

# County Hunter News

June 1, 2010

Volume 6, Issue 6

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

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

The County Hunter News will 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, with low sunspot activity, most of the SSB activity now is on 'friendly net' 7188/7185 KHz. The cw folks are now pioneering 17M operation on 18.0915. (21.0565, 24.9155, and 28.0565 when sunspots better). Look around 18135 or 18.132.5 for occasional 17M SSB runs.

You can see live spots of county hunter activity at [ch.W6RK.com](http://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](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](http://www.countyhunter.com) . Back issues of the County Hunter News are available at [www.CHNewsonline.com](http://www.CHNewsonline.com)

De N4CD (email: [telegraphy@verizon.net](mailto:telegraphy@verizon.net) )

## Notes from the Editor



N4CD Bob USACA #883

### 1) N4CD Rumblings

Spring weather arrived. There were nasty storms in TX and OK, and the central US got clobbered time and time again with violent spring time storms. Oklahoma got hit by strings of tornadoes.

Propagation doesn't seem to be cooperating, with at least 10 days of no sunspots in May. On some days 17 meters seemed to work well, and other days there just wasn't much there to work with. Much of the activity was on 40 and 30M, with 20M doing a good job for longer contacts. Mobiles were

roaming about in WA, OR, ME, FL, TX and everywhere in between so there was a lot to go looking for. The solar flux dipped into the upper 60s during part of the month, not a good sign. We had a few days above 80. Despite that, contacts are being made from 80m through 12M at times – but most days, 17m skip is ‘real long’ and 15m contacts are few and far between for most.

Many are getting close to finishing up, with the rarer western counties getting run by several mobiles, and mobiles in KY and other states desperately needed. Of course, the ‘rare’ one is the one you happen to need whether it is a green stamp (on the interstate) or way off in the boonies where few have a reason to go.

**2) Nevada QSO Party** – this is another annual non-event. As far as I can tell, no stations participated, there were no spots, and county hunters looking for activity found none.

### **3) Mobile Activity in May**

We saw some nice activity out west in WA and OR in areas that don’t get run much. Rick, **AI5P** make it out to San Juan, WA and ran the rest of the state as well as much of OR and some in ID. **AA9JJ/N9QPQ** were up that way putting them out. Larry, **W7FEN** headed across MT headed east. That helped to clean up a lot of the long standing needs for counties out that way. Maine was run by **KB6UF**, and with the New England QSO Party, that helped take care of lots of needs up that way. The 7 land QSO party brought out some mobile activity as did the MARAC contest and other state QSO parties. It was a good month for snagging counties. The Dayton hamvention provided yet another traveling excuse for county hunters so we saw lots of trips to and from there. The weather is improving, so more and more mobiles are out.

At the beginning of the month, Paul, **WD9EJK/WD9EJN** were in OH. Rick, **AI5P** was running around in OR.

**N9JF**, Jim, was down in AR. Jimmy, **K4YFH** was in NC running counties, then hit TN, and points west. Over in AR, IL, and MO, too running lots of counties.

Silver, **N9QS** was putting them out in IN.

Jeffrey, **AF3X**, started out from CA headed east for the next week. Through NM to TX to OK and then more east to TN.

**N3MRA, NV3L, KC0W, W8RCW, and AA0TT** put them out on SSB for the folks as they traveled cross country.

**WY7LL**, Leo, and **WY7ML**, Chris, took a nice trip to NE, SD, IL, and IA and ran on SSB. Forgot the key at home – no cw operation.

Jim, **K0ARS** was up in MN. He hit several other states during the month as well, running one band a time. He has to stop to change antennas.

Duane, **K8AO** was in the upper part of MI giving out the counties.

**WB6TCD/WB6OOA** ran some in CO.

Sharon, **K8JF** was spotted down in GA. (She also won the OH QSO Party this year again for YL category. Good going, Sharon)

Ed, **K8ZZ**, ran some in MI, then headed to Dayton and back.

**KE5CVT** was on running counties in TX.

Greg, **KG5RJ** was spotted in MO.

Frosty, **W0FP**, was seen in MO giving out counties.

**W8GEJ**, Ellis, was seen on CW spots in OH.

Brady, **WA4RNN** spotted in TN, and Mike, **KG5UZ** and Cheryl **KJ5PQ** seen in NM and TX spots.

Mark, **W9OP**, was seen giving out counties in WI.

**K0EQY**, John, was seen in KS mobile.

Jim, **K9JF**, seen in AR on spots.

Ron, **KB6UF**, was out on several days running around in ME.

Jack, **N7IV**, was seen out in ND, then he headed over to Dayton for the bg hamfest!

Mark, **W8MP**, and Luis, **XE1L**, were mobile on the way from MI to Dayton! **XE1L** has a big signal from Mexico on 30M – where he has a beam and no power limit on 30M – he runs a half KW – which is why he is often VERY loud!

Chuck, **K9IA**/Fran, **W9XYL** seen in TN headed to FL.

Frank, **AA9JJ**, and Kay, **N9QPQ** were out in WA, OR, ID, UT and more.

Ed, **N8OYY**, spotted in TN and WV and more.

Kerry, **W4SIG** spotted in TN, KY, OH, IL and more. He made it to Dayton.

Larry, **W7FEN** headed east through ID and MT.

Randy, **AA8R**, and Patti, **W8TAX** headed to Dayton the county hunter way – putting them out!

**N4JR**, Jerry, ran counties on the way to and from Dayton on SSB.

Tim, **N9BIL** seen mobile, too.

Ross, **N0ZA**, headed out for some rare ones in CO.

Cliff, **K6JN** and Nelda, **W6XJN**, headed from FL to CA on another long trip.

Lloyd, **NX4W** was active in FL, AL and GA. You can catch him on SSB or PSK-31

Tom, **K8YJ**, headed to Dayton from WV and back.

**KA9JAC**, Bob, and Ann, **KB9YVT**, headed to Dayton from WI.

**KB9AIT**, Gary, and **K9WI**, John, seen mobile headed to Dayton.

Matt, **W0NAC**, and Sharon, **N0LXJ**, seen out and about in various CO counties during the month.

Jeff, **W9MSE** left WI, headed south to LA, where he ran around New Orleans for a day, then headed to Key West, FL (Monroe). After that, up the east coast to Maine, then back through OH to WI. Whew! Big quick trip around the east half of the country! I caught him in a few on 17M along the way.

Jerry, **W0GXQ** took a 3 day trip to IA running the top 2/3rds of the state. He was getting Platinum needs and other needs for many – and trying to finish off the state himself for Master Platinum. Those ‘close in’ counties are hard to work otherwise. (For MG and MP, you can get credit for a county by working someone from the county who has the required awards already). In addition, for MP, you need to run 500 counties with a qualifying contact – about 1/3<sup>rd</sup> the US – no repeats allowed for the count, either!.

Kyle, **WA4PGM** was seen out in VA. He made it up to Dayton as well.

Jerry, **W0GXQ** made a trip to IA. On Sunday, May 23, the bands popped open. Wow...I worked him all the way up to 10M...first 17, then 15, then 12, then 10 cw. You can spend an hour in a county running everything from 80 through 10..and that didn’t include SSB which could add another 15 to 20 minutes with good conditions! Six was open, but Jerry didn’t have six mounted – well, how many resonators can you hang off a mast? Others were spotting stations on six meters – so it was E-skip type propagation.

I heard him working the east coast to west coast on 17 and 15, and he put at least a dozen calls in the log on 12M and 10M! Fun!

Gene, **K5GE**, started in TX – went through LA to AR to MO (Branson), then over to KS, through the TX panhandle, to home.

#### **4) Sunspots**

From ARRL Propagation Newsletter of 5/20:

“We've now seen 11 days with no sunspots. The average daily solar flux

from May 6-12 dropped from 75.8 to 69.2 for the week of May 13-19. This may end soon, as sunspot group 1063 is due to return in the next two days, and predictions show a rising solar flux: 70 for May 20-21, 72 for May 22-23, 74 for May 24-25, 76 for May 26 and 80 for May 27-June 4”

Despite a flux of 70 – contacts are being made on 17M, 15M and occasionally on 10/12M if you are ‘far enough’ away. I managed to snag W0GXQ in northern IA on 17m – but lost him as he headed south. I saw spots for 17M and 15M in the middle of the day from others further away. Jeff, W9MSE was in FL and I managed to snag him in a few on 17M as well. Then on Sunday – wow.....folks were working W0GXQ up to 10 meters!

Let’s hope we get up to 80, then 90, then 100 for some excitement! Wouldn’t it be nice to have 10M open for 12 hours a day? At this point, that is just a dream! So far the sun has not been cooperating, and if anything, is very disappointing in the lack of increase of sunspot activity. The good day for Jerry in IA was E-skip – summer time propagation – six meters was wide open, too.

## On the Way to Texas

The annual convention is coming up next month in south TX at Weslaco – here are a few more ideas of things to do and places to visit on your way to TX. We’ve included many ideas in past issues so you might review them to see if there is anything of interest along the way to make your journey more enjoyable.

**1) Dinosaur Valley State Park** (camping available – reservations suggested) in Somervell County just southwest of Ft Worth. Here’s a short video of the dinosaur footprints.

[http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/newsmedia/videos/state\\_park/prairies\\_lakes/dinosaur\\_valley.phtml](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/newsmedia/videos/state_park/prairies_lakes/dinosaur_valley.phtml)

“Dinosaur Valley State Park contains some of the best preserved dinosaur tracks in the world. The dinosaur tracks are located in the riverbed, so please call ahead to check on river conditions. There are two fiberglass models; a 70-foot Apatosaurus and a 45-foot Tyrannosaurus Rex. They were built, under commission of the Sinclair Oil Company, New York World's Fair Dinosaur Exhibit of 1964 - 1965. Other activities include camping, picnicking, hiking, mountain biking”

Facilities include campsites with water and electric hook-ups, a picnic table, fire ring and/or grill; restrooms with showers. Backpack campsites are 1 to 2.5 mile hike in the North Primitive area (no restrooms in the area, water is available at the trail head); Day use only horseback riding is allowed in the South Equestrian Area (users must provide their own horses, no overnight equestrian facilities); There are 12 miles of hike and bike trails. The park also has a day-use picnic area; a group picnic pavilion with picnic tables and a fireplace (no electricity); a trailer dump station; an outdoor amphitheater; an interpretive center located in the headquarters, and a [Park Store](#) that sells dinosaur souvenirs such as caps, mugs, books, toys, etc. Cold drinks and snacks are also available.

[http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/dinosaur\\_valley/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/dinosaur_valley/)

<http://paleo.cc/paluxy/dvsp.htm>

<http://www.roadsideamerica.com/story/8197>

## **2) WACO Mammoth Museum**

“On a spring day in 1978, Paul Barron and Eddie Bufkin embarked on a search for arrowheads and fossils near the Bosque River. To their surprise, the men stumbled upon a large bone eroding out of a ravine. Recognizing the unusual nature of the find, they removed the bone and took it to the Strecker Museum at Baylor University for examination.

The bone was identified as Columbian mammoth (*Mammuthus columbi*). Museum staff members quickly organized a team of volunteers and excavation began at the site.

The Waco Mammoth Site sits in a 100-plus acre stretch of wooded parkland along the Bosque River. Covered in sprawling oak, mesquite and cedar trees,



the sites offer an escape from the modern world and provides a glimpse into the lives of Columbian mammoths.

Though the first bones at site were discovered in 1978, the site remained closed to the public until the end of 2009. Baylor University staff, students and volunteers spent countless hours excavating the site during the past 30 years.”

<http://www.wacomammoth.com/>

### **3) Caverns**

It can be a bit warm on the way to TX in July. Why not check out some of the caverns around. If you are coming from the west – well, if you haven’t been to the Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico, that should be on your list of things to see.

In TX, we’ve covered the Caves of Sonora (off I -10) and here’s another you might want to check out.

<http://www.naturalbridgecaverns.com/>

This is off I-35 in New Braunfels, TX. Walking is required to see all the caves.

And don’t forget the Alamo, the Texas Ranger Museum in Waco, or the hundreds of other things to do along the way from the “Dallas” TV show ranch to the FT Worth Stockyards to the American Windmill Museum, or Palo Duro Canyon or Big Bend National Park. There’s something for everyone. Come to the convention and go dolphin watching, or take a trip to Mexico for shopping.

## **Going Portable in Style**

Various groups often get together for state QSO Parties. Some go mobile. Here's a group that goes every year to Martha's Vineyard for the New England QSO Party – it's worth checking out the web site to see what dedicated testers will do.

<http://hamcow.net/>

They put out a big signal from Dukes County every year – this year they'll be good for the no-star award for the first time.

This year, they ran the New England QSO party from Dukes County again, giving many the opportunity on many bands to catch that 'multiplier' and a needed county. (plus no-star, prefixes, call combo, etc).



Left to Right: KB1FUP, KB3UIJ, KB1TWA, KB1JBC, N1VDK, N1AGE, N1JOY, N1ZSR, KB1TQB (N1JOY's XYL), KA1RCI, & W2DAN.

Not in the photo: WA1ESO, N1PMB, & KB1G.

# KL1V Does New England

KL1V's last trip to the east coast

It was time for my annual spring fling county hunting trip and time to get some sunshine and away from the dark and cold of Alaska. I had 2 areas left to transmit from so it was either the east coast or tornado alley in Texas and Oklahoma, and after 2 other bad experiences in the April/May time of year in the Texas panhandle with severe thunder storms and very large hail, I decided to knock out the east coast counties and save Texas/Oklahoma for July and August. It might be hot but less likely to run into bad storms.

The east coast counties I still had to transmit from were located in PA, NJ, NY, a few in Michigan and Dukes and Nantucket islands..

After picking the area I started checking into what I had left to run. After receiving the AAA road maps, no matter how detailed the map, New York City looked like a terrible traffic nightmare. I was going to have to deal with a few more vehicles on the road than my normal rush hour of 30 cars I deal with on my normal commute to work. So I tried to schedule the NYC area for a weekend morning hoping for the best.

It was off on my trip carefully packing all the needed maps and radio gear hoping I did not forget a critical item. The trip went fine on the 6 hour drive to Anchorage for my 8 am 7 hour flight to Chicago. The rental car was waiting for me at the hotel in the morning and with a pleasant surprise they upgraded me to a better car (Mercury Frad Marquis). I got all the gear connected and had S0 noise with the engine running. Always a good way to start the trip with a nice quiet rental car!

The swing through Michigan went well. I had an eye ball with K8OOK which was a pleasant surprise. I was able to finish my needed transmits in Michigan so found the first hotel for the night. The next morning it was cold and rain/snow mix and 33 deg which I thought I had left behind the cold in Alaska but it seemed like I brought it with me. Lucky the roads did not ice up and the weather got steadily warmer the further south I went.

I had excellent weather and good roads thru Pa and had two more eye balls while there. I had a beer and supper with Scott, KA3QLF and the next morning had coffee with Elwood, KA3MMM. The trip was going according to plan as I ran PA, NY, and most of NJ. New Jersey is where I started meeting the horrible traffic. I had planned on stopping for the night in Atlantic County, NJ, but didn't find a hotel along the toll way so ended up going thru Union and Hudson NJ and still no hotels and starting to push 5 pm on a Friday night so took a chance and crossed over to Staten Island and finally found a hotel (\$230). At that point I had had enough of the bad traffic.

The next day was the big trip into NYC. The day did not start out good as I ended up in the wrong lane and was not able to get on the parkway around Long Island. I ended up right in the middle of Kings County and in the lane committed to going on the Brooklyn Bridge where I did not want to be. Lucky for me the near stalled traffic let me out of the lane into another lane (not even one honked horn at me). I then was able to run 3 of the counties with no problems that left only NY/NY and Bronx to deal with.

I had been talking to Jeffrey (AF3X) and he told me about a really nice place to run NY/NY (Randal's Island). It is easy to access from the Tri borough bridge and is full of baseball fields and lots of places to park the car with very little noise. He was correct, as it is an excellent place to run. Also very easy to get back on the bridge and either cross into Queens or Bronx. After getting back on the bridge and crossing over to Bronx County the traffic came to a halt with stop and go traffic for the next 10 miles. I was really glad to get out of the NYC area and not ever have to go back there!

That left only Dukes and Nantucket islands to run to finish up the east coast. I wanted to run both islands in the same day so I planned on taking the ferry to Dukes then get on a fast ferry to Nantucket and get another rental car there but it was not to be... the fast ferry does not run between the islands in April. So it was time to see what was the cheapest way to get to Nantucket it turned out the cheapest way was to fly there from Dukes and get a rental car for a few hours and then fly back to Dukes and catch the ferry back to Barnstable County for my reserved hotel.

I tried to make the ferry reservations before I left home but the steamship authority who runs the ferry wanted to know the length of the car and license info. So I had to wait until I got the rental car in Chicago to get the info.

Little did I know that when my rental car was upgraded, the car I got was 17 feet 6 inches long which being over 17 feet long put me in a higher fare for going to the island. (An extra 20 bucks). After calling in and paying by credit card I was told my ticket would be waiting for me in the morning at the ticket booth. I got there at 5:30 in the morning but the guy could not find my ticket he looked a second time and was able to find it. Whew!

I got to Dukes and there were about 60 county hunters waiting for me on 20/40/30. All went well and I was able to run it a few times before my flight to Nantucket.

After finding the airport to check into, they weighed all the bags and even my computer and asked me my weight. I was kind of surprised at that but when I saw the plane that was going to take me to Nantucket I was glad I didn't fib on my weight! It was a small Cessna 9 seat plane (if you're the 9<sup>th</sup> person you get to sit in the co-pilots' seat). There is no overhead storage so they took my computer and put it in the wing where there is a small compartment that might hold 2 lap tops and that's about it. The other bags with the radios and antennas went in the nose of the plane.

On the way over there was only me and one other passenger on the plane so not a crowded flight. The pilot did his briefing and said it will take 17 to 19 min to get there and it was going to be a bumpy flight. Hhe was correct on both counts as it took 18 min and was very bumpy. I found a nice quiet spot to run from. There was a closed hotel right by the airport and all went well on my first run. Then I heard a knock on the window and some guy came out and said I was coming all over their radio equipment with strange numbers and would like me to move. I found a nice quiet spot in the airport parking lot away from the closed hotel and no more RFI complaints. I was able to make around 200 contacts from both islands.

The trip went well from there on until I was driving across the top of Vermont running Island County when an unmarked police car started following me and only turned off after I turned south after crossing into NY. After about 15 miles, a well marked Customs and Immigration truck followed me for about 20 miles then decided to pull me over in front of the headquarters building. After lots of questions, taking my drivers license for 15 minutes, and a quick search of my vehicle, he decided I was safe to go on my way. He told me the reason he pulled me over was I had "weird antennas on a rental car from Chicago". After that experience I had finished running

the ones I had planned on running so decided it was time to take the suspicious antennas off the car and not risk being pulled over again. I had an excellent trip and thanks to all who followed along with me and kept me awake. 5700 miles on the rental car.

Kent KL1V

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Note de N4CD – Later in the summer, Kent will head south again and run the last 99 of his counties needed to ‘transmit from all of them’. Look for his ‘final trip’ in the summer. The weather was really bad in OK/TX – tornadoes and storm after storm so he made the right choice – hi hi.

## State QSO Parties

Where do we start? The first weekend in May was the 7-land QP, the Indiana QP, the New England QP, and the MARAC contest. There were stations on everywhere to chase, including mobiles out west, mobiles in TX, WI and NY and other places for the MARAC CH test.

Of the regular CH, Van WC5D and Norm, W3DYA were out in TX, Jeff W9MSE was out in WI, Guff, KS5A, was in AZ, WB2ABD ran in NY, and KO1U was in the New England QP. N9JF was over in IN. KM9X/KB9MGI were out in the IN QP. Jerry, W0GXQ hit a few mobile as well. Other CH were on the air for a while giving out their home counties, and chasing all the other fixed/portable/mobile stations as well.

Once again, we include some tales of Murphy striking for our reader’s pleasure. Some times the trips go without incident, but Murphy is never far away. Were you enjoying sun and nice weather? Or maybe snow and high wind? Or were you in the thunderstorm/tornado areas? Did the ferry stop running? There was all sorts of weather and adventure around!

## 7 land QSO Party

**K7WA/m** : “What a scramble! The original plan went out the window when a serious accident shut down the Edmonds ferry terminal Saturday morning "until further notice" and prevented me from going west across Puget Sound as planned. So I headed north to Skagit County for my first stop. Then instead of coming south through Island County (where Greg, AB7R was active) I went further north to activate Whatcom County. There was plenty of activity on the bands and I heard several stations running and running while I tried to get things going from my portable/mobile setup. Thanks everyone for the Q's!”

**W7AC** expedition ( KI7Y, NE7D) “This was our second year in Tillamook county, Oregon. Much better score makes us happy.

### **K7IA** expedition Apache AZ

This was my first single op 7QP from within the 7th Call Area. Many months ago, I'd planned to do a County Expedition Single Op, noting that Apache County in the past was activated by only a mobile or two. I knew the country well from my hunting/fishing days in the 1970's and because my New Mexico Field Day site is close to Apache County.

When contest points are at stake, greed can overcome. Here's my story:

Pouring over topo charts of the area, I found several forest roads crossing boundaries between Apache and adjacent counties. So, wife Erin and I packed up the old Jeep two weeks before the event, and, thinking the snowpack had melted by mid April, we made a recon mission to find a county line site offering tall trees for wire antennas, high in-the-clear terrain, and access allowing passage of our 4WD truck/camper. No such luck! The Alpine, AZ area had a total snow accumulation of 12 feet this winter, and even though temps in April were rather warm, considerable snow remained on those rough roads. The closest we could get to any of the possible sites was 1/3 mile (by GPS). It looked like a single county operation.

Greed resurfaces: I watched NOAA Weather predictions daily after the recon mission and noted temps in the 60's up until a few days before the event. I thought enough snow melt may have occurred to allow another recon. Therefore, after towing the Jeep behind truck/camper to the Alpine area, we parked the truck and started a second recon mission with the Jeep.

Not 200 yards off from the highway, we hit a bump, and the transmission/transfer case mount fractured and the rear driveshaft fell out of the transfer case. The noise was terrific and indescribable! Yep, it could have been worse--we could have been six miles from the highway. My attempts to remove the dangling driveshaft were unsuccessful, so we walked to the highway to flag down a ride to Alpine, about 10 miles away. Old Hwy 666 must be the loneliest road in Arizona--we waited about 30 minutes for the first vehicle--a pickup truck driven by a nice young gal who took a chance on her safety by giving us a ride to the best little garage I've ever encountered.

Car/truck problems in Arizona's White Mountains? No problemo--contact Alpine Garage! They towed the Jeep, inspected the entire driveline, discovered that the previous owner had not only rebuilt the driveshaft but also used one that was too short, and they discovered the fractured transmission mount. They called measurements of the proper drive shaft to a fabricator in Show Low, 75 miles away, and then they gave us a lift to our truck/camper, about 10 miles away. They treated us like we were the only business they had that day, but they had a yard full of vehicles waiting for work. Our mechanic builds "real" off road vehicles for a hobby, so I knew that we had fallen into good hands.

Once in our truck, we headed for Show Low, hoping the fabricator would build our new drive shaft while we waited. It was already getting late on Wednesday, and we wanted to deliver the new drive shaft to Alpine Garage when it opened on Thursday. Arriving at the fabricator about an hour and half later, we were stunned--the owner had already built the shaft, and it was waiting for us!! It turns out that the owner had previously owned the largest driveline fabrication business in Phoenix before he "retired" to Show Low. We got the best!

So much for the sweet and sour of greed. With the Jeep in the shop, it was time to find a spot to activate a single Arizona county. We picked the only campsite in the Luna Lake campground that had in-the-clear terrain and



reasonably tall trees, and that's where our Wednesday came to an end.

On Wednesday night, NOAA's prediction for winds gusting to 50-60 mph came true. In addition, snowflakes began to fall late on Wednesday night, and on Thursday morning there was an inch of accumulation. Light snow flurries, strong winds, and low temps were the norm from Thursday AM to Sunday AM, when we hurriedly took down antennas, packed up, and left for home in a growing snow storm.

We put up the following wire antennas in between flurries beginning on Thursday morning:

Vees for 80, 40, and 20 meters @ 50-60 feet

Homebrew 20 meter Moxon Rectangle @ 40 feet

Vertical wire wrapped around a 32 foot fiberglass telescoping pole attached near the roof of the camper, tuned with a Smarttuner, plus counterpoises along the ground.

Antenna heights are dictated by heights of Ponderosa Pines, ability of a slingshot to shoot a 3/4 ounce fishing weight and monofilament line, and skill of the slingshot operator in high winds. Because of strong winds and not wishing to break the redwood spreaders, I left the assembled Moxon on the ground until late Friday afternoon. Once lifted into place, the Moxon survived all of the weather thrown at it.

At QSO Party start, outside temp was 22 F. The only thing that could upset the operation plan was a generator that wouldn't start. Ah, but I use a 1 kW Yamaha, so it fired up on the third pull of the rope.

It must sound like despite a busted Jeep and difficult weather, everything fell nicely into place--and that's exactly what happened! After days of low temps, strong winds, anxiety about the Jeep, antennas, and future weather, once I got into the chair with headphones on, N1MM working, and signals to work, I slipped into operating mode and gave not a thought about potential problems until my energy gave out with 2.5 contest hours left.

I probably should have started on 40 meters, but I gave 20 the first hour. Skip was long with many EU's responding to my CQs. All stateside Qs were in a line along the East Coast extending inland to IN, OH, MI, etc. I worked 40m in the second hour and was surprised by a VK4 caller who confirmed

his callsign after my "huh??" response. In all, I worked 43 DX stations, indicating considerable interest in the 7QP by operators in other continents.

The antennas worked very well, judging from the ease in making contacts. Even in S&P mode I was often the first station called in an existing pileup. Good terrain and antennas up high surely make a difference!

SSB is not my major interest, though. Because of hearing loss in the communications range, I'm limited to calling only strong signals. I got a few interesting replies to my announcements of "59 in snowy Apache County Arizona!"

With a CW rate lull on 20 meters, I switched over to RTTY, tuned around, and worked the only QSO Party station calling CQ. The rest of the RTTY activity was furious exchanges of serial numbers--I would have been out of place with "AZAPH" and unusually high serial numbers.

Many thanks to the 7QP sponsors and to all of the operators who took an interest in the 7QP--especially to those who made the effort to juggle exchanges between three QSO Parties! Regarding weather woes, mine were magnified by my county expedition/small camper arrangement. With major storm systems existing in the midwest and south, I'm certain that many ops would have gladly accepted our WX in favor of the punches they received!

Sometime in the summer, when residual snow is unlikely, we'll just fire up "old reliable" Jeep and tour those back roads. Who knows what we'll find for the Arizona QSO Party in October?

**KS5A/mobile:** "It was a long day trip (14 hours) just to cover 7 counties (560+ miles). Actually, it was more like 6 counties as I slighted Maricopa and never ran it in the last hour we were heading home. I seriously doubt anyone missed MCP. Remember, we grow counties very big out west.

The idea behind the mobile operation was to get most of those AZ counties that had no commitments the week prior to the contest. Naturally, those needing coverage were not adjoining or with direct, easy access; however, I believe most all 15 were covered on some mode during the event.

The early start out west allowed for a couple of 40m Pacific contacts. Europe and the Caribbean were in and out throughout the day. Hopefully, these conditions will only increase in the coming months.

At times, with all the contests active, it was wall-to-wall, strong stations covering 20 and 40. It was tough squeezing in. The normal afternoon blahs were again present, but by having so many contests on the air, at least one could make a contact somewhere. The short 15m afternoon opening filled in some dead time with strong signals and was a nice surprise. Most contacts were made while in motion but deteriorating conditions did result in pulling over several times and switching the engine off to hear the weak ones.”

**K4XU/mobile:** Participation up, conditions reasonable, 650 miles and 20 counties in 13 hours. 670 QSOs represents a 28% improvement over last year. Same rig and antenna, same route, same driver. It ain't me, so it must be participation.

Thanks to all who followed me around. The domestic award goes to N6MU who worked me in 17 counties, the DX award goes to a very persistent LZ5R who worked me in 10 counties.

The rig: TS-50 to a Hustler three band "pitchfork",”

**KT7G/mobile:** “Lit up 6 counties along the Columbia River Gorge in unusually high winds. Rocking the truck while I am parked and operating. Retaining pin on capacity hat and rod mount disappeared, fortunately the parts did not before I discovered it. Screwdriver antenna Mount pipe was bent by the buffetting all day. FT-100d and ic-7k worked well as did the amp, great day overall. The DL and JA were a welcome surprise on 20 cw. Sat on Skamania/ Klickitat in WA and intended to go back but the hot tub relaxed me too much after dinner...”

**W0BH (KS)** “With New England, Indiana, and MARAC also in the mix, I try to concentrate on the 7QP as primary since I'm formerly a 7-lander. The bands were in good shape.

The mobile ops were really appreciated .. I put 13 in the log, including some

who were just traveling along, heard me CQing, and kept coming back when new counties appeared. Thanks to all of them, but especially to the following stations with 3 or more Qs:

8 K4XU/m, KD0S/m

6 KF7P/m

5 K7QXG/m

4 AC7GP/m, W7UG/m

3 K6DHN/m, KS5A/m, WI7F/m

I can't help also mentioning the K7IA expedition to Apache county in AZ. If you haven't read his report yet, be sure you do. It will definitely go down as a classic, and the determination to get on the air even in trying circumstances is a lesson to us all. Incredible job, Dan!

Overall, I worked 449 unique calls and 14 "new" counties I hadn't worked in the previous runnings of the 7QP. That leaves 46 counties I still need to add to the list. Last year, I put a county trend stat out and got a few comments back, so I'll add 2010 and try it again. A special invitation to Wyoming for next year!

07 08 09 10 MAX

14 14 13 14 /15 Arizona

16 15 21 22 /44 Idaho

24 21 16 27 /56 Montana

08 04 08 11 /17 Nevada

34 33 30 28 /36 Oregon

19 20 20 18 /29 Utah

31 26 27 32 /39 Washington

07 13 07 5 /31 Wyoming

## INDIANA QP

From the 3830 reflector:

**N8II (WV):** “The mobile coverage and participation was outstanding, many thanks to all of you! Valid Q's by the numbers with mobiles/rovers: Don W9IU and Kevin operating WN9O teamed up for 26, Mel KJ9C 23, , Jim WT9U 15, the mobile team of Dan and Judy KM9X/KB9MGI 12 each and 12 counties, John AE8M 12, Jim N9JF driving home thru IN 9, Mark WB9CIF 8 (some rare ones), N9OL 8, and N9QX 5. Thanks to your efforts, I only missed 7 of the 92 counties “overall.”

**KB9OWD (WI)** 49cw mults - 30 phone mults :

Glad to have some time to get on and work some IN stations. Worked several new ones over the course of the afternoon. Got a grand total of 58 different counties. Had to quit right about 0010Z to go to work at the part time job til 0500Z so did not get to go for a full run, but would have liked to have kept going.

Thanks to all the mobiles for getting out and making this fun chasing them around. Added 50 bonus points for a qso with the /90 station.”

**AE8M/m:** “This was a fun contest to operate mobile, but today I am very tired. While the weather forecast was ominous, I experienced no more than 10 drops of rain after the beginning of the contest. I operated in 9 counties including county line operations at Jefferson/Switzerland and Shelby/Rush. I park to operate and 9 counties seems to be my limit.

Thanks to all who called. Special thanks to the following for 4 or more Q's: N8II(9), NW6S(5), W9OO(5), KB9OWD(4), NN9K(4),W9MSE/M(4),

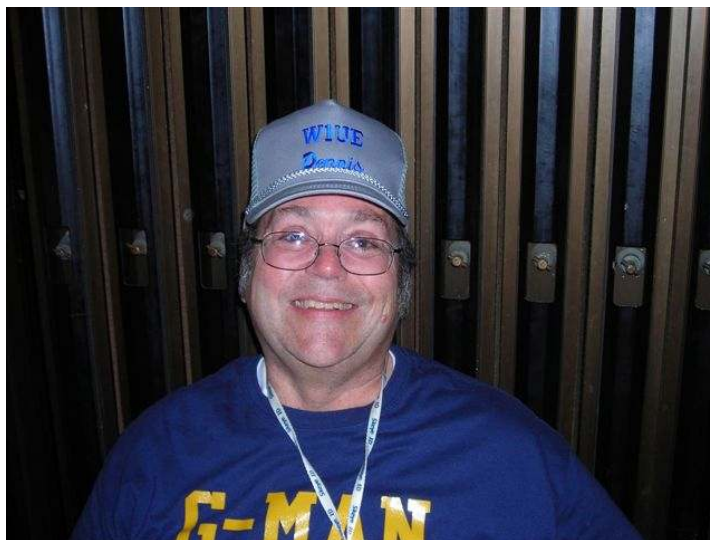
I used 2 antenna mounts. The mount in the center of the roof is a Lakeview super quad mag mount with a sheet of aluminum taped to the car roof to form a big capacitor with the roof. The other mount is a permanent Hershey kiss mount in the center of the trunk lid. The antennas were Lakeview Hamsticks. This time I used separate 80M and 75M Hamsticks which was a big improvement over trying to use a single Hamstick for both. The rig was a K2 with the 100W amp and auto tuner in the trunk.”

**KJ9C/m:** “Worked a few 7's on my way to start of INQP and a few after, but most were worked during the 12 hour Indiana QSO Party. This year it appears that most everybody out there knew that they could rework me after I changed counties. 7QP accounted for about 20 percent of my total INQP QSOs so there seems to be some synergy between the two parties.”

**AK9F – Fixed Multi-Op** (AK9F, N9CS, K9NR): “Perry County - Multi-Op. This was one of the most difficult contests we've had from our Perry County farm. We were lucky to get all our antennas deployed before the rain hit. And what rain it was....we were on the North end of the huge weather system that hammered TN and KY. We had nearly constant tornado watches, flash flood warnings and some torrential rainfalls.... We had many thunderstorms come through our QTH and intense QRN but managed to maintain fairly good rates. 80 meters was the most difficult with the noise continually S-9 plus. We understand that many stations called us that we just could not hear.”

## New England QP

Some folks caught all 67 counties in the contest – well, in TX, I heard about 50 of them. Propagation didn't cooperate on Sunday with high A index, but there were loads of counties to be had. Nantucket was on for a hour or two with N1NQT – NIL copy here, but fortunately KL1V was just there. Didn't hear much out of Dukes on cw on 20M either - never spotted on 20M cw.



Dennis W1UE – Big Signal Fixed

Mobiles: K1KI/M, NE1QP/m, WA1Z/m, K1QO, NZ1U, KO1U, and W1QK.

From the 3830 reflector:

**NE1QP/m** (KB1W, N1JF ops): “We had a blast during this weekends adventure! We activated counties in all of the New England States.”

**WA1Z/mobile:** “It only took 40 minutes before I took a wrong turn in my route on Saturday. Ended up spending more time in WALME than I had planned and spent the next three hours trying to catch up to my scheduled route. Aside from the wrong turn, the route was almost identical to last year except that I discovered two spots I had planned to use as operating locations were closed due to construction.

Never got a really great run going at any point during the weekend. There were points on Sunday when 20 seemed like a ghost town. Highlight of the weekend was when DL5AWI called in on 80 Meters with a booming signal early Sunday morning.

Thanks to everyone who called in all weekend. Several stations were worked many times.

Station:

Elecraft K3

Nissan Pathfinder with two antenna mounts on hatchback door

Two Hustler MO-2 masts on trunk-lip mounts supported half-way up by a homebrew harness attached to the roof rack. On masts were:

80 Meter Hustler RM-80

40 Meter Hustler RM-40

20 Meters: Hustler RM-15 with DXEngineering Hot Rodz capacity hat

15 Meters: Hustler RM-15 with DXEngineering Hot Rodz capacity hat”

**K1BX/mobile:** “Was not planning to drive as much as I did!

Saturday I started at my son's track meet in ROCNH. Went to BELNH and STRNH then to my driveway in HILNH.

Sunday made a few more QSOs in the driveway, then to SULNH and CHENH. That is where I planned to stop. But I was only 20 miles from VT and it was maybe 5pm. I went to WNHVT for K0LUZ and down to FRAMA. I went back to WNHVT for the last half hour. I was going to run MERNH but passed to go to VT.

Only had one antenna mount. So had to change hamsticks often. Never got to 80 meters. Was bummed 10 & 15 did not open. The only RF in the car was on 40m. The key was hot (RF). But the winkey did not mind the stray RF. The hamstick is not quite long enough for 7.025 MHz.

Black Flies were worst in my driveway! There was a cloud of them as the car was running.

Rig FT847

Winkey USB for CW

N1MM Logger latest version

The new ROVERQTH function in N1MM is awesome. A pop up asks for the county and then starts a new log. If you put the rover qth macro in F2, your qth exchange changes automatically. It saves lots of work. Total score for the contest is displayed no matter how many counties you run.



My on time is only 8+ hours, but I was on or driving for all but maybe 3 hours. Drove about 450 miles. No interstates. Luckily the home QTH is in the center of New England. Thanks for all the QSOs.”

### **K1QO mobile:**

“FT-840 and Bumper Mounted 20M Hamstick & 40M Hamstick

Our first venture out as a mobile, it certainly was N1IX and K1QO's excellent adventure and it was a blast!!!!!! Many thanks to help from the "Roverhood", in particular N9NE. Todd's an incredible mobile mentor, friend and moral support all rolled into one. It was just so cool and seemed so appropriate that he would also be our first q.

The ride was wild, mountain roads, high speeds to make it home early enough to make the spouses happy, a 10 county tour in 5.5 hours. The Presidential range peaks in the White Mountain National Forest were snow covered and stunning as the sun set. It was so much fun to be the sought after station. We were both on moose lookout going through the 102 stretch in VT and had to cut the trip short bumping up and down on a small stretch of road with freshly plowed corn fields and a trailer with dozens of junk cars in the front yard.

High points of our trip included; N9NE as our first contact, truly it's his style, this is a guy who can bag two pelts within one minute of the QRP fox hunts, what a FB op!!!! Being called by K4BAI, a contesting Olympiad and FB gentleman. John was Ann's first /m contact and she was so thrilled to be on the receiving end of the call she dislodged the USB cable on the microham :) Fellow, YCCC'er W6PH sending us KB's.

Our effort was limited primarily to the 20M hamstick, bumper mounted. When we tried to switch to 40M, the unguyed antenna gave us problems so we had to switch back to 20M and it was late, we were heading home and 20M was pretty dead. We were not loud, we'll improve, we didn't have much time, but we had more fun than a barrel of monkeys and we're ready to do this again soon!!!! Many, many thanks to all who helped us and supported us..this has to be best 5.5 hours I've ever spent on radio since I've

taken up this hobby!!!!

73/88 (the 88 is from Ann)  
de K1QO es N1IX”

**W1KQ/mobile:** “WoW! First time rover for this contest. Manually logged while parked. New vehicle so hadn't had time to run cable directly to battery...used DC receptacles which were rated at 120 watts. Blew all three fuses before it was over. Went NORDO in Providence, RI. Logged manually since didn't know how to run N1MM Logger in rover mode. Figured out how to log rover qth ops after the contest. Saturday nite ran the TS-2000. On Sunday ran the IC-7000 for the day. Maybe next year I'll run west, like to Franklin County Mass and into VT.”

## On the Road with N4CD – I

May is the time for the annual trek to Dayton OH along with at least 100 county hunters and 20,000 other ham radio operators. N4CD had not been on any long trips in a while, so I packed up the car and left the ‘county hunter way’ to get to Dayton.

Jack, N7ID, needed 4 in KY to finish his Master Platinum, and others needed some of the counties along the southern border, so I'd try to get those done. I was also looking to add to my total for counties transmitted from – making a contact with another Master Platinum holder, and giving out counties on at least two bands. Maybe they'll count for something one of these days – like Beyond Platinum, Master Plutonium or similar. Anyway, it keeps me busy while I work on Nth time. I still need to run counties way far away from home for second time transmit, but nothing was within range to add to the total this year. It's still snowing up in WY and ID, too!

The 2009 Malibu had the trusty IC706, and a six foot mast on a grounded mag mount with five resonators – 40/30/20/17 and 15M, plus a 40M hamstick for SSB and a 6 meter hamstick. Well, I had the empty mag mount so I stuck 6M on it. Didn't hear a thing on 6m when I listened, but it is 6m e-skip season. The rest of the bands kept me busy enough.

I headed out Tuesday morning along I 30 to I40 – zipping through ARK. I needed a few MP type contacts and made those with K5GE who was tracking me – as I was giving out the counties on the various bands. Time goes faster when you are keeping busy. That night I pulled into Obion TN and stopped at an often visited Super 8 motel (\$53 including tax) in Union City, TN. There's a Ryan's Steak Buffet place across the street so it is convenient. In the morning it was up through Fulton/Hickman and along the southern border of KY doing some zig and zag.

Alan, VK4AAR, caught me in a few on the trip. Jack, N7ID, first needed Calloway, KY along with others. It's slow going in KY with the dead ends into a few counties. It can take over 30 minutes to run the 4 main cw bands and 40M SSB. Jack and I did the contacts on 20M SSB in the four he needed. Conditions were fairly decent with 10 to 12 17M QSOs per county during six to eight hours or so a day when the band was open.

I made it over to Wayne County and stopped there in Monticello at a small downtown motel. \$44 including tax. It was now Thursday and I needed to be headed north to Dayton, but folks needed this county and that one along the way. I got a LC for Jerry, W0GXQ in Pendleton, and a LC for Gene, K5GE in Marion. Ray, AB4YZ, needed Lincoln for a LC for Platinum, and we got that one, too. I really had no set route other than look at needed LCs and 'most wanted' counties. Jack got Jessamine, KY for his LC for MP there. It worked out well.



N4CD mobile Marion KY – LC for K5GE

Almost every time I stop at a convenience store or gas station, folks ask:” Just what is that giant antenna for....and they wonder if I am watching TV in the car! – hi hi I guess a car full of antennas is more than unusual. Big works best.

After running Pendleton on highway 27 – traffic came to a halt. There was an accident up ahead. A helicopter lifted off. I was about six cars back, so went up to the front where a local police reserve guy was holding up traffic well back from the accident site. He wasn’t sure what had happened other than an accident and he was ‘stopping traffic’. There was at least a 75 mile detour as the only option to get around, so I just sat there...and waited...and waited.

After we all sat about 45 minutes until they cleared the cars out of the way, we could get by in single lane. It looked like a group of MG Midget drivers had been heading south, and two of them managed to collide. There were two of them up on flat bed wrecker trucks, with another 8 or so of them off the side of the road just waiting. They don’t have a whole lot of modern safety features in the older cars. One is just thankful that one wasn’t involved in an accident on trips.

30 minutes later the sky opened, and it was down to 30 mph in pouring rain. I would have pulled over, but there was no place to pull over that I could

see. Fortunately it ended and I headed north to Dayton. I had had enough excitement for one day.

This year I stayed at the Super 8 motel in Moraine, OH for 3 nights. On Friday morning, I drove over to the Salem Mall and got the first shuttle bus to the arena area at 7am. I spun wheels for 40 minutes in the pub having a banana and second cup of coffee waiting for 8am opening time at the flea market. It's a good time to yak with hams other than county hunters. At 8am, I joined the crowd wandering around searching for goodies in the flea market.

It seemed the early scroungers (vendors and flea market exhititors) had done a good job of cleaning out bargains. Likely \$100,000 had changed hands before opening time. I didn't see a whole lot of bargains on Friday, or things I even wanted to think about buying. I wore out the feet and back before long.

This year, the hamfest committee had put out a lot of 'rest areas' and the ends of the rows of the flea market. Great idea! You could wander a few rows, then rest up on the benches, then wander some more. K8MFO had a spot in the flea market so you could stop on by and visit for a while there, too.

On the way to Dayton, I had worked N200 a few times – he was listening during one of my runs, when I announced I'd head to 17M. He didn't know where we were on 17m, but tuned up there and found me. After that, he started to run counties on 17M too after the 20M run!

I heard quite a few on the way up. WD9EJK, N4JR, KA9JAC/KB9YVT, K8ZZ, W8JJ, W9OP and crowd from FDL, W4OWY, N2OO, WY7LL/WY7ML, KB0BA/N0XYL, W8MP/XE1L, W4SIG, and many others were busy putting out the counties. Likely they were all wandering the flea market and inside areas, too. It's hard to miss W9OP in his faded red shirt and shorts, well, 'pink'.

Later on Friday we had the county hunting forum, hosted by Tim, W8JJ. This year, Leo, WY7LL had the 'premier' for THE County Hunting Video. It's on the net if you haven't seen it! It's a great 30 minute introduction to county hunting from A-Z loaded with all sorts of useful information and

links. We had about a dozen guests this year which is a good sign of potential interests.

Here's the County Hunter Video. Share the link with others. It can make part of a program for a club meeting or get together.

<http://www.countyhunter.com/video.html>

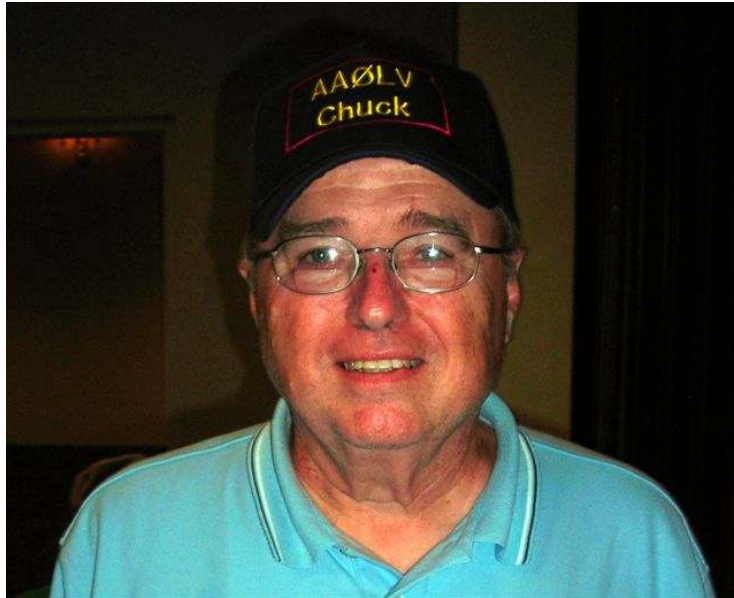
That was followed by Randy, AA8R, talking about the awards program. MARAC currently has 41 different awards. Of those, only 5 are sequential – meaning you have to earn one level before you can start on the award. For example, you must complete Master County Hunter (Bingo) before you can start on Master Gold. Also obvious, you must finish first time before you can start on second time on any award, too. The rest of the awards can be earned simultaneously – from prefixes to Natural Bingo to Native American counties to YL mobile or 'all cw', or single band or Big Rig.



N0XYL Sandra and KB0BA Lowell USACA #1154

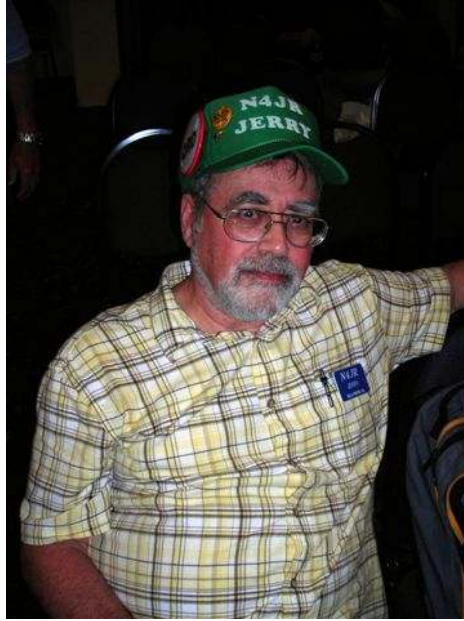
Randy also mentioned that the Awards Committee had finalized the proposal for the Master Diamond Award, which is now before the Board of Directors for final approval. This is an award beyond Platinum.

We then had introductions and a meet and greet session until it was time to head to dinner. Sharon, KJ8F, had arranged for a meeting area at the local Golden Corral. Things were a bit hectic, but we managed to all get seated in the same general area. About 25 to 30 showed up for dinner. We yakked for the better part of 2 hours.



AA0LV Chuck

On Saturday, I did the same routine in the morning. Wow – what a difference a day makes. The flea market was full of old radios and things to buy. There were hundreds of Hallicrafters and National receivers, old Collins 75A4s and S lines, Hammurlunds, KW amplifiers, Heathkits of all varieties for sale. A few Johnson products. Things were moving fast as people snapped up things.

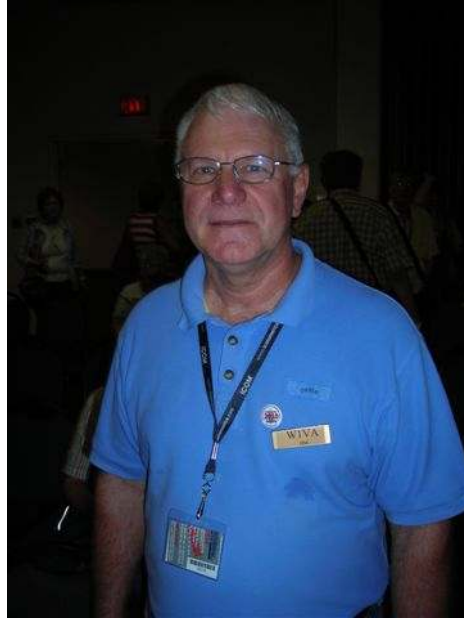


N4JR Jerry

Only about half the flea market spaces were taken again this year. They could downsize the flea market and save having to walk between the empty spaces a bit. I did another couple miles of walking, then headed inside.

Mother Nature cooperated. Friday it was overcast, and 70 degrees with a threat of showers – but we had none. Saturday was even better with ‘chance of showers’ but not a drop was seen and the sun was out. One could get easily sunburned. I got a free Yaesu hat again this year to add to the collection. (black color this year).





Jim W1VA

The inside of the arena was filled with vendors – everything from touch keys for CW to push up masts, antenna systems and accessories, 2M FM goodies, and you name it. It's Dayton and almost everyone who sells to hams was present, from QRP kits to \$12,000 radios. I didn't see a single Knight Kit regen receiver – Ocean Hopper, Span Master or Space Spanner, though, but there were lots of Hallicrafters S-38s of various vintages and similar beginner radios of the 60s.

There was a full schedule of programs – from the ARRL forum, to DX contesting and DXpedition reports. I enjoyed a few of them, then headed out early about 3pm on Saturday having 'seen enough' for another year. I headed on back to the motel to rest up for the trip home. Dinner was at the Chinese buffet nearby.



WA4PGM Kyle USACA #470

I recognized a few of the calls` on the hats/shirts and nametags. W1UE, with a big signal in the NEQP, was there. We yakked for a few minutes. He has operated from most of the counties in Mass, winning the high power category from each (at guest stations). (Picture above in NE QP section) He's thinking about Suffolk, MA for a next one – there is almost no fixed activity from there (Boston area mostly very urban) for the next one. I also ran into K1TTT – hard to forget a call like that. We yakked for a few minutes as well. He ran multi-op in the NE QP as well.



Don WA8OWR

Here's a few of the forums at Dayton if you want to see the typical Dayton Forums.

Want to know what is up at the FCC and ham radio? Here's the FCC Forum (70 minutes – by William Cross W3FN– Mobility Division - and Laura Smith of the FCC Enforcement Bureau) at the Dayton Hamvention. Thanks to the internet and computers, you can now virtually attend many of the forums:

<ftp://ftp.arnewsline.org/quincy/News-A/2009-hamvention-fcc-forum.mp3>

This is the Amateur Radio Newsline forum – 120 minutes of audio if you want to hear an interesting talk on how the presenters had used ham radio to get into their careers from WA6ITS, W2VU at CQ Magazine and others. If you have 2 hours, take a listen

<ftp://ftp.arnewsline.org/quincy/News-A/Ham%20Radio%20Town%20Meeting%202009.mp3>

Many vendors introduce new products. This year was no exception. From the ARRL Newsletter:

“Kenwood introduced an engineering model of their new HF and 6 meter transceiver, the TS-590. This compact transceiver features a down converting design with multiple HF roofing filters included to provide good near in dynamic range. The '590 features 32 bit IF DSP filtering for operating selectivity and other filtering. It is expected that the '590 will be available in the fall at a price below \$2000.

Yaesu showed off their new FTdx-5000 series of HF and 6 meter transceivers. These 200 W transceivers all feature dual receivers and many features and options of the other FTdx series radios at a lower price point. The primary receiver features a 9 MHz first IF and selectable roofing filters as narrow as 300 Hz (optional in some models) that result in top notch close spaced dynamic range.”

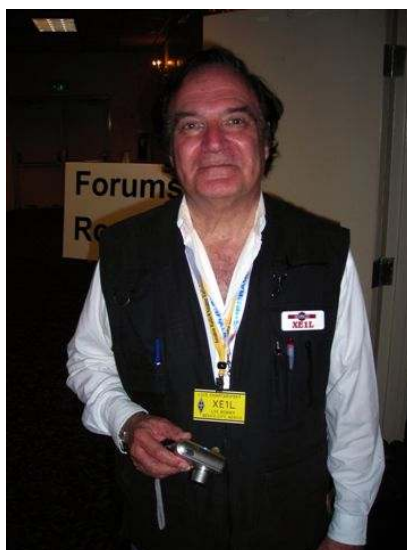
Dayton was over so it was time to head on home. Well, if you are a fanatic there are still things to do on Sunday , including the bicycle mobile forum by

NF0N, and the remains of the flea market where you can pick up stuff for next to nothing (junk left behind), but I normally head home. I woke up early Sunday at 5:30 am and took a shower, then packed the car. At 6am, breakfast was available at the Super 8 motel, so I had a quick breakfast of cereal, juice and coffee, then headed south. I had already run those counties for the first 100 miles, so I just headed on down the road. The only other county hunter I heard was another mobile headed south about 30 miles behind me.



WB7ATT Erwin

I got to KY, and no one was around for a contact for Kenton. That's the only county without a contact on the trip other than the close in ones in TX that I just didn't run this time. Then it was into Boone, and it was late enough for the county hunters to be up and about. K5GE was up hunting for those contacts with Master Platinum holders. I then headed southwest through KY, trying to get contacts on at least two bands from all of them. I had requests for Butler, KY. It's like Trimble County – where there is a short stretch ( a half mile or so in the case of Trimble) on the Parkway. I stopped for Trimble and for Butler. OH3JF needed it for a next to last county. The bands were decent, and 40M worked well. I had a few contacts on 17 meters along the way. The weather was good with temps in the 70s – good driving weather.



XE1L Luis

I made it down to St. Francis County, AR by 5pm. The sky in front was ominous, with lots of lightning, so I decided to stop at my favorite Super 8 in Wheatley, AR (\$44 including tax). I unloaded the car, and headed out to the Pizza Hut (it was Sunday night) which was another five miles down the interstate. I ordered dinner, and the thunderstorm began and continued for the better part of an hour. You could barely see anything in the parking lot. It was raining cats and dogs with giant streams of water off the roof. It wasn't a time to be on the road. Perfect timing! I finished dinner, and the rain had tapered off, but it was still heavy. Driving was at 40 mph on the interstate back to the motel. Not to worry – tomorrow would be six or seven hours of driving if I stuck to the interstate. I soaked in the tub for 30 minutes to get some of the soreness out of the leg muscles. I'm not used to 10 hours of standing in a day, plus walking miles around a flea market each day. It was a lot easier doing that when I first started going to Dayton in 1969. I also fell asleep at 9pm - I had lost an hour headed west – from EDT to CDT, so it seemed like 10pm.

The Super 8 there has 30 or more rooms, so that means the good 'hot' breakfast with waffles, cereal, muffins, - the works. What a deal - \$44 including tax and a great breakfast. After eating, I loaded up the car and hit the road at 7:30. Needless to say, I decided to hit 3 counties off the interstate to make the trip more interesting, so it was down through Monroe to Arkansas. I had to leave a buck at the C/L sign since that is N5UZW's home

county and I ran it(county hunter tradition). Then down to Jefferson, and over to Grant – then back to the interstate to get home before rush hour in the Dallas Metroplex.

17 meters was working well. I caught N2OO in several in OH as he headed home. I tried 15M and worked KN4Y and W4YDY and WB2ABD in a few. Once I tried 12M (with no resonator) and worked KN4Y. I took off the 12M resonator after the last trip where I worked no one. I might have to put it back on! The 30M resonator got soaked Sunday night in the great deluge and quit working. High SWR and only had a few contacts on 30M on Monday. I'll have to figure out what went wrong. It's a new Hustler. Dang. 30M is a fun band. The weather was good all the way to Dallas. The temp in TX was over 90 degrees by the time I got home.

The trip went well. Over 2400 miles on a trip that could be done for 1700 miles or so back and forth. A few last counties given out, and some of the rare ones run along the way. Well, come to think of it, just about anything in KY on cw is rare these days.

The car got over 32 mpg even with the county line stops with the engine running. I haven't fixed the S5 noise on 7056.5 yet. One of these days I'll do some de-noising – when I hear weak ones, I go down 5 to get away from the buzz. It's now up to 31,000 miles in just over a year of county hunting.

I didn't buy too many goodies, so I survived another annual trek to Dayton. I bought a few T-shirts, and a roll of ½ inch braid. I've been going to Dayton now for 40 years now. They did us 'seniors' a favor this year with lots of 'rest areas' with benches in the flea market. You could walk a few rows, then stop and rest five minutes, then head on out again for more flea market viewing. It seemed like a good crowd. Some kids in attendance. The ARRL had a great set up again, and had a 'kit building area' for kids to get involved. They also had folks give forums on power line noise, legal matters/zoning, the latest FCC/regulatory updates, etc. There were contesting forums, VHF, bicycle mobile, county hunting, of course, DXing, special interest groups like Collins, another being Drake, various groups like SATERN, etc, all competing for forum space. Then there were the off site events like QRP dinners, DX dinners, RTTY get togethers, SSTV – you name it, it probably goes on at Dayton.

Many group stay at the same hotel year after year. There are QRP all day sessions (FDIM - four days in May) each year, DX dinners, various service group meetings, etc. If it deals with ham radio, there's likely a place to meet each other during the 3 day event! Likely about 20,000 made the visit to Dayton this year. If you didn't make it, hope we have shared some of the fun with you.

If you stayed near home, maybe you caught a few needed counties as mobiles headed to and from the event. It's a good time of year!

## MARAC QSO Party

The MARAC CW and SSB contests were held the same week as the previous QSO parties reported on! It was a great time for activity with folks working each other across the various contests. You had to be up on your abbreviations as some used 3 letter combinations, some only gave the counties as in IN QSO Party, others gave the three letters first, then the state, like NANMA (Nantucket MA), and MARAC uses the state first/county. It exercised your brain to figure them all out if you didn't have your 'abbreviations lists' handy.

**W9MSE/m:** Operated from 62 Wisconsin counties with my brother-in-law driving about 1275 miles. My 15th year in a row operating mobile in this contest, with Tom being the driver in 14 of them. Much poorer results than last year, with less than 50% of last years QSO's, and the fewest QSO's since 1998. Sunday was really rough with only about 340 QSO's between 1200Z and 2400Z (minus about 1 hour for lunch and gasoline stops). Thanks to all for the contacts and hope it is better next year.

QSO's  
Fixed 791  
Mobile 230  
DX 62

TS-570, Hustlers on short masts on Grand Caravan

**KN4Y/m:** Ran amuck through Florida, Alabama, and Georgia giving out counties. 20-meters was the workhouse band with a nice DX window. Ran 734 miles in 16 hours on Saturday, too pooped to go again Sunday. It amazes how driving can makes a person so hungry.

**W3DYA/M:** Would you believe most QSOs were made with W9MSE/M (49). Followed by NW6S at 30 and N6MU at 28. Seems hardly worth driving 1,000 miles; but it sure beats staying home!

FIXED US QSOs: 497  
MOBILE US QSOs: 130  
DX QSOs: 59

**WB2ABD/m and fixed:** “ Did some fixed and was mobile Saturday from CATT ALLE and WYOM in NY. Cancelled rest of mobile plans due to illness (McD's?). Felt better by midday Sunday and stayed fixed. Condx didn't seem up to snuff Saturday either: seemed like most everybody was cutting grass or (gasp!) golfing.

K3 (fixed and mobile) CL33 @ 45ft Inv-vees @ 60ft Tarheel II Toyota RAV4 paper n' pencil mobile - N1MM fixed

**N5NA (TX) :** This is the first time I've worked a MARAC QSO Party. Friday night I added the MARAC county abbreviations to the multi-QSO party for the 7QP-INQP-NEQP module in CQ/X. That worked great! My log is a mix of MARAC, 7QP, INQP, & NEQP stations.

I enjoyed following these MARAC mobiles: KN4Y/M(19), W9MSE/M(7), W0GXQ/M(4).”



**K6CSL (CA STAN)** : This was really a disappointment. It doesn't seem there was as much participation as last year, plus conditions didn't seem an awful lot better. I also wonder if some of the ugly weather in the Mid-West and South reduced some of the activity. The biggest problem I find however is the number of County Hunting contests piled on top of each other. It is a little much to be trying to deal with CW County Hunters, SSB County Hunters which I stayed out of (I have no way to keep 2 separate logs) and the New England QSO Party, the 7<sup>th</sup> Call Area QP and the Indiana QP all on top of each other. I am left wondering if there is some way of combining logs. For instance taking all of the contacts from 7QP,INQP and New England QP and submitting them in the Marac County Hunters Log. I used to really enjoy when SSB and CW County Hunters events were on separate week-ends and also separate from other state QP's. Does someone have a way to combine logs, and would that be kosher? “

## Dayton Flea Market

Here's just a sample of some of the interesting things you find in the Dayton Flea Market. New comers might not recognize these units – some go back to the 1930s and 40s!



National SW3 Receiver

Here's a nice description/Video of the SW-3

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KsbA0bsQeR8>

This radio was made from about 1931 to 1941. The SW-3 was the first piece of equipment made for the 'ham' market. It had an RF stage, a regenerative detector and one audio amp tube. The power supply was external (or batteries). It was 'solidly built'. Now, they sell for a couple hundred dollars. Back in 1931, they sold for about half as much as a car. Expensive! Most hams made their own radios! This was the depression and times were tough! There weren't a lot of controls and buttons to push either. Tuning, regen control, antenna peak, and on-off. Not even a bandswitch. They had plug in coils – two required for each band. Yet, they are stable enough to tune in SSB!



Kenwood TS-130

Kenwood came out with the TS-120 mobile rig (all solid state) which covered 80-10M but not the WARC bands – about 1979 or so. The TS-130 was a later model that included 30/17 and 12M. It was a 200w input, 100w output rig for SSB and CW. There was a QRP version, the TS-130V, which had 25w PEP output as well. The TS-120 came out in the very late 70s and thie TS-830 in the early 80s. Both stayed in production for 10 years – the TS-120 being sold where hams had no WARC privileges.

Kenwood also had the popular TS-520/820 radios with tubes in the output stages in the 70s. Then they had the TS-440/450 solid state radios as well.



Zenith Trans Oceanic SWL Receiver

Here are some of the different models of the TransOceanic from 1942 on to 1981. They were considered the ‘Cadillacs’ of portable short wave receivers. Naturally, the first one used tubes and operated on battery power as well as the A/C line. They were high quality, heavy duty units with excellent performance.

For many years they have been very collectible. Now, it seems there were at least 20 for sale at Dayton as the folks have reached the downside of the ‘collector’s curve’ and folks are now downsizing collections, or moving on to other things to collect!

<http://www.antiqueradio.org/transoceanics.htm>

Some interesting history from Wiki

“Zenith's founder, Commander Eugene F. McDonald, was a great admirer of advanced technological development and believed that his company's products should include the latest, most practical advances in a well-built product that continued to enhance the company's reputation. Of the many products of Zenith Radio, the 'Trans-Oceanic' series of portable radios were amongst the most famous.

McDonald was a keen yachtsman and outdoorsman and wished for a portable radio that would provide entertainment broadcasts as well as being able to tune into weather, marine and international shortwave stations too. He asked his company's engineers to develop prototypes to meet his criteria and by 1940 they had concept sets that were ready for production. The Zenith 'T/O' began life in 1942 as the Model 7G605 'Trans-ocean Clipper'. Priced at \$75, it was released in January but ceased production in April as Zenith shifted their production to war-related equipment. During this short production run, some 35,000 units were produced and sales data showed that many were sold to customers in the 'above average' income group. However, many also found their way into various theatres of war and in to the hands of appreciative servicemen—demand for a resumption of production at war's end was kept high.”

There are even books about this radio. If you’ve never seen one, keep your eyes open next hamfest/flea market – you’ll likely spot one.

Now, onto a seldom seen 'boat anchor' type unit. This was a great receiver in its day. It was made by the Technical Material Corporation – in the 1950s.



GPR 90 Receiver

The college station (W2SZ) where I went had a nice one of these which was paired with an 800W input AM transmitter (very big!). When you fired up that AM near KW transmitter – plate modulated – you could clear out a frequency or hold it on 75M on a weekend. The GPR was probably as good as the Collins units of the day. TMC was a company formed by some Hammarlund engineers. Notice the similarity? These sell for a high price yet today (\$500 plus).

However, the 100W SSB station would just about match the performance of 'high power AM'....which quickly dawned upon a lot of us. The SSB station also didn't need a giant room for all the equipment, and when you added a linear amp to the 100w SSB transmitter, you out talked the AM station any day of the week! Within a few years, the AM station was relegated to the back storage room! In the 60s, SSB quickly became the mode of choice for voice operation. If you weren't there, it is hard to imagine a band full of heterodynes from AM signals beating with each other! It was always a racket on 75M with signals beating against each other. That all went away with SSB (and no carrier). Now, you might find die hard AMers on 'the frequency' for AM on 75 and 40M where they hang out.



The last goodie this month is the Tecraft line of VHF equipment. Tecraft, located in NJ, provided top of the line converters for the VHF/UHF bands to be used ahead of your normal HF receiver. They also had this line of transmitters. Back in the 1950s/60s, they were sought after. Now, they are interesting relics since many HF radios now include six meters as standard, and mobile units such as the IC 706 have six and two meters (multi mode) plus some have UHF as well! There were AM units – crystal controlled, too.



Tecraft VHF Transmitter

Well, we're running out of bits this month for more pictures, so we'll hold over a few for next issue. Due to web space limitations and trying to keep things reasonable length for those that still use 'dial up' to get their CHNews, we can't include high res pictures or more than 10 or 15 of low resolution ones a month.

Hope you enjoyed some of the units from the flea market. There were hundreds of transceivers and receivers of all sorts, from Nationals, Eico, Hammarlund, Collins, Galaxy, Drake, Kenwood, and Icom just to start. Naturally the 'rare' stuff was high priced, but there were lots of deals that took place. As usual, I took my camera along and brought back memories, not pounds of boat anchors... hi hi

## Awards – Finishing up

The K3IMC web page lists the needs for those getting close to finishing up for the next awards. There are quite a few closing in on first time and other awards. (Note: If you list needs, but they are not ALL that you need, please put a note in the comments section that this is only partial needs list).

K3IMC Needs page at:

<http://www.cquest.com/cgi-bin/flynn/needs.pl>

The needs page lists ‘needs’ by category – from first time USA-CA, to prefix needs to second, third, Nth time, to Bingo, MG and MP. Sometimes folks need things in your backyard – or not far away – or on the way to grandma’s house. (or your kids or grandkids house).

These folks are closing in – let’s see if we can get them the last ones they need for USACA! (or USA-CW). Some of these folks have been diligently working for a long time, and many need counties that are easy to drive to – so maybe you can help them out. Many are out west, so if you are planning a vacation trip – maybe you can hit them. Others are back east and aren’t that far off the ‘beaten path’ or maybe just around the corner from you. Let’s get these folks finished up for first time (or first time all cw!)

**N1QY** – USA-CA First Time

CO: :San Miguel

ID:Fremont, Lemhi

MT:Blaine

OR:Gilliam, Morrow

UT:Garfield, Wayne

WY:Hot Springs

**K1SO**

USA-CA First time

CA: Tuolumne  
ID: Benewah, Caribou  
MT: Lincoln, Wheatland  
OR: Crook

#### NT2A USACA first time

AR: Baxter  
IA: Van Buren  
MT: Beaverhead, Meagher, Petroleum  
NY: Seneca  
TX: Briscoe  
WY: Park

#### OH3JF – USACA First Time

AR:Bradley, Scott,  
GA:Chattahoochee, Jenkins, , Schley  
IL: Monroe, Saline  
KY: Martin  
MT:Wheatland  
NE:Polk  
TN:Bedford, Grundy, Meigs,  
TX: Mason, Presidio  
UT:Kane,

#### KE3VV for USA-CW (Dave already has USACA)

OR:Josephine

#### VA3XOV – USACA using CW First Time

GA: Marion  
UT: Duchesne, Wayne



**K4AMC – USA-CW (already done USACA)**

**MT:**Toole

**TN:**Meigs

**NU4C – USACA First Time**

**CA:**Tuolumne

**CO:**San Miguel

**GA:**Bacon, Pierce, Quitman, Randolph, Tattnall

**HI:**Kalawaho

**IA:** Humboldt, Mahaska,

**ID:**Lemhi, Teton,

**KS:**Graham, Rooks

**KY:** Garrand, Harrison, Hart, Henry, Larue, Mercer, Robertson

**MS:**Sharkey

**MT:** Meagher, Ravalli

**ND:**Burke, Grant, Griggs, Nelson, Pembina, Renville, Sargent,

**OR:** Klamath

**SD:**Mellette, Sully

**TX:**Bailey, Crane, Panola, Reagan, Upton

**VK4EJ – USACA using SSB**

**GA:**Atkinson, Pulaski, Telfair

**ID:**Camas, Owyhee

**KS:**Comanche, Doniphan, Morris, Smith, Stafford, Woodson

**MO:**Putnam

**MS:**Lawrence, Leake, Montgomery, Quitman

**MT:**Powder River, Treasure

**NC:**Gates

**ND:**Grant, Slope

**NE:**Pawnee, Rock

**SD:**Campbell

**TN:**Van Buren

**VT:**Essex

**W4SIG** - USACA using both SSB and CW –

**GA:**Forsyth, Johnson

**KY:**Ohio, Owsley, Wayne, Webster

**NC:**Alamance, Forsyth, Gates, Stanly, Stokes, Warren

**SC:**Union, Williamsburg

**SD:**Bon Homme, Campbell, Hughes, McPherson, Tripp, Sully

**W4YDY** - USACA using CW - (already has USACA)

**AR:** Baxter

**KY:** Johnson, Lawrence

**MT:** Golden Valley, Musselshell, Petroleum

**AB4YZ** - USACA using CW – (Ray has USACA)

**CO:** Custer, Teller

**ID:**Bonneville, Caribou, Franklin, Lewis, Power, Washington

**KY:**Robertson

**MT:**Wibaux

**NC:**Transylvania

**ND:**Dunn, Sheridan, Williams

**OH:**Lawrence

**OR:**Harney, Sherman

**TX:**Anderson, Donley, San Saba

**WA:**Douglas, Franklin, Island, Jefferson, Kittitas, Lincoln, Okanogan, Skagit, Yakima

**WV:**Gilmer, Monroe, Pendleton, Randolph

**KD4ZAT** - USACA using SSB –

**CO:**Bent, Rio Grande Routt

**GA:**Chattahoochee, Glasscock, Jenkins, Washington

**IA:**Bremer, Buchanan, Delaware, Ida, Jones, Story

**ID:**Benewah, Boise, Washington

**IN:**Howard

**KS:**Morris, Washington, Wilson

**KY:**Breckenridge, Carlisle, Crittenden, McLean, Todd

**MD:**Kent

**MI:**Oceana

**MN**:Benton, Brown, Cass, Clearwater, Cottonwood, Lincoln, Sherburne,  
Watonswon, Wright, Yellow Medicine  
**MT**:Blane, Carbon, Chouteau, Deer Lake, Glacier, Hill, Liberty, Lincoln,  
Mineral, Ponder, Teton, Sheridan  
**NC**:Currituck, Hoke  
**ND**:Burke, Eddy, Nelson, Sioux  
**NE**:Clay, Franklin, Rock  
**NJ**:Cumberland  
**NV**:Eureka  
**NY**:Seneca  
**OH**:Carrol, Clinton  
**SD**:Aurora, Beadle, Brule, Day, Douglas, Hutchinson, Hanson, Miner,  
Stanley, Yankton  
**TN**:Stewart  
**UT**:Daggett, Piute  
**VA**:Bland, Mathews  
**WA**:Pond Oreille, Walla Walla  
**WI**:Oneida, Taylor  
**WV**:Wayne  
**WY**:Park

## **KG5RJ**

**AR**:Chicot, Drew, Franklin, Lafayette, Little River, Madison, Marion, Perry  
**GA**:Bacon,  
**KS**:Clay, Comanche, Greenwood, Grant, Greeley, Pawnee, Riley, , Wichita  
**KY**: Garrad, McLean, Union  
**ME**:Lincoln  
**MO**:Moniteau  
**MS**:Calhoun, Humphreys, Leflore, Sharkey, Winston, Yazoo **NC**: Gates,  
Montgomery  
**NY**:Lewis  
**OK**:Blaine, Coal, Harmon, Haskell, , Pawnee, Tillman  
**SD**:Buffalo, Campbell, McPherson  
**TN**:Lake, Union  
**TX**: Comanche, Cottle, Dawson, Foard, Freestone, Howard, Irion, Jack,  
Kent, King, Knox, Limestone, McCulloch, Mitchell, Robertson, Scurry,  
Throckmorton  
**VA**:King William

## **W6OUL**

**AR:**Clay

**GA:**Hart, Jones, Montgomery

**IN:**Benton

**KY:**Bell, Casey, Meniffee

**LA:**Clairborne

**NC:**Columbus

## **NW6S** – USA-CW (he has USACA already)

**KS:** Rawlings

**KY:** Lewis

**MO:** Douglas, Washington

**ND:** Sioux

**NE:** Scotts Bluff, Sheridan,  
Sioux

**VA:** Dickenson

## **KI7WO** – USACW – Alan has USACA already

**AR:** Franklin, Madison

**GA:** Butts, Meriwether, Taylor

**IN:** Madison, Wells

**KS:** Atchison, Butler, Cherokee, Crawford, Elk, Labette, Montgomery,  
Neosho, Wabaunsee, Wilson

**LA:** Vermilion

**MO:** Gasconade, Grundy, Nodaway, Pike, Pulaski

**OR:** Columbia

**PA:** Indiana, Potter

**VA:** Surry

## **W8DCD** - USACA using SSB

CA: Monterey  
 MT: Meagher, Pondera, Powder River, Treasure,  
 Wheatland  
 OK: Adair, Marshall

**W8JJ** - USACA using both SSB and CW -

AL: Choctaw, Tallapoosa  
 AR: Dallas, Greene, Pike  
 CA: Glenn, Lassen  
 GA: Fannin, Gilmer, Macon, Marion,  
 Miller, Rockdale, Seminole,  
 Taliaferro, Toombs, Towns  
 IA: Carroll, Des Moines, Union  
 ID: Butte  
 KS: Atchison, Brown, Doniphan,  
 Jefferson, Nemaha, Rice  
 LA: Claiborne  
 MO: Ripley  
 MT: Blaine, Daniels, Glacier, Phillips,  
 Pondera, Teton, Toole  
 NC: Union  
 ND: Benson, Mountrail  
 OK: Dewey  
 SD: Bennett, Faulk, Ziebach  
 TN: Hancock  
 TX: Archer, Freestone, Upton

**KG8N** - USACA using SSB –

CA: San Francisco  
 CO: Rio Blanco  
 HI: Kalawao  
 ID: Gem, Owyhee, Bingham  
 IL: Stark Shelby  
 KS: Grant  
 KY: Cumberland, Taylor, Wayne, Adair, Clay, Lee, McLean  
 MN: Mille Lacs  
 MS: Greene

**MT:**Garfield, McCone, Meagher  
**NC:**Graham  
**ND:**Mercer, Burke, McHenry, Mountrail, Pierce, Sioux  
**NV:**Lincoln  
**OH:**Henery, Williams, Clinton  
**PA:**Westmorland  
**TX:**Hill, San Patrico, Upton  
**VA:**Lunenburg  
**WV:**Brooke

**WA8OWR** - USACA using SSB

**CA:** Calaveras  
**MO:** Shannon  
**OR:** Clatsop, Coos  
**VA:** Lunenburg

**K8YJ** - USACA using both SSB and CW –  
**AK:**4 th District  
**HI:**Kalawao  
**ID:**Lemhi  
**NV:**Lincoln  
**OR:**Klamath

**K9EN** - USACA using both SSB and CW  
**IN:** Elkhart  
**MO:** Pike

**WTØA** - USACA using both SSB and CW -  
**IL:** Hardin  
**TX:** Upton

**KYØE** - USACA using CW –

Milt has USACA

<b>AL:</b>	Bibb
<b>CO:</b>	Rio Blanco
<b>ID:</b>	Bonneville, Madison
<b>KS:</b>	Wallace
<b>KY:</b>	McCreary, Nicholas, Robertson, Shelby, Taylor
<b>MT:</b>	Lewis And Clark, Madison, Park, Sweet Grass
<b>NE:</b>	Cheyenne
<b>NY:</b>	New York, Washington, Yates
<b>OH:</b>	Mercer, Monroe
<b>OR:</b>	Multnomah
<b>PA:</b>	Indiana
<b>TN:</b>	Giles, Lawrence
<b>VA:</b>	Frederick, King William, Northampton
<b>WV:</b>	Berkeley, Grant, Hardy, Wetzel

**NØXYL** - USACA

<b>CA:</b>	San Francisco, San Mateo, Trinity
<b>CT:</b>	Litchfield, Tolland
<b>HI:</b>	Kalawao, Maui
<b>ID:</b>	Lemhi
<b>MA:</b>	Franklin
<b>MT:</b>	Daniels, Deer Lodge, Golden Valley, Musselshell
<b>ND:</b>	Bottineau
<b>OR:</b>	Clatsop, Coos, Curry, Malheur
<b>TX:</b>	Roberts
<b>UT:</b>	Juab, Piute
<b>WA:</b>	Kitsap
<b>WY:</b>	Hot Springs

AS always, check the latest needs list to be sure you have the current needs, and try to coordinate with the station with the needs so they can arrange to be around. For DX stations, you will need to be there in the county when there is propagation to the DX stations, too.

There may be several county hunters headed to AK this summer, so some of those needs may be satisfied. Hawaii is still a challenge – it's expensive these days island hopping, so keep your ears and eyes open for any announced trips there. (Occasionally some HI hams activate Kalawao). Eddie, G4KHG is currently on Kauai for a few weeks, and Clarence, KH6G is heard frequency on CW from Kauai. Merv, KF9D lives on Molokai and operates cw(Maui), and you'll hear KH6BB at the Battleship Missouri in Honolulu County looking for US counties at times. (K1ER, John, sometimes the op).

Hawaii often shows up in DX contests with several very loud contest stations there – so you have a shot to get them that way. On rare occasions, KL7HBK operates from the 2<sup>nd</sup> district AK – cw only – usually 20M – from Prudhoe Bay. I haven't heard him on lately, though.

Many of the above only need counties you can drive to – so let's see if we can get those 'last counties' for the folks and get them finished up this summer!

## For Master's Gold

If you have your Master County Hunter Award (Bingo), you can help out these folks working on the Masters Gold Award. This is the first award level that requires you work someone with a 'higher award' than USACA. You cannot start on MG until you have your Bingo award. Then you can give credit as you go through counties to others for the MG award (and also get credit for the county if you work someone FROM the county who holds the Bingo Award). As there are over 310 people now with Bingo, it's not as difficult as before – but it still a challenge to catch them all. Let's see if we can get these folks finished up. So far, 39 people have earned the MG award. These folks are getting mighty close.

**KL1V** – Master's Gold

CA:

Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Humboldt,  
Inyo, Lake, Mariposa, Tuolumne,  
Yuba



**MT:** Daniels, Lake, McCone, Musselshell  
**OK:** Hughes, Okfuskee, Muskogee,  
 Stephens  
 Archer, Baylor, Childress, Coleman,  
 Collingsworth, Cottle, Crosby,  
**TX:** Dickens, Fannin, Floyd, Grayson,  
 Kent, King, Motley, Shackelford,  
 Stephens, Throckmorton, Young  
**WA:** Whatcom

### **K3IMC** - MASTER'S GOLD

.

**AR:** Marion  
**CA:** Alpine, Plumas, Sierra, Tehama  
**CO:** Gunnison, Pitkin  
**HI:** Hawaii, Kalawao, Maui  
**IA:** Wayne  
**ID:** Blaine, Lincoln, Teton  
**IN:** Monroe  
**KS:** Graham, Gray, Hamilton, Lane, Scott, Sheridan  
**MO:** Knox, Warren  
**MT:** Big Horn, Carbon, Madison, Ravalli  
**NC:** Martin, Stokes  
**NE:** Boyd  
**NV:** Eureka, Storey  
**NY:** Queens, Tompkins  
**OH:** Brown, Geauga, Highland  
**OK:** Latimer, Le Flore, Pushmataha  
**OR:** Douglas  
**PA:** Philadelphia  
**TN:** Cannon, Hardeman, Sequatchie, Stewart  
**VA:** Franklin  
**WA:** Asotin, Clark, Columbia, Douglas, Garfield, Island, Skagit, Walla  
 Walla, Yakima  
**WV:** Jefferson, Summers

### **KD4HXM** - MASTER'S GOLD

CA::Trinity  
IA:Guthrie  
KY:Greenup  
MT:Madison

**W6TPC** - MASTER'S GOLD using both SSB and CW –

GA:Barrow, Calhoun  
KY:Garrard, Robertson  
MN:Clearwater  
MT:Daniels  
NC:Clay  
ND:Adams  
NY:Niagara  
VA:Bath, Middlesex

**KI7WO** - MASTER'S GOLD using both SSB and CW -0

AK: 1st, 2nd, 4th  
CT: Hartford, Litchfield, Tolland, Windham  
HI: Hawaii, Honolulu  
ME: Aroostook, Franklin, Piscataquis  
NJ: Essex, Hudson, Somerset  
RI: Bristol, Newport, Washington

**AA8R** - MASTER'S GOLD

AK:1st, 4th  
AR:Franklin, Pope  
AZ:Yuma  
CA:Del Norte, Humboldt, Mono, Monterey, San Francisco, Santa Cruz,  
Stanislaus, Tulare  
IA:Marion, Wapello  
ID:Camas  
IL:Crawford, Macon, Moultrie, Pulaski  
IN:Daviess, Pulaski  
KS:Gray, Kiowa, Morris  
LA:St. Landry

**MD:**Prince George  
**ME:**Waldo  
**MN:**Anoka  
**MO:**Barton, Miller, Osage  
**MT:**Broadwater, Daniels, Phillips  
**NC:**Stokes  
**NE:**Polk, Saunders  
**NV:**Lincoln  
**NY:**Putnam  
**OH:**Ashtabula, Clinton, Fulton  
**OK:**Grady  
**OR:**Harney, Klamath, Marion, Tillamook  
**PA:**Elk, Sullivan  
**RI:**Bristol, Newport  
**SD:**Bon Homme, Edmunds  
**UT:**Piute, Summit  
**VA:**Cumberland  
**WA:**Clallam, Ferry, Franklin, Skamania, Whatcom  
**WY:**Fremont, Lincoln, Park

### **AD8W- Masters Gold**

**AK:** First  
District

### **KA9JAC** - MASTER'S GOLD using both SSB and CW –

**CA:**San Mateo  
**ID:**Clark  
**MT:**McCone, Mineral, Richland  
**OK:**Comanche, Tillman  
**OR:**Polk

### **W9MSE** - MASTER'S GOLD using CW - Updated: 05/17/2010

**AK:**2nd

CA:San Francisco, Ventura  
ID:Ada, Boise, Gem  
OR:Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Marion, Wallowa  
TX:Chambers, Kimble, Uvalde  
WA:Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Kitsap, Okanogan, Whatcom

**WB9STT** - MASTER'S GOLD using SSB -

CA:Placer  
MN:Chisago  
MS:Covington  
SC:Saluda  
WA:Skamania  
WV:Clay

**WBØCQO** - MASTER'S GOLD using SSB –

WY:Washakie

If you are planning a trip, or just need an excuse to go out mobile, check the K3IMC needs page to see what people need which counties for which awards. Also, if you are ‘no star’, YL/OM team, there are many working on the new No Star or ‘team’ award. You might hit some counties you are good for Natural Bingo in – for the new Award Natural Bingo, or might just have the needed prefix to get those last counties for someone! With the new awards, a new mobile may be able to give out counties for awards that many other experienced mobiles cannot help out on! Ex: N4CD/m is no good for the No Star award, for the W, A, or K prefix, nor for Natural Bingo in others than counties starting with “C” or “D”, or YL, and for the past 10 years, not the team award either. Maybe YOU can do those!

It looks like AB7RW will be out in WA, OR, and CA, and K4YFH will spend a lot of the summer out west as well. WA4PGM headed to CO on vacation. So some of the needs may be run – watch the planned trips page at:

<http://www.cquest.com/cgi-bin/flynn/trips.pl>

# Electric Cars – Then and Now

If we look at the range of electric cars – 100 years ago versus today, what do we find? Some interesting trivia for those science minded.

In 1910, the average range of an electric car was about 75 to 100 miles. The first electric cars had a range of about 40 miles - which was about double what a horse could do in one day.

“Electric motors and batteries have improved substantially over the past one hundred years, but today's much hyped electric cars have a range that is - at best - comparable to that of their predecessors at the beginning of the 20th century. Weight, comfort, speed and performance have eaten up any real progress. We don't need better batteries, we need better cars.” (the oil drum)

From about 1895 to the mid-1920s electric cars shared the road with petrol and steam powered cars. During the very early years, however, electric automobiles were the most popular option for a short time, mainly because of two reasons.

Firstly, they were easy to start, while a gasoline car had to be cranked up and a steam powered car required a long firing-up time. Secondly, there were few paved roads outside the city at the turn of the 20th century, which made the limited range of EV's not that problematic. The production of electric vehicles peaked in 1912: during that time there were 30,000 EV's on the road in the United States, two-thirds of these were used as private passenger cars.

By 1912, the gasoline car had already taken over the largest share of the automobile sales (more than 90 percent). They were faster and could drive longer distances - not only because of their better range but also because of a more elaborate refueling infrastructure. The rapidly expanding paved road network worked in their favor, too.

Internal combustion engines became much cheaper than electrics. In 1908, Ford introduced its mass-produced (and gasoline powered) Model-T, which initially sold for 850 dollars - two to three times less than the price of a

similar electric vehicle. In 1912, the price of the Model-T came down to 650 dollars. That same year, the electrical starter for gasoline vehicles appeared, and took away one of the last selling points of EV's. Last but not least, gasoline had become much cheaper than it had been at the end of the 19th century.

If today's supporters of EV's would dig into the specifications and the sales brochures of early 20th century electric "horseless carriages", their enthusiasm would quickly disappear. Fast-charged batteries (to 80% capacity in 10 minutes), automated battery swapping stations, public charging poles, load balancing, the entire business plan of Better Place, in-wheel motors, regenerative braking: it was all there in the late 1800s or the early 1900s. It did not help.



The Nissan Leaf and the Mitsubishi i-MiEV, two electric cars to be introduced on the market in 2010, have exactly the same range as the 1908 Fritchle Model A Victoria: 100 miles on a single charge. The "100-mile Fritchle" was a progressive engineering feat for its time, but it was not the only early electric that boasted a 100 mile range.

The first electric cars (1894 - 1900) had a range of 20 to 40 miles, still better than the 14 mile "range" of a horse. The average second generation EV (1901 - 1910) already boasted a mileage of 50 to 80 miles. The third generation of early electric cars (1911-1920), including larger vehicles that could seat 5 people comfortably, could travel 75 to more than 100 miles on a single charge - and this is still the range of electric cars today.

The most obvious difference between the specifications of the old and new cars is the power of their motors. The 1908 car had a 10 HP motor, the 2010 car has a 110 HP motor. In other words, the Nissan Leaf has the motor output of 11 electric Fritchles. The smaller and lighter Mitsubishi i-MiEV (1,080 kg or 2,400 pounds) has the motor power of 6.5 electric Fritchles.

The maximum speed of the Fritchle was 25 mph, the Nissan does 87 mph and the i-MiEV is not far behind (81 mph). Acceleration data cannot be compared, but there is no doubt that the 2010 cars will accelerate many times faster.

Naturally, the newer cars have all sorts of features, from good headlights to air conditioning, stereo systems and radios, good gauges - but isn't it amazing that after 100 years, the range of electric cars is still about the same - 100 miles or less?

(Note: The Tesla does have up to 200 mile range...but of course, is \$50K to \$100K - not for the mass market. )

## YouTube Videos of the Month

Demonstration of BC-610 Military Transmitter WW2

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMk-GjzdP64>

Antique Style Regen - Twinplex circa 1936

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PYeB7nGwGv0>

1926 AM Radiola Broadcast set – Regen

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XoM0wvlAwAo>

Live in the DC area?

<http://www.radiohistory.org/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46TLmROTTqk>

Looking for WW2 Military Communications Equipment guide?

Try <http://www.qsl.net/p/pe1ngz/signalscollection.html>

## Upcoming Events for County Hunters

**Alabama QSO Party** RS(T) and county, state, province, or 'DX'

[www.alabamagsoparty.org](http://www.alabamagsoparty.org)

Jun 5, 1600Z - Jun 6, 0400Z CW--1.810, 3.545, 7.045, 14.045, 21.045, 28.045; PH--1.865, 3.855, 7.230, 14.250, 21.300, 28.4502 8.4502

**West Virginia QSO Party** RS(T), WV county or S/P/C

[www.qsl.net/wvsarc](http://www.qsl.net/wvsarc)

Jun 19, 1600Z - Jun 20, 0200Z CW--35 kHz from band edge,  
Phone--35 kHz from General/Nov/Tech segments.

**ARRL Field Day** Category, ARRL/RAC section or DX

[www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests)

Jun 26, 1800Z - Jun 27, 2100Z



Note: Field Day is a good day NOT to be out running counties as the bands will be full of CQ FD. You can easily get contacts, though if you are only looking for transmitted counties, but the SSB nets may not be running that 30 hour period, so be forewarned. The cw frequencies may be overrun – often times by eager beaver FD stations that aren’t going to be aware of ‘net frequencies’ either. Many county hunters are off with their local clubs, too.

It’s a good time to join your local club or friends and participate in FD. Many stations are ‘portable’ for the No Star award, but you almost need to check with each station to find out WHERE they were (what county) as it can be different from the ‘mailing address’ of the club station trustee which is likely listed in the databases.

**MARAC National Convention** in Weslaco Texas - July 7 to 10

<http://maracnational.superhosts.net/>

## Awards

Five Star #45	WQ7A, Terry	May 12, 2010
Fourth Time #146	WA9DLB, Tony	May 12, 2010
USA-PA- W #8	KC3X, Hollis	May 18, 2010
MARAC YL #7	AA9JJ, Frank	May 19, 2010
Master Gold #39	WD9EJK, Paul	May 19, 2010
Five Star #46	W4YDY, Dave	May 22, 2010
Bingo II #68	WB0CQO, Joe	May 18, 2010

That’s it for this month. 73 de N4CD