County Hunter News

March 1, 2007
Volume 3, Issue 3

Welcome to the On-Line County Hunter News, a monthly publication for those interested in county hunting, with an orientation toward CW operation.

Contributions of articles, stories, letters, and pictures to the editor are welcomed, and may be included in future issues at the editor's discretion.

The County Hunter News will 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 provided credit is given to the CHNews and to the author of article.

County Hunter Nets run on 14.0565, 10.122.5, and 7038.5, with activity nights on 3556.5 on Tuesday evenings around 8-9pm Eastern Time. Also, with low sunspot activity, most of the SSB activity now is on 7185.

You can see live spots of county hunter activity at ch.w6rk.com

De N4CD (email: telegraphy@verizon.net)

Notes from the Editor

1) February was an interesting month. The mini was held in San Angelo, TX, with 65 or so at the banquet Saturday night. No one should need Tom Green County, TX for a while. The facility was excellent, the restaurant was very good, and folks enjoyed the hospitality room where county hunters from around the country showed up – from MN, WA, CA, NY, and FL and places in between. Many mobiles traveled to and from and put out the counties along the way.

2) This month, Ed, N4UJK, Magellan, joined the ranks of "Master Gold" holders. Others are closing in. There were several new folks at the convention – some county hunters- some thinking about it – some just starting out. We can always use more interest all around. Many days the bands sound 'dead'. Well, maybe some of them are – no sunspots.

3) Earlier in Feb, on a weekend, Rich, K5SF and N4CD headed out to run a loop around the Dallas area to hit Hood and Somervell and Comanche counties, which always seem to be in demand. N4CD headed out to the mini, and Rich joined me on the way back to add some new 'transmitted counties' to his log. For the Master's Gold award, you need to acquire 1500 points, which you can earn starting at day one, by transmitting from counties that you go through. Naturally, a good county hunter tries to 'put out' the county for the rest of the folks, on as many bands as practical, although one contact meets the bare minimum for a 'transmitted county'. We also ran the counties back from the mini together.

4) Barry, W9UCW put on an excellent antenna seminar at the mini. Many are awaiting the arrival of his Antenna Book. At the mini also was a well attended session on MARAC Logger, and a cw get together with about 25 present. Some of the county hunters are monitoring frequencies above 7100 for a possible move (7118, 7123, 7114.5, etc) to get away from the Pactor mailbox on 7038.5 and the numerous RTTY contests that clutter up the band at times. The weather was good before the mini, and good after the mini, but darn chilly during the mini. (30s with 95% humidity).

While there, you could visit the historic Fort Concho, on the Indian frontier and manned by the Buffalo Soldiers (10th Cavalry) from 1867 up to 1889. There was a small 'historic downtown area' built around 1884, the year the railroad arrived there.

http://www.fortconcho.com/

This is just one of the historic forts along the frontier in OK and TX.

5) In this issue, 'Radios of the early county hunting era', an article on 'scanners in cars' and applicability to hams, the new awards given out, upcoming county hunter contests, the story of Bullfrog County, Nevada, sunspot cycle info, Peak Oil news, Operating while mobile, and more.

6) Some folks aren't enjoying the often long wait after ordering from MFJ. They make some nifty stuff, but it can take weeks or months to get some items. They seem to order a given quantity every few months from contracted suppliers, and when they run out, you wait till the next order comes in, which could be months.

7) There are currently many bills before various state legislative bodies seeking to ban 'districted drivers'. In many cases, the wording includes 'hand held radios' of every sort, which would include amateur radio operation while mobile if you are holding on to a microphone while driving. (CW ops with a key out of sight might be able to not be seen – hi hi).

The ARRL and the Section Managers are actively on top of this. The ARRL is the ONLY organization that has the lobbying expertise in nearly all states to approach the legislative members, suggest new 'wording' and explain the typical operation of 'ham radio operators' while moving. The bills would outlaw 2M FM and similar as well, as well as handi-talkies. So when you read the free weekly ARRL Letter (www.arrl.org) and see something pertinent to your state, please follow up on it. It isn't W5YI or Radio Newsline or anyone else doing anything about it, it is the member supported ARRL taking action. They are on the front lines, and county hunters have a lot at stake here.

Just think - you could be mobiling through KY and wind up with a $500 fine for 'using a hand held radio' if these things happen. Who is going to know all the laws in all the states? (just for letting NC know it is 2 miles to the county line in a 3 second transmission).

8) Once again, the 'clubs on one' are apparently involved in trying back door sneaky approaches to getting the rules changed to allow them to hold and receive awards in violation of the Bylaws. More on the latest skullduggery by the club of one promoters, who ask for special favors applying only to club call KZ2P and KA1JPR. Fortunately, the BOD members recognized this as a end of business motion that the proponents hoped to sneak through without discussion as 'routine business' and tabled it to examine it in detail. The motion is FATALLY FLAWED and deserves a quick death.

9) Risto updates the toplist challenge every six weeks or so. The latest stats are at: http://www.w6rk.com/ccatoplist.htm.

10) Lloyd, NX4W, took some nice pics at the San Angelo mini. See them at: www.nx4w.com

11) Contributions always welcomed.

Radios from the Past

Let's go back in the 'way back' machine to the mid-1950s. Before county hunting got organized. If you were out mobile, you'd have only a few choices for commercial equipment specifically designed for mobile use, and it was fairly expensive. Up until the early 50s, the only HF band that you could operate mobile on was 10 meters! So there wasn't much demand for 'mobile equipment'. After that restriction was relaxed, and especially after the FCC created the novice and technician class licenses, mobile activity exploded on HF and VHF.

There were many VHF mobiles, and much equipment was homebrew, with the almost ubiquitous 'converter' available commercially to install in front of your car radio. . Gonset came out with the famous Communicators, and Heathkit followed with the Sixer and Twoer. Lots of small companies had transmitters and kits, most not suitable for easy mobile use.

Hundreds of thousands of people had received electronics training during WW2, and TV repair was a very busy career fixing millions of TV sets with tubes that regularly went bad, and sets that needed frequent tweaking to work well. (With solid state TVs – you buy it, often run it for 10 or 15 years trouble free, then get tired of the looks and give it away!). Many became hams. The government was selling off WW2 surplus in humongous quantities.

This is a good sample of what was available (not just prototype, or advertised but never sold gear).

If you wanted to get on HF in 1955, you could buy yourself one of several rigs. Here's a few typical ones. Cars were going from 6v electrical systems to 12v, so radios had to be capable of both. These were AM/CW rigs, and some had narrow band FM (NBFM).

From Multi-Elmac

PMR – 8 Receiver

AF-67 Transciter

There was an earlier model transmitter, the AF-64 made prior to the AF-67, and a later model AF-67, the AF-68. The first 'mobile transmitter' they made was the A-54H. They produced an SSB prototype, but never sold it.

You could also buy the following from Harvey-Wells for AM and CW. They vanished from the ham market shortly afterwards, having no SSB equipment to sell.

R-9 Roadmaster Receiver

T-90 Transmitter

Of course, there was another equally large ‘power supply that went with all. Some took fixed equipment and ran it mobile.

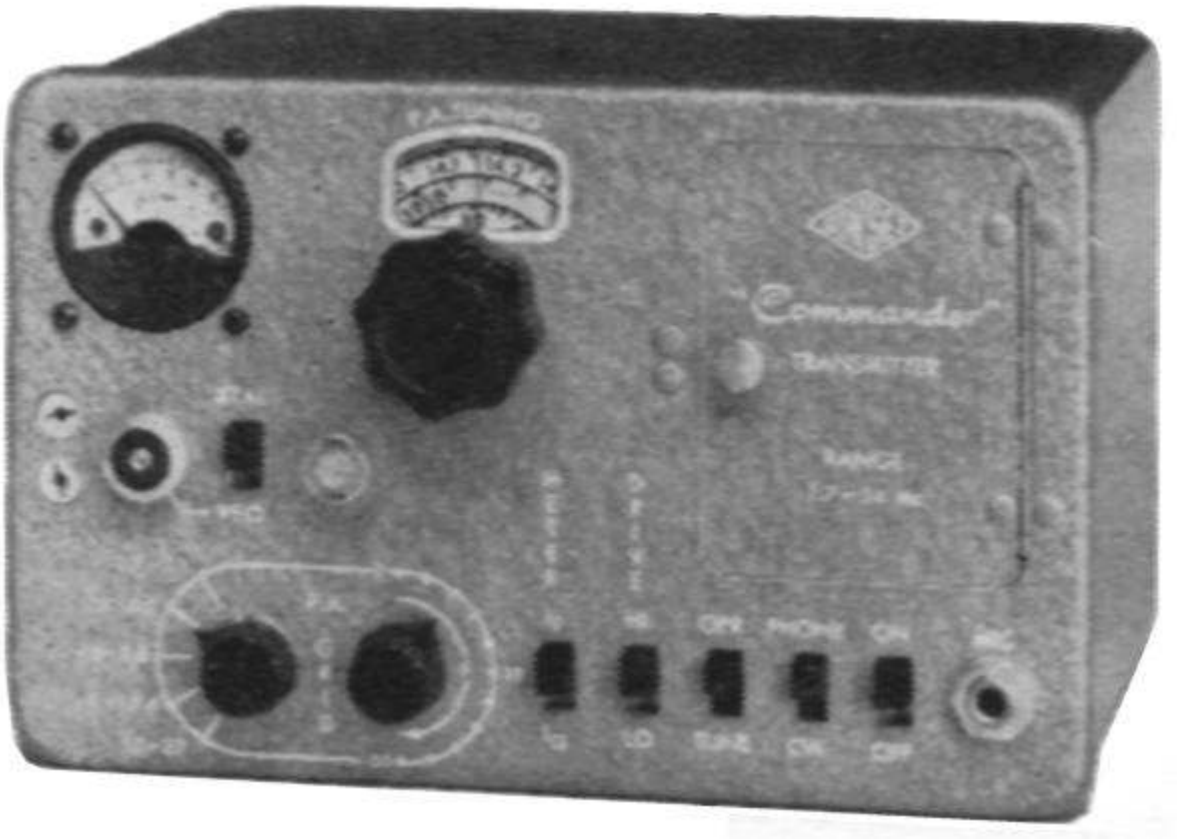
Gonset made converters which you could put in front of your regular AM broadcast receiver (and lots of hams homebrewed similar, including VHF converters). They also made a receiver for home/mobile use:

Gonset G-66 Receiver

That and matching transmitter of the times – the G77.

Gonset G-77 Transmitter

In 1952 to 1956, Gonset offered the mobile Commander, a small 35w AM rig. It had a VFO and would also take xtals.



Gonset Commander Transmitter – early 50s

This was followed by a Commander II.

You might use a converter like this in the early/mid 50s

Gonset Super 12 HF to Car Radio Converter. Early version was Super 6 for 6v cars.

Or a Morrow 3BR-1 converter like this, which W4YDY used in 1953, along with a Harvey Wells TBS-50 mounted in the trunk!

See his installation at:
http://www.qsl.net/w4ydy/w4ydymobile.html

From the 1951 era, here is a Lysco 129 transmitter – one band – either 10, 20 or 75M versions

Now, these are interesting museum pieces. You'll occasionally see one on EBay or at the Dayton hamfest, but unless you had one and want to have one around for nostalgia, they don't do much other than make good boat anchors.

You can add in other things to the list like the Sonar 120 (cw transmitter), the Babcock MT5-A, the Palco Bantam 65, Stancor 203-A

Hams back in the 1950s may have run a converted WW2 Surplus ARC-5 transmitter, which were plentiful and cheap! Or, they could have bought a mobile transmitter similar to the following:

Johnson Viking Mobile Transmitter early 1950s
Crystal Control or External VFO!
Note upper left hand corner – 4 Xtal slots

Morrow made an MBR-5 and MB-6 Receiver as well as converters for in front of your car radio (less expensive option). There was an MB-560 transmitter available.

Other manufacturers making transmitters included Lysco, Transcom, Subraco.

As sideband began to take over the bands, mobile ops moved quickly from the old AM rigs, the old homebrew stuff, to radios that had the stability and linearity in the transmitter stages to allow SSB, and came with it built in. While SSB adapters were connected to Heathkits and other rigs, they did not show up in vehicles in any significant numbers – just too much stuff and too many adjustments and poor performance overall with varying temperatures and voltages.

If you could afford over $1000 in 1960, you could buy yourself a Collins KWM-2 (list price $1150) plus an additional DC power supply to go mobile.

That was one heck of a lot of money when gas was selling for under 25c/gallon and a loaf of bread cost about 10c. For many, that was over 3-4 months of salary.

Collins KWM-2 The 'Cadillac' of the era

If you were active in the early 1960s, what type of mobile equipment might you be running? This was the beginning of the move to SSB, and there were quite a few choices you would have. It was also getting harder to homebrew good SSB equipment for the mobile environment. Now simple converters in front of your AM radio would no longer work.

Many folks would likely think about Heathkits – in the early 1960s, Heathkit had several choices. The first might be the separate SSB transmitter and receiver combination of HR-20 and HX-20 for mobile use.

Heathkit HR-20 Mobile SSB Receiver

Heathkit Cheyenne Transmitter

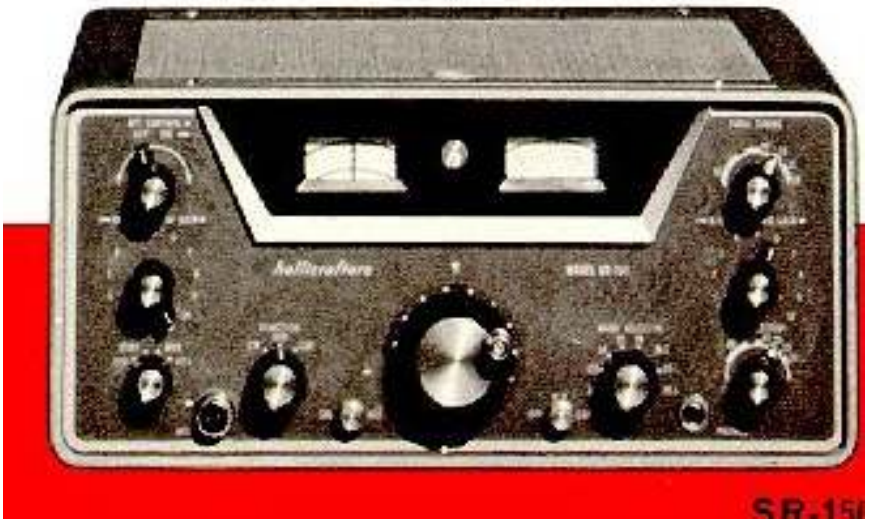
Both of these featured a lot of ‘glow in the dark’ vacuum tubes. You needed a car with lots of space between the seat and the dashboard- which many had. Power came from the ‘new’ transistorized power supplies for mobile use.

If you only wanted to operate on one band, maybe you bought and built one of the following kits:

The HW-12 (75m), HW-22 (40M) and HW-32 (20M) Transceivers

In 1961, Hallicrafters came out with the SR-150 with 19 tubes for SSB. Gonset had an AM/CW transceiver, the G-76 (not SSB, good for CW ops and those who hadn't converted to SSB yet).

Gonset G-76 Transceiver AM/CW no SSB
Needless to say, without an SSB rig, Gonset faded from the HF scene.



Hallicrafters SR -150

In 1962, National announced the NCX-3, for 80/40/20 meters, and Swan came out with the Swan 175, 140 and 120, a single band radio – 75, 40 or 20M. .

National NCX-3 Transceiver

Swan 120 20M SSB Transceiver

Later, they would have the Swan 240, a 80/40/20 radio.

1963 saw the introduction of the SBE-33. There weren't too many 'solid state' radios to chose from, but one with only a few tubes in the r.f. final amplifier and driver was available from SBE.

SBE-33 Transceiver 80-15M SSB

It worked reasonably well, but if you find one today – beware, finding replacement transistors for some of the exotic ones used back then are very hard to locate!

Also, the Galaxy 300 came on the market for mobile/fixed use.

Galaxy 300 SSB Transceiver

In the same year, Drake came up with the TR-3 for 80-10 meters. Transcom had the SBT-3, a competitor for the SBE-33 that was mostly solid state.

Drake TR-3 SSB Transceiver 80-10M

What did you run for an antenna? There were several commercial choices, as well as 'homebrew', which was very popular. You could buy Hustler antenna setups very similar to what you can buy today, or Master Mobile made similar – you used a 3 foot 'base section' and a 'coil' for 15, 20, 40, 75, or 160M with a 60" whip on top. They also sold a 'multi-band' unit that had taps on the bottom – you had to stop, change the tap, and then get back inside. Some antennas were the equivalent to screwdriver antennas, except you had a slider you adjusted vertically to set the frequency along the coil which also extended the whip up and down at the same time.

All of the above rigs required an auxiliary dc-to-dc power supply to generate the HV for the tubes. This was typically mounted separately. That added another $50 to hundred bucks to the cost of the mobile set up.

It was a while before Yaesu introduced a low power solid state rig, and the Atlas transceiver came on the market in the 1970s. Then the HV power supplies were no longer needed.

Naturally, those starting out mobile in the 1990s saw the availability of radios like the Kenwood TS-50, then later the Alinco DX-70, and the IC-706 which took up 1/10th the space, worked an order of magnitude better that the 'old radios', often had built in features like keyers, vox, digital readouts, memories, and cost considerably less than the old ones. Now it is DSP, digital IF filtering, multiple VFOs, memories, and coverage from 160m through 432 on rigs.

For an interesting site of old radios, with lots of pics, visit

http://www.rigpix.com/index.shtml

Many of the pics of old radios in this article taken from their site (with permission to copy).

Sunspot Cycles – The Best of Times?

From http://www.canada.com/nationalpost/story.html?id=5c8d30c6-9d77-4ccc-99d9-c3a095750cdc&p=1

"The sun's most obvious magnetic features are sunspots, formed as magnetic fields rip through the sun's surface. A magnetically active sun boosts the number of sunspots, indicating that vast amounts of energy are being released from deep within.

Typically, sunspots flare up and settle down in cycles of about 11 years. In the last 50 years, we haven't been living in typical times: "If you look back into the sun's past, you find that we live in a period of abnormally high solar activity," Dr. Weiss states.

These hyperactive periods do not last long, "perhaps 50 to 100 years, then you get a crash," says Dr. Weiss. 'It's a boom-bust system, and I would expect a crash soon."

In addition to the 11-year cycle, sunspots almost entirely "crash," or die out, every 200 years or so as solar activity diminishes. When the crash occurs, the Earth can cool dramatically. Dr. Weiss knows because these phenomenon, known as "Grand minima," have recurred over the past 10,000 years, if not longer.

"The deeper the crash, the longer it will last," Dr. Weiss explains. **In the 17th century, sunspots almost completely disappeared for 70 years.** That was the coldest interval of the Little Ice Age, when New York Harbor froze, allowing walkers to journey from Manhattan to Staten Island, and when Viking colonies abandoned Greenland, a once verdant land that became tundra. Also in the Little Ice Age, Finland lost one-third of its population, Iceland half.

The previous cooling period lasted 150 years while a minor crash at the beginning of the 19th century was accompanied by a cooling period that lasted only 30 years.

No one knows precisely when a crash will occur but some expect it soon, because the sun's polar field is now at its weakest since measurements began in the early 1950s. Some predict the crash within five years…"

"The science is settled" on climate change, say most scientists in the field. Don't tell that to Nigel Weiss, Professor Emeritus at the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics at the University of Cambridge, past President of the Royal Astronomical Society, and a scientist as honored as they come. The science is anything but settled, he observes, except for one virtual certainty: The world is about to enter a cooling period."

If that occurs, for the duration of the 'cooling period', it will cancel out most of the rise from global warming. Then afterwards, global warming will continue upward.

Dang, ham radio operators need all that sunspot activity to have good band conditions! Dang, I can live with 1 degree average warmer temps, but it would be terrible to have NO SUNSPOTS for 70 years. Just think how lonesome 20 meters would be! (Even now we have sunspots – haven't reached zero yet!). You could sell your tri-band beam, and start taking up DXing and county hunting on 40, 60, 80, 160, and the yet to be 500 KHz ham band. Maybe even 138 KHz.

Maybe 50 years from now, new hams will be saying "You Old-Timers are lucky – you were on the air when there were sunspots! It's been 10 years and still no new sunspots!"

So you have 3 or 4 competing projections for cycle 23. Big? Small? Fantastic? Bust? Only time will tell! About the only thing you can say with certainty is we are still headed for the bottom!

Club Calls Again…and Again….

A motion was proposed by KE3VV at the Feb board meeting of MARAC. In part it read:

"A **Club Station** belonging to an organization consisting of licensed radio amateurs may apply for and receive MARAC awards. Applications for awards for a **Club Station** must be filed by the trustee of the **Club Station**, and awards will be issued to the **Club Station** through the trustee."

Interesting language, no?

MARAC does not issue awards to 'stations'. Your station does not get a MARAC award. Only you, as an individual' get it. No matter what 'station' you use, or callsign assigned to you over time, you are good for any of the awards issued to you personally when you operate fixed or mobile. Stations are 'things', not individuals.

But what this motion is trying to do is circumvent the Bylaws. A motion cannot do that. The MARAC Bylaws are very clear. MARAC issues awards to individuals. (Clubs cannot be MARAR members, or receive MARAC Awards). This proposed rule change is in direct violation of the language of the Bylaws, and the Board cannot amend them by itself, or make a rule that is contradictory. It would require issuing awards to 'its' or 'organizations, which are clearly not individuals. It takes many individuals for the FCC to give them, collectively, a club station license, which no individual owns.

What it would do is make the rules inconsistent with the Bylaws! Another fiasco of Bylaws saying one thing, and award 'rules' violating those Bylaws and saying something else. And likely it wouldn't change since there is no 'court' to overturn the 'rule'. Now why would one want a 'club rule'?

Other than the 'club of one' promoters? All five or six of them. Out of 600 plus marac members.

Funny that nearly all of the small handful of 'club of one' promoters (KZ2P, KA1JPR, and AB4YZ) live in the district of KE3VV. Now, as 'director' he might have been urged to submit such a defective proposal for a rule, but as MARAC council, you would hope he would not propose something that violates the By-Laws which he should be very familiar with!

At the February MARAC Board meeting, the South Central director, N0ZA wrote:

"This evening was a special Board of Directors meeting. The agenda I was given listed a number of rather mundane matters that would best be described as housekeeping. In the latter minutes of the meeting the matter of amending rules governing Club Stations operating mobile was introduced. As presented, the motion failed - a motion to table the motion was made and carried. This is very much like a matter of a few months ago that caused quite a furor. I don't understand the need to act in haste."

That was a great decision by the board to not act 'hastily' and give us a repeat of the fiasco a year ago regarding giving out awards to people just because they sent in an email saying 'send it to me'. Someone tried to 'slip something by' in the last minutes of this meeting while folks were approving routine stuff 'Yes yes yes'. Fortunately, the BOD members were paying attention. The membership is NOT enthused about this 'club of one' nonsense. Or 'permitting' clubs to hold awards in violation of the By-Laws.

The first problem is that the clubs themselves cannot hold the awards that several have "on paper" currently. The Bylaws, which to change would require a vote of the entire membership (the board cannot change them); specifically state that MARAC issues awards to 'individuals'. Not only that, only 'individuals' may be MARAC members. Clubs neither qualify to apply for/ receive awards or belong to MARAC, including annual awards. If this motion passed, the annual awards for Best Mobile or Best NC might go to a 'club of one', rather than the individual who earned it! Why? MARAC gives individual awards.

But there is an easy fix to that. And an easy fix to insure it does not happen again! Which the board could do very easily. Why didn't KE3VV propose that? More later on this.

Maybe KE3VV was attempting 'retroactively' to fix that situation of MARAC having issued awards in error, and going forward, but I'm surprised someone would propose something that does not follow the Bylaws! In the past, when no one was looking, a few club stations managed to slip by applications, and erroneously received the second star or more, the Bingo award, and the Master's Gold award. The way to fix that is not to 'allow' it now, retroactively. That seems similar to a bank robber trying to change the law since he was only 'borrowing' money, not stealing it, after he was discovered and caught.

Hey, the BOD screwed up by allowing these awards to be issued. The correct fix is to re-issue them to the individuals who earned them. That is an easy, easy task. KZ2P made all the contacts for all the awards K2JG received in error - KA1JPR make all the contacts for W1BQL. Just re-issue the awards to the individual –" KZ2P using callsign K2JG"…etc. Easy. And it follows the Bylaws. Then delete the club entries in the database. And don't issue more 'club' awards in error.

KC6AWX complained that no one 'complained' years ago. True, but KZ2P and KE3VV have no one to blame but themselves for focusing attention on what the Bylaws actually say. It was only 2 years ago, when KZ2P, with a few cohorts, attempted a coup at MARAC, replacing the elected VP with the candidate who lost,W5UGD, by 'enforcing' a little known rule in the Bylaws about 'members in good standing'. That led to 3 months of paralysis for MARAC and a very ugly situation resulting in mass departure of people from the MARAC board over the next year. (K2NJ, N4CD, N8ELQ, W0MU, WB9STT, KZ2P, etc). Now, that these same rules apply to him and his buddies AB4YZ and KA1JPR, they want the rules changed?

Now, that other folks are pointing out other 'details' of the bylaws which hadn't been followed 'to the letter' (before that it was don't panic over small details), a very few 'club of one' justifiers complain bitterly about 'those pesky details' and have attempted many times to sneak by 'motions' that would change or circumvent the bylaws in one fashion or another. Hey! **What is good for the goose is good for the gander.** They drew attention to the Bylaws and insisted they be followed, and now that those same Bylaws

apply to those phony "clubs of one", they try to sneak by, time and time again, motions to allow clubs to get awards. Sorry folks….**you have to live by the same rules you insisted be followed.** It's only fitting.

What is amazing is the motion allegedly changes something about running 'club calls' mobile, but it changes nothing. It acknowledges club calls do not count for stars, prefixes, MG or MP. Nothing new. It proposes to change nothing. Takes a whole second paragraph to not change anything. The whole purpose was to sneak through the club call eligibility for awards. The entire second paragraph of the proposal changes nothing! Club calls can run mobile and waste a lot of NC time, and give out bogusly logged counties by the logging programs. The real question is why the idiots who use them continue to scam the rest of the county hunters?

Now, why would KE3VV be trying to change the 'prefix rule'? Could it be because AB4YZ and W0MU continue to scam the county hunters?

It was reported by N8KIE that:

" I asked Dave in the meeting if his proposal meant that club stations were good for prefix awards and he said yes."

Huh?

From page 33 of the rules:

"**OBJECTIVE:** To making **Valid Contacts** with amateur radio operators who have as the first letter of their call sign one of four letters assigned to USA stations."

"**A Prefix Award** – Make **Valid Contacts** with operators that have the letter "A" as the first letter of their call signs."

"**W Prefix Award** – Make **Valid Contacts** with operators that have the letter "W" as the first letter of their call signs."

Let us use AB4YZ as an example. Ray has a "A" prefix as part of his callsign. He does not have any other callsigns assigned to him. If he borrows a callsign given to someone else, that is not 'his' callsign. Anymore than if you borrow a car from someone else, it is suddenly 'your car'. He

does not have a call with any other prefix. All he can do is 'borrow' one. That is then not HIS callsign, merely a borrowed one. You can't borrow stars. Or borrow Bingo to be good for MG. Why should you be able to borrow a prefix? Same logic. Same club stupidity at work, trying to weasel a change in the rules.

Why is it the 'club promoters' like W0MU with the NA7XX 'club' call not assigned to him, and AB4YZ with the W4CA club call not assigned to him expect that borrowed prefixes are any different than borrowed stars (don't count), borrowed Bingo (doesn't count) or borrowed Master Gold(doesn't count). Just because those two 'wanna do it' doesn't mean not following the rules.

But it is the first part about 'allowing' clubs to apply that is reason to KILL this motion immediately. It is fatally flawed. The BOD cannot pass a motion in violation of the Bylaws, nor should pass one to appease exactly two people.- KZ2P and KA1JPR, both of whom currently hold bogus MARAC awards for their clubs of one. No one else! Why shouldn't the rules apply to KZ2P? Other clubs working on MARAC awards? No one else but the "dimbulb" at K9MOT. Cut off this lunacy now!

You cannot fix the problem of MARAC having issued awards to 2 'clubs' that weren't eligible to apply for or receive them by sneakily trying to justify it. The right way to fix that is to simply re-issue the awards to individuals. Easy. Quick. In compliance with the Bylaws. Why distort the whole process for the benefit and super ego of primarily one person, KZ2P? He screwed up. Percy screwed up. They never should have applied. MARAC should never have issued, in error, those awards. The operator who earned them loses nothing by having them re-issued CORRECTLY. **After all, don't the rules apply to him as well as everyone else?** Why change rules that have worked well for decades to appease one person and his big ego? Of the 600 or more county hunters, only 4 or 5 keep pushing for this club of nonsense. More than a dozen others who imitated them with club calls run mobile immediately ceased. They realized what they were doing.

The motion should be killed quickly! Resoundingly. Let your director know what you think on this! It is a motion for really ONE person…KZ2P…Why? IT fixes nothing other than justifying the mistake made in the past, and allowing the insanity to continue.

The motion that should be passed might read:

The MARAC board acknowledges the Bylaws do not permit clubs to apply for or receive MARAC awards. To rectify the current situation, the MARAC board directs that the Awards Chairperson:

1) Accepts no more 'club' applications for MARAC awards.

2) Re-issues the awards given in error to the individuals who earned them, specifically:

Reissue awards to K2JG as "KZ2P while using callsign K2JG" and to W1BQL as "KA1JPR while using W1BQL.

3) Delete entries of awards held by K2JG and W1BQl in the MARAC database

4) Not accept applications for the USA Prefix award using 'borrowed calls'.

Now that would be a motion that follows the bylaws and fixes the unintentional errors made in the past. It would stop further club nonsense of clubs of one filing for any new awards. It is long overdue.

The BOD should also discourage the use of 'club calls' mobile when two or more callsigns are given out for a contact from the same county or by the same county hunter in a given day.

If you agree, copy the proposed motion and forward it to your director with a request he submit it, and vote for it. You can find the email address for your director at marac.org

Peak Oil News

Things are beginning to get interesting in the oil patch. Oil is still near $60/bbl, despite a 'warm winter', and actual demand decline of about 0.8% in the OECD countries (USA and EU). However, the rest of the world,

especially China and India, are rocketing along, and their economies are growing at double digit rates, requiring massive amounts of energy. China will add more electrical generation capacity in one year than exists in all of California. Things are going to get interesting.

Gasoline prices creeping up. Texas and southern states moving to 'summer gas' formulation soon, and if you recall the article last year, that means higher cost to make, and higher prices to you.

Meanwhile, worldwide, costs for projects are going through the roof. Major projects delayed. Saudi can't sell oil from some reservoirs because it contains Vanadium, and no existing refinery can process it – so in five years they will complete a special refinery to handle it – then can put that oil on the market. Just one of the problems of 'the best oil' is already gone and now you are down to the poorer quality 'bottom of the barrel' grades of oil coming to market.

Exxon canceled big natural Gas-to-Liquids plant in Qatar. Costs had risen by a factor of 3, and Qatar is beginning to consume much of its natural gas production.

Natural Gas – Problems Galore
(http://www1.investorvillage.com/smbd.asp?mb=2234&mn=35720&pt=msg&mid=1215042)

"Chevron Corp. and Royal Dutch Shell Plc are delaying construction projects from Australia to Nigeria that may raise natural gas prices for years to come.

None of the world's biggest energy companies approved developments last year to increase production of liquefied natural gas, which helps heat homes and run power plants from Tokyo to Boston. **The main reason is the cost to build LNG plants has tripled in six years**, according to Bechtel Group Inc., the biggest U.S. contractor.

Natural gas prices are three times higher than during the 1990s and consumption of the fuel will outpace the 1.6 percent annual gain in energy demand for the next 25 years, according to the International Energy Agency.

``Costs are going up and they're going up far faster than anybody expected,'' said Andy Flower, a U.K.-based consultant to the LNG industry and a former BP Plc executive

Gas may become more important than oil in the next 50 years because crude supplies are running out faster. LNG sales rose about 11 percent last year to 157 million metric tons. It may jump about 66 percent to 261 million tons in 2010 and another 87 percent to 488 million by 2020.

Transporting gas on a ship requires it to be chilled to liquid at -162 Celsius (-260 Fahrenheit). The cost of building liquefaction plants has risen to as much as $600 million for each million metric tons of annual production from about $200 million in 2000.

Former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan in June testified in Congress that LNG is ``very important for the U.S., for our national security'' and has argued for increased investment

Two of the newest and biggest LNG projects have been over budget and late. Shell's Sakhalin-2 LNG in Russia has doubled in cost to more than $20 billion. Stavenger, Norway-based Statoil ASA's Snohvit LNG plant will cost $9.5 billion, almost 50 percent more than first anticipated in 2002.

Chevron, the U.S.'s second-biggest oil company, last year abandoned its timetable for approving the Gorgon LNG project in Australia. Developing the fields, which hold $400 billion of natural gas, would cost $10 billion and increase world supplies by 7 percent.

American politics also get in the way. BHP Billiton, based in Melbourne, missed a target to win government approval in California for an $800 million import terminal near Malibu last year.

Celebrities including James Bond film actors Pierce Brosnan and Halle Berry, Oscar winner Tom Hanks, rock musician Sting and supermodel Cindy Crawford campaigned against the plant over safety concerns.

The ``not in my backyard'' syndrome is among the obstacles in the U.S., Greenspan said in June. ``It's going to take a while'' to increase supplies, he said. “”

Long Beach, CA, just turned down a major project to build an LNG terminal there. It is going to get interesting in CA. First, they pass requirements that the state only buy electricity from sources that are 'green' or 'renewable' and 'not burning coal'. Then they prevent LNG from being brought in. It is going to get real interesting out there. Somehow, the dimwits in California think that 'everyone else' is going to provide their energy needs.

USA and Canadian natural gas production are headed to a big decline shortly. What will fill the gap?

Oil Demand – How much do we want?

"LONDON - The International Energy Agency Tuesday said 2007 global oil demand is expected to rise at almost double the pace from last year on robust demand in China and the Middle East and warned that global consumption may outpace the growth of new oil supplies again in three years if demand management policies aren't pursued.

The agency revised up its 2007 global oil demand growth forecast by 300,000 barrels a day from January to 1.55 million b/d for the year compared with growth of just 800,000 b/d in 2006.

The IEA is the energy watchdog for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development grouping of industrialized nations.

The IEA said Chinese oil demand this year is now expected to grow by 6.1% to 7.56 million b/d compared from a previous forecast of 5.4% growth.

The agency also warned that barring a global economic slowdown, oil demand growth will again outpace the growth in new oil supplies in three years as in 2003-04."

Mexico News

You've probably gotten tired of news from Mexico. It turns out it is 'worse than expected'. While many have 'predicted this', few believed it.

From Mexican officials: via
http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=40538

“Daily output at Mexico's biggest oil field tumbled by half a million barrels last year, according to figures released Friday by the Mexican government.” “The virtual collapse at Cantarell -- the world's second-biggest oil field in terms of output at the start of last year -- is unfolding much faster than projections from Mexico's state-run oil giant Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex. Cantarell's daily output fell to 1.5 million barrels in December compared to 1.99 million barrels in January, according to figures from the Mexican Energy Ministry.”

“”This is bad news for Mexico. The field is declining faster than even the government's pessimistic scenarios," says David Shields, an oil industry consultant in Mexico City who has been warning about Cantarell's collapse for the past two years.”

“Based on the state company's track record so far at Cantarell, including its current rates of recovering the oil that remains in the field, Mr. Shields expects the field's output to drop another 600,000 barrels a day by the end of this year. He says that Pemex will likely increase output by 200,000 barrels a day at other fields -- leaving the country with a net decline of 400,000 barrels a day by year's end and daily exports of less than 1.4 million barrels.”

“Mexico's growing economy is demanding more fuel each year, which is expected to translate to even lower oil exports. Last year, Mexico's daily average oil exports fell to 1.79 million barrels a day from 1.82 million the previous year. Pemex says it expects daily exports to fall to an average 1.65 million barrels this year.

But some analysts say that is too optimistic. December's daily exports were a meager 1.53 million barrels. “

Keep in mind that Mexico gets 37% of its budget from oil company revenues. Internal consumption is going up, exports are dropping like a rock. Should the USA worry? Mexico is one of the largest suppliers to the US market.

News from the North Sea

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2c6bc00c-bb17-11db-bbf3-0000779e2340.html

"Oil and gas production in the North Sea is now expected to be about 10 per cent lower over the next few years than previously thought, according to the leading survey of the state of the industry.

The faster than expected decline in production is bad news for Britain's energy security, increasing the country's dependence on imported oil and gas, and also for the exchequer."

"Last year's production of oil and gas was down 9 per cent at 2.9m boe a day, according to the association. That is already a steep fall from the peak in 1999 of 4.5m boe/d in 1999, and the lowest level since 1992.

By 2010 production is expected to be down to just 2.6m boe/d.

The main reason, ominously, is described as "poor reservoir performance": in other words, wells not yielding as much oil and gas as had been hoped."

Kazakhstan (Home of Borat)

From:
http://www1.investorvillage.com/smbd.asp?mb=2234&mn=42748&pt=msg&mid=1450806

" First oil production from the huge Kashagan oil and gas field offshore Kazakhstan is likely to come on stream in 2011- 2012, at least two years later than the revised start-up date of end-2008 and more than six years after the original target of 2005, according to sources close to the Eniled consortium in charge of the project.

The two main reasons for the delay are the complex geology of the high-pressure reservoirs and the dangers posed by the high concentrations of deadly hydrogen sulfide gas they contain. The only positive news from the Kashagan consortium of late has been the upwards revision of peak production by some 25% to 1.5 million barrels per day……

The spokesman said Scaroni will also provide further details on the costs of the project, which have risen by some $5 billion to $15 billion for the first development phase alone.

Venezuela News

http://www1.investorvillage.com/smbd.asp?mb=4288&mn=3440&pt=msg&mid=1444227

“Venezuelan oil production dropped 5.5% last year to an average of 2.56 million barrels a day, the largest drop of any Latin American oil producer, according to estimates released this week by the Paris-based International Energy Agency.

The IEA put Venezuela's spare production capacity at 210,000 b/d on paper, but said it will be tough for the country to win back lost ground in production. It said Venezuela - along with fellow OPEC members Iraq, Nigeria and Indonesia - has "impediments to raising actual production" that "render this portion of spare capacity inaccessible." …

In Venezuela, it is contract uncertainty that has hurt oil production. The Hugo Chavez government has been hiking taxes and taking majority stakes in private output, causing delays in needed investments. Furthermore, state-run Petroleos de Venezuela S.A. transferred around $10 billion last year into social spending programs and government savings accounts that do not finance oil and gas operations, compromising the company's ability to pump more oil.

The IEA said a contract overhaul hitting four extra-heavy oil projects in the Orinoco river basin, which produce around a fifth of the country's production, will reduce the scope for expansion projects.

"The moves are widely seen as threatening existing plans to expand capacity at the four units," said the IEA.

In Latin America, only Mexico, where international oil majors are prohibited by law from exploring for and producing oil, also registered a significant output decline, of 80,000 b/d. In Ecuador, Colombia and Argentina, output remained mainly flat, while Brazil's output grew 110,000 b/d last year.

For January the IEA put Venezuela's output even lower at 2.49 million b/d after the country applied OPEC-related output cuts to the Orinoco projects.”

Conclusion – Be Happy – Don’t Worry

Well, if you buy that line from the politicians, you are going to be in for a big surprise, and likely real soon. With all of the major suppliers worldwide having 'production problems' and 'schedule problems', with output from the major producers dropping year over year, and new projects being delayed, one really has to worry where the oil and natural gas will be coming from in a few years. No politician is going to mention this until after the 2008 elections. And then???

Meanwhile, those concerned with 'global warming' are providing an excellent excuse to the oil companies who are struggling to meet demands. They can justify cutbacks and 'shortages' because it is good for the environment, or 'environmental concerns'. The peak oil phenomena will get buried in the details of carbon emissions and trading. The oil companies will be the biggest players in 'carbon trading' in the future and make their money that way!

Bullfrog County Nevada

What? You didn't catch Bullfrog County when it was 'on the air'???? How about Washabaugh, SD? Or Ormsby, NV?

According to Wikipedia, Bullfrog County was likely on the air while you were alive. Dang…I missed it, too. Only 20 years ago!

"**Bullfrog County** was a short-lived county in the state of Nevada, United States, created by the Nevada legislature in 1987 in an attempt to garner more state revenue from the potential creation of the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository. It was re-absorbed into Nye County in 1989.

Bullfrog County consisted of a 144 square mile (373 km²) area around Yucca Mountain, completely enclosed by southern Nye County. Its county seat was the state capital, Carson City (although that city was not contained within its boundaries), and it had a population of 0.

The county's establishment was a response to plans by the United States federal government to give money to Nye County in exchange for building the very unpopular Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository there. This money would apparently have gone straight to the county government,

bypassing the state government. Therefore, the state legislature declared the unpopulated area around the proposed nuclear waste site to be a new county, Bullfrog County. Because this new county had no population, any federal payments for placing the nuclear waste site there would go directly to the state treasury.

The establishment of the county was challenged by the government of Nye County, and the Nevada district court found it to be in violation of the state constitution because of its zero population size. In compliance, the Nevada state legislature abolished Bullfrog County in 1989, and the territory was absorbed back into Nye County."

Oh! Did you miss Ormsby County Nevada? That long existing original county was absorbed into Carson City in 1969. If you got your USCA in 1965, you needed to work it, along with Nansemond County, VA, which became an Independent City in 1972, and merged with Suffolk in 1974.

Another you needed to work was Washabaugh, SD, which disappeared in 1979 when it merged with Jackson.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_extinct_U.S._counties

So Cliff Corne, K9EAB, USCA #1, had to work Ormsby, NV, Washabaugh, SD, and Nansemond, VA for his USCA-3079 in 1965. At that time, Lapaz, AZ(1983), Cibola, NM (1981), and Broomfield, CO(2001) did not exist, which means there would have been 3077 plus two more! (take away 3 from the current 3077, the current total, and add back in the three listed, giving 3077.) That is two short of 3079.

Can you name the remaining missing counties he had to work in 1965?

Some High Tech News

Some of you may have heard of Moore's law. Way back in 1965. Generally attributed to Gordon Moore, the empirical law in integrated circuit design said that the density of transistors in an integrated circuit would double every 24 months and this would be the lowest cost per function of the unit..

Thus, each generation of technology would allow for more and more circuitry to be put on a single IC. More details of the law at:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moore's_law

Indirectly, it also indicated the computing power per chip would double, and as it turns out, in 18 months, not 24 months. Orignally projected out 10 years, to mid 1975, the law has followed through for three decades, with each new IC technology allowing more and more transistors (now 4 million on a single chip) to be crammed in cost effectively.

A new technology, hyped as the 'biggest change to computer chips in 40 years' was announced recently by both Intel and IBM. Gordon Moore of Intel talked about the implementation of high-k materials to allow lower leakage of transistors while increasing speeds. The current state of the art with copper and copper oxide materials are allowing leakage currents that heat up chips, limiting how many transistors can be used. This new material could extend Moore's Law another decade.

By using high-k materials such as Hafnium, instead of sliicon dioxide used on gatees, leakage has been reduced by a factor of 10. Current line widths in Ics are now 45 billions of a meter in width. While Intel is laying the high-k materials on top of silicon, IBM and partners are embedding them in the silicon. Intel is at the pre-production stage. Both suggest that chips by the end of the decade will be based upon high-k technology.

Today, some chips have 90nm line widths, most others fabricated with 65nm technology. Within a decade, 30nm is the goal. RAM density goes up with Moore's Law as well – doubling every 18 months.

So in five years, you might have your Pentium Fives and Sixes and Sevens, Ten-Core Processors (whatever they call them) running at 100 GHz, with 10G of RAM, Terrabyte hard drives, 36 inch LCD monitor, and Vista 2011 running on your desktop, selling for $550 at Best Buy.

The challenge, as always, will be to come up with software that actually provides improved performance, and does functions that people find useful. Often software lags the hardware. After all, if you have MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Internet Explorer, what else do you add to justify a more expensive computer, other than playing games in 3D HD?

“Scanners” and Police and Ham Radio

Some folks might occasionally get stopped by the local police or constable while out mobiling. If you get stopped, and get hassled about having a ‘scanner radio’ in your car, the FCC has ‘pre-empted’ all state and local laws regarding ham radio equipment which may be able to, as an auxialiary function, receive the police bands. Here’s some of the FCC pre-emption that was done back in 1993. The local police have ZERO authority to confiscate any ham equipment claiming it violates some state or local law about having police scanners in vehicles.

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554
PR Docket 91-36

In the Matter of Federal Preemption of State
and Local Laws Concerning Amateur Operator
Use of Transceivers Capable of Reception Beyond
Amateur Service Frequency Allocations

Memorandum Opinion and Order

Adopted: August 20, 1993;
By the Commission:

Released: September 3, 1993

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On November 14, 1989, the American Radio Relay League, Incorporated (ARRL), filed a Motion for a Declaratory Ruling 1 requesting that the Commission preempt certain state statutes and local ordinances affecting transceivers 2 used by Amateur Radio Service Licensees. The laws referenced by the ARRL prohibit the possession of such transceivers if they are capable of the reception of communications on certain frequencies other

than amateur service frequencies…This Memorandum Opinion and Order grants the request to the extent indicated herein.

II. BACKGROUND

2. The ARRL motion discusses state statutes and local ordinances commonly known as "scanner laws," the violation of which may be a criminal misdemeanor with the possibility of equipment confiscation.5 Specifically, ARRL notes that state statutes in New Jersey and Kentucky (which have subsequently been changed --) prohibit the possession of a mobile short-wave radio capable of receiving frequencies assigned by the Commission for, inter alia, police use. In addition, ARRL states that local ordinances exist throughout the United States that similarly prohibit the possession of such mobile short-wave radios without a locally-issued permit. Therefore, ARRL explains, scanner laws can…render amateur radio licensees traveling interstate by automobile vulnerable to arrest and to the seizure of their radio equipment by state or local police.

3. Since the ARRL motion was filed with the Commission, New Jersey repealed its statute and substituted a new, narrowly tailored scanner law that only applies in the criminal context. In addition, Kentucky amended its statute by adding an exemption applying to amateur radio licensees. As a result, there no longer appears to be any state scanner law with a deleterious effect on the legitimate operations of amateur radio service licensees. Nonetheless, the preemption issue raised by the ARRL motion remains timely because it appears that some local scanning ordinances remain in effect without safeguards to protect the legitimate use of such radios by our licensees.

III. MOTION, INQUIRY AND COMMENTS

A. The ARRL Motion.

4. ARRL makes two arguments in support of preemption. First, it states that the receiver sections of the majority of commercially available amateur station transceivers can be tuned slightly past the edges of the amateur service bands to facilitate adequate reception up to the end of the amateur service bands. ARRL seeks a preemption ruling that would permit amateur operators to install in vehicles transceivers that are capable of this "incidental" reception. Although ARRL's formal request is couched in terms

of this first, technical point, the request focuses almost entirely on a second, broader issue of whether state and local authorities should be permitted, via the scanner laws, to prohibit the capability of radio reception by amateur operators on public safety and special emergency frequencies that are well outside the amateur service bands.

5. Concerning the broader issue, ARRL argues that amateur operators have special needs for broadscale "out-of-band" reception, and that the marketplace has long recognized these needs by offering accommodating transceivers. According to ARRL, all commercially manufactured amateur service HF transceivers and the majority of such VHF and UHF transceivers have non-amateur service frequency reception capability well beyond the "incidental" -- they can receive across a broad spectrum of frequencies, including the police and other public safety and special emergency frequencies here at issue. This additional capability, argues ARRL, permits amateur operators to participate in a variety of safety activities, some in conjunction with the military or the National Weather Service. In both cases, reception on non-amateur frequencies is necessary. Such activities benefit the public, according to ARRL, especially in times of emergency, and some require the mobile use of the amateur stations. ARRL states that, in addition, the vast majority of amateur operators take part in these mobile activities, and that the widespread enforcement of scanner laws would render illegal the possession of virtually all modern amateur mobile equipment. ARRL states that, as a result of scanner laws, "several dozen instances of radio seizure and criminal arrest [have been] suffered by licensed amateurs."

.....

11. Against this background, we conclude that certain state and local laws, as described below, conflict with the Commission's regulatory scheme designed to promote a strong amateur radio service. Scanner laws that prohibit the use of transceivers that transmit and receive amateur frequencies because they also receive public safety, special emergency or other radio service frequencies frustrate most legitimate amateur service mobile operations through the threat of penalties such as fines and the confiscation of equipment. As noted by ARRL, virtually all modern amateur service equipment in use today can receive transmissions on the public safety and special emergency frequencies at issue, and the majority of amateur stations are operated in a mobile fashion. Consequently, the mobile operations of the vast majority of amateurs are affected by such laws. In addition, the record statements by amateurs that the costs would be substantial to modify existing

transceivers are unchallenged. The scanner laws, then, essentially place the amateur operator in the position of either foregoing mobile operations by simply avoiding all use of the equipment in vehicles or other locations specified in the laws, or risking fines, or equipment confiscation. This very significant limitation on amateurs operating rights runs counter to the express policies of both Congress and the Commission to encourage and support amateur service operations, including mobile operations, and impermissibly encroaches on federal authority over amateur operators. It conflicts directly with the federal interest in amateur operators being able to transmit and receive on authorized amateur service frequencies.

12. For these reasons, we find it necessary to preempt state and local laws that effectively preclude the possession in vehicles or elsewhere of amateur service transceivers by amateur operators merely on the basis that the transceivers are capable of reception on public safety, special emergency, or other radio service frequencies, the reception of which is not prohibited by federal law.37 We find that, under current conditions and given the types of equipment available in the market today, such laws prevent amateur operators from using their mobile stations to the full extent permitted under the Commission's Rules and thus are in clear conflict with federal objectives of facilitating and promoting the Amateur Radio Service. We recognize the state law enforcement interest present here, and we do not suggest that state regulation in this area that reasonably attempts to accommodate amateur communications is preempted.38 This decision does not pertain to scanner laws narrowly tailored to the use of such radios, for example, for criminal ends such as to assist flight from law enforcement personnel. We will not, however, suggest the precise language that must be contained in state and local laws. We do find that state and local laws must not restrict the possession of amateur transceivers simply because they are capable of reception of public safety, special emergency or other radio service frequencies, the reception of which is not prohibited by federal law, and that a state or local permit scheme will not save from preemption an otherwise objectionable law.39 Finally, we note, as stated by APCO in comments filed previously in this proceeding, that any public safety agency that desires to protect the confidentiality of its communications can do so through the use of technology such as scrambling or encryption.40

V. CONCLUSION

13. We hold that state and local laws that preclude the possession in vehicles

or elsewhere of amateur radio service transceivers by amateur operators merely on the basis that the transceivers are capable of the reception of public safety, special emergency, or other radio service frequencies, the reception of which is not prohibited by federal law, are inconsistent with the federal objectives of facilitating and promoting the amateur radio service and, more fundamentally, with the federal interest in amateur operator's being able to transmit and receive on authorized amateur service frequencies. We therefore hold that such state and local laws are preempted by federal law.

14. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that the request for a declaratory ruling filed by the ARRL IS GRANTED to the extent indicated herein and in all other respects IS DENIED.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

William F. Caton
Acting Secretary

Awards

USACA #1149, KM6HB, Mark, February 10, 2007
Eight Time #5, N4UJK, Ed, February 14. 2007-02-14
Bingo IV #4, N4UJK, Ed, February 14. 2007-02-14
Master Gold #24, N4UJK, Ed, February 14. 2007-02-14

Operating Events for March

From the ARRL contest corral, QST, March 2007-02-20

Wisconsin QSO Party -- Phone/CW, sponsored by the West Allis RAC from 1800Z **Mar 11**-0100Z Mar 12. Frequencies (MHz): CW 3.550, 3.705, 7.050, 14.050 and 21-440; Phone 3.890, 7.230, 14.290, 21.350, 28.400, 50-440 -- no repeater QSOs. Categories: SO, MS, MM and Mobile. No county

line operations. Exchange: S/P/C or WI county. For more information: **www.warac.org**

Oklahoma QSO Party -- Phone/CW/Digital, sponsored by the Oklahoma DX Association (OKDXA) from 1400Z **Mar 10**-0200Z Mar 11 and 1400Z-2000Z Mar 11. Frequencies (MHz): SSB -- 3.860, 7.260, 14.260, 21.360, 28.360; CW -- 3.545, 7.045, 14.045, 21.045, 28.045. Exchange: signal report and OK county or S/P/C. QSO points: Phone -- 2 points; CW/Digital -- 3 points. Score: QSO points × OK counties (OK stations use OK counties + S/P/C) counted only once. For more information: **www.okdxa.org**.

Idaho QSO Party -- CW/Phone/Digital, from 1300Z **Mar 10**-0200Z Mar 11 and 1300Z Mar 11-0200Z Mar 12. Frequencies (MHz): CW -- 35 kHz above band edge; Phone -- 7.260, 14.260, 21.335, 28.470 MHz, plus 50, 144, 440 MHz. Categories: SO, MS, MM, Mobile, School, Special Event -- all may be QRP/LP/HP (150 W or more) and Mixed/CW/Phone/Digital. QSO points: see Web site. Score: QSO points × ID counties (non-ID stations use S/C), all multipliers count once per mode. For more information: **www.nt4tt.com**.

Virginia QSO Party -- Phone/CW/Digital, sponsored by the Sterling Park ARC from 1800Z **Mar 17**-0200Z Mar 19. Frequencies MHz): CW -- 1.805 and 50 kHz above band edge; Phone -- 1.845, 3.860, 7.260, 14.270, 21.370, 28.370, Novice/Tech 28.370; VHF/UHF 50.130, 144.200, 146.58, 223.50, 446.00; Digital on common frequencies. No repeater or crossmode QSOs. Categories: SO, MS, MM; Fixed, Expedition and Mobile. Exchange: serial number and VA county/city or S/P/C. For more information: **www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/QSOParty.htm**

10-10 Mobile Contest -- any mode, sponsored by 10-10 International from 0000Z-2359Z **Mar 17**. Frequencies: 10 meters only. Categories: Fixed, Mobile. Exchange: Call, Name, S/P/C, county (US, Canada, and England) and 10-10 membership number, if any. QSO points: 1 point per QSO. Score: Fixed -- QSO points × counties, Mobiles -- QSO points × counties worked + counties activated. For more information: **www.ten-ten.org**

and that's it folks for this issue of the CHNews. See you next month!