

County Hunter News

July 1, 2005
Volume 1, Issue 7

Welcome to Issue 7 of the County Hunter News, a monthly on-line publication for all county hunters, with an orientation toward CW operation. Thanks to Dennis, KK7X, who has provided us web space to bring you each edition of the CHN. Please visit his site, www.countyhunter.com and explore the many pages and pictures located there.

Contributions of articles, stories, letters, and pictures to the editor are welcomed, and may be included in future issues at the editor's discretion. I figured out how to get some color in the CHN this month, and get the pictures in with labels. Some progress here at CHN HQ.

The County Hunter News will attempt to provide you with interesting, thought provoking articles, articles of county hunting history, or about county hunters or events, or provide news of upcoming events.

We hope you will enjoy the new County Hunter News. Feel free to forward, or provide links. Permission is given for copying or quoting in part or all (except to MARAC, Inc, or Officers/Directors of MARAC), provided credit is given.

De N4CD (email: telegraphy@prodigy.net)

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Notes from the Editor

The mail keeps rolling in from the last big trip with MRCs to check and send back. When the pile stops, I guess it is time to go run some more counties! Off to Roanoke soon.

The Dallas Hamcom Convention saw a handful of county hunters show up – KR5C and KJ5PQ/KG5UZ, N4CD, N5DUQ, KK5MI and some others. No county hunting forum there yet. If you can arrange it, it's nice to set up a meet time for the CH at a hamfest.

June was a fun month on cw, with several mobiles making nice trips, especially on cw. K7REL finished up after W0QE headed over to Rawlins, KS to give him the last WBOW. Larry had his daughter, who is just getting her driver's license, do the driving

and navigating while he operated. She got hundreds of miles of driving experience, and he got to operate the whole way! A win/win situation.

During June, KA3DRO put out dozens and dozens of counties on both SSB and CW. The normal NC/helper who seem more interested in “running folks off net frequency” rather than “running mobiles” took a nice LONG vacation, so the rest of the folks got to work lots of counties and mobiles who have put out thousands and counties before.

It’s pathetic that KA1JPR thinks that spending 4 hours “Looking for a Number 1 mobile” (with no one coming back 98% of the time) is justification for making sure that KA3DRO does not get to run on 14.336, nor make a contact with KC1NA who is in his last county in Maine, when Ron needs a relay. Ron ran all of SD and MN and is headed east now. Ron has run many many counties on 30M CW now.

Roy, KC0JG, in addition to finishing up 6th time in June, took a nice trip up with N0DIA and put out a bunch of counties (he’s good for Master Platinum now).

Yet two more recruits to the CW net, courtesy of the SSB NC. Received from a new CW CH:

“I started trying to work the counties on the 20m SSB net, but the NCS gave me a hard time..... I really got heck from him when I tried to run a county. That sorta turned me off Tom, N4RS and Gary W4GNS and a couple of others kept trying to get me to do it on CW.so I started listening to 10114. Finally after a couple of weeks of listening I finally jumped in. Now with the W6RK spotter program I'm finding the CW net is a blast and I'm very disappointed on days like today when I can't hear anyone. hi hi I should have done this sooner. “

Received from another county hunter who is coming to cw now.

“Unfortunately, **my first forays on 14.336** ended up getting me banished by KZ2P/K2JG for real or imagined infractions so it looks like I'll have to do it on CW....With the aid of spots on w6rk.com, I can pretty well figure out who is running,”

It really ought to make folks wonder, when every month, I get similar emails from prospective CH, or ones that tried and gave up because they were ‘run off’ or made to feel like a 8 year old getting yelled at while on 14.336. Ah, just more fun on cw!

One day in June I got the urge to go mobile, so I called up Ray, WA5OPO, who lives about an hour away in Rockwall county, and suggested that we go on a one day trip to get some counties. We had not run counties together before. He agreed, and we did a nice one day trip to get Delta, a LC for W4IGW, and for K8MFO, plus a bunch of others needed on 30M CW and SSB.

Ray has added a 30M resonator to the mobile, and he is planning some trips. I asked him how he was doing toward his Master's Gold, and he said that had never checked. Once we got back to his QTH, he checked and found he only needs 120 to go to finish up the first part of the award. For the second part of the award requirements, you have to accumulate 1500 points.

Those points can be earned by a) 1500 transmitted counties b) 1500 net control hours (any net, anywhere) and c) service to MARAC by being an officer/director/award chairman, newsletter editor or convention host. Ray had 'no clue' how far he was along that part of the requirement.

For those starting out, if you get 'hooked' on county hunting, a few years from now you might have earned your Bingo award, and be looking toward qualifying for higher awards. As you pass through various counties, on the way to hamfests, while headed toward mini-conventions or Nationals or just off to see relatives, **make and log at least one contact in every county you go through.** If you repeat the trip a month or half year later, **MAKE CONTACTS from every county.**

I hear lots of folks headed toward a convention, or on the road, and they wait for their turn on the SSB net, not working any mobiles while they pass through 10 other counties. Often there is a lot of activity on 40m SSB as well at convention time. They may get to run every tenth county on a busy 20M SSB net, and that is 9 missed counties that later they may wish they made a contact from! Less effort, but they may regret having passed through so many without at least one contact. Up to half of your 'transmitted counties' for Master's Gold can be earned before you get your Bingo award. If you've headed toward the National or 3M from 500 miles away, you likely could have had 50 or more 'transmitted counties' for that trip. Maybe 100? Maybe more. If you see an opportunity to take a 1 or 3 mile detour (like a 1 mile detour off Interstate 40 in AR to get to Cross, AR) and pick up an extra transmitted county with a 10 minute detour, consider doing it. You can run the same counties over and over again for transmitted county credit, so you can run the county on the way to the convention, and the way back for additional transmitted county credit. Better yet, take a different route home if possible, and run some counties you've never run before!

Unfortunately, the current logging programs do not count repeated 'transmitted counties', but if you retain your logs, you can figure it out by hand at a future date.

The next day, Charlie, W0RRY came over for a 2 day trip, and we headed out to Arkansas to run some desperately needed counties there, on another 'connect the dots' trip. We ran 20/30/40cw and 20/40 SSB since we had friendly net controls more interesting in getting counties run - than in getting mobiles 'run off of 336'. Several hundred SSB contacts plus nearly a 1000 CW contacts went in the log to help out the folks with their needs and give out Master Platinum counties to everyone. At this point, the CW folks are likely far ahead of the SSB folks on Master Platinum county totals. Those who operate both modes are even further ahead.

Of course, we ‘work’ each other in every county we go through to give him transmitted county credit, whether he or I need it or not for other awards. He’s under 100 for the Master’s Gold award. Someday he’ll have to figure out how many ‘transmitted counties’ he has.

Charlie was a busy logger on the trip, and he did the runs on 20M SSB. We managed to avoid the bad weather, with only a 10 mile stretch of downpouring rain, then steaming fog! Not bad for late spring time, where the weather can ruin your trip in a hurry! He lives in OK, and always has an eye on the clouds for signs of impending bad weather.

Toward the end of June, Eddie, G4KHG was in Hawaii. Conditions on 30M turned out to be excellent, and what seemed like hundreds snagged him on 20 and 30M CW from Maui and Kauai! Larry, N2OCW worked him while he was mobile – mobile to mobile on 30M! Joyce, N9STL and folks from the east coast to west coast, plus VK4AAR worked him.

On Kauai, Eddie had some problems in the rental car at first, with the radio at 50 w blowing the 20 amp fuse in the accessory socket. Fortunately, he also brought along the standard ICOM power cord, and he used that instead of his normal power from the cigarette lighter. The problem was worse on 20m. There must have been some sneak path that got energized by r.f.

The last weekend in June was ARRL Field Day weekend, with many county hunters off with their local clubs, other groups, or just out mobile in the operating event. I heard some AK stations, worked two HI stations, while operating during FD with the local club. We had 2 contacts on 10 meters! (skip) Alas, I didn’t catch any new counties, but the ones I need are getting to be few and far between. I need to hurry up and finish so I can start again – then everything is new!

In this issue...the answer to the Mystery Picture II challenge, the continuation of CW article, and an ‘eyeball’ with N0ZA. The first ever ‘CHN QUIZ’ this month to challenge you appears at the end.

De N4CD

Awards Issued

Bingo #270 George, N3ISH 6/1/2005
5th Time #74 Darrel, W6TMD 6/5/05
3rd Time \$187, Tom, K7REL 6/10/05
2nd time #354, Bob KK5MI 6/14/05
2nd time #355, Larry, W0QE 6/19/05

USACA #1123, Dave KA5TQF 6/21/05
6th time #23, Silver KC0JG 6/22/05

CW- Brevity is the Key – Part III Continued

Part III

Now that we have gone back and have seen how the code was created to be efficient, and how ‘efficient’ it can be to send messages, we can look at current practices to see how we ‘save dits and dahs’.

If you are a licensed ham, you likely have learned a bunch of Q Signals, from QST to QRZ to QSY to QRM to QRT. The standard Q signals were invented, both to save time, and to help with language problems in commercial service. Just think of trying to communicate with a ship board operator who speaks almost no English, whose native language is Tagalog, yet wants to send you a plain text message in English about his entry into the port, or about weather conditions. Try that on SSB! By use of Q signals, he looks in his Tagalog book, picks the right Q signal, sends it, and you know what it means in English!

In addition, a whole raft of abbreviations, from OM (old man or operator) to FB (fine business) to TMW (tomorrow), GA (go ahead), GM (good morning), TU or TNX (thank you or thanks) are commonly used in ‘English’, and also worldwide. If you listen to some long time cw ops talking to each other, the conversation is full of short abbreviations. They may be going 40 wpm, but sending information at 80-100 wpm, close to talking speed. Hams not fluent in English can memorize a few dozen or so ‘words’ in Morse, and communicate basic information worldwide.

So how do we use Q Sigs and abbreviations and common sense to keep things humming along on CW? You can start by looking how mobiles check in, are made ready to run, and how contacts are made.

NCS will be there, maybe asking “CHN ANI MOBILE QRV?”...and often it is sent “ANI /M QRV”. That saves a few dits! An ‘I’ is shorter than a ‘Y’. (County Hunter Net – Any mobile ready to run?)

A mobile checking in just gives his call, and NC will send “W0GXQ NR 1” – that is , W0GXQ you’re the next mobile to run. I don’t need to send W0GXQ/M, and he doesn’t need to send /M since I know he wouldn’t be out there calling me if not a mobile ready to run. That saves another 3 dits and 4 dashes.

I then work him, he gives me the county, and I announce him.

Then I might announce “WE HV W0GXQ Kanabec MN”. No need for comma between the county and state. Everyone knows the last two characters are the state, and you leave a normal space between the two words. That saves another 2 dashes and 4 dits. I don’t send “IN” to say “IN KANABEC”. That just confuses things...is it Indiana? It sure gets confusing when someone is in Newton, IN, and says’ XXXX IN NEWTON IN’. or worse yet, “N4XYZ IN INDIANA IN” or something like that. That can lead to potential confusion, and takes 4 extra dits and a dash to send! My suggestion is never to send “IN” in the location, unless it is the state if Indiana, and then send it after the county name!

If you are on a county line, it is “CL”. No need for extra dits and dashes. Folks are going to expect, after you send CL, that county one comes first, followed by a slash (/) – a dah di di dah dit – followed by the second county. Ex: N4CD CL Dallas/Collin TX If you wind up on a county/state line, then it might be N4CD CL Grayson TX/Bryan OK The faster we communicate ‘information’ the more contacts/counties per hour get run when things are busy. The sooner you run if you are waiting. The more contacts you will have as a fixed station. The less tired your sending arm, the less tape/time on the recorder you’ll have to listen to again later!

Part IV

And so it goes. Just like on sideband, where some mobiles seem to have 5 or 10 ‘last calls’, and ‘last last call’, and ‘very last last call’, the same sometimes happens on cw, as folks go on and on. When you send QRZ? twice and no one comes back, and you don’t think there is anyone still calling, it is time for relays normally. Don’t drag it out, and there might be others sitting patiently to run! Same with a last call. If you are getting one contact per minute, it is time to call it quits. Yes, if you run another 5 minutes, 2 or 3 more folks will walk by the hamshack and work you, but that other mobile waiting to run might get 20 contacts before he runs out a rare county, too.

The same applies on SSB as well. On SSB, some folks since that since ‘they have 10 minutes, they’ll spend the last 8 minutes hollering QRZ over and over, with 1 contact per minute until ‘time is up’. Meanwhile, maybe 3 other mobiles just ran out of counties they really wanted to run, or didn’t have a chance to get moved off freq since they could not hear the mobile to work him/her.

It seems 30 Meters has more 'passer by' folks than 20 or 40cw, likely because the band is not as wide. Some get real anxious, and are "DX LIDS" who expect an ID every 10 microseconds. They send "CL?" (CALL?) over and over again on top of those calling, hoping you will tell them you are rare DX, or someone else will.

You can ignore them, but they usually don't go away. They QRM the net with their impatience. Sometimes, a New England station will spot a European who is on 10.114, but not heard in most of the USA. Most of the time, I just send my call to get them to go away. No need to send the county. They don't want to work N4CD/m, they are looking for FR5DX or 3W2DC or other rare DX, and hear the CH pileup and figure something good is going on. Otherwise, you wind up IDing every minute or two, and if on a CL, spend more time ID-ing if you give your call and the county/county line than working folks. Usually just giving your call/m is enough to send them merrily on their way looking for 'rare DX'. Saves dits. But do ID every 10 QSOs or so after the initial pileup is worked out. Sometimes I give just the county(s) ie, de N4CD Grayson QRZ.

Anyone listening will know that N4CD has been running in TX, and there is only one Grayson anywhere near. Saves dits/time.

Part V

My guideline for how many times I repeat a report:

If I am mobile, and I send you a 599, you get it once. Same likely for a 579. If you are 559, I send it twice. Under 559, I send it 3 times. If you are a mobile, I will likely always send it twice, regardless.

I expect you to do the same. If I send you 559 559, please send back the report twice. If I send your report 3 times, same. If you use "ALSO" that is the same as one time. Ex:

I send you 559 559. You send back either "R 599 UR 559 559 K" or "R559 ALSO 559".

I send you 339 339 339 K, you send back "R 339 UR 339 339 339 K" or "R339 ALSO 339 339". In the second case, the ALSO counts the same as an extra set of 339.

Note, you don't need to say R339 **339 339** UR 339 339 339. Those extra 339s are just wasted dits, especially if you're going to say "R339 ALSO 339 339". It wouldn't be 'ALSO' if the second part wasn't the same as the first. Make sense?

Same on relays. If you got a '229' back, all you have to do is say "229". (not R 229 229) "Also 229" has just taken an extra 5 dashes, and 7 dits to send. The **also** isn't needed. No need for the mobile to say "R 229 **229 229** ALSO 229 229". If NC is copying well, the extra 229s at the beginning are totally redundant. It is NC that will verify the contact, not the mobile, as to "GUD" or not.

OK...enough on the soapbox. Sometimes when you are out mobile, waiting to run, you just wish things would be 100% efficient. They aren't. Between driving, operating, logging, following the right route, there are lots of distractions, beside worrying about how long it has been since the last ID. But think about how to use less dits while still communicating the same info.

We take time for newcomers, and passer-bys. There's time for relays. There's enough time for a "HI" and some common courtesy. However, if we try to be efficient while running, then good habits tend to stick. And are emulated. If you're sitting on a CL, you have time to get to more counties in a day, too!

However, we can all try to think about those extra dits that really aren't needed. Just think if you are PAYING for each dit and dah you send. Each extra one costs you money. Say 1 cent for an extra dit, and 3 cents for an extra dah. Then figure out how to 'save money'. Or pay up at the end of the day for 'excessive use of dits and dahs'. HI HI

The good thing is we don't have to pay for dits and dahs. In the day of the telegraph, and especially the undersea cables, where it cost \$1/word in 1866 dollars (about \$100/word now, with a ten word minimum), you would certainly spend a LOT OF TIME being brief! Many people only got one or two telegrams in their life, and it usually communicated bad news (death or critical illness) since it was so expensive.

OK...let's not get carried away...gas is enough of an expense! No costs for dits and dahs this week. Go out and run some counties...and have fun. Fill up those log pages, get to the bottom, turn the page without a lot of hullabaloo, and continue running things.

De N4CD

Mystery Picture Challenge II

Correct answers were received from Jim, AD1C, Terrie AB7PX, Bob KC6AWX, Jerry, W0GXQ, Guff, KS5A, Gene, K5GE, Mike, K8IW, Brian, NX0X, Joyce, N9STL, Milt, KY0E, Bob KA9JAC, Raleigh, W9QOI, Jim, N9JF, and others.

How can we use the clues to solve the puzzle? The non-county hunting clue is often the one with the key! Remember, it was stated that both the STATE and COUNTY was in the clues. (and two of the folks who came up with the right answer had either seen the pics before or meet Eldon on the road, making it real easy for them!)

e) Some kids growing up in **Alaska** might at **First** want to be a D.J. . Maybe later they go to college and become a lawyer with a **J.D.** degree. .

Thus, First Judicial District (J.D.) Alaska. The hints about igloos, just a few counties in the state, and a long way between counties should have also given you big hints about Alaska, as well as the picture.

Even more of a hint, the first letter of 'first' was capitalized!

Who is the county hunter?

) I live in a state where you must cross a long bridge to get to the 'other half' of the state, or else get there via other states. Only a few states are broken in halves – Michigan, Maryland, etc....the clue is 'long bridge' ...if you have been over the Mackinac Bridge between the lower and upper peninsula in Michigan, it might ring a bell. Or looked in a coloring book at Michigan.



View of marine antenna mount 1"-14tpi fully insulated from hitch mount base. Custom adapter to hold 5/8 solid alum mast.



Installed Radio - Mount uses factory bolts under console

Power cable run under carpet and into console.

Coax run under carpet and along ductwork.



Eyeball QSO – N0ZA, Ross

This month we feature N0ZA, Ross. Many of you have likely met him at the National Conventions, the 3M in Murphreesboro, or at the TX minis. An active CW/SSB operator, Ross hangs out in Mesa county, Colorado and gives out some of the tough to get to counties out there.

“My first encounter with the County Hunters was in January of 1970. My wife had given me a Swan 270B for Christmas, and I found SSB operation to be quite different from my prior CW operation. I happened across the County Hunter’s net, and immediately, I was bitten by the ‘County Hunter Bug.’ I think that the net was called the CHC-FHC net in those days. At that time I lived in Dallas TX, and my call sign was WA5LTQ. Among the mobiles I recall from those days were K9DCJ, WA0SBR, WB0CQO, and W0KZZ. My work schedule, in medicine, really didn’t allow much time for ham radio, but I did manage to work about 1500 counties. At some point I lost interest or forgot about county hunting. My rather limited ham radio time was devoted to contesting and DXing. I moved to Colorado in 1977, and one day while cleaning my garage, I discarded a large stack of signed MRC’s - bad move!

In the spring of 1998, I had a spat with a neighbor concerning RFI. I was interfering with a set of computer speakers. I asked her to show me the set-up, but she refused. I figured she would file suit if I persisted; and I concluded that by the time the judge learned that he had no jurisdiction in the matter, I would have contributed a lot of money. I turned off the amplifier, and thought about what I could do with 100 watts. I remembered the county hunter’s net, and the rest is history. It was several years before I turned on the amplifier again. I was essentially starting over - perhaps I had QSL’s and MRC’s for 800 counties. I really got with it, and I received USACA #988 in November 1999. I’ve since done it two more times as well as completed bingo twice. A nearly lifelong ambition was realized in April 2005, when with the help of KL1V, completed USACW – I received #75. My current effort is a fourth time - all CW. About 70 counties to complete the trip.

I started mobiling in the autumn of 1998. Mobile operation was a really a learning experience. Along with others I found what worked well and what didn’t. I’ve operated from 511 counties in twenty-one different states, and I have put many of these counties several times. My favorite states in which to run counties are Nebraska, Kansas, and Texas. Most of my mobiling is on the way to the conventions, but I also make a few trips to nowhere and back again.”

The following picture was snapped at the recent mini in Austin TX.



The “Texter” vs Morse Code

In May, 2005, Jay Leno on the Tonight Show had a short segment that was to demonstrate how ‘old fashioned’ and slow the Morse code was compared to modern ways to send messages. He had two world champion “texters” – folks

who sent messages on their cellphones using the "Short Message Service" feature where you can send text messages to each other, pitted against two ordinary ham radio operators using the 'old fashioned' Morse code.

Texters are the folks who send messages back and forth using their phones, sending using abbreviations like 'u' for you, ;l8r' for later, etc. In places around the world where they use the GSM standard, it is known as SMS – short message service.

In November 2004, a seventeen-year-old from Utah became the world's text messaging champion. Ben Cook typed his way into the Guinness World Book of Records by using his cell phone to type 160 characters in just 57.75 seconds. The message was: "The razor-toothed piranhas of the genera Serrasalmus and Pygocentrus are the most ferocious freshwater fish in the world. In reality they seldom attack a human."

The 'showdown', which replicated a similar challenge that took place recently in Australia, has provided immense satisfaction to Amateur Radio's community of CW operators.

Friday May 13th, the Tonight Show with Jay Leno featured the message sending/receiving contest between a cell phone text messaging team and a Morse code team. The Morse code team consisted of Chip Margelli, K7JA and Ken Miller, K6CTW.

The Tonight Show people called the local Ham Outlet store to see if they could come up with two fast Morse operators. They originally wanted two 'old time' telegraphers using land-line equipment, but time didn't permit that. Chip and Ken do a lot of contests and DXpeditions. Joe Drago, props manager for the show is KF6OCP. They volunteered to help out.

The text message sender was the *world champion* text messenger Ben Cook and his friend Jason. **He's in the Guinness Book of World Records for it.** If there are *any* useful shortcuts to entering text, you can bet he knows 'em and uses 'em.

The Morse ops were going about 25-30 wpm (the message is 40 characters long and took about 20 seconds to send). That's a decent clip but hardly "world champion" stuff. Of course those two ops can go a lot faster but that's another story. More impressive to me is that they were able to do it amid the audience noise. (now just think if we had two main line telegraph operators using American Morse – faster – at 50-60 wpm!). That would have been more of a 'contest'.

In typical TV style, the 'texters' were all dressed up in 'mod gear' to reflect the current 21st century technology. The TV folks dressed up the Morse operators in old fashioned telegrapher outfits from the 1800s-early 1900s – green visors, long

old style white shirts, bow ties, sleeve garters, dressed so that they would fit into a Western Union telegraph office of the 1880 era.

The audience thought, for sure, that the 'world champions' would easily win. What the viewing public didn't know was that Margelli and Miller had, in Miller's words, "smoked 'em every time" during three pre-program rehearsals. Even so, during the real thing, when Miller raised his hand to signal he'd copied the CW message successfully, Jason's jaw dropped. None of the players had any idea of the text they'd be sending, Miller noted.

Chip, KJ7A, and K6TCW, using a pair of Yaesu FT-817 rigs, send code at about 28 wpm (CHN net speed!). They wound up using 432.200 to avoid all the interference to/from all the TV studio equipment, remote mikes, etc, and the minimum power setting on the QRP rigs.

The message that was sent was "'I just saved a bunch of money on my car insurance". Leno gave one of each pair a card with the message to be sent to 'the other end'.

The CW ops handily beat the World Champion texters. The text message guy didn't finish entering his message before the Morse operators were done. And the Morse ops' output was hard copy.

During a similar Australian competition in April, a Morse team consisting of 93-year-old former post office telegrapher Gordon Hill--the sender--and 82-year-old Jack Gibson--the receiver--topped 13-year-old SMSer Brittany Devlin. In that event, Hill spelled out the message in full, while Devlin used text-messaging shorthand. In that competition, held at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, Hill took 90 seconds to send the message, 18 seconds faster than Devlin's message took to reach her friend's cell phone.

Maybe a few million folks watching got to see that 'code isn't dead'? And that it isn't so 'old fashioned and obsolete'? And that two 'average Joes' beat the World Champ Texter?

It's even funnier, if you recall the 'railroad telegraph' operators examples or brief Morse code from last month's issue, with the extensive use of abbreviations, usually 2 or 3 characters, take a look at what the text messages use. Here's a link <http://www.swalk.com/sms.htm> How about abbreviations like:

Aamof = as a matter of fact

Add = address

Adn = any day now

Afaik = as far as I know

Aisb = as I said before

Atb = all the best

Atm = at the moment

Atw = at the weekend
awhfy? = are we having fun yet?
Ax =across
Ayor =at your own risk

So, 170 years after Morse was invented, the ‘texters’ suddenly think they are doing something new with their short abbreviations? No way! There simply following in the footsteps of 100,000+ telegraphers who have gone before ! And several million amateur radio operators.

Here’s a link to a video file of the Leno show and the ‘showdown’...it’s a long one – 10 megabytes...not for those using dial up, but if you have high speed, you might enjoy watching it!

<http://www.tarc.org/index.php?load=leno>

Picture of the Month

Guff, KS5A, sent in the following picture from his trip to the Hawaii counties a few years ago. The view is from the overlook looking down into Kalawao County, one of the rarest and least run counties in the USA.

If you get to the island of Molokai, you have to opportunity to run both Maui and Kalawao counties.

(There wasn’t any way I was going to hide “ Kalawao” inside a clue, so everyone is off the hook as trying to guess the county this month).

You can run the county at the top, or by being part of a day long tour, can go down to the lower part of Kalawao. It takes very special permission to stay overnight, and you usually have to be part of a volunteer work group or similar to get that OK.

The county is also a national historic site. In the not to distant past, there neither was a cure, nor a way to prevent the spread of Hansen’s Disease (leprosy) other than by isolation. Those who contracted leprosy were sent to Kalawao to live out their lives, in a ‘leper colony’. Several of the original residents are still living there. For isolation purposes, there are very steep cliffs that keep anyone ‘down’ the hill from getting out. The only path down the hill now is a mule trail (the famous Kalawao Mule ride – a big tourist attraction).

Fortunately, modern medicine has allowed control of this disease, so there are no new residents arriving. Likely in a decade or so, there will be no remaining ‘residents’ and the

place will be turned into a big tourist attraction and a hotel or two build. But likely it will also be absorbed into Maui county, and not be 'rare' anymore!



Kalawao Hawaii

The First CHN "QUIZ"

This month we have something different. No Mystery Picture this month, but a county hunter needs your help to decipher the following. It seems he and his logger were driving down the road early in the morning, finishing off the last of their coffee in the mugs while zipping along, and a deer came bounding across the road. The county hunter was forced to hit the brakes, and unfortunately, the logger had the log from the previous day on the lap, and the coffee spilled, and made some of the entries illegible. Can you help out this county hunter fill in the missing information by completing the calls? Both on cw and SSB. A brain-teaser.

If you've been mobile often, many times you can complete the call from just a few letters. How many can you complete? All were on the air in May/June 2005.

CW log – 20 meters

__ K H G
N _ AKP
AB7 _ _
KL _ GN
W6T _ D
ND _ _
W9M _ _ / M
KA _ M _ M
_ Y 2 _ Z
W _ _ S _ D / M

CW log – 30 meters

W _ R _ Y
__ ZA
K O _ _ /m
K8 C _
W _ G _ K
NM _ L
W8 _ P
K7R _ _
KI7 _ _
K _ 0 _ G
K4I _ S
N9 _ TL
K _ R _ C
__ GBH

SSB log 20 M

W _ 7A
W6T _ C
K8 _ _ Y
W7K _ Z
__ KOI
_ B _ LS
W0K _ _
W9GU _
K _ 4 _ XM
N7P _ _

W_1
WA_U_S/M

OK? Got e'm?

Answers below, but in reverse order! All worked during May/June 2005 by N4CD/W0RRY/M while on trip.

(WA4UNS/m, WV1Y, N7PIB, KD4HXM, W9GUY, W0KZZ, AB2LS, W7KOI, W7KQZ, K8QWY on 20 m SSB),

(W9GBH, K5RPC, N9STL, K4IRS, KC0JG, K7REL, W8OP, NM2L, W7GQK, K8CW, KO1U, N0ZA, W0RRY on 30M) ,

(WA7SLD/M, LY2ZZ, KA3MMM, ND9M, W9MSE, W6TMD, KL7GN, AB7RW, N4AKP, G4KHG) on 20cw

If you got 'em all, fantastic. A few tough ones thrown in to make it interesting!

New Ham Band? – 600 Meters

<http://500kc.com/>

From the 500 Kc website above:

“Wednesday, 22 June 2005 - Washington, D.C. - The Federal Communications Commission has issued the call letters WD2XSH for the 600 Meter Part 5 Experimental operations to be conducted by the ARRL 600 Meter Experimental Group. The actual grant of license will be done in the normal course of operations by the FCC. In the meantime, it is reported that members of the Experimental Group are melting solder, tuning transmitters, stringing feedlines, and polishing their keys in eager anticipation of the issuance of the license itself, which will allow them to commence operations on 600 Meters.

All operations will necessarily adhere to the Part 5 rules and to the proposed plan of research specified in the license application. Results of the project will be forwarded to the Commission and posted on this web site. When transmissions actually commence, we will post a notice on this web page. “

If you think 160M is tough, wait for 600 meter mobile! Likely to be all cw/narrow band digi, if when this spectrum does get assigned to regular ham use!

Tail End

No operating events for County Hunters in July. No QSO parties. Wait until fall.

N0KV had a good trip giving out counties in AK on 20M SSB and 30M CW!

The ARRL recommends that "Q" signals only be used on CW. No need to 'abbreviate' on voice modes. It takes as long to say "QRM" as it does "interference".

Eddie, G4KHG was QRV from Maui and Kauai on 20 and 30M. Some good and tough to get counties run! Eddie had pages of CH contacts in the log and is off to UT in July.

There should be many mobiles headed to Roanoke, so we should have a good month for getting new counties!

That's it for this month's CHN. See you next month.