

County Hunter News

December 1, 2014
Volume 10, Issue 12

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

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

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

We hope you will enjoy the County Hunter News. Feel free to forward, or provide links. Permission is given for copying or quoting in part or all provided credit is given to the CHNews and to the author of article.

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

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

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) N4CD Rumbings - Winter weather moved into the north part of the country and even the south got a blast of cold air. Mobile activity has slowed down quite a bit, and the state QSO parties have ended for a while. Still, there are counties to be gotten in various contests and a few mobiles are 'on the road' giving out the counties. The days are getting 'shorter' as we head into December and the temperatures are falling. The good news is even gas prices are falling this year so enjoy them while they are low. So it's on to another newsletter – a bit 'early' this month due to holiday travel.

2) Battleship Movie – Well, it wasn't much after I wrote about the movie in a recent issue concerning the Battleship Missouri that the same movie, Battleship, came on the FX channel one night. Naturally, I had to watch it. This is the movie about aliens from Planet G, who followed a NASA radio beam from Earth, landing in the Pacific. They turn out to be hostile and sink every ship in the Navy – of every country. Rather than give in to the aliens, the resourceful folks reactivate the Battleship Missouri and blast the aliens into pieces using the big guns.

Not a great movie – 90 minutes of explosions and ships blowing up, which seems to be a common movie theme these days. However, after visiting the Missouri in September, I sat through the movie just to watch it sink the alien vessel finally.

3) Ron, KA3DRO sent in a picture from his recent trip up north.



KA3DRO Nicholas, WV

Mobile Activity in November

At the beginning of the month we had the CW Sweepstakes with some AK and HI counties spotted. Many county hunters joined in the fun. Then

Mary, AB7NK and Neil, K7SEN were in south Texas headed back to AZ.

AA1VA, Terry, ran a few in VA on SSB

N9JF, Jim, was out and about many days during the month in many states, mostly IL and IN but excursions elsewhere as well.

KC5VGD was noted giving out NE counties on SSB then headed east. He gets around.

WB5TMW has been active all month in west TX putting them out on SSB.

Ron, KB6UF has put out a dozen or more in LA. He then headed west to CA.

Kyle, WA4PGM has made several trips to WV and back.

AJ5ZX, Randy, and KC5QCB, Janet, were putting them out in east TX and OK.

KU4OG was active in AL, GA on SSB

N7JPF,k Paul, was noted in OR counties

Joyce, N9STL, made a trip to KY and put out many in central and southeast KY for the folks.

Kerry, W4SIG, was very active this month putting out counties in TN, MS, AL, and GA.

K7TM, Bob, was noted in UT headed home.

Dave, KW1DX was on the road in MA, NH, and ME.

Bob, WA3QNT, noted on the road in PA and WV.

Bill, WG9A, was noted in PA headed back home.

Paul, WD9EJK, was on many days during the month in IL.

Dennis, N6PDB and Susan, WA6OCV, headed east from CA putting out counties on SSB and data modes.

W4FNN/W8FNN were noted in TN and other states during the month. They headed south to FL for the winter.

KB0BA, Lowell, and Sandra, N0XYL, were out and about several times during the month.

K8EMS, Mike, was heard from WI.

Greg, NM2L was busy on several trips to AL. Tried SSB on 20M and got run off by the Florida Loudmouth. Now he's strictly CW.

Ed, K8ZZ, showed up in MI for a few counties.

Scottie, N4AAT, ran a few in SC. Still under doc's orders not to do large trips yet.

Mike, KA4RRU, has been busy putting out counties in VA.

N4JT, Jim, put out counties on data modes.

Mike, NF0N, was out in NE running some of the rare ones.

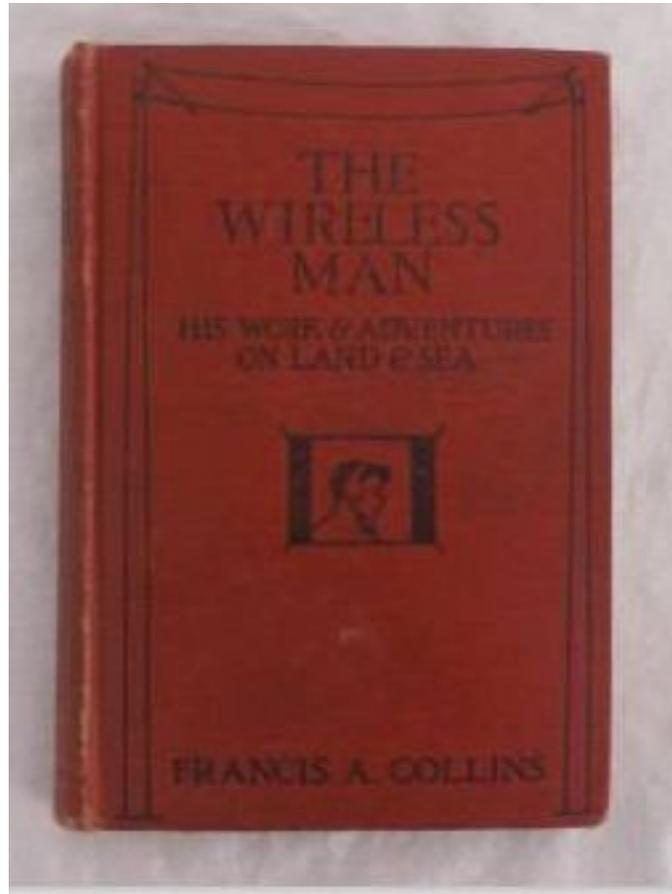
Rick, AI5P, headed across from AR to NM.

K0FG, Fred, put out counties in MO on SSB.

Pat, N0DXE and Barry, N0KV, headed up through WY to MT, ND and back.

Book Review of the Month

The Wireless Man - Collins



This month we have a serious book about Wireless, circa 1912. It's the *Wireless Man - His Work and Adventures on Land & Sea*, by Francis A Collins.

Nearly all of the previous books have been fiction. This is not a kid's book, but was aimed at those who would consider a career in 'wireless'. It provides the responsibilities for shore and ship operating, including the messages and procedures used from testing equipment in the harbor, to getting underway – which messages are exchanged between ship and shore – the sequences and responses, etc.

If you were to pursue a career as a wireless operator – a fairly well paid job of the day, you'd spend at least the first year, after 'qualifying' for the position by a series of tests, at a shore station. Only after a year of successful proven operation would you even be considered as a candidate for a wireless operator at sea. You might sign on with one of the lesser operations quickly, but to gain a spot on a 'top of the line' ship, you might need five years experience plus recommendations. Even then, you might sign on as the 'second op' – and be given night duty and other times when the 'Chief Radio Officer' was not on duty.

Typically, a ship would exchange between 300 and 500 messages on a crossing of the Atlantic, with half the traffic coming from paid customer messages. On a ship like the Titanic, there might be 800-1000 messages sent as the clientele could afford it.

The second half of the book deals with specific incidents and how the wireless 'saved the day'. This book came out in 1912 – the year the Titanic sank, and the entire rule book was re-written to insure that passenger ships had 24/7 operators on duty. You'll recall that the nearby ship, maybe 10 miles away, had a radio operator that turned off the radio and went to bed at 9pm. That was just before the Titanic got into trouble and sank a few hours later.

After that, passenger ships with more than 50 customers had to have 24/7 radio watch while at sea.

It's a interesting read for those who imagine they might have been one of those spark gap era radio operators at the beginning of the wireless era.

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I haven't found it as a Ebook yet but it probably won't be long. I read the hardcover book.

QSO Party - Additional

NY - QSO Party

NJ1F mobile - 303 cw QSO

A big THANK YOU to my XYL for doing the driving in the rain while i did the operating.

N2ZN – mobile – Ken sent in a picture of the mobile set up used in the NY QSO Party recently. He noted:



The Hustlers on the back are for 40/80, the ATAS-120 screwdriver was used for 20, and there is a small whip on the back door (that you can't really see very well) for 144/222/432, but that wasn't used at all for the contest. Rig was an FT-857 @ 100w, with N1MM logger. N2ZN and NW2K ops.

73, Ken

CW Sweepstakes

Yes, we had a CW Sweepstakes and the activity was high. I heard a bunch of county hunter calls in there...from AB7RW, N7IV, N4PN, NM2L, N6MU, W0EAR, AD0H,

I needed 20 counties to finish up, but the odds are pretty slim on catching one on during the SS. I've been in them for the past 2 years searching for counties and not finding things like Washington, NE, and Addison, VT. However, I get on for the fun of it and working old friends and QSO Party folks who show up in many contests. Where else can you make a couple hundred contacts and clean out the cobwebs from the rig?

Conditions were fairly good on 10M – if you had a good high power station you'd probably work all the states and sections on 10M. I heard all but LA, AR on 10M – but some were ESP level and my low power didn't hack it. AK and HI were easy on 10 and 15M. Didn't spend too much time on 20 or below bands – my QRN level is super high at the moment – need to get after the power company yet again.

I did happen to check QRZ for Anson NC....one of my needs to see if there were calls I should be listening for. Lo and behold, KD4LV was one of the 20 or so listed and upon checking it, his Bob works SS (and DX contests) and his 'activity log' showed him on the air. I dropped him and email and we hooked up on 20M. One down, 20 to go to finish up! Serendipity. No such luck with the KY counties I need.

From the 3830 reflector:

KO7X – fixed – WY

Imagine my surprise when a very weak VY1EI called me on 15 Sunday afternoon. He gave me #106 Q. The other 82 sections were in the log last night when I turned in. I saw VE8EV spotted on 15 earlier and by the time I got there it was bedlam and I thought I would miss the sweep for the first time in many years. K7VU was my only Wyoming QSO but I saw Dale, WC7S spotted and by the time I got there he was gone.

N4PN – fixed – GA

Another CW SS in the books...

It gets awfully slow on Sunday, especially in the afternoon and evening. Would sure liven things up to be able to work same stations on another band....lot of the fun is moving stations from band to band for the mults. Or, maybe shorten SS to 12 hours...Allowing HP really makes it "ruff" on the QRPers and there were many in this one...I don't need a KW+ to work the U.S. and Canada....LP gets the job done...

Thanks to all for the Q's....

Needed 2 for the sweep when I went to bed on Sunday morning. Found KP2RUM on Sunday morning shortly after getting on 20m....found a spot to call CQ and NW8U called from WV for the sweep...

Still learning to use a new FTdx5000mp....so far, so good..
73, Paul, N4PN

KN4Y – fixed - FL

I was living the Octogenarian wild life and this reduced my concentration by 20% and when my Writelog program stopped recording the frequency I did not immediately recognize the problem. A glass of fat free milk did not help. So I decided to flip the cat, lands on feet send in log, lands on back do not send. The cat landed on its feet so I will send in my log. Then I noticed Rule 6. Work each station only once regardless of the frequency band. so, hey, no problem.

AD8J – Fixed – NC

Besides 24 hours in the chair, there were other issues to work around. Ran the first hour on the generator due to a snow event power outage. Lost 10 minutes catching a mouse that stopped by the shack to see what all the noise was about. I was unable to rotate the beam for the last 12 hours but managed to get it to the SE direction and activate the 180 degree feature on the SteppIR.

N8II- WV

Something is better than nothing; I heard a lot of serious contesters in cruise control mode on this one. Full time is hard work!

Conditions on 20 were great with very short skip into places like NC,NY,OH,KY, and W1. It was a bit frustrating to send an exchange to a loud station and hear nothing but dead air at the end; a repeat usually brought back the exchange. I guess a few were overwhelmed hearing the pile up calling me or just could not copy very fast. More than once, an entirely different station than the one called would answer with the called station completely quiet, no problem just edited call and sent it. My first 180 Q's on 20 were a steady run with only one CQ during the run and stations were still calling on 40 when I bagged it in after making about 50 more Q's than planned.

See you on phone!
73, Jeff

3M - October 2015

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Big Announcement!

From KA3DRO:

We are confirmed for the First “Bill Bell Memorial “ meeting.... formerly the “ Old Time Radio Operators” meetings for County Hunters. The event will be held at the CLARION Hotel in Murfreesboro, Tennessee (Formerly the Holiday Inn Holidome)

The dates are Thursday, October 8, Friday, October 9, and Saturday, October 10 departing Sunday, October 11..... Rates are \$80/ night (plus applicable taxes) and we have 25 rooms reserved with an additional 10 as needed.

The first rooms are all first floor outside rooms so you can access your vehicles just feet from your rooms. Rates include a full, hot, buffet breakfast each morning. For reservations, call 615-896-2420 and be sure to mention “ Old Time Radio Operators “ group to receive the discounted rate. We will have the upper level atrium and the access

room as our social area.

For food, Cracker Barrel is just a few hundred feet away, or there are about 50 restaurants within a 2 mile range from fast food to nice sit-down places. Please let Paula, N8EMV or Ron, KA3DRO know that you have reserved so we can keep current on attendance and access the additional rooms as needed. A special note: If you would like to attend and cannot drive, please let us know as we are going to try to get rides from other participants for you along the way. If you are coming and have room for another County Hunter in your vehicle (they need to get their own rooms!) also let us know and we will see if we can pair you up with someone along your intended route of travel.

The meetings in Murfreesboro, best known as the MMM is a tribute to Bill Bell who organized these annual SE area meetings in the 80's along with Gene, N4ANV . When we established the several "Old Timers" meetings here, totally independent of MARAC, Bill KM4W, was instrumental in their operation.

This is the first meeting, also independent of MARAC, that will be held since Bill became a SK and it will be dedicated to him and his memory. He would be pleased to know that he is being remembered by so many for the selfless dedication he expressed over the years in behalf of all County Hunters for the good of the hobby. There are no programs or awards or banquets planned.... just good old time socializing and having eyeball QSO's ... like the old days. You do not have to have attended a MMM in the past to attend. Just be a friendly County Hunter.

If any questions, contact Paula or Ron. More info as we go along. There will be a Mary BoBo day set aside with coordination by K5KDG with additional info to follow soon by him. If you are interested in Golf, let me know.

73/Ron

Paper Licenses

ARRL Asks FCC to Continue Issuing Hard Copy Licenses to Those Who Want Them
In comments filed November 5, the ARRL has recommended that the FCC continue to

provide paper license documents to Amateur Radio licensees who want them. The League's remarks were in response to an FCC Public Notice (in WT Docket 14-161) that proposed to cease the routine issuance of hard-copy license documents to all Wireless Service licensees, including radio amateurs. While having a paper license document from the FCC to post on the wall of the ham shack has been a tradition, the Commission for several years has considered the "official" Amateur Radio license to be the virtual document residing in its Universal Licensing System (ULS) database.

"The FCC is willing to continue to mail paper licenses to those who request them," ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, has explained. "However, they are making available to licensees -- starting right now -- the actual license to print via the FCC ULS, and it is allowing hams now to opt out of receiving paper licenses from the FCC directly." (See ULS menu below.)

Under the FCC-proposed process, once a license application is granted, the ULS will generate an official electronic license but will no longer mail a hard copy license unless notified that the licensee wishes to receive an official paper license document. Until new procedures are final, however, the Commission will continue to print and mail official paper licenses, unless notified to stop.

"Should the Commission proceed with the Notice proposals," the League said in its comments, "it is ARRL's strong recommendation that the Commission give serious consideration to continuing a default provision for sending an initial paper license document to new licensees in the Amateur Radio Service, along with detailed, simple instructions for how to make the elections set forth in the notice relative to future modified or renewed licenses."

The ARRL pointed out that not everyone has easy access to, or is comfortable using, the ULS and that Amateur Radio licensees may occasionally need an official license document -- for example, when applying for a license upgrade at a VEC exam session or for vehicle call sign license plates.

"If there is not a license printed on distinctive license stock by the Commission, authentication issues arise and the possibility of electronic alteration of a license document is created," the League.

The ARRL also suggested that requiring individuals to go online in order to obtain a license document may prove to be a roadblock to some applicants.

"It is not acceptable to erect barriers to entry for anyone to obtain an Amateur Radio

license or to modify a license," the League commented. "ARRL is concerned that there should be, especially for newcomers, an easy, intuitive path to make the election for license delivery method that does not involve ULS access at the outset."

A portion of the menu on the left-hand side of the ULS license record page. "Set Paper Authorization Preferences" lets the licensee opt to receive a paper license or not.

"Download Electronic Authorizations" allows the licensee to download a PDF copy of the license.

The Notice also has proposed, alternatively, that the FCC send the official electronic license via e-mail upon grant of an application, if the applicant has provided a valid e-mail address on the application form. Licensees not wanting to provide an e-mail address could obtain an official electronic license document directly from the ULS. The Notice further proposes that licensees could notify the Commission that they wish to receive or continue receiving official authorizations on paper.

The ULS License Manager online system now includes a setting that allows licensees to notify the FCC that they want to receive official licenses on paper. Licensees could change the default setting online, so that once an application has been granted, the FCC would mail an official paper license.

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Courtesy of ARRL Newsletter, ARRL, Inc. , Newington, CT 06111

ARRL Issues Kindle Book

ARRL Introduces Kindle Edition of Ham Radio License Manual

The ARRL has introduced a digital edition of The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual (3rd edition), its most popular introduction to Amateur Radio. The e-book includes everything a newcomer needs in order to prepare for the Amateur Radio license exam. The digital edition is available in the Kindle format from Amazon, which has long identified the print edition as a best seller.

"As the leading publisher of Amateur Radio licensing and training materials, ARRL is expanding beyond traditionally printed books to meet the increasing demand from readers who prefer digital publications and online content," ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, said. "Finding the next generation of radio amateurs requires meeting prospective hams where they are reading and consuming content."

ARRL offers Kindle editions of its question-and-answer study guides, ARRL's Tech Q&A, ARRL's General Q&A, and ARRL's Extra Q&A. ARRL license manuals are also available directly from ARRL and many other ARRL publication dealers.

Kentucky QSO Party

There was a KY QSO Party – but it seemed most of the activity was on SSB with very limited activity on CW. Two mobiles on cw were spotted. The bonus station KY4DXA seemed to stay 100% on SSB. It was slim pickings for CW operators, and a bit better on SSB with one very active mobile running around, and a dozen or more fixed stations getting on. If you were on 40M, Joyce, 9STL was running on 7188 in a half dozen counties during the contest.

While K4OH was spotted on cw, I never heard him here. Worked AE8M a half dozen times.

Terry, AJ4A, formerly AC4PY, and USACA #1012 was on from his home county of Madison.

From the 3830 contest reflector:

WN4AFP 12 cw 7 ssb

Activity seemed low compared to last year. Thanks the mobiles K4OH and AE8M for providing us with multiple counties. The KYQP may want in enhance the awards for the Out of State stations. Hope to hear more stations next year.

73's Dave
WN4AFP

W3DYA – 14 cw

Operating time was mostly listening; not much CW activity but the mobiles were all very good.

KN4Y – fixed - 19 cw

Listened a lot on CW and when I heard a mobile a contact was made. Since the roads have been paved I had hoped for more mobile activity. A disappointing QSO party on CW.

Shannon County, SD no more Voters approve name change

South Dakota's map is about to change.

More than 80 percent of Shannon County voters (PDF) approved a measure changing the county's name to Oglala Lakota County.

The county is heavily Native American, home to the Oglala Sioux Tribe.

It was originally named for Peter Shannon, chief justice of the Dakota Territory Supreme Court. Shannon was the judge in Jack McCall's trial for Wild Bill Hickock's murder, but more pertinently he helped negotiate a number of land deals with Native Americans — which served to transfer more land away from Natives.

Voter approval of the new name isn't the end of the process. Under state law, the governor is required to "communicate the result" of the name change election to the presiding officer of each house of the Legislature at next year's session. After that, South Dakota law says the Legislature "shall" pass a joint resolution designating the new name.

Once that happens, the governor "shall" publicly proclaim the new name, which takes effect on the first day of the first month following that proclamation..

Source: <http://www.argusleader.com/story/davidmontgomery/2014/11/05/shannon-county-name-change/18534269/>

Trip to Virginia Beach and Back

By N0KV and N0DXE

In late summer/early fall, Pat and her sisters/families decided to have a get-together at Virginia Beach (we girls love the beach/ocean)! Of course, the wheels started turning for Barry – a nice long drive coming and going and an opportunity to run lots of counties?!?!?! Since we were not towing either the Airstream or 5th wheel, Pat drove most of the way to give Barry some CW time. That's not the case when towing a trailer as Pat doesn't drive so *very limited* CW.

VA Beach: rented a large beach home for 1st week of October. This turned out to be a great time to go – weather was great (70's), no humidity and no crowds. We walked on the beach every morning and saw several schools of dolphins each time we were out. We love our mountains but Pat always says there is just something about the ocean!

Heading out from home we picked routes, especially Kansas, where there were much needed counties, including some for us. Of course, all were new for Barry's Mobile Diamond transmits. Continuing on, we gave out a last MD for MO, several others, and gave a WBOW to AD1C for Elliott KY for USACA-CW. While in VA, took the ferry across the James River to transmit from Surry and Prince George and took a day and crossed the Bay Bridge/Tunnel both ways to run Northampton and Accomack and check out the wild horses on Assateague. Total miles traveled on the trip: 5043.

After a relaxing week-long stay in VA Beach, we headed home via NC, SC and down to Georgia to get a second to last for N0LXJ. Then through TN and a number of KY counties. We also were able to finish up IL and MO transmits. Stopped and had a few eyeballs with fellow county hunters and even a few lunches. Always nice to meet some new folks you talk to on the air.

Here are some stats from the trip:

Total QSO's: 9073 (67.8% SSB/29.7% CW)

Unique counties run: 224 (220 new MD transmits)

By band:

Band	QSO's	Percent
15	395	4.4%
17	1046	11.5%
20	5348	58.9%
30	124	1.4%
40	1936	21.3%

The number of 30M QSO's was low due to failure of the 40M Hustler resonator mounted on the same mast as 30 meter Hustler resonator. Had to replace the 30/40M Hustler mast with a 40 meter Hamstick about the 2nd or 3rd day out . . .

Another point of interest was the large number of DX QSOs/stations worked – 397 DX QSO's with 28 unique DX callsigns in 14 different DX entities (not including US/Canada). [Germany-7 calls, France-4 calls, 2 calls each from Poland, Lithuania, Sweden, Ukraine, and Czechoslovakia, and 1 call each from Australia, Belgium, Bosnia-Herz, England, Finland, Hungary, and Netherlands,

On the Road with N4CD

Once again, the road didn't go too far, just over to Mesquite, TX, about 30 miles away, for the 40th Annual Vintage Radio and Phonograph Convention. I've attended about the last six of these. If you are interested in old time radio – from the 1900s era up to about 1970, this is the place to be. About 200 interested collectors show up each year from around the state and the country.

The action starts on Friday afternoon with an action of 'tubes and paper'. The 'paper' part consists of old radio magazines from the 1920s to 1940s, tube guides, radio fix-it manuals of 10 to 30 volumes with information on just about every set ever made such as tube lineup, alignment procedure, schematic, etc. You'll find advertising signs of all sizes and types from neon large signs to small wall hangers. In the 'tube' department there are anything from single rare tubes to boxes and caddies of 20-200 tubes to small packages of the common radio tubes of that era (201A's, 199's, 47's, etc) for those fixing up radios. Occasionally you'll find bound volumes of QSTs and Radio magazine, Popular Electronics and more modern items in there as well. A single year of Radionews, 10-12 issues, from the 1920s sold typically for \$40 per year.

That lasted about two hours and there was a short break to grab a quick dinner.

Friday afternoon and evening saw the big \$10 and up auction for radio, parts, electronic test equipment, boxes of 50s/60s tube radios not considered collectible, containers full of parts, and similar. Here you'll find radios that sold for \$10 and some that no one wanted even at \$10. Other radios went over \$150 or more. The 'good stuff' was held till Saturday's auction. Friday's auction went to near 9:30pm and it was 10pm before folks checked out, paid their money, and got their items or cash for the ones they sold. Several hundred items went by on Friday. It was off to sleep at the Hampton Inn where it is held.

You'll recall that other than military and commercial radio (mostly Long Wave from 250-500 meters), the only other activity in the 1900-1917 era was experimenters – including ham radio operators. Then WW1 came along with giant leaps in progress. The vacuum tube came of age with mass production in the war – mostly for audio amplifiers and 'detectors'. After WW1 ended, the broadcast industry started. Folks built or bought crystal radio sets, then moved up to 1 and 2 tube regen radios. They were hard to use, but millions of kit radios were sold and built. Manufacturers who sold them had to pay royalties to Armstrong.

Then, the TRF (tuned radio frequency) sets came out. They had from 2 to 3 tubes of RF amplification and tuning, followed by a grid leak detector, followed by 1 or 2 tubes of audio amps. There were millions of these made. On the front you had 3 dials that had to be set to tune in a station.



Atwater Kent Cathedral

You used headphones or a horn speaker and they ran off batteries. Only half the homes in the US had power back then. If you had power wires to your house, and had some extra cash, you'd buy a battery eliminator. Back then, you had a wet cell battery for the filaments and a dry cell battery for the B+. The B+ battery would last you a year if you didn't crank the volume up. You'd take your wet cell battery to the radio shop every week or two to get it recharged for a quarter or so.

It took a couple years for the superhet receiver to show up and it quickly overtook the others. These had so many tubes they had to be run off a/c power. By the late 20s, power was reaching most of America. One 7 tube Zenith set from the 1928 era went for \$900! Whoa..it was a rare model. Nearly all of the Zeniths were 6 tube and this one had a push-pull audio out. There were tens of millions of superhets made. They were easy to tune (one knob). The rare ones can bring big bucks.

Saturday morning came and I was up early. They have a great breakfast at the Hampton, and I pigged out with a waffle, eggs, sausage, OJ, coffee, fruit.....that held me for a while.

The silent auction is held from 8 to 9. I put out some of the Wireless books for sale and sold 5 of the 7 I brought, recouping most of what I had in them. Passed them on to another reader. All of them were reviewed in the 'book of the month' reviews in past issues. Now I've got some cash to try and find some things I don't already have!

There's also a contest for folks displaying items – from restored items to rare spy radios to vintage test equipment. There's 15 categories to compete and awards are given for first and second place in each category.

Well, it was time for a second free breakfast so I added in some cereal and more fruit. You pay enough for the room so you might as well eat up.

After that it was check-in time for the Saturday auction where the 'wood radios' and higher price items with a minimum \$20 bid are sold. There's everything for dozens and dozens of 'cathedral sets', dozens of plastic/Bakelite radios, novelty radios like a radio built into a Snoopy character or a Coke machine or Spice Cabinet. There are 'chairside' radios and radios in table lamps, coin operated radios from hotels and motels in the 1950s, power amplifiers and stereo equipment of various sorts, Edison phonographs – the ones that play the cylinders and have a giant horn, turntables, tuners, speakers of all varieties from the horn speakers of the 20s to speakers that were nearly flat and hung on the wall to Klipschorn giant corner setups, even some 8 track players, stacks of 78 rpm or 45 rpm records, and loads more. Something for everyone including a half dozen Hallicrafters receivers, a National NC-300, HQ-120, and more. There were a dozen early TV sets that were sold - most with five inch or 7 or 9 inch screens – black and white only TV pictures, of course!



Radio built into Lamp Base

Over 20 floor console radios were sold. Things were moving fast as there were lots of items for sale. You could buy 20 different models of Atwater Kent. Zenith Radios were in high demand from all eras. Those big fancy 'plastic radios' in perfect condition can fetch \$200-800 each depending upon the scarcity and condition. Some of the radios were professionally restored to 'mint' condition inside and out. Some of the cathedral sets looked like they just came out of the factory – outside and inside.

I resisted – it's temping to 'collect'. This year I actually sold a few 'wood' radios that were just collecting dust. They didn't go for much, but I didn't have much in them, either. There were a few things of interest but they went higher than I wanted to buy. One very nice condition National SW-3 (regen, of course) with what looked like a homebrew power supply and speaker attached, went for \$260 !...ouch. That's about double what they normally go for. Since I already had one, no need to have a spare. Not at that price!...



Zenith Floor Console

well, as it turns out, there were more items that folks wanted to sell than time to sell them. After six hours, the sale had to come to an end so folks could check out, move out their items to their rooms or cars or trucks, and get ready for the big banquet at 7pm.

It turns out over the 2 days, 757 items were auctioned for a total of \$29,700. Whew! That's a lot of radios/parts/stuff.....you'll never see that much stuff in one place. The most expensive item hit \$900 (rare Zenith console) but most sold for \$20-\$100 per radio or item.

Saturday night the big banquet was held, We all had a nice meal, the 'best of show' awards were given in the radio display competition, and like county hunters we yakked and yakked till later in the evening. It had been a long day. Headed home on Sunday early to catch a few stations in the SSB Sweepstakes.

ARRL November Sweepstakes SSB

I didn't see a single spot for activity on the W6RK site. I guess the SSB types never spot things. I did hear AK and HI in there so if you needed those counties, they were there for the picking. Worked both in the few hours I had to devote to the SS. Most of the time that weekend I was over at the Antique wireless Convention.

Some comments from the 3830 contest reflector:

KL2R – multi op – AK (station I visited least June – near Fairbanks)

The Two Rivers team endured 11 hours of dead air due to x-rays and aurora. Very frustrating, since the hope was to better the 2011 score by a good margin. Not even close, and no clean sweep. Even so, it was fun to learn to use many features on the new FTdx5000MP; e.g., neighbor KL7IEH was blowing away the entire band on 20m phone until we kicked in the high-Q preselector. Dual receive really proved helpful as well.

KL3UI: "I learned a lot about the new radio (FTdx5000); the VRF pre-selector is f*ing awesome." WL7BDO: "Aurora viewing was great." N1TX: "SO much enthusiasm at the start. Great relief at the finish. Lots of fun in between, just not always on the air."

AD1C – fixed – CO 154 SSB QSO

Excellent conditions on 10 meters Sunday afternoon.

Didn't work my own section!

KO7X multi-op WY - 619 SSB QSO

Last section was VE4 (VE4EA). He told me that I was also his last section! How often does that happen? Brian, KD7RQU, did a bang up job Saturday afternoon on 10 and 15. The high band conditions were excellent. I was hearing both coasts on 10 meters on Sunday.

AA8R – MI 118 QSOs

Had to use the hand mic for the contest. Used the N1MM+ and it work very well. I prefer RTTY.

Lightning Strikes

Lightning strikes are caused by the SUN: Rotating solar magnetic fields pull electric storms towards Earth. The sun's magnetic field may be responsible for increasing the number of lightning strikes on Earth, a study has claimed. Research into the UK's weather system found that lightning strikes in the UK increased by up to 50 per cent when our planet's magnetic field was bent by the sun.

As it rotates, the sun temporarily 'bends' the Earth's magnetic field allowing a shower of energetic particles to enter the upper atmosphere. Normally, the Earth's magnetic field acts as a force-field stopping it from being bombarded by particles from space, known as galactic cosmic rays. These have previously been found to prompt a chain-reaction of events in thunderclouds that trigger lightning bolts.

But, research by the University of Reading found over a five-year period the UK experienced around 50 per cent more lightning strikes when the Earth's magnetic field was skewed by the sun's own magnetic field. Dr Matt Owens said: 'We've discovered that the sun's powerful magnetic field is having a big influence on UK lightning rates. 'The sun's magnetic field is like a bar magnet, so as the sun rotates its magnetic field alternately points toward and away from the Earth, pulling the Earth's own magnetic field one way and then another.'

The findings could pave the way for an accurate forecasting system to warn of possible electrical storms many weeks in advance. To do so, weather forecasters would need to combine conventional forecasts with accurate predictions of the sun's spiral-shaped magnetic field known as the heliospheric magnetic field (HMF). This field is spewed out as the sun rotates and is dragged through the solar system by the solar wind.

The study, published in the journal Environmental Research Letters, used satellite and Met Office data to show that between 2001 and 2006, the UK experienced a 50 per cent

increase in thunderstorms when the HMF pointed towards the sun and away from Earth. This change of direction can skew or 'bend' the Earth's own magnetic field, which could expose some regions of the upper atmosphere to more galactic cosmic rays - tiny particles from across the universe accelerated to close to the speed of light by exploding stars.

Dr Owens added: 'From our results, we propose that galactic cosmic rays are channelled to different locations around the globe, which can trigger lightning in already charged-up thunderclouds. 'The changes to our magnetic field could also make thunderstorms more likely by acting like an extra battery in the atmospheric electric circuit, helping to further "charge up" clouds.' It adds to previous research that found an unexpected link between energetic particles from the sun and lightning rates on Earth.

Professor Giles Harrison, head of the Department of Meteorology said: 'This latest finding is an important step forward in our knowledge of how the weather on Earth is influenced by what goes on in space.

'The University of Reading's continuing success in this area shows that new insights follow from atmospheric and space scientists working together. 'Scientists have been reliably predicting the solar magnetic field polarity since the 1970s by watching the surface of the sun. 'We just never knew it had any implications on the weather on Earth. We now plan to combine regular weather forecasts, which predict when and where thunderclouds will form, with solar magnetic field predictions.

'This means a reliable lightning forecast could now be a genuine possibility.'

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2839499/Rotating-solar-magnetic-fields-pull-electric-storms-Earth.html#ixzz3JWeyuPrr>

Awards

3rd Time #244	John, K0PFV	11.8.14,
6th Time #51	DonAE3Z	10.27.14,
Master Gold #64	Ken, K4XI	10.31.2014

Upcoming Events for County Hunters

No State QSO Parties this month. You can chase counties in the following contests/events.

ARRL 160 Meter Contest

RST and ARRL/RAC section if US/VE

www.arrl.org/contests

Dec 5, 2200Z - Dec 7, 1600z

ARRL 10 Meter Contest

RS(T) and US or XE State/Prov or serial

www.arrl.org/contests

Dec 13, 0000Z - Dec 14 2359z

ARRL Rookie Roundup

Both calls, name, check, S/P/XE or "DX"

www.arrl.org/contests

Dec 21, 1800Z - Dec 21, 2359

ARRL Straight Key Night

General QSO information www.arrl.org/straight-key-night

Jan 1, 0000Z - Jan 1, 2359

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Future Planning

MI Mini is April 23 - 24 - 25th, 2015...

The 2014 Michigan Mini was hosted by Ed, K8ZZ and Joe, W8TVT and was held at the West Bay Beach - Holiday Inn Resort 615 East Front Street • Traverse City, Michigan 8549686 Phone: (231) 947-3700 • Fax: (231) 947-0361 Toll Free: (800) 888-8020) It will be held at the Holiday Day Inn West Bay Beach Resort again in 2015 with room rates of: \$89.95 plus tax per night if reserved by March 27th, 2015.

Date for 2015 MICHIGAN MINI is April 23 - 24 & 25th..

On Saturday at 10:00 AM in Hospitality Room - Jerry, W0GXQ (MN) and Mike, NF0N (NE) will have a presentation on SSB and CW team operation

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47th Annual National Convention 2015
July 13th – 16th The Villages, Florida

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

11/22/14