

# County Hunter News

May 1, 2013  
Volume 9, Issue 5

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

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

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

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

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

You can see live spots of county hunter activity at [ch.W6RK.com](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) . Please check it out.

Back issues of the County Hunter News are available at [www.CHNewsonline.com](http://www.CHNewsonline.com)

Want county lines on your Garmin GPS?

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

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

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

## Notes from the Editor

1 ) **N4CD Rumblings.** April was a good month for snagging counties – a very good month with state QSO parties in MO, GA, MI, ND, SD, NE, NM, and with mobiles out on major trips including AF3X all over the west, N0KV out to CA, KB0BA/N0XYL in IA, WI, N4CD in CO, WY, plus others running around. Radio conditions for the most part were good. 17M worked well from out west. The weather is improving so mobiles are becoming more active.

That's not to say the weather was always good, with blizzards continuing in the Dakotas, WY, MI and other states and torrential rain and flooding in many others. For many, it has been a 'late spring'.

Toward the end of the month, the Mini in MI saw half a dozen mobiles head that way putting out many counties along the way.

Propagation has been a mixed bag – some days very good, others with disturbed conditions. Still, lots of counties have been worked on most days.

**2 ) Antique Wireless Association** – Gateway newsletter is on line with some interesting articles on old radios – from the Grid leak detector to the evolution of the broadcast receiver

<http://www.antiquewireless.org/pdf/GatewayV3no1.pdf>

**3 ) Hallicrafters S-1**, first ever made Hallicrafters receiver – regen, sold for \$1027 on Ebay!....Ouch. Would have loved to own it...but not for a thousand bucks for a radio that needs major restoration! OMG! Some collector really really really wanted it. We showed it in the last issue. Oh well, I'll probably never see another one of those again. It needed at least 50 hours of work to get it going again and looking 'original' with replacement caps INSIDE the old ones, etc, a new cone for the speaker, and a raft of other issues. See showed pictures of it last month.

**4) Charlie, W0RRY** - I heard from Charlie – first time in a long long time. The docs have got him on some new meds and he's doing a lot better. For the last two years, he was sort of zonked out by the meds. He's even talking about trying to get up some kind of 'stealth' antenna at the new QTH and getting back on the air chasing counties. He was 16 away from 5<sup>th</sup> time when he sold the house in Tulsa and basically went QRT after that.

## **5 ) Nifty On Line Schematic Drawing Program**

Want to draw up a simple schematic with a free on line program

Try <http://www.digikey.com/schemeit#>

## **6 ) Motel Six Reservation Ad**

Motel 6 has a cute ad on the air. Maybe you've heard it. It talks about reservations – you can make them on the internet. You can phone them in to the 800 number. You can use their app on your smart hone. But.....if you want to use the Morse Code over the telegraph, you are DOT DOT DOT, DASH DASH DASH, DOT DASH DOT DOT. Hi hi I wonder how many regular listeners get it?

## **7 ) For our DX friends**

When you call a mobile, and the mobile comes back to you with a signal report....please...don't send your call AGAIN....as in.....

N4CD: QRZ

pile calling.....go back to DX4DX..... DX4DX 339 339

DX4DX: DX4DX 339 339 ur 339 339

Sending the call again, when the mobile is expecting ONLY numbers, is confusing especially if signals are really 339 type copy. Please....don't send your call AGAIN after the mobile gives you a report! Thanks.

If we get a letter or number wrong...don't sweat it.....we get tired.....and when we do the logs....it matters not if it is DX4DX, DX3DX, DX5DX.....if you've been working us all day....we know who you are...sometimes the bump in the road makes it come out wrong, or we have 'brain fade' from so many contacts. We know it is PA3ARM, SM7DZI, DL8USA, DL3IAC, OM2VL, OK2EC, etc. After you work a mobile 3 or 4 times a day, we know who you are ...and sometimes the copy is at 'ESP' levels if the power line along the road is noisy. Or the guy 800 Hz away is driving the noise blanker crazy with overload. Thanks.....

## Mobile Activity

Fred, **K0FG** continued west and was running in NV and AZ. Then headed back to MO putting them out along the way on SSB and CW.

Bill, **WG9A**, left IL and headed south down through IN. Then back to home.

Steve, **AK8A**, headed home from FL via TN, KY, IN.

Bob, **N8KIE**, returned to Phoenix AZ after his winter in HI and headed back to MI running counties along the way. Headed through NM, into CO, to KS to MO, IL, IN and home to MI.

Jerry, **W0GXQ** headed down to QTH of Mike, NF0N, and the two of them ran IA counties for a day. Jerry then headed back to MN.

Matt, **W0NAC**, with **N0LXJ**, ran some counties in CO for the Five Mode Award – SSB, CW and digital modes.

Jim, **VA3XOV**, ran some counties in OH and PA and NY.

**W7UDG** headed from ID down through UT (SSB).

Jeff, **W9MSE**, headed from WI over to Stark, OH and a few days later back to WI.

Mike, **KA4RRU**, put out a few in VA.

Kerry, **W4SIG**, was down in MS running them.

Jeffrey, **AF3X** started on a long trip. Heard running in LA and into TX on 20 SSB. Then west to UT. Ran a few on CW. Up into ID and WY then across the Dakota down into NE, IA, MO and eventually home.

Lowell, **KB0BA**, and Sandra, **N0XYL**, were out and about in IA on SSB. Later they headed up through WI to get to the Mini in MI.

Scottie, **N4AAT**, made a quick trip to GA and back. Couldn't raise anyone on 40M SSB.

Norm, **W3DYA**, headed over to GA for the GA QSO Party. Stopped to run West/East Carroll, LA and George/Greene, MS to finish up K7TM for the second time. Took 34 years for Bob to do it the second time. Whew!

**KW1DX**, Dave, headed up through New England to run most of ME on SSB.

Joe, **N5UZW**, ran around in MS and into AL to catch Wilcox and a few others, needed by many.

Duane, **K8AO**, was out in MN putting them out.

Jeff, **W9MSE**, ran around in SW WI.

**K5YAA**, Jerry, ran counties on the way back from his trip to GA to run in the GA QSO Party on 20M ssb. He lives in OKLA.

Doug, **WA4UNS**, ran counties in NJ on his way back home – SSB and data modes.

Barry, **N0KV**, and Pat, **N0DXE**, headed to CA and ran counties along the way on SSB – 20M and 17M and occasionally on CW. They'll be headed back after Visalia DX meet.

Karl, **K4YT**, was putting out counties in CA while out there for the Visalia DX Convention. Mostly on SSB.

Jim, **K0ARS**, was on in GA putting out counties on CW.

**K7RE** was out in the SD QSO Party and **N7IV** was operating N0GC in the ND QSO Party.

**AC0HW**, Richard, was running all over the country on SSB. Lost an antenna mast and off the air until he replaces it. **N0ZDZ** also running around the country on SSB putting them out. **N3MRA**, Seth, also on the road putting them out on SSB.

Larry, **W7FEN**, headed up to the Mini Convention in MI running them along the way. Then back home after the event.

Dan, **KM9X**, and Judy, **KB9MGI**, will be headed up to MI for the Mini along with **N8KIE** and others.

Don, **K3IMC**, headed up to MI from GA.

The team, **W8FNW/W4FNW**, headed from FL back north for the summer.

Bob, **KA9JAC**, and **KB9YVT**, Ann, headed to the Mini in MI from WI.

Ed, **KN4Y**, headed up to Colquitt, GA for OH3JF's last county in GA. He was also there in the GA QSO Party just a few days ago, too.

Dave, **KE3VV**, headed back to VA from FL.

Dick, **W3DQT**, ran a few in PA on cw.

Frosty, **W0FP**, seen mobiling toward MI for the Mini

end date 4/24/2013

# County Sign Database Project

Pictures were received from Jim, N8HAM on his recent trip to FL and back.



N8HAM Baker, GA

K4PBX, Jim, sent in a few from GA.

Here's one from Darl, NA8W for Coshocton/Tuscarawas OH County Line



NA8W in the snow entering Coshocton, OH

Alex, K5XY, sent in a picture of his 'home' county, Dona Ana, NM, plus a few others for the Database Project.



Dona Ana, NM – home county of K5XY

Ron, N5MLP, took a bunch of pictures on his last trip to finish up the Master Platinum award. Here's one for Bryan, OK, with his mobile in the picture.



N5MLP Bryan, OK



Jerry, W0GXQ, sent in a whole slew from MN and IA from his last trip, and Lowell, KB0BA sent in dozens from IA and IL on his last trip. The database is up over 1140. Keep those pictures coming!

Is your home county in the database? Nearby ones? Ones you go through all the time? Check it out at. Better yet if you can catch yourself or your mobile in some of the pictures for others to enjoy. You can't always do that – sometimes the sign is too far off the county – or you just snap it through the windshield. It's a good excuse to stretch your legs every 20-30-40 miles and get the circulation going again.

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

## The Story of a Young Wireless Amateur Who Made Good as a Fire Patrol

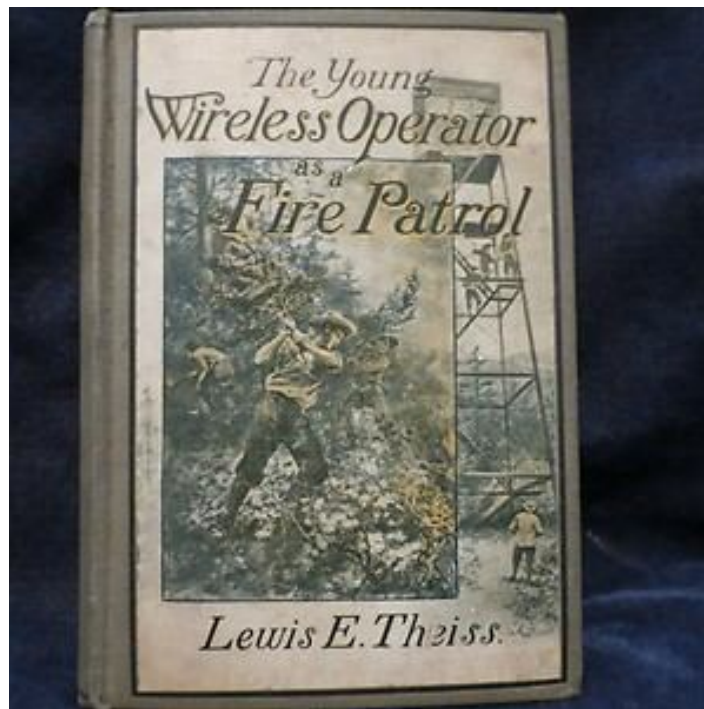
By Lewis E. Theiss - about 1907 – very early wireless

Yet another book review for an on-line story for your consideration.

Not a bad 3 hour read – available as HTML, Kindle or other file types. Free- can't beat free.

Here's another 'wireless adventure book' on line for the enjoyment of those who like 'way back' radio and a good adventure story from the beginning of the last century.

Here's the beginning:



“Six new dry cells were to be taken to provide current. Then there were a spark-gap, a spark-coil, a key, and a detector, with the receiving set, switch, and aerial. To be sure, the entire aerial was not packed, but merely the wires and insulators, as spreaders could be made in the forest. Then there was an additional coil of wire to be used for lead-in and suspension wires. No tuning instrument was necessary, because the wireless outfits of all the members of the Camp Brady Wireless Patrol were exactly alike and so were already in tune with one another. Without a tuning instrument, to be sure, it might not be possible for Charley and Lew to talk with anybody except their fellows of the Wireless Patrol, but in the present circumstances that made no difference to them.”

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A young high school lad, almost done, goes camping in the forest with a friend. They intend to go trout fishing. As they reach their favorite spot, they note that large areas of the forest have been burned recently by wildfires. They bump into a few 'hill people' and then meet a ranger who explains what has been going on. He urges them to keep an eye out for fires and gives them a new 'secret spot' to go fishing.

It's not long after that that the ranger returns as makes one of them a forest watcher. Seems there is suspicious activity going on and there may be an arsonist setting all the forest fires. One of the friends has to return to school, but the other stays in a hidden campsite and keeps a low profile. He's got a wireless system with him and keeps in touch with his buddies who can

pass messages both ways.

The forest fires continue - set with delayed action devices so the perps can get away and be far enough away to avoid suspicion. Eventually the lad becomes a forest service employee. There are many small suspicious fires caught in time to prevent burning the forests but they need to catch the arsonists. Eventually he's promoted and works at a high fire tower where he can set up his wireless permanently. He then goes on to solve a problem with someone intentionally setting forest fires and saves the day using wireless – spark gap transmitter, etc. A few details on what is happening radio wise. The bad guys are finally caught and confess.

Good adventure story. Lots of adventure. Not much technical detail so even the YIs might like it.

<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/12839>

## W5T Train Mobile



Special Event 'Train Mobile' operated on 13 April 2013. We operated from a 1940s Caboose (shown below) following passenger cars of an excursion train running through the Boston Mountain range between Springdale and Van Buren, Arkansas.

The train traversed Washington and Crawford Counties, although most of our time was in Crawford County. If you're a County Hunter, please specify your interest in county hunting and we will research the specific county of our QSO.



Installing Antennas on the Caboose

For a special commemorative W5T 'Train Mobile' QSL, please send a large (#10 or equivalent envelope) SASE to our AA5AR club address.

Photos of the train are @ [www.amrailroad.com](http://www.amrailroad.com)

Thanks for riding the rails with us!

The ARKAN Club also sponsors the "Worked All Arkansas Award," and the Arkansas QSO Party in September of each year.

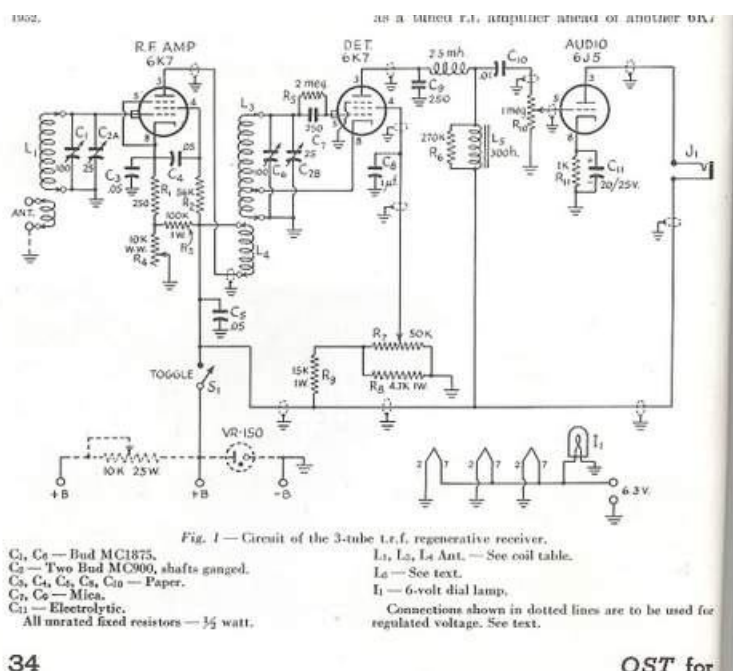
Some real nice pics here of the train/route and operators and rigs

<https://picasaweb.google.com/112594381436380640264/W5TTrainMobile13April2013?feat=email>

# On the Trail of Regens

Ah...another year of QSTs browsing reveals yet another article on the elusive regen. This one is out of the June issue of 1954 – titled A Receiver for Flat Pursues, by Ed Hayward, W1PH. This is an update to the Coffee Can Receiver in 1952 – this one uses plug in coils instead of the wired in coils in that version.

Here's the schematic. There's nothing unusual. It has a tuned RF Amp followed by the regen detector then a single audio stage. No interstage transformer, but it used a 300 H audio choke as in the National SW-3 type radios. Those are hard to find in 2013! You look for ones made back in the 40s and 50s if you want one, and most folks don't bring the 'heavy iron' to hamfests and most folks don't want to dig through those big boxes either!



The power supply is built on a separate chassis to keep the vibration and the hum down. That was very common for regens, which have a great habit of picking up a.c. 'hum' from any source. He put the RF and detector into tomato cans to shield them from each other. It's a Hartley detector with a tapped coil in the cathode circuit. You've got to be good to get the stuff wired inside the small cans, and pre-wire things like the tube socket before stuffing it way down inside the can. However, if you didn't shield things, they would 'talk' to each other and the set might just oscillate uncontrollably all the time. Those two coils would interact and

'see' each other if not shielded. Now, you can use toroids that have next to no external field and it's not a problem.

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In 1954, they had a design for a code practice oscillator using a CK722 transistor – really new high tech stuff at the time..

I'm making copies of all the articles and sticking them in a notebook. Well, binders. Hope I don't get in trouble for my 'binders' like Mitt Romney did. Hi hi

## Doerle Radio

The Doerle sets, designed by radio fan Walter C. Doerle of Oakland, CA, were a popular regenerative receiver scheme of the 1930s. In December 1931 the magazine **Short Wave Craft** carried Doerle's first article about a simple two-tube regen receiver. The set, being inexpensive to build and get working, caught on like wildfire. Doerle wrote one or two other articles and quickly faded from the scene, little else is known personally about Doerle after his article. His design was not lost however, and was quickly picked up and popularized by the radio stores on New York City's "Radio Row".

With 30% unemployed, and Radio Row seeing distributor after distributor going bust, the Doerle and the Short Wave craze saved the day for many.



Doerle Set up for Sale on Ebay

Bill Orr, in an article published in April 1979 Ham Radio Horizons magazine, states that ""Doerle clubs" sprang up around the country and "Doerle circuits" were sold as kits and as complete radios."

Most hams have not heard of the Doerle sets or Doerle circuits as the designs were carried largely by radio magazines catering to the general radio "bug" rather than to the hams.

Great article here with schematics, pictures and history of the Doerle.

This link has lots of great pictures and description

[http://www.w1ujr.net/doerle\\_sets.htm](http://www.w1ujr.net/doerle_sets.htm)

The link below has a nice schematic and discussion of the set.

<http://www.philcorepairbench.com/doerle.htm>



More links – original article (reprint) at fyrbotzl

<http://www.antiqueradios.com/archives/Doerle4SW.pdf>

[http://www.fyrbotlz.com/files/\\_1\\_4\\_SW\\_Doerle\\_Sets.pdf](http://www.fyrbotlz.com/files/_1_4_SW_Doerle_Sets.pdf)

from the Ebay ad:

The above is is a Doerle "12,500" (indicates miles) 2 tube radio. This is the early version that has the #30 tubes. Little is known today about Walter C. Doerle from Oakland California. In the early 30's America was in turmoil before the great depression. Doerle came up with a simplistic design that came in a kit. This model ran off two battery types that were not included with the kit. During the depression many people were at home with no work and this radio took off. During this time quite a few bigger radio companies were going out of business. It became a nationwide phenomena and had many clubs and followings through 1930's into early 40's. They are nearly impossible to find all original. The kits sold for under \$5 which was 'affordable' to many. Others scrounged parts as the old battery TRF sets were now being discarded in great numbers as superhets had replaced them. Tubes were 25c apiece new and likely 'free' if from old sets. Same for the interstage transformers and rheostats. The technology had changed for the broadcast band, but for shortwave listening, the regen was still king and cheap, too, which was really important during the depression.



Doerle Set – Rear View



This radio is a two tube receiver radio. All the wiring is the original cloth covered. The tuners are brass "Hammarlund's made in the USA" the audio transceiver is a pilot 3.5 to 1 ratio. It comes with 5 (4 prong) coils. 4 are Bakelite and the other appears to be porcelain. It is made of bakelite and metal plus components. This model ran off two types of batteries and an antenna which needed to be grounded to a true ground. You'd use giant 1.5v batteries (F cells – about 3 inches in diameter and 6-7 inches tall) to get 3v to run your 2v tubes through a dropping rheostat, plus a B battery of typically 45v or so.

Doerle would later come up with a 3 tube model with an RF amplifier stage (and another plug in coil), plus the 'electrified' versions of both using 2.5vac or 6vac tubes. For some reason, the first a/c tubes ran off 2.5v filaments. Guess that 2v was imprinted into their minds since the type 30 and others in the series ran off 2v DC. Then it quickly moved to 6v filaments.

After the first few years, any kit with a resemblance to the original was called a Doerle. “

## Missouri QSO Party

This year provided a few active mobiles to chase. N0AX was roaming all around running them on cw and SSB. Fred, K0FG was putting them out. N4CD was on the road so it was a bit tough trying to work them while zipping along running counties, but I still snagged some of the counties. W0D, a 1x1 special expedition to Dent, MO, was on giving out that rare county, a Natural Bingo, and lots of contacts. There were dozens of counties to be snagged by the CH- both SSB and CW.

From the 3830 contest reflector:

### **W0GXA rover - 191 cw**

This was my first time in the MO QP. I had only limited time so I chose to run across the northern tier of counties. Made it to Worth before I had to head for home (3.5 hour drive).

In QPs I'm not in them to win, rather, I focus on helping out DX stations with their county hunting needs; especially OM2VL and PA3ARM. I was able to activate 11 counties for Laci (including 4 in Iowa/Illinois before the

contest). It's especially satisfying to help someone when it's their last county in a state :-)

Propagation was excellent. I was worried the SP DX contest would interfere but I managed to find a quiet'ish spot. I'm a solo operator (no driver) so I operated from county lines to keep my Q rate up to 2-3 per min which is generally very good for this type of contest. Generally, I would work a county pair dry in about 30 minutes. Schuyler/Putnam though must have been pretty rare because I had half my Qs from that site.

I worked one band only (20m) but next year I'll bring my 40m and 15m Hamsticks.

It was a very nice day to be out for a drive. Great weather and friendly people I met along the way. Thank you for everyone that worked me. I appreciate everyone's patience as I worked the pileups.

73, Bob W0GXA

**N0AX mobile** 611 cw 326 SSB

Wow - what a blast - had folks following us all the way through the contest. Ellen was a superb driver on all those windy Ozark roads along the ridges and through the valleys. Propagation was great - amazing QSO to work OM2VL about 9:30 local time on 40 SSB with S9+ signals both ways. Franklin County closed out the contest with a bang as it seemed everybody needed it on Phone and CW. Finally ran out of stations with about 10 min to go although I probably could have changed bands and run some more. Anyway - thanks to many stations for the repeat QSOs - you know who you are - and for all the casual folks that dropped by to hand out a QSO. We're already planning another south MO run for next year!

Station: IC-7000 (100W) and a collection of Hamsticks, Paddlette mini-keyer, paper and pencil logging

73, Ward N0AX and Ellen KD0PES

**KS0MO – fixed Buchanan QRP** - 170 cw Qs

Kinda slow this year ... RAN most of the contest ... thanks to all for the Q's ... bands were pretty stable very few repeats required

... calibrated power out was 4.8 watts.

### **OM2VL at OM8A contest station: 91 cw 54 SSB QSO**

What a great QP... Very good condition on high bands. I have big pilep of US stations on 15m (it is so pity, that only few called me from MO) and 20m.

My first BIG thanks to Bob - W0GXA, who especially for me took part in MO QP to add me some new counties.

My BIG thanks also to N0AX/M for 43 QSO from 16 different county and many QSY's from CW to SSB or from SSB to CW.

Of course thanks for the other mobiles (unfortunately there was really few), and for all stations from MO who made contact with me.

I think 57 different counties from MO is good number ... :)  
I was very surprised to work with 6 stations on 80m. This time I had no beverage for RX and the noise level was high. Despite of this I heard 6 stations and we made a QSO. Thanks guy's!

TOP QSO's:

N0AX/M 43/16 (QSO/CTy)

KI0I 12/12

K0FG/M 9/5

W0GXA/M 7/7

W0MA 6/1

K0JPL 6/1

WD0ECO 5/1

K0CA 4/1

W0D 4/1

N5KW 3/3

73! Laci OM2VL

### **N6MU – Fixed California 85 cw 56 SSB Qs**

Wasn't planning a big effort as I didn't see any planned mobile activity. That

changed once KI0I(23 QS) and N0AX(27 QS) showed up to keep it interesting both days. Also worked part timers N5KW(16 Qs)and W0GXA(5 Qs) along with W0RMS(3 Qs).

Anybody who missed W0MA(bonus station) wasn't trying as they were seemingly everywhere and were one of three stations I worked on 10-40, both modes. The other two were K0JPL and WD0ECO.

15 was open both days and 10 on Sunday only. Interesting skip on 10 as the eastern area of the state was booming in but the central and western areas had no propagation. I tried it with many stations but only the likes of W0MA, K0JPL, WD0ECO and K0CA were workable. Funny how that works.

I must commend the efforts of OM2VL who, judging by the numbers he was giving out, may have won this thing. If so, I think he would be the first DX station ever to win a state Party. Even out here, he was so loud on all bands it was amazing. Congrats!

One of the best MO Parties in a while. Thanks to all the participants. 73...

John, N6MU

**KN4Y – fixed FL – 45 CW**

Good CW activity Saturday, kept one awake. Good mobile activity. Missed Sunday, dang.

**W0BH – fixed KS 31 cw 14 ssb**

Enjoyed working KI0I/m (7) and N0AX/m (5). Also found K0FG/m (1) and a big surprise to hear Pam/N5KW/m (1) on CW up from Oklahoma .. way to go!

## The Winds Blew in South Carolina

Once again, Murphy strikes at the QTH of Scottie, N4AAT, in South Carolina. If it isn't lightning strikes, now it's the latest calamity to hit. Scottie send along this picture of his nice tower – that had two sets of guy wires on it.



Needless the say, the beam got wrecked....the guy anchors were pulled out of the ground. Scottie is fine.

The roof over the garage was also damaged. Scottie is busy fixing things once again.

## Global Warming Hoax Part N

### **Economist Admits 'Mismatch' Between Greenhouse Gases and 'Not-Rising Temperatures'**

The Economist has been fairly consistent in its stand that carbon dioxide emissions from man-

made sources are the chief cause of global warming. But in an editorial this week, it sounds less certain.

Global warming predictions haven't panned out as predicted in the past decade, but the why is a bit fuzzy, the magazine admits.

Greenhouse gas emissions have soared during the past 15 years, the magazine notes, with 100 billion tons of carbon having been added to the atmosphere between 2000 and 2010. **Still, both air and ground temperatures during that time have remained virtually unchanged.**

In fact, the editorial notes, surface temperatures have been at the bottom of the projected range of various models since 2005. If they remain flat, they will actually begin to fall below projections shortly.

"The mismatch between rising greenhouse-gas emissions and not-rising temperatures is among the biggest puzzles in climate science just now," The Economist said.

The Economist posits several theories that might explain why temperatures have leveled off.

Among them: a temporary lag between more carbon dioxide and rising temperatures between 2000 and 2010; the rising temperatures in the 1990s might have been an anomaly; or the climate is responding to higher CO<sub>2</sub> levels in ways that scientists haven't understood.

If the last possibility is true, the editorial notes, it "could have profound significance both for climate science and for environmental and social policy." In other words, less drastic action would need to be taken to reduce carbon dioxide emissions than has previously been sought.

Buried deep in the highly technical piece, the magazine admits that evidence suggests something that global warming skeptics have long maintained: Natural variations in the earth's climate likely play a bigger role than scientific models have said.

Source: <http://www.newsmax.com/>

# On the Road with N4CD I

In the Beginning....

or – the trip that wound up being done 'around the weather'. The calendar said it was Spring and April, but Mother Nature had other things in mind for this time of year. Fortunately, I had lots of time and 'flexibility'. The counties could even wait if need be. I didn't have to get to 'anywhere'. That made it hard to post a trip since it changed every few days in the planning stage. I didn't want to get 'stranded' anywhere by weather, either. So.....it started out in an unusual manner.

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**For the chat room denizens....**

Or, as the twin-twin chat room crowd would sadly say, as they sat on their fat asses in the comfort of their climate controlled ham shacks bemoaning the fact that active mobiles might be out and running counties 'for their own self aggrandizement\* ', collecting more 'last county awards' and running up the totals, while the twin twins were commiserating with the few people that actually read what they say in their 'chat room' (3 or four people?), groaning about that N4CD was about to be out running counties ONLY to work on his awards. Hee hee. Even more guffaws! That never stops me. Well, there's more on the 'self aggrandizing attempted demeaning bit' later. Nothing new. They try that every year. The old 'he/she isn't in the county bit' got blown away by technology and Percy Pics\*, too, so I guess that is all they have left! That, and 'mobiles having too much fun!'. More guffaws! They don't have too many nice things to be said about the County Hunter News, either, since it spoils their rants, too. Does that stop me? Or even slow me down? Not a bit! If I didn't travel I wouldn't have as many travel stories to put in the CH News!

I planned on having fun. Meanwhile, the twin-twins(James and Percy) would be having conniption fits. More chuckles. It's surely not my problem! Now we should give him a 'little' credit for keeping 336 open for mobiles to run. A 'little'. A teeny bit. And not enough 18 year old blondes for their reward – chuckle chuckle.

Never let the miserable, low esteem, 'complainers' get you down. Sure doesn't bother me. We'll cover that later. I just had to get this out of the way to start as it's amusing to hear James choke up if N4CD actually works a mobile on 336 while he is around.

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## **Back on the road again....**

The urge to go mobile hit. The N4CD mobile hadn't been on a long trip for a few months other than to a few hamfests a few hours away in neighboring states or down the interstates. Winter weather was coming to an end up north – it appeared. I stopped the mail and paper delivery for two weeks. The only constraint was I had to be back for an appointment on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April so there was time to have fun and run some counties.

My taxes were done and filed electronically so that was out of the way. It seems I always take a trip after I get all the tax stuff done. Dunno why? Maybe it's spring fever. Or a reward for taking care of that annual exercise in determining how much of MY money the government gets to take from me to GIVE to the welfare weenies and queenies? Or it's the first time in the year when you want to be roaming around in 'snow country' after, hopefully, the snow stops?

I planned up on to 2 weeks of trip. Let's see. I had Mobile Diamond needs in CO and KS and UT and CA and OR. And WY and MT. Wow... that would be 5000 miles of driving. Oh, I'd use of my quota of 'self aggrandizement' quickly – hee hee. Lots of folks needed those rare UT and WY counties and there were dozens of needs scattered in CO and UT and CA. Nothing really stood out as super rare.

Hmmm...I wasn't quite up to that long a trip but I checked the map to see if it would be possible. Yes, I could head on out to KS then to CO and clean up nearly all those needs, then over to UT and keep going through NV(Pershing\*) to CA, get those half dozen there and up to the 2 in OR, then head on over to WY (even MT) then home. Well, that wasn't to be. The weather gods had other ideas. It would also have been almost 12 days of 600-800 miles a day to make that happen. Plus incredible luck with weather.

I checked the weather daily – it was snowing in northern CA and in Curry County, OR. Forget that – no need to hit CA before the spring rains/snow stops. Just after the winter starts, the CA storms come in one right after another for five or six months, then they stop for the rest of the year. That trip would have to wait. Those weather fronts were coming in every 6-7 days right on schedule. Snow in the mountains. Mountain passes out there closed or requiring chains or 4 wheel drive at times. No thanks. It's too early in the season for coastal northern CA/OR.

About the same time I was planning the trip, Bob, N8KIE announced his planned return through CO and KS. He would be hitting the ones he needed for MD -Mobile Diamond (which are also ones that everyone else needed since no one had run them yet!) in CO and KS. He only had 20M SSB but luck was with me as I could work him direct in CO (good condx not always possible skip to there from here). When he got to KS, the net was in 'friendly session' (no James running mobiles off and denying relays) and I got relays to the 4 counties which had never been run for MD. Great – no need to go there since those working on MD all seem to have worked him successfully! If I had not caught up with him, I would have started out with a 'detour' to KS.



I missed my county hunting partner, Charlie, W0RRY. We used to go on some nice trips together but he had some serious problems and the medication sort of zonked him out and he wasn't up to traveling. It's been a couple years. We would do 2000-4000 mile sprints in a week to clean up his needs, get some LC's for the folks, get some of my needs, finish off the 30M counties that we were working on, etc. We'd work each other on 30M with a separate QRP rig totally separate from the car/antenna. Who knows? Maybe it will happen again.

So my trip had to change one more time as the weather forecasts and N8KIE trip intervened. Scottie and I still needed Huerfano, CO so that would be the starting point....a trajectory right to there.....but.....on Monday the forecast for Pueblo, CO was SNOW!.....and on Tuesday for Raton, NM was FREEZING RAIN! That's on the way to CO from here the fastest way. If you wanted to jog to the east....same there- winter weather. Winter was not done with them yet. Bob, N8KIE had beat the weather by a day or two otherwise, he'd would have been right in the middle of it!

It would clear up there by late Wednesday, to I'd hit the road on Thursday. That wouldn't leave enough time to get to CA anyway.

I'll throw in a few route numbers so those with maps can follow along and Alan, VK4AAR can travel vicariously on my trip. There really weren't too many of them – you get on roads and go for 200 miles at a clip – sometimes 400 miles on the same route number.

## **Thursday**

The car was packed for up to a 10 day trip and off I went up route 287 to the northwest...and more route 287...and even more route 287 for hundreds of miles to the panhandle. I put the big 40/30/20/17 antenna on the back of the car and skipped the 40 and 20 SSB antennas. The radio is an ICOM 706 original. I use an external speaker on it. The CW antenna would allow the radio run about 25w on SSB which seemed to work for most situations where I might be on 20m SSB. I'd give out my county to whatever mobiles were running and had good signals where I didn't need a relay to get them. Joe N5UZW needed a few and special arrangements would be made for a quick one off net freq to get him an SSB contact.

I left at 5:30 in the morning and the first stop was up in Childress for some gas way before noon. The car was complaining. It was 40 deg and damp with some drizzle and the car computer said I was getting only 27 mpg on the first tank of gas. Hmm? Did I have a car problem developing? Or did I have a bad tank of gas? I bought it at the neighborhood Shell station where I get all my gas. OH, dear, what to do? Time to turn around or what? Well, the second tank got me up to 30 mpg so it must have been some crappy gas or gas with too much ethanol or real low octane the first time. Maybe I need to change stations for a while?

Then it was further up 287 to Amarillo (Potter County) up to Dallam, TX, then west on 64 into

Union, NM. Really lots of 'nothing' along that route. As I drove along headed to the city of Raton, NM,(Colfax County) I could see the snow covered peaks 50-60 miles away – the big ones where the ski areas are up at 10,000 plus feet. Angel Fire is one of the ski areas that folks go to. It's nice to see snow since it was in the 70s outside the car. The air is clear – and at higher elevations, less of it. Occasionally I need to get a 'mountain view fix' to get over the flatter than a pancake environment of the Dallas area. Once or twice a year visit to the mountains seems to work fine.

I wasn't going to reach those snow covered 10,000+ foot high mountains – you turn north on the I-25 at Raton in Colfax County. Nor was I planning on driving in snow. No thanks. No siree!....That wasn't part of the trip plan.

I was originally planning on stopping at the nice Motel 6 there in Raton (Dennys' in walking distance) but it was way too early, so I kept on going up I-25 to the north. Wow – you enter into CO at Raton Pass (7800 feet AMSL) and there are dozens of 'watch out for the deer' signs within the next few miles. One spot has two signs side by side in the median, two to the right side of the road. They want to get your attention. No deer seen. Every few miles there's a deer warning sign. I'm watching out for deer. A co-pilot with good eyes would help. [Maybe a Google type car that scans for moving warm objects off to the side of the road? That would be nice – a wildlife scanner.]

You head up I-25 into Las Animas County and its dozens of miles more to get to Huerfano. No deer in sight. Scottie, N4AAT, needed that for a next to last county for Mobile Diamond in CO. He's down to under 20 to go to get that award now. Wow.



Huerfano CO for Scottie N4AAT  
Genuine Percy Pic

The kicker is that someone is going to have to go to AK as no one has been there yet who is good for Diamond. Everyone needs it.

(Ray, AB4YZ is headed there on a train trip/cruise this summer and will run the 4 districts, but he is only taking a pair of 2m hand helds and that will get him down to only 2 to go to finish running all 3077. No HF. Dang. He has Nantucket and Dukes to do as part of the last six to go to complete transmitting from all 3077 and he has plans for that, too). Dick, W3ZUH, will also be up in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> AK around convention time – mostly on cw.

It wasn't too long before I hit Huerfano and put it out. Scottie was waiting for it along with 4 dozen others. Wow...the cw pile ups were getting bigger and bigger as I got out west. Well, it was still early and I could keep going. I gained an hour going from Central Time to Mountain Time. I was in a 'county putting out' mode.

There was a nice motel in Salida, CO that I've stayed at before. I found the motel again in the GPS and gave the guy who runs the place a call. Yep, he had rooms and would save one. It's a couple hours to get there. You don't want to arrive to find out that 5000 people had shown up for some rodeo or festival and everything was rented for 50 miles around. That can happen in WY or just about anywhere in the summer time. Let's see...it was a old car convention in Providence, RI last summer. Every motel was booked for 40 miles around. I tried about 8 of them and the same story at each. And I've had trouble in MN with every town having a wedding or a convention of XXX group taking every room during the summer.

The next need for MD was Custer, CO - off the beaten path once again, so I took the 'scenic route' on highway 69. Did I say 'scenic'? (that means slow, usually 2 lanes, and with real small towns, twists and turns and less than freeway speeds). I chugged along probably averaging about 40-45 mph but the roads were fine, the traffic light. There are 13,000 and 14,000 foot snow covered mountains five miles to the west.

Oh.... sign on the side of the road - "No snowplowing 7pm to 5am". OK.....you won't catch me on snowy roads at night. For sure! If you are a local, I guess you just don't go anywhere at night on that road on a snowy day!

It did see a dozen deer along the side of the road -small ones and they were up against a fence and going over it one by one with some trouble. Must have been learning fence jumping from the mom deer.

I had the digital camera along and was stopping when possible to take pictures of the County Line signs. I'd send in 'new' ones to Gary, K4EXT, when I got back and would have some to zip off to county hunters for their LC's at times. Good old 'Percy Pictures'\*.

You eventually go through all of Custer (big pile ups) to Fremont and route 50 – a good 4 lane road – which runs over to Salida in Chaffee County after Poncha pass at 9,000 feet. . Salida is an old railroad center. There's water there. Population is about 5500. No snow on the roads or in town. None at all.

It's \$37.50 for the room at the American Classic Inn, \$2.50 hospitality tax and \$5 state tax if you pay in cash. More if you pay by credit card. It's a motel out of the 40s/50s in good condition. It looks like about 8 or 10 folks were there in the 30 unit motel.

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

The guy who runs it is Polish (he'll let you know) with a thick accent even though he has been here for 30 years. He's a character. I've stayed there 2 or 3 times before.

The first day was 13 hours on the road and 751 miles.

It was going to drop to 40 at night – the city is up at 7000 feet AMSL so the temps plummet when the sun goes down. That's really great in the summer time where it can be 80 deg and 40 at night. I turned the heat on at set it at 75 and went to dinner. It's a summer tourist town and a place to stay when you are skiing at the Monarch ski area just to the west. Or a nice 'weekend getaway' for those in Colorado Springs or Denver.

Dinner was down the street at Qunicy's. You've got 4 choices for dinner. Filet Mignon – 6oz, 9 oz, 12 oz or 16 oz. That's it from Sunday to Thursday. On Friday and Saturday it is Roast Sirloin in 4 sizes. Period. Salad and baked potato comes with it. The small one is \$8.95 plus tax and tip– a good deal.

There's a dozen motels in Salida. OMG – the Super 8 parking lot was packed. The Hilton parking lot was packed. Several others were really full. I'm not sure what was going on, but I'd bet most of them were 'full' and out of rooms. There's an advantage to staying in older non-chain motels you know about! Hi hi

Hmmm....the room wasn't very warm when I got back. Went to talk to the motel guy. Oh, he said..you have to set the temp control at 85 if you want 72. OK...did that and it warmed up nicely. That's the charm of 'funky old motels'.

I hit the hay early since the time zone had changed and I was still on CDST. Bed is good and I slept like a log.....zzzzzz

## **Friday**

The motel guy recommended a pancake house right next door to Quincy's for breakfast, but ...it wasn't open at 6:15 so I went to the McD and had their Fruit and Walnut Oatmeal and a senior coffee for breakfast. N4CD was on the road about 7:15 am in the morning. The weather was supposed to be good going west with no precipitation of the white kind in sight. Clear all the way to Salt Lake UT and up into WY.

Oh, wait.....the WX channel was telling us about a 'developing winter storm' which would arrive in a few days – giving blizzard conditions to eastern WY, along the front range in CO, and in N and S Dakota, with massive potential tornadoes and severe storms in KS and OK (tornado alley) including the Dallas area. Weather coming up meant I better run the WY counties and get the heck out of Dodge before Monday night! Change of plans. Run counties quick and get out of there! I still had time to get to UT first. Once you leave Rich County UT, at the northeast corner of UT, you are at the southwest corner of WY, so you can just keep going up into WY.

The motel guy said 'watch out for the deer and elk' at Monarch Pass – just to the west on route 50. I did. When locals tell you it's dangerous – it must be.

Vic, SM7ZDI was working me on the trip. He sent along a picture of him in the hamshack. It's a bit easier working him on 17M than 20m most of the time.



SM7DZI Vic

When you leave the town of Salida, you've got to climb up Monarch Pass , 11, 312 feet up. Before you even get near there...you see the first flashing BIG temporary sign hauled in - Wildlife Alert- Deer and Elk ahead. Then two miles later, another one! And two miles later another one! Wow...OK...keep eyes wide open for deer and elk. Serious stuff. Then more signs for deer and elk. I got the message. I was looking out for the deer and elk. That's why I waited for the sun to be up to head on up that way. It's worse at night and sunrise/sunset.

It's up and up. And up. You arrive at the top 11, 300 feet up and there are 10 foot high banks of snow on both sides of the road, and there is snow everywhere but on the road – tons of it. What's with this white stuff? We don't have that in TX – not piled up 30 feet deep at least.

It's the county line I think, but there are 30 signs up there, half of them buried in the snow, and I didn't spot the county line sign for Gunnison and was too busy watching for deer and elk and not watching the GPS for the CL – and no place to pull over either. Also I hadn't seen that much snow in eons. It's really bright due to the sun and elevation. Since the road is clear, it's nice to watch the snow go by. I can 'do' that kind of snow – hi hi. Somewhere up there is a ski area probably still going strong judging by the amount of snow at the pass. Maybe that is why all the chain motels were full?

There's a bunch of maintenance type buildings up there. However, the road requires your attention and not much time to 'sight see'. Then you are busy heading down the mountain with some switchbacks and turns so you don't even have time to worry about it. Gunnison is a big county and I could wait until it flattened out. I was busy 'watching for deer and elk'. The road was dry and the temp was right around freezing up there. If that's as bad as the mountain passes get, great – no problem. Most are a lot lower so it should be even less of a problem.

I didn't see any deer or elk. Not a one, but then again it wasn't sunrise/sunset or night time. Or they were there and I just didn't see them. I was perfectly happy not to see one or run into one. I had a bounding elk suddenly cross 10 feet in front of the car once in CO.....scared the daylights out of me.....and one deer got me in MO about five years ago...never saw it coming ...never saw it going.....and it wiped out the windshield and front side of the car with it's hooves....but so far nothing major to total a car. Other county hunters have not been so lucky. At least a dozen have had cars totaled by deer. There are more deer in this country than when the Pilgrims landed in the 1600s.

After Monarch Pass, it was clear sailing across Colorado on 50, through Saguache, Montrose, Delta to Mesa where you then catch I-70 going west. You run through valleys. Just a little snow in sight off to the sides of the roads and up on the mountain peaks. I was over the Continental Divide. Radio signals drop 20 db. I figured I'd find a motel around 5pm or so later in the afternoon as there were lots to be had along most of the interstates even though it was a Friday evening. The tourists don't seem to be traveling yet. I had another six or seven hours of daylight left.

There's some snow on the ground here -



Saguache CO

Note the snow – nice to look at  
Snow on mountain peaks, too

Roads still perfectly clear – no worries! Too warm to snow.

WHOA - BAND FADE – As I hit Grand UT the band seemed to disappear for a while. Must have been a flare. You run through some spectacular scenery along the interstate – wow – but you sure would not want to try and travel across that part of the country on foot. Just building the interstate must have been a massive undertaking. It's all crumbling down mountains, large gulleys, and weathered terrain which is hundreds of feet either up, down or sideways – anything but straight and level.

Here's some great pics of the terrain

<http://tinyurl.com/bwdaurs>

If you stay on the interstate for the fastest way to Salt Lake, you probably miss Sanpete – one of my needs and lots of other folks needs, too. Just get off on 28/89 and 28 heads right north through Sanpete on good flat roads. Easy. It's warm and there is no snow around in this part of UT. There's no mountains, either – they're off in the far distance. WE7G needed this one.





Sanpete, UT

You join I-15 headed into Salt Lake City – and run through Juab\*. I needed to get to Wasatch\* - so I got off in Provo – lots of motels. What a traffic mess. I went the wrong way to get to scenic byway 189 headed north into Wasatch. There was five miles of city stop and go traffic with 25 or more traffic lights. It took half an hour to go 3 or 4 miles. Yuk! It didn't look bad on the map. I passed by a Super 8 motel and they had rooms (called them). So after I got done in Wasatch, I could backtrack to the motel. There were tons of motels listed on the GPS.

Well, it was still a few miles to get away from Provo to the 'scenic byway'. Once there it wasn't long before you get to Wasatch county. The line is hard to run but not far beyond it is fine to run it....which I did. As I left for the return, I saw route 22 which went over to the interstate. 80% of the traffic was going that way – and it looked like it bypassed all the city – so I took it and sure enough – within a few miles you were back on the interstate with no traffic lights to speak of – maybe 3 or 4. Great. Well, goodbye Super 8. I'd hunt for something further north.

There were half a dozen Motel 6 choices in the Salt Lake Area according to the Motel 6 book and I picked the Mudvale one right off the interstate in Salt Lake County right where interstate bypass 215 joins to get to interstate 80. Yuk...traffic on I-15 creeps and crawls for 10 miles. Every time I've been in Salt Lake City area, the interstate is crawling along at 20 mph or so – stop and go. They definitely have major traffic problems! It was 'rush hour' too. Finally I got to the motel exit.

It's easy off to the motel and the rates were good.(\$50.60) It had been another long day.

Dinner was at the Mudvale Mining Cafe across the street. Expensive and too much portion size – wow..a pound of meat, and potatoes and veggies and salad. The place was crowded as it was a Friday night. You had lots of places for dinner but I didn't feel like traveling far on the congested streets. The food was good but too much of it. \$17 for dinner. When I travel,



it's roughly \$100/day for gas/motel/meals and that doesn't include wear and tear on the car. Back east with higher motel prices, it can be \$125-\$150/day.

Early to bed once again. I was still on CDST despite being in MDST time zone. That meant I conked out an hour earlier. ZZZZ.....nice quiet room/motel. It was chilly in the morning.

## Saturday

The Weather Channel forecast was getting more ominous as time went on and the weather pattern turned out to be as predicted – a bad winter storm setting up for the WY/Dakotas, Colorado, and major outbreaks of severe weather expected in KS, OK and into TX. I'd still have time to scoot up into WY, then get out of there by mid day Monday and be on the way home. That weather pattern would then slide in MN and head west across much of the southern/central US later in the week, too.

At sunrise I wandered over to the McDonalds for breakfast then headed north to catch some other UT counties before heading east to Cache and Rich. That was a preview of what was to follow. Getting to Cache is easy on 89. Then you stay on 89 as it winds it's way across the top part of UT and up to the Beaver Mountain ski area. Whoa- ski areas are where there is snow! Well, no problem getting there. As I'm sitting just past the top(Cache/Rich) it starts to snow – tiny little snow flurry flakes. Just running Rich at this point. It's winter- 32 degrees outside and very light snow falling – but not sticking to anything important like the road surface. Looks nice. OK, I can deal with that. The pass is up at 7800 feet AMSL. Think winter picturesque. If that's all the 'snow' I see coming down, that will be just fine with me.



Cache/Rich County Line, UT  
Temp 32 deg Light wispy snow flurries  
Road clear – bare pavement

OMG! (that's kids talk for Oh My Gosh as they 'text' each other). The pileups are getting unreal. Runs take 15-20 minutes on ONE band (20cw). Then 15 minutes on 17M. Folks are coming out of the woodwork. Not so many on 30 and 40m but I always go since someone out that way might not be hearing me on 20 or 17 and desperately need it. I need all those 'points' for my 'self aggrandizing' total, chuckle chuckle. Cache was a LC for MD for Bob, N8KIE. I ran Rich a bit down the road from this sign as the path east was blocked at the C/L.

Who is on? Well, from N1API, WA1ZIC, KM1C, K1TKL, and N1QY, to WA2CNJ, NM2L, NT2A, and WB2ABD and W2CVW, N2OCW, KE3VV, WA3QNT, AE3Z, KC3X, K3IMC, N3HOO, K4XI, W4YDY, K4EXT, N4AAT, WD4OIN, W4SIG, N4RS, W4FNW, K4DI, K4XD, WA4UNS, AA4GT, AB4YZ, K5GE, W5AL, W5QP, K5WAF, K5KDG, WA5OPO, N5XG, KK5NA, K5OH, N6PDB, KO6WL, NW6S W6OUL, AB7RW, AB7CB, AB7NK, K7WA, KK7X, W7FEN, WE7G, WQ7A, W0NAC, N7JPF, K8MFO, W9WOC, N0LXJ, W0GXQ, W9GBH, W0EAR, W8TZA, K8MW, W8MP, K8OOK, W7GQK, K7ZYV, WE7G, N8KIE, KB8OMG, K4CFA, K7REL, W7GVE, KC7YE, W7KQZ, WY8I, NX0X, N0SM, K8QWY, KL7D, N8II, K9FD, K9EN, WG9A, N9QS, N9STL, W9OO, W9MSE, KM9X, NG9L, NF0N, N0KV, W0ULU, W9ZJX, and more.....plus of course, more on SSB, like N5UZW, and AF3X, KB0BA/N0XYL the mobiles....plus the DX. At least half a dozen 'passer by's' called in too. Happy to work them. Sometimes it seemed like almost EVERYONE was calling all at once!

The road winds around the big Bear Lake to the south and heads into Lincoln, WY. The lake is frozen solid. It's a good road and you wind up in the town of Kemmerer, WY then take 189 to 372 into Sweetwater County, then hit 28 all the way up to north. There is lots of miles to drive as you head north. You hit the corner of Sublette and there's a good C/L with Fremont to run shortly after that. It's out in the middle of nowhere and there is lots of nowhere in WY. It's miles and miles and miles to anywhere. Hours of driving.

I turn on the AM broadcast radio just to see what is around. 3 stations that the radio auto-seeker will find – 2 of them religious broadcasters, one playing country/western classic. Same on FM- 3 or 4 stations, most religious broadcasters, one pop music. Satellite radio works great up here. One hundred channels to chose from. I cruise along with the radio listening to 14056.5 – not much going on yet – and the satellite radio. No other mobiles were out.

There are a few interesting signs on the side of the road.

You don't see signs like this in TX:



Let's see - N4CD doing about 75 or 80....antelope doing 55 mph...that would be a nasty collision. It's perfectly flat, but they can still wind up getting you off the side of your vision. Didn't see any antelope, either. Head was swiveling back and forth checking. If they bother to put up a sign, there must be antelope encounters.



Didn't see any sage grouse, either.

You go over South Pass (7500 feet) but no problems. Everywhere there are signs on the highway for road closures. Signs like: IF lights flashing, road closed ahead. Return to XX. There are also gates across the road to prevent you from traveling if the conditions are unsafe. Most of the small towns have several motels just for that reason – stuck winter travelers. Well, it does snow in June and July in WY and MT. It's not unusual for a June snow in Yellowstone National Park or on the passes getting to it. Every 20 miles or 30 miles there is a town of 100 or 200 or 300 – and the gates on either side of town to stop travel on roads if conditions are bad.

The problem in WY and CO is that snow usually is accompanied by high winds which can drift the snow five to 25 feet in drifts across the road – and the drifts continue until the wind dies down. The highway department doesn't even start to plow if the snow storm is still raging. The road will be filled back in with snow in no time. You see snow fences – at the worse drift spots trying to hold back the snow drifts.



Road closure 'flashing light' sign and highway gates  
All over the place in WY and CO  
Even the interstates!

You head to Lander, then catch highway 26 to 20. Alan, VK4AAR, was in during the morning hours for a short time. Later in the day, the DX was in with SM7ZDI, OK2EC, PA3ARM, DL3IAC, DL6KVA, G3XVR in the log frequently. I worked Laci, OM2VL a few times and JH7VHZ, Toshi, was in the evenings on 17M and 20M with a giant signal out of Japan. He goes to the 'big station' on weekends away from the city. YV5OIE was in there, too.

Hey, it's the weekend for the MO QSO Party. I find N0AX/m a few times on CW and on SSB. I work K0FG out mobile. W0D is on in Dent, MO (special expedition there). There are half a dozen fixed stations I hear on cw and work.

I called ahead later in the afternoon for a motel – there really was no need as most of the motels were less than half full. The Super 8 in Worland had rooms. In fact, the lady said they had a whole motel full of rooms available. As has happened many times before, the Super 8 was now not a Super 8 but a 'Sunset Inn'. The room was \$67 plus tax - \$75 total. I splurged today.

The Garmin GPS motel/food database is 8 or 10 years old now. I don't think they update it if you update your maps. Anyone know? I guess some Super 8 franchisees get tired of the franchise demands to constantly provide more and more stuff and try to upgrade to 'higher end'. The town also had a Comfort Inn (More cars in the parking lot) and a few other motels. It had been a long haul that day and I checked into the motel with plans to do a bit more before dark. Didn't even unload the stuff or go to the room. This is Washakie County. Apparently it's been

a while since folks have been there. Or Big Horn, WY. At least on cw. Pat, K7VAY, needed Washakie for a LC for the state on CW.

It can get to 51 below zero here in January (the record) and even down to 18 below zero in April! This is cold weather territory. 5500 people or so live in the city of Worland. It's a 'desert' environment, but on the Big Horn river so there is a water supply. The local water in the motel tastes terrible! Yuk! It's 4000 feet above sea level. Temps are in the 40 deg area – when I checked in - not too bad. It was very cloudy above and the sun was not peaking through the clouds. Worland is on the 'scenic route' from the interstates to the east over to Yellowstone National Park to the west.

Barry, N0KV and Pat, N0DXE were up this way a few months ago, but had to stop heading north. They stopped in Thermopolis ( Hot Springs CO) just to the south and the roads were ice covered and slippery and there was snow everywhere. Even with their 4 wheel vehicle, it wasn't safe to head further north. They headed back home.

There were two or three hours till dark. Big Horn was calling my name. It was just 10 miles north of the motel, so why not head there? I'd have lots of time to get there, run it, then get back before dark, fill up the car with gas, eat dinner, and goof off. That was plan A.

I looked at the map again. One of the other counties I needed for MD (Mobile Diamond) was Park, WY. I looked real hard. If I didn't run it this time, I'd have to drive 100 miles out of the way to catch it later as I ran a bunch in MT later this year most likely. That didn't make a whole lot of sense – a 200 mile round trip detour!

From experience so far, I'd be sitting in Big Horn for at least 30 minutes running the various bands. The map indicated it was another 50 up and over miles to Park, WY. OK....I could get half way there in the time it took to run the bands. It took about 30 minutes to run Big Horn and by the time the runs was finished, I was up to the town of Basin and on the way to the town of Cody in the next county. I was half way to Park. You go west about 2/3rds the way to Cody and hit the county line. It took the better part of an hour just to get from the passed by C/L to Park. When I got there, it was a 'dead end' type run. I stopped, ran it all bands, including SSB on 20M (James had 'signed off' for the night from running mobiles off frequency). After good runs on all bands, then it was backtracking 61 miles to the motel in Washakie County. Thank goodness for satellite radio as nothing else was happening for that hour other than driving and 'watching for deer'. The Riders in the Sky with Ranger Doug was on – good ole cowboy corny show.

It was late in Mountain Time and past the bed time for many on the east coast so some had hit the hay already. Deer signs were everywhere. Fortunately the deer avoided me.





Park WY  
Genuine Percy Picture  
Middle of Nowhere – Cloudy Day

[\* Genuine Percy Pic – about 10 years ago, Percy starting ranting and raving about “ mobile XYZ wasn't there” – can't be! Started with N4CD, KA3DRO, N9STL. That's about the time the County Hunter News started. With the new digital cameras, taking pictures is easy and we published them in the CHNews. I might have still be using film 10 years ago. Now it's all digital. That shut up the twin twins (Percy and James) for a while. They could blabber all they wanted, but when folks saw the picture of N9STL in Garfield MT (her LC WBOW for Platinum)...well, what could they say? When they saw Ron, KA3DRO, on the county lines in various states, what could they say? The twin twins could bloviate all they wanted – but the evidence was right there. Oh, right...it was 'photoshopped!'.....hee hee. So we keep sticking it to them with lots of 'Percy Pics' of where we and others have been. Now they are on the 'self aggrandizing kick! Mental illness knows no bounds. Derangement knows no bounds. ]

Even better, Gary, K4EXT, has started up the County Sign database and you can see lots of pictures there of various county hunters on county lines, including N9STL at Garfield, MT and N4CD at several hundred C/L signs. When I travel now, I take along the camera and try to add to the database. It's up to 1100 plus but that means there's still 2000 left to do!

I had a bad case of the hungries so I hit the nearby Pizza Hut for dinner even though it was not Sunday. I'd skip pizza on Sunday. The ham medium size pizza was good. Then it was back to the former Super 8 motel now the Sunset Inn. There were 4 cars in the parking lot and one probably belonged to the desk clerk.

Pat, N0DXE, and Barry, N0KV had invited me to stop by their QTH in Douglas County, CO outside Denver. With the weather developing, we could get together Sunday night – then I'd have to scoot out of there to miss the snow expected to start on Monday night into Wednesday at their QTH (9-13 inches white stuff predicted).

Every road out of every town in WY seems to have the warning signs closing the road with the road gates. “When lights flashing, return to XXX”. I really didn't relish being stuck in a small town for a day or two or three waiting for the storm to die down and the roads to re-open. I was planning on being 'long gone' by then! The other counties could wait! Worse, you could be without power in a cold motel. That's every little town of 100 and up seems to have motels and the 'gates' on every way in/out, too.

Wow...there's N9STL in there working me with her 'stealth' antenna from FL. She even got it tuned up on 17m a few times. She was not strong but you can get through on cw. The Mobile Diamond seeking crowd was in there. From Hollis, KC3X to Dan, KM9X to Scottie, N4AAT, Gene, K5GE, Ray, AB4YZ, Larry, N2OCW, Joyce, N9STL, Bob N8KIE, Silver, N9QS, Terry, WQ7A, and even Joe, N5UZW by special arrangement for a quick SSB contact in some needed ones. County after county they were around. I was whittling down needs for others and filling them in for myself. Just too much 'self aggrandizing' was going on, chuckle chuckle. Now, 50 or so are chasing the new 20 Star award as well.

## **Sunday**

Whoa...I went out the car Sunday morning and there was frozen rain on the metal parts of the car. Not on the glass. Just covered with instantly frozen raindrops by the hundreds when they hit. Weird looking but convenient since I didn't have to clear it off. . As I returned from dinner the previous night, it was drizzling a bit. The car must have been warm enough inside the car from the heat of driving to keep the freezing rain from sticking to the glass, but the metal cooled fast. I didn't have to scrape anything. I'm not sure I even had an ice scraper in the car. We don't need them in TX very often. If there is freezing rain, my car stays in the garage!

The route started off to the east on highway 16. It goes along for miles and miles and miles. Then after miles and miles of driving you get to Powder River Pass up at 9666 feet AMSL. As you start to climb, you see lots of 'Road Closed Ahead' signs with the flashing red lights – ready to shut down the roads. You see 'chain up' areas. Dang. I don't have chains for my Malibu and really don't want to be where I need them! It's been 35 years since I had chains, 4 wheel drive, and an occasional need for them in rural VA to get home on my hilltop QTH on the gravel road. The signs weren't flashing.

You start to climb...it's up and up. Then I notice some snow on the branches of the evergreen trees on the signs of the road. The branches are coated with a dusting of snow. That would



make a great picture for a Winter Holiday greeting card.

On the road, there are wisps of snow which have blown across the road but it's still clear road surface. There is now snow on the sides of the road. The temp is dropping. It started off at 32 or so at the motel – got up to 40. Now it was down below 32 and dropping as I climbed. Now down to 25 and I'm still climbing.

The snow was continuous now on the sides of the road as I kept climbing but the road was still clear. Soon the pine trees got shorter and shorter – at the top of the nearby mountains there's not too many of them. The temp were now down to 20 degrees outside – this at a bit after 8 am in the morning. Oh no! – the road was getting covered with snow. There was an inch of packed snow on the road as I kept heading up. There were more signs with lights that flash that indicate road closed ahead. They weren't operating. So far the road was still open. I'm sure for the locals it was 'not bad' driving, just normal winter good conditions.

It was still up and up and the road was snow covered and there was snow everywhere deep on the sides of the road. The car did OK and I kept chugging along at 30 mph still going up. It had been miles and miles so far and I wasn't near the top. The temp was down to 15 degrees. What am I doing here? This is WINTER! Did I have a 'winter survival kit' in the car? Nope. No blanket. NO sleeping bag. Snow shovel? Any shovel? Nope! A few days of water? Food? Heck, there wasn't any other traffic to speak of. A car every 10 minutes. Was I crazy driving on this road? What if you slid off the road into a snow bank or it really started snowing and you got stranded? Too late to think about it. It would be just as bad going back as going on at this point as I'd been on five miles of snow covered road – and the detour around that pass would be 200 miles. The peak had to be ahead shortly – I hoped. I stopped and got out to take a picture of the snow.

I must be getting near the top. I forgot to throw the little altimeter in the car, It's 20 years old and the sticky pad isn't sticky any more. You can watch it wind up and up when you are traveling in the mountains. Fun for a while till you get bored with it. It would have been nice to know how close to the top I was at this point. It's useless in TX as there are almost no 'ups and downs' to watch it wind up and down.

OMG! Double OMG. A snow plow just passed me going the other way down the hill, plowing the road down to the 1 inch of packed snow that was on the road! It must have snowed a bunch up there overnight! What am I doing here in my TX car with 'all weather tires' mainly good for dry roads and rain. There are no snow tires on TX cars for sure in the Dallas area..



N4CD – in the snow  
up 9600 feet  
near the top – still going up  
Temperature 15 degrees outside

Well, since the story continues, you know that N4CD made it through that road despite 10 miles of not so fun driving. The driving was not a problem but it's been along time since I've had to deal with snow. The big worry was not driving in the snow – traction was fine – but what might lay ahead – like a closed road or even more snow/ice ahead at the pass or need for chains. The Malibu got through fine, no slipping except when I pulled over for the pic and just a bit there as I started up again. The car has 'traction control' and 'stability control' which probably helps. The tires are fairly new. You just take it easy, go real easy on the gas, stay off the brake, and it was fine. I really hadn't planned on snow this trip! I sure didn't want to see the MAJOR snowstorm that was headed to WY, CO, NE, ND, and SD in less than 2 days.

In the past, those trips back east at the end of December through WV 10 years ago were trips to never do again with 12-18 inch blizzard conditions two years in a row – which is why I changed to Thanksgiving time and almost no snow! When you see 4 degrees on the thermometer in the morning in WV – it's too cold for county hunting and that's what I saw there on the last trip I took in December in WV about 8 years ago northeast of Charleston. That year I was slogging through six inches of new wet snow on the road and 15 mph type speeds on the Interstate, too! It was also pitch black outside after 'sunset', not that you could have seen the sun in the blizzard even in mid afternoon. I got smarter and did it a month earlier each year after in November but even then found six inches of fresh blowing snow on the Plateau in TN one time on the way home.. Lots of it. Ah, the joys of 'mobiles having too much fun' (another twin twin rant).

After the road headed back down the mountain in a couple more miles, the pavement was dry the rest of way through the counties. Whew! But the forecast was for blizzard conditions in

less than 2 days so there was really good reason to get the heck out of there by then! I had seen all the snow I wanted to see on the trip. My quota of 'snow' was exceeded. None on the road would have been better. Conditions were expected to be BAD all over eastern WY and eastern CO with high winds, drifting snow, and road closures. Then it would move east to MN and WI and MI.

I still needed to run a couple more in WY for MD, but the eastern ones were right along the SD border – where the convention will be in 3 months so those will be easy. It was down the mountain into the town of Gillete in Johnson County WY. There's another sign: Mandatory Brake Check Ahead – All Trucks and Cars with Trailer Must Exit ahead. The road has a long 7% grade with twists and turns and they must have some bad accidents. My brakes are fine – I haven't used them in 100 miles of driving so far and the Malibu does great coming down hills with the six speed transmission you can put in the lower gears manually. After the steep drop off into the town of Gillete at the intersection of I-25 and I-90, you've got it made.

You can zip over on I-90 to Campbell\* then down highway 59. That takes you back to I-25 100 miles later. I did. There is lots of nothing to see but open prairie along 59 but it goes quickly at 70-75 mph.

After I hit Platte further down I-25, you can scoot over to Goshen at exit 54 with a 10 mile detour. Don't plan on running that C/L. It's right under a noisy HV power line. Deja Vu - Been there before, too. Go down the road 300 feet and the noise drops enough to run Goshen. Barry, N0KV, needed that one. I was headed to his QTH for the evening. Worked him FB. I'd be there at his QTH in a few hours.

Not much else to report other than I hit Weld and Larimer CO (the last MD county for N4AAT in CO). Ran those then kept heading south. I was a bit tuckered out so didn't run the ones around Denver plus the traffic was heavy. It's hard to tell with the GPS where you are – it shows all the city streets and congestion and the county lines get lost in that clutter. I hadn't marked the map like I sometimes do with the interstate exits for upcoming counties and you don't see 'entering X' on the 8 or 10 lane highways either.

I arrived at the N0KV QTH in Douglas County before dinner and had a great visit with Barry and Pat. I would have liked to stick around for a day or two, but the weather gods were on a rampage getting set to sock it to Denver, WY, SD, ND, OK, and KS. I had to leave the next morning to try to avoid it all.

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Post trip note: [ It did snow like crazy with over a foot in Lander WY (Fremont CO on Monday. The winds blew vehicles off I-80 in Sweetwater County – winds gusting to over 70 mph! The Interstate 80 was closed from Cheyenne to the Nebraska border – Monday/Tuesday! The

Interstate 90 was closed going into Rapid City SD. ] Needless to say, a lot of those 'gates' and flashing lights were operating. I suspect that many mountain passes were closed. Lots of motels were full of stranded travelers, too. WY7LL, Leo, was 'socked in' with weather. A few days later another storm dumped over a foot of snow in Yellowstone National Park (Mostly Park County WY) and other areas just digging out from the first storm. Then a week later, they had a repeat with another foot of snow in MT, WY, into MN, IA, and a week later, another storm was headed that way. It's not 'spring' up north yet.

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## Monday Planning

I looked at my options for going home.....I'd really wanted to get the LC for Scottie in KS but that would put me right in the middle of the big RED BLOB on the weather channel – the area of predicted severe storms and tornadoes. I'd have to go right through 400 miles of potentially very nasty weather with Tor-con 5 – a 50% chance of a tornado in that area.. Nope! Not going to happen.

So I decided to skirt the big red blob going south to western TX and run counties just south of the route north some days before. No reason to head through the same counties.

This is the big red blob of storms on Tuesday...it was further west on Monday covering most of OK and KS.....so no reason to head right into big storms. They did have 1.8 inch hail in KS on Monday in Garden City! Tuesday there was big hail in Wichita Falls and Clay/Montague TX up into OKLA Tuesday evening. Tues/Wed saw tornadoes in central AR.



Tuesday's Big Red Blob on the Weather Channel

## Monday

The forecast for the N0KV QTH (Parker, CO in Douglas County) was for 9 to 13 inches of snow starting Monday night! Plus WY was now under a winter BLIZZARD forecast. Most of KS and OK was under the 'big red blob' for severe storm/tornado outbreaks. It was definitely time to 'be gone' and not stick around for the snow storm. Barry and Pat were planning on leaving on Wednesday in the fifth wheel headed out for several weeks going west to California for the Visalia DX convention, plus running a bunch of new counties in CA and everything along the way. Otherwise, I might have enjoyed watching it snow for a day or two – hi hi. They have lots of spare days built in for the trip. He's got two antenna mounts for hamsticks on the tow vehicle so maybe it will be 20 and 17m mostly SSB from out west this trip. He's got his hands full towing the fifth wheel trailer so cw occurs very infrequently. Out in CA, they can leave the 5<sup>th</sup> wheel and go out running counties for the day.

I was on the road a bit after sunrise which is early in that east part of the Mountain Time zone. Barry lives about 1/2 mile from the Douglas/Elbert county line, which is the road which heads south toward home. Delbert Road gets you down to 86 headed east over to the city of Limon in Cheyenne County – then south on 40/287 all the way down to Texas.

The “James Boys” - that's the Twin Twins (James and Percival) – you know – the Clubs of One that have their little alter ego mini-me's ala Austin Power's arch enemy in Goldmember – weren't around on Monday for some reason. Mini-me was a small 'clone' of Dr Evil. Like James and his mini-me Jay Gee.



Dr Evil and Mini-me  
Austin Powers Movie

So those who needed the counties on SSB got them on Monday as I headed on down toward TX trying to avoid the nasty weather which was expected to clobber parts of KS and OK. Later in the evening they would have tornadoes in northeast Colorado up in Washington County. It was time to try to avoid the bad weather – but not take the same route home. The fastest way which would get me home by 8:30pm would be right down 287 all the way to Denton County – but – that's the way I went up to the panhandle and no sense running the same dang counties on the way home! No one would need them. I'd lose points for the 'self aggrandizing total'. Chuckle chuckle. I still had lots of time to goof off on this trip. I could be working on the 'having too much fun' quota, too!

Bob, N8KIE, needed Briscoe, TX for Diamond. He'd just given me a bunch in CO and KS, so it was 'payback time'. With a jog to the south I could get that then run the counties below where I had been before, so that was the plan. There were other needs for Briscoe, too. It had been a while since I'd been there. I wouldn't get home Monday evening but there are cheapie motels in that part of TX. (if you don't mind a step below Super 8 or Comfort Inns). You won't find six or 8 pillows, fancy bed covers, 16 towels, 8 different soaps and lotions, etc. You likely get a small bar of soap and no shampoo, only two regular pillows on the bed, and things like that. Some towns have decent motels – many counties don't even have a single motel!

I headed into Amarillo (Potter County) then headed further south through Randall into Swisher – then onto 86 going east to Briscoe. There's not much there. The wind was howling. The car was struggling to go 70 mph into a 40mph headwind, and stuff (like cardboard and tumble weeds) were flying across the highway on I-27 and you had to dodge them. The wind power turbines were really spinning generating megawatts. Somewhere all that warm (94 degrees) air was going to collide with the 20 degree air coming down from Canada and that would trigger off the severe storms (and snow and blizzards in South Dakota and North Dakota). Let's see. Sunday morning it was down to 15 degrees up on the mountain pass in WY and now it was 94 deg in mid afternoon and the car air conditioning was humming away keeping me comfy. Talk about a change of temps!

If you head east more, you wind up in Turkey, TX (Hall County) - which has the only bragging point that it is the home of Bob Wills – the county music legend from way back. Waltz Across Texas and songs like that. . Nothing else happens in Turkey, TX other than the annual celebration of his birthday.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CLzgynFZvFs&list=PL2973FA0EEC757C22>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0WSlskCq9Qk&list=PL2973FA0EEC757C22&index=35>

There was still daylight for a few hours, so it was a jog to the south to Motley. Serendipity –

turns out Jerry, W0GXQ, needed Motley for a LC in TX for 20 cw. Down to the down of Matador – which has a few not to great looking motels then east to 62 to Cottle TX. Didn't stay there. Couldn't. Cottle County – (No motels) then south to Guthrie in King TX (no motels, no gas stations, no nothing other than a few 'county buildings'. The last gas station/convenience store closed 5 years ago when the highway 'interchange' was improved and more a mile outside of the 'town'. ) Now it was time to find a motel in the next 50 miles so I'd have a place to eat dinner, too, before they closed. Those counties out that way are about 30x30 miles in size. Most only have one north-south road and one east-west road.

The GPS said Knox City had motels – in Knox County to the east. Ha! Don't believe the GPS. ....I got to Knox City in 30 minutes and of the 3 motels, I could only find one, and it was full of pick up trucks. I stopped anyway and the motel lady said – no rooms to rent. It's an older place and apparently more a weekly/monthly rental place than a motel despite the sign. The motel lady said the town of Munday 8 miles down the road had a motel. I'd check it out. Ten minutes later I was in Munday.

The town of Munday has a population of about 1300 people, down from 2700 back in the 1950s. It was founded back in the 1890s with a store or two – and the railroad arrived in 1906. It peaked in the 50s with 2700 folks, and declines in population each year (source: Wiki). It's 75 miles to Wichita Falls or Abilene, the nearest big towns.

Well, it took a few minutes of wandering around on the different roads before I spied the Corner Inn in Munday hidden behind some trees – a 1940/50s type place of about 20 units. The lady said it's \$42 including tax and it's definitely a 'no smoking room'. OK – it was getting to be 'twilight' and I'd rather not be on the roads and any possible wildlife that shows up at sunset. There were still deer warning signs every few miles along the road. The next town was another 35 miles to the east.

It was a nice room for a good price. Cable TV, microwave/fridge, good bed, radio/alarm clock. The only place open for dinner was the DQ(Dairy Queen) so it was a grilled chicken salad there. Not bad. By the time I left there were 30 people at the DQ – it's the only place open. The pineapple ice cream sundae was good, too! Then I headed back to the motel to watch the Weather Channel to see what was ahead - and it looked like I'd miss the bad weather forming up in OK in a few hours if my luck held. The storm was socking it to the Front Range and WY and SD. Still, I'd better get home before the afternoon sun heating might spawn some storms in my neck of the woods. .

## **Tuesday**

The temps were a nice 70 degrees at 6am in the morning when I woke up in Munday, TX (Knox County). I took a quick shower and got ready and decided to go out for breakfast before getting going – no real hurry today other than beat the storms home, and it was 3 hours or so to get home if I didn't stop and take detours. Well, you know me – there were detours! . The



sunrise was at 7:12am in that part of TX. The wind was blowing 30-40 mph with higher gusts. Nice county hunting weather other than the strong wind. Beats 15 degrees and snow covered roads any day of the week. Heck, Denver was getting set for record LOW temps for the day. Yuk. Near 15 there. Not much higher for a high on Tuesday – setting 'record' temps there on the low side for a 'high'.

The DQ was closed in the morn but one of the people in the next room advised eating at the Red Hen Cafe in 'downtown' Munday – open for breakfast and lunch only. So that's where I went for a nice breakfast. The building is probably 100 years old – the town was mostly 'built' in the 1900-1920s. The Cafe had a 'tin' ceiling from the wayback days. The pancakes were good and nice and fluffy. They were 7 inches in diameter and 1/2 inch thick and I had two of them with one egg over easy and bacon. The coffee was good. Service was good, too. \$6.21 plus tip. I'd definitely eat there again. I'd stay at the motel again, too.

After that nice meal, it was time to head to home. The sky was total clouds with the sun trying to peak through and the winds were really blowing from the south, headed north to collide with the cold air headed south – which would trigger off some massive storms – somewhere. It was going to be bad 'somewhere'. The cold front was moving south.

I punched in 820 AM on the car radio for WBAP in the Dallas/Ft Worth area – a good 50KW clear channel station that makes it out 250 miles in every direction during the daytime. It's a good place to get the weather every 30 minutes – and when it is weak at the fringe - a good frequency to listen – the worse the static, the worse the storms 'somewhere' within range. No static – good – no storms. So far, the weather was OK but the forecast was for a line of real bad severe storms forming later in the afternoon/evening from Wichita Falls, TX up through OK City to Tulsa– right in the heart of Tornado Alley – with maybe the edge reaching Dallas by midnight. It was time to be home. So far I had avoided all the bad weather. Wow.....the car was getting blown around by the south wind as I headed east – no place for a big motor home or a trailer at this time. The speed limit was 75 mph on the two lane roads (no shoulders) so you had to pay attention to driving. You can do 80 if you want as there is almost zero traffic. Ever since leaving the Denver area, flags had been flying 'straight out' with 30 mph plus winds along the entire route.

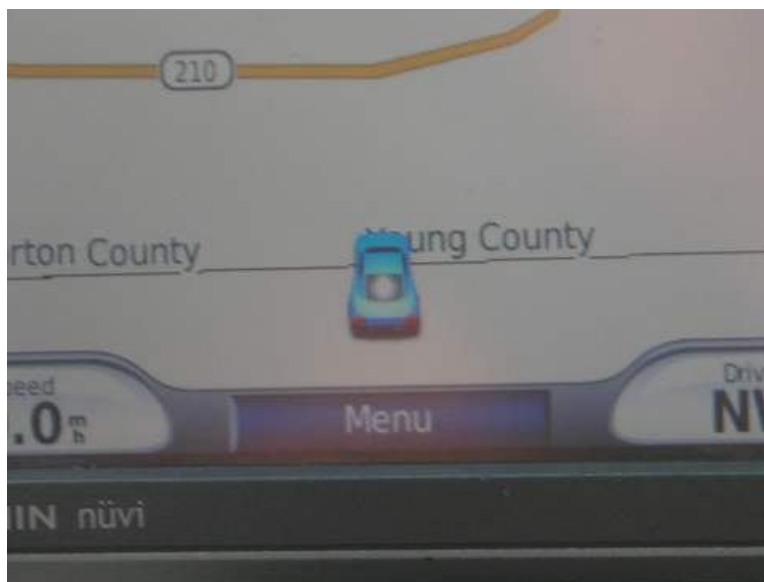
The bands were good but the 'unfriendly net' was once again in operation on 14336 running off mobiles so I didn't bother with 20M SSB for the rest of the short trip home.

Hollis needed Knox on 40M CW – he missed it the day before – so I started again in Knox, then took a short detour down highway 222 to get to Haskell County five miles away – at the county line on 2 bands – then on the run in Haskell on 20cw – then back to another county line on a different road (266) and ran 17M there. Then it was back to the east on 277 into Baylor – usually in demand as well. It's not on any route to anywhere. It's like Foard – you have to want to go there to get there.



If you head out of Baylor on 114 southeast down to the town of Megaree, which is barely in Archer County (run it), you can then head south on down Highway 210. As you get near the bend where the road heads back east, there's a dirt road going west where you can run the county line of Young/Throckmorton. Bring a real good map(Texas Map Book) or your GPS as the line is not marked. There's a house and fence line that appears to be on the C/L and a pipe structure that appears to have held some kind of sign (not your normal C/L post) there. The GPS pointed to that fence line as the C/L. It's nice and quiet there in the middle of nowhere. With the Texas Map Book, you'd be within a few feet, too.

Here's something new- a picture of the display on the Garmin GPS. Since there were no signs to snap, this will have to do. N4CD was 'there'.



Young/Throckmorton County Line  
On the GPS

Is this as good as a Percy Pic?

After a nice run, it was back to 210 east, then through Jack, Wise, Denton to home in Collin County (380 east to I35 to the 121 Tollroad) by a bit after noon.

Foiled again. Route 380 is a nice 4 lane road. I got the camera set to try and snag that elusive Denton County sign as I left Wise County. So far I'd been foiled every time on every other road. Murphy won again. Just before the county line, there's a construction zone and the road goes down to 2 lanes. There's no county line sign there in the construction area. OK.....I'll try it closer to home. I get off the tollway 25 miles later and head just west a half mile. There's at least six residential streets in a subdivision and two larger roads that cross the county line. I wander for five miles hunting for a sign and a crossing on those roads, but they don't put up C/L signs in that type of built up residential area. Foiled again. I'll get a picture of a Denton

sign one of these months! Murphy won again. Dang. I went home. It looks like I'll have to head to rural northern Denton to get the sign!

Seven miles later was home after the 3350 mile trip in five and a half days. Whew! With the good gas (no ethanol) in WY, the car was churning out 34/35 mpg regularly. Too bad we have to buy the stuff with 10% ethanol and 10% less fuel mileage, and pay taxes to give the ethanol producers an extra \$1 for every gallon they foist off on us. Just consider it useless filler that's expensive, bad for the environment, but fills a deep pocket farm lobby that rakes in tens of billions in profits at your expense. If you do the math, you have to buy JUST AS MUCH real gasoline to go the same number of miles. You just get to pay 10% more for it by having 10% crap mixed in that provides 10% lower fuel mileage! Go figure.

Gas was from \$3.30 to \$3.60/gal. It was a good trip and conditions were good on the radio and the driving was good other than the snow episode in WY for those ten miles! I'm ready for some nice 'spring' weather for a while before the heat and humidity of August makes me want to head to the mountains again! Well...the convention is up north in SD....and that's not too far from MT, either! So maybe more mountain trips coming up in late June/early July!

Wow.....the QSO totals were way up there – in the rarer counties – 50-70 plus Qs per county. The cw crowd was well behaved and things went quickly. At times it was tough to pick out the calls – the radio just sat there going 'burp' from overload and it was bedlam at the start. Ya'll can't be all first. Many times I just heard a call ending in Y – that's likely K7VAY or W4YDY. There's Ernie with the slower “QZ” at the end. “Q” at the end? K0DEQ or W0GXQ likely. If on 30 or 40, probably WA7JHQ. At times, you took a swag at who was in the pile up and gave them a report. They were probably in there calling!

The spotters did a great job of spotting and hopefully we took care of a lot of the needs. Those “A599” and “A559” type reports made things zip along quickly ( = also 599).

The regulars were on – dozens of them. Fred, W0ULU is active again. He sold his house and the towers came down while he was caring for his wife a few years back. She passed away not long ago, and now he is getting back into county hunting with a G5RV wire antenna and TS-50. Some other calls came 'out of the woodwork' for the rarer counties. Hope you all had 'too much fun' along with me on the trip and got the counties you needed! It was a hectic trip with no stops to 'enjoy the tourist attractions' but I get in that mode every now and then and go, go, go.

Now, I'll check out the QSO parties this weekend and hope there's a bunch of mobiles running counties for me to chase! One big trip every month or two is 'all the fun' I can stand! Hee hee. I wouldn't want to exceed my 'self aggradizing quota' for the month.

# From Ebay This Month

Ah, some Meissner Regen type 'unobtainium' appeared on Ebay this month.

This is a coil set for the Meissner Explorer radio – a two or three tube set using miniature 7 and 9 pin tubes which followed after the Meissner Midget. The coils are smaller than the Midget coils. **They sold for the set - \$160 plus 10 bucks shipping. Ouch!** Just the coils and a socket. Heck, even the cult driven Knight Ocean Hopper radio with full set of coils doesn't sell for much more, and sometimes less than this!



This set of 5 early 1950's Meissner plug-in antenna coils with socket is a great find from the golden days of the radio hobby. These are not plug-in coils in the conventional sense. The "pins" are basically solder tabs layed flat against the coil body. The socket has matching flat tabs that mate with them. The coils can also be soldered if desired. The quantities and frequency coverage are as follows: 1 P/N 18-3500, (LW) 175 to 540khz. 1 P/N 18-3501, (BCB) 540 to 1500khz. 2 P/N 18-3502, (MB) 1.4 to 4.5khz. 1 P/N 18-3503, (SW) 3.2 to 8.2mhz. 1 P/N 9693 bakelite plug-in socket. These coils are designed for **REGENERATIVE** receivers

Then a 'complete kit' for the Meissner Midget 2 and 3 tube regenerative receivers showed up – unbuilt – that means it was built and then 'unbuilt' or unassembled. It used 3 type 76 triode tubes, chassis, front panel, variable cap, variable resistor, tube sockets a resistance line cord to drop the line voltage down to run the 2 or 3 tube filaments ( you could build a 2 or 3 tube set), and all the parts including the 'unobtainium coils and sockets. Would you believe it went for \$230 on Ebay? Sold for about \$5 back in the 'old days'.



Meissner Midget Unassembled kits.

From the same seller...those elusive Meissner Coils



**Three coils - \$68** ....Ouch...they sold for \$1.00 back in the day. These covered 17-35 meters, 35-70 meters, and 70-200 meters.

Oh, well, other people wanted them a lot more than I did. One of these days I'll find some bargain ones to buy, or some county hunters at various hamfests will look and find some for me at a bargain price (like a few bucks each). The Meissner coils have the contacts on the outside of the coil form as above. Look like rivet heads. There have to be some out there.

A homebrew regen showed up this month. It was a nice two tube (two 3S4 tubes) set with a plug in coil for 40M.



3S4 Regen Set

From the Ebay ad and other pics....it ran off two C size alkaline batteries for the filament and 4x9v batteries for the B+. The variables were set back about five inches from the front panel with wood shafts to get away from hand effects. A metal panel or one backed with a grounded foil would have eliminated that effect. The 3S4 is a battery tube (no separate cathode) is a pentode often used for audio output. It takes 100ma of filament current. Not too many bid on this homebrew radio – it's the name brand stuff that goes for the bigger bucks like Healthkit, Meissner, Philmore and Knight Kit.

# New Mexico QSO Party

## **N5NA mobile**

Originally I had not planned to operate the NMQP this year from NM. We had planned to take our end of season ski trip to southern CO a week earlier but were unable to go that week. So, we took a short trip to Monarch Mountain a couple of days before the NMQP and worked the QSO party on the way home to WTX. The snow was great following the big storm that went through just before we arrived.

The NMQP starts four hours before the BIG one, the GAQP. Once the GAQP starts the band gets crowded. Thanks to everyone for listening for the NMQP stations among the GAQP crowd!

My score is just about the same as in 2011, the last time I participated as a mobile. In 2011 I covered 13 counties vs. 10 counties this year so I had 15000 fewer bonus points this year. Looks like most of the difference was made up with an additional 14 multipliers.

Of the top three stations worked two were running QRP, N6MU and W5ESE. Thanks to the following stations for contributing more than half the QSO's: N6MU(17), W5ESE(14), K5WAF(14), K0DEQ(10), K5KDG(9), W9MSE(9), K5WO(9), N4CD(8), K0PC(8), N4UC(7), K0FG(7), KC3X(7), KK6MC(7), DL3DXX(6), K5RHD(6), W0GXQ(6), DK2OY(5), K7ZYV(5), W0EAR(5), N3KR(5), K7TM(5), AD1C(5), WE7G(4), NT2A(4), W1DWA(4), W5ASP(4), KB8OMG(4), and K0RC(4).

Equipment: Elecraft K3, Scorpion SA-680, Latitude D630 running CQ/X for logging, Chevrolet Silverado C2500 antenna support.

A special thanks to my wife, K5AKS, for driving!

## **K5WO – fixed – NM - 189 cw 150 SSB**

Propagation seemed better this year and I was able to maintain a decent rate CQing most of the time. When things got slow I'd go to 20 SSB and work some of the GAQP guys. Thanks to Jim KK6MC for the idea of checking 40 on the half hour

for in-state mobiles. Worked like a charm and I logged a lot more NM counties than last year ( 27 vs 16 ). Went out with a bang with 33 Qs in the last 20 minutes of the test on 40 SSB.

### **K5AM in NM = 20 RTTY**

Try as I may, I haven't won an NMQP since 1973; that was the very first NMQP, and I received a certificate signed by the governor. This year I tried in the RTTY category.

### **N6MU - fixed – CA 51 cw 54 ssb**

QRP is a challenge but I can't resist that x5 power mult, hi. Thought I had a shot at a sweep before the Party but missed CAT, SIE and TAO. Still ended up being my best score ever. Thanks to all the mobiles but especially to KK6MC(24 Qs) and N5NA(17 Qs) for keeping it interesting. Also contributing were NM5DX(5 Qs) and N3MRA(4 Qs).

Another fun Party! 73...

### **VA3KGO -fixed Ontario 22 SSB on 20, 4 on 15M, 13 Mults**

Had fun while the band's lasted & worked a few new counties.

Greg,va3gko.

## **Global Warming Update**

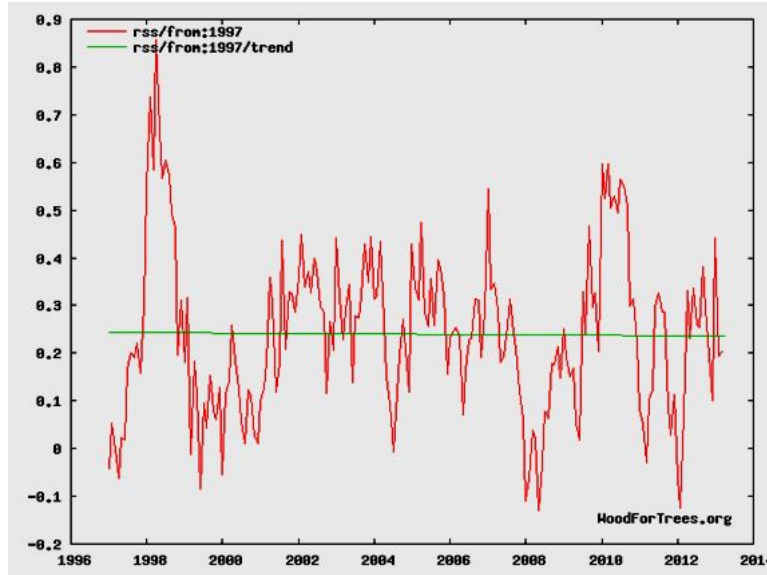
When your lib friends tell you you have to 'sacrifice' and pay massive redistribution carbon taxes, you might remind them of the following. And let YOUR kids know about the hoax. These are the facts:

“In two years, no high school child or younger would have experienced Global Warming. They will have been taught about it. Many of them will believe it continues to happen. But, no child



under the age of 16 has ever experienced it. “

Here's the proof:



There has been no global warming now for 16 years. None. Zero. Zip. The Global Warming Fanatics are tearing out their hair and coming up with 'new' explanations. All their tens of millions of dollars of models, on half a billion dollars worth of super computers, failed to even predict that there would be ZERO warming for the last 15 years. Instead.....they predicted significant annual increases and it JUST DIDN'T HAPPEN.

So when Al Gore says 'pony up and pay thousands in carbon taxes', tell him where to go. He's already a billionaire from socking it to the Europeans and California residents. Why should he take your dollars here and send them to China or Indonesia for some scam 'greenie' program to get 'carbon credits' for trading?

## FCC Reviews RF Exposure Limits

On March 27, the FCC released a First Report and Order, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and a Notice of Inquiry (ET Docket Nos. 13-84 and 03-137). The documents seek to reassess the FCC's RF exposure limits and policies, as well as to propose changes to the FCC's rules regarding human exposure to RF electromagnetic fields. These proposed changes



would affect the Amateur Radio Service (Part 97) rules.

In the 201-page document, the FCC noted that “[p]eriodic review of the government’s rules and regulations to ensure they have kept pace with current knowledge and changing needs is an important characteristic of good government, and we here will advance the process of providing a comprehensive review and modification, where appropriate, of this Commission’s various rules pertaining to the implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements for environmental reviews, specifically those reviews related to health and safety of radio frequency (RF) emissions from radio transmitters. Our actions herein are intended to ensure that our measures are compliant with our environmental responsibilities and requirements and that the public is appropriately protected from any potential adverse effects from RF exposure as provided by our rules, while avoiding any unnecessary burden in complying with these rules.”

The document is divided into three parts: a First Report and Order (First R&O) and a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM) in ET Docket No. 03-137, and a Notice of Inquiry (Inquiry) in a new docket, ET Docket No. 13-84. In the R&O, the FCC looks at several technical and semantic issues -- initiated in 2003 -- to be revised and updated; in the FNPRM, the FCC proposes to further update and revise its procedures and treat all services equally.

In the Inquiry, the FCC seeks comments to determine whether its RF exposure limits and policies need to be reassessed. “Since consideration of the limits themselves is explicitly outside of the scope of ET Docket 03-137, we propose with the Inquiry to open a new docket to consider those limits in light of more recent developments,” the FCC said. “The Inquiry is intended to open discussion on both the currency of our RF exposure limits and possible policy approaches regarding RF exposure. We look forward to developing a complete record to determine whether the current rules and policies should remain unchanged, or should be relaxed or tightened.”

According to the FCC, mitigation matters are “post-evaluation procedures to ensure exposure limits are not exceeded, such as labels, signs, barriers, enforcement and occupational issues.” In its Notice of Inquiry, the FCC included clarifications related to the application of occupational exposure limits for devices and at fixed transmitter sites. The FCC noted that it “should be helpful to licensees to codify our earlier adopted policy with regard the use of occupational/controlled limits at Amateur Radio stations.”

This policy was first established in the RF Report and Order of 1996, but it was not incorporated in the rules at that time. It allows amateur stations to be evaluated “with respect to occupational/controlled exposure limits, as long as appropriate training and information has been provided to the amateur licensee and members of his or her immediate household. Other nearby persons who are not members of the amateur licensee’s household must be evaluated with respect to the general population/uncontrolled exposure limits.” The FCC will codify this policy by adding a paragraph as a new sub-section in Section 1.1310 -- radiofrequency

radiation exposure limits -- to its rules.

The FCC pointed out that one goal of the general exemptions from routine RF exposure evaluation proposed “is to avoid specific exemptions for particular services and ensure a consistent set of rules without exceptions.” With this in mind, the FCC is proposing to delete the special exemptions from evaluation in the Amateur Radio Service in Section 97.13(c) of its rules.

“We appreciate that Amateur Radio operators are knowledgeable about the appropriate use of their equipment, such that separation distances are likely to be maintained to ensure compliance with our exposure limits,” the FCC said. “However, since the existing amateur exemptions are based only on transmitter power and do not consider separation distance or antenna gain, exempt transmitting antennas that are unusually close to people could potentially lead to non-compliant exposure levels.” The FCC said that a separation distance of at least 24 feet would meet its proposed exemption criteria, “considering a currently exempt 50 W transmitter at VHF in accord with Section 97.13(c) and assuming an antenna gain of 6 dBd.”

The FCC noted that existing classification of amateur exposure as occupational “is consistent with use of our proposed general exemption criteria based on general population exposure limits because awareness of exposure greater than the general population limits is required in all occupational settings, including amateur households. Application of the general exemptions proposed here to Amateur Radio installations would preclude the possibility of overexposure and require further evaluation only when necessary, giving guidance for both fixed and mobile transmitting antennas.”

The FCC invited comments on how this would affect the amateur community: “Parties that support maintaining the current exemption based on power alone are requested to explain how it provides adequate assurance that the public is protected against exposure to RF energy in excess of our limits and the extent of the burden imposed by this proposal. We encourage interested parties to comment on the relative costs and benefits of the proposed changes in this section, as well as those of alternative approaches.”

“The ARRL has an RF Safety Committee, consisting of experts in the field,” explained ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ; “The committee members, as well as Board members and staff are reviewing the lengthy document and will formulate a response.”

Source: ARRL Newsletter – April 4, 2013

# Montana QSO Party

There were a few stations on to chase – some on cw, some on SSB. KS7T silver bow) , N9RV (Missoula) , W7IN (Sanders), NB7V, plus folks managed to make about 20 QSOs from the 3830 comments.

It was K4PQt spotted in Wibaux, MT on SSB and NL7T was on in Flathead on SSB. K4PQ recently moved to Wibaux, MT

**KF7IWA – fixed MT - 284 SSB QSO**

great contest it was lots of fun!!

**NB7V – fixed MT Silver Bow - 912 SSB QSO**

Propagation was excellent pileups were tremendous

## Old School? Or The Way It Really Was

Ah, it's time for another butt kicking Editorial. If you don't like N4CD's editorials, just skip this section. It's time to address the twin twins once again. It's time to set the record straight.

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**Ron, KB6UF** posted the following on the K3IMC forum:

Subject: ““Now I have heard it all(more)

**Message:** Lets see over the years I have been criticized about my crappy cw, not being able to

hear, bad equipment, not running every county I posted during a trip so on and so on. But now I have to live with the thought that all of the 1125 last counties that I have put out was possibly for my own self gratification. .... for myself I am going old school, no more posting trips, no more putting up my needs, no more going out and running counties unless I am going to some destination. I am turning over the county running to those individuals who do the complaining but don't give back. “

-- -- --

[sarcasm on]

**Dan, KM9X** noted on the forum:

**Subject:** Since Ron got accused of personal achievement for last counties

**Message:** I may as well alert you bitches that there are several last counties to be ran on my upcoming trip. Start yer bitching!!!!

Thur Apr 25: OH: Champaign\* N1API, WQ7A , Logan\* NU0Q, Hardin\* K7TM, Carroll\* N4AAT, W1ATV, KG8N, Medina\* KB9MGI, Fri Apr 26: 1300z: MI: Wayne\* N3HOO, Iosco\* N5MLP, Sat Apr 27: 1400z : MI: Alcona\* WA4UNS, Sun Apr 28 1300z MI: Osceola\* N0KV, Hillsdale\* N4CD // OH: Mercer N4CD // IN: Blackford N3HOO

OF COURSE THIS IS ALL FOR MY PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS.. yeah, really! I am running my Mobil Diamond needs.. so happens that some people need them too.. but naysayers...sit at home and bitch away!!!

[sarcasm off ]

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Old School? Personal Achievement? Gimme a break! Certainly that isn't what we have on 14.336 despite the demented ranting and ravings of the twin twins and their bloviating in the chat room. Does anyone really pay attention there in the chat room? Apparently a few do and get upset. The best thing is just 'log in' to get your spots and have your 'alarm program working', and never watch the chat. 90% of the folks seem to do that. Otherwise, you'll get your tail twisted, brain cells killed, and become confused and depressed. Misery loves company and apparently that's one place the twin twins can try to recruit others to their demented, demeaning twisted way of thinking. What's up with this imagined 'old school' stuff? Oh, yeah...the twin twins never post their needs. OK....that's their choice. But is that 'old school' – you decide. Old school stuff? Just working on 17 or 18<sup>th</sup> time around? That 'old

school stuff? Not in my book. No way.

Wow? You really believe that James (aka KZ2P aka the Club K2JG) thinks that giving out Last Counties is only for the 'self aggrandizement' of the mobile operator? When was the last time he gave out a half dozen last counties himself? Why the rants? Especially if it is N4CD! Or KB6UF? Horrors....maybe AA9JJ and N9QPQ shouldn't take any more trips as their totals are way up there! Well, those totals seem to set them (twin twins) into a tizzy. But you won't catch him or Percival driving thousands of miles to give out last counties, will you? Not lately, for sure, for sure. (Hey, Frank and Kay – keep on a driving. Same for Ron. Let's drive 'em “nuts”).

The fact that **some** mobiles do sets them off on insane rants! Percival, the 'useful tool' in FL, chimes in of course, and there area few chat room denizens, some there just to cause trouble, who ratchet it up to red hot rhetoric. OH, and jams WA4UNS with cat calls, weird mumbling, etc. Hee hee. Insanity at work. I guess crazy folks hang together. They're the only ones who can stand each other. Oh and there are one or two other chat room rabblers who just stir things up even more just to see how nasty the chat can get! Sickos at work. Really, mobiles out for 'self aggradizement'? Or mobiles 'having too much fun'? As the kids text each other – ROFL – rolling on floor laughing!

Old School? That would be not having a computer on the internet. Period. NO spots and no chat room. No vitriol from the twin twins and the 'echo chamber' of grovelers and trouble makers. You wouldn't know about 'self aggrandizing mobiles' out ONLY to get themselves more last county awards and more awards only for themselves, chuckle chuckle, if you didn't have the chat room. That's not 'old school'. That's current technology. You mean 'ignorance' is old school? Or juvenile humor you saw by the high school drop outs when you were growing up is old school? I think not. Once again, the twin twins are trying to invent their own definition of 'old school'. It's the way they want it to be when they were the school bullies.

Old school is having friendly net controls like Jack WA9QNI, Howard, WA4KER, and Paul, WA3TUC. Old school is mobiles running entire sections of states and the entire state. Let's expand on that.

Old School? That's record books (the CQ kind), the B&B shop workbooks for Five Star and other awards, and the Map Book (Coloring Book). Maybe if you were really 'up to speed' you'd have CHERRIES or another DOS based program tracking your counties. “Old School”. But wait – there's more!

Now did James, the “ONE” who occupies 14.336, ever mention 'self aggrandizing or 'old school' 'on the air'? As an old fart practicing his 'old school' ways? Nope! Or mobiles having 'too much fun'? Hee hee....Did he say that on the air? Nope, only in the chat room. Just tune out the chat room and the vitriol and stupidity goes away. You didn't have 'the chat room 'in the 'good ole days'. Just nice friendly net control stations. So being in the chat room

isn't 'Old School'. But they are there, right? Their heads should be about to explode with the contradictions.

Isn't it a bit strange that most of the bloviating about those things starts when N4CD, KA3DRO WA4UNS or N9STL are on the road? That should tell you something right off the bat. Guess Jim just can't stand that N4CD has a lot of LC's and no one is likely to catch up any time soon. Or that he goes to counties that folks need so he can give them out? Well, it's not going to stop N4CD from his trips. Off to Dayton here in a month, then off to the convention in July. I'll be working on some MD needs too. Giving out tons of LC's if I can arrange it. Who knows where N4CD will wind up? Well...you can guess by looking at my MD needs! Might as well go to the 'rarer' counties not run recently. Or get others finished up for their awards whatever they are.

Just for the record, here are some LC totals as of 4/13/2013:

AA9JJ	908	Ran All Counties
N9QPQ	1150	“
KB7QO * SK	1363	First to Run All Counties
KB6UF	1125	
WA0SBR	1230	Ran All Counties
KL1V/KV7N	997	Ran All Counties
KZ2P	188	
W1TEE	818	Ran All Counties TWICE – all CW
KK7X	485	
KC1NA	804	
N4AAT	1005	Ran All Counties
KI0JD * SK	625	
KK0L	511	Ran All Counties
AI5P	975	Ran All Counties
N8KIE	797	Ran All Counties
N7ID	572	Ran All Counties
W0GXQ	705	
N9QS	783	

Wow...between AA9JJ and N9QPQ they have over 2100 last counties given out.

Old school? New school? Weird school? What's with this silly twin twin twisted tortured rhetoric? Isn't any different today that 20-30-40-50 years ago! Mobiles go out and run counties and collect “Last County” Awards for the miles and miles they drive.

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Kerry, W4SIG noted on the K3IMC forum:'

“I find it interesting that almost every time WA4UNS runs mobile and spots himself on a non-net frequency that almost immediately the intentional interference begins. RTTY, a weird voice, incessant keying are the norm. This has been happening for a very long time now. The obvious and sad fact too is that it is indeed someone within the County Hunting ranks. It is too obvious of a coincidence that this happens shortly after he is spotted. Who this person is is speculation.

This childlike, shameless, and cowardly behavior has no place in amateur radio, much less in civilized society. As a fellow ham, MARAC Division Director, and very active mobile myself I ask you to put aside any personal issues you have with this fellow county hunter and live up to the standards you signed up for when getting your license from the FCC “

- - - - -  
Is “old school” the southern Twin Twin jamming mobiles like N9STL and WA4UNS every time a spot shows up? With RTTY and weird voices? We already caught KZ2P/K2JG. Rock solid evidence. We covered it a year or two ago in the CH News. He seems to have gotten the message and folks would love to see him lose his license if he starts that again. Percy is still looking to lose his license and one of these days he's going to be surprised. **You've got to be an incredible MENTAL MIDGET to jam mobiles running.** The scum of the Earth. I can't think of any lower lifeform. Half the mobiles out there simply shut off the radio rather than put out counties or leave it on 7188 when Percy is around. Swishing VFOs? Weird data/RTY from the twin twin in FL? Just listen in to mobile runs off frequency. Percy shows up right after the spot hits. Duh!

- - - - -  
The FCC just nailed a jammer who played around on 14313. What was it? - \$25,000 fine, equipment confiscated, and luckily he avoided jail. Base fine of \$15,000 and more added on for 'repeated willful violations'. Right, mini-mee Bee Q EI? Several others got 'Official Notices'. The interference on 14313 is down significantly.

**“In June 2011, the FCC issued a *Forfeiture Order* in the amount of \$24,000 to Kevin W. Bondy of Encino, California for engaging in .... intentional interference to licensed radio operations “**

N4TAT just got an 'Official Warning Notice' about his jamming on 14313. The next step if he is out of line one more time is big time money forfeitures, loss of equipment and license, and even possible jail time.

It's really amazing that the twin twin in FL would risk his license to play the CB'er he once was, but this time on 14347 or wherever N9STL or WA4UNS wind up. If you have interference when the mobiles are running there, look no further than Bee Q El's big twin.

- - - -

So what is really Old School? How about Paul, WA3TUC, keeping notes on who needs last counties? When you got down to 10 or so, you could send Paul the list and he would keep it handy and check it. If a mobile was going to hit your county next, he'd give you a 'one ringer' or a phone call to get you on the air. You'd put lists of needed counties out at conventions for others to pick up and help you out. Old School is not leaving the radio on 14.336 and sitting there all day unless you wanted to. Half the folks were on 7238. Another bunch were only cw. Really old school is the net that ran all night on 75M and mobiles running 24 hours a day! NO...that was 'just the way it was'. Folks posted needs in the RR. Folks gave you 'one ringers' to get you on the air. Mobiles gave out LC's by the hundreds. When someone was aware your needed county was running, you'd get a 'one ringer' call. Don't expect 'old school' James or Percy to do that today! Hee hee. They just invented this 'concept' of old school to represent their 'fossilized' situation which isn't reality, and wasn't reality.

For most of the county hunters, we're still doing the good part of the **real** 'old school' thing watching out for fellow county hunters. We just use the K3IMC forum and K3IMC Special Needs page. We look at The Most Needed Counties listing. We check by state to see who needs what. Most of the time we send out emails saying "I'll be in your county on my next trip". That's just 'friendly county hunting' updated. No old or new school or middle school anything.

How about trip planning? You will never beat the planning of WA0SBR who spend winters planning trips. He'd send out itineraries to interested parties by mail listing what counties and what date and TIME he would run them. Oh...seems James forgot about all of that, right?

Yep! You could follow along with Ed. He'd be in this county at 8:14 in the morning. Next would be county Y at 9:25 followed by county Z at 10:00. Most days he'd be pretty much on schedule for a week or 10 day trip. Old School? Wow....I haven't seen anyone come close to trip planning and ANNOUNCEMENT like Ed back in the 80s and 90s. He is one of the few that made it to all 3077 counties in the USA. In addition, he'd run the entire state of SD twice a year. It would take him two weekends in the spring and two in the fall to do it. Oh...seems that James missed out on 'Old School'. Dang. Well, there goes that bloviation. Other than him and a few other fossils who have lost interest in other MARAC awards, we've just continued the 'old ways' with newer technology. That's great in my book. There is no



difference between now and then. The twin twins just 'maxed out' on awards by not going mobile, so they have to demean those who haven't, like 98% of the rest of the county hunters.

Other mobiles just got up and went. W1TEE hit all the counties in the USA twice on CW. You better be listening. He'd get there, work what he heard and be gone. KC1NA and KK7X and other truckers zipped across the country day after day putting them out but never posted anything. You might get advance notice if he knew where he was headed next. Not all the mobiles did or didn't – some were just going places as part of their work or vacation trips. But...if you know your route, it's the way you are going, and you have time to post it...by all means post it.

Or on the CW net where WA6VJP was around 18 hours a day to pick up cw mobiles, announce them and do relays. That was the good part of 'old school'. It was great. There would always be someone there.

Folks would plan and post trips in the MARAC Newsletter. Needs would be posted there too! Just a lot slower than today and you had to plan ahead to get the info out. Or...you'd sent your trip info to Paul, WA3TUC, and he'd announce it in between runs when no mobile was running. Is James 'old school'? Does he ever announce trips? I haven't heard it...other than maybe announcing Kalawao or Second AK times when they'll be running. That happens about once a year, so it hardly counts. When I hear him announce that N4CD is off on a trip and going to run XYZ counties, you can believe he is 'old school' Until then....it's nothing but bloviating. He's surely not 'old school'. Just 'bitter and grouchy' school.

Trips were announced ON NET. That was the good part of way back old school. What we have now is a grumpy, little tantrum prone tyrant on 336 with his Mini-me alter ego invisible friend. Don't you dare waste valuable net time. He's got to snag the next mobile or keep calling for one. His invisible friend, Jay Gee, will need a contact, too, to waste some 'valuable' net time.

Remember when folks used to announce their next county and net control would actually say it? Or when mobiles QSY'ed to 40M and net control could actually speak 'XYZ mobile is going to 40M now!' Or XXXX/m you are needed on 40M for a last county! Those words will never come out of the twin twin's mouths. Chokes him up! In his tiny world, there is only the 20M SSB net and you better 'respect' that and never mention 40M. Or CW. That's not what net controls did in the fantasy of Jay Gee imagined 'old school' days, right? They could speak '40M' and 'CW'. Right? So that part of the twin twins 'old school' is just fiction, too

Now....if you go on 'the SSB net', you better not say much of anything or James and his mini-me invisible friend Jay Gee will get upset for 'wasting valuable net time'. Whatever you say or do will be used against you at a future time. He'll quickly tell you that if you need a county/time, go look it up on the spotting sites and not bother him. Old school? Hardly. Back then we had friendly net controls and if you had a 'Query' for a mobile, you could actually ask

the mobile if he could get a nearby county for you. On frequency! Now...you better move that weak barely audible 2x2 mobile off frequency and ask yourself since it is more important for him for the next five minutes to keep asking 'is there a mobile station ready to run?'

Well, there goes another part of the twin-twins made up 'old school' baloney.

Remember the 'good old days' where you could actually get on net and say 'Last County Contact' Please? Carol, KI0JD (ex N0LDT and other calls) would sing out 'Last County Contact' as she planned her trips to get them for the folks – then hit the needed county. Time and time around IA and other states and on trips to conventions she'd plan those LC's and give them out. Now that was 'the good ole days'. Today? ..forget it. Unless you 'agree' run the county, you can't even get a word in edgewise. Better have a cellphone and do it off frequency if you can't stay in the county long. Or if you have a car full of guests/company and can't take 10 minutes stopped to put out the county. Those were the good old days.

Not 'old school' days. There goes another nail in the coffin for the twin twins bloviating about 'old school'.

Nope..there is no way to be the imagined 'old school' today with a SSB friendly net on SSB where everyone ran. Where you could ask a query. Where no one got yelled at or told to get the heck off the net. What we have is not 'old school' but a temper tantrum prone person who 'invents' the 'old school' fantasy that wasn't. And isn't. He's miserable and he wants company. Oh...and of course, he wants you only on SSB so you'll run every county on only SSB so 'his' net has some good activity.

That's just more bloviating. Along with 'mobiles having too much fun' or 'self aggrandizing mobiles' and similar cow manure. Hee hee. I wonder what silly term they'll think of next! Remember for years and years it was 'magic carpet mobiles' where Percy proved to the world that he couldn't do basic math time and time again? Oh, they hated 'uncontrolled YL mobiles'. That's YL's who dared to go out by themselves, not part of a 'team'. Percy even used the “B” word on the air! That surely isn't old school. Old school was treating the YL's with respect. Let's see. Nell, K0GO (ran all US counties) and a dozen others that would go mobile, or run the net in the evenings. Willie, WA7IRD and Ella, W0AYL, in south TX, and Bunny, N1 Funny Jumping Rabbit in ME, and Alice, N4MYZ, out of Clark, NV. “Old School” was respect for all. We surely don't have that now on 20M SSB net or the 'chat room'.

You mean Ed, WA0SBR on his trips wasn't out to clean up all the needs in a state he was running and collect dozens and dozens of LC's. Was he having too much fun? Doing too much 'self aggrandizing'? Oh.....I'm about to fall off the chair laughing. Same with Carol, KI0JD or all the others who did the same. And now Frank and Kay, AA9JJ and N9QPQ with their thousand LC's? (over 2000 combined!) Or Ken, KC4UG, who had walls full of WBOW plaques?

Yes, you can get more LC awards these days as folks work on Five Star, Bingo N, MG, MP and MD. Way back when folks were trying hard to get 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> time or finish up Bingo for the first time. There wasn't even a separate CW only award. So? That wasn't my doing – but MARAC. More to work on. More needs. It still takes special trips to get those LC's. Or \$\$\$ put into the gas tank and motel bills. Cars worn out from driving.

Yeah....KZ2P seems to be stuck at Master Gold level and he isn't likely to put out 500 counties for the folks, so he won't get Platinum. Dozens of others will. Maybe that is why he acts like an old fart fossil? Claims he is 'old school' when really he is just hung up on getting to the next Nth time around level and has 'given up' and wants everyone else to do the same. Just join him in his misery? Just go along with his sicko behavior and wild rants in the chat room. He's got a mobile that works just fine. He just chooses not to use it to help out others.

After all, MARAC is the MOBILE amateur radio awards club, not the sit on your butt and bitch about mobiles club. Ole Percival still hasn't even made Master Gold due to poor record keeping. So they do 10<sup>th</sup> time around, 11<sup>th</sup> time around, 12<sup>th</sup> time around, etc. Then call it 'old school'. That's their choice but it isn't 'old school', just 'being a living fossil'. MG award goes 'way back'. Same for YL mobile and Big Rig and others. All CW was kept informally by KA3MMM and others for decades until it became a separate award.

Since they aren't going on with higher level awards...well, for them, they just bash mobiles and call it 'self aggrandizing' and 'having too much fun' and all that other BS and bloviating spewing out venom as those other county hunters work toward the higher awards. Someone will get Mobile Diamond in the next year or two. Others will follow.

Over 20 have reached Platinum – just takes a lot of work, GIVING back by running the counties, and spending some money to do that. Well over 10,000 counties were put out by those seeking MP. (20 x 500 counties each). Oh – and they probably have earned a pile of LC awards by doing that, too, right? If you give out 1/6<sup>th</sup> of the country – you're likely to gather in a lot of LC's, right? Simple math but challenging for the twin twins.

Hopefully, the rest of the County Hunters will realize that it's nothing but sour grapes from the twin -twins (Percival and James and their Club of One mini-mee invisible 'friends'). Tune out the chat room and your problems go away.

Just have pity upon those two twin twins and their few groveling supporters who churn up the rhetoric in the chat room. Just 'log in' to get the spots and tune out. You'll be a lot happier.

And of course, post your trips when possible or give guidance, try to help out folks with their needs.....and just ignore the false 'old school' type real stupidity of the twin twins. They aren't old school. They just want you to be stuck on 336 and sucking up their BS in the chat room. They're lonely. Juvenile. Bitter. They only have Nth time to work on. What else can you say?

Not the world's greatest cw op? Don't worry – just run your counties and if you don't want to do relays, fine. Work what you hear and that is fine with most. Heck, I don't usually take relays unless someone hears someone calling during the run. Between 4 cw bands, I'll get them on one of them if there is any propagation. If you are on a trip having to get to point A, sometimes you don't have time for SSB and CW. So? Just keep a moving – gotta make time. Other ops will sit in the county for as long as it takes. Depends upon the need to get to point A. You'd never get out of KY if you had to run SSB and CW in every county on every band as you were trying to just get quickly across the state. If you are moving – heck, with 10 minute runs, the county might not be long enough. Just do what you can.

Don't let the twin twins spoil your fun! We're allowed to have 'all the fun we want'. Hee hee. I do. Now, Percy can look at HUNDREDS of my Percy Pics\* in the County Hunter sign database. Those pics really started when he and James went on the 'He's not in county X' and the 'magic carpet mobiles' demented rants 10 years ago. When I can, I catch my car with antennas in the picture. Others did the same. When Gary started the database, I had to dig back for the negatives (didn't find them all) of all the pictures I took on film and sent out to various county hunters when it was their Last County. You can see what the terrain looked like around most of the signs. I'm having 'too much fun' doing that, hee hee.

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

Did I post all my trips? Well, if you read the trip report above, the last trip changed by the day as I dodged weather. You could pretty well guess where I was going by my MD needs once I headed in that direction but it was 'go till dark' every day and avoid the bad weather or not sit somewhere with hours left in the day. Many others needed those same counties, too. Most days I posted something about which way I was headed on the K3IMC forum. Some trips (like last June/July to the convention) I have detailed itineraries. Other trips I just go like up the road to Tulsa or down the interstates to Belton(Bell County) or Houston, TX with not much other than 'down I-35 or I-46 or up 75/69'.

Well, enough on the soap box this month. It needed to be said. I'm still 'having too much fun' and working on my 'higher awards' for 'self aggrandizement' and collecting LC awards by going to counties that folks need!(even more self aggrandizing). Hee hee hee hee. I'm sure Dan, KM9X and Ron, KB6UF, won't worry about collecting too many LC's and giving out 'too many contacts' on their trips. Nor will they drive around counties that folks need just to NOT run up their self aggrandizing totals! Actually, news of that sort of bloviating in the chat room actually wants to make me travel even more!

With the twin twins and their record of jamming and giving County Hunting a black eye, why would anyone listen to their bloviating and their made up 'old school' fantasies which we've just

blown away? Maybe it is THEY who need to change their act?

Where can I go and collect another dozen LC's? Set new records for 'self aggrandizing'? Set records for "having 'too much fun'? I better stop before I fall off the chair laughing.....I'm having too much fun! Let's see. N8KIE needs half a dozen just to the east of me in TX. Oh.....I need to be careful not to exceed my 'having too much fun' quota, too! Chuckle Chuckle.

## Annual County Hunter's Dinner Event

After the main event – 4 PM County Hunter forum, we adjourned for dinner at:

Golden Corral Buffet & Grill (5.5 miles from Hara Arena)  
6611 Miller Lane  
Dayton, OH 45427  
(937) 264-3300

Sharon, KJ8F, has coordinated with the restaurant to arrange dinner seating for our group. They do not take reservations, but Sharon will do her best to work with the venue to meet our needs.

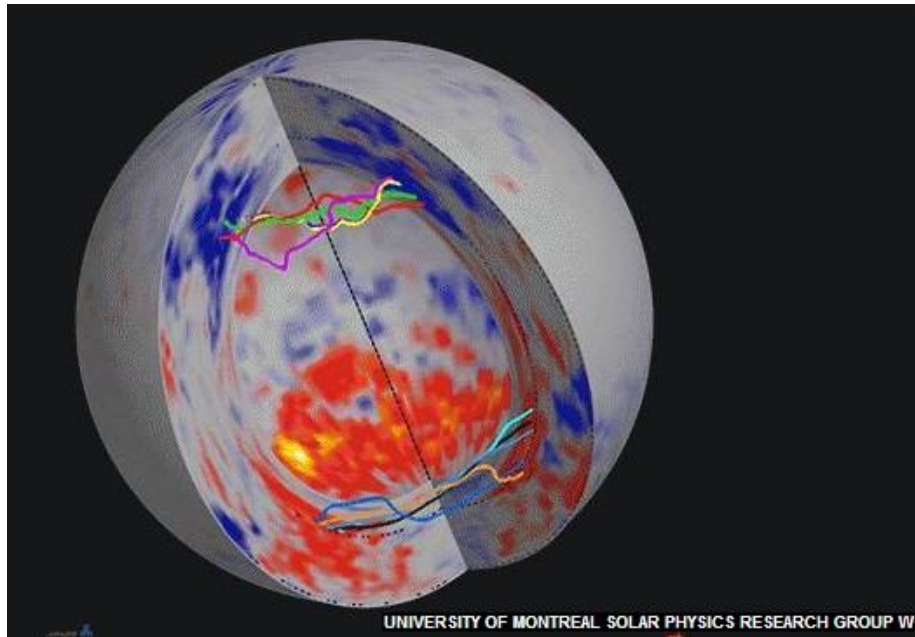
Maybe you can plan your trip to hit some of the 'needs' of the county hunters on your way to and from Dayton??

# Solar Heartbeat

A magnetic "solar heartbeat" beats deep in the sun's interior, generating energy that leads to solar flares and sunspots, according to new research.

A new supercomputer simulation, described in the April 4 edition of the journal *Science*, probes the sun's periodic magnetic field reversals. Every 40 years, according to the model, the sun's zonal magnetic field bands switch their orientation, or polarity.

That cycle is about four times longer than the 11-year sunspot cycle that governs the level of solar activity. Being able to model such a regular, long-term process is remarkable, the scientists said.



The new research, led by the University of Montreal's Paul Charbonneau, describes work from both his research group and other, independent coalitions simulating the sun's interior.

Modeling the sun has been a sticky problem for decades. The first attempts in the 1980s captured only a rough approximation of the turbulence inside of the sun.

Turbulence, when it occurs, happens at both large and small scales. The large scales are easy to simulate, but in the sun, a small feature only about tens of miles across is just as important in

understanding how fluid propagates.

When energy from turbulence dissipates, the turbulence flows into smaller and smaller whirlpool shapes, called vortices. You can see this for yourself, Charbonneau said, when swirling your hand in a full bathtub. The movement will produce a vortex in the water that will gradually break up into tinier ones that dissipate the energy.

On the sun, dissipation takes place at a scale of tens of yards. That's extremely minute, compared with the size of the sun, which is 1 million times larger than Earth. "There's no way we can capture that in a simulation," Charbonneau told SPACE.com.

To approximate this process, scientists typically limit the resolution to about 6.2 miles. This, however, creates an energy buildup in the simulation that will "blow up" the model before it can run for very long, Charbonneau said.

Charbonneau's co-author Piotr Smolarkiewicz of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, focuses his work on meteorology rather than astronomy. The same principles of turbulence apply to both fields, however, as air currents play a large role in weather forecasting.

Charbonneau's team used supercomputers at the University of Montreal that are linked to Calcul Québec, a network of large computers used across the province of Quebec.

Together, the researchers set up a model that would essentially dissipate the energy just at the point when the simulation was about to collapse.

"It's not easy to do in a fluid system like that. If you start removing energy too quick, you will affect the global dynamics of the system," Charbonneau said.

The model isn't perfect, he acknowledged. Sunspots, solar flares and similar phenomena are just too small to be modeled with the computing power available today.

When it comes to modeling the sun as a whole, though, the scientists are starting to see how energy transport and luminosity varies over decades.

Several science groups are now trying to model brightness changes in the sun. It's been known for years that the sun is brighter when it's more active.

The sun produces more dark sunspots during that time — which dim it somewhat — but it also creates small magnetic structures that brighten the surface.

How these structures form is still under investigation. Charbonneau and his team are examining

how the magnetic field on the sun affects the transport of energy from the inside to the outside.

"There's a link between convective energy transport and the magnetic cycle, and you can measure that through going through the simulation and pulling out the flows, the primary variables," Charbonneau said.

"Once you have a magnetic cycle that builds up and develops in the simulation," he added, "you can analyze how that affects convective transport and the sun's luminosity."

Source: <http://www.weather.com/news/science/space/magnetic-solar-heartbeat-20130408>

## GA QSO Party

The mobiles were out and running. W0BH, N4N, N4T, W4MY, W4G, KN4Y, W4AN, W3DYA, NM2L, K5YAA, K4ZGB, N4FD, etc. I needed about 80 for the next time around so it really was a 'party'. I did miss a few as some were only run on 40m CW and I couldn't hear or get through the pile up on 20M before the mobile ran into the next one. That's the way it goes.

On SSB, there was N4I and KB4KBS giving out counties.

W0BH and K5YAA were pounding in most of the time. Saturday conditions were great on 20M....and 40M only perked up in the evening. Mobiles were running to the wee hours and I went to bed before 10pm here and missed a few still out running! ...and Sunday things turned so-so with a CME hitting the earth and the K up to 5 to 10, and the A at 2. It made it rough for many but TX seemed to be in the right place for 20M. 40M just vanished until late evening. Only two or 3 mobiles kept running till the very end. I didn't get much accomplished this weekend chasing all the counties. I still need 20 or so, you feel free to run more GA counties. Where were the Northwest corner mobiles? They escaped me!

From the 3830 reflector:



## **K4ZGB mobile - 457 cw QSO**

Thanks for your patience, getting familiar with a new mobile rig and yes I'm still slow on the keyboard.

## **KB4KBS – mobile**

Made 264 SSB contacts. Didn't say anything else.

## **W4AN Mobile (K4BAI, K4ETY K6GIS)**

Three members of Columbus Amateur Radio Club used the SECC club call W4AN/M. We had a SSB station in the front seat with driver and navigator and a CW station in the back seat. Each station ran 100W. The SSB station had a screwdriver on the back bumper and the CW station had a Hustler mast and resonators on the front bumper. We had a DX Engineering top hat on the Hustler resonator for 20M only. We didn't get set up in time to get computer logging working before the contest, so I logged on paper and sent CW with a MFJ memory keyer and the guys on SSB logged in excel and I incorporated their QSOs into my Cabrillo file after I created a CW log postcontest in the NA logging program. Everything seemed to work OK on 20 and 40.

The one time I tried 80 CW, W4IZT could hardly hear me and signals didn't seem strong, so there was only one QSO on that band. We worked a good bit of DX on 20 on CW and SSB and on 40 CW after about 2200Z. The SSB station had a hard time hearing callers due to QRM from the CW station. The CW station heard very little QRM from the SSB station. We had a similar set up last year and made no SSB QSOs, so this year was a big improvement in that regard. Unfortunately, we were able to be QRV only on Saturday due to other commitments on Sunday. Many thanks for all QSOs and your continued support for GQP. Good luck to all and don't forget to send in your logs no matter how large or small.

73, John, K4BAI.

## **K5YAA mobile**

Got lost in Ft. Stewart - GPS said turn left onto Hwy 119 and the Army had it

blocked off. Wandered around for an hour before getting away from the Tank trails and gun ranges. Rain started and lasted the rest of Sunday. Biggest pileup was in Appling county. Only made 23 counties total out of 39 planned. A one man show is a grind what having to pick and and move to the next county. Some nice pileups though so it was worth it.

Worked 16 countries. DL3DXX was everywhere. 15, 20 and 40 meters with a huge signal. Worked him in 22 counties. Notable calls were N4CD, K5CM, K9UIY, K8MFO, K0DEQ, K5WAF, N5RZ, VE1RGB, WA6KHK ( LOUD FROM CA ), N5WR, N5AU, NS9I, W8TM, KV8Q, WD0ECO, W2CVW ( JOE ), WE7G, N5DO, W9MSE AND NT2A. Others of course these are the ones from memory.

The K3 and AL811H played well all throughout the contest. Sorry if I missed you by being an alligator at times. Had a bit of an issue with N3FJP - it would send 26 or 40 but nothing in between. Needed 36 but couldn't get there! Got frustrating sending 26 when I needed to go faster and harder!

Long drive over to Georgia from Oklahoma but I will go again one of these times. Good party with lots of activity and special hospitality from Paul N4PN and his lovely wife Martha. We had a fine dinner with wine on Friday evening while we inspected Paul's station in Bibb County. He has some 160 meter QSL jewels. Quite a gentleman but what an operator. He and Bob W0BH and David N4VDL covered 61 counties with their county coverage effort during the party. What a feat.

On the way home Bob followed me part of the way and we covered the party details and compared signals with several operators along the way. Bob went on his way back to Kansas. He traveled further than I did!

That's about it for the Georgia story. No special happenings. The countryside was beautiful this time of year and one highway patrolman stopped to see that I was OK. I think those guys know what we do now when we pull over to the side of the road. He seemed happy I was OK and went about his way. Nice to have such kind folks looking after you.

On to Florida in a couple of weeks.

### **KN4Y Mobile 825 cw contacts**

This was a SSSS weekend. Sunny Saturday, Stormy Sunday. Ran 21 counties Saturday, ran out of time. Sunday ran 2 counties before going to a bowling tournament, ran 1 county after bowling, storm got bad so went home. Good band

conditions. Decreased hearing, trembling hands, slow writing, rapid fill bladder, what else can happen? Tune in next year.

#### **N4N Mobile (W5JR) - 1084 cw QSO**

Roving is by far the most fun I have in ham radio each year. Tnx to all who gave me a Q. Clearly I need a driver for Sunday in order to hand out more Q's and up the score. A better Sunday operating to driving ratio is a must do for next year. Special thanks to Max/N5ZZ for driving me around GA on Saturday. Not sure there were many (any?) more mults to be had on the bands/mode I operated, but a few more would be great for the count. Where was NE-SD-ND on CW? Getting ready for their own QP this weekend? Will look at Alan / NO5W's CQ/x program for Rover logging.

IC-7000, Hi-Q 580/RT, WinKey, N1MM logger, cherry Diet Dr Pepper and pretzels by Unique of Reading PA.

#### **NM2L Mobile - 493 Q**

Part time effort this year, but managed to put out a few counties. Little ICOM-706 with Hustler mast and resonators on the back of my 2001 Toyota Tundra. My friend Jim (K4DI) couldn't drive this year so that slowed me down some some.

#### **N4T Mobile (AD8J, W3NO operators) 1617 CW 348 SSB QSO**

Operating with a KW from the mobile. The pileups were massive so we ended up skipping some counties to work the piles down. Saturday conditions were better than Sunday. DL3DXX had a booming signal, louder than most US stations. Couldn't believe it when he was the first to answer our CQ on 80.

#### **W3DYA Mobile 1379 QSO CW**

Thanks to everyone for following me around. Operating time is short because I stop when it gets dark and had to quit early Sunday because Karen couldn't see in the downpour.

My apologies to those waiting for me to ID before calling; I usually ID after I've cleared the pileup. If someone asks for my call, I will send it on the next contact.

If anyone is following the performance of the flying saucer antenna saga, no problem working all bands with the auto-tuner even in the downpour! I left my Hustler backup resonators at home, again!

**K8MFO- fixed - OH - 321 CW 144 Multipliers!**

After a long week of farming, it was nice to spend a little bit of time listening to 11 first class mobiles and a number of fixed stations heating up the airwaves from Georgia. I knew that my time was somewhat limited, with visitors and a birthday party on the agenda, but somehow you get sucked into the event by chasing mobiles around the map. Make no mistake about it ... the appeal of a State QSO Party is directly related to the number of mobiles. The GANG OF ELEVEN did themselves proud. Each was super competent at handling the pileups they generated when they hit a new county.

At many times of the day Ohio is too close for 20 and above, and too far for 40 meters. I only put a few minutes in on 80, as I was primarily interested in chasing mobiles. I know some had limited time, and some must have had NASCAR drivers behind the wheel as they traversed the state. The ambitious Sunday route on W4MY was more than amazing. Here are the QSO stats with QSOs/counties

W0BH - 54/47  
W3DYA - 48/31  
W4MY - 31/30  
N4T - 28/25  
N4N - 24/24  
K5YAA - 22/17  
W4AN - 18/17  
KN4Y - 18/16  
NM2L - 12/12  
K4ZGB - 9/8  
N4FD - 7/7

Rig was a K-3 to Ameritron amp at 800 watts. Dipole at 48 feet on 20, and 2 elements (close spaced) on 40.

**NT2A – fixed NY 343 CW 138 Multipliers**

Thank you to all mobiles and GA clubs for fantastic job. It was great QP.

**VE9AA 127 cw 75 mults**

WOW!~ The Georgians know how to throw a party. My intention was to play for "only 1 hour" but I heard a lot of mobile activity and there was no way I could walk away. Every time I came back to the radio it was a whole new ballgame. It was very addictive. There were some FB mobile signals later in the day. Early on condx were waaaay down from up here and I could barely detect some of the mobiles.

Special mention goes to W0BH...that guy can copy CW. A few times I had the keyer over 40wpm and he managed to pull my callsign out of the din, seemingly without a problem. I know I must have been weak there. Whatever you are doing, don't stop !

Thanks for all the fun.

**K8MR – fixed OH 228 cw 58 ssb 115Mults**

Yet another dreary weekend in Cleveland, so it was pretty easy to spend lots of time at the radio. Conditions were so-so, at times I was in the odd zone of being too close for 20 and a bit too far away for 40. I heard a few scatter signals on 15, but no QSOs. Late Sunday I saw a spot for KU8E on 10, which on about the 5th call resulted in my lone 10M QSO.

What a great performance by the W0BH crew! By late Saturday I found the we could quickly move to SSB (a skill I often use when on the road), which was worth an extra 20 or so mults. I wish more QRQ CW mobile guys would be able/willing to do that. I eventually set a goal of working 159 mults, which was my final number. FB operations by the other mobiles as well.

My other goal of the weekend was getting psyched for my mobile trip to Michigan this Saturday. Goal met. I hope lots of those who were chasing the mobiles this weekend will be there for the MiQP, and that I'll be able to pass out lots of QSOs and counties

**K5WAF – fixed Texas** - 244 cw 16 SSB QSO - 127 cw mults 15 ssb mults

Wow -- what a great QSO party. The mobile's were fantastic (particularly W0BH W3DYA, W4MY, K5YAA, etc). I wish I could have been on longer because there was a chance to get all the counties.

**N5DO – fixed TX** – 261 CW 131 Mults

Tremendous number of mobile ops made this a memorable QSO Party. It seemed as though there was always a mobile on that I needed to work. Great fun!

**KV8Q – fixed- OH** 285 cW 133 Mults

Wow!!! What fun!!! Except for the stinky conditions on Sunday, this was a real QSO party. Lots of fixed stations as well as a ton of mobiles and rovers. Lots of folks asked me to spot them; but, with no internet in the shack, no can do. Sorry. Saturday conditions were fine. Forty was fine and twenty was short enough to work GA from OH. Sunday was an entirely different story. The only Q's on 20 were to the southern border of GA and that was W4MY heading east down there. Forty was a real bust until later in the afternoon when things started to recover. It was still a ton of fun. Kudos to N5DO. Great job. Here is my list of the mobile/rover stations (QSO's/counties):

W0BH 46/41  
W3DYA 28/24  
N4T 26/24  
W4MY 26/26  
K5YAA 20/18  
W4AN 16/16  
N4N 15/14  
NM2L 14/14  
KN4Y 13/13  
K4ZGB 8/8  
N4FD 5/5

Thanks for all the Q's  
and fun. 73

tom KV8Q

**DL3DXX – fixed Germany 461 QSOs! 148 Multipliers!!!!!!!**

I got the chance to operate GQP from super station DR1A near Goch. What a performance to use a Multi/Multi contest station for a US QSO party ! Only difficulty was that every band station has its own room. QSYs kept me real busy moving around. So I feelled a bit like the Georgia mobiles.

Although trying 10m a lot band was never open to US.  
Thanks to organizers and Georgia stations for a great party  
Hope to be back next year.

## On the Road with N4CD II

The Bell County Hamfest – or more correctly Giant Swapmeet – comes up twice a year and it was time for the Spring edition. Bell County is 160 miles down the interstate just south of Temple TX. The weather was clear but a chilly 40 deg or so outside. Brrr. Where did our spring go to?

I usually stay overnight at the Motel 6 in Temple. The trip was uneventful down I-35 – past West, TX where the fertilizer plant just blew up killing 15 and flattening a good part of the town. That was a good spot to stop and get some Czech kolaches – if you didn't mind the calories They are pastries usually with fruit filling – the one store right off the interstate is always busy and has at least 15 varieties of the kolaches plus other Czech delights.

<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2013/04/czech-stop-open-during-west-texas-fertilizer-explosion>



Kolaches - You get 'em in West TX

They also have the Westfest each year in the fall with some good Czech music and good accordion polka music. Well, I waved at it as I went by. The store seemed quite busy with folks dropping by. West is a town of about 2800 tightly knit folks that's been there since the 1800s. Nice farming area with rolling hills. The town expanded toward the fertilizer storage plant....which had been 'far away' initially in the 1960s....but the town grew that way – a definite mistake in retrospect.

I arrived at the Temple Motel 6 (\$37/night). Then the next stop was the hamfest. This was the first year I arranged for an indoor swap meet table for the hamfest. I'm still cleaning out some stuff I 'won' at auctions and had just been sitting around waiting for me to 'get to it' and I decided I had too many radios. You can drive right in to your table to set up, which I did at the Bell County Exposition Arena. It didn't take long to attract the attention of the 'buyer' of radio stuff. Seems there is one guy there who rapidly descends upon any new seller. The hamfest doesn't even start officially till Saturday morning 7am. I had my stuff out and he came by and wanted to buy 4 units at half of what I was asking for them. He buys 'lots of stuff' and comes around on a little mobility cart with a big trailer and offers 'package deals' buying up the 'good stuff' – old receivers and transmitters. Tries to buy them at half of value or less in a 'package' deal. Bundling.

Well, we dickered for about 15 minutes and he wound up buying 4 items at a price close to what I wanted for them. This was 30 minutes after I got there and the big items were 'gone'. He cleans out all the good stuff. Then he mentioned he had 10 of the Eico 720 transmitters and 8 or more of the Heathkit DX-40s I had sold him. He just buys and buys, has 4 large outbuildings and six tractor trailers piled to the ceiling with 6 and 10 or 20 of each type of radio. He seems to have unlimited money. He didn't ask if they even worked. If you ever where most of the old ham gear winds up, he's probably got thousands of old radio units, now rusting away. He probably sucks up most of the regen receivers, too. Dang. He doesn't sell a thing, just buys and buys and buys. A true packrat and hoarder. He makes the rounds of all



the TX hamfests and hauls around a big trailer with shelves floor to ceiling for all the radio stuff he buys. He's got 4 30x60 foot buildings, and a half dozen tractor trailers filled to the roof with stuff.

The 'sellers' swap and buy 90% of the good stuff before the hamfest ever begins and that's the way it is at Dayton and many other hamfests. If it is 'cheap' and put out, it's long gone, either to never be seen again, or on someone else's table for 'fair market' price of twice or 3 times what the buyer just paid for it. Such is life. If you're lucky, you'll be circulating in the flea market and encounter a new seller before the 'buyer types' move in. Or...if the price is 'too high' for the buyer to buy – if he is looking to flip it, you've got a chance to get what you've been looking for. You've got to be an early bird, or be looking for things that aren't snapped up immediately.

I did find an older Ten Tec 1253 regen receiver in a bucket of 'stuff' and the guy only wanted \$15 for it. Said it worked except 'at the top end' of the bands. Well, for 15 bucks, I didn't argue. Had a manual with it, too. They go for 60 bucks on E-pay. Nice 9 band solid state regen from 20 years ago.

There were 20 sellers set up outside in the outdoor flea market on Friday. It was a nice sunny day up near 60 finally. There was nothing of interest- the general run of the mill stuff and not much good or unique. There would be another 50 or so sellers on Saturday.

After 'setting up' and checking out the goodies that were 'set out' for Saturday's sale...it was over to the Cracker Barrel for dinner – country ham dinner plate. They're one of a few restaurants that have 'country ham' - the old style preserved ham you can hang on the porch for years at it will still be good. Yum!.....then back to the Motel 6. The day had been long so I hit the hay early.

The phone went off with the wake up call at 5:30. I wandered over to the Denny's next door – but, what the heck – no Denny's. It was closed up. The lady at the motel said it closed 3 months ago due to the upcoming 'highway expansion'. They are adding a lane to the interstate through Temple (now down to one lane at a merge or two). Oh well...there goes my cheap breakfast place. MacDonalds had to do for this morning, then over to the hamfest by 6:20 or so to check out more goodies. Didn't see much but folks were wandering around outside with flashlights since it was still before sunrise. It was a chilly 40 deg outside (below normal) and there was a breeze blowing to remind you of how cold it really was. Inside, it wasn't much warmer as they had the big door open to let new sellers in. Good thing I brought the ski jacket and hat along as I sure needed it. That's more like Dayton than Bell County Hamfest.

I sold one or two more things. One guy came by on Friday and offered me \$40 for the Swan 117 PS which I wound up with.....somewhere along the line. I didn't even have a Swan radio to run.....but had the Power Supply. I was asking \$45 as is – I had no way to check it. Cheap. He said he'd be back. He missed me Saturday morning and the 30 lb thing is still in the car. Oh

well, another hamfest. Sold two more things but that was it. Still some junk followed me home later when I left at 10:30. It looks like some stuff never sells. The pile is getting smaller and smaller.

Then one of my friends came by about 9am and said you need to hit the outside flea market one more time – new sellers. He thought there were some regens out there. I didn't waste time. Sure enough, a nice Knight Kit Ocean Hopper was sitting there – up for sale – and the guy wanted only \$45. No cabinet – that was an option – and there was some rust on the chassis and the front panel had seen better days. I offered him 40 and he said no....so I didn't waste time and got out the 45 bucks. Had the 40m coil in it...and the guy said it was working fine as he had just fixed it up, listened for a few hours, then it had been sitting. Yep, that's what happens with most antique radios. The Ocean Hopper was the most basic receiver possible but it has a 'cult following' like the Ameco AC-1 beginner transmitter. Not the best front panel or chassis but still a nice find. He recapped it – all of the five or six capacitors in the set.

Across the aisle, one guy had a bunch of 'old' stuff sitting with other newer stuff – a 6C8 based homebrew regen receiver (no coil), a Music Master 1920s TRF BC band 5 tube set set – less tubes, a two tube BC set, no tubes, but interstage transformer, a one step amplifier, and a 'mystery box which might be a crystal set'. I bought him out as a package deal. He just wanted to 'get rid of the stuff', so I obliged him. Good price. The regen's coil was buried inside another unit.



Most of the Belton Haul

Left to right – Ocean Hopper, TenTec 1253 regen, Radio Master TRF set, 6C8 one tube regen, and a 'one step' amplifier! Not shown – another 2 tube receiver that might be good for parts.

Here's a close up of the Radio Master TRF set (five tubes)



Radio Master TRF (Tuned Radio Frequency) Set

It's missing the tubes, but note it has 2 interstage transformers at the back, so hopefully at least one is good. You see the coils wound 'basket weave' style to reduce coupling from one stage to the next and the way they are oriented? Remember, all the gain in this radio is at the same frequency – whatever frequency you are 'tuned to'. TRF sets had the problem that they oscillated more often than not....so they had to take steps to reduce gain and coupling. Some sets had every stage in a shielded compartment. Others picked up the 'Neutrodyne' patent- which had neutralized r.f. Amp stages – but the patent was expensive. Well, as you recall, about that time, radios went to a/c power, the 'screen grid' tube appeared and solved a lot of the oscillation problems...and a year or two later everything went to the superhet design. By the 1930s, the old battery sets were just piled up at radio dealers as folks traded them in by the TENS OF MILLIONS.

It turns out that this Radio Master was made in Bay City, MI. Radio Master had about 15 models from 1925 into the early 1930s. It usually came in a nice wood cabinet – and half the people employed in the “radio” industry were cabinet makers. At a cost of several months pay for the average worker – they were 'furniture' in the living room or parlor, just like the TV set of the 1950s with fancy cabinets and consoles were.

The old tubes didn't have that much gain to start with. The two right variables are ganged together and tuned with one knob. The left variable is the input stage and harder to 'one knob tuning' since the antenna length is a 'customer' difference that can't be controlled. It was hard to gang 3 tuned stages together. You see places for five 201A type tubes to be located. You had three rf stages, the last being a 'grid leak detector', followed by two audio amp tubes which would run a horn speaker with a few milliwatts of audio. You usually needed 22.5v, 67 volts, - 7.5v, and 6v at 1.25 amps to run a radio like this. All that to get a few milliwatts of audio! Early 1920s vintage – now 90 years old. The bottom is all point-to-point heavy wiring, plus the plug in grid leak resistor (usually imported from Germany).

The 6C8 one tube regen uses an octal dual triode tube (6.3v filament) – one stage regen detector, and a one stage audio amp. The input to the first grid is on the cap on the tube – not enough pins for everything to be brought out. The tube came out about 1935 and was used through the early 40s so that would likely be the time frame for this set. It used a wood front

panel, so there must have been horrific hand capacity effects as you moved your hand toward and away from the set. You really need a metal front panel on a regen (or metal foil behind a wood panel where the foil is grounded!).

The 'one step' amp consisted of a single tube socket for a 201A triode tube, an audio transformer, and the binding posts for the input, the 6v filament supply, and 22.5v supply, and the output which could be headphones. There was even a connection chart inside!

It usually was not enough to drive a horn speaker. The one step amp usually followed a one tube regen set, or maybe even a crystal set. It had the usually rheostat that controlled the gain, and you set it at the lowest value that worked – to reduce battery drain. It was in series with the filament – and that was how you set the 'gain' of the stage.

Well, the Music Master radio chassis might work if you put five good 201A tubes in it – or not – depending if the audio transformers are good. At least half of them from that era are no good. The #43 or #44 wire they used inside was fragile, the potting compound expanded/contracted and broke the wire connections or the solder was corrosive and ate away the wire after 90 years. I'd bet 99.999% of stuff made today won't be working 90 years from now – if you could even find batteries and an instruction book on how to use them. You think an LCD screen will last 90 years? Or you can find a battery for one in 2113?

Not much else was there – it had been a good day for regens – usually you seldom find anything, but came home with 3 this time.

I hit the road at 10:30 to make a 2pm meeting of the local Vintage Radio Association meeting over in Irving, TX.

Meanwhile, the MI QSO Party was going on. NF0N was out in the NE QSO Party and the SD and ND QSO Parties were starting. There were lots of stations to chase, and AF3X was zipping all over in SD in needed counties, too. I was tuning around on the way back toward Dallas trying to work/catch as many as possible. At times the noise along the interstate won out. Oh well....being mobile is some times not the best way to catch mobiles in the QSO parties, for sure, for sure. Plus you don't have time to check spots or take your eyes off the road. Logging and duping is a problem too.....not like 'runs' where you turn the computer on...and let it run for the run.

The program at the VRPS meeting was on the Radiomuseum web site which is very useful to finding information and pictures on old radios.

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

If you have never been there, drop on by. They have 30,000 visitors a day, 30,000 members now world wide, and over 11,000 radios in the database with pictures and schematics and other

information.

[ Later at home I checked out what a 6C8 tube was on the site. Easy as can be! Pin diagram and date when it first came out. ] I also found the Radio Master listed there, but not enough information to identify which model I had specifically.

When the meeting ended, I zipped on home through the traffic mess less radio – heavy traffic and construction and not a great area to operate....to get home and then catch mobiles in the QSO parties. It was a long day and I pooped out before the MI mobiles stopped running at well after 10 pm it seems. The last MI mobile spot was at 0354z, or nearly 11pm here.

I put out the counties on the way down, but the times I went to 056.5 to run on the way home , no one came back. I guess all the spotters were off chasing MI, SD, ND, NE mobiles, so I only got 'heard' once ....to run the county. I make that trip twice a year, so nothing lost. They're not 'rare'.

More trips to come. Planning the Dayton trip now. Wow..hope all those floods in MN, IA, IL, IN are over in a couple weeks when it is time to head to Dayton. More than one trip through KY has been impacted by roads/bridges flooded out in the past on my way to Dayton....couldn't get to the next county or even out of the county I was in other than going back the way I came a few times! I suspect that is already the case in IA, IL, and other states as the flooding is just starting and the snowpack has yet to melt up north in ND and northern MN. There's 3 feet of snow on the ground up in Keweenaw County in the upper peninsula as of 4/21/2013.

## MI QSO Party

It was another great one!

N4CD was mobile for the first half – so missed a bunch, but still filled in half of my needs. Most of the state was covered but a half a dozen counties seem to have had little or no coverage. We need more mobiles in the lower peninsula! Maybe the weather played a part with massive rain totals down south?

At least 69 counties were on the air. There was loads of activity with giant pile ups. The DX was in with OM2VL having a VERY loud signal most of the day and on 40M at night. All the contest regulars were on. I didn't see too many of our MI County Hunters participating or the

'county hunter mobiles' even making a pipsqueak or putting out their home counties. What gives? Heck, every county hunter should spend at least an hour putting out their home county. Some of the mobiles had to be 'imported' to get the activity up – NE9U and WI9WI from WI, for example. K8MR and W8CAR from OH. Well, that was 2/3rds the mobile activity from out of state. Hello, Michiganders!...where were you?

K8AO was spotted on from Delta – both cw and SSB.

W8WVU and W8YL were on from Lenawee. They're state QSO Party regulars.

### **K8IR mobile 655 cw 25 SSB (KG9GH driver)**

It was a beautiful, sunny day in the UP. One of the few this non-spring. Reports of 3 feet of snow still on the ground in the Keweenaw are true. Some impressive snow piles for the end of April. But the roads were excellent the whole route. Can't say the same for the power lines. There were plenty of deer after sunset, but it was a bird that seemed determined to fly into the windshield that had Eric on the brakes. It turned out to be a near miss.

40 and 20 were rocking, except for the time right around sunset when we were at the eastern end of our route and suddenly it seemed like we drove into a black hole, and the rate dropped for LUCE and MACK. We went with a minimal 80 meter antenna on the truck bed this year, and had a hard time getting much attention there. But 40 kept us plenty busy in the darkness.

Eric did another fine job navigating, and we actually were back in Menominee 25 minutes before the end. So we motored around town while putting a few more in the log.

Thanks to everyone who called in, including our DX friends.

### **K8MR mobile with K8YSE driver 1116 CW 367 SSB QSOs**

Wow, what a weekend!

Great conditions and great activity. In the 12 hour format Michigan and Ohio QSO parties I've only broken the 1K QSO mark one time, back in about 2003 in MI. This year I beat that record by 400 QSOs. Many thanks to all FB CW ops who followed me around the state, and who in many cases were ready to quickly QSY to SSB. 40 meters stayed short until the end, allowing me to get a reasonable

in state multiplier without having to resort to 80 meters, which is deadly for a mobile.

Pileups were intense, and it was fun going into full DXpedition mode, cranking up the speed and watching the rate soar. I recently picked a digital voice recorder, and used it to record the entire contest. When I get some time I will get the files off and make them available to anyone who wants to hear what it sounds like from the mobile end.

An exchange with a QSO number requires more effort than just “599”, but it was fun following some of the good races out there - N4PN vs W0BH, DL2HBX vs OM2VL, etc. I also enjoyed many QSOs with three of my previous MiQP partners, AC8E, AF8A, and K8BL. Those guys understood exactly what was happening.

This year I recruited a new driver, John, K8YSE. He took to task to new levels of sophistication, taking my sketched out route and uploading it into his GPS. None of the “where the heck are we?” moments. Only one deer crossing but not especially close, unlike 2010 when we nailed one in Mecosta county for \$3K of (insured) damage.

MiQP is usually my “last snow of the year” experience, and I did see some on the ground in the northern counties. But the worst weather came with some serious snow squalls Saturday morning between my home on the east side of Cleveland and K8YSE's on the west side. But by the time I got to his QTH it was all clear, and remained so for the rest of the weekend.

### **NE9U Multi Op mobile (NE9U, KK9K, N9BCA)**

Well, that was fun!

A record setting year for the NE9U/m group. TRLog says we beat the old MIQP mobile op record. K8MR smashed it though! Tough to match his rate of running through a lot of the same guys in 30 counties compared to our 14, but we tried! :-)

Back in February, KK9K came up with an idea for a new high gain vertical antenna for our mobile operation. We built it and it worked so well we decided to give it a try in the MiQP. For Michigan, since mults count on both modes, we decided to install a couple more antennas for quick QSY to SSB. However never could get them to act properly and after hours of last minute finagling, we

gave up and only used our one antenna all day long. Seemed to work OK. We also attempted to use a few other new options, but in the end punted and used our exact WQP setup. Seemed to work OK, but we have big plans for next year! :-)

One of our new enhancements was to use KK9K's 1994 3 row seat Suburban as our vehicle as it's much smoother and roomy than N9BCA's Jeep. After punting on some of our radio/antenna enhancements we started out for Ron's Cabin in Northern Wisconsin. About a 1/3 of the way there, the exhaust system fell apart and we couldn't hear ourselves think let alone copy Morse code! So unfortunately we had to turn around and switch back to N9BCA's Jeep. Since it was already almost 9:00, we decided to get our traditional Steak and call it an evening back in Stevens Point.

The next morning we re-outfitted N9BCA's jeep and headed off to Michigan about 7:00 AM. Got into Iron County right before kick-off. Since we had heard Gogebic and Ontonagon counties got dumped on with snow Friday night, we revised our plans and drove counter-clockwise around the U.P. instead of our original Clockwise plan to give the roads in the western portion time to be plowed and melt. The idea worked out as we had good roads all day long.

During the contest, everything went pretty smooth. Wish the counties in the U.P. were smaller so we could keep the rate meter up! But because we were in each county for a long time, we were able to dig deeper into the pileups and I think we actually out-multed K8MR.....it didn't compensate for his qso totals though!

One of NE9U's highlights was being able to give SM7ZDI his last Michigan County (Luce). In WQP we gave him his second to last (Florence) and hope to give him his last this summer (Menomonee).

N9BCA says this was about our 23rd year of doing QSO parties together. Lots of fun experiences!

After the contest, we went back towards KK9K's. On the way he cell phoned the local watering hole and convinced them to stay open for us so we could get some of their world famous Pizza and a couple 807's! Thank you to the PI Pub!

Thanks to everyone for calling in. Hope to hear you all in 2014!

Scott NE9U  
Ron KK9K  
Art N9BCA



## **K8MM portable running as K8MAD - Sanilac and Tuscola and Gene**

### **Part I - SANILAC County**

Last year I decided to do a portable FD style operation from Tuscola county since nobody had a planned operation from there. This year I decided to add Sanilac county to the list as well. Both counties are close to home and an easy half hour drive for me.

Since the place I operated at last year in Tuscola county was under several feet of flood water, I decided to use google maps to find another park to operate from. I used the satellite view to see what the park looked like and if there were any antenna supports (trees) close to a parking area. I found to great locations this way.

The first place was Marlette, MI in Sanilac county and the wx was 32 degrees, windy and snowing. As I pulled up to the spot I found on google and walked around a little I found a great tree to hang the G5RV in. As I was getting was hanging the antenna there was another car in the parking lot watching me do my thing and as I finished hanging the antenna the white car and driver left. Just as I was about to sit down and start operating I remembered that I had a magnetic sign with me that said "amateur radio communications"; so I stuck it on the door facing the road. Finally I climbed into the car, started it up, cranked the heat on high to thaw out and began operating. It wasn't a mere 2 minutes after the white car left that I see the cops coming down the street toward me. They pulled into the parking lot and took a look at the wire and coax in the tree, then the sign on my door and after a brief pause they left. So I didn't loose any operating time trying to explain to a local LEO what I was doing....not that they would have understood anyway. ;-P

I was a few minutes late for the start of the contest and my first contact was on 20M cw and it went into the log at 16:09z. I spent the next five hours concentrating on calling CQ and working as many guys as possible to hand out the SANI mult. It was always fun when I'd hit the dx cluster on a new band or mode and the feeding frenzy would begin. The time went by pretty fast between working guys and watching a bluebird making its nest in a hollow tree. There were constant snow flurries and at 21:26z the last qso went into the log and it was time to tear down and head west to Tuscola county.

Tear down was miserable, cold and wet, which is the opposite of last years

MiQP. I tried to make everything easy to deploy when I got to TUSC and it worked out pretty well when I got there.

- - -

Then ---- he took down the antenna and moved to Tuscola County!

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## Part II - TUSCOLA County.....

I took the cross country route (is there and other?) from SANI to TUSC finding that there were a few detours and road closures from all the flooding we've been experiencing in the 'Thumb' of Michigan. Upon arriving in Millington, MI I found the park I was looking for and did a quick drive around to find a good spot to hang the G5RV. My search located two tall white pine trees the perfect height and distance apart. After two quick shots with my sling shot I had my support ropes in the trees, tied to the antenna and pulled it up into the trees. This time the wind was blocked by a nice wooded area of tall pines and I wasn't freezing by the time I hopped back in to the car to operate.

I turned on the radio and put the first qso from TUSC into the log at 22:10z. I was pleased that I only had 45 minutes of off the air time between counties especially after a pit stop for gas. I started S&P on 40M SSB and after having to explain to three different stations that I was in a new county and was NOT a dupe I decided it would be best to call CQ and say I was now in TUSC. I had a nice 40 minute run and it was starting to slow down when N4PN asked me to qsy to 20M SSB where we worked and then we did a quick QSY to 20 CW and worked again. A quick QRZ from me netted a NU7 then DL2HBX. Uli and I worked on CW then we QSYed to SSB where we put each other in the log again. Nobody else called on SSB so back to my 20M CW frequency for a few more q's when a K0 worked and moved me to 14.151 where we worked again. Then several other stations were calling and it quickly became apparent they weren't calling me but were trying to work K8MR/?????. After the pile-up had cleared Jim was barely audible and I gave him a call or two but I knew he wouldn't hear me, so off to 40M CW.

On 40 CW I did a quick S&P sweep then found a place to call CQ. I worked a couple stations then the dx cluster pile-up came. Uli made it into the log again with a lot of other out of state MQP regulars. I ran that frequency for an hour and put roughly 90 more guys in the log on 40 CW. By this time it was

getting really close to sunset and things had slowed down and 40 had gone long so it was time to QSY to 80M.

I went to 80M CW and found that it wasn't really busy yet so a CQ frequency was easy to find. After a couple of CQ's a DL0 answered me followed by a couple more guys, then I hit the dx cluster and the pile-up came in force. I cranked up the keyer speed ala K8MR and worked the pile down thanks to some really great ops on the other end. The time was now 00:30z and I had tentatively planned to pack up and leave by 01z so it was time to head to SSB. On 80 phone I did a quick sweep of the band looking for MQP stations between all of the 'pig farmers' and finally found a place that I could call CQ. I parked up 3 KHz from another MQP station and got to work. I stayed there for 20 minutes but never did seem to hit the dx cluster and things had slowed down and now I was only 10 minutes away from my self imposed deadline of 01Z. I looked at my qso total and noticed I was getting close to my qso total of 240 q's from SANI so I decided to leave when I reached that mark. After another 40 minutes of flopping back and forth between 80 CW and SSB I reached my goal and it was 01:30z and time pack up. I got out of the car and realized that I left my headlamp at the house and not wanting to draw attention to myself by turning on my car headlights, I just packed up using the light from the moon. After a half hour of clean up it was time to head back to my home station in GENE where I would finish out the contest using my own call K8MM.

### Part III - From GENE

Back home in GENE.....

I went off the air in TUSC county at 01:30z and packed up and headed home to GENE county. After a quick snack and chat with the XYL I went down into the shack and put the first station in the log at 02:40z. Since I hadn't heard any GENE mults on CW earlier in the day I decided to make a concentrated effort to give the mult out on CW and try to make at least 100 q's in the short amount of time I had left.

I did my usual quick S&P sweep of the CW band and then found a place to call CQ. At 02:45 I hit the dx cluster as fresh meat and had a nice 30 minute run before the rate slowed and it was time to go to 40 CW. On 40 I worked a couple of stations and then was called by Uli and we worked and qsy'ed to SSB and worked again then I went right back to cw and was spotted on the dx cluster. I had another nice run that lasted for 15 minutes of mostly out of state stations because of the 'long' band conditions.

A quick move to 80M SSB only netted a few Q's so back down to CW I went. By

this time it 02:45z and I was still 15 Q's short of my 100 QSO goal. I pushed hard and kept swapping between 40 and 80 CW and SSB and at 03:57:30 I was still 4 Q's short of my goal. I decided to go back to 40M CW and CQ hoping for some more guys to put in the log. As luck would have it, my first CQ was answered by a K0 and then followed by a mini run of four more out of state stations and I had reached 101 Q's. I still had 30 seconds left to spare but nobody else called in.

I drove 102 miles and I had a total of three hours of set-up, tear-down and transit time during the contest, which isn't too bad for two counties with field day style antennas and a home station.

## **WI9WI Mobile**

This one didn't quite work out the way it was planned. The initial plan was to drive up from Madison Friday afternoon to Manitowish Waters and have dinner and spend the night with the NE9U crew at KK9K's cabin. I would then make a loop counterclockwise through IRON, DICK, MARQ, BARA, HOUG, ONTO and GOGA returning to the cabin at the end of the QSO party.

About 1330 on Friday I called NE9U and he said that they were about an hour from departure from KK9K's place near Wisc. Rapids. I left Madison about 1430. The snow started just north of Wausau, and by the time I got near Manitowish Waters it was near whiteout conditions. It was wet heavy spring snow and the roads became very slippery quickly.

When I got to the cabin at 1830 no one was there. I called NE9U and got voice mail. About 30 minutes later he called back and said they had some problems with their set up and got held back several hours but were on the way. I went to the nearby Bear Restaurant to get something to eat, and while there KK9K called and said they had had a major vehicle problem and were turning back and would come up the next morning in a different vehicle.

The long drive downhill to the cabin from the road had several inches of ice on it covered with about 4 to 6 inches of new heavy wet snow. I worried that if I drove down it I might not get back up, so rather than opting to carry all my gear down on foot that night and back up the next morning I drove to Hurley, just on the WI side of the WI/MI UP border, and got a motel room. The 40 mile drive took over an hour due to very slippery roads.

The next morning it was bright and sunny. I started the trip toward IRON County about 8 AM. The roads were quite icy due to the traffic packing the snow down during the night. By the time I got to Wakefield it was

obvious I couldn't drive more than 35-40 mph safely. Parts of US 2 were unplowed at that hour. I figured it would take me at least 2 hours to get to IRON Cty and then another to DICK. So I turned around and went up to Hwy 28. It was in better shape than 2 so I drove to the BARA/HOUG line. What should have taken about 80 mins took over 2 hours. I usually operate from waysides, boat landings, county parks and off the highway on town roads. None of these were plowed and most still had 2 to 3 feet of winter snow on them. I have no driver and don't operate while moving. I don't feel safe doing it.

So I found a snowplow turnaround and parked out of the way and got set up. Everything worked fine except the 40 meter antenna but that was easily fixed by changing the coax. Conditions were good. Over the next few hours I worked my way back through HOUG, ONTO to GOG, operating from plow turnarounds. While in GOG my RV battery started dying. My options were to hook up to the car's electrical system, which only takes a few minutes, and continue in GOG, hook up to the car and move on to IRON Cty back through Wakefield, or go home. By mid afternoon after plowing and some sun the roads were in very good condition, and highway speeds were fine. I figured it would take me about 80-90 min to get to IRON. But it was in the wrong direction, and after operating there I would have to backtrack nearly 100 miles to get to the cabin or continue on home.

So I packed up and drove the 300 miles back to Madison arriving an hour before the contest ended. In retrospect I probably should have hooked up to the car battery and operated another hour or so from GOG. That means running the car while operating. There is a bit of noise, but it is not intolerable.

Gear: K-3 running about 50 watts (RV battery lasts longer)  
Microham keyer  
Netbook computer with Writelog  
Hustler whip for 20  
Texas Bugcatcher for 40

**N8YP Mobile** - made 167 SSB QSO – no further comments

**N4PN – GA – fixed 177 cw 149 SSB 69 mults cw**

Great job of getting the state covered again...thanks to all..

K8MR led the way here with 55 Q's, followed by NE9U/17; W8CAR/13; K8IR/7; K8MAD/5; W8ZZ/4; WI9WI/3 and K8CC/2...

**W0BH – fixed KS 165 cw 131 ssb 65 cw mults**

In Georgia, K8MR followed us around for 73 contacts, so I returned the favor and tried to keep up with Jim's ultra-fast band/mode switching as I put him in the log 94 times. In most counties, I could work him on two bands and modes, and even put in a few 15m contacts early in the party.

The other mobiles did a great job, too: NE9U/m (21), K8IR/m (13), W8CAR/m (13) WI9WI/m (9) and W8ZZ/m (5).

Overall, I worked 88 unique calls. I missed and never heard Alcona, Allegan, Alpena, Dickenson, Lapeer, Livingston, Oscada, and St. Joseph on either mode.

## Greenie Massive Tax Redistribution – Dies

The European Parliament just voted down a measure that would have attempted to revive its carbon market, likely dooming it to a slow and undignified death. This was a last-ditch effort to drive the EU's carbon price back to a level that would incentivize green reforms. And it failed. The EU's carbon market was the flagship program of its recent green efforts. Ideally, it would have given companies a reason to emit less carbon. Companies that emitted less than allowed could have sold off remaining carbon credits to firms that emitted more. But the authorities gave out too many credits, and as Europe's economy faltered the price for those credits plummeted.

The vote today was meant to save the program by addressing this over-allocation, creating an artificial shortage that would drive permit prices back up, but in a time of financial crisis, the European Parliament chose industry over green ideology. The *WSJ* reports:

“It was a vote of reason,” said Poland's environment minister, Marcin Korolec. Poland, one of the EU's less-affluent members, has been outspoken in its opposition to the measure, which it said could hamper development. [...]

After the vote, the price [of carbon credits] dropped to €2.55 before recovering partially to €3.2...down from nearly €30 in 2008.

Without the backloading plan to increase scarcity on the emissions permit market, “the ETS will almost certainly collapse,” said Kash Burchett, a London-based analyst at consulting company IHS Energy.

The EU has been the global laboratory testing the green agenda to see how it works. Today’s story means that the guinea pig died; the most important piece of green intervention in world history has become an expensive and embarrassing flop. It’s hard to exaggerate the importance of this for environmentalists everywhere; if the EU can’t make the green agenda work, it’s unlikely that anybody else will give it a try.

<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2013/04/16/eu-refuses-to-resuscitate-its-dying-carbon-market/>

The ultra anti-fuel liberal extremists lost yet another one. Their utopia of magic energy pills and an 1820 lifestyle is dying on the vine....

## Nebraska QSO Party

**NF0N/m** was spotted in five counties in NE in the QSO Party. Didn't seem to be other mobiles out in NE. Some worked over a dozen fixed stations on 20M.

**K0GND** was spotted in Lancaster on SSB, W0SST in Saunders on SSB, W0DB in Sarpy, and that's all the activity spotted.

from the 3830 reflector

**N7TEW** - fixed AZ 25 SSB QSO 2 mults

no further comments...

**OM2VL** worked only NF0N mobile for the five counties, plus other fixed stations for a total of 7 cw and 12 SSB QSO with 10 multipliers.

## South Dakota QSO Party

Brian, **K7RE**, was the only mobile out in the SD QSO Party that I heard or saw spotted. He ran for 2 days to put them out. Nice job.

According to the 3830 reflector, **K0VVX** was a 'rover' on SSB and made 561 contacts, mostly on 20M and some on 15m....but only spotted in Butte, SD. Did he go elsewhere? Or not?

A few other fixed stations make it on, including W0EJ in Bon Homme, SD on cw.

Jeffrey, **AF3X**, also stumbled into the QSO party during his way home and was giving out counties.

**OM2VL** worked KD0S ( 4 counties) and W0SEB (2 counties) and had 26 cw and 11 SSB QSO for a total of 28 multipliers.

There were those counties to get – not much else seemed to be going on.

## Earth Day - Revisited

Earth Day 1970 Version

April 21 2013 was Earth Day. Did you 'participate' and turn off your lights for an hour? Hold hands and sing along? The eco-whacks all seem to enjoy Earth Day. Let's review their dire warnings ....but from 1970 Earth Day timeframe

<<<Behold the coming apocalypse as predicted on and around Earth Day, 1970:

1."Civilization will end within 15 or 30 years unless immediate action is taken against problems facing mankind." — Harvard biologist George Wald

2."We are in an environmental crisis which threatens the survival of this nation, and of the



world as a suitable place of human habitation." — Washington University biologist Barry Commoner

3."Man must stop pollution and conserve his resources, not merely to enhance existence but to save the race from intolerable deterioration and possible extinction." — New York Times editorial

4."Population will inevitably and completely outstrip whatever small increases in food supplies we make. The death rate will increase until at least 100-200 million people per year will be starving to death during the next ten years." — Stanford University biologist Paul Ehrlich

5."Most of the people who are going to die in the greatest cataclysm in the history of man have already been born... [By 1975] some experts feel that food shortages will have escalated the present level of world hunger and starvation into famines of unbelievable proportions. Other experts, more optimistic, think the ultimate food-population collision will not occur until the decade of the 1980s." — Paul Ehrlich

6."It is already too late to avoid mass starvation," — Denis Hayes, Chief organizer for Earth Day

7."Demographers agree almost unanimously on the following grim timetable: by 1975 widespread famines will begin in India; these will spread by 1990 to include all of India, Pakistan, China and the Near East, Africa. By the year 2000, or conceivably sooner, South and Central America will exist under famine conditions.... By the year 2000, thirty years from now, the entire world, with the exception of Western Europe, North America, and Australia, will be in famine." — North Texas State University professor Peter Gunter

8."In a decade, urban dwellers will have to wear gas masks to survive air pollution... by 1985 air pollution will have reduced the amount of sunlight reaching earth by one half." — Life magazine

9."At the present rate of nitrogen buildup, it's only a matter of time before light will be filtered out of the atmosphere and none of our land will be usable." — Ecologist Kenneth Watt

10."Air pollution...is certainly going to take hundreds of thousands of lives in the next few years alone." — Paul Ehrlich

11."By the year 2000, if present trends continue, we will be using up crude oil at such a rate... that there won't be any more crude oil. You'll drive up to the pump and say, 'Fill 'er up, buddy,' and he'll say, 'I am very sorry, there isn't any.'" — Ecologist Kenneth Watt

12."[One] theory assumes that the earth's cloud cover will continue to thicken as more dust, fumes, and water vapor are belched into the atmosphere by industrial smokestacks and jet planes. Screened from the sun's heat, the planet will cool, the water vapor will fall and freeze,

and a new Ice Age will be born." — Newsweek magazine

13."The world has been chilling sharply for about twenty years. If present trends continue, the world will be about four degrees colder for the global mean temperature in 1990, but eleven degrees colder in the year 2000. This is about twice what it would take to put us into an ice age." — Kenneth Watt>>>

source: <http://www.freedomworks.org/blog/joncgabriel/the-13-worst-predictions-made-on-earth-day-1970>

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Be afraid – be very afraid of eco-whacks and greenies.

## North Dakota QSO Party

**N7IV** was running as **N0GC/m**. After the first county, he mentioned it was snowing and he was down to 20mph in the snow. He said it wasn't a problem as he had a logger along. He did a nice job as the only mobile in the ND QSO Party.

He noted on the K3IMC forum:

“I just finished the NDQP logs for N0GC/M. Jerry and I were paper logging, what a mess. Anyway, it's all done and we managed to put 10 counties on the air for 558 QSOs in 54 non-ND mults during 10 hours on-the-road. Thanks to everyone who followed us and put up with my uncomputerised, driving in the mud and snow QLF. You folks are wonderful! I look forward to seeing you at Dayton. “

Some entrants had 20 or more contacts, with 11 on cw and the 12 on SSB. Could have been the same stations on both modes. VE7CV had 13 multipliers.

AF3X, Jeffrey was 'accidentally' in the QSO Party but not doing QSO Party exchanges....but

I'm sure some counted him, and of course, he counts for your needed counties. Later he would wind up in the SD QSO party whether he knew it or not.

**KC0W (Stark ND) fixed ND - 34 cw 782 SSB QSO**

Band was in good shape & 20 meters was a rockin'.....Too bad I have zero interest in award collecting because I probably could have done pretty well in this one, hi hi.

**K9DIG** in Grand Forks put out over 1000 QSOs on SSB for the folks. He's good for the Natural Bingo award there.

**OM2VL** had 22 CW 18 SSB QSO for 23 Mults. HE worked only AF3X and N0GC mobile, plus a few fixed stations.

## Awards Issued

Second Time #422	Bob, K7TM	April 11, 2013
Fourth Time #44	John, WB9STT	March 30, 2013
Bingo #348	Bruce, KL7D	March 23, 2013
USA-PA 'ALL' #2	Tom, K7REL	April 1, 2013
USA-PA "A" #3	Tom, K7REL	April 1, 2013

# Upcoming Events for County Hunters

## May 4

### **7th Area QSO Party**

RS(T)+S/P or 7th-area county code

[7qp.org](http://7qp.org)

May 4, 1300Z - May 5, 0700Z

CW--40 kHz above band edge; SSB--1.845, 3.855, 7.235, 14.255, 21.355, 28.455

### **Indiana QSO Party**

RS(T) + S/P or IN county, DX RS(T) only

[www.hdxcc.org/inqp](http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp)

May 4, 1600Z - May 5, 0400Z

CW--1.805 and 40 kHz above the band edge on 80-10 meters,

SSB--1.845, 3.820, 7.190, 14.250, 21.300, 28.400.

### **New England QSO Party**

RS(T) and S/P or New England county

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

May 4, 2000Z - See website Multiple operating periods;

CW--3.540, 7.035, 14.040, 21.040, 28.040;

SSB--3.850, 7.180/280, 14.280, 21.380, 28.380.

## May 11

### **Nevada Mustang Roundup** (never have heard much activity)

RS(T) and S/P/C or NV county

[www.nvqsoparty.info](http://www.nvqsoparty.info)

May 11, 1700Z - May 12, 1700Z

May 17

**May 17-19 Dayton Hamvention!!!!**

County Hunter Forum Friday 4PM

Warning for County Hunters - bad weekend for CW county hunting

CQ WW WPX Contest RST and serial

[www.cqwp.com](http://www.cqwp.com)

May 25, 0000Z - May 26, 2400Z

**Special Note: (received by email)**

The TERAC Amateur Radio Club (K7AUO) [www.terac.org](http://www.terac.org) is planning on activating Gilliam County, OR during the upcoming Area 7 QSO Party (7QP) on Saturday, May 4, 2013. K7AUO will be equipped for SSB and CW on 10 through 80 meters, actual operation will depend on band conditions. There are only two licensed hams in Gilliam County and they do not currently have HF capability, so this is a rare county. Confirmation by QSL card (SASE appreciated), EQSL, or LOTW. K7AUO looks forward to making a QSO with you!

Thank you!

Best regards,  
Joe Curtin  
AE7LD

Don't forget the National Convention in July 2013!....

Dick, **W3ZUH**, will be running the Second and Fourth AK districts in July. See the K3IMC planned trips page.

That's it for this month - 73