

# County Hunter News

February 2005  
Volume 1, Issue 2

Welcome to issue two of the County Hunter News, a monthly on-line publication for all county hunters, with an orientation toward CW operation. We thank Dennis, KK7X, who has provided us web space to bring you each edition of the CHN. Please visit his site, [www.countyhunter.com](http://www.countyhunter.com) and explore the many pages and pictures located there.

Contributions of articles, stories, and letters 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 (except to MARAC, Inc, or Officers/Directors of MARAC) provided credit is given to the County Hunter News.

De N4CD

## Awards Issued

W0RRY Bingo #2 January 6, 2005  
Five Band Award (all 3077 on 20M) N4RS December, 2004  
W6FAH, USACA # 1108 January 20, 2005

## Notes from the Editor

In January, 2005, we have seen some terrible propagation, yet counties get run, and folk get their needed counties. Some of the strongest solar events, including the largest X type flare since 1989, occurred this month. It's been a challenging month for county hunting, with some near 'dead band' type days. Not only that, the intense cold weather has limited mobile operating in many parts of the country.

In this issue, we include the year end CW totals gathered by KA3MMM, and provide some articles for your enjoyment and consideration and enlightenment.

We've received favorable feedback, and have several guest contributions we'll try to include in future issues.

Each month we'll try to include a summary of operating events coming up in the next month and events of interest to county hunters. Since the County Hunter News is on-line, we can provide live links to let you find additional information.

De N4CD

## County Line Road Runner?

The publication of MARAC, Inc, for members is the County Line Road Runner. That brings up an interesting question – why is it called that? This article could actually be called an “Obituary for the County Line RoadRunner”.

Not too long ago, you could run a county line road ‘on the run’. When I started out county hunting in the early 1990s, you sure could run a ‘county line road’, while moving along the road separating the counties. . KI0JD, WA0SBR, and KJ5PQ ran them all the time in IA and KS and other places, and the county hunters picked up dozens of counties a day, as mobiles could move quickly to new counties while putting out county lines. Fixed stations got more counties per day. If you ran mobile along county line roads, you could keep busy for hours running pairs of counties. This was one facet of county hunting that was ‘unique’. (Another is being allowed to give out two counties with just one contact).

If you were on a county line road, and drove along it, you could give out both counties for which the road was the boundary. It was an interesting part of county hunting, and that is why the “County Line RoadRunner” was the name of the MARAC, Inc, newsletter!

Then we had a few folks start pointing out, hey, maybe you really don't know where the boundary is – is it the ‘middle of the road’, or is it one side or the other. Is it safe to be moving? Are you supposed to drive down the middle of the road? If you adjusted your antenna so one resonator ‘hung over’ the center of the road, was that OK

Before you know it, the concept of ‘county line road runner’ turned into ‘stopped dead’ or ‘dead duck’. If you wanted to run a county line, you had to be stopped ‘on the county line’. One of the cherished traditions of county hunting vanished overnight so now years and years of precedent went out the window.

Of course, the problem is there still there - that the county line is defined as ‘where the sign is’ or ‘between the signs’ when they are separated. If the road is indeed the county line, you either sit stopped on it, or more likely just pull up by the sign on either side of the other intersecting road, and run it. Have you seen a lot of county line signs located

smack dab in the middle of the road? The usual practice is for a sign to be on each side of the road separating the counties.

Is that any closer to 'being in the county' for sure, if you stop by one of the signs? Often, there are signs on each side of the road intersection. Both can't be 'exactly right'. Even when there is no county line road, sometimes signs will be off by more than a few feet at the convenience of the highway department in locating them. For years, folks just enjoyed the 'County Line Road Running' as a unique aspect of our challenge to work all counties.

Now, maybe folks back east and down southeast might not have any 'county line' roads to worry about. (Not a whole heck of a lot of them in GA, FL, VA, or New England, but if you come out to the Midwest, you'll find dozens and dozens of them). Often in KS and IA, you can stop on gravel county line roads, in the middle, and put out both counties, and never see another car. Of course, you could be moving to the next pair of counties in the past, now you are a 'stopped' or should we say 'dead RoadRunner' stopped in its tracks. Sure seems a shame.

A while back, Tom Paxton wrote a song about "A Million Lawyers", joking that the high prevalence of lawyers was going to ruin society. At the time he wrote it, there were over 1,000,000 lawyers digging in the fine print, causing all sorts of grief with filing lawsuits over folks spilling hot coffee, then suing, and similar. Too much lawyering.

County hunting is about having fun. Putting out counties, and enjoying the uniqueness of our avocation of trying to work all the counties. It's about helping others get those needed counties.

So now you know why it is called the "County Line RoadRunner", and why the RoadRunner runs no more on the county lines. The RoadRunner was 'done in'.  
De N4CD

## Radio Stolen!

In January, 2005, KC0JG's vehicle was broken into in the Pinellas, FL area and his ham equipment and antennas stolen while he was travelling.

Roy and Bonnie left Punta Gorda, Florida and headed to Clearwater, FL to visit with old friend WA0ZKB, USACA #653. They checked into the La Quinta Inn on Ulmerton Blvd. Roy wasn't especially concerned, and had stayed at many other motels without thinking too much about losing his equipment. The motel was in a decent area, and he wasn't especially worried.

The next morning when he went outside, he quickly noticed his antenna was gone. Further checking showed the passenger window had been broken, and the entire rig and

platform were gone. The wires and coax had been cut. Gone were the IC-706, the AT-180 Antenna Tuner, Clearspeech speaker, and MFJ paddles.

After notifying the police, he proceeded to make temporary repairs to the window with plastic, and they headed to a friend in Pensacola.

Meanwhile, Dennis, N6PDB suggested the county hunters could help out. Mike, W0MU, set up a fund to help with the cost of replacing the radio equipment. A new IC-706 was ordered and shipped to WG6Xs QTH in Florida nearby. Roy had the window glass replaced by a local shop, and a Ray, WG6X, helped Roy rebuild an identical antenna system consisting of the Hustler MO-3 mast, and 3 resonators for 20/30/40m. The wires were spliced or replaced, and with help from his other friend, they were able to rebuild the platform. After the new radio with CW filter was installed, it passed the smoke test, and Roy and wife then proceeded back home.

Roy's insurance may cover about half the loss, and he is grateful to the county hunters who contributed to help defray the costs of this incident. He notes that the new installation is being modified to allow the equipment to be removed each night at the motel for safety. He is looking forward to putting out lots more counties for the county hunters.

## “Zombie Mode”

OK...maybe the heading caught your attention? No, no Zombies are headed your way. This is what I sense is happening, though, more and more on the radio, and how DX-ing and county hunting have become. Now, you may have 40 or 50 county hunters 'out there' but they only appear for a few minutes, work a station, and then go back to sleep. The rest of the time, they simply aren't there.

Twenty, thirty years ago, to work DX, you actually had to listen to the radio, carefully tuning up and down the band, hoping to catch a 'rare one', maybe before other people descended upon it. You could catch it before there was a pile. You might get through with a simple station.

Maybe a friend would phone you from across town, or the local two-meter simplex channel or repeater might have some tidbit about a DX operation. Then along came 'packet radio' and suddenly DX-ers didn't have to listen as much – just watch the spots coming in, and be off doing other things. Near instant pileup on the DX station once spotted. Nowadays, it is internet spotting. One spot, and 300 people are calling the DX station within a minute.

Recently, county hunters might be watching TV, doing housework or chores around, outside enjoying some sunshine, and would have an intercom or baby monitor nearby or with them. When a county appeared on net, maybe they would cruise by the hamshack

and work the mobile. If you were out mobile, many folks would make it into the hamshack during your run, and listen to what was happening. If you were mobile, and called for a while, eventually someone would hear you. This worked well, and folks were at least listening with one ear to what was going on. Some sat in the hamshack, listened most of the time to what was happening, and helped out with announcing the mobile and relays.

With the advent of new county hunting spotter facilities, the process now allows you to spend almost no time listening to the radio. You can set up your computer to watch the spots at [ch.w6rk.com](http://ch.w6rk.com), and not even have to turn on the radio. Run it in a separate window, while surfing the web, or doing other activities. Also, you can take this one step further, by using the MIRC channel in Live Spots as described by Dennis, KK7X, in the latest World Radio column.

This allows you to enter your needed counties, and when a spot is made for a mobile in the county you need, your computer will call you to the hamshack to work the mobile. You simply check the computer screen to find out who and where, set the radio to right band/mode, turn up the volume, work the mobile through the pile, log it, turn down the volume, and leave again. No need to listen to the net after that.

So, now we tend to have a lot more folks ‘monitoring’ things by computer. They show up quickly to snag their needed county, and then vanish. Reappear for another needed county, then ‘gone’. I call it the ‘sleep mode’. It is like your computer after you ignore it for a few minutes – goes into ‘sleep mode’.

The good news is that folks may not miss counties they need, if they use the spotting. They don’t have to listen to anything else either during the day. Just show up for needed counties. For those that don’t use spotting, they see suddenly a huge pile of folks descend, while they have been listening for hours waiting for that needed county, and now have to fight the loud stations to get through.

The bad news is that it seems often almost NO one is listening to the radio, and mobiles may not be heard when they try to run a county if the NC doesn’t hear them. If a mobile is not spotted, most in the ‘sleep mode’ won’t even know he/she is there since they aren’t even listening, either directly or by baby monitor. So while the “Zombie mode” or “Sleep Mode” means you’ll get spotted counties you need, it may also mean you miss others than just aren’t spotted.

I suppose it is a natural progression of the ‘faster, faster, faster’ with less and less effort automated, computerized society, but it sure seemed like it was more fun and more rewarding in the past.

## “Club of One”

Interesting phenomena county hunters have been hearing in the past 5 or 8 years is the 'club of one'. No, not a new card in a 52 card deck, but something just as strange. For example, the Atlantic Radio Club, in south central Florida, previously located in NJ, and the Seacoast Wireless Club, in central Florida, previously located in Maine and another batch of 'club' calls are showing up, primarily on the SSB net.

Maybe I grew up in the era when club calls actually represented a radio club of tens of people, and the club call was used on field day, or at a college radio station. Some examples that come to mind are my local radio club K5RWK, the Richardson Wireless Klub, active in public service events, and Field Day. Another is the college club station, W2SZ, the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute club, and Callsign K4HEX of the Lynchburg Amateur Radio Club, which goes out for Field Day, Special Events, and in the past has gone on county-putting out expeditions in the VA QSO party.

Let me ask you a question. Have you ever heard any other club member consistently operate the Atlantic Radio Club station in the past five years, other than one the club member? Have you ever heard any other club member in the past years consistently operate at the Seacoast club? Does either of the club call even have a station at different location other than at the house of the essentially one and only operator?

Now, granted there are club calls used on net, and some examples are K9MOT, the Motorola Amateur Radio Club, which you hear in various contests, out at field day and in other radio events. Club call AA4UT is the University of Tennessee, with amateur radio station located on the campus. Most county hunters would recognize the MARAC club call, K9DCJ, formerly WB0DPD. This call is used on cw by various people on a rotating basis. Other club members, with permission of the trustee, use it on SSB. Over the years, at all of these clubs, you would hear dozens and dozens of different operators using the club call, usually from the facilities of the club, not the home station of members.

Now, why bring this up? Just imagine you are trying to work a very desperately needed county. You sit there, waiting for the pile of loud stations to work him, before you have a chance at getting him or her, maybe before the mobile runs out of the county. You listen, and now you hear extra contacts, taking extra time. This club call, that club call. You're 59 from this club and you're 59 from same person, different call, and all the back and forth of essentially double contacts with the same station in the same place with the same operator. Even sillier, as all county hunting organizations let you count contacts from ANY call you have used. Thus, if you work it with one call, you have worked it. No need to do the "I give you this, the club gives you this", and all the back and forth exchanges required. It gets even crazier when you have a fixed club working a mobile that has a club call (or two or three!) or a mobile team that also has a club call. If you go 'by the book', each station has to give and receive reports, not the 'all of us (4calls) give all of you (maybe team of 2 ops plus a club call) 59s all around, but over a dozen separate reports!

So there you sit, while club calls fly back and forth, and you still desperately need that county. You hope the mobile doesn't run out of the county. Maybe it is one of your last

ten for the WBOW. Suddenly, it is 'mobiles and DX' only relays since time has been wasted with all the exchanges with the club calls. Out of time - No last call! "Who wants to move the mobile?" The mobile is at best 33 copy at your house, so you have no chance to move it. Darn!

The proliferation of mobile "club calls" is something even more disturbing, but that will be addressed in a future issue of the County Hunter News. Before you know it, every county hunter starting out will have a club call with an "X" in it, or an X in their own call. You'll receive your Bingo number at the same time you get your USACA.

This situation also happens in DX-ing. I've even heard stations say things like, "We'll, the 'club' needs a P5 North Korea". For the non-dx-ers, North Korea is one of the top 5 most needed countries, rarely on the air, and with no license holders in the country, and with near impossible licensing. People have been waiting 20 years to work it. Maybe you need it too. For many, there is just a very short window where the DX station can be worked from various parts of the country. Think of the young teenager just starting out, with modest equipment, maybe a wire antenna hidden in the yard, trying to snag that new country, or the YL operator, a little uncertain of aggressive DX pile up operation, anxious to even have a decent shot at working the DX.

Now some 'club of one' is maybe going to drown you out, while you are desperately trying to add that to your list of worked countries, with your 100 watts and your dipole antenna, competing against KW stations and beams that already have worked it with their own call, but now join the pile-up for the 'club of one' to see if they can get through.

That reminds of some big guns, who join a pile up, then tell the DX station, "gosh, I haven't talked to you in six days. I know you're leaving the island tomorrow. Glad I managed to get through the thousands calling, and your signal is almost one S unit louder today. Did you change something at your end?". Meanwhile, there you sit, desperately hoping for a contact, while some 'big gun' just wastes the DX stations time.

From my perspective, the use of 'club of one' calls on the net is a TIME WASTER. It reduces the chances of you working that needed station. While all that 'club non-sense' is going on, time is clicking away, and your chances diminishing of catching that really needed county. For the "Atlantic Radio Club" to get forth time around took at least 4 x 3077 contacts, or over 12,000 essentially redundant contacts from the same station and same location!

From my perspective, if the 'club' worked USACA from the permanent separate 'club' station with a team effort of the club members, that would be an accomplishment. To have 'clubs' get USACA by operation from the home station of one (and maybe the only operator) club members seems to have little to do with 'club spirit' and joint effort of club members. Second and 'nth' time around for club stations, all made by the same operator? Silly!

It seems it started with one club call. Then someone said, hey, that's an idea – I can start over again. Then another said, hey, I can play at that game, too. Maybe it is out of hand now? New folks hear club calls, and think they too need a club call 'just for the heck of it'.

Maybe it's time to 'hang up' on all this 'club call' stuff?

## Contest Info

State QSO Parties are excellent ways to catch needed counties. Sometimes they QSL return rate is only 50% for fixed stations, but for those working on second time or other awards, they are excellent way to get counties. Many county hunter mobiles participate in the state QSO parties. You can get info on the weekly contest information at the following good site. I suggest you bookmark it as it is very handy:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>

## Minnesota QSO Party

The Minnesota QSO party will be held February 5, 2005 from 1400-2359Z. More details at [www.w0aa.org](http://www.w0aa.org) QSO parties are excellent way to add to your county total!

## New Hampshire QSO Party

Another QSO party same weekend – New Hampshire QSO party to be held Feb. 5 from 0000Z to Feb. 6 2400Z. More info at

[http://www.w1fz.org/documents/2005\\_NH\\_QSO\\_Party\\_Rules\\_003.doc](http://www.w1fz.org/documents/2005_NH_QSO_Party_Rules_003.doc) Catch those needed NH counties here.

## Northern NY (NNY) QSO Party

I'm not familiar with this one, but the Northern New York QSO party is scheduled for Feb. 5 000-2359Z. Further info at [www.oarc.us](http://www.oarc.us) There are some rare counties in NNY, so maybe this will be an opportunity to snag a few.

## Ten-Ten Winter QSO Party

While not a 'county hunting' event, some new counties can often be worked on ten meters in the Ten-Ten QSO parties. Same weekend as all the others above – Feb 5, 2005 to Feb 6, 2005. Rules at [www.ten-ten.org](http://www.ten-ten.org)

## Delaware QSO Party

If that isn't enough on Feb 5, 2005, to keep you busy, the Delaware QSO Party is scheduled for Feb 5, 1700Z to 0500Z on Feb 6, and 0100Z to 0100Z. More details at [www.fsarc.org](http://www.fsarc.org)

## Vermont QSO

While you are pointing north for the NH QSO Party, check out the VT QSO party, same weekend. Feb 5 0000Z to 2400Z on Feb. Up 40 on cw, up 25 in General Bands. For more info, email to [Davidca@wpatel.ahs.state.vt](mailto:Davidca@wpatel.ahs.state.vt) or see QST, p 102.

## Louisiana QSO Party

County Hunters are invited to participate in the Louisiana QSO party to be held February 12 and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Complete rules are at: <http://www.tchams.org/users/contest/laqp/laqprules.html>

## Mississippi QSO Party

The Mississippi QSO Party is scheduled for Feb 26 1500Z to 0300Z on Feb 27<sup>th</sup>. Details at: [http://www.arrlmiss.org/what\\_s\\_up\\_.html](http://www.arrlmiss.org/what_s_up_.html)

## North Carolina QSO Party

More QSO Party – Feb. 27 1700Z to 0300Z on Feb 28. More info at [www.w4nc.com](http://www.w4nc.com)

## Mini Convention in Austin

County Hunters are invited to attend the South Central mini-convention in Austin, Texas held February 24, 25, and 26 at the Drury Inn, Austin TX. Details are in the MARAC

County Line RoadRunner, or available from KK5MI, the host for this fine get together. All interested in county hunting are invited, and there is no requirement to be a member of MARAC to attend.

## Dayton Hamvention

Plan now to attend the County Hunter Forum at Dayton. The time has changed this year, now tentatively Friday afternoon from 2:15 to 3:45 PM. After the daily activities are done, the County Hunters will QSY to Ryan's Buffet for dinner together. More details later. Dates: May 20-22, 2005.

You can now register on line at [www.hamvention.org](http://www.hamvention.org) and save \$5 by buying advance ticket.

## Mobile Reply Cards

CQ Magazine requires confirmation of all contacts for the USACA (worked all USA counties award). For decades, county hunters have used special QSL size Mobile Reply Cards, which allow for multiple contacts to be listed on a single card. These cards are then sent via direct mail, with SASE (self addressed stamped envelope) or via the county hunter buros.

Confirmation is required now only for the first time USACA award. Marac does not require confirmation for any awards. Some county hunters, however, do confirm on particular bands or modes.

Art Mager, N5DKW, has just announced that he has purchased the remaining inventory of the B&B shop, which supplied them for many years. If you are in need of MRCs, please write to him for details. Art can be reached at: N5DKW; PO Box 168; Unionville, VA 22567-0168; Phone: 540-854-8274.

Ed Bunch, N4UJK, also prints and sells supplies for the county hunters, including MRCs and the Coloring Book (a map book containing maps of all of the states, with all the counties). This allows you a handy reference, and allows you to 'color in' counties as you work them, tracking your progress. Ed can be reached at: 2848 Adams Road, St. Augustine, FL 32092-8950.

See the services and products information section on the K3IMC site at:  
<http://www.cquest.com/cgi-bin/flynn/services.pl>

## Lotta Bucks in the MARAC Treasury

Perhaps you just got your renewal notice, asking for you to send in money to MARAC, Inc., for another year's dues. Now at \$19/year via mail, or \$14/year via electronic means, maybe you whip out your checkbook and send it in without thinking about it. Maybe you should think about it. Many county hunters live on limited budgets, and inflation, ever increasing medical and drug costs, higher energy and oil and gas bills growing, sure put a strain on yearly spending.

My local club winds up with a few bucks each year in the treasury. Most of the 'dues' are spent each year, and most of that is for the cost of producing and mailing the newsletter. Each year, a small amount is spent on the Holiday Dinner in December, to buy some gas for the FD generator, but that is about it. No large surplus or piles of cash stashed away. The monthly newsletter runs about 10 printed sides, and it costs \$0.37 to mail it first class. At about \$0.09/page for copying, it costs about \$1.27, or \$15/yr for the newsletter, if we run 10 sides per issue. Sometimes it is fewer pages. So dues are set to reflect this, and allow some funds for other activities of the club, including FD. By the end of the year, the funds are essentially depleted. Each year we begin anew. Likely, MARAC gets a better rate on copying since the quantity is higher.

I'm also on the Board of Directors for another not-for-profit organization with over 100 members, and it too winds up with a few bucks per member at the end of the fiscal year. Dues are set to reflect current costs. It has the same cost structure for the newsletter, but it is published quarterly, so dues can be much less. Usually with \$100-200 bucks or less in the treasury at year-end, these groups have about a buck a member or less held over from year to year. Most of the money comes in during the first few months, as most have dues due at the beginning of the year, but the annual budgets reflect this.

Now, when you look at the MARAC treasurer's report, you see there is about \$28,000 in the 'money market' fund and checking accounts. In addition, there is another \$1200 in the Award Chairman's fund, and \$2500 in the fund for 'up front' expenses for conventions. That last amount is usually paid back from the fees for the convention, which obviously come in later as registrations arrive. So, the total amount in the 'treasury' is \$31, 627 as of the last treasurer's report dated December, 2004. In Feb. 2000, it was about \$26,000. So it has gone up another \$5600.

Norm, W2LSH, the current MARAC Secretary, told me there are 'about 650 members' average in MARAC. This goes up and down as new folks join, some folks decide not to renew or pass away or lose interest, from month to month. There are also some 'honorary' members and charter members.

That works out to about \$48.65/member held in the treasury! More than two and a half the yearly dues for those getting the RoadRunner by mail, and more than three times the yearly dues for those receiving it electronically! WOW! Not only that, unlike the other clubs I belong to, it doesn't start out with a large collection of annual dues at the beginning of the year, and wind down. Marac has members paying dues year round, so there are few peaks and valleys.

I brought this up at the last Board of Directors meetings, and one of the Directors said, well, lots of non-profits retain 3 years worth of expenses in the treasury. I'm sure he was thinking of those big 'non-profits' like those 'inside the beltway' with lots of high priced paid Officers, stipends for Directors, fancy offices, and high 'expenses'.

Other than an occasional purchase of printer, ink cartridges, paper, the monthly expenses of MARAC should be fairly constant – printing the required number of copies of the RoadRunner, and mailing them. Maybe every few years, the Secretary or Awards Chairman needs new/updated computer, but that is spread over many years, so the annual cost is well under \$1000/yr, or less than \$2/member/yr.

The dues/awards should be priced to reflect cost. Yes, mailing out issues is likely to eat up a sizeable portion of the \$19/yr dues for those receiving a mailed newsletter. The dues have been at that level since at least 2002.

There is no printing or mailing cost for 'electronic' delivered RoadRunner, other than perhaps paying for some webspace yearly for the 'on-line' version. So you pay \$14/yr, and the cost is near zero.

If you look at the August treasurer's report, you will find that it doesn't change much during the year! Expenses, income, outgo are fairly constant. Still loads of money per member kept in the treasury year round.

Why? When you are sending in your money, just keep in mind they already have 2 to 3 times plus that much money per member JUST SITTING THERE. Why???

Maybe it is time for MARAC to re-examine the cost of 'electronic' delivery and give the good folks a break on their dues, rather than continuing to increase the amount of bloat in the treasury year after year.

De N4CD

## MISC

NO8Q, Bud, has changed calls to W8LSV.  
W7AV and WB2ABD now back active again on the CHN.

# County Hunter On-Line – K5AAR

Don, K5AAR, one of the active CW county hunters, recently received USACA Award Number 1104 in November, 2004. Visit his home page of QRP operation at: [www.geocities.com/k5aar/](http://www.geocities.com/k5aar/)

## STATS FROM RISTO

Risto, W6RK, printed off some stats on the spots that have been done for the past 10 months since Feb 11, 2004. These are based on the spots that were recorded on the W6RK web site at [ch.w6rk.com](http://ch.w6rk.com). The number of spots and number of runs do not necessarily correlate one to one, as at times, mobile runs are not spotted.

The most spotted mobiles are: N4CD(1655 spots), AA9JJ/N9QPQ (945), WG6X (830), N9JF (817), KC0JG (816), KC1NA ( 735), N9WLJ (725), W0GXQ (669), N6HH (664), W9MSE (621).

The mobiles who have been spotted in the most number of counties are: N4CD (748 counties), AA9JJ/N9QPQ (680), N9WLJ (508), AC2J (491), KC0JG (474), N6HH (435), KC1NA (385), WG6X (378), W0NAC/KC0QER (342), N6PDB (324).

The mobiles who have been spotted in the most different counties on CW are: N4CD (721), KC0JG (363), WG6X (251), W9MSE (259), KS5A (220).

The mobiles who have been spotted in the most counties on SSB are: AA9JJ/N9QPQ (680), N9WLJ (507), AC2J (491), N6HH (421), KC1NA (385).

## Year End CW Stats from Elwood

Each year, Elwood, KA3MMM, assembles the year end totals for those working on the USACW award. Here is the latest year-end summary.

**STATUS OF COUNTIES WORKED ON CW AS OF JANUARY 1 EACH YEAR**

CALL	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
KR1B		2499	2421		1983	1552	
VE1BES	1930	1796	1342	925			
AD1C	2857	2609	2087	1141	526		
N1IA							1706 #2
KT1M					2507	2490	

KAIQ	1320 #2	1235 #2	1161 #2	901 #2	500 #2	3075	
WITEE		2583 #2	2282 #2	1864 #2	239 #2	3074	
KOIU	2881	2122	1378				
VOISF	2929	2987					2906
KL1V	1269	612	506	313			
WA2AKB	1614	1579	1400	526			
N2CQ		1489	1385	923			
W2CUK							2666 #2
N2CWG				2315 #3	163 #3	3070 #2	3067 #2
WA2EYA			2810	2798	2798		2757
W2EZ		3075 #2	3065 #2	2997 #2			
K2HVN				3037	3025	2922	
NM2L	1695	764					
N2MH	46						
K2NJ		1675					
OK2PAY						1800	
K2RP	1410	1000					
NO2W	1589	1566		1310			
N3AHA			2222				
W3BBO				1586			
DL3DD	3059	3056	3051	3039	3026		
W3DYA	3051 #2	3046 #2	3036 #2	3030 #2	2978 #2	2899 #2	2813 #2
WA3GNW	1604	1511					
WU3H	2445 #3	163 #3	3005 #2	1126 #2	2999	2954	2267
N3HOO	1821	1500					
OH3JF	2922	2903	2869	2823	2709	2682	2639
VE3KZE	3035	3031	3016	2987	2864	2831	2792
KA3MMM	2643 #5	3075 #4	2959 #4	2128 #4	3069 #3	2722 #3	1331 #3
WD3P	678 #3	297 #3	3075 #2	3041 #2	2962 #2	2770 #2	2445 #2
WA3QNT		2573	2563	2542	2522	2461	2422
KE3VV	2134	1365					
KC3X	30 #2	2695	1693	1449	1174		
N3XX	3061	3054	3027	2966	2848	2028	
AE3Z	1395	1297	1187	850			
W3ZUH	1645	800	1631				
VK4AAR		1058					
N4AKP		1264 #2	3072	3024	2886	2548	1951
N4CD	2715 #2	3056	3013	2769	2496	1923	
DJ4GJ			2389	2143			2542
N4HIM				2268	1875	1262	
KA4IFF			2812 #2	2769 #2		2461 #2	
WA4KER			2023 #2	2298 #2	2247 #2	2000 #2	1550 #2
G4KHG	1182		1033	916	861	725	
W4NBS		665					
KR4OE	1216	1177	1135	1082	722	639	194
WD4OIN	2138	1369	660				
W4RKV	2682 #2	2588 #2	2482 #2	2386 #2	2317 #2	1958 #2	1397 #2
N4RS	3075 #2	2973 #2	2645 #2	2004 #2	3050	2982	
WD4SIG	3030	3030	3030	3030	3030	3030	
K4UNF	820						
WB4VFN	2301	500					
AA4VN	1619	1364	1078	853	830	290	
W4VQ	471 #2	3058	3035	2939			

KM4W				1674	1452		
K4XI	3011	2956	2844	2620			
KB4XK	2261	2147	1892	1698	1494	1216	
KN4XP	108						
W4XT	2167	1931	138				
KN4Y	1760 #4	3070 #3	2988 #3	2789 #3	2333 #3	809 #3	2957 #2
W4YDY	2175	1513	786				
K4YFH	2577	1575					
AB4YZ	2214	1900 #2	1380 #2	2489			
KS5A	2883	2427	2038	833			
K5AAR	493 #2	3055	2899	2074			
W5AL			2174	2001			
DL5AWI	2140	2006					
NN5B				2676		2676	
KR5C	3034	2940	2701	2282	2087	1776	1307
WC5D	834 #2	500 #2	3077	3071		3069	
N5DKW	3015	3015		3015			
N5EBD	1248						
KG5J				3063 #2	3029 #2	3075	3071
K5OT	2669	1801					
WB5P			1125	569			
N5XG	3052	3004	3004	2878	2671	2318	2174
K5XY	343	211	48		21	12	
KC6AWX	1025	871	881	770			
WD6CKT	3035	2871	3003	2983	2919	2916	
NA6E		2523			1193		
W6HOR		2699 #2	2699 #2	2535 #2	1980 #2	980 #2	3074
NV6I	430	2010	LOST	BUNCH	OF LOGS		
W6IYS			1113 #2	823 #2		2999	2782
DL6KVA	1937	1525					
W6OUL	1606	1265					
W6RK	993						
NW6S	2556	2278	1235				
SM6TEU				1829	1758	1692	1326
W6TMD	2286 #2	876 #2	3062		3001	2821	2617
KB6UF		500					
KE6US	1125						
SM6VR	2419	1853					
AD6Z	2890	2777	2484	2180	1715		
K7DM	2622	2312	2028	1230	894		
K7DZE		1727	2514	1448			
KL7GN	2543	2521	2483	2483	2387	2377	
K7INA	2705	2500	2120	1528			
WA7JHQ	3059	2922	2740	2297	2176	2010	
KG7Q	2887		1897				
K7REL	2915	1458					
AB7RW	3062	2943	2776	2144			
W7SSM				1978			
W7TSM	2290	1934	1697	1388	810	95	
K7VAY	3002	2963	2853	2356			
NA7W	660	660	249				
KI7WO	802						
N7WO	1198						

KK7X	1760	1637	1632	1558	1512		1306
AK8A	2385	2172	0 - fire	1927	1829	1750	1472
W8CE	2951	2845	2611	2257	1324		
K8CW			2927		2829 #2		
K8GSA		515	12				
KD8HB	2983 #4	2589 #4	3066 #3	2672 #3			
K8IW	2724	2495	1934	1340			
W8JJ	391						
K8MW		3006 20/m	2969 20/m	2914 20/m	2651 20/m		
K8OHC	1756	1687	1590	1429	1385	1199	
KB8OMG	2862	1659					
WD8OWA							2888
W8OP	836	788	397				
W8PN	2869 #2	2863 #2	2855 #2	2852 #2	2830 #2	2790 #2	
W8QOI	1748	1006					
AA8R	2307	1848	427	285			
KM8U	2825	2796	2739	2775	2651	2531	2413
AD8W	1677	684					
W8WVU		3050	3047	3038	3022	3000	2927
W8YL		3040	3038	3028	3009	2974	2897
K8ZZ	1478						
NF9A	2848		2719	2222	1882		
N9AG	2506	2460					
WD9BCG	3003 #2	3001 #2	2974 #2				
K9DCJ	3053	2967	2768	2079	2267		
VE9DH	1954						
AB9E	1947	1564					
W9GBH	2300	2045	1907	1513	1060		
W9HR			2932	2682	2268	1739	1273
KA9JAC	1158		412				
N9JF			<1000	>1000			
NN9K	2748	2101	1368	1070	630		
AA9KH	1731 #2	547 #2	6 #2	2970	2194		
ND9M	2923		2811				
W9MSE	2913 #3	2277 #3	3074 #2	2982 #2	2859 #2	2478 #2	1773 #2
W9MY Y		2834 #2	2831 #2	2741 #2		2733 #2	
K9WA	2525 #2	1390 #2	3069				
DL9YC		424	407	325			
K0CO				7			
KY0E	680						
W0GXQ	3077 #2	2726 #2	1201 #2		2978	2698	2619
KB0GZR				1082			
AA0IP	942 #3	3062 #2	3007 #2	2785 #2	2362 #2	1061 #2	3063
KC0JG	2725	2472	2156	1711	684		
K0LG	1186	888	789		587	587	
NF0N	1403	820					
K0PY	1190	1042	1008	785	1250	1200	
W0QE	3073	2787	2110				
W0RRY	2782	2242	1916	1677	1108	481	
NF0X	3064	3063 #2	3060 #2			3055 #2	
NX0X	1233	488					
N0ZA	3069	3039	2950	2711	2031	569	
K0ZT	3055	3001	2773	2541	2334	2100	

Updated 01-19-05 KA3MMM							
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## Breaking News – from ARRL Letter

Courtesy of the ARRL Letter published weekly by the American Radio Relay League:

FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell announced today that he'll step down, effective "sometime in March." Powell's resignation comes just one day after President George W. Bush's inauguration for a second term in the White House. Nominated by former President Bill Clinton, Powell--whose father is Secretary of State Colin Powell--joined the FCC in 1997. He became its chairman two days after President Bush was sworn in for his first term in 2001. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, called Powell's performance "a deep disappointment" after some initial optimism. While the League is not unhappy about Powell's departure--especially given his unabashed cheerleading on behalf of the FCC's broadband over power line (BPL) initiative--there's also concern about whom President Bush might call upon to replace him. "It's no secret that we thought Chairman Powell was going entirely in the wrong direction on BPL and dragging the other commissioners and FCC staff along--willing or not--because he was, after all, the chairman," Sumner said. "A new chairman might be a chance for a fresh start."

Ed: For those not familiar with Broadband over Power Line (BPL), often nicknamed Broadband Pollution via power Lines, it has the potential of stopping amateur radio dead in its tracks. More next month in the County Hunter News.

==>INDUSTRY CANADA REPORTS "OVERWHELMING AGREEMENT" TO DROP MORSE

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) reports that an Industry Canada (IC) analysis has found "overwhelming agreement" that Canada should move away from retaining a Morse code requirement as "the sole means of gaining access" to the HF amateur bands. IC has posted a summary of comments from the amateur community to RAC's Recommendations from Radio Amateurs of Canada to Industry Canada concerning Morse Code and Related Matters. "Amateurs should note that while the responses heavily favored deletion of the Morse Qualification as a requirement for access to the HF bands, Industry Canada still has to make and announce a decision on Morse retention or

deletion," RAC emphasized. IC reported 123 comments in favor of relaxing the code requirement in Canada and only 19 "clearly opposed." Another six comments were inconclusive. The regulatory agency also has attempted to gauge the level of support for each of RAC's 12 license restructuring recommendations. IC said it would formulate a plan to implement changes emerging from the consultation process. RAC notes that until IC announces a decision to delete Morse, Canadian amateurs not holding the Morse Qualification may not operate on the HF bands.

## Eyeball QSO – NM2L

During my last trip, Greg, NM2L, invited me to join him for a cup of coffee at a restaurant right off the Interstate in the Atlanta, GA, area. We yakked for a while, and it was great to meet another county hunter 'on the road'. I asked him to give me a little bit on how he got into county hunting, and he sent me the following.

“Who could have figured that an 11-yr old kid, who started out listening to his grandfathers’ short wave radio, would end up having such a great time traipsing around the countryside running CW counties 45 years later? It has been quite a ride and I have enjoyed it every step of the way.

Many times, County Hunters who take the time to be a little extra helpful or to provide a little extra guidance to a newbie can make a big difference and often “Elmer-ism” plants the seeds for many more counties to be run in the future. That was the case with me and although I have been very stealthily dabbling in and around County Hunting since 1988, I may never have made the effort to get the mobile running in the first place if it had not been for a couple of those guys that got me started and another that just made the ride a real pleasure.

One good example was Paul (WB2ABD), a guy who I barely know. I would be hard pressed to pick him out of small crowd. In fact, he probably has no idea that my mobile operations can be directly attributed to something he was up to way back in 1987. Paul was active in the Buffalo, NY area and was a friend of Dick (KA2AJT). Dick was a good friend of mine as well. In fact, I have been carrying his canoe all over the East Coast for about ten years now (but that is another story). So when Paul finally talked his buddy Dick into running some NY counties, there was some spill over there. When Dick pulled into my driveway running Oswego County on SSB, my interest in County Hunting



began. Every once in a while, I run a county Paul does not have yet and I know it is pretty rare because it pulls him out of the woodwork. I always say “Hi”, but I doubt he knows who I am or how we are connected. So when you get a new one from NM2L, you can in part thank Paul (WB2ABD) for his efforts back in '87.

The Buffalo-Oswego connection between ABD and AJT started a little fire smoldering that at times has raged like an inferno and at other times has barely managed to stay lit. I imagine my ham “career” has gone through several cycles that would be recognized by most of us who have been busy building a career, raising a family and trying to keep their lives balanced and in proper perspective. This was how my county hunting has been.

Not having a “12-volt” rig back then was a problem. My (28 volt) TS930S would certainly not fit the bill, but as luck would have it my wife came up with an idea about a vacation out west that included me, my mother-in-law, my father-in-law, an RV and our five pound poodle named Max. This how my 1988 county running expedition was born.

It turns out that the RV had a generator that could quietly be started up and allowed to run while the vehicle was in motion, so right away the wheels started turning. If I could only mount a mast somewhere on this behemoth we might be in business. Sure enough, there was one of those ladders on the back that I could mount a hustler mast to. All I had was a 20 meter resonator that I picked up at a hamfest, but I was ready to start my first County Hunting expedition. We took off and I ran counties all the way across the northern part of the country from NY to Wyoming, then down through Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and back to Oswego via the Southern route. It was great fun. We took back roads and I must have hit some “much needed” counties because as I recall there were some pretty big pile-ups at times. This of course was back before we moved and I lost my microphone, so I ran on both SSB and CW. (The loss of the microphone is another story).

During the trip out West, another of the guys that moved me along in County Hunting made an appearance. Here again, I don't think he has a clue that he had anything to do with me running counties in 2004, but sure enough he did.

This time it was Mitch (W4RKV). Now I am sure Mitch does not remember me, but I can still recall his voice as he very aptly kept the SSB net under control. Always a Southern gentleman, his courteous, friendly manner was a pleasure to listen to and after I got back home he was the first to take the time to thank me for running all those counties. He even “puffed me up” a little by telling me what great job I did for someone new to County Hunting. I have worked Mitch on the CW net once in a while (must be he needed a county or two) and I always try to say hello, but I doubt if he knows how connected we were back on that 88 trip.

After the 88 trip, my mobile operation ended for a while due to that darn 28 volt rig I had, plus my wife and I adopted 2 year-old twins and our lives were never the same again. When my TS930S bit the dust in 1999 after being in storage for a few years and surviving a trek from Oswego to South Carolina (a work related move), my mobile operation began again with a little Icom 706 MKII which I still operate to this day. I

have since tried to revive the TS930S, but a very qualified repairman has declared the rig to be terminally broken and so it has been donated to the scrap pile where it will serve to help others needing a part transplant for their TS930S. It had a long and fruitful run including both the '88 county hunting trip and my '89 Dxpedition to Mellish Reef and Willis Island (but that is yet another story).

At any rate, 1999 brought my first real 12 volt mobile operation with the same Hustler antenna that I used in 1988. I added a second coil for 40 meters and was off and running counties in South Carolina. Now, the 1988 logs are somewhere, but please don't ask me to find them. They are probably in the same place where I left my microphone. On the other hand, the 1999 logs are here and still in tact. All of my activity was on CW and once again I found another friend or two to help me along in County Hunting. Jerry (W0GXQ), Arden (AA0IP) and Jeff (W9MSE) always seemed to be around and were always very friendly and very helpful. Jerry's NCS help on the CW net and his friendly approach to newcomers was probably the glue that continued to hold me in the County Hunting mode. He took the time to ask my name and made a point to say hello whenever he heard me on the net.

A new and very demanding job and family responsibilities made my operation in South Carolina pretty limited. In fact, even though I had run a number of counties, my count was REALLY LOW. I had been running them, but had not really been working them!

Another move to another job in Atlanta (resulting in both the mystery of the missing 88 logs and of my microphone) provided an opportunity to be a little more active in County Hunting and I am having a great time with it. My work as a support engineer for a Telecom test equipment company has provided some opportunities to run a few counties here and there. Hopefully that will continue because I am having a real good time doing it.

The rig is still the Icom 706 MKII and mounted on the back of the Toyota Tundra is the same old hustler that I have used since 1988 (with the addition of a 30m resonator). This as a result of Bob (N4CD)'s efforts (along with others) that helped to bring 30 meters into the County Hunting picture not long ago. Unfortunately, my location restricts me to stealthy wire antennas at home, but with 30 meters going really well, I have high hopes of some day getting one of those certificates that 1100+ of you are currently sporting on your wall.

Losing that microphone and those 1988 logs has slowed my progress a little and my count doesn't have any SSB contacts in it at all. However, I am hoping that a few guys on SSB will dig out their keys one of these days and show up on 30 meters with a few new counties for me. Don't worry about code speed. I can copy really slow. Just come on down and help a novice County Hunter out."

73's,

Greg NM2L

# Coming Next Month

Next month will cover 'mobile club' calls and how it affects the awards process!  
Another 'on the road' column and more news of current events, topical analysis of subjects near to county hunters, and a column on County Hunter History and some details on Broadband via Power Lines (BPL) and how it could affect you!

See you next month.

De N4CD

## Errata

It seems a few gremlins slipped into the first edition of the County Hunter News. We note the following corrections:

The article entitled "On the Road with N4CD" indicated that Larry, N2OCW drove a 'pickup truck'. As seen later in the picture, N2OCW drives an SUV type vehicle.

In the article entitled "Marac in Paralysis for Months" it was noted that during the period in which no Board of Directors meetings occurred, that no treasurer's report was included in the RR. In fact, the treasurer's report was included in each edition of the County Line Road Runner.

The County Hunter News regrets these errors.