County Hunter News

August 1, 2013
Volume 9, Issue 8

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

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

The County Hunter News will provide you with interesting, thought provoking articles, articles of county hunting history, or about county hunters or events, ham radio or electronics history, general ham radio interest, and provide news of upcoming operating events.

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CW County Hunter Nets run on 14.0565, 10.122.5, and 7056.5, with activity occasionally on 3556.5 KHz. Also, there is SSB activity now is on 'friendly net' 7188 KHz. The cw folks are now pioneering 17M operation on 18.0915. (21.0565, 24.9155, and 28.0565 when sunspots better). Look around 18136 or for occasional 17M SSB runs usually after the run on 20M SSB. (21.336 and 28.336)

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

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

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

http://countyhunter.com/cq.htm

For general information FAQ on County Hunting, check out:

http://countyhunter.com/whatis.htm

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

http://countyhunter.com/marac_information_package.htm

The CW net procedure is written up at:

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

There is a lot more information at www.countyhunter.com . Please check it out.

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

Want county lines on your Garmin GPS?

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

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

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

Notes from the Editor

1) **July was a very good month for County Hunting.** There was lots of travel by mobiles all around the country on vacations and trips to the National. Activity was high most weekends and for two weeks, the nets were quite busy with mobiles headed to and from the National Convention in Deadwood, SD. Propagation always didn't cooperate with the FL folks being real challenged to hear the mobiles out in the far west. 17M was good at times and other days just didn't do much of anything. The 40M net was in full operation for two weeks as mobiles headed to the central part of the country and the frequency could be kept busy enough to keep others from moving in. Propagation wasn't all that great mid-day but with mobiles within a few hundred miles of each other there were lots of contacts made.

2) **Joe, N5UZW and Hollis, KC3X**, did a fantastic job of running the 20M net during convention time. At one point, there were 20 mobiles on the list, but everyone got to run, move off frequency, request a QSY to 40M or to CW, have a 'mobile contact' if needed, and of course, use phonetics. No newcomers got 'blasted' off the frequency, and a great time was had by all.

Folks QSY'ed up and at times, we had 2 or 3 frequencies going with helpers running mobiles off frequency as well.

3) **Bill, K2HVN in Alaska** – ran the Frist AK – then announced he was headed back to the 4th and 3rd AK. Stay tuned. More to come.

4) **National Convention** – The National Convention was held in Deadwood, SD - a great place with lots to see and do. We have full report of activities and happenings. If you haven't 'heard' the news via the K3IMC Forum or the MARAC home page– it was a 'shocker'.

While 50-60 active county hunters/spouses/friends made it to Deadwood, most of the county hunters were not able to attend, so we'll have a blow by blow recounting of what transpired at the convention. Well, most of it since I didn't attend all the activities. You can 'travel' along with N4CD.

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Mobile Activity - Late June/July

W9OO, Carl, headed west across NE

K7TM, Bob, was spotted in a few

Norm, W3DYA, was in PA

Jack, WD4OIN put out a few in NC on CW.

Jim, N4JT, was up in VA.

Jack, K0MAF, headed to Alaska – hoping to run 3rd and 4th districts.

Dick, W3ZUH headed to AK, but alas, no spots. He was planning on 4th and 2nd AK activation.

Paul, NU4C was putting them out back east.

Bill, WG9A, was spotted out in IL heading west through NE. .

Darl, NA8W, headed west putting them out. Did some sightseeing in the mountains of CO including a visit to Silverton in San Juan County.

Chuck, W3CR, spotted out and about in IA. Then WI.

Matt, W0NAC and Sharon, N0LXJ, were putting them out in CO.

Bill, W8LVN, headed out west – ND, MT and more.

Ed, K8ZZ, headed over to MN from MI.

WB0PYF was in WY and SD. Then running counties in MO.

Richard, AC0HW, and N9CJH – Big Rig drivers – were putting them out on SSB.

Bill, K2HVN, was in the First Judicial District of Alaska and ran it multiple days. The last day seemed the best as the A and K index finally dropped. The first few days he was there, the A index was in the 20s and higher.

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Then mobiles headed off to the convention and there was loads of activity! We'll cover some of that in the On the Road section. Too many to list.

After the convention – after the mobiles reached home – it was 'back to normal with a few folks still out on trips or vacations or heading 'somewhere'.

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After the convention, Leslie, WA4EEZ was down to 2 to go for WBOW for first time. Terry, WQ7A, was able to adjust his route home, giving her Benton, OR. Brian, NX0X, and Shari, KB0MHH, then took a trip down to Traverse, MN, to give her the LC for the WBOW.

Brian, NX0X with Shari KB0MHH
Traverse MN
LC WBOW for WA4EEZ

Shari, KB0MHH
Traverse MN
LC WBOW for WA4EEZ

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After the convention mobile activity:

Richard, AC0HW, was zipping around the country putting them out.

Ed, K8ZZ, put out a few in MI.

Chuck, W3CR, was putting out counties in IA and WI.

Seth, N3MRA, was 'on the road again' putting them out.

Gene, WB4KZW headed out on a trip running them on cw up to TN.

Tony, WA9DLB, was still on the road 10 days after the convention putting them out in MN.

Mark, W9OP, headed out in WI, IL, IN headed east through OH to WV.

Mac, W3DQT, was on in MD and VA.

Scott, KA3QLF, ran a few in PA for the folks.

Jerry, N5KGY, was out and about in MS on SSB.

End date 7/24/2013

On the Road with N4CD I

It was Sunday – the end of June. The A index on Saturday was up to the mid 30s and the K was 6 at one point. Yukky propagation - like not much of anything. Sunday started out with the A index at 55, but the K had dropped to 2. Not great but at least I was hearing signals. K7RE was mobile in WY - headed to meet some friends. W9OO ran some early in the morning in

NE. WB0PYF was on later in the day in WY.

A 'cool front' had come through and it was a bit cooler – headed only to the low/mid 90s for the day - Great county hunting weather. We've already seen some 'triple digits' the previous week.

Bob, N8KIE needed Grayson, TX, which is 'just up the road' from my QTH, for the LC for Mobile Diamond in TX. He's closing in, but of course, like everyone else, needs the AK Districts. It's a tough time to be in AK with the propagation.

Bill, K2HVN headed up to AK – was in Hyder, AK, which is sort of in a valley and tough to get signals back to the US. He worked K7INA on Saturday and K1TKL on Sunday. That was it! …..wow...a long way to drive for just a handful (and a small one) of contacts, but at least he had more than zero! (he did better a few days later).

It was a bit cooler on Sunday – only 85 deg at 10 am when I headed the 38 miles up to the County Line at the "County Line Road" crossing US 75. Isn't it great when you see exits a mile ahead for the C/L road? You can just be driving along, and get informed of the change of county – or where to stop if you want to run the line. That's not always possible as some C/L roads have no parking or horrendous power lines along them for a while. This is out in the middle of nowhere. Some states have hundreds of 'county line roads' while others have none. Texas has a fair number in the west half with the 'square' counties but percentage wise, not many. KS and NE and SD and other states have many – but they are often gravel roads. Back in the old days, you could actually be driving along a county line road and putting out both counties at the same time. Now, to run both, you must be stopped.

Nothing to report of significance about the trip – took about 45 minutes to get up there, and worked a dozen folks from Grayson. 20M worked, just a few on 17, nothing on 30 and zip on 40M. Below 20M was very poor. It's not rare – I run it a few times a year, K6JN/W6XJN, Cliff/Nelda run it a few times a year.

Then I figured I'd try and hunt up a Denton County sign for the database. There just aren't County Signs as the south end of the county in populated areas, so I'd go off in the 'boonies' of very north Collin to reach the 'boonies' of northern Denton and try to find a road that has a sign. So far, I'd tried about 15 roads at the south end of the county with no success. I'd been foiled at every attempt to date.

After Grayson, I headed south a bit then caught highway 455 going west. It's not much more than a paved cowpath – it twists and winds and you average probably 35 mph through small towns of Weston over to Celina. There are lots of farms, cows, and 'farmettes' and 'ranchettes'. It seems some Dallasites like to move to 'mini horse ranchettes' of 2 to 5 acres, build gigantic houses of 4000-10,000 sq feet, have several acres of grass to mow, have 5 car garages, and are in the middle of nowhere. Worse, they can't even put up a ham radio tower in most 'subdivisions'. We're talking $400,000 and up houses here, and you see 'subdivisions' of them

scattered along the road, mixed in with the large farms. It's really strange why someone would want the 'privacy' of 5 acres, surrounded by similar houses, with five acres of grass to cut (or pay someone to cut at probably $100-150/week), plus of course, watering that much grass. Well, I'm glad some folks have lots of money. Probably every yard has large, barking, yapping dogs, too. They seem to go with the territory. A few have a horse or two.

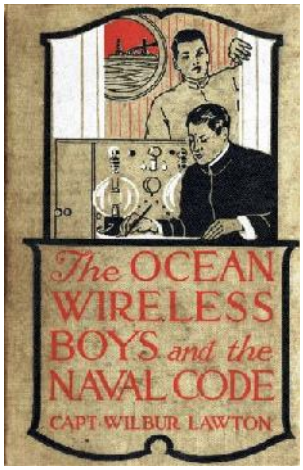
You do lots of winding and twisting on the roads. Eventually you get to 428 and head another couple miles west and reach the County Line of Collin/Denton. Success! There's a real County Sign for Denton on that small road. Finally!

The elusive Denton County Sign!

A bit down the 'county line road' where I ran, I was sitting next to a field of sunflowers – all pointing south. Nice view as I ran the county. Not many takers around as I run Denton all the time and Collin is my home county. I'm good for 'natural bingo in both' something that rarely happens! After a dozen failed attempts, I finally got the picture! Then it was back to the home QTH.

'Twas 80 miles round trip for a nice Sunday morning jaunt and a LC given out. Not much else happening on the radio with the horrible conditions.

Ocean Boys and the Navy Code



This month it's another WIRELESS adventure by Captain Wilbur Lawton, copyright 1915. You can read the whole book in a morning when no mobiles are out running. It was mightly quiet during the winter months.

Jack, the lead character, continues his adventures from previous books. He's already been in the Ocean Wireless Boys and the Atlantic Liner (previously reviewed) plus the Ocean Wireless Boys and the Iceberg and two other books as well. This was a whole series of books issued one after the other to keep the youth of the time period entertained. Heck, then there was no broadcast radio yet – that didn't start for another 6-7 years! Books came out a few months apart so the kids had something to buy. There weren't even comic books back then!

It's still the era of the spark wireless and galena crystal detectors and coherers and similar. Most everyone operates on 600 meters plus or minus. Hams, commercial stations, the military.

The story starts out with the boys on vacation enjoying themselves among the islands. They've got a few weeks before they set sail on the Columbia, a brand new ocean liner – which will be the fastest ship to sail between North America and Europe. There's half a dozen adventures as they get shipwrecked on an island, meet some intriguing characters, and get into more trouble than most people in their lives in the first 15 chapters of the book.

They run into Captain Simms, who is working on a new 'code' for the navy. It turns out some nasty characters are waiting for him to finish it and to steal and sell it. It will be used it to get a big contract for an ailing firm who is willing to pay big bucks to have it.

It's back to work for them on an ocean liner.

The trip to England has another half dozen adventures, including rescuing the crew and passengers from a sinking ship that hit an iceberg. That ship was carrying live circus animals between zoos so you can imagine trying to rescue folks with wild lions and tigers set loose. Or not.

Anyway, they make it to Europe and return back home with many adventures. Then they hear the 'code' has been stolen from Captain Simms and also see the suspected perps while about town on leave. They try to track them down and find out what names they are using as aliases.

Jack has also been working on a Universal Decoder (some sort of tuner) during the trip. It allows him to listen on 'other frequencies' , unlike the fixed tuned detectors on nearly all ships and other fixed installations. There's intrigue on that, too, as one of his fellow wireless operators tries to cash in on that invention.

The wireless boys manage to interrupt the plans of the fleeinkg perps who have managed to set sail for Europe with the code in their possession. Jack uses wireless and the telephone to coordinate having them arrested by a navy ship which intercepts the ship of the fleeing thieves of the navy code. Using wireless of course. There's lots of talk of sending and receiving messages, but near zero technical details. Still, not a bad 3 hour read and of course, the price is right.

It’s another of the free books on Project Gutenberg. The copyright has expired, so you can enjoy.

Download here

http://www.gutenberg.org/files/26778/26778-h/26778-h.htm

West Virginia QSO Party

Yes three was a WV QSO Party in June. If you were on SSB, you had a few more stations to chase. Otherwise, on cw it was slim pickings. From the logs submitted on the 3830 contest reflector – it looks like you could made 10 CW and 23 or so SSB contacts.

From the 3830 reflector:

KK4CIS/8

Many thanks to the WV State ARC and all of the participants for a very fun QSO party. My apologies to the stations I just couldn't pull out of the noise. I was running portable out in the backyard without a headset and my noise level was very high all day long on 40m.

Did not find a lot of callers on CW, so stuck to SSB for most of the time I was on. Very much looking forward to next year's WVQP.

KN4Y:

This activity was a poor choice to operate CW. A few fixed stations and two mobiles each in a hurry to QSY to SSB. The signals were good and so were the chocolate cashews. Better than being outdoors in the 90+ heat. almost.

Spotted on W6RK was W8WVA in Kanawha, N2OCW/m on 14339 in Pocahontas, KD8GKR in Barbour, KD8MQ and K3JT in Monongalia. Lots of the SSB activity was on 40M, too. W8YS was in Marion on 40 SSB.

We could use a 'team' mobile effort to get all these counties on the air one year. That would be nice.

On the Trail of Regens I

At the Dayton Hamvention, I picked up a DVD from the G-QRP booth that has 40 years of Sprat Magazine. That's the publication of the G-QRP club - - a newsletter that comes out a few times a year. It's devoted to low power communications. The DVD contains issues from the start in 1970 up through 2010 – 40 years worth. It's $10 if you are a G-QRP member, or $15 for the rest of us.

A quick scan shows over 180 articles indexed. Naturally, I checked it for regen receiver articles and there's a pile of them in there. There's even some buried in 'transceiver' articles where they use a regen rx. There's dozens of articles on Direct Conversion designs as well as dozens on simple superhets. If you are a QRP enthusiast, or just enjoy 'build it yourself' articles, it's a great resource.

You've got articles on modifications to the HW-7,8 and 9 Health-kit QRP rigs still floating around in large numbers as well as other kits, antenna articles, construction articles and you can just about name it and there's an article about it. GOOD READING.

Here's a small sample with the issue number

143 – The TakeAway 2 transistor Regen using a simple grounded base RF stage with a MOS-FET regen detector, reflexed back into the first stage as an emitter follower driving a 500 ohm type headset. Cute. The same issue has a simple transceiver that uses a 2 transistor regen in it.

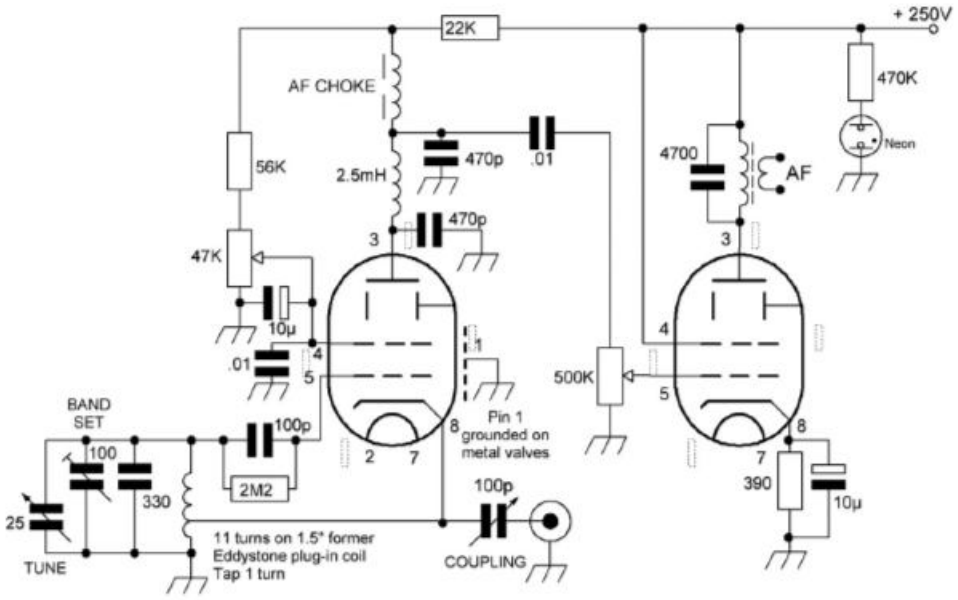
143 – The 2x3 Transceiver – uses a 2 transistor regen with about 19 parts, and another 17 or so for the transmitter part. About as simple as you can get The regen is a bipolar detector with a single audio amp stage driving an earphone.

Issue 145 has the Easy Five Receiver – which is an upgraded MB4 receiver described earlier and produced by Kanga Kits in the UK. It's a simple 2N3819 FET with a toroid with feedback winding, an RF amp stage, and a 3 stage audio amp driving a crystal earphone. It was designed to cover 40-20-17 meters, and with a cap added 80m.

In the same issue, they have the Sprite Regen – a one transistor job – 2N3819 FET coupled to a LM386 audio chip set for 60dB gain. It used a Toyo coil, no longer available, so you'll have to wind your own on a T-50-2 or T-50-6 toroid (instructions here

http://www.gqrp.com/making_a_toroidal_kank.pdf)

Issue 147 has a 6V6 two tube regen – standard regen – Hartley(tapped coil) and a audio amp stage to drive earphones. It does use a hard to find 30H audio choke, though. IF you've got a spare BC 221 frequency meter around, you can steal one out of that!



Two Tube Hartley Regen using 6V6 tubes

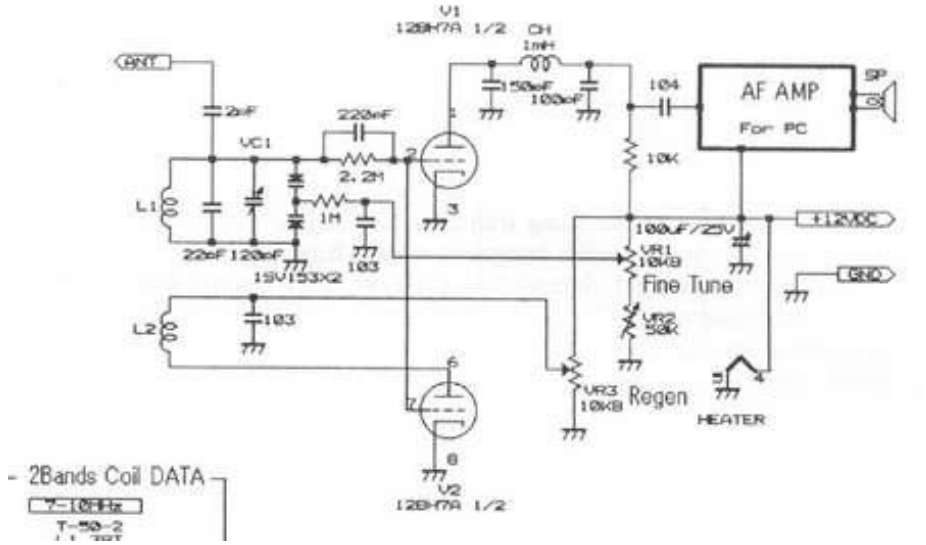
Issue 140 has a 4 tube regen using 12v on the plates of the tubes. (space charge mode). The design used surplus Russian tubes available all over Europe.

In issue 135, there's a One Tube All Continents SW set with a Russian 12SH1L tube – takes a loctal socket – and uses a T-68 toroid. Drives a pair of 32 ohm Chinese earphones – like for he iPods and other things these days. It uses 12v on the plate.

Issue 132 has discussion of the Super Gainer – which uses a regenerative IF after a front end/mixer arrangement. That was common in the 1930s as folks moved up in frequency. Even after WW2, folks used surplus ARC-5s for the VLF range as second and 3rd Ifs to improve selectivity. Regens at lower frequencies are a lot more stable and you can get better selectivity at lower frequencies. Thus, putting a mixer ahead of a regenerative "IF" strip worked well before hams dived into building super hets – which quickly become complex with 5 or 8 or 10 tubes before you know it. This article talks about other articles in Technical Topics (a UK version of QEX).

Issue 124 has a 'Universal Receiver' which uses a regenerative IF tuning 1.8 to 3 MHz.

Here's a somewhat unusual design tube regen from the winter 2004/5 issue – nr 121 – by JA9MAT . It uses a 12BY7A tube, run off 12v. It's unusual in that the oscillator part of the regen is separate from the detector. Simple to make coil – L1/L2 for SW is a T-50-2 core – 39T and 4 Turns. For the BC bands, a ferrite 'slab' coil. Now a days, you go to your local flea market, garage sale, or even spend the 10-11 bucks for a PC audio system – which gives you all the gain you need for the AF amp. Don't even have to build them these days! It uses 'fine tuning' using a varicap diode.



That's just a sampling of the regen receivers – the DVD is full of transmitter and transceiver and other project ideas! A good deal for $15.

New Car Problems

On the way home from Dayton in May, my car gave me a small bit of grief. All of a sudden, the warning system displayed a message 'service tire pressure monitor system'. Duh!.....not only that, but it seemed that the left front tire pressure was reading " - - ". Not wanting to drive on a potentially flat tire, I got off the interstate and checked the left front tire with my handy dandy tire pressure gauge. Checked the others, too, just in case the tires had been rotated but the TPMs not reset for the right position. Everything was reading 'normal'. So it was back on the road. About 50 miles later, it started working fine again. OK.....must have been some kind of 'flakey'.

Not be be...another 100 miles later, it happened again. Then another couple dozen miles it came back on. Hmmmm????

When I got home, I headed over to the Discount Tire Store, where I bought the tires, to see what was going on. They took off the tire just to check. They said that sometimes the screw that holds the Tire Pressure Monitor (TPM) to the valve stem could work lose and cause problems. Nope, it was fine.

They gave me several options, including not doing anything, or replacing the TPMs. Seems that the TPMs have batteries in them and typically last 5-6 years – then fail. Each tire on the Malibu has a pressure sensor that reports back every couple minutes on the pressure in the tire. Eventually the battery goes dead – time and miles. Or gets weak so it becomes intermittent. Or, in some cases, they just fail.

Since I was about to head out on another 4000-5000 mile trip, I elected to replace it. $50. The car had 115,000 miles on it and on the 3rd set of tires.

Discount Tire wants to sell you a TPM 'rebuilt' kit every time you buy new tires. Supposedly it puts some O rings and other things on them to keep them working right.

So – with all the new electronic reporting systems required by the feds – be prepared to spend a few more bucks replacing things over time. It's nice to have the tire pressures – you can monitor them – and decide to add air if you go to much colder climates like CO. Keeping tires at the right pressure saves you money in better fuel mileage.

I guess over the next few years, I'll be replacing the other three.

On the Road with N4CD II

The annual convention was scheduled for Deadwood, South Dakota, so it was time to plan a trip to clean up a bunch of needs in WY and MT. This would be another 'connect the dots' trip. My needs included about 8 in MT and 3 in WY. Scottie, N4AAT needed one in WY for MD and there were handfuls of needs. Of course, with the convention coming up, mobiles would be running all over SD, ND, MT,and other nearby states. Terry, WQ7A was hitting his MD needs and those of others. Scottie, N4AAT would be on the road.

Many others had listed trips on the K3IMC planned trips page (a great resource). Ron, N5MLP was now working on running 500 counties for Mobile Diamond and also working to finish transmitting from all of Colorado. He would need 3 contacts on each of 2 bands plus a 'qualifying contact' to get credit for the county. With the forest fires/mud slides now happening on some of the CO roads, his plans would have to change a few times. Jeff, AF3X, had to run a bunch to finish up reaching his goal of getting to all 3077 counties. Long trips from the west coast (WQ7A, KC7YE, K1TKL) were listed and folks from the east coast planned on long trips (WA3QNT, NX4W, NA8W, KA1YZV, etc). Don, K3IMC, flew to Salt Lake City then headed to South Dakota. There would be 20 or more mobiles to be chasing/working along the way!

MapQuest is great for planning many trips. I use it to figure out the distances between turning points (cities) to get the distances/time. The first order of business was copying the state maps from the coloring book for planning purposes. On that, I put my Mobile Diamond needs, those of others, plus the other needs from the K3IMC special needs page. I also copy the US map from the back of the book – it helps to get the big picture. I put all my needs in in 'red', and list LC and other needs in the counties,. Then I 'connect the dots' - which is sometime easy – sometimes it takes multiple attempts to figure out the best route around the state to get the 'best way' or least amount of time. Or find a place with a motel for the night! You can go 300 miles in MT without even a gas station along the route if you avoid the big cities/towns.

Since this was going to be 4th of July weekend during my trip – and with the sparse motels in MT – not many out in the boonies off the interstate (and not that many even on the interstate other than the several big cities) – I carefully figured out my motels. This time of year, there can be rodeos, car shows, family re-unions, weddings, etc, that fill up every motel in a town (someones only one or two), with the next one 75 miles down the road. I reserved all of them till I got to Deadwood.

Eastern MT is also in the 'shale oil/gas' exploration and development areas which covers parts of WY, MT, and ND. In Williston, ND, the Motel 6 is $150 a night, if you can even get a room.

Most of the time, I just go and worry about a motel in the late afternoon, figuring out where I'll be in a few hours then calling ahead. Not this trip, and not to Montana unless you are staying right along the interstate and even that can be a problem as a few county hunters found out! Eastern MT, parts of WY and ND are in the oil/gas shale field – and have tens of thousands of workers flooding in, looking for living space.

Initially I planned on two long days of 750 miles to get up to MT.....then I told myself not to over do it...and broke it down to 3 days of 500 miles each. There's nothing 'interesting' until I I'm 500 miles from home – or 'rare'. It would take 1000 miles just to get to the first 'needed' Mobile Diamond county to put out! Needless to say, I was running everything I passed through. If net was busy, I'd move myself down 2 and run, or start on a different band. The first few days, half the CW regulars were still at home so that worked well. Later, as they hit the road, there weren't too many left to spot runs on 40 and 30M cw.

I took over 60 pictures of county line signs (Percy Pics)– but, dang, nearly all of them were already in the data base. Gary, K4EXT, did receive the half dozen 'new ones' to add in.

Day 1 -

Day 1 was just up Interstate 35 right up through OK and into KS,then up route 135 headed to the America Best Value Inn in Belleville, KS (Republic County) for the night. My antenna stopped working in mid OKLA....hmm....what 's going on here? High SWR all bands. Dang....250 miles from home and main antenna not working. I took apart the mount, sanded the ground where the coax is held against the mag mount.....put it back together …..but that didn't fix the problem. Double dang. This is not the way to start a 4000 mile trip.

Fortunately, I had a spare mount assembly/ cable from Lakeview in the trunk, and on the side of the road in OKLA on some teeny road off the interstate, I took apart the mag mount again, replaced the entire cable/mount – and that cured the problem. Lakeview is out of business now, so I'll have to repair the old one to have as a spare. I suspect the cable has a broken coax lead...didn't trouble shoot it any further. Their coax connectors often go bad – they are crimped and I've replaced a few coax connectors, but I don't travel with a soldering iron. Things were back to working. Back on course after 30 minutes spent fixing things. IN THE RAIN. Murphy was riding along. I had the 40M hamstick SSB whip in the back seat along with another mount for it to use later when I got up north. The first part of the trip would be 99% CW.

With only about 500 miles planned, I could take a detour to Mitchell, KS, for Scottie, N4AAT, his last in KS. That would save him having to drive there on the way to SD.

In addition, I was able to take another detour after getting up to KS to drive over to Washington, KS – the LC for DL6KVA in KS. It was a longer detour than expected from the map but not a problem. Then it was on to the motel and dinner. Wow – two LC's in KS just

short detours off the route. Well, each one added in another 30-40 miles to the trip but that's what county hunting is about. I sent off pictures of the C/L to both. It was a good start to the trip.

I've stayed there in Belleville, KS, probably 4 or 5 times. The motel has changed names about 3 times in 15 years but still a decent place ot stop. ($55 including tax). The band conditions weren't great – it seems for the past month, it's been not much other than day after day of high A index followed by a decent day or two, then back to high A index days. It rained on and off a part of the time. 512 miles the first day.

There's a restaurant next door that's fairly decent. Dinner was smothered chicken, a sweet potato and beans They have a decent breakfast at the motel, too.

Day 2

From Republic County, KS, the route was north up through the lower part of NE to the interstate going west. I had 500 miles to go and more interesting counties to run so it was keeping the car moving at the speed limit (plus a few). Gosper NE turned out to be LC for N8KIE and was a short detour off the interstate to get that for him.

The NE interstate moves – 75 mph speed limit – so you really make time. Then again, it's a big state. I headed off the interstate toward Scotts Bluff – through Garden, NE – wow – a giant pile up ensued. Must be a 'needed county'! Hi hi It was a LC for W3DYA.

This is one of the routes of the mass migration west back in the mid 1850s. Between 1841 and 1869, an estimated 400,000 people traveled the Oregon Trail from St. Joseph, MO to the west coast. The route follows along the current interstate then up toward Scott's Bluff. Along the way, you see the prominent Chimney Rock. The trip took six months by horse wagon, walking, and was deadly to many – many children and adults died along the way. With most of the wagons overloaded, nearly everyone 'walked' all the way west – 15 miles a day on a good day.

Chimney Rock – along the Oregon Trail - Morrill County

Other couple hundred thousand followed the route (river valley) into WY to UT – the mass migrations west. If you're a telegraph historian – the first telegraph followed the trails west, too, connecting the forts and small towns along the way – back in the 1860s/70s. It wouldn't be long before you could send a telegram to the west coast and it would arrive in a couple of hours as it got relayed along the way. For not much more than a year, you had the Pony Express heading west – but it didn't last long – the railroads quickly followed the same route and put it out of business – along with the telegraph. Instead of 10 days coast to coast – you could do it by rail in that time or less – and send a telegram in half a day or less.

Here's a sign you don't see – it was at the visitor center.

There were other signs in Spanish, Japanese, Chinese and a couple other languages. Hopefully they didn't lose too many tourists there.

I was ahead of schedule and had just changed time zones so had an extra hour for sightseeing. There' s a nice visitor center at Chimney Rock so I stopped by to do some sightseeing. (Morrill County) Chimney rock, while impressive still today, rising 300 feet above the terrain, was another 100 feet taller back then. It's slowly eroding away and in another couple hundred years probably will be nothing other than a large hill. It's in the 'middle of nowhere' and was a landmark that could be seen for 20 miles guiding folks along the route. It's a National Historic Site and the visitor center is run by the State of NE. The Ethel and Christopher J. Abbot Visitor Center features museum exhibits and a video about pioneers and the migrations in the West,

At the end of the day, I arrived at the Motel 6 in Torrington, WY (Goshen County). $55 and no senior, AAA or AARP discount. If you wind up in this town, stay at the America Best Value in across the street – seems most people do – their parking lot was full while the Motel 6 only had a few. Strangely, the Motel 6 was a former Days Inn – the signs were still lying behind the office area and the motel looked like a typical Days Inn of the old style. The room worked but next time if I'm there again, I hit the other motel. Dinner was across the street at Deacon's Restaurant - a BBQ plate. So far on schedule and 1067 miles from home in two days. Weather was good today.

Day 3 -

Ah, finally I reached some really needed counties – the clustered 'dots' along the route. There were 3 in WY on my list to transmit from and get credit for MD. Scottie needed Weston WY for a LC and we hooked up. Turns out it was also a LC for Gene, K5GE. Seems a bunch had missed those along the east edge of WY and I skipped them last month on my WY trip – knowing I'd be back there soon. Success! Niobrara, Weston, Crook went into the log, then it was back to the interstate. There's lots of 'nothing' out that way – miles and miles between small towns and it would get to where there were even more miles and miles between towns and even smaller towns in MT.

Leo, WY7LL, has on his QRZ web page about WY:

Greetings from The " COWBOY " State. Some where between no where and no place, where there are more COWS and less milk, more rivers and less water, and you can see farther and see less than any other place in the world.

That pretty accurate about that part of WY! (Crook County – his home county).

What's this? Jack, K0MAF is S9 plus 40 on 20M SSB along the interstate just before we get to MT. He's mobile in a large motor home, headed to a RV convention in Fairbanks, AK. We yak for a bit off frequency on 20M SSB. He didn't have time to stop so eventually I catch up

with hm and we wave at each other. He's doing about 55-60 and the cars are doing 75 mph. He's got a large RV and had a little shoe size Smart Car behind it. Even though it had a separate antenna on it, Jack said it's not good for anything more than running local errands. It is very uncomfortable and, no, he definitely wasn't going to take it up to the Second District (350 miles on gravel roads – one way) and put it out! With the propagation up there, you might not even work anything after the long drive – unless you brought along a ham friend. Dick, W3ZUH, was headed there and I haven't seen a single spot for him. He's likely home by now in CA.

The interstate moved fast. I had a bit of extra time so I took the 7-8 mile detour off the interstate to get Carbon, MT. When I got there, Russ, K7INA, said 'Really"? Either he needed it or was wondering how I got there. Or he was unhappy I 'only' gave him 'only' a 559. I give lots of 559s and I don't watch the S meter on the radio. Loud is if you are on the right audio frequency and rattle my speaker. Otherwise, in a pile up, everyone is usually 559. Hi hi

It's just a short detour off the interstate – of course, you'll be there for half an hour running the county since it isn't always put out. Most mobiles just trek along the interstate making miles. I sat on the side of the road for half an hour. This was Sunday afternoon after the 4th – and there must have been a thousand motorhomes that passed by, coming from Yellowstone National Park headed to the interstate. It's a two lane road, and the traffic was continuous for the half hour I sat there moving at 40-50 mph. Wow! There must have been a half million at Yellowstone for the holiday. They didn't bother me – not like the train that came past once or twice and made a bunch of QRN on the radio until the engine got by! Hi hi Then it was back to the Interstate 90 and more miles going by at 75 mph through Big Horn, Yellowstone, Stillwater and Sweet Grass.

Montana has some interesting 'convenience' stores. It seems in many 'bumps in the road' towns, there's Lil Lills – a combination gas station, fast food place, and casino all in one. I must have seen two dozen of them while in the state for a few days.

Most of the day was spent making miles to get to Big Timber, MT and the Super 8 there. There's not much there – two motels, one at each end of 'town', two gas station/convenience/casino stores, and a pizza place that is closed on Sundays. Horror! It was pizza night and the only place for pizza was CLOSED on Sunday. I had a ham steak dinner at the restaurant at the motel – not bad but not pizza. There's only a couple hundred folks in the town, and likely half that many tourists at the two motels and campground.

The Super 8 was nice, but you are going to pay $70 or $80 out this way for a decent motel it seems. ($81 including tax) They have a short summer season – and if you aren't in a big city with a Motel 6 and others competing on price – you are a captive audience. I was headed north from here to the boonies and it was a good place on the interstate to stop. The motel seemed fairly full. Now I had traveled 1621 miles from home in 3 days.

Day 4

Waffles for breakfast – one of the few advantages of a 'larger Super 8'. Yum! They had not only regular ones but chocolate waffles. Didn't try it – guess that's for the kids. Somehow, chocolate for breakfast doesn't seem right!

Now it was time to head north to Wheatland on route 191 then west over toward Lake, MT, on route 12. Terry, WQ7A was also scheduled to hit Lake later in the day, and Mary, AB7SEN and Ken, K7SEN, hit it early in the morning. They had a good run. I needed a Mobile Diamond contact there. Either I catch up with Terry, or I'd have to drive there and work another MP holder from the county.

It was over the Continental divide on Route 12 – hitting MacDonald Pass at 6320 feet. Over the mountains...then back to flatter land again. Eastern MT is mostly flat, with the mountains in the west half and NW corner.

I put the 40m antenna mag mount on the car – and it didn't work. Dang.....Murphy was messing up my antennas. I took apart the 40m mag mount on the side of the road, sanded the ground connection, checked the center lead. All seemed OK. Must be another bad coax. I had no spare. Then I remembered deep in the truck I had one of the old, old 3 magnet (little 3" ones) spare mount. I dug it out – probably gone 400,000 miles and never needed. After I put the 40m hamstick on it – it needed tweaking – it was working. I was sitting on the side of the road just before route 12 hits I-90.

About that time, I had missed Terry in Lake! He had already run 40m, and just ran on 20M SSB. Dang. Just finished up and not a peep. Well, fortunately with friendly net controls on 20M SSB (N5UZW and KC3X – doing a fantastic job), I could ask for Terry to go back to 40M SSB. That worked and it saved me about 150 miles of driving since I could shorten the route, skip Lake, MT and head back north to Pondera County (town of Conrad) for the night. That worked out well since it still took me till 5:30 to get to the Super 8 motel there – and it would have been at least another 3 hours of driving if I had to make it to Lake myself! Thanks Terry! And friendly NC's. Don't ever try that with Mr Grouchy running the net. You can't mention 40M or ask to have mobiles QSY there. Never, Ever. You've been warned! If you aren't a mobile ready to run a county – don't even speak on 20m when he's around. No questions, queries or 'move a mobile' like the old days.

Hollis, KC3X, and Joe, N5UZW, were doing a great job of handling things on 14336. No one got yelled at, scolded, or 'run off' the frequency. Everyone got to run. You could mention 40M and 'cw'. Or 17M. Ron, N5MLP needed 3 contacts on another band beside 20M, so he recruited others to go to 17M. Hollis and Joe would zip up there if they could work it in between running the mobiles. Everyone tried to make sure folks got the needed contacts.

After working Terry, I could backtrack on route 12, then hit 141 northwest, then Montana 200

headed Northeast up the the day's destination. Once again, it was back over the Continental Divide at Rogers Pass 5610 feet AMSL. Otherwise, there wasn't a whole lot of mountain driving on this trip.

That night it was another Super 8 in Conrad, MT. ($77) I've been there before. There aren't too many Super 8s in the entire state. No Motel 6 here. Larry, W7FEN, needed Toole, MT just to the north for a LC, but it seems that Mary, AB7NK got there before I did and she gave Larry the last county on CW. I was listening in. Way to go! Folks were cleaning up the needs left and right and likely every county got run, and many got run 3, 4 or 5 times. There's only so many (3) routes from east to west/west to east across the state – the interstate, route 2 or route 12 through Meagher, Petroleum, Garfield. Lots of folks would be taking at least parts of the same route – just not that many choices! Who ever got there first got to give out the LC if they had the needed mode, and qualifications for whatever 'award' was needed. The idea is to get folks finished up!

Wow....WD5JGS on CW? Later he would tell me that this was his 'first ever' contact on the County Hunter Nets/ Frequency on cw! He needed the county!

Dinner was at the local pizza place – good – and by the time I was done, there were 35 people in there. It took me 20 minutes to find the place despite 'good directions'. It's buried behind the NAPA parts place. If you don't go through the parking lot of NAPA, you never see the entrance to the pizza place! Otherwise, you just drive by, never 'finding it' and circle the block a few times, wondering why you can't 'find it'. The pizza was delicious. While it was Monday, I had missed Sunday night pizza night. For me, it's 'once a week' pizza – otherwise the midsection will 'bulge' from to much 'indulge'. Hi hi If you're in Conrad, stop by at Coaches Corner Pizza, Inc.

Now a days, you can often search on line and even get reviews about places. Of course, sometimes they are a bit biased. Here's one review about the pizza place I saw:

“Well, I am a little biased! This is my mom and dad's restaurant. Hands down the best! I haven't had it for about five years now, but I sure do miss it! I crave it all the time and brag about it every chance I get when someone tells me they are going to Montana! I love you mom and dad!”

hi hi

the other reviews were good – and it was about the only 'sit down' pizza place in the town.

2072 miles from home in four days.

Day 5

In the morning it was up to Toole, MT then east on Highway 2 – a sparsely populated road in a even sparser populated area. You are less than 20 miles from Canada and winters are pretty brutal up there. There are teeny towns every 30-50 miles and bigger places every 100 miles as you head east. Several mobiles would trek along route 2. That got me to Phillips, MT, a LC for DL6KVA.

17M was working better than 20cw to Europe most of the time. Signals weren't great, but DL5ME made it into the log many times, and DL6KVA quite a few times. Only a few times for DL3IAC. Vic, SM7ZDI was on for a bit, then his radio quit working again and he is off the air until the radio comes back again from the repair shop. You'll hear JH7VHZ on Friday afternoons – Saturday morning in Japan until late Saturday US time when he has to go back home. He's got a good contest grade station he drives to on weekends to work DX and counties.

I headed 200 miles east to Blaine, then over 100 miles south to get Fergus, then east again through Petroleum (LC for WA4EEZ, Leslie), Garfield . Terry WQ7A was nearby. We yakked at each other a bit on 40M SSB. He was stopped and I went by him. Later, I had to stop to avoid running out of the county,and he sailed on by. We decided to grab some chow in Garfield County – at the first stop in a long long time. I had gone over 350 miles – and not a gas station for the last 150 miles – it was definitely time for chow and some gas and when we hit the first town, we both stopped for a nice lunch at the Hill Top Cafe (up for sale if you want to run a restaurant in Garfield County). We had a nice lunch, then both headed for the next gas station to fill up. Not too many there. Then we both headed east. Seems I'd been at that gas station before, too. It looked very familiar. There aren't too many roads and towns in this 'neck of the woods' in MT!

Then it was off to get Richland, one of those 'dots'. That night I stopped just south from there in Dawson County in the 'city' of Glendive' off the interstate. It took me a bit of searching to find a motel when trip planning– seems things were pretty full out that way. You're getting close to the oil shales of the Bakken in ND with tens of thousands of oil field workers and transients. That night it was a Days Inn – the Super 8 was full when I tried to get a room the week before departing on the trip. .

Well, whaddaya know! Bob, KA9JAC and Ann, KB9YVT are staying at the same motel. We were yakking a bit on 40M SSB after a run – and discovered we were 20-30 miles apart and headed to the same place. Yep, I arrive and there's the KA9JAC mobile with call letter plates. Ann spotted me headed to the room – and we all said hello – and headed eventually to the nearby restaurant for dinner. It was quite good with a decent salad bar and even a desert thrown in for the 'meal price'.

2614 miles from home in five days.

Day 6

It was just a couple hundred miles more to the motel at Deadwood, SD but there wasn't too much reason to arrive too early. In most cases, rooms aren't ready until mid/late afternoons in giant motels capable of handling the 30 plus rooms needed by the county hunter folks.

Still, I had to hit Prairie, Powder River and Carter for MD. Scottie, N4AAT, needed two of them. He tried from 'down in the gulch' at Deadwood to work me – but getting a signal out of there was tough. He headed out of the motel to a 'high spot for a better chance of hearing me'. With all the signal sucking iron/minerals in the soil, it was tough to get signals out of the Black Hills. We finally looked up on 40M SSB for the first one, and on 40M CW for the other – barely barely in there. Conditions weren't great on 40M.

Despite Murphy, all the needed 'dots' had been reached and there was nothing left that I had to run. The way home could be anyway that seemed to work – no more dots left. Scottie was down to just AK to finish up for the Mobile Diamond award, along with Bob, N8KIE and who knows who else? Several aren't saying.

While the hospitality room was already open, most folks were off doing other things However, I still arrived by noon. Yep, the room wouldn't be ready until 'after 3pm' so I had some time to explore. So far it had been a decent trip after dealing with Murphy and the antenna problems. I picked up my convention package and name tag.

The convention hotel/motel was the Deadwood Gulch Resort. Nice – with a big, giant, convention center were all the CH activities would take place. . You could also lose your money in the casino there. Or any of the other dozens in the town.

The convention center – Meeting Room
N4AAT mobile on the right

The trip odometer read 2908 miles from home – the county hunter way getting there. It was time for some sightseeing and 'meet and greet' and yak and yak.

To be continued.

Oh, the Irony

In his big speech on climate change today, President Obama mocked Republicans who deny the existence of man-made global warming by derisively referring to them as members of "the Flat Earth Society."

"We don't have time for a meeting of the Flat Earth Society," Obama said. "Sticking your head in the sand might make you feel safer, but it's not going to protect you from the coming storm." As it turns out, there is a real Flat Earth Society and its president thinks that anthropogenic climate change is real. In an email to Salon, president Daniel Shenton said that while he "can't speak for the Society as a whole regarding climate change," he personally thinks the evidence suggests fossil fuel usage is contributing to global warming.

"Most people react quite strongly to them because the Round Earth model is so deeply ingrained in them since childhood — it's one of those 'facts' that doesn't need to be challenged. When an opposing viewpoint is presented, it's summarily dismissed as 'crazy' or 'backward'. "It's unfortunate that Flat Earth Theory is what some people (President Obama, for instance) choose to reference when they need an example of something absurd," he added."

Source: http://www.salon.com/2013/06/25/flat_earth_society_believes_in_climate_change/

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If the Flat Earth People are as 'correct' on 'global warming' as they are on the 'flat earth', you can't get a much more moronic ironic comparison by Obama. Truly demented.

Too many people are drinking the 'global warming' or 'global climate change' Kool-Aid. Then proposing to fleece you with massive redistribution taxes for 'social justice' purposes.

Solar Cycle News

Updated 6/30 /2013

The current prediction for Sunspot Cycle 24 gives a smoothed sunspot number maximum of about 67 in the Summer of 2013. The smoothed sunspot number has already reached 67 (in February 2012) due to the strong peak in late 2011 so the official maximum will be at least this high. The smoothed sunspot number has been rising again over the last four months. We are currently over four years into Cycle 24. The current predicted and observed size makes this the smallest sunspot cycle since Cycle 14 which had a maximum of 64.2 in February of 1906.

Predicting the behavior of a sunspot cycle is fairly reliable once the cycle is well underway (about 3 years after the minimum in sunspot number occurs.Prior to that time the predictions are less reliable but nonetheless equally as important. Planning for satellite orbits and space missions often require knowledge of solar activity levels years in advance.

A number of techniques are used to predict the amplitude of a cycle during the time near and before sunspot minimum. Relationships have been found between the size of the next cycle maximum and the length of the previous cycle, the level of activity at sunspot minimum, and the size of the previous cycle.

Among the most reliable techniques are those that use the measurements of changes in the Earth's magnetic field at, and before, sunspot minimum. These changes in the Earth's magnetic field are known to be caused by solar storms but the precise connections between them and future solar activity levels is still uncertain.

Of these "geomagnetic precursor" techniques three stand out. The earliest is from Ohl and Ohl. They found that the value of the geomagnetic aa index at its minimum was related to the sunspot number during the ensuing maximum. The primary disadvantage of this technique is that the minimum in the geomagnetic aa index often occurs slightly after sunspot minimum so the prediction isn't available until the sunspot cycle has started.

An alternative method is due to a process suggested by Joan Feynman. She separates the geomagnetic aa index into two components: one in phase with and proportional to the sunspot number, the other component is then the remaining signal. This remaining signal has, in the past, given good estimates of the sunspot numbers several years in advance. The maximum in this signal occurs near sunspot minimum and is proportional to the sunspot number during the following maximum. This method does allow for a prediction of the next sunspot maximum at the time of sunspot minimum.

A third method is due to Richard Thompson. He found a relationship between the number of days during a sunspot cycle in which the geomagnetic field was "disturbed" and the amplitude of the next sunspot maximum. His method has the advantage of giving a prediction for the size of the next sunspot maximum well before sunspot minimum.

We have suggested using the average of the predictions given by the Feynman-based method and by Thompson's method. However, both of these methods were impacted by the "Halloween Events" of October/November 2003 which were not reflected in the sunspot numbers. Both methods give larger than average amplitude to Cycle 24 while its delayed start and low minimum strongly suggest a much smaller cycle.

The smoothed aa index reached its minimum (a record low) of 8.4 in September of 2009. Using Ohl's method now indicates a maximum sunspot number of 70 ± 18 for cycle 24. We then use the shape of the sunspot cycle as described by Hathaway, Wilson, and Reichmann and determine a starting time and amplitude for the cycle to produce a prediction of the monthly sunspot numbers through the next cycle. We find a maximum of about 66 in the Fall of 2013. The predicted numbers are available in a text file, as a GIF image, and as a pdf-file. As the cycle progresses, the prediction process switches over to giving more weight to the fitting of the monthly values to the cycle shape function. At this phase of cycle 24 we now give 75% weight to the amplitude from curve-fitting technique of Hathaway, Wilson, and Reichmann . That technique currently gives similar values to those of Ohl's method.

Another indicator of the level of solar activity is the flux of radio emission from the Sun at a wavelength of 10.7 cm (2.8 GHz frequency). This flux has been measured daily since 1947. It is an important indicator of solar activity because it tends to follow the changes in the solar ultraviolet that influence the Earth's upper atmosphere and ionosphere. Many models of the upper atmosphere use the 10.7 cm flux (F10.7) as input to determine atmospheric densities and satellite drag. F10.7 has been shown to follow the sunspot number quite closely and similar prediction techniques can be used.

Source: http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/predict.shtml

On the Road with N4CD – Deadwood SD - 1

Wednesday

Days of 76 Museum

There was an afternoon to explore and things to see in the local area. First I headed to the days of '76 Museum. From their web page

"The Days of '76 began as a way to honor Deadwood's first pioneers - the prospectors, miners, muleskinners and madams who poured into the Black Hills in 1876 to settle the gold-filled gulches of Dakota Territory. Since the first celebration in 1924, the Days of '76 has grown into a legendary annual event with a historic parade and an award-winning PRCA rodeo.
The Days of '76 museum began informally, as a repository for the horse drawn wagons and stage coaches, carriages, clothing, memorabilia and archives generated by the Celebration.

In 1990 Don Clowser installed his collection of important Old West Pioneer and American Indian artifacts, archives, firearms and archives into the pole barn that was the museum. Added to what was recognized as the largest collection of horse-drawn vehicles in the state, it became clear that the Days of '76 Museum needed a new home.

In 2004 the board of the Days of '76 Museum, supported with a $3,000,000 gift from the City

of Deadwood, pledged to construct a new $5.25 million, 32,000-square-foot home for its collections of Western and American Indian artifacts, archives, photos and artwork. The new two-story museum is now open. “

“Designated an “American Treasure” as a recipient of the “Save America’s Treasures” grant program, the Days of ‘76 Museum houses one of the nation’s most significant collections of American Western history.

We have four important collections:

Wagons & Vehicles. When the Days of '76 event began in 1924, the parade down Deadwood's historic Main Street was a major part of the celebration. As the years passed, an impressive number of wagons, carriages, stagecoaches and other 19th-century vehicles were donated to the event to serve in the parade. Today, they are recognized collectively as an impressive collection of vintage horse-drawn vehicles, the largest and most comprehensive in South Dakota. These vehicles are still used annually in the historic parade, and are kept in safe working order. A few, including an original Deadwood Stage - have been retired from service and are one of the museum's most important historical assets.

Rodeo Collection. Rodeo events in the Days of ’76 Celebration took prominence early on, and today the Days of ’76 Rodeo is the reason for the Days of ’76 Celebration. Using the PRCA award winning Days of ’76 Rodeo as our focus, our museum honors South Dakota’s official state sport and the flagship event of the American West with photos, documents and artifacts and exhibits. Our rodeo is still held the way it always has been – under summer skies in one of the prettiest WPA built arenas in the country. It is no wonder that anyone who is anyone has always wanted to ride in Deadwood. And they still do.

Clothing Collection. Like the Wagons & Vehicles collection, the Centennial Clothing Collection began as part of the original Days of '76 parade. Residents of the Black Hills and high plains gladly donated their old pioneer clothing to the event, and each year parade participants wore them to honor the generations that came before. Replicas instead of historic clothing is now worn in the parade, and the historic clothing has been retired from use. Work on the Centennial Clothing Collection will begin once the Clowser Collection has been processed, and therefore will not be on display when the museum opens. It is our hope that we will be able to share this wonderful collection with our visitors soon.

Clowser Collection. Deadwood resident, historian, poet and businessman Don Clowser, spent his life assembling the remarkable collection of 19th-century pioneer, cowboy, and American Indian art & artifacts you will see throughout the Days of '76 Museum.

Artwork is found throughout the museum, from a spectacular Lakota beaded saddle cover and a painting riddles with bullets that came from behind Poker Alice’s bar to the incomparable rodeo poster art created by Danny Miller and Mick B. Harrison.”

http://www.daysof76museum.com/

The museum was good! Hope y'all took some time if you were in Deadwood. They had an impressive firearms collection with some rare 1860-s70s guns.

Black Hills Mining Museum

Next – it was up to Lead – just 'up the road' from Deadwood – a few miles. There's a great mining museum there – the Black Hills Mining Museum!

Note: It is pronounced 'Lead' (Leed) as in 'to lead', not lead like the metal. It was named after having a 'lead' for a gold vein – mining terminology. Originally it was Lead City – shortened to Lead, SD.

http://blackhillsminingmuseum.com/

Here's some information on the museum – which deals with mining in the Black Hills. Great Museum. They had a free tour (after you paid a nominal admission) which was also good! Lead by a former mine employee. Doesn't get much better. They have a comprehensive collection spanning all the mining technologies used – from candles for lighting to acetylene carbide lamps – the steps along the way – from drilling – single and double jacking – to 'widow maker' drills to air/water drills. You get to tour a 'mine' down below and see how mining was done over the years – from the first primitive ways to the later versions.

In Lead, the largest mine in the western hemisphere operated for over 120 years and was running till about 2000 when it finally closed down – gold had plummeted to under $200 an ounce and it was costing over $400 an ounce to mine the gold.

From their website

"Welcome to the Black Hills Mining Museum, located in the mile-high city of Lead. Our non-profit educational corporation is dedicated to the preservation of the rich mining heritage of the Black Hills of South Dakota. We invite you to visit us and enjoy our numerous exhibits and activities. For more than a century, gold mining has been the #1 industry in Lead and in the Northern Black Hills.

Guided Mine Tours

The museum's experienced and knowledgeable guides will escort you on a fascinating and informative 45-50 minute tour of our simulated underground level of the Homestake Gold Mine - the only comprehensive look at both early-day and modern underground mining to be found in the Black Hills. This realistic exhibit has been created by over 140 miners and former mine employees.

The Homestake mine, which ceased operation in 2001, was one of the largest in the world, reaching a depth of 8,000 feet below the surface of the city of Lead. “

There are hundreds and hundreds of artifacts, including some early telephone sets (Lead was one of the first places in the country with telephone service. With $$$$ in gold being mined – there was lots of money to go around, and of course, gold mines adopted the latest technology as soon as it was available. They also had some telegraph instruments in their collection along with maybe 1000 articles from way back.

Today – the mine is permanently shut down – but the old mine is still used for scientific research – hunting for neutrinos. The Sanford Research facility there uses space down below to get away from interfering cosmic radiation – if you are sheltered by enough Earth – you remove that problem. Neutrinos go through solid rock forever.

From their website at:

http://www.sanfordlab.org/about/deep-science-frontier-physics

“The Sanford Underground Research Facility in Lead, South Dakota, will advance our understanding of the universe by providing laboratory space deep underground, where sensitive physics experiments can be shielded from cosmic radiation. Researchers at the Sanford Lab

will explore some of the most challenging questions facing 21st century physics, such as the origin of matter, the nature of dark matter and the properties of neutrinos. The facility also hosts experiments in other disciplines—including geology, biology and engineering.

The Sanford Lab is located at the former Homestake gold mine, which was a physics landmark long before it was converted into a dedicated science facility. Nuclear chemist Ray Davis earned a share of the Nobel Prize for Physics in 2002 for a solar neutrino experiment he installed 4,850 feet underground in the mine.

Homestake closed in 2003, but the company donated the property to South Dakota in 2006 for use as an underground laboratory. That same year, philanthropist T. Denny Sanford donated $70 million to the project—$50 million to help reopen the gold mine and $20 million to establish a Sanford Center for Science Education. The South Dakota Legislature also created the South Dakota Science and Technology Authority to operate the lab. The state Legislature has committed more than $40 million in state funds to the project, and South Dakota also obtained a $10 million Community Development Block Grant to help rehabilitate Homestake.

In 2007, after the National Science Foundation named Homestake as the preferred site for a proposed national Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory (DUSEL), the South Dakota Science and Technology Authority (SDSTA) began reopening the former gold mine.

In December 2010, the National Science Board decided not to fund further design of DUSEL. However, in 2011 the Department of Energy, through the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, agreed to support ongoing science operations at the the Sanford Lab, while investigating how to use Homestake for other longer-term experiments. The SDSTA, which owns the Sanford Lab, continues to operate the facility under that agreement with Berkeley Lab.

The first two major physics experiments at the Sanford Lab are being installed 4,850 feet underground in an area called the Davis Campus, named for the late Ray Davis. The Large Underground Xenon (LUX) experiment been installed in the same cavern excavated for Ray Davis in the 1960s. LUX will be the most sensitive detector yet to search for dark matter—a mysterious, yet-to-be-detected substance thought to be the most prevalent matter in the universe. The Majorana Demonstrator experiment, also being installed in 2012, will search for a rare phenomenon called “neutrinoless double-beta decay” that could reveal whether subatomic particles called neutrinos can be their own antiparticle. Detection of neutrinoless double-beta decay could help determine why matter prevailed over antimatter. The Majorana Demonstrator experiment is in a newly excavated space in the Davis Campus, adjacent to the original Davis cavern.

The Department of Energy also is considering the Sanford Underground Research Facility as the site for proposed longer term experiments, such as the Long-Baseline Neutrino Experiment

(LBNE) and a project called Dual Ion Accelerators for Nuclear Astrophysics (DIANA)." Folks on the Thursday tour would also get to see the 'topside' of the mine while on the tour.

Whew! That was two excellent museums. I headed back to claim my room – a nice ground floor room with a 'creek view' - nice. It was comfy outside – in the 70s – a big change from TX where it was hot and ugly this time of year with highs near 100 and still 95 deg at 10pm at night. I was really enjoying the 'cool'.

That night it was a turkey dinner at the restaurant at the motel. Good! Lots of the county hunters had arrived and were greeted by Leo, WY7LL with a big 'Howdy'. And often the cowboy hat.

Leo, WY7LL, USACA #1184
Convention Host
(pic from his county hunting video)

County hunters far and wide might remember this picture from a few years back. Leo, WY7LL and Chris, WY7ML, made a special trip to get the Last County for the “whole ball of wax' - LC WBOW for KQ0B -Sheridan MT. They were the 'hosts' for this convention with a lot of help from 'helpers' like N0KV/N0DXE, WB9NUL and many others helping things run smoothly with registration and other events.

WY7LL and WY7ML – on the road a couple years ago
Getting the Last County WBOW for KQ0B

Leo and Chris had done a great job of setting things up and making sure everything was running great. Deadwood, SD has lots to offer – sightseeing, museums and exhibits, places to visit – plus good eating and recreation. Good hiking trails, too.

Wednesday evening it was time for 'meet and greet' at the hospitality suite (the whole building) in the Conference Center. Here's a few county hunter pics new to the County Hunter News

Brian, K7RE

Deadwood has a population of about 1300 folks – a 'small town' but with dozens of hotels/gambling casinos, restaurants, and tourist attractions which likely house several thousand folks every day during the summer. It's up at 4500 feet so it cools off nicely in the evenings. We had a couple nice days with mornings in the 50s.

W9LHG John – Left Hand Gorilla

The Deadwood Gulch Gaming resort had a 24 hour casino, rooms with large TVs (37-39 inches), microwaves, refrigerators, six or seven pillows on each bed with large comforter – most of which had to be removed before you went to bed, a nice desk, free wi-fi. Half the rooms faced Whiteside Creek.

If you were into hiking, there was the Michelson trail nearby - it's 109 miles long.

If you wanted to go downtown – with service running from early morning till the wee hours of the night – there was the 'trolley'. It was free for the convention folks. You could jump on and off at multiple stops. It ran a couple times an hour.

There was a hot tub area – didn't see too many in it – and an exercise room – didn't see anyone in it either – but likely most were getting lots of exercise just exploring the town and attractions and going on the tours.

Right next door was the Creekside Restaurant – where we had the 'free' breakfasts. They had a nice bakery, too, and gift shop. I ate at the restaurant Thursday night and it was pretty good.

Time for a break.....

Ebay Items of the Month

The 1-der 40M QRP Transceiver

This is a one tube 40m transceiver that was offered for several years. It used a single 3A5 tube in a simple REGENERATIVE receiver along with a QRP level transmitter. It used a 1.5v battery for the filaments and 10 9v batteries for the B+ - all contained within.

From the Ebay ad:

"40 meter single tube transceiver kit. Regen receiver. Crystal controlled transmitter (7.030, 7.040, & 7.110 crystals included, 2 more than the original kit.) Powered by 1 D-Cell and ten 9 volt batteries or external power supply. This is the brainchild of KG4HSY, in response to requests. It is a 1-night kit,. Alignment is simple. It will put out 200mw on battery power. The finished radio will copy signals well. There is a built-in sidetone from a neon oscillator! A true one-tube wonder! I purchased this kit a few months ago and decided to sell rather than build it. First photo is of a built unit; the other pictures are of the kit parts you are bidding on. Kit is complete with assembly instructions."

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If you run 150v on the plate with an external supply, it will put out about a watt. They supply a crystal earphone – but this kit seems to be no longer available.

If you look on YouTube, you'll find a review of just about everything! Here's one on this unit from VE3RPF:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1LPdWspbpE

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Here's another item you don't see very often. It's a Dentron MLX-Mini

Dentron MLX -Mini 80 M Transceiver

From K5BDZ, Bill

About 1983, Dentron had basically folded, and the remains were in "new ownership" hands. As the oxygen mask was being removed prior to its final demise, the original Dentron attempted to build a single band QRP transceiver that would operate SSB / CW, had a digital readout (KHz only), and was capable of 15 watts output on SSB. Housed in a steel case about 6" x 7" x 1 1/2" (just a guess... but close) it was a heavy little unit. It was called the MLX Mini. But it never hit the markets.

The heart of this little rig was the "factory wired and tested" Mizuho SG9 board, which was basically a 9 MHz IF transceiver, for which Dentron made and connected their own VFO board, LED digi readout, Mixer board (freq dependent for 80, 40, 20, 15 band) and the driver/final amp board.

In 1983 I contacted the "owner of the Dentron remains" regarding those rigs and was told some 100+ MLX Mini's were available as well as a number of parts. Being told by the "new owner" these units were assembled and tested, and working, we negotiated a price for all as well as the other spares items, including extra SG9 boards, PC boards, parts, pieces, etc. I sent the money and received two big boxes of Dentron goodies. Based on the good faith telephone conversation, I expected to have over 100 good operating MLX Mini's to sell to QRPers... even had a booth ready to go at the Houston Hamcomm, the ARRL National Convention for 1983.

To say I had been mislead by the seller was the nice way to put it. PT Barnum described me perfectly when he said "There's a sucker born every minute!"

Well, the reality was that only about 10 of the MLX Mini's were operable, to some questionable degree. Others had the boards installed with no wires connected, etc. Most of the "Dentron factory assembled boards" appeared to have been soldered on an early Monday morning by someone with a monstrous hangover!! (We used to describe that as "drop soldered from Knee Height). Manuals were few, incomplete, lacking in documentation, hand drawn, and inaccurate.

Long story short, my first effort into marketing QRP equipment was a dismal failure, and after months and expense of trying to recoup my "investment" I put it all in boxes on the shelf and "got a life" again.

A couple of years or so later Leo (sorry Leo, forgot your call) called, and long story short, he purchased the bulk of the SG9 boards and other items, and delivered them to the GQRP group, where they all found great homes, and where Ian G3ROO, George G3RJV and group designed a wonderful QRP transceiver circuit featuring the SG9 boards, to include mixer, VFO, final amp and other circuits.

KM4BA wrote a review on Eham

“The Dentron MLX-mini was a very neat concept, and quite ahead of it's time. Built around the SG9 9 Mhz sideband generator modulue from Mizuho, it was a very compact and selfcontained mono-band rig. 25 watts, digital display on the vfo. Rugged metal case. More info can be seen here:

My unit is for 75m, and I used it mobile and portable for many years. I have also used a 20m unit briefly, and it was quite fun to play with.

The MLX's never really made it to production. Most known examples were were sold by K5BDZ after purchasing what remained of the Dentron inventory. This story is documented here:

< http://www.kkn.net/archives/html/QRP-L/2002-03/msg01943.html >

When first introduced I picked up a brochure which I still have. Dentron did have examples for sale at the time.

My unit was purchased later at one of the major hamfests as a new unit and came with a Dentron labeled Shure hand mic. I also received a manual/schematic for the unit.

I do not remember if mine was from Dentron or from Bill K5BDZ. I suspect the later.

I'd love to find a 20m version of the rig to go with my 75m.

Nice features:

The receiver was quite usable, and was perhaps better than the other compact mobiles like the Atlas, etc. VFO stability was quite good once warmed up and could be improved if the meter light & display were switched off. TX audio worked well. I still use the shure mic on newer rigs as it seems to have a DX type sound.

Things to look out for:

The frequency display is prone to failure. Mine appears to have lost regulation, and is not functioning correctly. It used a standard frequency counter chip and LED displays. For many years I considered replacing it with one of the LCD modules.

Overall, the MLX is a neat rig, and fun to play with. Again, way ahead of it's time. The Ten-Tec Scout and later the FT-817 followed in it's footsteps.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions on the rig. While the schematic does not cover the other bands, it would be better than nothing if you are trying to troubleshoot.

Have fun!

http://www.mizuhoradio.com/dentron.html

Continuing Saga of the Ethanol Scam

Ethanol is insane, and politicians outside the Beltway are finally fighting it.

While recent Supreme Court rulings on voting rights and same-sex marriage have held the nation's attention, another decision slipped under the radar. In late June, the Supreme Court refused to hear a challenge to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's program to raise the maximum ethanol content of gasoline from 10 to 15 percent, thus clearing the way for more ethanol production. The Senate's version of the Farm Bill, meanwhile, includes more than $1 billion of support for the ethanol industry. While these developments at the federal level are bullish for ethanol, many states are calling bull.

The fact that most ethanol is made from corn means that an increase in the ethanol content of gas could create, or exacerbate, a variety of problems, like higher food prices and elevated levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide. Ethanol production has also been linked to the spread of a dangerous form of E. coli.

But while federal support for ethanol appears to be as unstoppable as it is misguided, some individual states have shown the kind of backbone that could lead us toward a smarter energy policy. In June, Florida repealed its Renewable Fuel Standard, which mandated that gasoline contain 10 percent ethanol. And in May, Maine lawmakers approved a bill banning ethanol in gas, and asked the federal government to do the same.

The Maine House Republicans posted the following on Maine.gov:

"Evidence is mounting that ethanol is a failure in virtually every way. It takes more energy to produce it than the fuel provides. Food supplies around the world have been disrupted because so much of the corn crop now goes to ethanol. It costs taxpayers billions of dollars in subsidies at a time when our nation is already $12 trillion in debt. Even environmentalists have turned against it; research shows that ethanol production increases the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere."

Maine's Democrats have voted and spoken against ethanol as well. Indeed, "bipartisan" doesn't begin to describe the diversity of opposition to ethanol. Ethanol fuel's many problems have drawn together an orgy of strange bedfellows, including the petroleum lobby, environmentalists, foodies, food processors, auto enthusiasts (cars don't like ethanol, either), and citizens of all political bents—basically everyone outside of the corn belt and D.C.'s Beltway.

Currently, 40 percent of the U.S. corn crop is used to make ethanol. Raising the allowable amount of ethanol in gasoline, as the Supreme Court's recent action greenlights, will likely increase demand for corn, drive up its price, and collaterally make food more expensive.

Already, the increased demand for corn created by ethanol policy in recent years has led to more land being cleared for agriculture. This activity, and the intensive tillage of the industrial farming system that produces most corn, has resulted in widespread loss of topsoil: We've only got about 60 years' worth of topsoil left at the current rate of loss, by some estimates. The vast and expanding monocultures of corn that blanket the Midwest are part of this problem.

Topsoil sequesters carbon dioxide. The more topsoil that's lost, the less carbon dioxide is sequestered, and the more carbon dioxide is added to the atmosphere. Thick, healthy soils are also an important natural reservoir of water; thin soil is less able to retain rainfall and irrigation, which increases the demand for water.

When the energy costs of production, processing, and transport are added up, ethanol is a net loss, according to T.J. Rogers, CEO of solar panel maker SunPower Corp. "Ethanol is a total waste," Rogers told Watchdog.org, echoing the words of the Maine Republicans. "The bottom line is that it takes between 1 and 1.3 gallons of gasoline-equivalent energy to produce 1 gallon of ethanol."

Meanwhile, on the food-safety front, a mushy yellow byproduct of ethanol production called distillers grains, which is widely used in cattle feed, turns out to be a rich source of E. coli 0157, the pathogen behind several recent recalls of E. coli-tainted beef. Though links between distillers grains and specific cases of food-borne illness have yet to be established, it has been demonstrated that the higher the percentage of distillers grains in cows' diets, the higher the level of E. coli 0157 in those cows.

It's frustrating to see ethanol policy, which is clearly destructive and unproductive on so many fronts, entrenched on the federal level. But the recent rebuffs to ethanol in Florida and Maine are hopeful signs that fighting it out at the state level can be an effective means of change.

Again, the Maine House Republicans:

"We're not so naïve as to think a resolution from the Maine Legislature will light a fire under Congress. Ideally, Congress should repeal the ethanol laws because they are doing more harm than good. Our objectives are more modest but will still encounter opposition; the Midwest ethanol lobby has powerful advocates on Capitol Hill and billions of subsidy dollars are at stake."

As the Farm Bill bobs and weaves its way through the halls of Congress, it's probably too much to hope that the more than $1 billion allocated to ethanol support will suddenly dry up. But given the broad opposition to ethanol policy—owing to the fact that it's basically insane—I

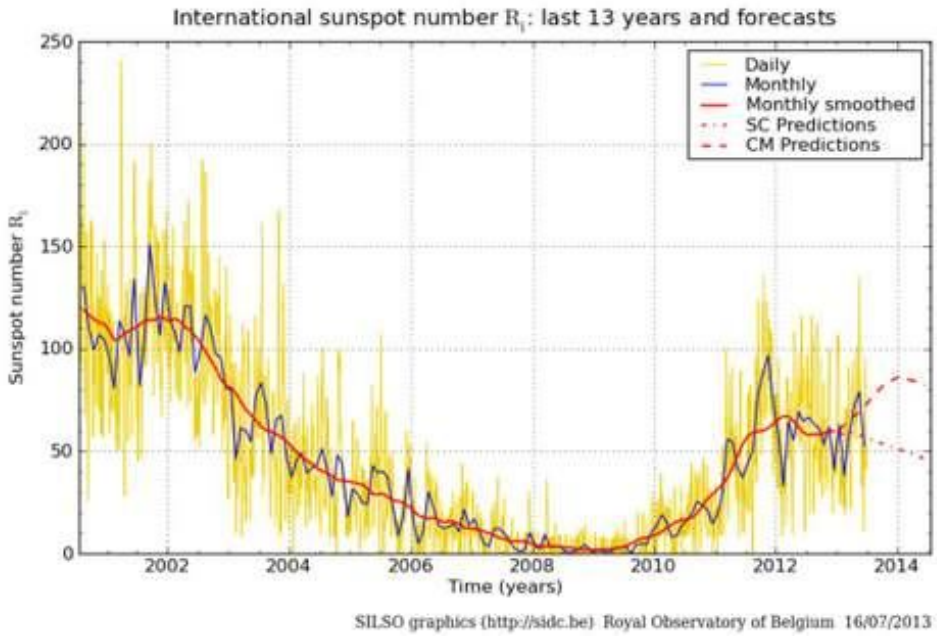
like the states' chances of defeating it, step by step. As we've just witnessed with same-sex marriage, sometimes when the states lead, the federal government follows.

Source:
http://mobile.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/food/2013/07/renewable_fuel_standard_repeal_how_states_are_chipping_away_at_the_corn.html?original_referrer=http://www.theoildrum.com/node/10094?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+theoildrum+%28The+Oil+Drum%29

Sunspot Prediction

From the Royal Observatory of Belgium:

The daily (yellow), monthly (blue) and 13-month smoothed (red) sunspot numbers over the 13 past years, with predictions for the next 12 months by two methods:



SC (red dash-dotted) : classical Standard-Curves prediction method, based on a least-square interpolation of Waldmeier's set of standard solar cycle profiles; (lower one)

CM (red dashes) : Combined Method (K.Denkmayr and P. Cugnon), based on a regression

technique combining a geomagnetic precursor (aa index) with a least-square fit to the actual profiles of the past 24 solar cycles. (upper curve)

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de N4CD

Take your pick.

On the Road with N4CD – Deadwood SD – 2

Thursday

We got a 'free' breakfast at the restaurant next door as part of the deal, so nearly all showed up for the 'freebie' meal. You had 3 choices of 'free' - A – two pancakes and one egg, or B- two eggs, toast and hash browns or C- biscuits and gravy. Coffee was free all day long at the resort.....oh, and you had a choice of 'coffee or juice for breakfast'. You could add in extra things for a nominal charge. They were quick and we all made it out with time to spare for the tours.

The Thursday tour started out with Leo, WY7LL, rounding up all the folks for the day long tour. He had everyone's cellphone and if you weren't there, he was ready to round you up and get you on board. If you were late, you got a call.

The tour bus took us down through 'downtown' Deadwood – and the historic buildings there where we learned the history of the town. On the way we saw the old hotels and saloons – and the place where Wild Bill Hickok met his fate.

Next, we were headed to Boot Hill in Deadwood on the tour bus along with a couple dozen county hunters. First on the agenda was a visit to the famous/infamous grave of Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane, in Mt Moriah Cemetery.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Moriah_Cemetery_(South_Dakota)

While Hollywood has romantically linked Will Bill with Calamity Jane, the reality is much different. Hickok arrived in Deadwood and six weeks later was shot dead over a gambling argument. Calamity Jane and he, while arriving on the same stagecoach, likely never knew each other.

From Wiki:

“James Butler Hickok (May 27, 1837 – August 2, 1876), better known as Wild Bill Hickok, was a folk hero of the American Old West. His skills as a gunfighter and scout, along with his reputation as a lawman, provided the basis for his fame, although some of his reported exploits are fictionalized.

Born and raised on a farm in rural Illinois, Hickok went west at age 18 as a fugitive from justice, first working as a stagecoach driver, before he became a lawman in the frontier territories of Kansas and Nebraska. He fought for the Union Army during the American Civil War, and gained publicity after the war as a scout, marksman, actor, and professional gambler. Between his law-enforcement duties and gambling, which easily overlapped, Hickok was involved in several notable shootouts. He was shot and killed while playing poker in the Nuttal & Mann's Saloon in Deadwood, Dakota Territory”

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Just about everything you ever read about Calamity Jane is likely a total fabrication. No one even knows when she was born and her autobiography is pure fiction. However, she's still a 'celebrity'.

The tour bus was allowed to travel on the roads in the cemetery – other visitors get to walk – no cars allowed – so we had a trip right up to the graves. There are thousands buried in the cemetery and by special act of Congress, the flag flies 24 hours a day here. Many veterans from the Civil War are buried here, too.

Homestake Mine

Next on the tour was a visit to the Homestead Mining Visitor Center nearby in Lead. From the web site:

“The Homestake Gold Mine was one of the early enterprises associated with the Gold Rush of 1876 in the northern Black Hills of what was then Dakota Territory. The mining community of Deadwood was the center of the gold fever, with tents, sawmills, log houses and saloons springing up seemingly overnight. But the real action would happen three miles away "over the hill" where brothers Fred and Moses Manuel and their partner Hank Harney located their Homestake claim on April 9, 1876.

Moses liked what he saw in an outcropping of a vein of ore, referred to as a lead and pronounced "leed." Soon more prospectors materialized, and no time was lost in selecting a site for a new town. On July 10th work began on laying out the town lots, and that work was completed the next day. Miners were offered the lots, 50 x 100 feet, but were required to build on the lots in 60 days or forfeit them. That spurred many on to build on the front half and then sell the back half. Progress came quickly. Telegraph service began December 1st and by early 1877 four hotels, a grocery store, saloon, bakery and butcher shop were up and running.

In June 1877 George Hearst, who had earlier sent an agent to offer a bond to owners of the Homestake claim, bought the four and one half acre claim for $70,000. No stranger to mining, Hearst had mining interests in Missouri, California during its gold rush, Nevada, Utah, and Montana. He later represented the State of California in the United States Senate. He and his wife Phoebe had one son, William Randolph Hearst, who, rather than continue in his father's footsteps in the mining businesses, chose to manage his father's newspaper, the San Francisco Examiner. William became a publishing magnate and was a pioneer in the radio and television industries.

With a population of 8,392 in 1910, Lead was the second largest community in South Dakota. The employment opportunities for not only miners, but also laborers and mechanics were excellent.

Throughout the decades to come the City of Lead and the Homestake Mine were confronted with challenges ranging from an epidemic of Spanish influenza, nearby forest fires and even a fire in the mine, which was extinguished by a deliberate flooding of the mine and subsequent dewatering with no ill effects to the mine or its equipment. But on the whole, the city and its residents prospered as a result of the mine. In the early 1930s, as the rest of the nation suffered economic hardship throughout the Great Depression, the management of Homestake set a shorter work week with an increase in wages, and provided end of year bonuses to workers.

During World War II, gold mining operations were suspended by order of the War Production Board. The young men of the city joined the armed forces, moved to locations where copper mines were operating or worked in airplane factories. The older men who remained in what was by then an almost deserted town worked in the Homestake foundry or machine shop producing goods needed for the war effort, including parts for airplanes, wrenches and hand grenades.

The following decades saw modernization of mining techniques and procedures, including the advent of computerization to the Homestake Mine. The workers voted in 1966 to be represented by the United Steel Workers union.

In September of 2000 a Homestake Mining Company spokesman announced that the mine would close. In January of 2002, the Homestake Gold Mine finally shut down after more than

125 years of continuous operation”

http://www.homestakevisitorscenter.com/history.html

Nice photo gallery here

http://www.homestakevisitorscenter.com/gallery-1.html

We got to see the 'impressive top side' equipment on a tour – and the equipment inside the large hoist building and equipment rooms, plus of course, the open pit area a mile across. It was interesting especially after seeing the Black Hills Mining Museum the day before!

The tour guide was a young gentleman – but disappointingly lacking in science. You'd think for a regular tour guide and a 8th generation mine employee – he'd take the time to learn a bit about the geology. One of the questions was about the age of the 'pre cambrian' rocks. Scientists come from around the world to study the Black Hills – part of which, due to volcanic activity and uplift – have exposed precambrian deposits which are two billion years old. The Rocky Mountains are 'only' 20 million years old. This is one of the few places in the entire world were the two billion year old rock deposits can be found exposed.

The highest point in the Black Hills is Harney Peak and we saw it later in the day. It's 7200 feet AMSL. Of course, it's all 'relative'. When you are already up at 4500-5000 feet AMSL, a 'mountain' a few thousand feet higher doesn't appear all that gigantic. Harney Peak is the highest point in the US 'east of the Rockies'.

While mining and timber used to be the main industries here 150 years ago, now it's tourism and 'hospitality' and gambling that provide the jobs.

RoundHouse/Living Map display

On the tour, we stopped at the RoundHouse (now a restaurant, but formerly where train engines were kept right behind a turntable that allowed them to access various tracks into the 'round house' for storage.

Here's a Youtube on the Roundhouse – mostly about the restaurant after the first 30 seconds....

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nYWmvUCdkAI

The Living Map Theater is a multimedia presentation covering the Black Hills Gold rush, with a 24 ft X 28 ft 3D map. The movie, with historical photos, actual film, and reenactments will tell the gold rush story while lights on the map will show where the events happened. The

entire program is approximately 35 minutes long “

Keystone SD – lunch stop

We all boarded the bus for an hour long ride to Keystone - another former mining supply town, but now a total tourist trap. Population about 350 people. We had an hour for lunch and it was lunch on your own with a choice of 30 places or more – scattered between another 50 tee shirt shops and trinket sellers. Yuk! Had an overpriced sandwich. What a tourist trap! Yuk!

The 1800s Train

The main reason for heading to Keystone was to ride the 1800s train. This is a steam powered (oil burner) train from the 'wayback days' going past some interesting mining historic towns

Leo, WY7LL, rounded up the folks and made sure everyone made it on the train. We had most of one car for the county hunter group. We didn't lose anyone along the way. It was a crowded train with just about every seat taken. There must have been 300 or more on the train.

There's lots of scenery and the train lumbers along for an hour or two headed to Hill City. Some of the things along the way – along with a deer or two spotted from the train.

The 1800s train

Some of the things seen or passed by:

Tin Mill Hill
Harney Peak Company placed a giant tin processing plant here.

Kennedyville
1880s mining community; holds the Kennedy House which once was the town's grocery store and bar.

Addie Camp
Leads to the 800 ft main shaft of Addie Mine.

Palmer Gulch
Site of placer gold operations in 1875.

Good Luck Tungsten Mine
Tungsten is used to harden steel; this mine flourished during both World Wars.

Bob Ingersoll Mine
Produced a remarkable variety of minerals including feldspar, mica, and tourmaline.

Etta Camp
An 1880s tin mine and camp for the Harney Peak Company.

Holy Terror Mine
Mine that went down 1,200 ft and was one of the richest in the Black Hills.

Blue Bird Mill
Arsenic ore was ground here for further processing.

Very Berry Winery/Wine Tasting

After the train ride, we headed to the Prairie Berry Winery for a 'wine tasting'. They handed out about 6oz total of wine. Some of the CH bought some bottles of wine (and some a case) to bring home or have for a party.

Then it was back to the motel and some meet and greet at the Deadwood Gulch Resort.

Everyone got a 'player card' with $5 in gambling credit each day – some made some money, but I suspect most left more money behind that the others made. Deadwood is a mecca of gambling establishments. There has to be at least 30 casinos – and BIG hotels with casinos, in the town. It's the main industry.

The meeting room was LARGE – we're talking 150 feet by 150 feet – and all for the county hunters. No problem with people having to 'squeeze in'! It was 500 feet from the motel and you could walk to it in 2 or 3 minutes.

Thursday evening was more meet and greet

Here's more CH that have never been in the CH News before.

Paul, K1TKL USCA #1230

W5AL Len USCA #897

County Sign Database Project

This month, Gary, K4EXT, added some from N2OCW, KA9JAC, N4CD, NX0X/KB0MMH, KB0BA, and others. Did you get some new ones for the database on your trip?

http://www.charchive.com/cntys.asp

Greenie Fail of the Month

In a reversal of greenism, Michael Bloomberg's New York Metropolitan Transit Agency is giving up on hybrid transportation.

Mayor Bloomberg has for years been a champion of every new chic idea that comes down the pike.

But one cause the city is souring on is hybrid buses.

The New York Post reports that the city hasn't bought a new hybrid bus in three years and is now moving to retrofit many of the ones it has with diesel engines.

The MTA is reporting that it will retrofit 389 hybrid electric buses with diesel engines because the hybrid engines are too unreliable and too expensive to repair.

"The electric-traction motors are burning out. They're so expensive to replace that it'll be cheaper to stick a diesel engine in there," a source inside the MTA told the Post.

MTA officials also point out that new diesel engines are at least as fuel-efficient as the hybrids are these days, so the savings in fuel is no longer a chief selling point for new hybrids. But, despite the new efficiency of the diesel engines on the market today, it is the cost of repairs that is driving the retrofits.

As it happens, the five-year warranty is about to run out on many units of New York's hybrid buses and repair costs will soon devolve from the manufacturer to the city. The costs for maintenance will skyrocket.

About 1,677 out of the MTA's fleet of 5,719 buses are hybrids.

http://www.breitbart.com/Big-Government/2013/06/30/Green-Fail-New-York-Metra-Gives-Up-on-Hybrid-Busses

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Anyone want to guess how many hundreds of millions of federal, state and local dollars are getting flushed down the greenie rathole on this? All those 'incentives' to build the buses in the first place, big subsidies to buy them, the 'training' required to learn how to maintain them, the limited production spare parts. Millions of man hours of wasted time, hundreds of millions of tax payer dollars.....gone.....a pipe dream..... your money.....

On the Road with N4CD – Deadwood SD – 2

Friday

After a 'free breakfast' at the motel – it was off on tours for many. There were two tours – one early with an extra stop, and one starting at 9pm headed to Mt Rushmore and the Crazy Horse monument. It would be a very different day for everyone.

Leo, WY7LL, lead the early tour – which headed out to a few more stops. I took the later tour.

Mount Rushmore National Park

We had reached Mount Rushmore and the second group had already been there and were getting set to leave. Walt, K1DFO came up to me and urgently asked if I had heard the news. No, I hadn't. Then he told me that Leo, WY7LL, had collapsed suddenly at the beginning of their tour while folks were taking pictures and having a good time. He just 'keeled over' and despite the immediate actions of others, quickly arriving ambulance and rescue squads, didn't seem to recover. He was quickly taken to the nearby hospital.

Not long after, we learned that he had been officially pronounced 'deceased'. Leo, WY7LL, became a Silent Key. Wow. That s the last thing anyone expected.

The long tour folks decided to continue their tour – there wasn't much they could do after medical help arrived although it definitely put a damper on the enthusiasm of everyone there. Our tour continued on as well. There wasn't anything any of us could do to change things.

It's been 55 years or so since I've seen Mt Rushmore – way way back when the family took lots of camping trips – real tent and sleeping bags on cross country trips. Now there are all sorts of buildings there – visitor center – restaurants – museums, theater showing a good film about the construction of the monument. Back then, there wasn't much but a trail to walk down to get up closer to the sculpture. It's still impressive. Millions and millions come each year to see it.

We spent a while there then boarded the bus and everyone else learned, if they hadn't already heard about Leo, of the tragic turn of events. Not long after, the official word came of Leo's passing. Dang. There wasn't anything we could do, so the tour continued. No sense to sit around and do nothing or head back and just be bummed out.

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From the Gillete News Obituary column:

“Leo Charles Bingham, 55, of Pine Haven died Friday, July 12, 2013, at Fort Hayes in Rapid City, S.D. “

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It was off to the next stop and some lunch, too

Crazy Horse Monument

If you've been to Mount Rushmore and though it was impressive, you ain't seen nothing yet. Not far away is the 'in the works' sculpture of Crazy Horse – giant in every sense of the word.

This is the largest stone carving in the world – and is, to say the least, impressive. So far, the head and the 'arm' are underway – the head mostly complete. This will be a 3D carving, too, so you will be able to view it 360 degrees.

In addition, there is a great museum with thousands of Native American artifacts. You could spend hours there if that was your thing. Very impressive.

We all grabbed some lunch and the food was good and service reasonably quick. There were thousands of folks there, too. Likely millions pass through here each year. It's worth the trip and not far from Mt. Rushmore.

Photo gallery here

http://crazyhorsememorial.org/photo-gallery/

Then we boarded the bus and headed back to the motel. Things were definitely somber than evening. However, the events went on.

We had the BBQ dinner held at the 'conference center'. The food was “OK”. We rehashed the days events.

In addition, we learned that Father Joe, KF5AT, (age 76) had been killed in a head on traffic accident in Trinity County, TX, when another driver crossed into his lane. Both were killed. We also learned that “Uncle Bob”, W4UB, had passed away from a fall. It was definitely a

different kind of day. With over 500 active MARAC members and hundreds of former members and other county hunters out there, we lose a few each year – but this had been one day of bad news.

However, the county hunters decided the 'show had to go on'. That's what Leo would have wanted and it would be a tribute to him to continue everything as 'normal' as could be.

The sightseeing was good but we all had something to reflect on. The convention would go on. The activities would go on. Chris, WY7LL said the 'party must go on'!

There was time for more meet and greet

Don, KA1YZV, USCA #994

Richard, AC0HW – Big Rig Driver

Bob WA3QNT – USCA #412

Henry OH3JF – USCA 1221

Henry came over from Finland. Ed, K8ZZ, of Finn heritage, picked him up in Duluth MN and they mobiled over to Deadwood via 'the county hunter route' in MN and SD and other states. After, Ed dropped him off again in Duluth before heading back to MI. I'm sure the call W0/OH3JF/m took a few by surprise the first time they heard it. (that's how reciprocal operating licensees have to identify, with the call area first, then their call)

Here's a list of those who registered....not including all the Yls..and likely there were a few more I missed

KA1YZV/Barbara
K1DFO
K1TKL
AB2LS
KZ2P
K3IMC/Jean
WA3QNT/Jackie
AF3X/WV8NNX/Mom
KU4YM/Ellen
N4AAT
N4CD

W4OWY/Janie
W5AL/Violet
K5OH/Evelyn
N5MLP/Evelyn
AB7RW/AC7UH
K7KWO
K7RE/KD7GLY
K7SEN/AB7NK
K7TM/WA7YEI
KC7YE
N7JPF/Darlene
W7FEN/Rita
WQ7A/Bonnie
NA8W/KA8JQP
AA9JJ/N9QPQ
KD9ZP
K9FDL
WA9DLB/Helen
W9GUY/Nikki
WB9NUL
W9OP/W9PIP
WG9A/Sandy
KY0E/Ellen
AC0HW/Rose/Ian
KG5UZ/KJ5PQ
NX4W
W9LHG/Virginia
KE3VV
WA0RKQ/Sue
AJ5ZX/KC5QCB
KA9JAC/KB9YVT
K8ZZ
OH3JF
NX0X/KB0MMH
W0NAC/N0LXJ
WY7LL/WY7ML/friends-helpers
N0KV/N0DXE
AC0B /Kathy
KB0BA/N0XYL
N0CWX
NF0N/Dianne
W0GXQ

Mac, WA0RKQ USCA #858

AC0B - Cliff

to be continued after a break

About those Green Cars

Electric cars, despite their supposed green credentials, are among the environmentally dirtiest transportation options, a U.S. researcher suggests.

Writing in the journal IEEE Spectrum, researcher Ozzie Zehner says electric cars lead to hidden environmental and health damages and are likely more harmful than gasoline cars and other

transportation options.

Electric cars merely shift negative impacts from one place to another, he wrote, and "most electric-car assessments analyze only the charging of the car. This is an important factor indeed. But a more rigorous analysis would consider the environmental impacts over the vehicle's entire life cycle, from its construction through its operation and on to its eventual retirement at the junkyard."

Political priorities and corporate influence have created a flawed impression that electric cars significantly reduce transportation impacts, he said.

"Upon closer consideration, moving from petroleum-fueled vehicles to electric cars starts to appear tantamount to shifting from one brand of cigarettes to another," Zehner, a visiting scholar at the University of California, Berkeley, said.

Zehner, once an electric car enthusiast who has since changed his position and become an activist looking at a number of so-called green initiatives, is the author of the book "Green Illusions."

http://www.breitbart.com/Big-Government/2013/07/01/Study--Electric-cars-no-greener-than-gasoline-vehicles

Peak Oil Update

From an interesting article

An Interview with Steven Kopits

Q: You're dialed in right now on the issue of compression of capital expenditures—or capex compression—in the oil industry. Can you give us a quick definition of what that is?

Kopits: Capex compression is a term we use to describe the reduction of upstream spending by the oil companies when their exploration and production costs are rising faster than their oil revenues. That's what's happening today. Hess is divesting oil producing properties to increase profits; BP has shelved the deepwater Mad Dog Phase 2 project in the Gulf of Mexico. This is occurring because oil prices haven't been increasing, and costs have. So oil companies are

looking at their portfolio of projects and deciding to postpone or cancel some of them. Were the oil supply rising quickly and oil prices falling, this sort of capital restraint would be normal—the usual boom-bust cycle of the industry. But oil is still in short supply, and very few of the large oil companies have been able to hold oil production over the last few years—even as they were investing massively in oil exploration and production. Now, they are actually reducing investment in upstream projects, even in the face of historically high oil prices and falling production. That's capex compression.

If we look at the issue more broadly though, there are some things happening in the oil business that are beginning to validate views that we, and analysts like Chris Skrebowski, have held regarding **economic peak oil.**

Peak oil does not occur when we run out of oil. Peak oil occurs when the marginal consumer is no longer willing to pay the cost of extracting and processing the marginal barrel of oil.

And we can actually calculate what the related numbers are.

Q: How do we do that?

Kopits: To begin with, we refer to the price a nation's oil consumers are willing to pay as its "carrying capacity." For the US, carrying capacity is about $95-100 Brent [per-barrel oil price in London]. If the oil price is above this level, oil consumption will decline—which is exactly what we see and what we predicted four years ago. But carrying capacity is not a static number. It changes over time, specifically, with three things: GDP growth, efficiency gains in the use of oil, and dollar inflation. So if GDP goes up, efficiency goes up and the CPI goes up, then the amount that consumers are willing to pay for oil will increase. For China, by the way, we estimate the carrying capacity at around $115-120 / barrel Brent. So oil consumption will increase in China at $115 Brent, but fall in the advanced economies—exactly the pattern we've seen in the last few years.

On the supply side, the global oil supply and related costs are determined primarily by two factors: geology and technology. Geology is driving costs by forcing us to frontier areas like ultra deepwater and the Arctic. Technology, on the other hand, is allowing us to access new resources like shale gas and shale / tight oil. So, for any given oil price, depletion will always drive us to more difficult geologies and thus higher costs. Technology, on the other hand, can move us back to easier geologies and lower costs. Hydrofracking of shale oil and gas wells, for example, has done just that.

Also, if you are so inclined, you can add above-ground constraints—Saudi policy or Venezuelan policy or Alaskan tax and royalty rates, for example. But assuming these latter factors are relatively constant, geology and technology will determine supply for any given oil price.

So, to sum all this up: we hit peak production when the marginal consumer is no longer willing to buy the marginal barrel.

The marginal consumer banged into the price of the marginal barrel, on a static basis, somewhere in 2011 at about $110-115 Brent. And then, oil prices essentially stopped rising. Those of us who use supply-constrained forecasting weren't surprised. It's entirely consistent with the historical record. But I think many in the oil business still thought, somehow, that oil prices would continue to rise as they had done in the 2000s. After all, the oil supply is widely acknowledged as constrained, even by those who are not necessarily believers in peak oil. So why wouldn't prices continue to rise if we're supply short? Well, because there was a price at which the marginal global consumer would rather reduce oil consumption than pay more. And that price is around $110-115 Brent, and from here on in, we should expect that number to rise only with the purchasing power of the marginal consumer.

On the other hand, the cost of extraction and production has continued to increase. Last year costs increased somewhere between 10% and 13%, depending on who you talk to. Exxon's costs rose about 7% in excess of its increase in revenues, which were also falling. And Petrobras' costs were rising 10% to 13% faster than its revenues. So what we can see is that in the contest between technology and geology, in recent times geology has been winning. Oil has become more expensive to extract.

In fact, oil production is falling at most the of the oil majors. It was even down at 2% at Petrobras last year. But on a global scale, you're right. Oil production hasn't fallen—for three reasons. First, much of what passes for increased "oil" production is actually natural gas production. This includes natural gas liquids from "wet" natural gas wells; LNG [liquefied natural gas] from gas wells; and gas-to-liquids diesel made from natural gas. That's about half of global oil supply growth in the last six years right there. Check out any investor presentation from the majors. LNG features prominently.

Second, we started throwing massive amounts of upstream spend into this business. Upstream expenditures essentially went from $250 billion around 2005 to about $650 billion this year. In essence, by really jacking up how much money we were putting into the system, we were able to increase production…a little bit. To that we can add some changes in above-ground constraints, primarily in Iraq, which is a very important part of supply growth.

Finally, we made some important technological advances with hydrofracking technology. US tight oil production and Canadian oil sands growth represent just about 100% of net oil supply growth in the last two years.

But leaving these aside, the system hit a wall in 2005—Ken Deffeyes was really spot on with his prediction—and the way we maintained and only slightly grew production after that was essentially by throwing money at it.

This was facilitated by dramatic oil prices jumps, from $25 in 2002 to $112 in 2012. But since 2011, depending on rapidly rising oil prices is no longer a viable strategy. The global economy has said, “this is how much we’ll pay and no more.” At the same time, geology just kept marching along right down the back half of Hubbert’s peak, and costs have continued to rise. That’s where we are today: price resistance from the consumer and E&P costs that just continue rising. Despite the very high oil price environment, the upstream financial performance at most of the oil majors, including Exxon and Petrobras, has deteriorated. True, Petrobras’ performance is distorted by government interference, but Exxon is arguably the most disciplined investor in the world. But both of them face deteriorating upstream performance for oil.

Their megaprojects—ultra deepwater and LNG—are often not able to hold the line on costs. The growing hit-list here includes Australia’s Browse, a $45 billion LNG project that was just cancelled. It includes the Arctic, specifically Alaska, where Shell is sitting out the coming season, in part because they ran their drilling rig aground. But Statoil has said they won’t proceed in Alaska until Shell has shown some progress. ConocoPhillips has just cancelled a jack-up rig order that was intended for the Alaskan market. Total pulled out of Canadian oil sands at a loss. Then we see just last week that BP pulled the plug on Mad Dog Phase 2, which would have been one of the major developments in the Gulf of Mexico—a $10 billion megaproject—and that cancellation was a surprise.

What we’re seeing is that the majors are looking at these high-cost projects, and they are beginning to take a more critical eye. This is very much in line with what our model says, which is that oil prices can’t rise much faster than GDP and inflation, plus or minus. And in fact geological costs, as you come down the back side of Hubbert’s peak, will increase and will do so at an accelerating rate. I think we are beginning to see that process now.

Even when we look at the “good-news” shale / tight oil, some investment is slowing. In the Bakken, for example, the rig count actually peaked in September of 2012, and the year-over-year production growth rate peaked at 90% three months earlier in June. Today the growth rate, while still impressive, is down to about 40%. If that trend continues, we could see single-digit growth in the Bakken much sooner than most think.

Q: So the story line getting a ton of ink of late—peak oil is dead….it isn’t actually quite dead yet, is it?

Kopits: No. But importantly, we’re going to peak out production not because we’re “running out of oil,” but because the marginal consumer is not willing to pay for the marginal barrel. We seem to be pretty much at that level today.

We need to understand these dynamics better. What are the combined effects of flat oil prices and rising production costs, that’s where I think the challenge is and where our professional

work is focusing on the macro side…to better understand what these trends are, what they mean, and how companies in the industry should respond to it.

I'll give you an example. Normally, if you look at an oil production system, it tends to be symmetrical around the peak. The rate at which you approach the peak is the rate at which you depart from the peak. We haven't done that. What we've done is that we've approached the peak and we've leveled out production, the so-called "undulating plateau". But we've maintained that plateau by turning to non-oil liquids, by dramatic increases in upstream spend, and also by technological innovation related to hydrofracking. All of these, as of today, look to be running their course. Even shale oil. Yes, it will grow for the next few years from the three majors plays in the US, but the peak of production growth is already behind us in the Bakken, for example. On current trends, Bakken production will be increasing by single digits within two years. Not a tragedy by any means, but not enough to move the global oil supply at that time, either.

Of course, we have one more arrow in the quiver after that: government take. Governments typically take 60-90% of revenues of oil production. There's nothing wrong with that, as in most cases the oil belongs to the respective government. But if the cost of production is increasing, then the value of reserves is falling. Put another way, current levels of government take, whether production or profit sharing, royalties, lease payments or taxes of any sort, are likely unsustainable. Oil companies will need tax relief in one form or another. Far from being able to raise taxes on oil companies, the sober reality is that governments are going to have to get used to getting less. Expect this theme to come front and center in the next couple of years. If government take is reduced quickly, then oil production levels could be sustained for a few more years.

But what then? What's the outlook for oil production globally? Will production at the high cost producers just ease off gently, or will global production rejoin the anticipated trend line from a 2005 peak sharply and quickly? Will the major oil companies invest just a bit less, or do they start culling their new project list aggressively and without material replacement?

I don't know what the answer to that is."

Source: http://investorvillage.com/smbd.asp?mb=4288&mn=118419&pt=msg&mid=12961836

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de N4CD

World economies run on oil. As the price hits 'the ceiling' the economies stall or go into recession. Energy is what drives the economy. Stay tuned. It's going to get interesting. Even more sobering, I'm reading a new book on Natural Gas. Seems the '100 year supply of NG" is

also a a lot of hype, and a whole complete lack of facts. I'll cover that next month after I finish the book. More 'not good' news on that front.

The Lame Stream Media (run by Hollywood Elites of the ultra left persuasian) keep telling you how great things are, with the 'new' oil shales producing an additional 1 or 2 million barrels of oil a day. Is that great or what? The bimbo heads on the network TV haven't a clue.

The world now uses **1000 barrels a second.** That "one million more barrels a day" – is exactly 1000 seconds worth of new oil....that is 1000 bbls/sec times 1000 seconds – or a bit under 17 minutes. Yes, that new oil will be gone in less than 17 minutes! So what do you do for the rest of the day of 86,400 seconds? It's 85 million barrels of oil used each and every day, without fail. Worse, 4.5 million barrels of oil is 'lost' due to depletion. It isn't there any longer – the old wells/oil fields simply produce less as time goes on.

Each year, depletion of existing oil fields and their falling production takes 4.5 million barrels of oil away from the total supply. Each year, the world has to ADD 4.5 million new barrels of production. You've heard about 1 or maybe 2 million more. Where's the rest coming from?

You bet that the oil shales provide BILLIONS in revenues and jobs...but – in the big global picture, 'it's a drop in the bucket' and you have to be doing it worldwide FIVE TIMES a year, year after year, without fail, just to MAINTAIN current production levels. It's not happening – or just barely.

Hollywood, the Lame Stream Media (CNN, MS-LSD, etc) haven't got a clue. To them, it is 'be happy, don't worry, and buy our advertisers products."

On the Road with N4CD – Deadwood SD – 3

Saturday

After a 'free' breakfast, many headed over to the convention center.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting was held at 9am on Saturday. Not much transpired. There was talk of how

to spend the approximate $35,000 (THIRY FIVE THOUSAND) that had accumulated in the treasury – growing year by year. The charge for last counties was lowered to $1 effective immediately giving county hunters a break on awards. That should reduce that amount in the treasury over the years.

Everything is now awarded 'electronically' although you can request the certificate be printed and mailed out for a $3 charge. If you go 'electronic' the certificate is sent via email to you and you can print it out. Or store it away.

The next convention will be held in Visalia, CA and hosted by KC6AWX. There were no other offers for other locations.

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CW Meeting

Jerry, W0GXQ, took the following notes:

MARAC National Convention
CW Meeting Notes

Attendance: AC0B, KY0E, W0GXQ, N0KV, NF0N, W0NAC, NX0X, K1TKL, WA3QNT, KE3VV, N4CD, K5OH, W7FEN, N7JPF, AB7NK, K7SEN, KC7YE, N8KIE, NA8W, K8ZZ, WG9A, KA9JAC, W9LHG, W9OP, OH3JF

Most subjects addressed have been mentioned at previous convention meetings, but it sometimes helps to refresh our memory.

1) **Asking if the net frequency is busy** – lively discussion, but most agreed that the question is least confusing when it includes “CHN”. For example CHN QRL? or CHN QNF?

2) **The use of the Question Mark on nets** – A habit that is difficult for some to shake, but the only “?” that should be heard on the net would be from the Mobile who is running.

3) **Tuning up on net frequency** – Regardless of the power output while tuning, you are creating QRM for someone on the net.

4) **The use of QRZ by the mobile** – If the mobile uses this Q signal during their run, it should be used after they have sent their call sign, county and state, etc.

5) **Mobile identification following the run** – So that everyone is clear on what mobile just ran, the call sign should (must by FCC definition) be given at the end of their run.

6) **Repeating information when signals are strong** – When calling the mobile, the call sign should be given once. It is generally not necessary to repeat a 599 report.

7) **Exchanging signal reports** – Much discussion on this subject. When a mobile is contending with many stations calling, some prefer "A 599". Some prefer using "Also", and some spell it out for 559 and less signal reports. Each mobile will ultimately use their preferred method.

8) **Spotting the mobile** – If you have the capability to spot the mobile, you should do so. This benefits the mobile and the fixed stations.

9) **Assisting with Relays** – Generally, the mobile will not ask for relays, but if you hear a station calling that the mobile has not responded to, please offer to relay that station. If the mobile specifically asks for "QSP", it would benefit both parties if you would offer to do the relay.

10) **Two mobiles running on the frequency at the same time** – It is sometimes difficult to determine which mobile actually started running first. Poor propagation adds to the confusion, but if you are hearing both mobiles, you should make some attempt to get their attention, so a decision can be made by one of the mobiles to either QSY or QRX.

11) **Using full break-in operation** – To preclude unintentional QRM, net operators should use break-in whenever possible. If full break-in cannot be used comfortably, then some short delay is better than no break in at all.

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VE Testing

There was a VE test at the convention and two people took and passed the Technician level test.

History of Deadwood

Mr Pananaan, who owns the roadhouse in Lead, and invented the Living Map display, gave a presentation on the history of the Deadwood/Lead area. He was born and raised in Lead.

Logger Meeting

Gene, KD9ZP, gave an interesting talk on MARAC Logger and the new features added.

Annual Banquet

We had a great buffet style dinner – excellent food – done well. It was hot, tasty and there was lots of it, plus a whole bunch of desserts. It was definitely one of the better ones in my opinion in a many years and we all moved quickly through the line.

Silent Auction

This year there was a silent auction of items – one could bid on them, and highest bidder won the item. One item up for bid was a new Garmin GPS with county lines already installed.

Annual Awards

County Hunter of the Year SSB - KU4YM Dave

County Hunter of the Year CW - K4EXT Dave

Best SSB Mobile of the Year - WQ7A Terry

Best CW Mobile of the Year Jerry, W0GXQ

Best CW Net Control Jerry, W0GXQ

Best Team KB0BA, Lowell, and Sandra N0XYL

Sturgis, SD

Saturday I had a few hours between meetings and the 'picture time' for the group photos, so I headed over to Sturgis, SD – not too far away. We had gone by it on the tour. Sturgis is the site for the largest motorcycle get together in the world. You don't want to be anywhere near it when the week long event occurs. Tens of thousands of motorcycle enthusiasts head there. Sturgis is a small town of about 6000 folks. There is lots of name entertainment as well, but

it's a real 'zoo'.

Farmers rent out their fields for miles around, and it's a wild place for a week with bars that suddenly appear (don't even open the rest of the year) with hundreds/thousands of patrons crowding in. Massive amounts of alcohol is consumed and there is an unending line of motorcycles cruising up and down at all hours of the day and night.

There ain't much there. The main street has half a dozen bars that were basically deserted, and there were half a dozen motorcycles at the place. The tee-shirt vendors were setting up for the big event. Scottie, N4AAT, headed over there and bought a Sturgis tee-shirt, but after 10 minutes there, I turned around and headed back.

If you have cable TV, there's one program on TruTV – Full Throttle Saloon.....lots of hype, but you might get a picture of the event from watching that. IT's the world's largest biker bar and it isn't even anywhere near downtown Sturgis. Only open for the week of the Sturgis event, too!

http://www.fullthrottlesaloon.com/

Oh...and the American Pickers had one episode where they caught up with one of the main characters who had headed off to Sturgis...they also sold their Indian Motorcycle there.

Well, unless you are a big motorcycle fan...skip Sturgis. Don't be anywhere near it the first week of August either!

Greenie Fraud of the Month

Excelsior seller of wind energy equipment, Renewable Energy SD, is being sued for fraud by the attorney general's office of Minnesota. Now, the company is filing for Chapter 7 bankruptcy.

On Friday, the company filed for liquidation in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court. Renewable Energy listed a $15.9 million debt with $6.2 million in assets.

Hennepin County District Court originally filed the attorney general's lawsuit, and has alleged that the company enacted fraudulent business practices. According to the suit the owner Shawn

Dooling, sold customers faulty wind turbines he created from federal stimulus money that was aimed to boost the economy following the recession.

The company then apparently failed to deliver many of the turbines altogether, while others were erected poorly and failed to perform at all. There are 15 civil lawsuits that have been filed separately against the company.

Renewable Energy SD was forced to stop selling the generators in Minnesota following the attorney general's obtaining of injunctions. The suit is still pending while a judge looks over the case.

A spokesman for the Renewable Energy stated the lawsuit forced the company into Chapter 7 filing.

“The bankruptcy filing was unavoidable because the company was out of business and had no way to fund its defense in multiple court cases,” Renewable Energy attorney Michael McGrath, of Ravich Meyer in Minneapolis, said in an interview Monday.

Renewable Energy customers are still attempting to parse out just how much they deserve in compensation for the accused fraud. One customer admitted to be taken aback by the whole experience with the energy company. “I’ve never run into a scam this big, and I hope never to run into another one like it,” said Gerald Crowell, a farmer near Windom, Minn.

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Your tax money at work, thrown down greenie rat holes from gigantic slush funds of your money and borrowed money your kids and grandkids will have to pay back.

On the Road with N4CD IV – Headed Home

Sunday

The convention was over and the time to head home had arrived. From Deadwood to Collin County TX was about 1250 miles – it would take two lazy days of county hunting to arrive home via the rural roads of NE, KS, and OK, then hitting the interstate south of Oklahoma, OK for the last bit to get the last 200 miles. I enjoyed the nice breakfast at 7am then hit the road at 7:30am headed east a bit on the interstate before dropping south on route 83 for the next 500

miles. The weather was a nice 55 degrees as we left – quite a difference from the 101 degrees expected in Dallas that day.

Some of the county hunters left early. Scottie was half way to WI by the time most got on the road, and Ed, K8ZZ was a good ways toward Duluth, MN where he would drop off Henry, OH3JF, before zipping home to get to work on Tuesday morning.

Conditions were still pretty miserable, radio wise, but with half a dozen mobiles on cw – AB7RW, NF0N, K1TKL, W9OP, KC7YE, KE3VV, K3IMC, KE3VV, K8ZZ, WA3QNT, W7FEN, W0GXQ – the activity was good and mobiles were able to work each other on 40M and sometimes on 20. A few times, I caught up with Jerry, W0GXQ on 17M – when we were a couple hundred miles away, but 17m was not great. There was no DX coming in on the way home. Zilch. Nada. The only 'DX' if you will was KF9D in the afternoons from Molokai (Maui County). W3ZUH was scheduled to be on from AK, but zilch heard or spotted. Don't know if he was trying, couldn't hear anything – but with the A index up at 25 and the K running 1-2, that's a real problem that far north. (the A index in AK is usually double what it is over the mainland USA).

Don, K3IMC, was headed back to Salt Lake City, UT with the rental car. They gave him one that was in imminent need of an oil change and the car system was screaming "Change the oil" as there was zero oil life left when he arrived in Deadwood. The car rental company wanted him to drive 25 miles and spend a couple hours of his time waiting for them to get around changing the oil (while charging him rental fees). Dang. (check the internet – there's a way to reset the 'oil life' indicator – I had to use it last time when the local dealer changed the oil but didn't reset the oil life indicator). Otherwise, it will be giving you constant alarms as it approaches under 10% life left. Most of the time you can do 8000 or 10,000 miles before you run out of 'oil life' but I change mine no more than 7500 miles and many times at 5000-6000 miles if a long multi thousand mile trip is coming up.

Hollis, KC3X and Joe, N5UZW, continued doing a great job running the 20M SSB net. No one got 'run off' for using phonetics. Newcomers didn't get blasted away and told to 'have a nice day'[and 'get off the frequency'. With two net controls working together, it went smoothly. Mobiles got moved off frequency to run and folks had 'mobile contacts' and caught up with others for 'last county contacts'. It was like the 'good old days'. Great!

With 20 or so mobiles on the road on SSB – from WG9A to NX0X/KB0MMH, KA9JAC/KB9YVT, K3IMC, AA9JJ/N9QPQ, WQ7A, NX4W, N4AAT, KB0BA/N0XYL, N5MLP, NA8W/KA8JQP, NX4W, KA1YZV, W0NAC/N0XYL, AB7NK/K7SEN, N0KV/N0DXE, N8KIE, WA9DLB, WD5JGS, NA8W, K0MAF, AJ5ZX/KC5QCB, W7FEN,KJ5PQ/N5UZW, AC0B, there was no reason for me to jump in – it was 'busy' and those mobiles wanted to put out counties. I spent most of the time on cw but worked mobiles when I could hear them on 20M just to give them my county. They might need it. The 40M SSB antenna was stowed in the back seat.

Things went well the first day and I made it about half way home stopping in Garden City, KS – in Finney County.

That night I stayed at - another 'former' Super 8 motel. It's now a Dusty Trails Inn - $45 for the night. I think many of the Super 8 owners got tired of the corporate demands for 'upgrading' to giant pillows – 6 or 8 of them, thick 'comforters', and deluxe towels – 8 or 10 of them, plus luxury shampoos, soaps, etc – and just decided to tell Super 8 HQ where to stick it. They changed names and stayed with just 2 or 3 pillows, standard bed coverings, and basic supplies in the bathroom. That's fine with me. I don't need Marriott, Holiday Inn, or Best Western prices for a motel room in which I barely spend 2 hours awake most nights after I finish dinner and before going to bed for the night. I don't need a refrigerator and microwave and luxury desk and chair, either. There was no Motel 6 there – they are usually along the interstates and in the big cities. The other chain that seems to fit my price category now is America Best Value Inns. They seem to have replaced the Super 8 niche for medium quality rooms while Super 8 thinks it's a Marriot/Best Western wanna-be with higher prices to go along with it.

Mike, NF0N, and Larry, W7FEN, made it home that night but most of the other county hunters had multiple day trips to get home. Larry had to worry about mudslides after the forest fires had burned the slopes clean near his QTH in Colorado. Living in a location with a 'mountain road' can have its problems with bad weather – like flash floods after the hillsides burned clean in the forest fires there recently – giving you mudslides closing the roads. He made it home OK.

It was Sunday night – pizza night. The nice lady at the desk told me their real pizza place had just closed down - - not enough business with the Obama depression underway – so it was limited now just to the Pizza Hut as options for dinner along with Papa Johns take out.. I opted for the sit down Pizza Hut. Then it was off to bed. I had changed time zones already back to CDT from MDT.

Monday

Breakfast at the motel – cereal, English muffin, horrible 'OJ" (Sunny D or equivalent high fructose 'drink'), and coffee. They ought to have some real O.J.

Come Monday morning and it was FOG! Wow! I couldn't see 100 feet getting out of the motel and that lasted about 10 miles. Hollis, KC3X called and told me Joe, N5UZW needed Finney KS for a LC for MD. I had to stop and throw the 40M mag mount and antenna back on the roof to work Joe. Turns out Joe, N5UZW needed that for a last county and we caught up with each other just before I left the county. Just in time! I left it there and worked a few others on SSB when there was no cw activity to chase. There weren't a whole lot of folks at home on 20m and 17M – most of the 'regulars' were on the road and in close proximity – so often we only heard each other on 40 or 30m until we were further apart. Those on the coasts had poor

propagation and there was no DX at all.

Then it was gloom and drizzle the entire way home for the next 600 miles across KS, then down though OK all the way to Dallas. At times it poured but mostly just drizzle and in the high 60s and low 70s. The sun never came out. Even when the drizzle stopped – it was gloomy and total overcast. Fortunately the radio was working well and with most of the mobiles still on the road.

Scottie was headed toward Fannin, GA for me. He had radio problems and couldn't get it to work on 20M SSB. Late in the afternoon, just as I pulled over for a break in the TX Welcome center in Cooke, TX, he called on the cellphone and we connected on 14052 cw – he had to hold some wires together to get it to work! Success and another one struck of the Mobile Diamond needs list. He was trying to put some out on 40M with little success. 40M conditions were pretty bad on Monday but mobiles were working each other in the central part of the country.

The time was 'rush hour' and it was raining. Sure enough, just after I hit the 'metroplex' there's a jackknifed 18 wheeler on I-35E – with a ten mile backup at 3 mph creeping long. Only one lane getting by of the 3 and of course, everyone slowed to a crawl to take a look at the accident. The truck was still blocking 2 lanes and it looked like they needed some bigger tow trucks to get things moved. That took the better part of an hour to get through, then it was home by 6pm. I hit the Boston Market for dinner. It was only 74 or so in Dallas – a new 'all time record low 'high' for the day – breaking the record by 5 degrees. Dang global warming at it again! The windshield wipers had been going most of the day and I was glad to get home.

Paul, K1TKL, had to cross the Mohave Desert on the interstate on his way home. When coming to the convention he crossed it at night – avoiding the 120 deg temps. On Tuesday, according to the Weather Channel, it was 121 in Death Valley! Wow. If you are headed that way – cross it early in the morning or late at night. Yuk! Terry, WQ7A, was taking the 'slow route' home enjoying the mountains in WY and ID along the way.

About half the mobiles would make it home by Tuesday, but the west coasters had at least a 3 day trip. Same for most of the east coasters who would take 3 or 4 days to get home. A few took extended vacations out west.

It had been a long trip – 4139 miles and one with lots of great things to see...and also some deep sadness with suddenly losing Leo, WY7LL. It's one that won't be forgotten soon. It was great to see the county hunters again and meet some folks for the first time. It was great putting faces to voices/cw hands for the first time, and meeting some 'real DX'. Overall, it was a lot of fun and there was always something going on.

Hope you had an enjoyable trip if you were on the road – or enjoyed it 'vicariously' by traveling along with us.

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If you are a 'group member' of the Facebook **Ham Radio County Hunting Group** there are loads of additional pictures there to see – good high res pictures. It's simple to 'join'.

Ultra Greenie Jim Hansen

Jim Hansen is one of the biggest promoters now of 'global climate change'. That's a bit strange since before 1990, he was publishing data that showed that the Earth's temperature accurately tracked the solar irradiance of our sun. Here's the graph he published in 1988

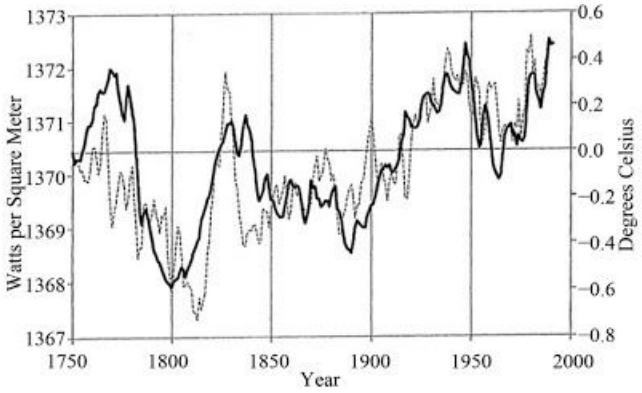

Figure 3. The annual mean Northern hemisphere temperature variations and solar irradiance Hansen and Lebedeff (1988).

You'll note that there is a near 100% correlation over the past 237 years he used in the study.

The sun's activity goes up and down. When sunspots disappeared in the 1800 timeframe, the Earth cooled. Some forecasts indicate we may have zero sunspots within 25 years which would lead to another 'little ice age' like what was seen in Europe when the canals froze each for decades.

Now, apparently there is more 'green' to be earned, and more 'fame', by drinking the global warming Kool-Aid. In the past 20 years, he's jumped on the bandwagon along with thousands of others to reap the benefits of hundreds of billions of bucks of 'global warming ' research and promotion bucks.

Here's the graph of Earth's temp vs Carbon dioxide. You'll see there is no correlation whatsoever.

http://c3headlines.typepad.com/.a/6a010536b58035970c0120a7c87805970b-pi

However, when you are out to make fast bucks, these folks don't seem to let facts get in the way of their bleatings for more of your money to be redistributed to 3rd world tyrants and tycoons just waiting to clean up on carbon taxes, carbon credits and other financial fleecing of the US and Europe.

Peak Oil II

Peak oil: preparing for the extinction of 'petroleum man'

At the turn of the century, certain sections of the scientific community noticed a small but ominous speck on the horizon. Over the years, this speck has advanced, revealing itself as a hulking great obstacle that casts a shadow of uncertainty over our collective energy future. The speck has been replaced by something nearer and altogether more tangible. We now have an elephant in the room, and its name is peak oil.

So, what is peak oil? In short, peak oil will occur when the extraction rate of this resource ceases to rise. Typically, this point is reached when half or less of a natural commodity has been removed. It is the peak of the bell curve; the point at which the tail is longer than the rise to the top.

Last month, Time reported that peak oil had been certified dead by the International Energy Agency (IEA). It seems that unconventional energy sources in North America have delayed the onset of peak oil. To proclaim that peak oil is dead, however, is a little misleading. It would be more accurate to say that peak oil is dormant, or at least, that the rate at which oil is extracted is likely to continue on a bumpy plateau for longer than anticipated.

Of course, it is possible to argue over the exact point at which global peak oil will arrive, but at some time in the not too distant future, we are going to have deal with this problem. Oil is a finite resource and as such, it cannot sustain indefinite extraction.

The term peak oil was coined by Dr Colin J Campbell and Professor Kjell Aleklett in 2000. Soon after, the pair – together with some of their peers – founded the Association for the Study of Peak Oil and Gas (ASPO International): a network of academics committed to the investigation of this event and its associated consequences.

In an interview with ScienceOmega.com, Professor Aleklett, ASPO President and Professor in Global Energy Systems at Uppsala University, explained more about when peak oil is likely to occur, and how we should prepare for the extinction of 'petroleum man'…

Could you begin by explaining why it has proven so difficult for experts to agree upon a definition of peak oil?

As we were the ones who invented the term, I think it's only fair that we should be the ones who get to define what it means. Peak oil is the point at which maximum production of oil is reached. Of course, its exact definition depends on how the term is being used. For instance, the term peak oil could be used in a global sense, or it could refer to production within a particular region.

It is important to note that peak oil is not the end of oil; it is the end of the increase in the production of oil. The extraction of oil in the North Sea offers a very clear example. Evidence shows that the rate of production within this region ceased to increase in 2000. This rate is now declining dramatically. Peak oil for the North Sea, therefore, occurred at the turn of the century.

To what extent is it difficult to predict when global peak oil is likely to occur?

We have a pretty good idea of when this is going to happen. You must remember that so far, we've been removing crude oil; a type of oil that is very easy to extract. When Dr Colin Campbell and I made our predictions, we hypothesised that in 2004, conventional crude oil would reach its peak in production. As it transpired, this peak occurred in 2008. In principle, we were right. Everybody agrees that conventional crude oil production has reached its maximum, and that it can never be restored to its former levels.

However, we also have to account for other types of oil. Hydraulic fracking operations in the United States and the exploitation of Canadian tar sands, for example, are influenced by the oil price. If the oil price is low, production rates fall; if it is high, they rise.

So, is it possible to predict when the global peak – across all types of oil – will occur?

Dr Colin Campbell and I had the first-ever peer-reviewed paper published on this subject just over 10 years ago. In this paper, we predicted that peak oil would occur between 2009 and 2013. We also estimated that production at the time of the peak would be around 85 million barrels per day.

When our paper was first published, we were widely painted as the crazy guys who didn't understand anything. The IEA and the US Energy Information Administration (EIA), for example, suggested that by 2010, oil production would reach 95 million barrels per day. It turns out that we were the ones who were right.

I should point out that this is production as defined by statistical review. For some people, production is not production: it is consumption. When oil goes through a refinery, many things are added to it. Consequently, the volume of oil that comes out of a refinery is greater than that which goes in. However, I would argue that to count the end product rather than the material that is extracted from the ground is a form of double counting.

How have attitudes shifted since you first made your predictions?

Attitudes have changed considerably. Traditionally, economists have stated that if the price of a commodity is high, you should be able to produce more of it. However, this doesn't necessarily hold true for a finite resource. Previous IEA and EIA estimates suggested that by 2030, oil production would have reached 120 million barrels per day. They have since revised their estimates to 95 million barrels per day: a reduction of 25 million barrels per day. All the while, the price of oil remains high. According to the traditional model, the rate of production should be increasing, but it is plateauing. This, I believe, is a strong indication that the way in which their estimates are being formulated is fundamentally flawed.

Assuming that your calculations are correct and that global peak oil is imminent, why should we be worried? What, in your opinion, are the major difficulties that this situation is likely to create?

The modern global economy has never undergone a period of significant expansion without an increase in the use of oil. My colleagues and I are currently working with researchers at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to explore the implications of the relationship between these two factors. It is absolutely clear that a decline in oil production will damage the global economy. Of course, if the economy isn't functioning as it should, it has knock-on effects for society as a whole.

Look at the problems that have resulted from the economic crash of 2008. Many people in Europe are already struggling to pay their oil bills because the price is so high. This, in turn, creates further challenges. Because the input cost is high, it is more expensive to fuel your car. This means that it is difficult to drive to the shops and buy things. In this type of environment, you tend not to do as many things as you would if the oil price were lower.

How can individuals prepare themselves for this transition?

We need to adjust our habits in order to adapt to lower energy consumption. People can insulate their houses, for example, or change their cars. These things don't necessarily have to be done right now, but we need to make clear plans. We must accept the fact that in the future, we will be using significantly less energy than we do today.

Do you think that sufficient measures are being taken by policymakers to plan for our transition to the second half of the age of oil?

No. It is clear that in this respect, we have a big problem. It is very difficult for any politician to admit that something is wrong, and that we might need to do something about it. If they were to do this, another politician would come along and say, 'There's no problem; vote for me and we can carry on as we are'.

This is the democratic dilemma. Drastic action is necessary, but it is very difficult to achieve. Education will be crucial if we are to succeed in implementing the required measures. Alternatively, it might take a crisis to precipitate change.

Are you optimistic about the future? Do you think that politicians will, at some point, address the problem of peak oil?

I've been working in this field for many years now, and it's sad to see how little has been done. The measures that have been taken have been implemented largely because of climate change. Energy challenges such as peak oil are closely linked with climate-related issues, so victories within the field of climate change tend to be victories for peak oil as well. The good news is that we have started to tread the right path. Ultimately, we have to act. Whichever way you look at it, we won't be able to use as much energy in the future as we do today.

Read more: http://www.scienceomega.com/article/1135/peak-oil-preparing-for-the-extinction-of-petroleum-man#ixzz2ZLrutZJD

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de N4CD - in case you didn't notice it – oil is now up to over $105/bbl, the oil inventories are plummeting in the US, and gas prices are $3.50 and up. (Part of the increase in gas prices is due to the ethanol insanity with billions in subsidies to rich agri-business conglomerates getting subsidies for growing and converting corn into fuel at a net loss of energy while generating even more CO2 and destroying farmland and underground aquifers).

Summits on the Air (SOTA)

Some days, there's not a whole lot of cw activity. Saturday, July 20, was one of them. Only spot during the day, spent listening to 14.0565, was W4HSA in his home county of Pamlico, NC. Not much to get excited about.

I got an email from a KD7WSJ – telling me how he would be portable in Duchesne, UT on 14061 putting out the summit for the SOTA – Summits on the Air. Apparently, Saturday, July 20 was "Mountain Day". Just like Islands on the Air, there seem to be a lot of Europeans looking for things to do – and this is something new.

To 'put out' a summit, you need to head to your local mountain tops and operate PORTABLE. You cannot use a mobile rig or anything connected to the mobile. It must be all battery/solar/wind power – no fossil fuel generators allowed. To get a 'qualifying summit' you need to make at least 4 contacts. Most of these folks are running QRP or not much power.

Here's the rules in case you get the urge to go QRP mobile on a nice hike up your local mountains.

http://www.sota.org.uk/docs/SOTA-General-Rules-1.16.pdf

Their web site, including a spotting page for activations – and planned trips, is at

http://www.sotawatch.org/

Most of these folks aren't worried about counties, but you can usually easily find, using Google, what county the summit is in.

Occasionally, some of the IOTAs are spotted and in rare spots. K6VVL was just active on a island off Second AK. I saw him spotted on 30M but heard zilch and the A index was way up there the whole time he was there. But you never know! Never saw a 20m spot for him

The SOTA folks seem to hang out at 14061-62 on 20M and 7033 plus or minus on 40M. Most of the IOTAs are not in rare spots, but you never know – you just might need their island county. Also, a few times a year, there are lighthouse activations for those hunting down Lighthouses on the Air awards and QSLs. They all count for counties!

The Energy Facts

The Greenies run around like chickens with their heads cut off. Some simple facts to keep in mind:

from the USA EIA web page

http://www.eia.gov/cfapps/ipdbproject/iedindex3.cfm?tid=1&pid=1&aid=2&cid=CH,GM,IN,JA,RS,US,&syid=2008&eyid=2012&unit=TST

The annual use for coal in the world for the largest using countries:

Millions of short tons

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
China	2,953,217	3,350,859	3,501,780	3,826,869	3,976,117
Germany	267,882	247,867	255,958	256,661	262,564
India	640,524	674,878	662,585	721,419	801,030
Japan	203,803	181,497	206,125	192,854	203,846
Russia	249,796	243,602	248,729	256,691	275,686
United States	1,120,548	997,478	1,051,307	1,003,066	890,483

You'll note that China uses 4 times the coal the US does,and unlike the US where coal use is dropping, it has grown 25% in the last 5 years and with their current addition of dozens of new power plants a year, will continue to 'skyrocket'. Onoe new coal plant comes on line there every WEEK! - 50 a year added. They need the energy. Coal use in the USA is actually up this current year. NG prices are spiking once again making coal more economic to burn.

If you add in India, which uses nearly the same as the USA and will shortly use more....it is 5 times the US consumption with China and India. We could cut back by 50%, but that would just give India and China more coal to ratchet up their growth another 25 or 50%. Hardly make a difference, other than a million US jobs disappear.

If you want to meet the Greenies goal of 50% reduction worldwide – well, we could give up everything but that wouldn't even dent the world's use of coal. China and India have no

intention of slowing down, or going back to 1800 style of living with no electricity, cars, planes, trains, or modern conveniences.

How about Petroleum? How about cutting back. Let's look at the numbers:

Millions of barrels a day

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
China	7,467.5	8,539.7	9,330.2	9,852.1	10,276.8
Germany	2,542.1	2,452.8	2,469.6	2,400.1	2,388.1
India	2,864.0	3,112.7	3,255.4	3,410.5	3,621.8
Japan	4,798.3	4,414.7	4,464.7	4,480.5	4,728.5
Russia	2,906.0	2,950.4	2,992.1	3,115.0	3,195.5
United States	19,498.0	18,771.4	19,180.1	18,949.4	18,554.6

Source: http://www.eia.gov/cfapps/ipdbproject/iedindex3.cfm?tid=5&pid=5&aid=2&cid=CH,GM,IN,JA,RS,US,&syid=2008&eyid=2012&unit=TBPD

We easily see that China is growing by leaps and bounds. At current rates, they'll be at our level of consumption by 2025, assuming there is that much oil left in the world. Add China and India together – the growth – and they will be using more than us by 2020, assuming that much oil production exists in the world.

Here's the natural gas stats

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
China	2,726	3,125	3,768	4,624	5,152
Germany	3,465	3,302	3,181	2,740	2,906
India	1,515	1,883	2,277	2,261	2,076
Japan	3,667	3,653	3,848	4,361	4,388
Russia	15,546	13,505	14,961	17,975	17,803
United States	23,277	22,910	24,087	24,385	25,502

Look at the rates of expansion of use by China and India...then ask yourself where all that is coming from. Next month we'll cover the US Natural Gas situation, which is not all rosy as the politicians tell you. It's much much different and reality is about to hit.

The world will be much different in 10 years as countries line up their energy sources. Most of the wars in the past have been over 'resources' and access to the world's remaining coal, oil and natural gas resources will be something played over and over again. I don't need to mention Iraq, Iran, Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Kuwait, Nigeria, Venezuela do I?

Where is all the energy going to come from? (Hint: It's not)....stay tuned. The US shale oil bonanza will soon 'peak'. The US shale gas bonanza will do the same. You will live in interesting times.

The US, with 4% of the world's population, is not going to dictate to the other 96% of the people in the world how much carbon they can emit. If you think the US has any 'clout' left.....with China...just ask him how his 'request' to China to return the NSA spy Snowden worked out. They said NO.

Ayn Rand - Starnesville/Detroit

Do you remember Atlas Shrugged? The Ayn Rand novel about what happens when the socialists take over?

Look at this description of Detroit from today's Observer:

> *What isn't dumped is stolen. Factories and homes have largely been stripped of anything of value, so thieves now target cars' catalytic converters. Illiteracy runs at around 47%; half the adults in some areas are unemployed. In many neighborhoods, the only sign of activity is a slow trudge to the liquor store.*

Now have a look at the uncannily prophetic description of Starnesville, a Mid-Western town in Ayn Rand's dystopian novel, *Atlas Shrugged*. Starnesville had been home to the great Twentieth Century Motor Company, but declined as a result of socialism:

> *A few houses still stood within the skeleton of what had once been an industrial town. Everything that could move, had moved away; but some human beings had remained. The empty structures were vertical rubble; they had been eaten, not by time, but by men: boards torn out at random, missing patches of roofs, holes left in*

gutted cellars. It looked as if blind hands had seized whatever fitted the need of the moment, with no concept of remaining in existence the next morning. The inhabited houses were scattered at random among the ruins; the smoke of their chimneys was the only movement visible in town. A shell of concrete, which had been a schoolhouse, stood on the outskirts; it looked like a skull, with the empty sockets of glassless windows, with a few strands of hair still clinging to it, in the shape of broken wires.

Beyond the town, on a distant hill, stood the factory of the Twentieth Century Motor Company. Its walls, roof lines and smokestacks looked trim, impregnable like a fortress. It would have seemed intact but for a silver water tank: the water tank was tipped sidewise.

They saw no trace of a road to the factory in the tangled miles of trees and hillsides. They drove to the door of the first house in sight that showed a feeble signal of rising smoke. The door was open. An old woman came shuffling out at the sound of the motor. She was bent and swollen, barefooted, dressed in a garment of flour sacking. She looked at the car without astonishment, without curiosity; it was the blank stare of a being who had lost the capacity to feel anything but exhaustion.

"Can you tell me the way to the factory?" asked Rearden.

The woman did not answer at once; she looked as if she would be unable to speak English. "What factory?" she asked.

Rearden pointed. "That one."

"It's closed."

Now here's the really extraordinary thing. When Ayn Rand published those words in 1957, ***Detroit was, on most measures, the city with the highest per capita GDP in the United States*.**

Source: http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/danielhannan/100227375/obamanomics-is-turning-america-into-detroit-ayn-rands-starnesville-come-to-life/

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Now, it's filed for bankruptcy, 80% of its residents have left, there are 10,000 abandoned houses, only 25% of the street lights work.....empty factories by the hundreds. Empty businesses by the thousands.

They had 60 years of liberal 'progressive' democrat run government. They finally ran out of 'other people's money'. Chicago and at least a dozen other cities are right behind them, as well

as entire states.

Awards

USCA #1235	Clarence VE5EGK	June 25, 2013
Sixth time #45	Larry, N2OCW	July 8, 2013
Bingo #351	W8TZA	July 4, 2013
Master Gold #59	Karl, K4YT	July 8, 2013
Five Star #65	Barry, N0KV	July 16, 2013
Five Star #66	Doug, WA4UNS	July 18, 2013
RAN ALL USA #15	Jeff, AF3X	July 12, 2013
USA-PA-W #11	Chuck, W3CR	July 17, 2013
USA-PA-N #19	Gene, WB4KZW	July 19, 2013

Upcoming Events for County Hunters

This month there is something going on every weekend. It starts out with the US Counties Party at the end of July– then a 10-10 Phone QSO party (let's hope for some propagation), and North American QSO Party CW – later in the month SSB contest. You've got a CW OPS open event at the end of the month – crank up those ears – a lot of those folks are zipping along. You can participate in the 'open' CW OPS events.

State QSO Parties include MDC (can we get a mobile or two out?), and HI and KS and OH.

Should be lots of counties up for grabs with mobiles running around in KS and OH. Have not heard anything about a possible Kalawao operation this year.

Info courtesy of the ARRL Contest Corral – ARRL Newington, CT 06111

July 27-28

US Counties Party
2013 (47TH) MARAC U. S. COUNTIES QSO PARTY
1400Z TO 2400Z JULY 27 AND 1400Z to 2400Z JULY 28, 2013
See MARAC website or July Issue of the CHNews for rules

August 4

10-10 Summer Phone QSO Party
Call, name, 10-10 number, S/P/C
www.ten-ten.org
Aug 3, 0001Z - Aug 4, 2359Z

North American QSO Party - CW
Name and state
ncjweb.com
Aug 3, 1800Z - Aug 4, 0600Z

August 10

Maryland-DC QSO Party
Maryland county/city or S/P/C
mdcqsoparty.w3vpr.org
Aug 10, 1600Z - See website

August 17-18

North American QSO Party - SSB
Name and state
ncjweb.com
Aug 17, 1800Z - Aug 18, 0600Z

ARRL Rookie Roundup
Both calls, name, check, S/P/XE or "DX"
www.arrl.org/contests
Aug 18, 1800Z - Aug 18, 2359Z

August 24-26

Hawaii QSO Party
RS(T) and Hawaii multiplier or S/P
www.hawaiiqsoparty.org
Aug 24, 0400Z - Aug 26, 0400Z

Kansas QSO Party
RS(T) and KS county or S/P/"DX"
www.ksqsoparty.org
Aug 24, 1400Z - See website
CW--40 kHz above band edge;
Phone--3.840, 7.240, 14.240, 21.340, 28.440 MHz

Ohio QSO Party
Serial and S/P or "DX"
www.ohqp.org
Aug 24, 1600Z - Aug 25, 0400Z

August 31

CWops CW Open
Serial and name
www.cwops.org/cwopen.html
Aug 31, 1200Z - See website

That's all folks!