but not until we made several Qs on the wrong band - editor came in handy there. Had to manually select bands all day Saturday and Sunday for some unknown reason - yet to be determined. Third Murphy attack had to do with trailer lighting. I had installed a new pigtail for this years use of the trailer and it turned out to be too short. Driving during the day Saturday all the wires came out of the crimps I had installed and two of them happen to touch causing a fuse to blow in the van. The fuse happen to be turn signals and dash panel instruments. Drive a while without a speedometer for some fun. Also take a guess at how much gas you have left! End of Murphy attacks. We were deciding about Sunday - determined to finish the contest in a blaze without the Russians in the way. We just took it easy and followed the other traffic for speed control. As far as gas we filled up a couple of times to be sure we had enough to finish the run through the northeast counties. All went very well on Sunday except for the flare that occurred when we were on the Adair Cherokee line. A disappointment with only 27 Qs for the double count. A surprise on Sunday were calls from OE5KE and DL8MLD / USA out of the blue - very strong on 20 meters.

Here are some counts of Qs for many of the stations we worked.

N6MU 34

NT2A 34

W0GXQ 21

AF5CC 5

WA2VYA 25

KN4Y 17  
K0HNC 14  
W5FIT 12  
KV8Q 18 <- Saturday Only

Of special note are Canadians who were very active - thanks for the Canada Qs.

VE7CV 13  
VE5KS 12  
VE3KZ 23

Our best county Q counts were Craig and Nowata counties on Sunday with 58 and 51 respectfully.

Our worst was McIntosh with 1 and Oklahoma with 8. We were either driving too fast or the bands just didn't cooperate with us.

Despite the Murphy attacks we had great fun. A stop or two for coffee and a lunch plus great company made for a FB weekend indeed. Ready for the next one.

Jerry K5YAA and Bill AK5X

### **AD0DX mobile with K1BBR**

Bob and I worked the KS qso party last Aug and made 700 q's. I was really hoping to break the 1000 qso barrier. But it was not to be.

I took time Friday afternoon to get set up for the qso party, after spending a number of hours planning our route. I had a really nice route with 20+ counties so I was excited for the OKQP. I was going to use CQX for the first time, but since I was also using the Delorme street maps software with gps for navigating, I decided to stick with N1MM for logging and rig control because I am familiar with N1MM. I updated N1MM and reread the OKQP contest rules and found that now DXCC countries were to be counted as multipliers for OK stations. Great!

I also made a quick trip to the local ham radio store to get a cable to control Bob's FT-857 from the computer. I had everything working on kitchen table on Friday afternoon; FT-857 hooked up to a 17AH battery, DeLorme software with GPS and usb Connection to the WinKeyer. I was

sending cw to a dummy load but I never actually turned the gps on... sure enough we get everything installed in the truck, and I turn the gps on and the mapping software locks up as long as the rig control usb cable is active. I decided that the mapping software with the route was more important than the rig control so I had to enter our freq and mode changes into N1MM manually. I did make a few freq errors during the contest (I changed bands on the radio and forgot to update N1MM) but I think I caught them all during the contest.

I created the OKQP contest file and entered a qso with DL8USA but the station was logged as DX only in N1MM. Rats. I posted a question on the N1MM Yahoo! group and John K3CT answered that he would update N1MM THAT DAY so that it would be ready for the contest. I updated N1MM around 9pm Fri evening and indeed he had added DX contacts as separate multipliers for the OKQP. Wow, that was really impressive. Thanks John!

Since it had been a while since our last qso party, we allocated some extra time on Fri night to check out Bob's truck. That turned out to be a good decision. The first problem we had was not being able to get power to the rig runner Bob had installed behind the seat. Bob has put together a very nice installation for HF in his truck. This problem turned out to be that the power cable from the battery had frayed and we had to replace it. This was in front of my house (Ron, AD0DX) and so we loaded up and drove over to Bob's house.

On the way to Bob's house, we found that we could not get the swr down on Bob's TarHeel Jr that had served us well in KS. By now it was 9 or 9:30 pm and so we were anxious to start the 2 hour drive to Joplin MO where we were going to sleep so that we were close to the OK border. Bob had 50 ft of new coax so we replaced the existing coax and the swr problem was solved. Anxious to get going, we just decided to use the 50 ft run of coax.



Ron AD0DX and Bob K1BBR

We crossed the OK border about 20 min early which was nice. Our first surprise of the day was the DeLorme software had us turning off of the turnpike but there was no interchange to exit the highway. I had caught this in one other location earlier in the week while checking our route and had changed the route accordingly.

In this instance I had wanted to get off the Turnpike early to make a short detour and pick up Delaware county. We just kept driving rather than backtrack knowing that we were going to hit Delaware on Sunday.

40 mtrs was ok on Sat morning but we never got a really good pileup going. When we tried 20mtrs later in the afternoon we found that we had a lot of engine noise. This really prevented us from operating on 20mtrs while driving. This is something that Bob is planning on investigating. If anyone has any advice for dealing with engine noise on diesel trucks please email me at the address below.

Later on Sat afternoon it seemed that there was a lot of noise on the radio. Just for fun I turned off the inverter used to keep the logging / navigation laptop running. The background noise died down quite a lot. It seems like the inverter had gotten progressively noisier and we had not noticed. I'm guessing due to the heat because the inverter was crammed behind the passenger seat in the truck and sitting next to the body of the FT-857. From that point on we played a game of leaving the inverter off as much as possible and only turning the inverter on (and the radio off) when

necessary. This inverter had worked well for Bob W0BH and myself in the MN qso party, so I was surprised it was causing us trouble now. Sigh.

We really enjoyed our route. We started in Ottawa at the NE corner of OK and our most southern and western point was the SW corner of Love County where we were only a few miles from the Red River and the Texas border. We stuck to 40 mtrs and 15 mtrs most of the time on Sat, only working 20mtrs when stopped due to the engine noise. One exception to that was when we called cq once on 20 ssb and got a response from ND. It was great to work ND during the contest, now if only I could work ND more often from home for my 5BWAS :-).

We stayed overnight in Atoka OK and started out early again so we were almost to the Pittsburg county line when the bell rang at 8am on Sunday. This weekend was my first time driving around OK and there are some very nice areas. The eastern counties are very lush and it looks like it would be fun to visit in the summer.

Thanks to everyone for all the qso's during the contest. Thanks to Bob W0BH for taking me along on the TXQP / IAQP / MNQP where he taught me all about mobile contesting but apparently I still have a lot to learn. I look forward to seeing you all in August for the KSQP.

Cheers,

Ron, AD0DX (and Bob, K1BBR)

## **W0BH mobile with XYL - K0WHY**

### **2013 Oklahoma QSO Party**

This year, the OKQP fell on the last weekend of Spring Break at Hesston College, so Lorna/k0why and I decided to catch it on the way home from a desert trip to Phoenix. We bravely started out in our 281,000 mile '91 Astro van, and we made it to Guymon OK when our alternator froze up at a stoplight on a Sunday afternoon. Considering when and where it could have stopped :-), we were really lucky. We got it going enough to jump the curb and park in a gas station right next to a repair shop. The shop manager happened to be there, and promised us a mechanic at 8:00am the next morning. After a night at the Super-8 across the street, that's exactly what happened. We had a new alternator the next morning by 9:30 and were on our way to Phoenix by 10. No more van stories for the rest of the trip (but in case you want another one, check out my Minnesota QSO Party

post from last month!)

This year we drew Panhandle duty. Coming home from Phoenix, we drove 731 miles on Friday to end up in Dalhart TX, a short 30 minute drive to the Oklahoma border and Cimarron county. I don't like to start out in the Panhandle because propagation is really poor the first several hours and the counties are huge, but the driving worked out, so we were happy to help out. Because of all the miles, I planned a short 25 county route (more counties would have added many more miles). We were already tired of driving, so the decision was a good one in all respects except score.

## Saturday

After record-setting warmth in Phoenix, the strong, cold northeast wind on Saturday morning was a shock to the system. Some road construction and fighting the wind got us into Oklahoma 9 minutes late. We switched drivers, took a picture of the OK state sign, and put out our first CQ on 7037. VE3KZ and N6MU were there as they were all day, and we were off.

Well, sort of. After two hours, 2 counties, and only 77 Qs in the log (11 of them Lorna's), it became obvious that this was going to be a different year. Rates picked up a bit later, but 51 Qs/hr over the first 6 hours (compared to 119/hr last year) tells the story. A huge bright moment was my first contact with Jerry, K5YAA/m. Welcome back, my friend! What a surprise. I spent the extra time listening for other mobiles and found Norm, W3DYA/m. Calls on 80m didn't work out either. Lorna enjoys making contacts with her own call when requested, so that kept us entertained, but the pileups I'm used to in the OKQP were basically non-existent except for short periods at county lines. As John/N6MU said a number of times, "strange conditions this year";

So we rolled along. It was cloudy and the computer screens were easy to see, it was cool which is better than too warm, and there were only occasional light sprinkles, so the few back roads we needed to take were in good shape. Lorna got a few naps and lots of paper grading in at the long county line stops. Although we were behind our schedule about 10-15 minutes most of the day, the long stops made that a non-issue. It ended up being a really relaxing day, not necessary a good thing for me, but great for Lorna! The DX contest made things entertaining on occasion, too.

Heading to our last four-county line and less than 400 miles into the day, Lorna mentioned that our fuel was running a bit low. That shouldn't have happened with our 26 gallon tank and 23 mpg, but the wind had been a ferocious head/crosswind most of the day, so we made a precautionary gas stop. Then

finally, some real action at the four-county line, the kind we all mobile for. When that died down, the NA SSB Sprint started up and got me more Qs from the line. I also surprised some ops who expected me to be at home in Kansas. Most chuckled when I gave them four counties as a bonus!

At the line, we were noticed by cars as expected. Everyone knows about storm spotters in Oklahoma and there are lots of vans with antennas running around at times, so I was surprised when someone apparently called us in as “suspicious activity”. That resulted in two county sheriff cars arriving (I wonder how they figured out which county to send :-)) and sort of boxed us in. No one got out of the cars for awhile, so I kept operating and Lorna kept grading papers. Eventually (I assume after they ran our ham tag), an officer appeared at the window. Lorna chatted with him while I kept running SSB. His comment after we explained we were ham operators? “ know what you're doing and I don't know why anyone called us about you.” Lorna explained a bit about the Oklahoma QSO Party, the officer wished us luck, and both cruisers left.

Shortly after that, Lorna noticed that the low battery light was on in the van. I use a battery booster, so the radio didn't care, but we started the van and left it running. Sometime after that, I noticed that the car clock wasn't working anymore and figured we might have blown a fuse. The cigarette lighter plug I had the GPS computer on also wasn't working so the computer was running on battery. We shut it down to check out later that evening. It was getting dark anyway, so we headed towards Guthrie with 979 combined Qs in the log. At the motel, I checked all the fuses but didn't find the problem, so I rewired the GPS computer to use my accessories battery.

## Sunday

After a good night's sleep, we woke to even cooler temperatures but less wind. Unlike the day before, we crossed the border into our first county a few minutes early. Once again N6MU and VE3KZ were there to greet us. John had spent the evening before figuring out if another Sweep was possible (sweeps don't just happen!), and he needed me in Grant county at the end of the party. Rates were still slow, but driving wasn't this time. We stayed on the beautiful Turner and Cimmaron Turnpikes and ran ahead of schedule most of the day.

A highlight for Lorna was the Payne/Pawnee line, within easy walking distance of Lone Chimney Lake. She went bird-watching for awhile and came back with a big smile. Of course a number of ops were also waiting for her to pick up the mic when she got back. Payne county always seems to have less Qs for me because of the unfortunate fact that PAW and PAY start out the same on morse code. As

ops keep checking back, I think they hear the PA and just assume I'm still in the same county. Leaving that line behind, we headed out through Noble county to get to the final three county line. Chatting with John, we found out he was on schedule to complete his Sweep, needing only Grant county. That's where we were headed.

There were a number of ways to get to the final three-county line. Part of my planning involves which counties to go through and which counties/modes to work or not work (yet) to minimize confusion at the lines and avoid lots of DUPES. We chose to head north on I-35. I was working CW when I noticed that my logging computer was showing a low battery light and the display had dimmed. I quickly checked the plug and it had come out. Plugging it back in worked at first, but then the computer kept alternating between power and no power. I thought perhaps the plug was loose, but I knew the computer would soon shut down. To be safe, I backed up again and swapped computers. That worked. It's great to be running DOS with such short boot times!

Lorna had been watching me work with the computers, so we both missed our planned freeway exit. Rather than turn around, we just rerouted from the next exit, getting into Kay county early. After some long sand roads, fortunately dry, we bumped along the final "path" to the three county line. I was on SSB and took a list to avoid a huge pileup, of course putting John at the top. Then the CME (coronal mass ejection) took him out! Arriving at the line, I called and called and no N6MU. As I continued down the list, I couldn't hear a number of ops I'd heard well only minutes before from less than a mile away. Slowly the band came back and I had my second really fun run. John finally put in an appearance, got his Sweep, and of course congratulations from us all. John has done it two years in a row now. When you consider he lives in the city of Los Angeles, he doesn't have a beam, and he doesn't use spotting networks, you start to understand how amazing he really is!

When the pileups on both SSB and CW died down, I backed up the logging computer, worked one more station, and the computer crashed. I'd been noticing that my computer CW was sounding a bit strange, with dits or dahs dropping and keying speeding up or slowing down at odd times. With only 15 minutes to go, it was occasional enough that I kept going, but the computer crash I couldn't ignore. The low battery light was back on the new computer and I finally realized that my accessories battery which ran the logging computer, keyer, and also the GPS computer today, was exhausted. I got out and rerouted once again to run everything off the van battery. As long as we didn't shut off the engine, we should last another 15 minutes and we did. Never a dull moment in mobile contesting! If I hadn't put in the extra battery extension cable from my home shack, we would have been done early. You can't ever have enough

“spares”. But we finished, then headed 30 miles to my dad's house (also in Grant county) for a post-OKQP visit.

## Stats

We operated 17.2 hours, 1466 combined Qs, 299 unique calls, 20 dupes. Lorna ended up with 143 contacts in her log. In 2012, we had 1902 combined Qs.

## **N6MU – fixed CA 218 CW 45 SSB QSO**

Despite the solar activities causing some interesting conditions, I managed a sweep for the second year in a row. I needed eight counties after Saturday. Once again AF5Q was instrumental in my sweep as he gave me five of the eight. My last five were: COT, JEF, LOV, KAY and GNT. Fittingly, W0BH gave me the last one this year!

As is usually the case, the mobiles make the Party. Top mobile for me with at least 20 Qs was K5CM with 86 followed by W0BH(69), AF5Q(45), K5YAA(35) and W5LE/K0WHY with 23 each.

15 was wide open Saturday but dead Sunday. Normally the east coast stations like NT2A and N4PN are very loud out here on 20 all weekend but this year they were all barely readable due to the strange conditions. Sure cuts down on the pileup QRM, hi!

## **VE3KZ - fixed Ontario Canada 170 cw48 SSB QSO**

This was my first venture into the OK QSO Party. I had originally planned on the RDX contest but a note from Bob W0BH decided me to give this one a try. I convinced my TR4W software to work with this contest, pointed my venerable 204BA to the SW, and made sure the base of the 40m vertical was clear of snow!

On Saturday 15 and 20 were wall to wall Europeans all day, even though my 204BA and 155CA were pointed directly away. In the afternoon and evening the same was true of 40 and 80. It was truly like looking for needles in a hay-stack searching out the Oklahoma stations. Those very strong VA stations were less of

a factor on CW but covered most of the 40m SSB band. It was great that the exchange format was different for each of the three contests, making IDing the proper quarry a little quicker. 15 was barely open for a couple of fixed stations earlier but sprung open for a short time on Saturday afternoon with big signals. The disturbance on Sunday left the bands with large empty holes, punctuated by a few Russians fluttery through on aurora. Conditions to OK were sporadic. 15 was stone dead.

### **W0PAN -fixed AZ - 35 QSO SSB**

The CME wiped out the AZ to OK path most of the time late Saturday and Sunday. Thanks to K5CM/W0BH/AF5Q/K0WHY for the total of 24 Qso's out of 35!!!! Hope next year is better. As always, Dave, W5CW did a great job on 20 and had a consistent great signal into AZ until 1400Z Sunday then barely S1. N5XG – fixed - TX 82 cw

OK only good here across the Red River on 40/80M  
(That doesn't count CME disturbance Sat am)

K5CM(17) W0BH(16) K5YAA(14) AD0DX(10) W3DYA (6) W5LE(6) AF5Q(3)

### **VE5KS 105 53**

Had a lot of fun. Many thanks to all the mobiles, without you it definitely would not have been as much fun. I am sorry my voice was not too good, I was barely able to speak due to a cold, so thaks to all that could understand me. Conditions were great from Saskatchewan to Oklahoma, even on Sunday with the overall poor conditions.

Worked K5CM (20 counties), W0BH (19 counties), AF5Q (15 counties), K0WHY (14 counties), K5YAA (12 counties), W3DYA (8 counties) and AD0DX (6 counties). Missed 12 counties for a sweep, maybe next year.

## **KV8Q – fixed OH 134 CW**

What a fun contest!!! You guys know how to have a party. Lots of mobiles but not very many fixed stations on the CW bands. QRN was bad on 80 once the sun set and 10/15 never opened to OKLA from OHIO. That really hurt the bonus points. Got W5TM on 4 bands and W0BH & K5CM on three bands for 1,500 bonus points. The RTTY on 40 and the Russian DX contest made life a bit more challenging; but, it was nothing too bad. I had a ton of fun chasing the mobiles all over the state. Here is who I found (QSO/counties):

K5CM (24/17)

W5LE (19/18)

K5YAA (19/15)

AD0DX (17/15)

W0BH (16/15)

AF5Q (14/9)

W3DYA (10/6)

My only regret is that I already had a commitment on Sunday and could not operate the last six hours of the contest. I'm sure I missed six more hours of fun and a much better score. Thanks for all the Q's and I'll sure try to get two days on the calendar for next year. 73 tom

## **KN4Y – fixed - FL 103 CW 63 Mults**

Saturday the bands were great, Sunday the bands sucked. Plenty of CW activity both mobile (8) and Fixed stations. short time between CW contacts, my super sized drinks got warm. All in all a fun weekend.

## **On the Road with N4CD – II**

In the middle of the month, the Vintage Radio and Phonograph Society in TX holds the annual spring auction. There were dozens of sellers and hundreds of lots of old radios, boxes of tubes, and boxes of old magazines like QST, Antique Radio Classified, Radio News and Shortwave up for sale. I cleaned off some of my shelves with stuff I've accumulated and was set to pass on to the next interested person.

There wasn't much in the way of ham gear there. Maybe 30 test items from Tektronix scopes to Eico signal generators and VTVMs, some other test equipment, and a sole Knight Kit VF-107 VFO for their VHF AM rigs from the 60s. There were some general coverage shortwave receivers like the Radio Shack DX-150, a National SW-54, a Hallicrafters SW-500, and tons of 50s and 60s table radios.

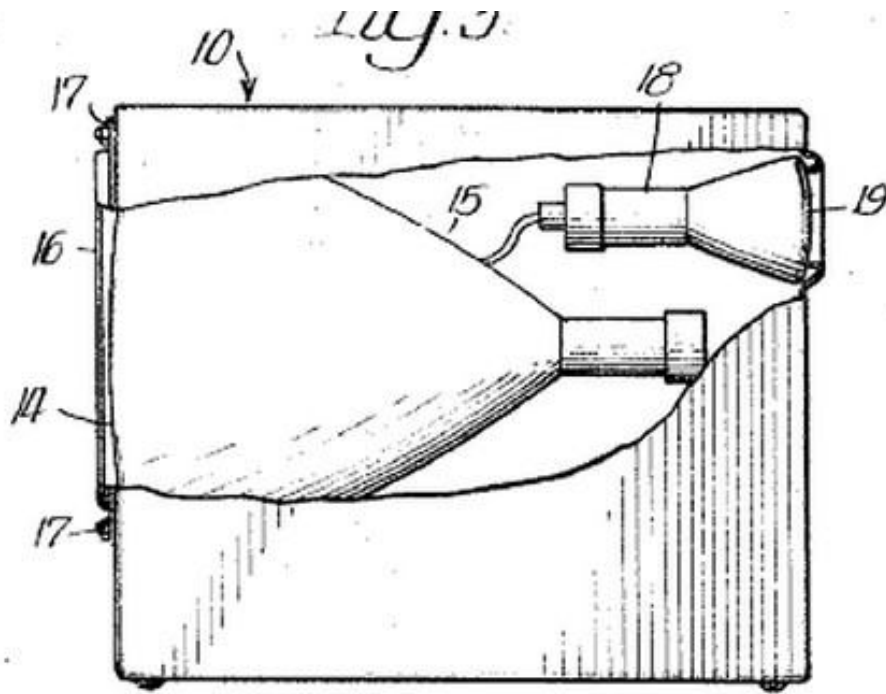
The big ticket items were naturally the 'tombstone' radios of the 30s and 40s, with an Atwater Kent going for \$350, some Philco and Zeniths for over \$200, and a grandfather style clock radio for over \$500. Whew. If you wanted floor console radios, you could have filled a small truck for \$10-\$20/radio with ten of them. There were even two old black and white TVs (one a 21 incher another about 17 inches) up for sale. There was one horn speaker, a nice Edison phonograph type colorful horn, and some hi-fi stuff.

The most unusual thing there was a 'instructional 'scope' made by Welch Scientific.

Here's a page on it

<http://www.google.com/patents/US3330988>

.On one side, it had a 3 inch CRT and the controls and input for the instructor. The thing was about 1.5 feet wide by 3 feet long by 2 feet high. On the other side, it had a 12 inch CRT showing the same signal. It allowed an instructor to have it connected to a circuit, and show a whole class what was going on, and he could manipulate the controls. The side with the large CRT had nothing but the CRT. It went for a couple hundred bucks, and they had it up and running before the show.



The only item that followed me home as a \$10 'regenerode' homemade receiver. That's one that has a front end mixer that converts to an IF....then a regenerative detector at the IF frequency. This one had two stages of IF amps after the mixer and used plug in coils. One coil for the 'oscillator' part of the pentagrid converter, and another coil for RF input. Don't know if I'll ever get around to working on it, but for \$10 it was interesting. That and a small bag of HV electrolytics came home.

It ran from early morning till 4pm so I missed a bit of the OK QSO party, then got home and quickly turned on the radio to catch the mobiles running there. Whew...there were hundreds of broadcast receivers (AM/FM), stereo systems, turntables, speakers, and other stuff that could have followed me home, but I'm learning not to buy bargains as the house is full of 'stuff' and at this point, I'm trying to clean out some of the stuff I got before!

# IPCC - how flawed it is

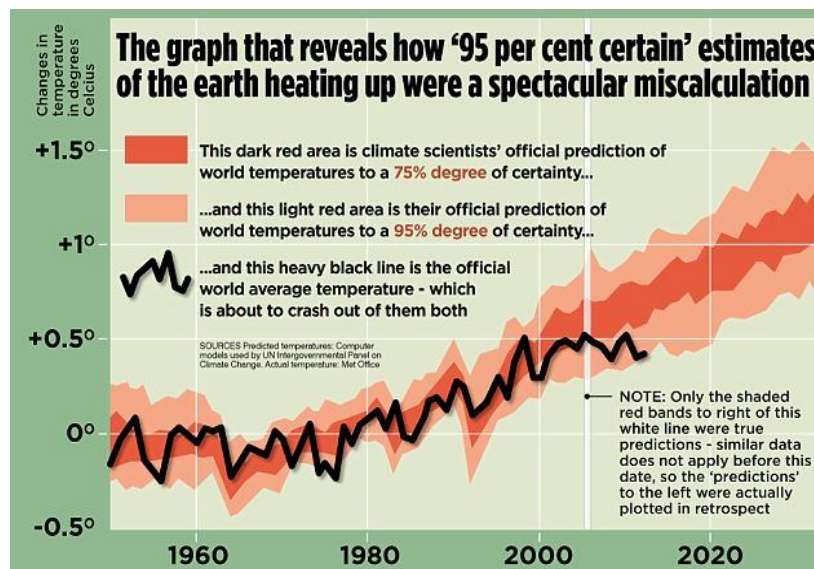
The Mail on Sunday today presents irrefutable evidence that official predictions of global climate warming have been catastrophically flawed.

The graph on this page blows apart the 'scientific basis' for Britain reshaping its entire economy and spending billions in taxes and subsidies in order to cut emissions of greenhouse gases. These moves have already added £100 a year to household energy bills.

Steadily climbing orange and red bands on the graph show the computer predictions of world temperatures used by the official United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The estimates – given with 75 per cent and 95 per cent certainty – suggest only a five per cent chance of the real temperature falling outside both bands.

But when the latest official global temperature figures from the Met Office are placed over the predictions, they show how wrong the estimates have been, to the point of falling out of the '95 per cent' band completely.



The graph shows in incontrovertible detail how the speed of global warming has been massively overestimated. Yet those forecasts have had a ruinous impact on the bills we pay, from heating to car fuel to huge sums paid by councils to reduce carbon emissions.

The eco-debate was, in effect, hijacked by false data. The forecasts have also forced jobs abroad as manufacturers relocate to places with no emissions targets.

A version of the graph appears in a leaked draft of the IPCC's landmark Fifth Assessment Report due out later this year. It comes as leading climate scientists begin to admit that their worst fears about global warming will not be realised.

Yesterday Piers Forster, Climate Change Professor at Leeds University, said: 'The fact that global surface temperatures haven't risen in the last 15 years, combined with good knowledge of the terms changing climate, make the high estimates unlikely.'

And Professor Judith Curry, head of climate science at the prestigious Georgia Institute of Technology, said: 'The models are running too hot. The flat trend in global surface temperatures may continue for another decade or two.'

James Annan, of Frontier Research For Global Change, a prominent 'warmist', recently said high estimates for climate sensitivity now look 'increasingly untenable', with the true figure likely to be about half of the IPCC prediction in its last report in 2007.

Avowed climate sceptics are more unequivocal. Dr David Whitehouse, author of a new report on the pause published on Friday by Lord Lawson's Global Warming Policy Foundation, said: 'This changes everything. It means we have much longer to work things out. Global warming should no longer be the main determinant of anyone's economic or energy policy.'

Since its creation in 1988, the IPCC has been sounding the alarm about man-made global warming. Yet here, in a draft of its latest report, is a diagram overlaying the observed temperature of the earth on its predictions.

The graph shows a world stubbornly refusing to warm. Indeed, it shows the world is soon set to be cooler.

The awkward fact is that the earth has warmed just 0.5 degrees over the past 50 years. And Met Office records show that for the past 16 years temperatures have plateaued and, if anything, are going down.

As the graph shows, the longer this goes on, the more the actual, real-world temperature record will diverge from the IPCC's doom-laden prediction.

Yet this prediction is used to justify the ugly wind farms spoiling our countryside and billions in unnecessary 'green' taxes that make our industry less competitive and add up to £100 a year to household energy bills.

Australian scientist David Archibald has shown a remarkable correlation between the sun's activity and our climate over the past 300 years. Climate scientists insist we must accept the 'carbon' orthodoxy or be cast into the wilderness.

But the scientists behind the theory have a vested interest – it's a great way to justify new taxes, get more money and guarantee themselves more work.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2294560/The-great-green-1-The-hard-proof-finally-shows-global-warming-forecasts-costing-billions-WRONG-along.html#ixzz2NouBE20>

## Virginia QSO Party

Yes, there was a VA QSO Party. Maybe 2 dozen fixed stations showed up on CW on 20M and more on 40 and 80M. There was good SSB activity on 40 and 75M. Folks seem to stay on the lower bands to try and work all the VA counties themselves. There weren't a lot of 'rare' counties on the air that I could find from my QTH.

**AD8J - rover High Power - 242 CW 60 SSB**

This was to be a one day expedition to six counties. It got shortened to four counties when the lightning storm started dumping rain. Just couldn't get the high rate I was used to. With a KW to inverted Vee antennas, the big piles didn't happen. Finally determined that the new balun wasn't such a good idea and that one leg of the 20 meter antenna was ready to break off. It finally did. Too bad it didn't happen early in the contest as I could have used the

backup. Presently making plans to completely rebuild that portable antenna. Never did work anyone in the four counties I was in so at least that part of the planning worked out. Looking forward to working everyone in the GA and FL contest as a mobile.

**KN4Y - fixed FL - 62 QSO CW**

Saturday was great, Sunday sucked. Plenty of CW fixed stations, a fist of joy. I even worked a mobile.

## Low Cost Chinese Transceiver

### LOW COST CHINESE MADE ALL MODE HF TRANSCEIVER FROM CHINA INTRODUCED

A new all mode low priced High Frequency transceiver from China is on the way. Called the Feitong model FT- 808 the new radio is being billed primarily as a Marine Band transceiver but its published specifications read more like a mid-range piece of ham radio gear. For instance the FT- 808 has a receive range of 500 KHz to 29.9 MHz and a transmitter that covers 1.6 to 29.9 Mhz. In other words, it covers all the ham radio bands from 160 through 10 and lots more.

The receiver is a double conversion superheterodyne with both it and the transmitter capable of operating Upper and lower sideband, CW and AM with 100 memory channels. Tuning appears to be by up and down push buttons with a claimed receiving sensitivity of 12 db SINAD and a squelch sensitivity threshold on SSB, CW, and RTTY of less than 5.6uV.

One thing of note. While transmitter power appears to be in the 100 watt or slightly higher range but according to the public spec sheet there appears to be no provision to lock out transmission on 11 meters. This will likely keep it from gaining FCC acceptance for legalized sales in the United States. At least not in its current non locked out 11 meter configuration.

Source: Parker County Newsletter – the Peanut Whistle – March 2013

It's in the \$410-\$420 range as far as I can tell. No cw filter or selectivity seen. 13.8v

## On the Road with N4CD

Each year in March, the Parker County club holds their annual hamfest/fund raiser in Weatherford TX. It's a small hamfest – this year smaller than last year by 30%, which means there were about 12 folks selling things, about 100 people wandering around and looking, and not much going on. It's a good hour and a half drive (75 miles or so) right through the middle of the Dallas Ft-Worth 'Metroplex' and 6 and 8 lane highways that are always under construction. Think 20 miles of 'cattle chutes' with concrete barriers either side of the two lanes and you've got the picture. Not fun to drive. You have maybe 18 inches clearance if you aren't right in the middle of the road lane. The hamfest is 30 miles west of Ft-Worth.

I got up early and nuked an Egg McMuffin type biscuit, had a glass of OJ, and a cup of coffee. Then it was out the door to put the antennas on the car and head on out about 6:30am. I figured some might need them on 40M SSB so I stuck that antenna on the top of the car. The rain had held off but it was dark, gloomy, and totally overcast. The sun doesn't come up till 7:30 this time of year, and today it slept in. It was 46 degrees in the morning. By the time I got to the hamfest, it was 44 deg there and the wind was blowing at times. It wasn't a very nice 'spring day'. No sun, and some rain falling. The ground had big puddles so it had poured sometime before. We need the rain. The hamfest is indoors so not a problem.

I checked the County Hunter Archives for the “Hunted” and noted that some of the counties I'd be going through needed pictures in the database. I'd try and snag a few pictures. Denton County is 6 1/2 miles away, but finding a sign where you can stop without getting run over is a problem. There's one on the tollroad I took, but no place to pull over so that's one I couldn't get, and it was pitch black anyway. Maybe on the way home. I needed to snag Parker, Palo Pinto and Comanche. The others were already in the database.

As I got over to Ft-Worth, the sky was flashing out to the west right where I was headed. The GPS lady said the fastest way was to take the 820 bypass around downtown, so I did. Had not been on it in a year. Surely they must have finished the construction work. Well, that didn't work out too well. Two miles later the traffic came to a complete stop – and there was a line of at least two miles ahead of cars and trucks stopped dead in their tracks. Dang. Should have gone through downtown area. That 820 bypass construction has been a nightmare for 2 years – horrible at rush hour where it moves 5 mph if you are lucky, but at 7 a, in the morning on a Saturday? Must have been doing something to block traffic. I sat 15 minutes and twiddled my thumbs. No one around on the radio – 20,30,40m dead with no replies.

Then it started raining – with a few good showers mixed in. We need the rain so no one is

really complaining – just mentioning it would be better if it fell at 1-2 am, not during periods when you are driving!. Well...there was the sign for Parker, but no easy place to pull over, and it was still totally dark so it would be a tough picture to get. Taking flash pictures of reflective signs usually doesn't work – it confuses the camera. It would have to be at another place. Sometimes you can get the 'going sign' at the far end of the county if you can make a U-turn. I'd hope for that.

I made it over to the hamfest about 8am. The fest is held in a church/church school gymnasium.

It didn't take long to see 'everything' and then see it again and yet once again. There was one old receiver, two tombstone style radios for sale, one dealer selling VHF/UHF radios made in China, an antenna type guy, Jim Sargent with this boxes and boxes of tubes (maybe he brings 2000 tubes with him to hamfests as well as 1000 lbs of books/manuals. If you need a tube, he's the guy to see – he checks them all carefully. A few other folks had misc parts and there were a Heath Novice station (DX-60, VFO and matching RX) for sale as a package deal. If you were only interested in the hamfest, it would have been a waste of time and money. There was a bigger hamfest going on down by Houston that probably took some of the folks that normally show up.

You can now buy Chinese dual band handi-talkie radios for \$50 or \$60 depending upon the options. 5W power, comes with charger.....it helps if you have a PC to program them as they are a real pain to program from the keyboard. You sure get a lot for the money. If it breaks...you throw it away and buy a new one. ( I remember the first synthesized HT offered by ICOM – the IC-2 – with thumbwheel switches to set the frequency. No CTCSS tones in it, the charger was another \$50 or so. No memories, and of course, single band – that was mid 70s, and it cost an arm and a leg – a couple hundred).

After about 45 minutes it was time to head on out. There was no need to rush home and I could put out a few counties for the folks. “WE” mobile types need to keep active. It's been awfully quiet on cw many days and we don't have any 18 wheeler truckers like in the past running on CW. Pete N6HH was the last, but with the noisy truck, he only pops in occasionally at a truck stop to put one out. Kerry, W4SIG, is on a few times a month on trips. Fred, K0FG has been off on a trip running them so we have a few folks to chase. Well, it was time for some counties.

I headed west out the interstate. Oops....there 'was' the Palo Pinto sign and I didn't get over soon enough while zipping along at 70-75 mph. Dang....well, on to plan B. I put the counties out and ran into Eastland. I could get off and get back to where I could get the pic of Palo Pinto with a 1000 ft detour so I did that. Done. Then it was up north a bit on 16 to Strawn TX. Nice tiny town of a thousand or two – likely to population drops every year as more kids move away never to return, then west on 207 to get to Stephens.

I don't know if I'd run that road before. It was a decent place to run the county. On most of the runs I was stopped on this trip – not in a big rush. A few extra showed up for Stephens – it's not on the interstate. 40M SSB wasn't working well. In the morning I got N5UZW and W3CR and maybe one other. That was it. CW was a bit better and 17M was working great from 'the coasts' and long skip stations. 30 and 40 just provided a handful of contacts.

Fred, K0FG, was out. Kirby, W8DCD was running on SSB as was KM9X. AC0HW in the big rig was putting them out, and WD5YDH showed up in NM on SSB. That was about it.

The route then headed on down to Comanche after backtracking to highway 16 following it south for 30 miles or so. I ran Comanche, then headed east on highway 8 back through Erath for 30 miles over to Hood, TX. That brought a few more contacts, but nothing to write home about. I was back on the one of my normal return routes – where you can run a bunch of counties in about 20 miles on 377– after you leave Hood, you can hit Johnson, Parker, and into Tarrant in a short distance, which I did. Ah.....I could finally snag a picture for Parker by making a U-turn and running Tarrant/Parker C/L. I'd spent hours in Parker at the hamfest and it took another 150 miles till I could find a place to get a picture of the sign on the way home at a small southeast corner of the county!



The temp was barely above 50 deg – 18 deg or so below the normal for the day – and no sun – just heavy overcast. However, the road conditions were fine. I hit the normal traffic mess in Granbury – five miles of traffic lights where 10 cars get through the light each change, and 15 or so traffic lights. I don't know how the local residents handle it – if you want to get to the Walmart, Loews, Home Depot and the rest of the stores – it's a half hour hassle. Maybe they'll figure out someday but it's been 10 years and worse and worse each year! There is no bypass

– yet.....

I took a different route home at the end near home with 7 miles to go.....but.....there was no C/L sign for Denton on that road.....so I still don't have a Denton County sign picture to send to Gary, K4EXT. I'll get it yet!

So...it was 75 miles over the hamfest.....and 240 miles back home the 'circle route'. Probably under 1 QSO per mile – didn't count 'em up. Conditions weren't great and the counties weren't 'too rare' for most. Paul, WB2ABD noted on the Ham Radio Counting Hunting Facebook page that he caught 3 new ones on 17M, and N1API was in there on CW working me, too. Good to hear Al on CW. He probably needs 2900 now – he's been in the state QSO parties. Bob, K0PVW mentioned he caught a few new ones, and Gary, K4EXT got some new ones for MG. 40M was miserable. I heard Dan, KM9X in KY...barely...and most of the folks he worked were 33 copy or worse...most worse and 2/3rds I never heard. He was doing decent though being more in the center of things sure helps.

Hope I hit something you needed. The Texas QSO PARTY does a good job if filling in lots of needs so often they aren't rare. Of course, for MARAC awards, sometimes you need someone with a 'star' or other 'qualifications' and the TQP usually doesn't provide that. Plus, no contesting on 17M so it will usually be a county hunter mobile who gives folks that band. With 254 counties, folks can need 20 or 30, but just aren't going to list them, so sometimes you don't know where to go to catch ones folks need.

The car got 30mpg with all the sitting and running with the engine on. Gas is \$3.69/gal here in TX now.

Well, I contributed a few more counties to the 'counties run this month' total. More trips to come. Gary got 5 pictures to add to the database, now well over 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the way done for all 3077.

## Awash in Misinformation: America's Domestic Tight Oil 'Bump'

By Daniel Davis – in his blog

On March 4, David Frum, a former special assistant to President George W. Bush, published an article on CNN.com titled "Peak Oil doomsayers proved wrong" in which he not only claimed there was no danger of a shortage of oil, but also that "our oil problem is that we're producing so much of the stuff that we are changing the planet's climate." Mr. Frum is only the most recent contributor to a growing list of luminaries to declare that we need not worry about any future shortage of crude oil. The only problem with these reassuring proclamations is that the physical evidence does not support them, and does in point of fact, warn of a looming imbalance between supply and demand with troubling implications for the U.S. economy.

Last month, the standard-bearer for those arguing the U.S. will soon be awash in domestically produced oil testified before the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Daniel Yergin, Chairman of Cambridge Energy Research Associates, told Members of Congress in his prepared remarks, "Owing to the scale and impact of shale gas and tight oil, it is appropriate to describe their development as the most important energy innovation so far of the 21st century" and "the unconventional oil and gas revolution has already had major impact in multiple dimensions. Its significance will continue to grow as it continues to unfold."

Yet the Energy Information Administration (EIA) and independent analysis confirm that far from the "energy revolution" of the century, the increase in domestic oil production represents a temporary bump in production that will be short-lived. If we recognize the probability the impressive increases we've seen in shale gas and "tight oil" production are of limited volume and duration and set policies accordingly, we can reap great benefit; pretend these increases herald a new and ever-increasing permanent condition and we risk setting ourselves up for an avoidable economic contraction when the expected drop in production occurs. Geologist David Hughes, a 32-year veteran of the Geological Survey of Canada, recently conducted a detailed examination of the years-long performance of 65,000 shale gas and tight oil wells. The results were telling.

In the February 21 issue of Nature Magazine, Mr. Hughes reported that "much of the oil and gas produced [in shale formations] comes from relatively small sweet spots within the fields. Overall well quality will decline as sweet spots become saturated with wells, requiring and ever-increasing number of wells to sustain production." More ominously, he notes, "high-productivity shale plays are not ubiquitous, as some would have us believe. Six out of 30 plays account for 88% of shale-gas production, and two out of 21 plays account for 81% of tight-oil production." Even the typically optimistic EIA echoed the concerns about sweet spots and the likelihood high levels of production cannot be sustained.

In a little-noted press release last December, the EIA projected there would be a considerable increase in tight oil production in the next few years, but then conceded, "The growth results

largely from a significant increase in onshore crude oil production, particularly from shale and other tight formations. After about 2020, production begins declining..." But as Mr. Hughes points out, evidence is growing that the production is not likely to rise as high as hoped, and his analysis indicates the drop in production could begin by 2017.

In late February, the EIA reported that "Saudi Aramco's CEO Khalid al-Falih warned that rising domestic energy consumption could result in the loss of 3 million barrels per day (bbl/d) of crude oil exports by the end of the decade if no changes were made to current trends." The New York Times reported that Chinese consumption by 2020 could be almost two-thirds greater than it was in 2011, resulting in a 6 million barrels per day (mbd) increase. Thus, viewed in context evidence indicates that U.S. domestic oil production could max out as early as 2017 and then begin a slow decline -- just as Saudi Arabia could be exporting 3 mbd less and China could be needing 6 mbd more. The consequences to the U.S. economy of such a confluence could be drastic.

The idea of oil "independence" understandably appeals to Americans. It is likewise understandable that individuals and groups who have a financial interest in the American oil industry would argue and lobby for the investment in the means of producing energy for the U.S. that would most benefit them. But at some point America's leaders must recognize the physical evidence indicates the alleged "energy revolution" is likely to be merely a relatively short-term bump. If we fail to acknowledge the likely realities, we may be setting the stage for an energy crisis in the near term that might have been minimized. The consequences of such a failure are difficult to predict, but given the already weakened health of the U.S. economy, they would likely be severe and long-lasting.

## Getting Folks Finished Up

Here are some **cw needs** from K3IMC needs page for CW. Maybe you can help get these folks to the goal. As always, check the needs page for updates and for lots of other folks who need help with counties.

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

**K9AAA** - USACA using CW - Updated: 03/03/2013

These are the last 10 counties left to finish USA-CW 1st Time. I'm retired & home most days. PH  
#269-664-4305

**GA:** Heard, Jones

**IL:** Cass, Christian, Jo Daviess, Mercer

**MO:** Bates, Benton

**TX:** McMullen, Newton

**W8FNW** - USACA using CW - Updated: 03/12/2013

This is the complete list. Please give me a heads up so I can be home.

**AL:** Henry

**IL:** Mercer, Rock Island, Wabash

**KS:** Cherokee, Seward

**KY:** Crittenden, Estill, Graves, Lee, McLean

**NC:** Cabarrus

**SD:** Buffalo, Sanborn

**TN:** Henry, Lake

**TX:** Coke, Martin, Rains

**W7KQZ** - USACA using CW - Updated: 03/19/2013

CW ONLY SINCE 1-20-58, FIRST TIME CW (10 THRU 160MTRS). THANKS. ERNIE.

**IA:** Jackson.

**IN:** Carrol, De Kalb, Fulton, Martin, Shelby.

**KY:** Carlisle, Franklin.

**OH:** Fulton.

**PA:** Indiana.

**TN:** Bedford, Marshall, Moore, Overton.

**TX:** Mitchell, Wilson.

**WI:** Sawyer.

**WV:** Gilmer.

**WE7G** - USACA using CW - Updated: 03/11/2013

**AL:** Clay, Coosa, Henry, Houston, Jackson, Lowndes, Randolph, Talladega, Tallapoosa

**GA:** Baker, Crawford, Dade, Echols, Glascock, Habersham, Heard, Jefferson, Pike, Upson, Warren

**IA:** Hardin, Ringgold

**IN:** Blackford, Clinton, Martin

**KY:** Bourbon, Casey, Grayson, Lawrence, Lewis, Menifee, Mercer, Todd, Wayne

**PA:** Clearfield

**TN:** Dekalb, Henry, Rhea, Stewart, Union, Weakley

**UT:** Piute, San Pete

**VA:** Dinwiddie

**WV:** Barbour, Doddridge, Hampshire, Hardy, Upshur

**AB4YZ** - USACA using CW - Updated: 03/08/2013

**ID:** Franklin

**OR:** Sherman

**WV:** Gilmer, Randolph

**W4IH1** - USACA using CW - Updated: 03/21/2013

The complete list to finish up USA-CA CW. Please, let me know if you will be going to any of these.

**CO:** Costilla, Dolores, Saguache, San Miguel

**ID:** Clearwater, Fremont, Power

**IN:** Dubois, Jefferson, Spencer

**KY:** Johnson, Lewis, Menifee

**MO:** Dent

**MT:** Garfield, Madison, Prairie

**ND:** Divide, Dunn, Emmons, Golden Valley, McIntosh

**NE:** Garden

**OR:** Grant, Morrow

**UT:** Wayne

**WV:** Barbour, McDowell, Mingo

**N3HOO** - USACA using CW - Updated: 03/17/2013

**GA:** Clay, Walker

**KY:** Lee, McLean, Meade, Owsley, Spencer

**NH:** Belknap

**WV:** Mason

**VE1WT** - USACA using CW - Updated: 03/09/2013

**AL:** Coosa

**IN:** Owen

**KY:** Edmonson

**OR:** Crook

**Here some needs for Nth time – where they are closing in – either CW or SSB as noted below:**

**NUØQ** - 2ND using both SSB and CW - Updated: 03/23/2013

All needs listed here. Only 11 to go, with five of them in Kentucky. Please, no special trips. I work Monday-Friday. Emails always welcome.

**KY:** Allen, Clinton, Cumberland, McLean, Todd.  
**MO:** Washington.  
**MT:** Ravalli.  
**NC:** Graham.  
**NY:** Hamilton.  
**OH:** Logan.  
**VA:** Fluvanna.

**WA9DLB** - 5TH using SSB - Updated: 03/18/2013

**GA:** Hancock  
**IA:** Clayton  
**MN:** Kittson, Marshall  
**MT:** Judith Basin  
**ND:** Cavalier

**W8FNW** - 2ND using both SSB and CW - Updated: 03/12/2013

[This is the complete list. Please give me a heads up so I can be home.](#)

**KY:** Crittenden, Lee  
**TN:** Lake

**K7TM** - 2ND using both SSB and CW - Updated: 03/21/2013

**IA:** Taylor  
**LA:** Tensas, West Carroll  
**MS:** George

**K4XI** - 2ND using CW - Updated: 03/23/2013

**IL:** Randolph  
**KY:** Grayson

**N3RM** - 4TH using both SSB and CW - Updated: 03/17/2013

[Closing in on 4th time. Available weekdays after 1930z and weekends . Can be available on short notice by cell call.](#)

**IL:** Christian, Stark  
**KS:** Wallace  
**KY:** Ballard, Meade, Owsley, Spencer  
**NJ:** Salem  
**OH:** Adams  
**OR:** Jefferson, Lake  
**VA:** Bland, Fluvanna

WV: Boone, Fayette, Grant, Lincoln, Pleasants, Wetzel

WA3QNT - 4TH using both SSB and CW - Updated: 02/28/2013

For WBOW

ME: Aroostook

\* \* \* \* \*

**Reminder folks!** If you have not updated your needs in the past month, they 'fall off' the visible needs page. You then have to go in, and 'update' your awards once a month to keep them posted.

So, once a month, go to the needs page, and 'update' the date on your awards if you haven't recently made a change. Use the 'mark current date' option if you have no changes.

Your needs are still there, but won't show if you haven't done it once a month. You won't have to re enter them all. Check to be sure your needs are still 'current'. If they should be there, but not – simply do an update on your call and it will give the current date to your needs. You'll have 30 days until you need to do it again.

## Alaska QSO Party

Yes, there was an Alaska QSO Party. Conditions were not great.

From the 3830 reflector:

### AL9A – Anchorage AK - 3<sup>rd</sup> District

“Poor band conditions throughout the weekend. Had intended to operate more RTTY and CW, but quickly decided this would be a SSB event. Too difficult to get the necessary exchanges on RTTY and CW. Many folks expect a RST and NR or ST, but not NAME and GRID. There needs to be better coordination with existing contest exchange formats to simplify the exchange. I spent a lot of time helping people figure out what their GRID designation was!”

**AL1G** reported from Wasilla AK (3<sup>rd</sup> District) that he made 74 QSOs.

### **WL7BDO (Nenana)**

Enjoyed the short time I had on Saturday to operate. Mode date QSOs: RTTY 9, SSB 6, PSK31 5. Thanks to Ron, KL7YK for jump starting this little party from the far North. Maybe next year we will have better conditions or I will have high power and a better antenna farm...I can wish.

## Hallicrafters First Receiver

You've likely heard of Hallicrafters, started by Bill Halligan. If you've ever been to a hamfest, you've seen dozens of them for sale. They were one of the most popular ham receivers and transmitters made in the 40s, 50s, and 60s. The first Hallicrafters receiver, ever, was the **S1**. **It is the only regenerative receiver ever made by them and is SCARCE.** One showed up on Ebay with a starting price of \$400 for a badly in need of restoration project unit. Who knows what it will sell for?

Here's some info and pictures from the seller

This is the front panel



Here's a view looking down



Here's the bottom view:



Ever see a Hallicrafters Label like this?



Here's what the seller wrote:

THIS IS A HALLICRAFTERS S-1, S1, THE FIRST COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVER BUILT BY HALLIGAN. KNOBS, PARTS, PIECES ARE ORIGINAL. THE SPEAKER IS BAD AND NEEDS RECONING, BUT IT IS THE ORIGINAL. THE PAPER CAPACITORS NEED TO BE REPLACED, AND THERE ARE ORIGINAL UNITS FOR ENCASING THE LATEST CHINESE PARTS. ONE OF THE ELECTROLYTICS HAS BEEN REBUILT. THE OTHER NEEDS TO BE REBUILT. THE EMPTY 6/32 SCREW HOLES IN THE BACK OF THE CHASSIS ARE FOR TWO PAPER CAPS, WHICH ORIGINALS (PROBABLY BAD) ARE INCLUDED.

THE TUBES ARE A 6D6 RF AMPLIFIER, 6D6 REGENERATIVE DETECTOR, 6C6 FIRST AUDIO, 42 OUTPUT, AND 80 RECTIFIER. THEY ARE TESTED AND INCLUDED. THE POWER TRANSFORMER WAS TESTED WITH 110 ON THE PRIMARY AND IS GOOD. THE DIALS WORK AS THEY SHOULD INCLUDING THE VERNIER FOR MAIN TUNING. THE RESISTORS ARE UNDOUBTEDLY OUT OF TOLERANCE BUT ARE NOT COOKED. THE POWER CORD IS MISSING. THE SMALL CHOKES ARE ORIGINAL. A COUPLE OF THE COILS WILL HAVE TO BE REWOUND, NON OF THEM ARE PIE UNITS, SO IT IS A SIMPLE OPERATION. I HAVE REWOUND A NUMBER OF S-1 COILS.

I AM INCLUDING A SHEET OF LABELS FOR THE SMALL PAPER CAPS AND YOU MAY REPRODUCE THEM, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SUFFICIENT ONES FOR THIS SET. THE DIAL IS ORIGINAL AND OLD. I HAVE A PERFECTLY REPRODUCED DIAL ON MY COMPUTER IF YOU WANT IT TO LOOK NEW. KNOBS AND YAXLEY NAME PLATES ARE ORIGINAL. THE INITIALS ON THE CHASSIS ARE "EL", THE ORIGINAL ASSEMBLER. EACH SET WAS HAND MADE AND INITIALED. THE NAME PLATE IS ORIGINAL. EVERY S1 I HAVE OWNED OR WORKED ON HAD A SMALL THIRD

RIVET HOLE COVERED BY THE LABEL PLATE BUT VISIBLE ON THE BACK OF THE FRONT PANEL. MUST HAVE BEEN AN ERROR OR BILL WANTED A BIGGER NAMEPLATE.

THERE IS NO CABINET WITH THIS S-1. THERE WERE SOME WOOD PIECES ATTACHED TO THIS UNITS FRONT PANEL WHICH LEADS ME TO BELIEVE IT WAS ONE OF THE WOODEN CABINET MODELS. YES, SOME WOODY'S WERE SOLD.

MANY YEARS AGO I HAD A NUMBER OF CONVERSATIONS WITH TWO OLD TIMERS WHO HAD WORKED AT "SILVER" AND LATER HALLICRAFTERS. THEY SAID THE S-1'S WERE ASSEMBLED ONE AT A TIME BY RADIO MEN WHO WERE FIGHTING STARVATION AND TRYING TO FEED THEIR FAMILIES. THEY THOUGHT THE ASSEMBLERS WERE PAID A FEW DOLLARS EACH, AND WERE DOCKED IF THE SET DIDN'T WORK UP TO STANDARDS OF THE TEST GUY. THESE TWO GUYS WORKED ON THE HALLICRAFTERS PRODUCTION LINE FOR A FEW DOLLARS A DAY. IN THE LATE THIRTIES THEY WERE PAID 50 CENTS AN HOUR AND GOT A RAISE WHEN OTHER FIRMS STARTED BUILDING GEAR FOR THE WAR EFFORT. SOMEWHERE IN MY COLLECTION OF JUNK I HAVE A PHOTO OF BILL HALLIGAN INSPECTING A PRODUCTION LINE. HE WAS DRESSED IN RIDING PANTS AND BOOTS. “

- - - - -

Bill Halligan contracted out the first run of sets to Silver Marshall's factory. Once he got a license to build superhets – shortly thereafter, it was on to better communications receivers! Only a few of these survive today.

## Awards Issued

Master Platinum #21

Ron, N5MLP

March 17, 2013

# Operating Events for County Hunters

## April 6

### Missouri QSO Party

RS(T), serial, MO county or S/P/C

[www.w0ma.org](http://www.w0ma.org)

Apr 6, 1800Z - See website Multiple operating periods;

CW 1.820 and 40 kHz from band edge;

Phone--1.880,3.825,7.220,14.250,21.380,28.350.

## April 13

### Montana QSO Party

S/P/C or MT county

[www.fvarc.org](http://www.fvarc.org)

Apr 13, 0000Z - Apr 15, 0000Z

### New Mexico QSO Party

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

[www.swcp.com/~n5zgt](http://www.swcp.com/~n5zgt)

Apr 13, 1400Z - Apr 14, 0200Z

cW-1.85,3.55,7.045,14.05,21.05,28.05,50.095; S

SB-1.85,3.815,7.26,14.28,21.38,28.38,50.13.

### Georgia QSO Party

RS(T), S/P/C or GA county

[www.georgiasoparty.org](http://www.georgiasoparty.org)

Apr 13, 1800Z - See website Multiple operating periods;

CW 1.815,3.545,7.045,14.045,21.045,28.045,50.095;

Phone 1.865,3.810,7.225,14.250,21.300,28.450,50.135

## April 20

### Michigan QSO Party

Serial and MI county or S/P/C

[www.miqp.org](http://www.miqp.org)

Apr 20, 1600Z - Apr 21, 0400Z CW 45 kHz from band edge,  
Phone 3.825,7.200,14.250,21.300,28.450.

### Nebraska QSO Party

RS(T), NE county or S/P/C

[www.qcwa.org/chapter025.htm](http://www.qcwa.org/chapter025.htm)

Apr 20, 1800Z - Apr 21, 1800Z

CW: 1.805 and 35 kHz above band edge, Nov/Tech--10 kHz above band edge;

Phone--1.915,3.865,7.265,14.265,21.365,28.465,146.460.

### South Dakota QSO Party

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

[www.w0blk.org](http://www.w0blk.org)

Apr 20, 1800Z - Apr 21, 1800Z

CW - 3.58, 7.035, 14.07;

Phone - 1.845, 3.855, 7.180, 14.255, 21.355, 28.455 on SSB;

RTTY - 3.585, 7.038, 14.075, 21.075; PSK - Clg Freq.

### North Dakota QSO Party

RST and ND county or S/P/C

[www.w0nd.com](http://www.w0nd.com)

Apr 20, 1800Z - Apr 21, 1800Z

## April 27

### Florida QSO Party

RS(T), FL county or S/P/C

[www.floridaqsoparty.org](http://www.floridaqsoparty.org)

Apr 27, 1600Z - See website Multiple operating periods and frequency recommendations - see website.

# Upcoming Events

## Michigan Mini

The 2012 Michigan Mini was hosted by Ed, K8ZZ and Joe, W8TVT and was held at the Holiday Inn West Bay in Traverse City, Michigan. It will be held at the **Holiday Day Inn West Bay** again in 2013 with room rates of: **\$81.95** plus tax per night.

**Date for 2013 MICHIGAN MINI is April 25 26 & 27th..**

## Dayton Hamvention

The Dayton Hamvention will be held May 17-19<sup>th</sup>. The County Hunter Forum, hosted by W8JJ, is scheduled on Friday at 4pm. We'll move over to the Golden Corral restaurant for a dinner get together. More details next month.

## MARAC Nation Convention July 10--13th Deadwood, SD

The Marac National Convention will be July 10 - 13th at the Deadwood Gulch Gaming Resort & Convention Center 304 Cliff Street Deadwood South Dakota. Room Reservations 1-800-695-1876 the sooner room reservations are made allows individuals to ask for specific rooms.....Some rooms have instant access to the Parking lot...others have a creek view with no instant access to the lot. <http://www.deadwoodgulch.com/> Special Room Rates apply ask for ext. 237 and ask for Alice.

There will prizes a gift table and other raffles. More information to follow. Room rates: Wednesday and Thursday \$109.00 plus tax Friday \$119.00 plus tax Saturday \$129.00 plus tax Room Types: Walk out to parking lot Inside access only Creek Overlook Handicapped

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Smoking and non smoking King bed Queen bed Double queens Pet room (add \$20.00 cleaning fee and a \$500.00 refundable deposit)

Room types are limited so make your reservations now and specify your desired room type! Extras! Rooms include \$5.00 per person per day in free gambling 3 complimentary breakfasts (2 eggs, hash browns and toast) or (1 egg and two pancakes) or (biscuits and gravy) Note for campers! Whistler's Gulch is across the road from Deadwood Gulch and will have spots reserved for MARAC. They have pull through spots. Call 1-605-578-2092 for pricing and to make a reservation. Make sure you mention MARAC when making your reservations at Deadwood Gulch or Whistler's Gulch and that you would like the discounted rate. We look forward to seeing you in Deadwood! Leo and Chris WY7LL and WY7ML

## County Hunter Pictures

Here's the cumulative list of when pictures of county hunters appeared in the CHNews. All but the first year of issue are on line at:

[www.chnewsonline.com](http://www.chnewsonline.com)

Are you in it yet?

AD4IA	April 2008
AI5P	Jun 06, Aug 06, Feb 08, Aug 09, Aug '12
AI9Q	Aug 2012
AJ5ZX	March 2009
AH6NF,AH6RH	October 2011
AB7NK	Aug 2012
AB7RW	Jul 2006, Nov 2008
AK8A	April 2008
AD8J	March 2013
AB8JF	August 2009
AA8R	Jul 2007, Nov 2008, Oct 2008

AA9JJ	May 2006
AA9KH	Jun 2006
AA9ZZ	July 2008
AA0IP	Aug 2007
AA0LV	Jun 2010
AD0DX	April 2013
AH0A	October 2011
DL3GA	Oct 2005
DL5AWI	Feb 2008
DL8MLD	Sep 2005
G4KHG	May 2005, Sep 2007
HB9RG	Feb 2008
I2PJA	Feb 2008
JH8GWW	Feb 2010
K1BV	Aug 2012
K1DFO	April 2009
KM1C	May 2006, Oct 2007 Dec '12
K1SO	Jun 2009
KL1V	Aug 2007, May 2009
K1YE	August 2011
K2HVN	August 2011 dec 2012
K2NJ	Aug 2006, Oct 2006
K2RP	Aug 2007
KA3DRO	Sep 2005, Sep 2006, Dec 2006
K3IMC	May 2006, Sep 2006, Dec 2006
KC3X	Dec 2008
KE3VV	August 2011
K4BAI	Jun 2009
KS4BO	June 2011

K4DI	Jul 2007
K4EXT	October 2010
KM4FO	Jul 2007
KD4HXM	March 2010
KB4IPA	June 2011
K4SSU	Jul 2007
KA4RRU	Jun 2009
K4SL	Dec 2009
KA4TYG	Dec 2005
KM4W	Nov 2009
KB4XK	Sep 2009
KG4VBK	October 2010
K4YFH	March 2010
K4YT	Dec 2007
KS5A	Nov 2005, Jul 2005
KF5AT	March 2008
K5CM	March 2013
K5GE	Aug 2008, Sept 2008
KG5J	Nov 2005, Nov 2009
KK5MI	Jul 2007
K5NVY	March 2010
KK5NA	Feb 2012
K5OH	Mar 2005
K5OT	July 2009
KK5QA	Feb 2012
KC5QCB	Mar 2009
KG5RJ	July 2009
K5SF	Feb 2007
KA5TQF	Oct 2008
K5UH	August 2010
K5WAF	June 2012
K5XY	Oct 2006
K5VYT	Sep 2007
KH6G	Nov 2008
KB6TAL	Nov 2005, Feb 2006
KB6UF	Aug 2006
KL7D	Aug 2012

KH7DL	Nov 2008
KD7DST	Jun 2005
KG7E	May 2009
K7KWO	Aug 2012
K7SEN	Aug 2012
K7TM	Aug 2012 Dec 2012
KH7U	October 2011
KI7WO	Dec 2006
KB7QO	Aug 2005
KK7X	Apr 2007, Aug 2012
KC7YE	Aug 2012
K8AO	August 2011
K8CW	May 2006
K8XTQ	Jun 2005, Jun 2006
KJ8F	Dec 2005, June 2008, Dec 09
KD8GWX	June 2012
K8MFO	Jun 2006
K8OOK	August 2009
K8QWY	Sep 2009
KE8TQ	Jun 2005
KF8UN	Jun 2005
K8YJ	Jun 2009
K9EAB	Jan 2007
K9IA	Mar 2011
KA9JAC	August 2009
K9JF	Jul 2007
KB9MGI	August 2009
K9WA	Jun 2006, Jan 2007
KM9X	August 2009
KB9YVT	August 2009
K0AD	March 2010
K0AP	October 2010
K0ARS	May 2006
K0AYO	August 2010
KB0BA	Sep 2007, Jun 2010
K0FG	June 2012

K0GEN	Dec 2009
KY0E	April 2009
K0ERE	Sep 2007
K0KY	Sept 2009
KK0L	Aug 2007
KF0LZ	May 2007
K0PC	March 2010, April 2012
K0PY	August 2011
KA0SHC	May 2005
K0WJ	June 2012
LA9SN	Sep 2005
LY2ZZ	Sep 2005, Sep 2007
N1BY	July 2009
NW1O	March 2008
NM2L	Feb 2005, May 2007
N2OCW	Sep 2007
N2OO	Jun 2006
ND3T	Apr 2009
N4AAT	Apr 2006, Dec 2006, August 2008
N4ANV	Dec 2009
N4BU	October 2010
NX4C	Dec 2012
N4CD	Sep 2006, April 2009, June 2006
N4CW	March 2013
N4EED	Nov 2009
N4JR	June 2010
N4OO(really N2OO)	Jun 2006
N4PJ	Jun 2009, Oct 2010
N4UJK	Dec 2005
NX4W	Sep 2009
NN5B	Jul 2007
N5EBD	Oct 2006, Dec 2005
N5MLP	Apr 2009
N5OHQ	April 2008

N5PR	Oct 2006, Jan 2006, Dec 2006
N5UZW	April 2008
NO5W	July 2009
N5XG	Dec 2005
N6PDB	April 2013
NW6S	Jul 2006, Jul 2007
N7HT	Aug 2012
N7ID	August 2008
N7IV	August 2010
N7JPF	Apr 2012, aug 2012
NA7W	Dec 2005, Jul 2006. Apr 2006
N8BGF	August 2011
N8HAM	July 2008
N8KIE	Aug 2006, Feb 2007, Apr 2007
N8OR	Sep 2009
N8STF	Jul 2005
NA8W	June 2011
N9CBA	March 2010
N9JF	Jun 2006
NN9K	May 2005, Jan 2007, Jan 2008
ND9M	Aug 2005
N9NE	May 2010
N9QEI	July 2008
N9QS	June 08, Jan 2010, Aug 2010
N9QPQ	May 2006
N9STL	Jun 2006, Apr 2007
NE9U	March 2010, May 2010
N9WNN	June 2012
N0DXE	Nov 2010, Aug 2011 dec '12
N0SM	Jun 2006
NG0T	Sep 2007
N0IJ	March 2010
N0KV	Nov 2010, Aug 2011 Dec '12
NF0N	June 2008, Dec 2008
N0PI	March 2010

N0XYL	Jun 2010
N0ZA	Jul 2005
NX0X	Jun 2005, March 2013
OH3JF	Feb 2008
PT2TF	Oct 2005
RK2FWA	Aug 2006
SM4BNZ	Feb 2008
SM5CAK	Feb 2008
UA2FF/UA2FM	Aug 2006
VA3XOV	October 2010
VE3EXT	Mar 2011
VE9DH	Sep 2006
W1UE	Jun 2010
W1VA	Jun 2010
W1WLW	Feb 2010
WB2ABD	Oct 2007
W3DYA	Aug 2006, Oct 2007
WB3JDC	March 2009
WA3QNT	Feb 2010
WA3ZTY	March 2009
W4CCT	May 2008
WY4D	July 2009
W8DCD	Sep 2009
WB4EVH	May 2011
WB4FFV	Jun 2005
W4FNW	Mar 2011
W4GNS	April 2006, Oct 2006
WA4HXG	Nov 2009
WA4JA	June 2012
WD4OIN	July 2009
WA4PGM	June 2010
W4OV	Apr 2005, Jan 2006, Oct 2006
W4QNW	August 2009

W4SIG	Jan 2011
W4UB	Dec 2009
WB4UHI	Dec 2008
W4YDY	May 2009
WC5D	July 2009
W5DU	Jan 2008
WA5OPO	Jan 2008, May 2010
W5QP	March 2013
WI5G	May 2005
WA6OCV	April 2013
W6TMD	Oct 2005, Aug 2006, May 2008
WG6X	Dec 2005, Dec 2007
W6TPC	Aug 2007
W6XLR	Aug 2006
WB7ATT	Jun 2010
WW7D	Oct 2012
W7KQZ	Jun 2007
W7LQT	Sep 2006
WY7LL	Oct 2006, Apr 2007, Jan 2011 dec '12
WY7ML	Apr 2007, Jan 2011
WA7SLD	Apr 2005
WA8OWR	Jun 2010
WD8CTX	July 2009
W8DCD	Sep 2009
WB8FBJ	Sep 2009
W8FNW	Jun 2007 Mar 2011
W8JJ	Jun 2006, Jun 2007, March 2008
WB8JZN	Sep 2009
W8MP	July 2008, Oct 2008
W8OP	June 2008
W8PN	Oct 2005
W8TAX	Nov 2008
WG9A	April 2008
WA9DLB	Jan 2010
W9DND	April 2012

WD9EJK	June 2008
W9GBH	Nov 2009
W9GUY	June 2008
W9JL	July 2009
W9KB	Jun 2007
W9MSE	Aug 2006
WB9NUL	March 2009
W9OP	Aug 2006
W9SUQ	May 2008
W9UCW	Mar 2009
W9UX	June 2008
W9XYL	Mar 2011
WI9WI	May 2010
W0ANT	October 2010
W0DSY	Aug 2007
W0EAR	June 2012
W0FP	March 2008
W0GXQ	Apr 2006, Aug 2006, Aug 2007, Aug 2011
WA0KAQ	Oct 2007
WA0MHJ	March 2010
W0NAC	Jun 2006
W0RRY	Jun 2005, Apr 2005, Jun 2006, Sep 2006
WA0SMX	August 2011
W0ZQ	March 2010
XE1L	June 2010

That's all folks.....see you next month – de N4CD