

# County Hunter News

May 1, 2014  
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

The end of March saw some of the 'spring weather appear'. More on this in the N4CD "on the road" trip report down to Belton (Bell County) later.

The month started off with more 'springtime storms' in TX. Just north of the N4CD QTH there were 3 small tornadoes, baseball size hail, torrents of rain as the beginning of the storm season in TX for the next 3 months. At the QTH, we were under tornado

watch – with one just about 15 miles north of here. Fortunately, no one was killed. Several hundred cars had windows destroyed by large hail in Denton, TX. Just some pea size hail here – nothing to worry about, and of course, there was tons of lightning around to go with it. We need the rain but can do without the severe weather. Otherwise, it's been off to a chilly start.

Propagation was up and down – 10M disappointed most of the time, but the DX had lots of fun with 15m, and 17 was busy with mobiles making contacts.

There was quite a lull in cw activity during the month, picking up at the end as half a dozen mobiles headed to the Mini in MI. The weather improved with warmer conditions although snow persisted in the far north regions on and off. Spring seems to have finally arrived. In TX, it's getting up to the 80s. Those mobile trips can begin with little fear of snow and ice now for most of the country.

## **2 ) XP Operating System.**

Microsoft has stopped upgrades to XP. They will support some of the security features in it for two years, but folks using it – if connected to the internet – should think seriously about migrating to something newer in the next year.

## **3 ) Reader Feedback**

Jerry, K5YAA noted about the last County Hunter News:

“The word "Waffle" is not in print in this one. I saw pancake, greens, salads, oranges and a freckled banana - all these things but no waffle! Even a McD eggwhite muffin arrangement but no waffle. What is the County Hunting world coming to? Gluten free, no sugar, no white bread - what's a mobile going to live on?

Good info on lightning protection. I employ Polyphaser gear - expensive - but good stuff. They have a publication about lightning protection that will make you squirm when you hear the word lightning. They have several extensive white papers on the subject. I have their copper panel installed right at the entrance to my home shack with in-line coax protectors etc. Also employ their rotor and antenna switch IS-RCT devices. Lot's of their 1" copper strapping tied to "many" ground rods around my towers. I have suffered minor hits over the years and lost a transistorized antenna switching unit once. Blew the tops off the 2N3904s. Nasty!

Also am planning to show up in Dayton this year. Mt first visit to the big one. IMight see a few County Hunter faces at that one. 73 - Jerry K5YAA

## Oklahoma QSO Party - More

The OK QSO party was held late last month but we didn't have the time to get in all the filed comments before we had to 'go to press'. The County Hunter News comes out about the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month. Some additional ones from the mobiles:

### **K5CM- mobile**

Although we worked some of the mobiles, for the most part they are like ships passing in the night.

Special thanks to all the mobiles, they spend many hundreds of dollars and with out them the party would not be much fun.

I apologize for the calls I missed and had to ask for repeats. It does get hectic in the mobile at times with Pam speeding down the bumpy road at 70 MPH. The laptop is about to bounce off my lap, the power line noise is bad, a semi is right beside us causing the SWR to increase, I hit enter on the computer and don't notice the line is not taken until I already have the next call keyed in, in the wrong spot. Still a lot of fun hi hi.....

Stations worked the most were:

N6MU, OM2VL, N4PN, VE5KS, W5CW, WA2VYA, YV5OIE, DL3GA, DL4CW, DL5ME, DL5MU, DL6KVA, DL8MLD, HA8IB, HK3CW, K0DEQ, K0HNC, K0PVW, K2DSW, K3TW, K4YT, K5WE, K6AAB, K7TM, K8MFO, KB8OMG, KC3X, KI0I, KI0Y, KN4Y, KQ3F, LY5A, N1API, N1NN, N2JJ, N2JNE, N3KN, N3KR, N3RJ, N3RM, N4ARO, N8II, N9QS, OH6NIO, ON4AAC, UA3AGW, W1DWA, W5TM, W6RLL, W7GF, W8WVU, WA4WKL, WB8WKQ

OM2VL was worked on 40 thru 10 meters.

LY5A was strong most times but had echo most times.

UA3AGW had echo most times.  
YV5OIE was easy to ID even when not strong  
N4PN also easy to ID at 45 plus wpm.  
OM2VL and N6MU were the most persistent to move me to another band

73,  
Connie, K5CM

### **OM2VL – fixed – DX**

This year the condx on high bands was excellent.

At the beginning on 20m I heard weak OK stations, sometimes there was a problem to break the US wall, but I missed only about 10 QSO because of it ...

On 15 and 10m it was very easy to make QSO's - usually BIG signals. Thanks a lot for many QSY's!

Unfortunately K5ZZR was QRV only SSB and I didn't find him at the beginning - I missed 3 of his counties (CIMARRON, TEXAS, HARPER).  
Usually I didn't have problems to make QSO with W3DYA/M in previous QP's, but at this weekend I was unlucky - many times I HRD only the pileup calling him, but any beep from him.

By the way I made 242 CW and 106 SSB QSO and unbelievable 73 counties.

Missed counties: CIMARRON, TEXAS, HARPER, STEPHENS.

I think my score would be a little bit higher, if I hunted only OK stations, but in same weekend it was also the Louisiana QP and I made 107 LA stations also ...

Congrats to John, N6MU for his FB score and SWEEP!

Thank you very much for organize this FB QP!!!

73 Laci

**K5ZZR – SSB – mobile** 121 ssb qso

These mobile trips are a sure cure for cabin fever. Couldn't wait to get home. Hi. Spent most of my time in the panhandle and also a few western border counties. I park to operate so had a lot of unproductive driving time. Tried out the Flex-3000 as a mobile rig and it made the party much more enjoyable than last year. Antenna is a Tarheel 200 and my logging computer and radio interface was a Mac Book Pro.

The dominate DX station was OM2VL (Laci) who was booming in and could hear just about anyone they wanted to. I'd like to visit that station someday....

As you can probably guess John N6MU seemed to always be able to find anyone, anywhere with 100w. Amazing.... It was like he was sitting in my back seat.....

Thanks to all who patiently followed me hope to see everyone again next year. I'll probably do ARQP, TXQP (panhandle again), KSQP possibly the MOQP. 73's

Russ K5ZZR.

**AF5Q mobile** 600 c 417 ssb

Answered a call for running the northwest with CW, and not a problem anytime. I got up at 0400 Saturday morning with the dodge and the equipment and headed out. Roger Mills and Ellis is a lonely county; however the Qs rolled in. Could not maintain route because of the volume of calls. Only made it to Stephens to finish the day.

Did better on this QSO party than I even have before. Been out doing this one every year and enjoy it every time. Great mobile participation, and doesn't matter to me win, lose, or draw, I love passing out points. My focus was even more CW this year; however, didn't work out as well as I planned. At least I did not get a CME like in previous years. All CW was sent by paddle key at around 15 wpm (Very QRS) and log was ran by hand. Not familiar enough with n3fjp to get the call to go into the block. Final score with bonus points was 215,104

OM2VL emailed me wanting a lot of counties and he got them by the bushel.

Thanks to the 14 dx stations that followed me. Seems when I got on 15 M, you all were there.

Glad to help John with the sweep, and anyone I can help with. He was there every time I changed bands.

Look for me next year. Very 73s to all and thanks again for all the support.

Ron Grossman, AF5Q

### **W0BH mobile**

This year, the OKQP weekend was moving day for my dad in Oklahoma. It was convenient since I was coming here anyway for the OKQP, so I took six hours off during the day on Saturday and more time on Saturday evening to help out and visit. It was very worthwhile from both angles since the move was successful and I was still able to activate a number of counties which would otherwise have stayed silent.

I won't do my usual detailed writeup this time but I will offer a few comments. Band conditions were excellent compared to previous years and other full-time mobile scores really showed that. Congrats to Jerry and Connie for putting up some FB numbers. Even with a 12 county route and only three new counties on Sunday (most were repeats), I still averaged 100+ rates over 12 hours with terrific county line runs to keep the adrenaline levels very satisfactory!

Everything worked perfectly this trip, so no exciting van or equipment stories (which is the way we like it). The most memorable stop was the WDW/DEW/MAJ line. The road in can be rather interesting, but it was very dry and just deep dust and sand this time. Along both sides of the road were barbed wire fences, and piled up against the fences (sometimes spilling over the fences) were tumbleweeds. Lots and lots and lots of tumbleweeds! For once there was no wind so we didn't see them moving which was probably fortunate.

For me, the most fun in QSO parties (besides the pileups) are the short QSOs with the ops who follow me along. This time, N6MU was always there along with N4PN, K3TW, and OM2VL. John/N6MU kept me posted on his attempt at another

Sweep

(which he got!). We kept trying for 10m but could never connect even though John worked other loud stations further east. K3TW/Tom found a good radio channel for me to listen to Wichita State play in the NCAA tournament on the way home on Sunday. We actually made it home to see the final 8 minutes (which spoiled my perfect weekend :-). N4PN/Paul kept both Lorna and I entertained each time he called in, and OM2VL/Laci was unbelievably loud on the higher bands. All four of these ops worked me in all 13 counties (as did LY5A).

Lorna once again took the mic when requested by you all. We both appreciated everyone who took the time to say hi or make a few comments as we worked. We couldn't do it without you.

Stats

We operated 11.9 hours, 1362 combined Qs, 299 unique calls, 16 dupes. Lorna ended up with 98 contacts in her log. In 2013, we had 1466 combined Qs in 17.2 hours, so activity was definitely up!

States not worked : AK AR HI ME NV RI SD VT

Special thanks to Connie (K5CM) and Pam (N5KW) for getting another excellent edition of the OKQP in the books, and thanks to all the mobiles and fixed stations who made it happen.

The 2014 Kansas QSO Party is scheduled for August 23-24. With 105 counties, we need all the help we can get, so mobiles, head this way! Everyone else, thanks for the Qs in Oklahoma, and see you in the log in Kansas!

73, Bob/w0bh and Lorna/k0why

**W3DYA – mobile 644 CW QSO**

Thanks, Connie, for another good QSO Party, nice weather, no rain or snow!



## **WB0TEV mobile 615 SSB QSO**

Having taken first place in the Mobile Single OP SSB Only category in the Texas QSO Party for the last couple of years I thought perhaps it was time to "take my show on the road" and see what I could do north of the Red River.

I raised the subject with "The Olde Grey Lady" as I affectionately call my antenna festooned 1986 Pontiac Parisienne and as near as I could tell from her rumblings she seemed to assent to such and so planning began.



WB0TEV and the Olde Grey Lady

After exchanging some emails with Connie K5CM to get some rules clarifications, planning and preparation began in earnest. After poring over an Oklahoma state highway map, Google maps and Google Earth, an ambitious 23 county route emerged for a Saturday only effort.

In order to cover anything close to those 23 counties in 12 hours I'd have to remain almost constantly in motion with only a couple 10 minute pit stops along the way especially as I had hoped to park on a county line and operate 75m in the last few minutes Saturday evening.

With one hand on the wheel and the other clutching the microphone one can drive

and operate SSB while in motion, but logging in real-time as a solo op is quite another matter. A means of recording is required, to enable post contest log transcription. It almost like doing the contest twice.

For the last couple of Texas QSO party runs I've used a nifty little device called a Sansa Clip. Measuring about 1"x 2" and with a clip on its back side for attachment to shirt pocket, in addition to its usual function as an mp3 music player, it also has a built in voice recording function. When fully charged it will last in excess of 12 hours and with 4 GB of memory, it has enough storage space for a 12 hour run as well.

Desiring further redundancy for logging, and wanting a toy that would record video as well, I recently picked up a cheap discontinued model DashCam on clearance from on an online dealer. The VC-100 dash cam will record several hours of video and audio via an external microphone that came with it. I wasn't sure how many hours of video the dashcam would record on its 8GB Compact Flash card (an almost obsolete memory medium) before it started overwriting the oldest data, but I figured I could rely on the Sansa clip for the early part of the contest that might get written over. Moreover, I brought a laptop and CF to USB adapter that I planned to use to copy over the file video files from the DashCam to the laptop at my first pit stop. Another advantage to the dash cam is that a date time stamp can be displayed on playback.

I lashed the DashCam atop my inside rear view mirror with some rubber bands so that it would look out the window and down the road. I tied an old sock to the rear view mirror mount and clipped the dash cam mic and the Sansa Clip to the bottom of the sock as it hung a foot or so above the speaker atop the Yaesu FT-757 sitting over the transmission hump.

Other paraphernalia included a newly purchased Garmin GPS. I bought a micro SD card, and loaded it with some county line data I found on line. Using Garmin's BaseCamp software I loaded up the various county line crossings I had targeted to keep me on course and help me see how close I was to the next county line. (Of course a plan old map, which I also had, would suffice too.)

One final bit of extra gear courtesy of my good friend Mark KK5MR was a small APRS gadget that interfaced with my Kenwood VHF/UHF rig to spit out my position on 144.390 so folks could follow me on the internet at aprs.fi. As I suspected however, APRS digipeater coverage seems to be all but non-existent in SE Oklahoma. About the only time my position got digipeated was a couple of

bursts that got picked off from a digi on Mt. Magazine in western Arkansas.



WB0TEV Rig Set Up

A day or two prior to the contest I fired off some emails to known State QSO party aficionados and county hunters as well as the DFW Contest group reflector to plug the OKQP in general and my efforts in particular. I heard back from several including QSO party stalwarts OM2VL and N6MU. Rich, N0HJZ whom I worked many many times when he was mobile in the Minnesota QSO party in February forwarded my email on to the Minnesota Wireless Association. I'm grateful for the various MN stations who got on in the OKQP including W0ZQ, who worked me (and SPOTTED me) numerous times!

My initial plan had been to grab a room at a motel in Valliant, OK as this would be the closet motel I could find to my jumping off spot at the intersection of McCurtain, Choctaw and Pushmataha counties.

I waited too long to make reservations however, and the place in Valliant said they were full so I instead I booked into the HiWay Inn in Hugo. A bit pricey (\$75) but a good sized fairly nice place. I made the 90 minute drive up from my home in Greenville Texas on Friday night, checked in to the motel and then went next door to the WalMart to pick up some snacks for the road (beef jerky, bananas, protein bars & water) and fill up the gas tank. Back at the motel I checked the weather forecast. It called temps in the 50's, overcast,

with occasional light rain. Though there would be no sun, the temps were such that I wouldn't have to run either the heater nor the AC and the moisture hopefully would help shut up an noisy power lines along the way. As it turned out I only rarely had to fire up the windshield wipers, it was good weather for operating mobile.

After a good nights sleep it was up at 1130Z to hit the hotel's breakfast bar (waffle and oatmeal) followed by the 40 minute drive to the McCurtain/Choctaw/Pushmataha intersection.

I got there with time to spare and got set up. I turned on the Sansa Clip and got recording going with an initial time hack from WWV. As the 1300Z start time approached, scanning 40m I quickly saw that finding a hole in the recommended range for mobiles (below 7195) would be a challenge. 7195 is usually busy all day with a rag chew group and I found W1AW/5 on 7192, with W1AW/4 on 7185. If you can't beat 'em, join em' so after a couple minutes of fruitless CQs after the starting bell in the best hole I could find I went and worked the two W1AW's from each of the 3 counties as the first QSOs from that 3 county corner.

Further CQing was getting me nowhere, but I really wanted to get QSOs with 5 different stations to lock in the 500 point bonus for those counties. I'd be driving through Pushmataha and Choctaw but this corner was the only shot at McCurtain.

In desperation I tried striking up a QSO with one of the guys on 7195. I managed to do a couple of exchanges with him, but he let me know that they tried to keep that freq clear of testers, and politely gave me the brush-off. To each his own, so being resigned to not making my "5 on 40" in McCurtain at any rate and with most of the 20 minutes I'd budgeted to stay at that corner gone I put the olde grey lady into gear and headed north into Pushmataha and QSY'ed to 20m where I promptly ran in to N4PN.

I told him my tale of woe, and we quickly agreed that I'd turn back around and head back to the corner, work him from all 3 counties on 20 after which he'd dive down to 40m and try to work me on all 3 down there. In a couple minutes I was back on the corner, the 20m Q's were dispensed with and it was off to 40m.

Found the least bad choice of freqs around 7178, battled through the QRM to get

the 3 Q's on 40 and was tipped that K3TW wanted me up on 20 so back I went, found a spot on 20 to CQ (14256) and worked 7 more stations from the 3 county intersection.

30 minutes in I was already 10 minutes behind schedule, so shortly after 1330Z I rolled north into Pushmataha. I still ended up with only 4 40m QSO's per county at that corner and so missed the bonus for McCurtain. I got past 5 on 40m during the subsequent drive through Choctaw and Pushmataha however.

From then on it was just sort of a blur. I ran across southern Pushmataha, then south into Choctaw, and west across Bryan county, then swung through Nida, OK to nip off the corner of Johnston, I stopped to spot myself on 40m to run the Bryan/Johnston county line before crossing back into Bryan, which resulted in enough Q's to gain the low band bonus for both those counties. Then south into Bryan proper to head west towards Madill while traversing Marshall county.

I bounced primarily between 20m and 40m at first but had my first 15m Q in the log at 1403Z with KK6AHB in California while still in Pushmataha county. The first DX (other than VE) was worked a few minutes prior to 1400Z when I worked Tony YV5OIE on 20m from Pushmataha. I'd work Tony a total of 10 times on 20 & 15 meters from 9 counties before the day was out.

John, the ubiquitous N6MU first went into the log at 1340Z. John and I would eventually have 13 QSOs (9 on 20m, 3 on 15m) from 11 counties.

At the Marshall/Carter county line I stopped and ran the county line first on 20 then on 40m. I managed 40m QSOs with 4 stations while there, one shy of what I needed for the bonus. While I would later pick up a couple more on 40 while in Carter, that was the last chance for Marshall, so no bonus there. I continued my westward trek into Carter county (the first of 3 separate incursions as I popped in and out to get to surrounding counties) then headed south to get just over the line into Love county where I pulled into a big open gravel parking lot that I'd spotted earlier on Google maps.

My first QSO there was with W0ZQ on 20m, who it turns out immediately spotted me on ch.w6rk.com and then the hordes descended! In 8 minutes I made 25 QSOs. I moved to 40m where I again was found, worked and spotted by W0ZQ up in Minnesota. That was to be just one of several occasions where W0ZQ was a great help. Thanks so much!!

Alas I could only come up with 4 40m QSOs from Love before I felt I had to move on down the road, so no bonus for Love, although so far I had made the bonus in Pushmataha, Choctaw, Bryan, and Johnston.

I posted videos of the Love county pileup on YouTube at

<http://youtu.be/U7-zw5kky9k>

and

<http://youtu.be/1ChZKfXHUqQ>

I rolled back up north into Carter and started the journey west towards Jefferson. Had a good run on 15m and made my one and only 10m QSO (with DK3EE). I caught the NE corner of Jefferson county turning north at Ringling, OK to head north to Stephens. By now I was almost 20 minutes behind schedule and just blew thru the county on 20m, never even attempting 40m until I got to the Jefferson/Stephens county line.

I sat on that county line for several minutes CQing on 40m but the only reply I got was static. I don't know if I was unable to get an internet connection through my phone out there (happened at least once as I recall) or whether I never even bothered to try and spot myself, but after several fruitless minutes and with me slipping further and further behind schedule, I finally just fired up the Olde Grey Lady and moved on down the road.

Back on 20m I called CQ and was promptly answered by N4PN. In 5 minutes I managed 11 QSOs before my eastward trek took me back into Carter for the third time.

Owing to all the time I spent in CARter county I made more QSOs there (75) than any other county. I think I must have run it dry as my log shows a 16 minute gap between the last QSO I made in Carter at 1757 Z and the first one when I crossed into Murray at 1813 Z.

The run north thru Murray is a short quick one on I-35 and I never got off of 20m there. By this time I was getting anxious to get to my first pit stop at Paul's Valley in Garvin county. It wasn't so much that the olde grey lady's tank needed to be filled but rather that after more than 5 hours on the road mine

needed emptying!! It was onward into Garvin as I blew thru Murray in 9 minutes.

After about 15 minutes (still on 20m) I at last rolled into a Valero Station in Paul's Valley, OK. Pulling up to the pump I stopped recording on the Sansa Clip and Dash Cam then got the gasoline flowing. While the Olde Grey Lady was drinking her fill I fired up the laptop to get ready for the first data backup from the dash cam and Sansa Clip. I popped the Compact Flash card out of the Dash Cam and plugged it in the multi format USB card reader I'd packed with the laptop. Based on a previous test with a different CF to USB I'd used before I figured I could transfer the 8GB capacity of the CF chip in under 10 minutes. The "time remaining" however indicated over 2 hours. I let it go for a while hoping it would get better. Soon the Olde Grey Lady had drunk her fill of volatile hydrocarbons, but after securing the gas pump and replacing the gas cap on the filler port (which on a vehicle of that vintage is under the rear license plate where it belongs!) I saw that the estimated time to download the Dash cam file was still in the 2 hour neighborhood. I canceled the download, drove to a parking spot and made the mad dash to men's room just as my back teeth were starting to float.

Several minutes later, and greatly relieved I tried again with a Dash Cam to laptop backup but it again was taking way too long. It dawned on me that the old card reader I'd brought was probably USB 1.0 and USB 2.0 was what was needed. Turns out such was the case. Though it wasn't absolutely necessary, out of an abundance of caution I connected the Sansa Clip to the laptop and spent about 8 minutes copying over the first audio file of the data which came in at a little under 1 GB.

Then it hit me that I was hungry. I devoured the beef jerky, scarfed up a protein bar and banana and re-hydrated while I finished stowing the laptop and getting things set up for the next leg of the journey. I also took a few minutes to assess the situation. Although I'd made up some time by just scooting through Murray county I was still well behind the time line in a schedule that didn't have any margin to begin with. Moreover, my 10 minute pit stop had already turned into something more like a half hour, so something was going to have to give.

By now I'd figured out that to reliably get the 40m QSOs I was after for the bonus points I needed to take the time to stop on county lines occasionally and get spotted, which would mean less time to cover all the miles. At that point I made the decision to drop the two "dead-end" counties of Cleveland and

LeFlore where I would have to dash in and then back track back out.

It was shortly after the halfway point (1900Z) when I cranked up the olde grey lady again and headed east on Hwy 19 to catch Hwy 133 north into McClain county.

Some counties on my itinerary were on the north side of the Canadian River. Originally, I'd planned on continuing north on I-35 to Purcell, OK and then cross the bridge there into Lexington, OK. However, during my route planning I discovered that that bridge had recently been deemed structurally compromised and had been closed even to foot traffic. The nearest alternative bridge was a small bridge on a back road between Byars, OK in McClain county and Wanette, OK in Pottawatomie county.

Shortly before I got to the Garvin/McClain county line I QSY'ed from 20 to 40m in preparation for running the county line. As he would several times on 40M, K0DEQ chimed in from Missouri, added to my 40m total and spotted me to boot. I ran the county line on 40m and as would be the case in multiple counties, KI0Y from MO, K0PVW from Kansas and K2DSW from Iowa were among those who were instrumental in helping me secure those coveted 40m QSOs. The Midwestern states were key to my 40m QSOs. The top mults on 40m for me were Missouri (35), Texas (25), Kansas (11) and Iowa (10).

My good friend KK5MR from my home QTH in Greenville, TX also made his first appearance of the day there. Mark would follow me along on 40m for most of the rest of the contest acting somewhat like a "Mission Control".

Part way through that 40m county line run K0DEQ broke back in to inform me that he'd gotten a phone call from KC3X who wanted to know where I would be on 20m. I passed back that I would be somewhere below 14260. (As an aside on 20m I never strayed beyond 14248-14260.3). Shortly thereafter the rate on 40m tapered off (and I had crossed the 5 QSO threshold with a little margin) so I went to 14259, called CQ and after working KD8IZZ, KC3X showed up and went into the log. Laci, OM2VL also showed up for a pair of QSOs on the GRV/MCL line. After working the pile down on 20m I announced a QSY to 15m where I again worked OM2VL and a few others. Finally after sitting on that county line for 20 minutes (which hadn't been in the original timing plan), it was time to put it in gear and head for the bridge into Pottawatomie.



When I got to the bridge I knew it wouldn't be huge, but it was only one lane!



Old, Old One Lane Bridge

You can see the DashCam view of the crossing on YouTube at

<http://youtu.be/dHadnozfo4U>

I had to wait for a car coming from the other direction to cross then rolled over it myself right at 2000Z while in QSO with N6MU on 20m. He remarked that my signal wavered up and down as I drove under the big old cast iron bridge supports. I was essentially inside a big leaky Faraday cage! The Canadian river was no where to be seen (just a big long empty ditch) as Oklahoma has likely suffered from the same drought that has plagued us down in Texas. That bridge crossing was a real trip. If I post some YouTube videos from this trip, a clip of that will have to be among them.

Now into Pottawatomie, I headed east, omitting the originally planned westward foray into Cleveland as I was by now some 45 minutes behind schedule.

When I got to the Pottawatomie/Seminole county line I again stopped, spotted myself on 40m, scared up 5 stations for the bonus in both counties, then QSY'ed to 15 where I found OM2VL CQ'ing, worked him and then motored on down the road into Seminole proper.

I didn't know it at the time, but somewhere near Konawa, OK just inside Seminole county a motorist behind me found herself bemused by my antennas. Using her cell phone she snapped a picture of the rear of the old grey lady as she motored down the road, her Hustler vertical with all the coils and whips silhouetted against the gray Oklahoma sky. The photo was promptly posted to Facebook with the caption "Yes that's a TV antenna mounted on a spring. Texas plates."



In one of those "small world" affairs it turned out that this lady motorist school teacher had a Facebook friend who was the wife of someone who works at the same large Aerospace company that I do. That gentlemen instantly

recognized by vehicle (it sort of stands out in the plant parking lot) and forward it his boss, another friend who also works the same place I do. The Monday after the contest I get an email from my colleague (and cc'ed to several other of my co-workers) with a screen grab of the Facebook posting with the notation " Victor seems to be trending in Oklahoma on Facebook. What were you doing in Oklahoma?" I darn near fell out of my chair laughing!

In my email reply I got to explain a little bit about ham radio mobile contesting. I assume that word eventually got back to the lady in OK that, no, it really wasn't a TV antenna :-), but I digress.

Heading back south over the Canadian river (on a much bigger and more modern bridge) Seminole gave way to Pontotoc. After passing Ada, Ok and heading southeast towards Coal county I moved off 20m down to 40m and in scanning the band found two of the only three Oklahoma stations I worked all day, W5GFI in Craig county and W5CW in Muskogee. After reaching the Pontotoc/Coal county line I stopped, went back and worked them again for Coal. After QSYing to my typical 40m run freq of 7191 kHz and getting spotted once again by K0DEQ, the 3rd OK station was worked, NE5S from Oklahoma county, Oklahoma. After a nice 40m county line run I went to 15m and eased on down the road, working a mix of USA and some DX including OM2VL, YV5OIE, EA2BY. A QSY to 20m brought in S58N, OM2VL again along with regulars N4PN, WB8WKQ, KO7X, K4YT and others.

After crossing into Hughes northbound it was back to 40m again to try and scare up 5 QSOs for the 500 point county bonus. NW0M (ex-WD0ECO) from Missouri showed up for the 9th of what would be his 10 QSO's with me (6 on 40m and 4 on 20m) along with well-known mobile county hunter Joyce N9STL from Illinois. Back on 20m repeat DX customers OM2VL, LY5A, and YV5OIE all made it into the log again along with frequent callers N8OYY, WB8WKQ, KC3X and others.

Heading east again now, Pittsburg county came next along with the obligatory QSY to 40m where KK5MR was waiting with a QSO and a spot, a process from which I would benefit repeatedly until the closing bell. After 3 QSOS from the great state of Missouri thanks to KI0Y, NW0M, & AC0CU with support from Iowa and Kansas in the form of K2DWS and K0PVW respectively, it was back to 20m and 15m for the long eastward trek across to Latimer county.

I stopped in McAlester, OK for my 2nd and last pit stop for a quick top off of the gas tank and a whizzler stop for me. After about 15 minutes I was back on the road again.

I was running on 15m as the Latimer county line came into view so I worked AI7J from both sides of it, worked WQ7A inside LAT and then went to 40m again to go fishing. In motion this time, KK5MR found me on 7183 kHz (that's 1), Missourians KU0G and KI0Y followed (2,3), trailed by Kansan K0PVW (4). KC3X apparently saw the spot and reached out from NC to put me over the goal line for the Latimer county bonus, while securing a 3 band bonus for us in the process. Later, in the waning minutes of the contest Hollis and I would also QSO on 75 meters making him the one 4-band bonus station from WB0TEV/m.

With no more callers on 40m it was back to 20m for a scenic drive along the winding Hwy 2 through some pine crested mountains and valleys southward towards Pushmataha (where I'd been in the morning) forgoing my originally planned foray into LeFlore county to make up time. There was now but 90 minutes to go but by dropping Cleveland and LeFlore I had made up most of a 45 minute deficit. While I likely wouldn't make it to the targeted Pushmataha/Choctaw county line where I'd planned to do a 75m run, there was only 1 unvisited county left (Atoka) and barring something really going haywire I could get there in plenty of time to activate it.

The push was on to get to Atoka. Now back in Pushmataha the route to Atoka took the olde grey lady and I around the east side of Lake Sardis to Hwy 43 along its southern edge catching the far southeastern corner of Pittsburg county then back into Pushmataha yet again for a few miles before reaching Atoka.

I was on 40m for most of that PUS to PIT to PUS to ATO run along Hwy 43 and worked county hunter N5MLP/m mobile to mobile from all three of those counties.

Ron was weak from his mobile down in Montgomery county Texas but it was good to hear him show up again after having worked him some 8-1/2 hours earlier when I was on the Johnston/Bryan county line.

A few minutes after crossing into Atoka county and with the entrance to the Indian Nation Turnpike looming in the distance I pulled off at a closed gas station, parked and went back to 20m one last time. Final QSOs with KK4HEG, YV5OIE (#10), OM2VL (#15), K1TKL (#7), N8OYY (#6), and WA4WKL (#9) among others ensued.

With 30 minutes remaining before the closing bell the 20m run dried up and I went QRT to strip the 40/20/15/10 stack off the Hustler vertical and replace it with the 75m job as the sun approached the horizon. Since it was obvious

that I wasn't going to make it back down to the Choctaw/Pushmataha line I decided to run 75 during the last half hour through the few miles of Atoka that remained and then the run down the Indian Nation Turnpike in a final push through Pushmataha.

The first call on 3860 kHz went out from Atoka County at 0033Z as I rolled back onto the highway and headed for the on-ramp to the Indian Nation. Soon the olde grey lady was racing southward on a that luscious piece of high speed concrete and its 75 mph speed limit. Although perhaps still remembering a very expensive speeding ticket I received on the Indian Nation Turnpike some some 34 years ago while a college student (and the speed limit on the turnpike was only 55 mph back then) I kept it to only 65 mph or so. The miles were rolling by, but the QSO sure weren't. I hadn't made a single 75 m QSO before I was out of Atoka and into Pushmataha.

I was beginning to think the QSY to 75 had been a mistake, but the other resonators were now in the back seat and I was committed. Even if I didn't make a single 75m QSO, I'd still had a blast and doubtless provided some wanted counties for the county hunting crowd as my mail box would later attest.

After almost 10 minutes of CQing and with the sun just going down (although I couldn't be sure given the overcast skies that had been present all day) KK5MR broke through the noise. We exchanged signal reports (hint, they weren't the usual 59), but I had been heard.

A minute later KJ4LTA called in from Alabama for his 16th QSO with me. The skies were darkening as a new call NW6S rolled in from North Carolina. The low band propagation gods of darkness were starting to cast their nocturnal spells. K0DEQ from Missouri was hot on his heels. 16 minutes to go and another station started to rise above the noise. It took a bit of work but with 16 minutes to go WA2VYA from Florida made it through. As propagation improved as darkness fell, the QRM started rolling in as well. I was on 3860 and it sounded like a net was getting warmed up a little above me.

Five minutes went by when Hollis KC3X reached across the ionosphere to work me from North Carolina. I wouldn't realize it until days later when I was processing the log, but that was his 4th band QSO with me, having already worked WB0TEV/m on 40m, 20m and 15m earlier in the contest.

The biggest surprise was yet to come. With 9 minutes to go KO7X from Wyoming

called in, where it must have still been daylight (though perhaps not by much).

What was to be the final QSO of the night took place just before I hit the toll booth at Antlers. KG5VK who was working in the Louisiana QSO Party called in from Bossier parish.

After paying the \$1.75 toll I pulled off in the siding just past the toll booth and called CQ again for the final 2 minutes or so, but no further QSOs were to be forth coming.

During that 30 minute run on 75 meters I only made 8 QSOs, but as I was to discover later when processing the log, two of those QSOs qualified me and the other stations (KJ4LTA and K0DEQ) for a 500 point 3 band bonus and the QSO with KC3X made for 4 bands with him netting a 1000 point bonus. So, the move to 75m was worth an extra 2000 points total.

So, could I have done better score wise to have stayed on 40m and 20m? Even if I had, I don't think it would have been as much fun. I know it wouldn't have been as much fun for KJ4LTA, K0DEQ and KC3X and one of the prime motivations for me isn't necessarily to maximize my score but to maximize the fun factor for both me and those I work. After all this is a hobby and hobbies as supposed to be fun!

Nonetheless, to answer the question of whether the move to 75 likely helped or hurt my score, lets run the numbers.  $8 \text{ Qs} \times 2 \text{ points/Q} \times 54 \text{ mults} = 864 \text{ points}$ .

Tack on the 2000 bonus points earned thereby and we get 2864 points. Divide that 2864 points by 54 mults then again by 2 points per SSB QSO and you get 26.5 QSOs. Could I have made 27 or more QSOs in that 30 minute time frame? Given that I was in a county I'd already activated in the morning (I actually crossed into Pushmataha county 4 separate times) and it was late in the day, the answer is probably no. So, in doing good by going to 75m, I also probably did well.

WHEW!

In a little under two hours the olde grey lady and I were back home in Greenville, Texas. In the days that followed, many hours were spent playing back the Sansa Clip audio and DashCam video/audio files and building a log in an Excel spread sheet so that I could filter, sort and assemble all the statistics.

Of course a not insignificant amount of time went in to composing this rather lengthy tome. I hope in reading it you got your money's worth :-).

In the coming days, if I can get around to it, I hope to post some video clips captured from the Dash Cam on YouTube. If you worked me, maybe you can hear yourself coming out of the FT-757 in the olde grey lady and see what I saw through my windshield while in QSO with you. A shot of the traverse of that funky narrow bridge I mentioned earlier would be worth posting too I think.

If your interested, check my QRZ page for links to any videos I eventually post.

<http://www.qrz.com/db/wb0tev>

I've got a bone to pick with him (K5CM). I had so much fun in the OKQP, that now he's got me hooked. In addition to being a regular mobile op in the Texas QSO Party in September, now heaven help me, it looks like I'll be back for the 2015 OKQP unless Providentially hindered. I've already been plotting a better route based on lessons learned this year.

Lets see, how about if instead, I grab a hotel north of Durant, start the day on the Johnston/Bryan county line, then over to Marshall.....

See you on the radio.

73, de Victor, WB0TEV/m

## Book Review of the Month

### **Radio-Phone Boys Books**

I found another series of books from the 1910s-1920s titled the Radio-Phone Boys books.

This series was a copycat series, similar to the Radio Boys, Tom Swift, the Radio Girl books and other adventure books written by the Stratemeyer Syndicate for the youth market.

I've found the following titles after a bit of research. The true author of these Radio-Phone Boys books was Judson Snell who sometimes used the pseudonym James Craig. I have not found any of these on-line other than the first one but I expect they will be there in the future on Project Gutenberg or similar. Now, your only option is reading an actual paper book after the first one.

The Radio-Phone Boys – Curlie Carson Listens In #1  
On the Yukon Patrol #2  
The Desert Patrol\* #3 by Craig 1923  
The Sea Going Tank #4\*  
The Flying Sub \* #5  
Dark Treasures  
Whispering Isles  
The Invisible Wall – 1928

For a few bucks and a click on the internet, a few of them came flying in the door – cheap copies(\$5-8) and likely I'll recoup my money at the next Antique Wireless gathering by passing them on to the next reader. If you want one with original dust jackets, you can get them, too, but for \$20-120 a copy, even after 100 years or so.

The first three books were 'believable' for the most part, but now the author seems to have gone on a sci-fi kick. As far as I'm concerned, it gets to be 'unbelievable' pretty quickly, which is maybe why the Radio Phone boys books weren't as well remembered as the Radio Boys books. That series, too, went 'south' after the first 8 books or so. Maybe it was the times – as the 1920s went on, and broadcasting started, the radio station program folks were starved for 'serialized' stories – tune in next week to see if Curlie escapes from the polar bear! So it's off to flying subs and sea going vessels that can go down two miles or more and other 'sci-fi' ideas.

The first 3 were reviewed in the Jan 2014 of the County Hunter News

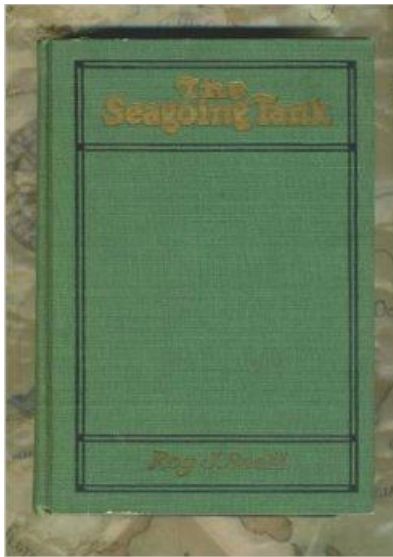
Here's the next 3 in the series of 8.



## Radio-Phone Boys and the Sea Going Tank - #4

by James Craig (Snell)

This month it's another blast from the past with the 4<sup>th</sup> book in the Radio-Phone boys books from the early 1920s. You'll recall that Curlie, appearing in *Curlie Listens In*, *the Yukon Patrol*, *In the Desert*, now shows up in *the Sea-Going Tank*. Unlike most books and technology of the era, this one has them 'talking' in voice to other people, not using CW, like most communicators of the day would do. Hey, it's fiction, so sit back and enjoy some very non-PC stories from the 1920s.



This is once again some 'science fiction' as we find that Curlie is now invited, as a member of the Secret Service of the Air Patrol, aboard a one of a kind prototype underwater submarine/tractor ala Jules Verne. Think 130 feet long and 40 feet in diameter for the 'undersea tank' that both crawls on the ocean floor and operates as a regular submarine. The time frame is right after WW1 where the first submarines were used by the Germans. They were fairly primitive, limited in range and depth of diving and of course, time below the sea. But never let a few facts get in the way of a story of Curlie's adventures under the sea in the *Sea Going Tank*!

Now, you have to suspend reality a bit. They use wireless from a few hundred feet under the sea. Talk worldwide on their antennas and radio equipment while on board the sub up to thousands of feet down. (we all know that you can't do that but apparently in the 1910s era not too many were aware of that – well, it's science fiction along with the radio adventure)

Part of the adventure,, which the guys don't learn to later, is trying to recover secret documents from a ship which collided with another, and both are resting on the bottom of the sea near a Pacific Island. The documents are important to the US government. The bad guys are after them, too.

So the adventure starts with the maiden voyage of the Sea Going Tank, crawling along the bottom off the Washington coast out to sea. Down to 10,000 feet at times. Well, it turns out there's a bad guy on the ship, out to sink it or disable it in the middle of the ocean, preferably on the bottom, and he sabotages the ship leading to a difficult journey to get the sub back to land. Curlie is left dangling, cut off from air, while on the bottom of the sea in a diving suit, by this dastardly character and Curlie winds up on an island with not so friendly natives. Lots of adventures typical of these books. Of course, you can predict he gets captured by the not so friendly natives but manages to escape.

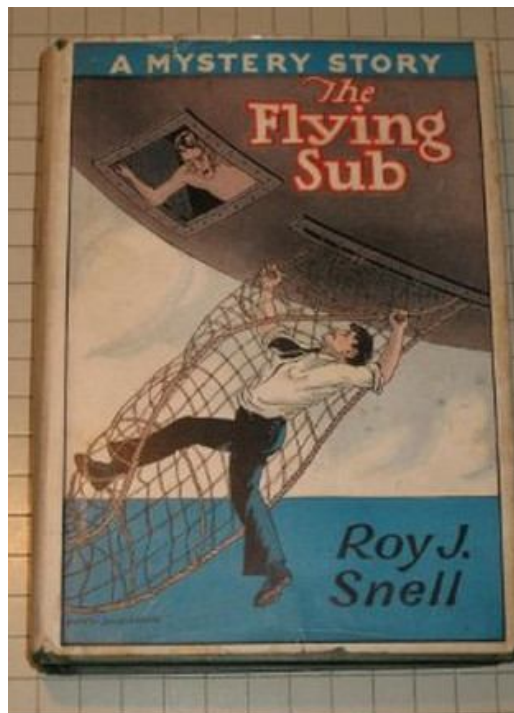
Every chapter gets you into a new crisis and at the end of the chapter you escape or solve the problem only to go immediately into another 'situation'.

Curlie rigs up some 'shortwave' sets so they can communicate between the divers. Well, you just gotta believe that two meters works well underwater out to a thousand feet – hi hi – using 'peanut tubes' and batteries.

It's the usual kidnapping by natives on the Pacific Island, and getting rescued and escaping. The usual bad guy on the crew. Then off on more undersea adventures to recover a 'safe' from a recent wreck. The 'orientals' are after the same wreck and there gets to be an undersea battle between the good guys and the bad guys. Now they are using experimental self contained diving suits (futuristic stuff back then). Each chapter is an 'adventure' within the chapter. Naturally, it finally ends with the good guys winning, and, of course, Curlie and Joe wind up on other adventures in the series.

Not a bad 3-4 hour read. I haven't found a copy to read on line. Paid \$8 to buy it delivered to my door and it will be up for sale at the next hamfest/vintage radio club meet – hi hi

## **The Radio-Phone Boys and the Flying Sub #5**



Like many of the other books imitating the Radio Boys, this one is rather light on the radio and heavy on the adventure. Two youngsters of well to do parents, Curlie and Joe, get involved in an adventure that finds them on a 'flying sub'. There's a bit of science fiction in this series of books. Imagine a large zeppelin type ship that also can go hundreds of feet underwater and you'll have an idea of where the two radio enthusiasts and a girl wind up as captives. The 'flying sub' can move through the air at a couple hundred miles an hour.

The story starts when Curlie disappears. He's been up in Alaska. He is 'captured' by the mysterious flying sub that has been seen all around the world – brilliantly lit up mysterious ship – as it passes over major cities. He manages to send a brief message saying he is aboard the ship up in the Aleutian islands of Alaska. Immediately his buddy flies up there, with girl, to find the mysterious ship, but instead they wreck the plane on a deserted island. He sends a help message by his portable wireless. They get picked up by the mysterious ship, and a whole raft of adventures start from there.

The ship travels from the Pacific to the Atlantic, over to Paris and back – at amazing speed using 'solid electricity' and gasoline. There's 300 pages of adventure, but very little of it has to do with radio. At one point, they're on what should be a deserted island, but it turns out there are pirates there out to do them harm. They barely escape with their lives.

The captain of the flying sub goes around the world recovering sunken gold and gold nuggets

up in the arctic in some of the wild running rivers.

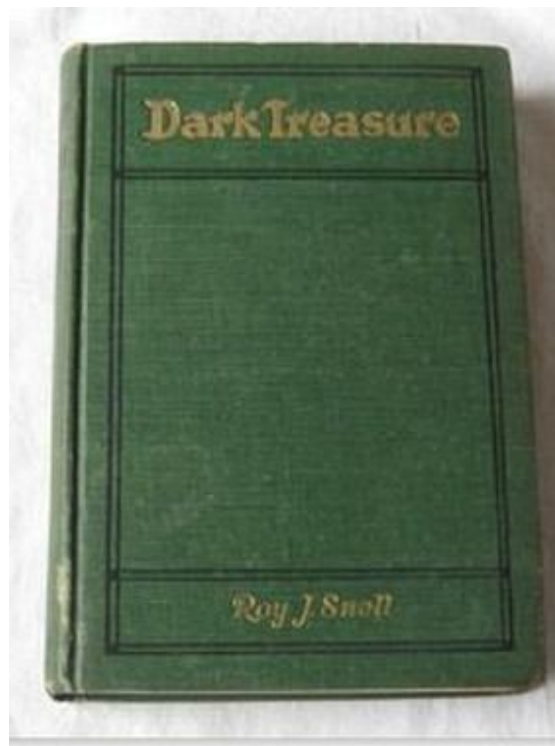
The two radio guys are asked to make a radio for the mysterious ship so they can communicate with their home base – an undersea facility somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean where they restock and refuel.

After loads of adventures, eventually the two radio boys and the girl are set free and picked up by an armada of ships out to try and destroy the flying sub flying no flag. The flying sub disappears to continue it's hunt for gold treasures. End of story. Good couple hour read, but not more than 5 pages of wireless in the whole book. The author throws in some fantastic science fiction stuff, almost as if he copied it from Jules Verne's Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea, or used that as a guide.

So don't rush out and buy a copy for the radio content. The authorities never catch the flying sub.

## **The Radio-Phone Boys and Dark Treasure #6**

This is the sixth book in the Radio-Phone Boys series. Why not a whaling adventure? The time frame is the early 1920s. There are a few broadcast stations on the air, but not many. This one is back to most adventure and no sci-fi. It's fairly short range 'wireless' communications era of long and medium wave operation. (no 'short wave' back then)



The title, *Dark Treasure*, refers to whale oil – what it was called 150 years ago. Whaling is what made fortunes for many in early America – from the seaports of Nantucket and Mystic – later to the Pacific ports like San Francisco. Today, only Japan catches 1500 whales a year for 'research' (joke joke) and the Native Alaskans (Inuits) who are allowed to hunt a few per year for subsistence living. All those Japanese caught whales wind up as sushi in Japan. No one has been able to shut down the Japanese whalers yet.

Curlie and Joe are invited by the father of the girl they first met in book 1 – *Curlie Listens In* – where Joe discovers it is the son of a local rich individual who is using the emergency frequency of 600 meters (500 KHz) to send routine coded messages from a moving wireless station. The girl was responsible for driving it while the son transmitted illegally so their location was hard to track. It seems the father was, decades ago, a captain on a whaling ship back in the heydays of whaling off the Alaskan coast.

The end of whaling there came to a fairly abrupt end in 1868-1871 as the whale populations were decimated, and the first oil wells in places like PA came on line – producing kerosene to run lamps for lighting. Until then, folks who had money used whale oil, while most others used candles from tallow or other poor substitutes. Before that, big fortunes were made by those lucky enough to survive the tough weather conditions of the Bering Sea and Alaska coast (just watch the TV hit show *Deadliest Catch* on the Discovery Channel - now about catching crabs up - there for an idea of the conditions).

So the father, Mr Ardmore, gets together many of his 'old crew' and gets a whaling ship, the Sea Bear, set to go, and Curlie, Joe, and Gladys – the girl, head north to hunt for whales off Alaska. Curlie is the chief radio operator for the expedition.

It's the usual adventures. The 'bad guys' are a rival, nasty whaling vessel, “Russians” who take the crew, which winds up stranded in the pack ice, hostage for weeks until they escape. The 'good guys' are Innuits, who are part of the crew and also on the coast, and the 'ghost whale ship' that seems mysteriously to help them.

Curlie uses a sea plane to find the whales and radio back where they are at – but the plane runs out of fuel – and that's another adventure. They hunt the whales in the wooden small boats that go out and harpoon a whale then get dragged along until it hopefully dies and it can be brought back to the ship for processing. At one point, they use an Umiak native boat to hunt whales, too, but that's another adventure that doesn't end too well. But...they survive.

The ship is locked into the ice pack for the winter, but magically escapes in the spring unharmed. (99.999% of all ships locked in the ice are destroyed – but this is fiction).

They kill some whales, have a whale of an adventure that spans the arctic winter then the following spring and summer. The bad guys eventually get killed by a demon whale who rams and sinks their ship. All good guys live to tell the story. Not much 'wireless' and even less detail, but heck, it's venture for youth. The ship comes back full of whale oil and all do well. The father sells the whale boat having had enough 'reliving his youth' and everyone gets a share of the profits. Joe and Curlie are off to more adventures, this time far away from the freezing north.

After a few hours of reading on a mostly 'no cw activity day' , it's back on the shelf ready for a new reader.

Two more to go in the series - and that review will be coming up in a few months

The best one in this series so far was the first book, Curlie Listens In, which also happens to be available on line – free. Books 3-6 aren't worth reading if you are looking for radio adventure stuff. Skip 'em.

## Mobile Activity in March/April

Starting At the end of March:

Barry, N0KV, and Pat, N0KV, headed from CO down through OK to TX on a long trip. They were pulling the fifth wheel so mostly SSB while moving.

Lowell, KB0BA, and Sandra, N0XYL, continued their trip in WI. They noted:

Once again we would like to thank everyone who rode along with us as we went to northern Wisconsin. We ran counties all the way to Marathon county. Sunday morning we went to Shawano and Menominee counties. Lowell covered some counties on CW as well. Monday morning we went north to Ashland, WI before heading south again. Down the west side of Wisconsin to Buffalo county, then we crossed the river and came home on the east edge of Minnesota. 1025 miles covered and 38 counties. A most enjoyable trip. The roads were clear until Monday when we entered Winona Co., MN and ran into snow and wind. The temperatures were cold! We're home and looking forward to our next trip. -- Sandra and Lowell “

Jim, K0ARS, put out a few

N5KUC was headed east into TX

WA9LKF put out a few in IL.

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NA8W took a short trip in OH. He reported:

NA8W and WD8BAH had a great time yesterday on our short trip. Our schedule was almost on the money all day and I got Clarence back home only 4 minutes later than I scheduled. Best of all he was really excited afterwards and I may have spawned a new county hunter. We traveled just over 100 miles and put out 6 counties, all on county lines. A quick check found 140 contacts on 20SSB, 17SSB, 40SSB, 20CW, 20 Digital. The SSB and CW worked great. The digital worked almost 100%. I forgot to change the county line macro once and thankfully I got a call letting me know. RTTY wasn't working and I think I know why so in order to run 5 modes I added MFSK-32 on the fly and the digital guys picked up on it quickly. We had good net controls all day and everyone accepted our roughness with no problems. We even got a couple last counties in the process. K7TM and OH3JF. I think everyone could tell we were having fun and that is what it's all about. Until next time. 73 de NA8W/WD8BAH

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Jeff, W9MSE, headed out for a day trip around eastern OH. Was spotted up through 12M

WA0RKQ headed to CO and put out a few counties along the way on the trip.

Jeffrey, AF3X, made a cross country trip, running mostly SSB.

Kent, KV7N, headed out in ID to run a few.

KO7X, Alan, was noted in WY and UT.

Ron, KB6UF, put out a bunch in southern LA after getting a new antenna system for the mobile.

Dennis, N6PDB, and Susan, WA6OCV, headed east from CA through TX running SSB and digital modes.

Paul, N7JPF was spotted out in OR.

AF3X, Jeffrey, headed back from the West Coast back to TN.

Ron, KA3DRO took a trip up to GA, and got the last WBOW for Tom, K7REL on the trip – Polk, GA. There's a report later in this issue on this.

Terry, WQ7A, headed east from WA to the mini in MI. Took 10 days to get there winding through CO, KS and more.

Joe, N5UZW, was seen out and about in AR.

AB7NK, Mary, and Neil, K7SEN, headed east from AZ then north up to the mini in MI. Their truck 'wandered around' hitting lots of counties on the way there in IN and OH.

Greg, NM2L, headed to FL and back from GA.

Bill, K2HVN, returned from FL to up north in DE.

Bill, WG9A, headed north to the mini in MI

AE7KI was noted on the road (SSB) in WA.



Jim, N9JF, spotted on the road in IL.

Joyce, N9STL, headed north to the mini- putting them out along the way.

Silver, N9QS, headed north to the mini in MI.

N7JPF, Paul, was spotted out in western WA. Made it to San Juan, WA too.

Mike, KA4RRU hit the road in VA several times.

KA1YZV, Don, headed to MI for the mini

## On the Road with N4CD – I

Each spring and fall, there's a big swap meet held in Bell County, TX at the Exposition Center. That's a big indoor facility that will hold fairly large events. It's usually the first weekend in April but this year it got switched around to the end of March. Not a problem – a lot of other hamfests swapped around, too. We hams don't always have the biggest events. There's a 'gun show/meet' there at the center next weekend, and they are likely to have five times the people! About 500-600 show up at Bell County Center for the ham swap meet.

After a morning at home, I loaded up the car for the 150 mile trip down south after rush hour. The weather was fine but overcast. Near 70. The route is straight down Interstate 35 – same boring counties but some have recently started over, so I'd run them all – Ellis, Hill, McLennan, Falls, Bell. Conditions were fairly decent on 20 and 17m. I ran the SSB runs off frequency as KZ2P was busy running others off net frequency.

As I got to the Temple TX Super 8 motel(\$60/night), the weather looked a bit more ominous – you can often see it coming 20-30 miles away as the sky darkens. Not to worry. I unload the radio and suitcase and head over to the fair grounds about 10 miles further south.

As I arrive, folks in the flea market are packing up there things. They've been told

there's a severe weather front headed right toward them in half an hour with lots of rain and wind. OK...nothing to see outside as it is all being packed away or already is. Clouds to west very dark and ominous. Bummer. This is Texas weather and it can change drastically from the forecast even 8 hours ago. The sky is definitely black to the west – not a good sign. Last time I was here, the rain and hail forecast made me head right back home on Saturday after a few hours rather than doing the long way home via different counties.

I head inside and wander around for 15 minutes - there were 30-40 people setting up for tomorrow and you basically wander in and look around on Friday. They shut the place down around 6:30pm and secure it till the next morning at 6am when they let the sellers back in and the general admission folks in at 7am.

It starts to pour. The wind howls – 40-50 mph – the wind is driving the rain horizontal and it is really pouring down. Instant puddles. Rivers flowing in the parking lot. Then the folks in charge at the door are saying that up to 3/4 inch hail might fall...if you want to bring your vehicle inside, you can. Duh! Now I find out. I wait for a small lull in the rain – dash out 200 feet to the car (fortunately I parked real close)....still got totally soaked - and drove the car into the arena – which they don't normally allow. It's getting full with cars everywhere inside. Pea size hail is falling – ping ping ping off the awnings outside the door and splashing in the puddles. The building has a metal roof and the noise is intense with the downpour. Hmmm....most folks didn't bargain for this. The car was safe inside. At times, it looks like nickel size hail is falling. Further south they were reporting 3/4 inch hail to golfball size. . The Skywarn system was in operation looking for potential tornado development. None was expected, but you can still be surprised with weather this intense. When there is hail and high winds, there's definitely a chance for it to indicate the potential for tornadoes.

The rain lasted for 30 minutes – must have put down 2 inches as there were rivers flowing outside. That pretty much did in the Friday flea market outdoors. After the rain finished, it was get all the extra cars that were inside back out. By then it was late enough to just head to dinner at the Cracker Barrel just north of the motel. Got there at 5pm.

You can order their 'dinner plate' with 2 veggies and rolls, or the regular dinner with 3 sides for bit more. Got my quota of 'greens' at that meal and skipped the rolls. Then back to the motel.

I was up early, and Jerry, K5YAA, will be pleased to know that N4CD did have a waffle at the Super 8, along with a small apple and 2 cups coffee. It was a medium size one.

Used 'no sugar' syrup on it. At 6:30 am I was on my way over to the fair grounds with the temp 48 degrees and a stiff north breeze. The front had come through. The sun would not be up till after 7am.

Now there were 50 sellers in the flea market, but dang, no nifty regens to buy. It was still a bit dark at 6:45am. A little after 7 am, I wandered inside the building to see if any new sellers were there– usually more show up. I did find 3 in-line telephone RF filters for \$10 and bought them. They can come in handy to solve RFI problems, inducing in your shack. The only other things I bought were two small variable capacitors for \$5 (new in the box Hammarlund/Johnson units) and a Hallicrafters S-107 receiver. That was my 'second' receiver after the Knight Kit Span Master regen kit, so the nostalgia got to me. It was a bargain price. It was a good shortwave listening set, but not a very good novice receiver as it had no cw selectivity. I quickly upgraded to a radio with a Q multiplier built in shortly after I got my ham license.

I didn't see any other county hunters there, but everyone is basically wandering around. I did see a few old friends otherwise. By 8:30 I had seen everything twice so it was time to move on. Some years you can find two or three 'treasures' (regens) and many times there is just nothing there to find/buy. Of course, it's when you didn't go that you hear about the XYZ unit for sale from others! I'm getting more selective as time goes on. I take pictures of rigs that have 'nostalgia' and stick them in the file.

Here's one cool item you could buy. It was an RF Communications synthesized HF transceiver – model RF-301 – made for the government/military.



RF Communications RF-301 Xcvt

This one was supposedly working, with cables, for just \$300. Nice but no reason to buy and it probably didn't have a cw filter – designed for SSB. And data links.

The route home is the same one I take each year – barring forecasts of really bad weather which can change plans quickly. The front had passed on by, but there were still lightning flashes in the sky to the northeast - storms triggered by the front 40-50 miles away according to the local AM station. They were headed away. I could run the normal route home of Coryell to the west, then Burnett/Lampasas line, and north from there through Hamilton to Hamilton/Bosque, then up through Erath to Somerville, Hood, Johnson, Parker, Tarrant and home across the 'Metroplex'. James took the day off, so everyone got to enjoy 14.336 and no one had to run off the frequency. Or 'wasn't allowed to run' there on the net frequency.

Traffic was light. Weather was nice sun and upper 60s, low 70s which was delightful. Things went well till I ran the Erath/Somervell line. The 20M SSB run went well. Then I went up to 17M SSB. Worked two folks and the band died. I could hear Hollis, KC3X, in there weakly saying: "if you hear me, we just had a giant flare". And the bands did die. Nothing left on 17M SSB despite the spot. I switched to 14 cw. Worked one person in 3 minutes of calling despite a self made spot. Zilch. Well, no sense to sit around there. It could be 10 or 20 or 30 minutes for the band to 'come back'.

I headed on into Glen Rose, the next town on the route and found a Subway. I had my 'turkey chopped salad' (senior discount, too) and it was good. Made up for the waffle, sort of. Almost negative calories. That killed some time while the band recovered. I know most of the county lines (done this route maybe 20-30 times, at least)....and the next line of Somervell/Hood was not usually great. There can be horrific QRN there. True to form, I got there and there was S7-S9 noise on CW! Ouch. I knew some needed Somervell on cw...so I toughed it out. At the previous point to run Somervell, the band had died out completely before I got to run cw.

Every now and then the noise would drop for a few seconds, then the noise was back. I struggled through on 20cw to put out Somervell for the folks. I was headed to Hood/Johnson which is a good line on road 171 at Cresson (300 foot detour, too!). That would get them Hood, for sure. At the end of the run on 20m, the noise dropped. Ran the cw bands.

There's a giant concrete facility across the street. OK...I could go back and run on SSB. Paul, WD9EJK had asked for Hood as a desperately needed county. Did that. Worked a few more and went to 17SSB. It's always been noisy there – I don't normally stop there. Planned not to run that C/L for good reasons as it is usually horribly noisy.

I headed toward to the next C/L of Johnson and Hood. You can run it on the main road, but there is no good place to park without hanging out into a very busy roadway.

However, if you turn right at the traffic light and go 200 feet, you'll hit the same county line, and you can easily park there and the noise is zilch. Did a good job on putting that one out. Next up was Parker/Tarrant line – then it was on to home.

Jonas, LY5A, needed Dallas – there's about 6-7 miles to run it...and if you drive 50 mph....you can just about get 2 short cw runs in....before you are OOC – Out of the County. There's no place to stop on the Tollroad and the speed limit is 70.

Not much else to report. Went well...home by a bit after 4:30 pm. (that way home is six hours longer than the direct route but those counties need to get run! Hi hi ). Hope I hit something you needed and the band cooperated.

DX was scarce with LY5A making it many times, and ON4AAC a few times, and SM6VR once or twice. That was it for DX. PA3ARM needed one but just wasn't in there. I heard others calling K8ZZ – including SP5SA and OK2EC....but they were really really weak 1500 miles further south. (and likely not the right beam heading for me when I heard them).

My microphone PTT button is getting hard to press. Wonder if there is dirt and crud inside. I have to really really push to get it to key. I'll report back when I take it apart.

## Vintage Ham Tidbits from Ebay

If you were a ham in the mid 1950s, and wanted to go mobile, you'd probably put a converter in front of your car radio as one option to get mobile. You'd use a separate transmitter.

Here's one more of the converters (5 tubes) that you could put in your car. It's an RME MC-55 Five Band converter – came out about 1956. It would 'downconvert' the ham bands to the broadcast band. Most folks then were using AM if they were on 'phone'. It took either 6 or 12v for the filaments, and you had to come up with 105 to 125v of B+ - often 'borrowed' from the car radio.



RME Model MC-55 Converter

Covered 80/40/20/15 and 11/10 meters . You'd put it under the metal dash or maybe even on the steering column so you could tune it easily. Imagine running counties with something like that? Well, most mobile operation didn't really start on HF till the 60s, but these were still around in large numbers. Most rigs were tube well into the 70s.

Here's another goodie – from who knows when? It's from the tube era and I've never seen one of these in person. Maybe you have? It's a D&A MDX-200 20 meter only transmitter. It sort of looks like a Drake imitation. There's little information out there on the web. Probably made about 1979



D&A MDX-200 20M Transmitter

The tube line up is: 3 6JE6 finals, one 6MJ6 driver (sweep tubes) plus 3 6JG6 and one 6KV6A. That's really a weird line up other than the finals 6JE6 and driver tube. With tubes like that, it could probably run well north of 100w output – maybe 200-300w out. It had a crystal socket and “key” input on the back – but in reality, D&A was mostly a maker of illegal on 27 MHz power amps. They tried selling things like this, that could be easily modified – indeed the tuning components 'barely' reached down to 20M, and the, ahem, VFO input on the back just happened to take about 3-4w of AM and you'd have a 'nice bilinear'. I guess this would work if you found one original, but most have likely been 'converted' for CB use with jumpers cut. D&A was hounded by the FCC for selling equipment thinly disguised as amateur. They supposedly also had a 15m version, and who knows if they had a 10M version? These came out after they got caught selling 'Class D CB amps'. There's very little on the web about it. I suspect even in cw, the output stage could be set to run 'linear'. Clip one or two jumpers, remove a tube or two, and you had your CB amplifier. Never seen on on Ebay before or anywhere else for that matter. No 'drive' control either for cw operation.



# Mississippi QSO Party

The propagation was good to EU, but not too great from TX to MS. It's often too far for 40M (really rotten 40M conditions that weekend, too) until evening and 'too close' for 20M for most of the state fading out by late afternoon. Still, I managed to snag 1 of the 5 I needed there, and worked a bunch of others, but mostly heard the pileups on 20 and 15 meters but no MS stations. Oh well, some QSO parties you are 'in the right place' and others you aren't. There was little 10M propagation. Here are some of the soapbox comments from the 3830 reflector:

## **N5NA mobile - 565 mobile QSO's**

After experiencing tremendous power line noise in the first few counties it was nice to enter the Natchez Trace Parkway. There are NO power lines along the parkway. The parkway does have two drawbacks though - 1. the speed limit is 50 MPH (but there are no little towns to slow you down) and 2. there are no county line signs. Since I use CQ/X for logging it magically knows what county I'm in so no signs are no problem. The parkway was a pleasant drive.

The MSQP was a small detour on our trip to SC. My son recently moved to Charleston. I half jokingly told my wife (driver) we can operate the MSQP, drive to SC, and then operate the GAQP on the way back home. She took me up on the offer so here we are!

The following counties were activated with indicated number of QSOs: Lee(75), Chickasaw(58), Prentiss(52), Pontotoc(43), Madison(40), Attala(37), Washington(36), Clay(34), Choctaw(32), Warren(28), Webster(28), Hinds(27), Itawamba(25), Leake(24), Sharkey(22), and Issaquena(9).

Thanks to the following stations for contributing more than half the QSO's: W4II(19), HA8IB(18), DL5ME(17), OM2VL(17), , DL3GA(14), LY5A(14), WA2VYA(14), NU0Q(13), WA6KHK(13), SP5SA(11), DL6KVA(11), W4SIG(10),



SM6VR(10), G3XVR(10), WQ5L(9), N1API(8), K8MFO(8), and N1NN(7).

Activity seemed slow most of the day. The initial ten minute hourly rate was the highest in my last few counties: Prentiss(174), Lee(168), and Itawamba(150).

Thanks to everyone who called and a big thanks to my wife, K5AKS, for driving.

73, Alan N5NA

### **W3DYA mobile 372 cw QSO**

Good weather all day Saturday; Sunday had terrible rain all the way back to TX. I only operated about four hours and ended in Smith county (MS) about two hours before the end of the contest.

Stations with most QSOs: 17--WA2VYA, 14--W4II and AA4GT, 13--DL5ME and K8MFO 12--KB4FS, LY5A, OM2VL, PA3ARM, and WA4GQG, 11--K0DEQ, and 10-HA8IB.

Obviously, results were not anywhere near the usual individual QSO count. Don't know if MOQP was attracting more attention or spotting for MSQP was weak.

Still a fun contest as always. And I hope some got the counties they needed!

73, Norm, W3DYA

### **N5BO – fixed – Forrest MS 171 cw 713 ssb qso**

I wanted to work more CW, but the activity just didn't seem there at times and with a constant flow of callers on PH I worked that mode for most of my Q's. My multiplier count is lower than I had hoped for, but it was hard to walk away from 20M at times to look for counties on 40M during the day. A second radio would of come in handy, as well as a second yagi to look west because I had many callers from that direction that were probably missed while working N/NE.

Also, I was pretty unfamiliar with the N3FJP software and ended up having to answer calls with a straight key followed by computer keying for the report! It sure kept me awake!!

### **K4ZGB mobile reported 472 cw QSO**

### **WN4AFP – fixed - SC**

My first MSQP! Thanks to all for the QSOs, especially the mobiles... W3DYA, K4ZGB and NO5W. 73's Dave

### **NA5NN multi op – MS – 300 cw 546 ssb 109 RTTY**

This was actually a multi/multi entry but no pull-down in the form for this new category in MSQP this year.

Unfavorable solar activity put a damper on overall conditions. The 599DXA decided to experiment more with RTTY this year. Results were mixed with the bulk of RTTY QSOS coming from other DX contest activity.

K2FF/W5UE/AG5CC activated from W5UE's QTH with 3 stations. It was a fun event despite challenging condx...

de W5UE

### **W4II – fixed AL 107 cw 49 ssb**

Great fun, but a tough go from Southwest Alabama border State. A special thanks to the terrific rovers: W3DYA, N5NA, NO5W, and K4ZGB.

## **WQ5L - fixed MS - 290 cw 323 SSB**

Big thanks to the mobiles -- K4ZGB, N5NA, NO5W, W3DYA -- for making so many counties available on CW. DX conditions started out good then became disturbed a couple of hours in. As much as I would rather play on CW, the seemingly endless well of callers that 20 meter phone provides is just too much to pass by. Thanks to all who participated...73,

-- Ray WQ5L

## **OM2VL – Fixed – DX**

First time in MS QP. Maybe my score would be higher, if it is only 1 QP on this weekend, but I hunted also MT stations (10 QSO) and MO stations (244 QSO) ... :)

On 20m many times I heard only the pileup calling the mobiles, but no peep from mobiles.

On 15m/10m excellent condx with FB signals.

Most QSO's with mobiles:

N5NA 17/13 (QSO/Cty)  
W3DYA 11/11  
NO5W 9/9  
K4ZGB 8/8

## **On the Trail of Regens**

This month a few things showed up on Ebay – the usual Knight Kit Space Spanners, Span Masters, the Lafayette Expor-Air units, etc. Those were the kits that many hams started on – basic SWL radios and extremely poor for ham work – but some did use the Ocean Hopper and the Heathkit GR-81. All of those radios show up regularly as tens of

thousands of them were sold over the years.

There were a few 'home made' items that showed up. Here's one that was 'cheap'. It's a single IT4 pentode regen detector and the unit was made for the 49M SW band.



No fine tuning is there but just a tuning cap and regen contro are therel. With a good antenna, you'd hear the louder shortwave broadcasters. Sold for 15 bucks on Ebay.

Then two nifty things I've been hunting for showed up. One is the Boy Scout "Explorer" short wave radio. Here's the box and a view of what is it it. Someone partially assembled it, but never finished it. It was sold 'missing a few parts' but it looks like most of it other than the tubes are there. It's quite rare.



Unlike all of the other known Official Scout radios sold by/through the Boy Scout organization (and at Sears and other retailers), this one has a metal chassis and is line powered. Looks like 2 tubes but one of them a rectifier.



It looks like it is mostly there but we'll see. I snagged it off Ebay. Well, the tubes were missing and there is a hand made schematic. Oh, my gosh – it's a 'grid leak' detector, not even a regen stage (pentode) followed by a dual triode audio amplifier. Hmmmm. You aren't going to hear much with this radio on shortwave, but it came with a BC and SW coil. I'll have to check the wiring part by part, figure out what tubes to stick in it (they are run off the line with a dropping resistor for the filaments, and there's a little selenium

rectifier stuck in there (upper right corner). It's sort of a disappointment not being a regen radio. It seems some versions of the Model 1809 over the years (earlier) were regen sets – with no case.

The other nifty goodie that appeared on Ebay was the Two Transistor Official Scout radio by Aurora. There were three 'transistor' radios, all in the same plastic box (Plus earlier a one and two tube radio, plus a crystal set). This completes the collection of known Aurora made Scout radios. Folks either bought the 1 transistor one – or if they had more money, the 3 transistor one. Few bought the one in the middle of the line up.



## KA3DRO Hits the Road

TRIP REPORT.... for K7REL LC-WBOW

A Promise is a promise !

The trip actually started almost 2 years ago when I was driving out west and had stopped off in Phoenix to see dear friends and had the opportunity to have an eyeball QSO with Tom, K7REL and his charming wife. We had been on an extended driving tour of the west running counties and seeing the sights as well as stopping off a few days earlier in Las Vegas to get married. I guess you can say we “ran away from our children to elope”

Tom told me about his quest to go all CW and I promised him that if he got down to the bottom and needed anything near me, I would go get it for him. With just a few to go, Polk County Georgia loomed ahead as a possible LC and as fate would have it, Tom was able to work Atlantic, New Jersey and our trip was a GO.... but because of doctors appointments and golf commitments, Tom had to wait 6 days till I could get 2 days together to travel. At 5:40 AM on Thursday, April 10th, Janice and I pulled out of the driveway and headed north cutting across country to get to I-75 at Gainesville. We enjoyed the sunrise as we crossed I-10 and were soon in Georgia, stopped at the Cracker Barrel near Valdosta for breakfast, and then hustled north.

I needed about 12 counties in the western side of the state to help finish running all Georgia and used this trip to do it. There were also a few counties needed by CH'ers along the way and these were also part of the trip plan. Our first county run was Sumpter and Lee CL in GA..... it was already after 11 AM when we finally found the line after a wrong turn and a few miles out of our way..... but we were able to self-post and had a good run on 20 M, a few on 30 M and then some on 40 M. Next was Macon and Houston CL on 2 bands..... then on to Crawford//Peach just a few miles off the Interstate at Byron where 40 M was “empty” and we had success on 30 M. It was already 1741 Z and I felt like I was losing time as my goal was still far away and time seemed to be flying by. Janice wanted to stop off at The Dress Barn.... but we were 1 exit too far and she lost that opportunity.

We cut back to I-75 and ran around the I-475 By-Pass to skirt Macon and exit 87 to head east to Jasper... I had promised W0GXQ an effort to get this for him and as he has done so much for so many CH'ers, I had hopes of making the contact. The cell phone got him in Colorado and we set a frequency, pulled into a boat ramp area right after the CL and after a short call on CW, we made the 339 contact as well as a few others on 20 m. Then had a good run on 30 M. It was now after 3 PM and I knew I needed to hustle to get that LC for Tom. All this time we had been taking Percy Pics to prove that we really were at the places we said we were despite what Jim and Percy said. At Jasper, we could not get a photo as it was at the end of a bridge and we had constant truck and car traffic.... We headed west and made a few 30 M contacts for county credit while on the fly thru Lamar, Pike, and Coweta. I needed to run Upson as a LC for K1TKL but could not raise



him via cellphone so skipped the county knowing I was going near it the next day and time was flying by.

We made a few contacts on 30 M in Coweta and Carroll while driving and were getting frustrated by the school buses, soccer moms, and workers now headed home after a days work. The area north of LaGrange and west of Atlanta was somewhat congested and driving was slow. I missed another turn getting from 27 Alt to 27 N and it took about 10 minutes to turn around and retrack..... but now we were closing in on our destination and crossed I-20 . I called Tom on the cell as we passed thru Buchanan knowing the sign had to be just ahead..... and finally spotted it about a half mile away.

We coordinated on 20 M and with little effort I heard Tom and gave him a 339..... and heard a solid 579 report return..... LC-WBOW ! Congrats Tom !



KA3DRO – Polk,GA – LC WBOW for K7REL  
A genuine Percy Pic

I then worked a bunch more...SB and then CW..... and my arthritic hand seemed to be unconnected to my head as the CW was not as good as I wanted... Sorry guys..... all day driving and arthritis do not blend well with CW ! I did a 30 M contact as well as W4SIG wanted it as well. I checked my list of the 10 people who needed it and had worked them all but 1 so the day, while late, was a success. We turned around and headed back to a motel..... and Janice reminded me that i had missed 1 person... N4CD..... I called him on the cell and he was busy having dinner and was 20 minutes from his rig. We agreed to go back the next day and get it as the motel was only about 14 miles away near



the Interstate. After almost 13 hours in the truck, Janice deserved a break so we checked into the Hampton Inn as the local Holiday Inn was booked. The Cracker Barrel almost next door was a welcome sight and we had a nice dinner, They are hard to beat for service and price and you know they are always clean. A hot shower really felt good and sleep came quickly !

We were up at 7 AM and enjoyed a nice hot breakfast of eggs, apple sausage, bagel, and great coffee. Then back out headed north to make good our promise to Bob... at 8:48 we made our contact with a solid 559 both ways and then headed south to start another long day. We ran 30 m a lot along the way working W4SIG and KC3X for county contacts as we headed south logging in Heard, Carroll, Troup, and Meriwether on some great back roads. I have never seen so many police hidden along the route as I did on Friday. Thursday we saw many working the Interstates and there were many “bears fed” along the way.... but today we noted police in driveways of abandoned houses, old closed gas stations, behind bushes, etc. There were several times I was traveling above the limit and the GPS on the window constantly reminded me to slow down and I am sure that feature saved me some money this weekend. In Meriwether we stopped to run and did well on 20 m as well as 30 M but there were no takers again on 40 M. The other thing I noticed was high QRN in this area from what appeared to be a radio tower that was quite tall.

We ran thru Talbot making a few 30 m QSO's on the fly and stopped on the Marion/schley CL. 40 M had no takers again but 20 m was good in SB and CW . It was about here where we realized that south of Geneva, we had pretty well lost all service and were unable to call anyone to alert them of a county they needed and were unable to spot ourselves either.

This pretty much remained a condition for most of the rest of the trip. It was only a few times we had 1/2 to 1 bar of service and that was for short distances the rest of the day.... We used AT & T as our service provider so I wonder what the other services do to make cell phone contact in this part of Georgia.

We then ran the Webster/Sumpter CL on 30 M and 20 M filling a full page. Terrell was run on 30 M while on the fly as we raced to get Quitman in the log. This County is kinda out of the way to say the least! We set up and made the contact we needed with NM2L.... as least that's what we thought.... until the idiot sock puppet from Florida decided to see if he could operate his keyer while sitting on it .... but that took more coordination than he is capable of and all he did was interfere with a few contacts on 30 m. If you tried to get me there and did not, send a THANK YOU note to Percy.... and probably CC Jim as Percy is not capable of doing anything without first clearing it with

him.... IMHO.

I did get a quick cell phone call from Greg advising he did NOT get the contact there..... so while I was just about a mile away, i returned and we made a solid 599 on 30 M without Jim's Idiot alter-ego in the way. If anyone did work me there, I was actually on the Quitman/Randolph CL. What a shame that the officers of MARAC continue to permit this insane activity to continue unabated and unpunished. By condoning it they create the animosity that actually deprives so many County Hunters of the contacts they need and want. Anyone who enjoyed the hobby "Pre 2-PEE" knows how much fun it used to be.

Almost done now, I headed east and was able to get Randolph and Clay for W4SIG and KC3X on 30 M by dodging my way between the construction barrels at the CL and giving them out from 2 places..... first Randolph before the bridge, then in a clear area on a paved section over the bridge from Clay County. By this time it is well past 5 PM and I still need to make a few contacts from Baker County. Before I left Clay, I tried a cell phone again to W0GXQ ... SURPRISE! he had exited the Casino in Colorado and we were able to give him another needed contact CW on 17 M. We headed over to Baker .... tried to post but no phone service. tried calling on 40 M.... no one there..... tried 20 m..... no response even on .336 ..... tried 30 M..... no body there..... so I shut it off and we headed for US 19 and home.....

Finally pulled into our driveway in Citrus County, Fl. about 11:03 PM after 2 days and 1131 miles. I hope I made a few of you happy with a few contacts you needed.... sorry if I butchered your calls on CW but don't use a reader and my head and my hands do not always have a firm connection..... I guess with a few more trips and hours on the Bencher, I can improve. Thanks to all who assisted me along the way and Thank You again for your patience..... particularly my wife who , despite my pleadings, still thinks we are all a little bit crazy! She admits it is far better than gambling , drinking, or a few other activities.

73/ Ron

## Montana QSO Party

Yes, there was a MT QSO Party. However, only one single solitary station was spotted by county hunters on W6RK and that by AD1C who spotted K9PQ in Wibaux, MT on 20m SSB. (a relatively 'rare' one). No other spots. At least 3 or 4 other stations were on.

### **OM2VL – 8 QSO**

First time on MT QP. Never ending CQ's with a total 8 QSO. :)

Worked counties: FLA, LIN, SIL (CW+SSB), WIB, YEL

**W1END – fixed NH** – reported 4 cw contacts

**KS4X** reported 3 ssb qso

## A Year of QST – 1933

1933 was a good year – the Great Depression bottomed but it would be up to 1945 before things recovered to where they were before the crash of '29. The stock market was down 90%! Yes, 90% and worse, half or more of companies filed for bankruptcy or went out of business. The policies passed by Congress turned out to tremendously delay the recovery. The 'tax the rich' attitudes just meant the 'rich' didn't feel excited about business, investing, or otherwise being goaded to feed the government, and sat on the sidelines.

Starting in January, the issues of the day for hams was frequency measuring. AS hams

used higher and higher frequencies, it became more difficult and the bands were becoming more crowded and other services were nearby in frequency. The ham population rose from 22739 licensed hams at the end of 1931 to 30,374 at the end of 1932. Wow. That's almost 1/3<sup>rd</sup> more hams in just one year! Most hams now have a superhet receiver and some of them are 'single signal' with a crystal filter. Hams are now using five bands instead of just 3 as was the case just a few years before, with lots of operating on 5 meters, which was open due to the sunspot cycle (although no one really understood the connection back then. Transmitters were going to crystal control, or at least 'stabilized oscillators' to allow more stations to crowd into the ham bands. (activity was on 160, 0, 40, 20 and 5 meters).

The first article in January QST that year was one of the best regen articles ever written – about Rationalizing the Autodyne, by George Grammer. It was a 3 tube design, with tuned RF stage (pentode tube), tuned regen detector, and single triode stage audio tube. It was well shielded and provided excellent performance due to special attention to optimizing the levels and couplings, providing an RF gain control on the RF amp stage. The tube line up was two type 58 tubes and a 57 audio tube. This was the 'last gasp' for the regens as most hams were working on superhets which, with a simple crystal filter, or sharp IF stages, would give 'single signal' reception.

A regen receives the same station on two different frequencies (it's a mixer) – so if you tune in a cw station at 7005 and adjust it to a 1 KHz audio beat note, you are also going to hear anything that is on 7007 (if your center freq is 7006). When bands are crowded it makes it more difficult to copy stations. With a superhet, you first downconvert. If your IF is, say, 500 KHz for a 20M signal on 14.200, your oscillator would be running at 14.200 plus or minus the IF. Let's take the plus side, so your oscillator is at 14.700 MHz. If you remember your mixer theory, you not only get A-B (or 14.700-14.200 giving you 500 KHz) , you also get A+B (or 14700 from 15200) the 'image' response. Well, you easily filter out that with a simple tuned circuit in front of the mixer stage. You peak it for 14.200 and the 'image' is down 30 or 40 or more dB.

Well, things are hunky dory for AM reception now...but if you want to listen to code...well, now you need a beat frequency oscillator. To hear a beat note of 1000 Hz, your BFO must be tuned 1000 Hz above or below the IF frequency, or 501, or 499. The hitch is, that IF stage is now a 'mixer'.....and if you set it at 501, beating against 500, you get A+B and A-B, two signals out of the mixer. Hmmm...so now you receive stations on either 500 KHz or 502 KHz. (or if you use 499 KHz for the BFO freq then 498 and 500). We really don't want 'two signal reception'. We need to get rid of the other signal.

You can build some really really sharp filters (like 5 or 7 stages of tubes) to get a very

sharp response at only 500 KHz, rejecting 502.....lots of effort and costly....or...you can put in a crystal filter (one or two crystals) to reject that 'image'. Viola! A signal signal receiver! (or the image signal down 30, or 40, or 50 dB). State of the art had advanced from the 1929 regen to the 1933 simple superhet and if you could afford it, you'd make a 'single signal' receiver.

In January, Collins advertised their 30W transmitter. Not many could afford it. There was also an ad for the "Eagle" 3 tube regen receiver offered by several job shop places in NYC. Not sure who made it but it appeared for sale by various Radio Row shops.

In February, there is coverage of the 28 MHz transatlantic 'tests' going on. There was an extensive article on Regenerative Detectors – What We GET from Them- How to Get More, by Robinson, W3LW. There were pages of curves and charts showing selectivity curves and the optimum ways to get the best reception through L/C ratio selection, even use of a separate oscillator tube from the regen detector, and other ways to get the best compromises for your radio. Verrry interesting. If you had money, you could buy the Collins 150B transmitter advertised – 150W of phone up through 14.3 MHz. AM, of course. There were articles on getting the most out of your single signal receiver, now, too !

Some other articles were about modulation monitors, and the April issue had about 10 pages of April 1 type stuff on the American Radiator Delay League, with an Idiotorial, And Hog-Wash from our Readers column.

## County Sign Database Project

More county line signs were added this month. Jon, W0ZQ sent in the following one plus a few others:



W0ZQ Jackson, KS

Gary, K4EXT, added a few more contributions in FL to the database.

Here's a contribution from K8QWY



Seneca/Sandusky, OH by K8QWY

Norm, W3DYA, sent in a few from his last trip to MS where he was in the QSO Party.



Jefferson Davis, MS by W3DYA

Here's one by Hollis, KC3X



Hollis, KC3X at Carteret, NC

Ray, WB0YPF, sent in a couple for MO. Here's Vernon, MO





Vernon, MO by WB0YPF

Barry, N0KV, out on an extended trip in TX with Pat, N0DXE, snagged one more for the database. Here's Randall TX



Randall TX by N0KV/N0DXE

Sandy, WB4EVH operated in the GA QSO Party and added a few more signs. Here's Baldwin County, GA





Baldwin, GA by WB4EVH (N4I)

Jerry, W0GXQ added in Yankton SD from his last trip across SD and NE out to CO.



W0GXQ Yankton, SD

# Peak Oil Update

In a new book, former oil geologist and government adviser on renewable energy, Dr. Jeremy Leggett, identifies five "global systemic risks directly connected to energy" which, he says, together "threaten capital markets and hence the global economy" in a way that could trigger a global crash sometime between 2015 and 2020.

According to Leggett, a wide range of experts and insiders "from diverse sectors spanning academia, industry, the military and the oil industry itself, including until recently the International Energy Agency or, at least, key individuals or factions therein" are expecting an oil crunch "within a few years," most likely "within a window from 2015 to 2020."

Despite its serious tone, *The Energy of Nations: Risk Blindness and the Road to Renaissance*, published by the reputable academic publisher Routledge, makes a compelling and ultimately hopeful case for the prospects of transitioning to a clean energy system in tandem with a new form of sustainable prosperity.

The five risks he highlights cut across oil depletion, carbon emissions, carbon assets, shale gas, and the financial sector:

"A market shock involving any one these would be capable of triggering a tsunami of economic and social problems, and, of course, there is no law of economics that says only one can hit at one time."

At the heart of these risks, Leggett argues, is our dependence on increasingly expensive fossil fuel resources. His wide-ranging analysis pinpoints the possibility of a global oil supply crunch as early as 2015. "Growing numbers of people in and around the oil industry", he says, privately consider such a forecast to be plausible. "If we are correct, and nothing is done to soften the landing, the twenty-first century is almost certainly heading for an early depression."

Leggett also highlights the risk of parallel developments in the financial sector:

"Growing numbers of financial experts are warning that failure to rein in the financial sector in the aftermath of the financial crash of 2008 makes a second crash almost inevitable."

A frequent Guardian contributor, Leggett has had a varied career spanning multiple disciplines. A geologist and former oil industry consultant for over a decade whose research on shale was funded by BP and Shell, he joined Greenpeace International in 1989 over concerns about climate change. As the organisation's science director he edited a landmark climate change report published by Oxford University Press.

Leggett points to an expanding body of evidence that what he calls "the incumbency" - "most of the oil and gas industries, their financiers, and their supporters and defenders in public service" - have deliberately exaggerated the quantity of fossil fuel reserves, and the industry's capacity to exploit them. He points to a leaked email from Shell's head of exploration to the CEO, Phil Watts, dated November 2003:

"I am becoming sick and tired of lying about the extent of our reserves issues and the downward revisions that need to be done because of far too aggressive/ optimistic bookings."

Leggett reports that after admitting that Shell's reserves had been overstated by 20%, Watts still had to "revise them down a further three times." The company is still reeling from the apparent failure of investments in the US shale gas boom. Last October the Financial Times reported that despite having invested "at least \$24bn in so-called unconventional oil and gas in North America", so far the bet "has yet to pay off." With its upstream business struggling "to turn a profit", Shell announced a "strategic review of its US shale portfolio after taking a \$2.1bn impairment." Shell's outgoing CEO Peter Voser admitted that the US shale bet was a big regret: "Unconventionals did not exactly play out as planned."

Leggett thus remains highly skeptical that shale oil and gas will change the game. Despite "soaring drilling rates," US tight oil production has lifted "only around a million barrels a day." As global oil consumption is at around 90 million barrels a day, with conventional crude depleting "by over four million barrels a day of capacity each year" according to International Energy Agency (IEA) data, tight oil additions "can hardly be material in the global picture." He reaches a similar verdict for shale gas, which he notes "contributes well under 1% of US transport fuel."

Even as Prime Minister David Cameron has just reiterated the government's commitment to prioritize shale, Leggett says:

"Shale-gas drilling has dropped off a cliff since 2009. It is only a matter of time now before US shale-gas production falls. This is not material to the timing of a global oil crisis."

In an interview, he goes further, questioning the very existence of a real North American 'boom': "How it can be that there is a prolonged and sustainable shale boom when so much investment is being written off in America - \$32 billion at the last count?"

It is a question that our government, says Leggett, is ignoring.

In his book, Leggett cites a letter he had obtained in 2004 written by the First Secretary for Energy and Environment in the British embassy in Washington, referring to a presentation on oil supply by the leading oil and gas consulting firm, PFC Energy (now owned by IHS, the US government contractor which also owns Cambridge Energy Research Associates). According to Leggett, the diplomat's letter to his colleagues in London reads as follows:

"The presentation drew some gasps from the assembled energy cognoscenti. They predict a peaking of global supply in the face of high demand by as early as 2015. This will lead to a more regionalised oil market, a key role for West African producers, and continued high and volatile prices."

The text of the 2004 letter is corroborated by a 2009 PFC Energy report commissioned by the International Energy Forum which concluded that world conventional oil supply was approaching "peak production, where the petroleum industry's ability to continue to increase - or even maintain - production of conventional oil (and eventually gas) is constrained...

"Exploitation of unconventional oil will provide additional liquids, but in all probability only at increasingly higher costs, and it will depend on significant investments to develop appropriate technologies to convert today's resources into tomorrow's reserves. The exact timing of both the plateau and onset of irreversible decline will be influenced by the factors that determine long-term changes in supply and demand. Nevertheless, the challenge is coming, and this emerging world of limited conventional production will require major adjustments on the part of both consumers and producers."

Requests for comment from PFC Energy and Cuadrilla, a UK energy company, concerning Leggett's warning of a near-term oil crash despite shale gas production received no response.

Critics point out that Leggett and others warning of peak oil are wrong because they never saw the prospect of shale. In response, Leggett tells me:

"It's true that the short burst of shale gas and shale oil has taken a lot of 'peakists', myself included, somewhat by surprise, and that the oil peak has been pushed out in time a little by tight oil. What hasn't changed is the basic issue: most of the incumbency says the 'all-liquids' oil production peak is many years hence, the minority doubting the narrative says it is much nearer, within this decade. And let's not forget: conventional crude oil has already peaked, as even the IEA admits."

After his stint as Greenpeace's science chief, Jeremy Leggett went on to found the UK's largest solar energy company, SolarCentury, and to advise the British government on renewable energy from 2002 to 2006. He is now convener of the UK Industry Task Force on Peak Oil and Energy Security which includes major multinationals like Arup Group and Virgin, chairman of the Carbon Tracker Initiative which aims to improve the transparency of carbon embedded in equity markets, and a co-organizer of the Trans-Atlantic Energy Security Dialogue I reported on last January. That same month, Leggett addressed world leaders at the World Economic Forum in Davos about his forecast.

The 2015 oil crunch forecast, Leggett writes, is corroborated by the Industry Task Force report:

"In this report we updated the evidence that defines global oil reserves and extraction rates, and concluded that the global peak production rate for oil would likely occur within the decade, very likely by 2015 at the latest – at a value no higher than 92 million barrels per day."

Based on flow rate data, the report found that "increases in extraction would be slowing down in 2011–13 and dropping thereafter." From then on, global oil production would drop "at 1% a year from 2015. If the then IEA forecast of demand rising to 105 million barrels a day in 2030 were to prove correct, supply would fall short in 2015."

The "incumbency", as Leggett calls it, strongly disagrees. A much-touted Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) study, *The Future of Natural Gas*, has predicted that US gas consumption will double to 40% of the country's energy needs by 2050.

Though at first glance an impressive body of interdisciplinary work, a report by the US-based Public Accountability Initiative in March last year documented "growing evidence that the oil and gas industry" had attempted to "corrupt" the process of "academic inquiry." The report alleged that the MIT study was both authored and funded by oil and gas industry insiders, and as a consequence marred by "poor scholarship."

Other large studies of oil supply challenges which acknowledge the peak of conventional production are less specific, though. The UK Energy Research Centre, for instance, has forecasted such a peak to occur "before 2030" - a position backed up by more recent research published by the Royal Society. A convener of that research, however, agrees that a near-term peak is more likely than a later one.

Peak oil does not mean, Leggett insists forcefully, that oil is "running out." The problem is the increasing costs of extraction and decreasing flow rates of unconventional:

"It will never run out. Oil reserves under the ground, we tried to say, once again, are not the same as oil flows from production pipes at the surface."

The UK Industry Taskforce's pinpointing of 2015, Leggett emphasizes throughout his book, is corroborated by forecasts from a range of other agencies, including the US and German militaries.

## Changes in Alaska's Counties

In the last issue of the RoadRunner, which came out at the very beginning of April, Dave, KE3VV is having a discussion with the County Lion (C.L.) about changes that could be occurring in the requirements for working all the 'counties' in AK. So, on this very important subject, we include a brief summary of the article.

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C.L.: "They are eliminating the judicial districts in Alaska – your buddy at the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts says that the federal budget cuts needed to balance the FY 2015 budget ....will result in a number of reductions in federal court expenses. They need to consolidate all of the District Courts and spread out the judges. Alaska has less activity than most parts of the federal judiciary, so after this year, there is just gonna be one Judicial District in Alaska."

Dave: "One Judicial District in Alaska will make it a lot easier to work Alaska – and better yet, finishing up the elusive Ran All Counties award will be a LOT easier..."

no more trekking into the tundra to get the Second District.”

C.L.: “Would be great if that were the case,” growled the County Lion.... “But I have heard that the next issue of CQ Magazine is going to announce that after this year they will require working all of the Alaskan boroughs, and there are 19 of them. The organized boroughs include pretty much all of the most densely populated regions of the state. Six of those boroughs are actually consolidated city-county governments - Juneau City and Borough, the City and Borough of Haines, Sitka City and Borough, Yakutat City and Borough, Wrangell City and Borough, and the Municipality of Anchorage, which is the largest city in the state.”

Dave: “Don’t all of these boroughs function similarly to counties in other states?”

C.L.: “Yup! The city-boroughs are like Baltimore City and Saint Louis City, which are counties that really operate as cities,” pontificated the King of County Beasts. “Then there are those parts of Alaska that are not part of any organized borough that are called the unorganized borough. Lots of those parts of the state are just mountains and snow – probably the real home of Santa Claus,” mused the Lion.

Dave” . “But what about the awards for Alaska counties? MARAC follows the CQ Magazine designations of official counties, so what is CQ Magazine gonna do?”

C.L.: “The rumor is that Alaska will now require a contact with all 19 boroughs, including a contact with the unorganized borough. Is MARAC really gonna match that? That would make a lot of awards a lot tougher. I wonder if there are even hams in all of the boroughs.”

Dave: “So there you go, County Hunters. What should MARAC do? Keep the current lines of the four judicial districts, even though they will cease to exist? Follow the rumored CQ Magazine approach and use the Alaskan boroughs? Maybe a compromise... just use some of the boroughs or combine some of them to reduce the number and make them more workable. I would think there would be a lot of support for combining two of the organized boroughs – Northwest Arctic and North Slope – with the unorganized borough. That would be like adding the current second Judicial District with a good chunk of the Fourth District. I am sure there will be a lot of debate and discussion among the MARAC District Directors and Officers. Probably need to wait for a recommendation from the Awards Committee. What do you think? Let your District Director know what you think MARAC should do to deal with the demise of the Alaskan Judicial Districts. Better yet – send your thoughts directly to the County

Lion .....try to finish up Alaska while it is still just four “counties.”

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de N4CD. Ted, K1BV, Awards Custodian for CQ Magazine, addressed this issue briefly in the January 2013 CQ Magazine column. In the article, he references the National Association of Counties at [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org) which gives an official list of both boroughs and census areas.



Checking them out, you likely would either have to get to some of them by ship, or by hopping a plane. For example, Northwest Arctic with Kotzebue as the county seat would take a flight to there. Several county hunters have flown in there. You can rent a car there. And of course, Barrow could be a destination – driving the Haul Road or taking a plane flight to the North Slope district. Aleutians West would be a plane trip as would be Aleutians East. Denali on the road to Fairbanks from Anchorage. I even stayed at a motel there in Healy, plus there are other places to stay nearby.



Wrangel would likely be served by the Inland Waterway Ship system. You could hop a ferry for a short ride down to Wrangel. It's southwest of Juneau along the coast.

Aleutians East requires a 570 mile plane trip from Anchorage – to the Southwest. There's two places to stay in Sand Point. Peninsula airlines flies 5 times a week there.

There are at least a dozen, maybe two dozen counties, in TX with populations smaller than these 'census areas' and boroughs in AK. Some counties in TX have under 200 people in them, and many have just a few thousand.

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Some comments from folks on the K3IMC forum on this subject:

W4SIG: “ Alaska...is anyone planning a trip there before the 4 judicial districts go away and we need 20 contacts??”

WE7G:”Since I'm still 25 away I better look at past AK "Q"s to check how many might count under a new scheme just in case it becomes effective before I can finish first time. [ALL CW by the way]. No biggie I'll get "em all" one day. “

AA9JJ:”I would like to see K1BV article on Alaska "counties" because....I haven't seen it; my Jan. issue arrived in March. Also, I think it would be nice if K1BV and some one from MARAC would get together and come up with common requirements for both organizations. “

K2MF:”I agree with Frank about this, but as a practical matter,.... it may be too difficult for personnel from both organizations to actually work this out with each other before CQ Magazine enacts its rule changes. Whatever USA-CA policy that CQ Magazine ultimately decides upon, I don't see how MARAC's award policies can be radically different from it. With the exception of written confirmations not being required for contacts, to the best of my knowledge MARAC's award policies follow CQ Magazine's USA-CA policies very closely.

I have studied the current borough and census area information in Alaska rather carefully and I have written to the president of MARAC as well as the directors for the districts in which I seasonally reside to make my feelings known about how MARAC might deal with these rule changes. I urge all of you who are MARAC members and who care about this issue to think about how you might like to see MARAC handle these upcoming rule changes then take president Dave's suggestion to contact him and the district directors to make your feelings known.”

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**Y'all know the article came out on April 1, 2014, right? It was a good one.**

For our DX friends – April 1 is the day for 'pranks' and 'jokes'. Or 'tall tales' that some believe is true.

## Missouri QSO Party

Mobiles were out running. Several county hunters ran as mobiles – WB0PYF, K5YAA, AD0DX, etc. There were many 1x1 calls to add to your 1x1 county log, plus you could strive to spell out 'SHOW ME' from the stations you worked. W0MA was the bonus station and was all over the bands.

From TX, it was a bit rough – too close for 20M, forget 15 and 10m, and 'too far' for 40m during the day to most of the state, and worse, most mobiles spent their hours on 20 and 15 where all the contacts were rolling in. Ah, well, didn't see the ones I needed run – not spotted on cw. Some run by SSB mobile, but that doesn't help the CW award.

This was going on at the same time as MS and MT so there were stations to chase here and there, with different signal reports. MO still takes a 'contact number'.

From the 3830 contest reflector:

### **N0O (K5YAA with N5WR) Multi Op Mobile**

Here is the story of N0O - a Real Zero operating in the 2014 Missouri QSO Party. The team of Erik, N5WR and Jerry, K5YAA enjoyed another FB radio weekend motoring along the highways and roadways of Missouri. The mobile was again nearly flawless even though three new antennas were deployed within 48 hours of the start. The three were HP Hustler masts/resonators/springs on tri-magnet mounts that performed well. The installation of those new antennas and leaving the Tarheel tuned to 40 meters prompted K5YAA to install an automatic band/antenna switching arrangement driven by the K3 and supported by a Top Ten Antenna Selector plus a Six Pak Antenna Switch. Band changes were a snap as the K3 did all the work. A small "tweak" to the 811H amplifier and a new band was on the air. N5WR got fast at band changes because he did the amp

tweak while viewing the power meter during the first F1 CQ MOQP DE N0O on a new band. One more day of the party and he would really be rolling....

Some of the "normal", seemingly unavoidable hiccups, occurred with the software/laptop combination. A reboot (a couple of times) left, in particular, K2DSW hanging wondering where we went to. Sorry Bob for not getting you in the log in two different counties. Others likely tired of waiting for the reboot. Hopefully we stirred up enough dust after the reboots that they came back for a second try. Seems there is little that can be done about a computer hitch once in a while. Actually there were very few times we had any trouble. All the gear performed quite well except in one instance. In Ralls County the K3 decided to go into ERR-PTT KEY mode. Transmit stayed locked on regardless what we did. A configuration reload (twice) did not clear the problem so we grabbed the spare K3 and placed it into service. Erik did some of his surgery by removing cables and hooking up the second K3, he was on the cable side where the steering wheel is. No radio problems after that. We lost maybe 10 minutes with that change episode. Three 15 minute breaks were programmed into our Saturday run so one was lost on that radio changeover. Not a big loss. Onward we went to Audrain, Boone and Cole after the radio change. YAA thinks he knows why the first K3 gave it up. Some loose hardware floating around in the case likely found it's way to the PTT jack. An inspection of the problem will be forthcoming this next week. The mobile environment is a harsh environment for gear and operators. Part of the price for having so much fun.

We enjoyed the views of the beautiful Missouri countryside especially on Sunday morning. A sunny day and the trees are starting to leaf out. We commented to each other how FB it was to be mobiling along in the country, using the radio, and talking all over the world. What a hobby ham radio is.

We only had one run in with Missouri law enforcement people. A young lady Highway Patrol(person) stopped us in Washington County along a very narrow road. She said we were going 70 in a 55! She seemed interested as to why we were needing to travel so fast. We told her what we were doing and why we got carried away. She collected our "picture cards" and insurance papers.

Her partner was inspecting our unusual setup. He seemed taken with such a unique vehicle. We don't know what made the young lady do it, maybe our story about talking all over the world, or the FB radio setup with all those antennas on the roof, but she only gave us a warning and wished us a good day. We are sure it wasn't our looks that influenced her decision but we were pleased she

let us go without one of those stiff pieces of paper that has a court date on it. Kudos to the Highway Patrol of Missouri. Y'all know a good thing when you see it! In addition, no gas station devices were upset this trip. We used part of our break estimates to gas up when needed so no HP CW hammering of those less than capable diesel pumps or store alarms went on during our gas ups.

The band conditions. 10 meters produced NOT one QSO for us the entire weekend. A great disappointment since ten has been so hot these past few weeks. N6MU and OM2VL asked us to try and try we did. Not a peep was heard and no one else answered our quality CQs so back to 15 or 20 where all the action was. DX contacts accounted for 27% of our QSOs. Like the OKQP there were times on 15 when nothing but Europe was calling us. Thanks to all you Europeans for your FB QSOs. Even though only one DX multiplier is allowed for this party we enjoyed working DX so much we said to heck with the lack of multipliers, working this long distance stuff is a lot of fun! There were a few times, as usual in the mobile environment, that callers were too weak to pull out. Our apologies to those we didn't get logged. YAA thinks though that the new antennas helped pull a few out of the mud. As predicted those serial numbers were dogs too get copied at times whether DX or otherwise. Not an actual complaint but we would be happy to see those go away in the next Missouri QSO Party.

Our best rate hour was the very last one in McDonald and Barry Counties. That hour stretch produced well over a hundred Qs which didn't happen more than twice the entire party. The other QSO Parties going on plus the SP DX Contest seemed to pull activity away from this one. Sunday was a lot better than Saturday as far as rate. We attributed that to the fact the other two QSO Parties were only a Saturday happening.

Each time we went to SSB we both had a good chuckle. Both of us are CW operators at heart. A memorable comment on SSB came from a station on 20 SSB out in El Paso, TX. He gave YAA a "Big 10-4". We laughed and said to each other - "Roger on that Good Buddy". Another op commented on having a Whiskey while he was working the party. YAA came back with - We like Charlie Whiskey the best. Actually, 20 meter SSB produced a good run or two. We got 20 over reports from several stations which of course made us feel strong. When the rate dried up on CW we said "Shall we give SB a try?". Against our better judgment we went up there and found a lot of different call signs. Thanks to the folks who put up with us on SSB.

Here are a few statistics along with stations that made our log many times.

Of the 1,355 QSOs 365 were DX. 16 different countries were worked. They were DL, HA, G, F, I, JA, LY, OM, OH, PA, PY, UA3, SM, SP, UT and YO. Many DLs were on the air with their usual fine High Speed CW operation. Northern Europe came in very loud at times. SPs, SMs, OHs and a PA. UA3AGW rolled in a few times. LYs were loud also. One JA station made the log on 20 meters.

We worked 21 Missouri Counties. A fair number since we didn't go looking for Counties at all. We may have found more on 40 but made very few Qs on that band. The ones we worked called us while we were running - several on 20 meters.

Regretfully, only 3 Canadian Provinces made it in our log. VE2, VE3 and VE6. Maybe some snow is still happening north of the border and that snow shovel work had all the Canadians tired out. We missed your usual FB participation. Thanks to those Canadians that did work us.

Not counting Missouri, 45 states were worked. We didn't log RI, NV, HI and SD. Five ND stations worked us - a miracle on the radio. They kept showing up here and there.

That's about all of our story. Both Erik and I want to thank the Coordinators of the Missouri QSO Party. In particular Randy N0LD for his untiring efforts to bring the MOQP into the twenty first century. Several "special" tools were put in place that made for good promotion. Thanks to those folks that provided those FB tools.

Also, Jerry, K5YAA wants to thank Erik, N5WR again for his joining with him in the mobile. It was again a pleasure having a FB op share operating and driving duties. Erik even went in and fetched Subway sandwiches in Vernon County - drinks, a small bag of Cheetos and some Sun Dried chips of some sort, that made up a welcome meal for both of us since our 7AM breakfast was beginning to wear thin.

The next adventure for the Oklahoma Land Rush Mobile may be this next weekend in the 2014 Georgia QSO Party. Stay tuned.

73 for now, Jerry K5YAA

The Rig:

Coined the Oklahoma Land Rush Mobile by K5YAA - it consists of a K3, an AL811H amplifier, Tarheel and 3 Hustler "stiks" along with a Honda generator and Dell laptop running N1MM software. Spares include a second K3 and AL811H amp, a TS480 and an ICOM 706 plus a second Tarheel antenna and two more Honda generators. Can't have enough of all that good stuff when on the road. At the suggestion of N4CD, a true road man, a fire extinguisher was purchased and loaded into the van. Hope to never need it but could be handy to have just in case.

### **W0R – AD0DX Multi Op Mobile**

We had a lot of fun as W0H/M in the MOQP. On Sat my friend Ronald KD0OJX was the driver and on Sunday my xyl Cathy drove.

My setup is an ICOM 7000 using two Hustler verticals, each working 3 bands. Because 10 and 15 have been so hot, I set up one antenna for 10/15/20 CW and the other one for 20/10 Phone and 40CW. It turns out that this was not optimal for a contest like the MOQP where counties are multipliers. I use DeLorme Street Maps, but have had problems with the USB GPS and the Icom rig control conflicting in some way. So I left off the GPS. This turned out to be a bad idea.

I like the IC7000 for mobile contesting. The noise blanker and noise reduction features work pretty well. We had some bad power line noise more than once and these features helped. But the radio does run hot. And when the sun is also directly on the radio, it gets really hot.

Sat we got an early start and were able to start the contest at the Clay / Clinton county line.

I called CQ and I had one person answer, John N6MU. I have no idea how John does it, but it seems each time I cross a county line he is there waiting. After John, I worked JI3MJK. Wow, Japan on 20mtrs from my van, this is going to be a good day.

Somehow we missed Gentry county. We had a 5 mile detour planned on State Road Z to pick up Gentry, and somehow we missed the turn.

We were about 10 miles down the road when I realized we had missed the turn. I decided to keep going, because we would have lost time backtracking.

Things were going well until Sullivan county. In order to pick up more counties and not spend 40 min in some of the larger counties, I had us going on a few 'state roads'. These are minor roads that are not always maintained well. So we headed south on State Road EE... and after 15 or 20 min it was obvious that something was not right. Checking the map after we got home, I see that we stayed on EE too long and missed a turn. Unfortunately EE turned back west when I wanted to be going south east.

So we lost an hour once we figured out where we were and then decided to stick with major roads to get back on track. So we spent a lot of time in Sullivan county.

I had something similar planned for Clark county in the NE corner of Missouri. I was going to go on state roads and stay on the west side of Clark, but after the bad experience in Sullivan I decided we should go over to the east side of Clark to pick up Hwy 61 which is the only major north south road in Clark. This change cost us another 40 minutes. So now we are about 2 hours behind schedule. Darn.

Somewhere during the morning, WA6KHK told me on CW that he needed Knox and Shelby. I said that I'd be glad to look for him. And sure enough when I crossed those lines he was there waiting for me and I was glad to give him those counties on 20m CW.

Ronald and I stopped for gas and food in Canton, MO, right next to the Mississippi River.

Once on Saturday I answered a cw cq 'CQ MQP de ...'. I answered and was surprised that the county didn't seem correct. It took me too long to realize that with 3 'M' qso parties on the same day (Missouri / Montana / Mississippi) that he must be in a different party. It's probably not a good idea to call 'CQ MQP' under those circumstances.

Late on Saturday afternoon Ronald and I were sitting on a county line, and when I unplugged the headphones, the speakers were making the

cw sound funny. At first I was very concerned, but then I realized it was just the radio running hot. It wasn't hot enough for air conditioning on Sat, and I think by late afternoon after being on for 6 or 8 hours the radio was really running very hot.

This contest I used the 800 / 500 / 300 hz filters on CW. This worked out pretty well, but occasionally in a large pileup the receiver does get overwhelmed. I'm thinking about the K3 with those crystal filters.

So we ended the day in Chariton county.

On Sunday my XYL Cathy was the driver and she did a great job. We left the house at 8am because I wanted to get half way through Johnson county and also get away from Kansas City / Jackson county where there are lots of operators. Missouri is a beautiful state, and we enjoyed driving through the Lake of the Ozarks region. Before I moved to Missouri I always thought the Ozarks were in Arkansas for some reason.

On Sunday we stopped for gas in Jefferson City and I checked the MOQP Facebook page. There was a comment there from someone that they were unable to find the 'H' in 'SHOWME'. The day before Randy had posted a question to the Facebook page asking if anyone had worked W0H. I had 400 qso's on Saturday... mostly on CW. I just really enjoy CW. I decided that I should change my 40mtr antenna resonator from 40CW to 40SSB. This took about 15 min off my schedule, but I thought if it gets more people the 'H' on phone so that they can spell 'SHOWME' then it is worth it. I guess this week I'll go out and buy a second 40mtr resonator so I can work both 40 CW and Phone.

I never did use the MO qso party spotting tool. I guess I could have used my iPhone, but when you are mobile there are only so many things that you can do at once. I guess

Each time that I crossed a county line or changed bands, I called 'CQ de W0H/M' on cw so that I was picked up on the reverse beacon network. This seems to work really well, and after a while you can tell those operators who are watching the reverse beacon network.

I never did make any contacts on 10 mtrs. I probably called cq there 2 or 3 times. I did go to the 10mtr ssb freq 28350 on Sunday afternoon,



and there was a net operating. I moved down to 28347 to get away from the net but stay close to the published party freq, and then someone came down and asked me to move because I was disturbing the net. That really surprised me, I thought that 3Khz would be plenty far away. I called CQ a few times on 28345 and then went back to CW.

Thanks to everyone for all the Qso's and also to Randy and the team at BEARS for really taking the MOQP to the next level. I'm looking forward to next year.

73's and thanks for the QSO's,

Ron, AD0DX/W0H  
Cathy  
Ronald, KD0OJX

**N0O (AF5Q) mobile - 222 cw 167 ssb**

Great conditions and although did not get on 10m it was good to work everyone. It was a pleasure to operate a well organized contest. Score includes the W0MA station. I still need to review the log to see if I spelled show-me.

**W0E mobile (KI0I operator) - 575 cw QSO**

Mobile contesting has to be the ultimate in manic-depression. We plan for a year to get on the road and compete in the game. Then the day comes with the anticipation of great things, all systems checked and ready, fire up the car the radio and computer. We pull out of the drive onto the road for a day of furious contesting activity and then the clock strikes GO! Hit F1 for CQ and POOF, the logger locks up, then the laptop.

Twenty minutes of desperate restarts and finally we are on the run! This was only the harbinger of things to come. At least a half dozen more freeze-ups, a power connector problem at back of radio and RF (I presume) throwing the presets off for the screwdriver controller, altogether proved a real test of sanity. I guess the results of this test proves in fact I am insane because I wouldn't miss all this for the world. I even look forward to doing it again!

I want to thank all the patient ops who hung in there with me while I vanished to restart this and that before returning. My partners who drove me around the state, Slim WA0BGV, who took the wheel Saturday and Dave W0DR, who made the Sunday trip, made it a much more enjoyable event.

John N6MU is like the mobile watchman, correcting us when we try to use the wrong county abbreviation! Thank you John. I'm glad you're always there! The DX ops were everywhere and a welcome addition to the log as the bands seemed at times to favor EU more than US. Laci OM2VL sounded like a local as usual as did several DL signals.

If all goes well I'll try a run thru KS and AR again this year but first a home-based run of W1AW/0 in late May. I hope to hear many of your familiar callsigns then.

Thank you all for coming back to the CQ's of the pork-n-bean mobile setup. It's great to hear so many guys having fun in these QSO parties.

A big thank you goes out to the B.E.A.R.S. club and Randy, N0LD for the special effort to make MOQP a success!

Til next time 73 Mark KI0I

**N6MU – fixed – CA - 195 cw 54 ssb 94 counties**

Now that was a Party! Kudos to Randy for all his efforts in getting the troops out big time.

As usual, the mobiles are key and there were a bunch of good ones out there this weekend. Top mobiles for me with at least 15 Qs were N0O(57), W0H(37), W0E(28), K0O(18), W0W(18), and W0F(15).

I was born and raised in St Louis and was first licensed while in high school. First call was K0GJD. Ran around with Paul, K0JPL, and others back in the day so always glad to support the MOQP.

Thanks to all the MO participants for one of the best MOQPs ever! 73...

John, N6MU

**OM2VL - fixed – DX                      144 cw 99 ssb 94 mults**

My BIG thanks to:

- 
- mobiles to give me this "amazing" number of counties so far to Slovakia (N0O, W0H, W0F, K0E, W0W, W0E, K0O, K0W, N0E, W0M, K0S, KD0VMM, W0O, W0S)
- N0O for most QSO in QP
- K0W for several coming back on my CQ frq on 15m
- KD0VMM, W0O for moving on my CQ frq to give me new counties
- all stations they called me

W0MA Bonus station worked on: 10m CW-SSB, 15m CW-SSB, 20m CW-SSB

1x1 CALL WKD: K0S, K0O, K0W, K0M, K0E  
N0S, N0H, N0O, N0M, N0E  
W0S, W0H, W0O, W0W, W0M, W0E (missed only: K0H, N0W)

80m - no QSO : I tried several times, but HRD only strong EU contesting stations

40m - only 7 QSO : it was extremely hard to find stations from MO, because on 7035-7050 I had terribly RTTY QRM from EU stations, and also many mobiles was over 7200, but I can transmit only below 7200.

20m - at the beginning very weak signals on CW, some mobiles I must call over 10 min and on SSB there was no chance to find somebody - here I missed some counties

15m - FB opening, I think it was a right decision to RUN CQ around 21370 on SSB, because I WKD here AMAZING number of SSB QSO's 62!!!; I think because of this I missed some QSO's (counties) on CW (maybe N0O from STL also)

10m - first day FB condx, (WKD 18 QSO :) , second day I

tried it again, but no propagation.

Most QSO's with:

N0O 51/36 (QSO/Cty)

W0H 27/22

W0F 13/9

K0E 13/12

W0W 11/4

W0E 9/9

K0O 7/7

K0W 7/7

N0E 6/5

W0M 6/6

K0S 4/2

KD0VMM 3/2

W0O 3/3

W0S 2/2

73 Laci OM2VL

### **WN4AFP – Fixed 29 cw qso**

This was my first MOQP and it was a wild ride. The ton of "1x1" calls really challenged my logging skills. Thank you to all of the excellent mobile operators (too many to list). I missed the "SHOW ME" award by one letter "W". I heard W0W, but he couldn't hear me. Every mobile county "run" sounded like a DX pile-up. Thanks to all for the QSO's.

73's WN4AFP

### **N4PN – fixed – GA 136 cw 112 ssb 83 mults**

Condx good for this one - GA to MO...usually don't hear Missouri on 20m very well, but the skip was just right except for the

Southeast corner of the state...

Thanks to the mobiles for a great showing and all those 1X1 calls kept everything moving....

My score includes the 100 point bonus for a contact with W0MA.

Thanks to the sponsors....and nice to work another friend, Paul, K0JPL, for the most contacts at 8....even 10 CW & SSB!!

73, Paul, N4PN

### **K0GQ – Multi Op – MO**

Ops: AD0HW K0OU K0YCR KB0YUV KC0DDZ KC0ELZ KD0GCL KD0HKD KD0LOS  
KD0WYP W0FEN W7FB WU8Y WX0MWL

We made this a club project and set up field day style with 2 stations sharing a triband beam, a 40/80 dipole, and a vertical. Both stations were in a small home built trailer. We had a linear on one station and ran about 500 watts. All was run from a 15 kw generator. Got lots of participation from the club. Had a couple of ops who made their first hf contacts. All had a good time. Ran DX stations on 15 meters until rf got into the computer. Tnx to all for the calls. Tnx to BEARS on the other side of the state for sponsoring the event-Nice job.

## **Radio Russia Goes 'Dark'**

Milestones: Voice of Russia Goes Dark After All

The Voice of Russia -- the former "Radio Moscow" -- ended its shortwave broadcasts on Tuesday, April 1 -- No fooling! After contradictory announcements and reports last December, it appears the international broadcaster has indeed pulled the plug on its HF transmissions. SWL Tom Witherspoon, K4SWL, contacted VOR. As he reported on his blog, Voice of Russia's Elena Osipova told him, "This is to thank you for your message

and confirm the information about the upcoming cancellation of the Voice of Russia's short- and medium wave transmissions as of April 1, 2014."

Richard Weil, KW0U, in St Paul, Minnesota, was able to hear the final shortwave broadcast. "Just barely picked up the last-day broadcast of VOR on 13.805 at 1300 UTC," he commented on Witherspoon's site. He used a dipole in his attic. "No mention on air of a final broadcast, which some services have given before closing down," he added. "Too bad to lose it, but time does move on."

Effective December 9, as a result of a decree signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin, the Voice of Russia radio company officially ceased to exist and merged with several other state-run news agencies as part of Russia Segodnya, a Russia-based international news service. From the 1950s through the 1980s, the station, then as Radio Moscow, was an easy catch for budding short-wave listeners (SWLs), many of whom later gravitated to Amateur Radio.

"I remember when the Voice of Russia and Radio Moscow absolutely dominated the shortwaves, especially in my early years as a radio listener," Witherspoon remarked on his blog. "Times have changed for this broadcaster, who has been the mouthpiece for Russia and the Soviet Union."

Source: ARRL Newsletter, April 3, 2014, ARRL, Newington, CT 06111

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If you started out in radio listening to shortwave, like so many kids did back in the 50s and 60s, you had many big Russian and 'satellite' countries stations dominating the band, each on several frequencies in each of the shortwave listening bands, like 6, 9, and 11 MHz. It didn't take much of a receiver to tune them in, and they all broadcast the same cold war propaganda. Now, all of the European broadcasters are disappearing one by one. The BBC (British Broadcasting Company) has cut back most English language sessions. Radio Switzerland, Radio Germany, Radio Sweden are not there these days like in the 50s and 60s. You've still got a few religious broadcasters, Radio China, and some others on the bands. In another five or ten years, there might not be any.

# UN “Global Warming’ Panel – Fesses Up

The U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change published its latest mammoth report last week, and the effort marks an improvement over the IPCC's last such effort in 2007. That may not be saying much, but on climate change intellectual progress of any sort is worth commending.

So it's worth diving deeper into the report, where a much more cautious picture of the state of climate science comes into view. Gone are some of the false alarmist claims from the last report, such as the forecast that the Himalayan glaciers would vanish by 2035 or that hurricanes are becoming more intense. **"Current data sets," the report admits, "indicate no significant observed trends in global tropical cyclone frequency over the past century."** Recall the false claims of climate cause and storm effect last year after Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines.

**Absent, too, are claims such as the one made in 2005 that global warming would create 50 million "climate refugees" by 2010** (later pushed back to 2020). In its place, we have the refreshingly honest admission that "current alarmist predictions of massive flows of so-called 'environmental refugees' or 'environmental migrants' are not supported by past experiences of responses to droughts and extreme weather events and predictions for future migration flows are tentative at best."

It acknowledges that the rate of warming between 1998 and 2012 "is smaller than the rate calculated since 1951." **More importantly, it acknowledges that "the innate behavior of the climate system imposes limits on the ability to predict its evolution."**

All of this vindicates what we wrote about the 2007 report: "Beware claims that the science of global warming is settled." It also suggests an IPCC toning down the end-is-nigh rhetoric that typified its past climate warnings: "Vulnerability is rarely due to a single cause." In other words, humanity has lots of problems, climate change being one of them. And as with other problems, humanity will cope and adapt.

**The IPCC also turns out to have an agenda that's less about climate change than income inequality and redistribution.** What else given the liberal fashions of the day? "Recognizing how inequality and marginalization perpetuate poverty is a prerequisite for climate-resilient development pathways," the IPCC insists, before suggesting that the costs for "global adaptation" should run between \$70 billion and \$100 billion a year

from now until 2050.

So adaptation funding needs to be "orders of magnitude greater than current investment levels, particularly in developing countries." If one Solyndra wasn't enough, try underwriting thousands of them. Preferably in third-world countries. For those who suspect that the purported threat of global warming is really a vehicle of convenience for reviving the discredited economics of the 1970s, this IPCC report will serve as Exhibit A.

Then again, if you believe that the risks of climate change are sufficiently plausible that we should at least be considering an insurance policy of sorts, then the IPCC's policy recommendations could hardly be worse. The best environmental policy is economic growth. The richer you are, the more insurance you have. Wealth is what pays for robust safety standards and prevents sensible environmental regulations from being ignored or corrupted.

Yet the IPCC supports the very regulation, income redistribution and politically favored misallocation of resources that will make the world poorer—and less able to adapt if the climate threat proves to be as real as the U.N.'s computer models claim.

Too bad that lesson hasn't sunk in at the IPCC, a body that has neither the remit nor the expertise to advise on economic policy.

Source: WSJ April 2014

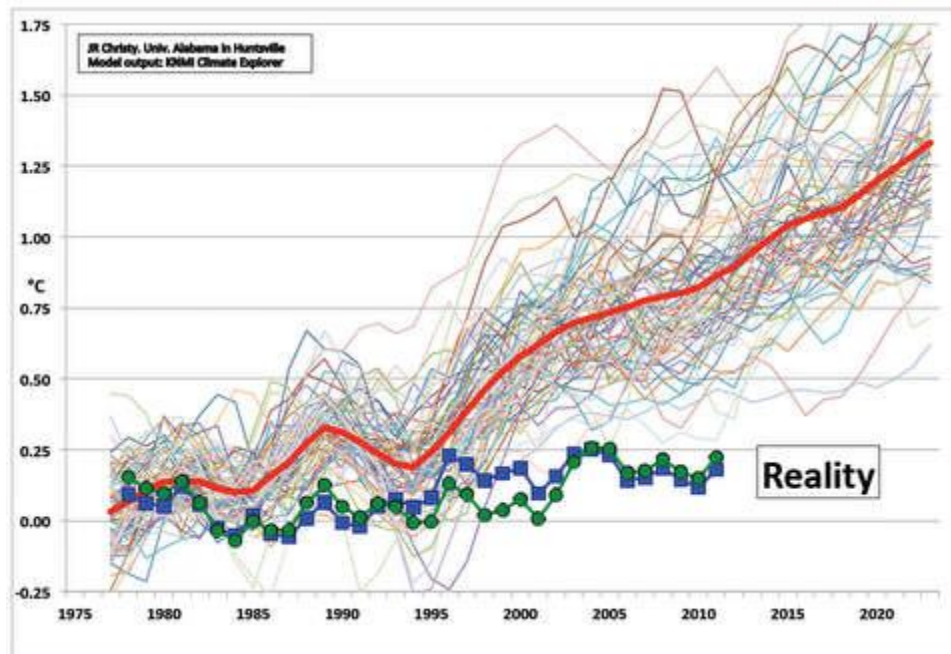
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de N4CD - The "Progressive Agenda" is all about 'taking' from the 'rich' west societies and redistributing your money to the Swiss bank accounts of third world tyrants and tycoons (via Solyndras worldwide) , where 95% of it will wind up in corruption and graft and bribes. It is about imposing 2 to 4 trillion in 'carbon taxes' to create a UN bureaucracy of 10,000 or more highly paid administrative people, funding 10,000 or more 'academics' in research, and doing next to nothing with what is left over. It is about millions and billions 'slushed out' to progressive pet projects that provide no long term benefit, but 'feel good', like pushing gay rights, having NASA do 'muslim outreach' as part of the US space program, building 'turtle tunnels', inventing 'endangered species' that aren't, and similar.

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Here's a graph of all the touted 'global warming' computer models (17+ of them) with the red line the average vs reality



Despite all their BILLIONS in computer power, 10,000 people working on the models....they all fail miserably just to show what has happened the last 17 years – ie, no warming.

It's amazing how many people 'believe' without question in this 'religion'.

## Nebraska QSO Party

The NE QP was held but stations were scarce. Mike, NF0N, headed out to run counties and I caught him in a few. Alan, KO7X, came down from WY and was putting them out in the western neck of the woods. I caught one fixed station – NE0QP – probably on the air by NF0N, and that was it. A few others were spotted on 40M but nil propagation

here. Conditions on 20M were rotten, I didn't hear more than 1 or 2 signals on the entire 15m band at any time during the day, and no MI or NE or SD ones for the QP's.  
From the County Hunting Facebook Page

### **KO7X mobile:**

First of all, I want to thank all of you who called in yesterday. You know who you are. 20 meters was the only good band and otherwise, conditions were poor. Despite that, I worked OM2VL once and managed to work all continents except for Africa. Here is the QSO breakdown by county: Kimball - 54, Banner - 52, Cheyenne - 68 and Morrill - 30 for a total of 204. It was mostly 20 meters with a few on 40, 15 and 10. Nothing heard on 6 or 2.

Western Nebraska is a desolate, flat expanse of high prairie - about 5000 feet elevation. I found some little hills to operate from the crests of. Out here, there are no trees and you can see forever. From what I could hear, the turnout for the NEQP was not very good, but there was plenty of activity from Michigan, Ontario and the MM contest. Thanks for riding along.

73 de KO7X/M.

From the 3830 contest reflector:

**WN4AFP -fixed – South Carolina - 3 cw 3 ssb 4 mults**

My first NEQP! Tough weekend for another QP with MIQP and others. Running an IC-730 barefoot to 40m dipole. Hope to hear more NE stations next year!

73's

Dave WN4AFP

# Health Book Report of the Month

This month we look at another book that takes a serious look about the American Diet. The author has also had PBS Specials so maybe you have caught one of them during the fund raising time programs, or will shortly when your PBS TV station goes into the fund raising mode next time!

The book is The 10 Day Detox Diet by Dr Hyman, who has written several others including the Sugar Solution. The basic premise is - the American Diet is all wrong.

If it was 'right' you wouldn't have 70% of Americans and 1.5 billion people worldwide overweight. And that is to be 2.3 billion overweight by 2015.

Those who are fighting the belt line – and the extra pounds that go on so easily as you get older – or, now for 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the kids in America, you can start with this:

Here's from his web site:

## **Food Lie #1: All Calories Are Created Equal**

When I walked into an 8th grade class recently, I asked if there was a difference between 1000 calories of broccoli and a 1000 calories of soda. You know what I heard? A unanimous, “Duh! Yes!”

The idea that, as long as we burn more calories than we consume, we will lose weight IS SIMPLY DEAD WRONG. The lie is that losing weight is all about energy balance or calories in/calories out. Just eat less and exercise more is the mantra we hear from the food industry and government agencies. It's all about moderation. How's that working for America?

The truth is there are good and bad calories. And that's because it's more than a simple math problem.

When we eat, our food interacts with our biology, which is a complex adaptive system

that instantly transforms every bite. Every bite affects your hormones, brain chemistry and metabolism. Sugar calories cause fat storage and spike hunger. Protein and fat calories promote fat burning.

What counts even more are the QUALITY of the calories.

What are high-quality calories? Whole foods – fresh foods, foods like great-grandma made. Good quality protein: grass-fed animal products (not factory farmed), organic eggs, chicken, small wild fish, nuts and seeds. Good carbs: vibrantly colored vegetables, the brighter the better (you can binge on these!). Fruits like wild berries, apples and kiwis. And super foods like chia and hemp seeds. And good fats like avocado, extra virgin olive oil, nuts and seeds, coconut butter and omega-3 fats from fish.

Yes, if you take 1500 calories of sugar and 1500 calories of broccoli and burn them in a lab dish, you will get 1500 calories of heat. Actually kilocalories but we'll use the normal convention here. But....

The body uses those calories differently. The 750 calories of sugar, like in a 7-11 Double Gulp drink, which is 100% sugar and contains 46 teaspoons of sugar, goes immediately into the body. Absorbed quickly. Any sugar, fructose, glucose spikes your blood sugar, starting a domino effect of high insulin and a cascade of hormonal responses that kick bad biochemistry into high gear. That stores belly fat, increases inflammation, raises triglycerides and lowers HDL, raises blood pressure, lowers testosterone in men, and contributes to infertility in women. Your appetite is increased. Insulin blocks the brain from appetite control, meaning you eat more, and want more sugar.

Fructose is even worse, going straight to the liver, where it starts to manufacture fat, which triggers more insulin resistance and causes elevated blood insulin levels, driving your body to store everything you eat as dangerous belly fat. Chronic inflammation causes more weight gain and diabetes. IT also doesn't signal the brain that calories have been consumed. Nor does it reduce your appetite. There's no fiber in soda to slow calorie absorption.

Plus, your taste buds get highjacked. You need to add lots of sugar or HFCS for anything to taste sweet.

On the other hand, broccoli is primary carbs – they get converted to 'sugars' but the process is really important. High fiber, low sugar things like broccoli are slowly digested and don't lead to blood sugar and insulin spikes. That is the important

difference. You'd also be hard pressed to eat 750 calories of broccoli as that is 21 cups of it. Broccoli is 23% protein, 9 percent fat, and 68% carbs, with the equivalent of 1.5 teaspoons of sugar in 21 cups. Not only that, but MOST of the calories in broccoli would NOT be absorbed due to the high fiber content. They would pass on through the body. Those that do, are absorbed SLOWLY. However, all the good stuff in broccoli is absorbed (proteins, minerals, anti-oxidants, phyto-chemicals).

ALL “CALORIES” are NOT created equal. Yet your government and everyone else will tell you 'a calorie is a calorie'. WRONG WRONG WRONG! It is not daily 'calorie reduction'. It is eating HIGH FIBER healthy foods that slowly digest – and where a good portion of the calories never get absorbed. You want the nutrition, not 'empty calories' of sugar and HFCS.

### **Food Lie #2: Don't Lose Weight Too Fast, You'll Gain it All Back**

Slow and steady is what we are told. No quick fixes. Don't lose more than a pound a week. This is dead wrong. Studies show the opposite – that a jumpstart leads to more weight loss over time. If you reboot your metabolism with a quick detox from sugar, processed food and junk, you will reset your hormones and your brain chemistry making it much easier to sustain the changes.

The key is to use a healthy, sustainable strategy for weight loss that balances your hormones and brain chemistry and doesn't put you in a starvation response.

That allows you to lose the weight and keep it off – I see it with my patients all the time – if you see results, you feel empowered and get inspired to keep losing weight.

### **Food Lie #3: All You Need is Willpower**

This is one of the most insidious lies pushed on us by the food industry and government.

Their mantra is this: Eat Less, Exercise More.

The implicit message in this idea is that the real reason we are all fat and sick is that we are lazy gluttons. If we just stopped stuffing our faces and got up off the couch and

moved our butt, we would lose weight. It is moral failing, weak psychology, apathy or worse that prevents people from moderating their food intake and exercise. This is nonsense.

If you try to control your appetite with willpower, you will fail. We have short-term voluntary control and can starve ourselves but then our bodies compensate by slowing our metabolism and dramatically increasing appetite. It is unsustainable. If I asked you to hold your breath for 15 minutes – no matter how bad you want to make it happen, you're just not designed to pull that off.

When your taste buds, brain chemistry, hormones and metabolism have been damaged by sugar and processed foods, willpower alone won't do it. If you are addicted to sugar and refined carbs you cannot white knuckle it for very long. You have to naturally reset your brain chemistry and hormones so your body will automatically self regulate and the cravings disappear and hunger will be in balance.

When your metabolism has been hijacked you need to detox from the addictive power of sugar and flour and replace them with real, whole high quality foods. That will allow your appetite and weight to automatically regulate without willpower.

#### **Food Lie #4: Diet Soda Is Better Than Regular Soda**

I call soda LIQUID DEATH. And you might as well call diet soda “New & Improved Liquid Death,” because it may actually be WORSE.

In a 14-year study of more than 66,000 women, researchers found that diet sodas actually raised the risk of diabetes MORE than sugar-sweetened sodas. One diet soda increased the risk of type 2 diabetes by 33% and one large diet soda increased the risk by 66%.

The truth is, diet soda slows your metabolism, makes you hungry for sugar and carbs and packs on the belly fat. Stay away from all artificial sweeteners, even natural ones. Just add a little real sugar to your coffee if you want. It's not the sugar that you add to your diet that's the problem. It's the sugar that is added to your diet by food corporations. (packaged cereals, packaged anything, snacks, cookies, pancakes, bread!)

#### **Food Lie #5: Foods Labeled Low Fat or Whole Grain Are Good for You**

The low-fat craze of the last 30 years has paralleled the dramatic rise in obesity and type 2 diabetes. When food companies took the fat out of the products it was replaced with

sugar. And in those 30 years our sugar consumption has doubled. Fat actually makes you satisfied, curbs your appetite and a review of all the research on fat and weight found that fat does not make you fat.

The latest health buzzword is “whole grain.” Food companies add a few flakes of whole grain to processed foods and try to convince us its healthy. A whole grain Pop Tart? Really?

Most cereals are 75% sugar, even with a little bit of whole grain added. They shouldn't be called breakfast, they should be called dessert. And we are feeding sugary cereal to our kids for breakfast thinking we are doing something good for them. In fact, we are killing them.

My basic rule for food: If it has ANY health claim on the label, it's probably bad for you.

### **Food Lie #6: It's All About Genetics**

You may think if your mom is fat and your grandma is fat, that's why you are fat – you drew the fat card or the diabetes card in the genetic lottery.

But the truth is there are 32 genes associated with obesity in the general population and they only account for nine percent of obesity cases. So even if you had all 32 obesity genes, you would put on only about 22 pounds.

Plus, our genes only change two percent every 20,000 years. And by 2050 it is projected that over 50 percent of Americans will be obese (now it's about 35%). Our genes don't change that fast.

What changed is we went from eating about 10 pounds of sugar per person per year in 1800 to 152 pounds of sugar (and 146 pounds of flour) per person per year today. Those are drugs, doses of sugar and flour that hijack our metabolism and make us fat and sick.

The truth is that obesity is caused by all kinds of factors, but the least of them is genetics.

### **Food Lie #7: Eating Fat Makes You Fat**

Fat is not a 4-letter word! Eating fat not only doesn't make you fat, it's critical to health and weight loss. Studies comparing an identical calorie high fat diet to a high sugar diet

had totally different effects on metabolism. The higher fat diet caused people to burn an extra 300 calories a day. That's the equivalent of running for an hour without doing any exercise. Fat speeds up your metabolism. Sugar slows it down.

In studies of animals eating identical calorie diets of low fat (high sugar) or higher fat and protein show that the higher sugar diets lead to more fat deposition and muscle loss, while the higher fat and protein diets led to more muscle mass and fat loss. And remember that's while they were eating exactly the same number of calories.

The right fats are actually the preferred fuel for our cells, especially ones called medium chain triglycerides that come from foods like coconut butter. Yes, you need to stay away from trans fats, but good fats like extra virgin olive oil, coconut butter, avocado, nuts, seeds and nut butters keep us full AND they lubricate the wheels of our metabolism.

So don't fear fat!

### **Food Lie #8: Milk Is Nature's Perfect Food**

Milk is nature's perfect food only if you are a calf!

For many people, dairy causes inflammation, allergies, congestion, postnasal drip, sinus problems, eczema, asthma, acne and irritable bowel. It also may increase the risk of bone fractures and osteoporosis, increase the risk of type 1 and type 2 diabetes and causes certain kinds of cancers.

And it also spikes insulin, causing us to grow belly fat.

No matter what messages you hear from the dairy lobby – there is nothing perfect about milk! If it is advertised as 'health food', it most likely isn't! (drink Almond milk – more calcium, no dairy).

### **Food Lie #9: You Have To Starve To Lose Weight**

You do NOT have to starve to lose weight! In fact, that's one thing that my patients love to learn about, they don't go hungry when eating real whole food. There is no way even the Guinness World Record holder of calorie counting can accurately know their calorie intake. If you eat one extra mouthful of food a day, over 30 years you will become obese. You have to let your body naturally regulate itself by eating the right foods. You can't count your way to health or weight loss.



In fact, when you balance your hormones and insulin by eating the right combination of proteins, healthy fats, the right carbs (low glycemic) and phytonutrients, you can not only lose weight without starving, you can lose weight without craving all the junk that was making you fat!

### **Food Lie #10: Exercise Is the Key to Weight Loss**

If you think you can exercise your way to weight loss, I am sorry to say you are in for a big disappointment. Do you treat yourself to a post workout sugar-laden smoothie, muffin, or other “healthy” snack? Suck back some Gatorade to quench your thirst after your thirty minutes on the treadmill?

Relying on exercise to lose weight without changing your diet is asking for failure. You can change your diet and lose weight, but if you exercise and keep your diet the same, you may gain some muscle, improve endurance, and be healthier overall, but you won't shed many pounds.

Remember, if you consume just one 20-ounce soda, you have to walk four and a half miles to burn it off. If you consume one super-size fast-food meal, you have to run four miles a day for one whole week to burn it off. If you eat that every day, you have to run a marathon every single day to burn it off.

Source: <http://drhyman.com/blog/2014/04/01/top-10-food-lies-keep-us-sick-fat-part-2/>

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de N4CD

What's his basic premise? You are being hijacked by the Food Industry of the US. You have been converted into a 'Food Addict' by them. You are hooked on some of the most deadly drugs in the world – sugar and anything that turns quickly to sugar in your body. The \$1 trillion dollar food industry is the biggest drug dealer around. You need to break that addiction. Sugar is more powerful than cocaine, alcohol, or heroin. We treat those on heroin and cocaine as 'addicts',

You can pretty much surmise the solution. Out with the sugar, diet drinks, fruit juice, 'sweeteners' other than Stevia, alcohol, caffeine, all grains, all flours, on his 10 day detox program. You can't stop your 'addiction' by only having 'a little cocaine today or just a line'. Or for an alcoholic, just 'one drink' a day. All gluten is out of the diet. No MSG(hidden in everything from Splenda, most packaged dinners, Chinese food).)

Veggies, healthy protein, berries in his diet to start. No dairy! None. Zip. You'll see 'maltodextrin' added to just about any packaged dinner – that is MSG! Just a different name! Out! None!

After 10 days, you add back in limited fruits, some grains, some pasta...slowly – to find out how they affect you. The initial 10 days is to 'jump start' your system.

This book is similar to the others reviewed. It boils down to the 'sugar has got to go'. The sweetened drinks have to go. The 'fruit juice' is gone. Whether in cereal, (junk food), sodas – regular or diet – in packaged dinners, pancake mix, cakes, muffins, donuts, cookies....the sugar has got to go. In with the dark colorful veggies, nuts, lettuce, beans, avocados, fruits, berries.

It's worth a read if you are serious about your health.

[http://www.amazon.com/Blood-Sugar-Solution-10-Day-Detox/dp/0316230022/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1394071075&sr=1-1&keywords=The+10+Day+Detox+Diet](http://www.amazon.com/Blood-Sugar-Solution-10-Day-Detox/dp/0316230022/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1394071075&sr=1-1&keywords=The+10+Day+Detox+Diet)

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Here's some videos – from the BBC – 3 of them in the series each an hour long. Good for a dead band day or when no mobiles are running

### **The Men Who Made Us Fat**

Start here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E6nGILUBkOQ>

It's the story of the agri-business that brought you HFCS – High Fructose Corn Sweetener – that permeates every 'soft drink'. Way back in the 1960s, soft drinks had sugar in them. By the 1970s, most had been converted to HFCS to save the companies money and most people didn't complain.

When Coke and Pepsi started – they were 6 oz bottles! Imagine that. The 'seniors' might remember that size. Then Pepsi started the size war. It was 8, then 10, then 12 oz bottles. Remember the old vending machines where the soda was kept in ice and you slid what you wanted along the rails to the end, and pulled up the bottle after putting your money in the machine? (1950s). Then they had the big machines where it was vertical racks – and it was refrigerated – no more ice. Cans came along, too – much bigger than the original 6 oz serving – double – 12 oz cans.

Slowly, it got up to 16 oz sodas as the norm in bottles.....and up to 20oz of soda per bottle. Oh, right! They'd tell you the bottle contained 'two servings' with 200 calories per serving. Duh! No one ever drank 'half a bottle'. Hundreds and hundreds of 'empty calories'. Even worse, for 'diet soda', sweeteners that hi-jacked your taste buds and made you crave more 'sweets' and junk food. HFCS Don't signal the brain that you had just consumed 400 calories of pure junk food. The rest of your body is busy storing it as fat.

And of course, every snack now had HFCS added. Cake, cookies, you name it. It was pretty cheap and it made folks crave even more. You can't just stop at one!

Face it- Americans love sugary, salty, lacking in nutrition junk food – and it shows. Junk food is like heroin. You crave it. You can't get enough and you want it many times a day. It's an obsession. If you want to be healthy, it's simply 'got to go'.

Hint: If you look at the list of ingredients on the package/can and it is longer than ONE, don't eat it!

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From Canada:

Here's another video you might enjoy...and then think seriously about:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDaYa0AB8TQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDaYa0AB8TQ)

You should REALLY watch it. Your life depends upon it.

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And if the band is still dead, you might enjoy

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgu7wiDRaLU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgu7wiDRaLU)

A discussion with Dr Perlmutter, author of Grain Brain. Otherwise, book mark it and digest it later.

Does diet matter? Find out later in the newsletter.

## Georgia QSO Party

Mobiles were out and running, including K5YAA, W4AN, W3DYA - , N4N , KN4Y , N5NA , and AD8J on cw.

### **W4AN multi-op mobile with KU8E and K4BAI**

IC756Pro, 100W, Hustler mobile whips (with a DX Engineering top hat on 20M). This year, we had two antennas mounted on the trunk with mag mounts grounded to the car chassis. This made band changes easier than in the past. However, we did have an unusual amount of RFI, particularly on 40M, which caused us to have to reboot the computer or the logging program frequently and resulted in our having to use the paddle and keyer for most sending. We did sometimes have computer sending on the bands other than 40. Rig control from the computer didn't work for some reason, so we had some band change errors in the log that were corrected afterward.

Band conditions on Saturday were miserable. Except for one year when we had a flare that wiped out the bands completely for 45 minutes or so, these were as bad band conditions as I have experienced in any GQP. We made only 530 QSOs in 10 hours on Saturday. QRN was high on 80 Saturday night. Sunday was much better. 40M was the big band on Saturday and 20M on Sunday. Thanks to all who participated. Particularly the mobiles. Also the DX stations. Already looking forward to next year.

And in two weeks, KU8E and I will again be QRV in the FL QSO Party. This year, we had great navigation help from KU8E's oldest son, Andrew, who is looking forward to getting his driver's license next year and helping with the driving too. Thanks Andrew.

Note that the N1MM program seems to give credit for one multiplier for a DX station per mode. In other words, "DX" is counted as one mult on

CW/Dig and one on Phone. This is not in accordance with the rules of GQP, which give no multiplier credit for DX QSOs, just QSO point credit. This is not extremely significant and requires no correction, but the claimed scores posted by operators using the N1MM logging program may be slightly inflated.

73, John, K4BAI.

### **AD8J mobile**

I did my normal one man operation in the KW mobile. Saturday was tough as the rate just wasn't there. Interesting on 40 phone when I asked if the frequency was clear. Almost always someone said the frequency was busy. But when I'd find a clear frequency and call CQ, it was hard to attract many takers. Many thanks to the stations that worked me in each county and several bands and modes. DL3DXX had a great signal from Germany which was stronger than most US stations.

### **K5YAA mobile with N4PN – 2300+ QSO and 58 counties !**

Well, here is the story of two old timers operating in the 2014 Georgia QSO Party.

Paul, N4PN and I discovered what the difference between night and day means. Saturday was the night, the dark part, and Sunday was the day, the light part.

The bands on Saturday were, simply put, pitiful. We worked very hard to get the 780 or so QSOs in the log on Saturday. No 10m or 15m all day and 20m was a real grind. 40m produced only a few. Sunday was a completely different picture. We more than doubled our Saturday contacts. 20m came alive and 15m and 10m were open with very few responses to our CQs on those bands. A couple of QSO Party diehards worked us on 15m and 10m but we never could stir up the dust on those two bands. Counties in Georgia are fairly small so we never got to 40m meters in several counties. Sorry to those close in stations that waited for us to show up on 40. 20 was the band and we took advantage of it.

Regardless of band conditions we had a great time. Springtime, as elsewhere, has come to Georgia. The trees and flowers are blooming and the countryside was alive with the sounds and sites of spring. The weather was perfect and there were a couple of stops where we put down the windows and simply enjoyed what the day had to offer. During the weekend we spotted one deer and three wild turkeys. None crossed our path on the road which is always good. Paul's

XYL claims that two of those turkeys were the ones in the van! Paul and I resemble that comment.

Both days there were only a few minor navigation problems, none that caused us to be delayed by long. The mobile performed well again even though it had been put through it's paces the weekend before in Missouri. Sunday morning was the only time we had any equipment trouble. No power out. Did the amp fail us? Swapped it and still nothing. Turns out the 100 watt power module in the K3 had quit on us. The spare K3 was put in place and off we went in Twiggs county. That episode cost us our Bibb county run on Sunday morning, a loss of 30 minutes. LATE NEWS: I reloaded the configuration of the K3 and it came back alive! The spares live on for more mobile days.

For some reason we had no computer lockups or hiccups on our run. Maybe the Georgia air had something to do with that as it seems there are at least a couple of laptop hangups in every party. We made it to 58 counties. We had mapped out 62 in an effort to beat that stalwart W0BH's run last year of 61 counties. Didn't make it. We missed 4 on Saturday evening and one on Sunday. We did however, add a couple so we made up for a couple of the lost ones. We wasted little time on the road and gassed up only when needed so we made the effort.

Before I get to some of the numbers and recognition of the stations that worked us I have to make the following comments. Here I was all the way from Oklahoma running with one of the top operators in the country. Paul did half the operating on Saturday but on Sunday did all the driving. I kept trying to get him to come on and get some of the action but he kept saying "Keep going I'm enjoying the party just as much as you". He had a pair of headsets on and would once in a while holler out a call sign. It seems we hear similar tones because it was not often that he heard a different station from me. I just accepted the fact that he was telling me the truth and was actually enjoying motoring along in the counties of his home state. Paul has dozens of stories about ham episodes and friends, people in his state and about baseball,

one of his longtime passions. A FB fellow to be around. I truly enjoyed our time together. We did a few N1MM function key adjustments on Friday evening, installed Paul's wireless keyboard and a keyer he likes then drew our route and county outlines on a nice big Georgia map I picked up on the way into the state. Otherwise we just talked radio and other things in common. It became 1AM Friday evening before we knew it. What could be better?

Now for a few statistics and comments on the party. All I can remember about Saturday is the poor conditions. Nothing about the operations on that day really stand out. 80 meters late Saturday produced a good number of Qs. We left 20 that evening as it seemed even worse than during the day. No signals to be found late. A real disappointment as 20 can stay open all night much of the time. We were both glad to be running high power as anything less would really have been a grind. Sunday was much better, as I said, and we made a number of DX Qs. DL3DXX was always present. He worked us in daylight on 40 meters and even 80 meters Saturday evening. A FB signal every time he called in. There were others of course. ON4AAC, Frank made the log several times and DK3BN peaked late Sunday and sounded like a local at times. We worked a total of 12 countries including DL, G, HA, HB, I, LY, OH, ON, SM, SP, UA3 and YV. Most of the DX contacts were on Sunday though a few happened on Saturday.

There were many stateside ops that followed us around for the entire weekend. They made the party for us. We were able to work 43 states not logging any NV, VT, ND, AK, HI, or OR (?) stations. No DC either.

Thanks to all the other stations that stayed with us both days. I had the pleasure of contacts with my high school buddy AK5X and my Missouri operating partner N5WR. Of course with 2,350 QSOs you work many folks who you have known from over the years. One of the finest things about ham radio is the friendships you make.

Overall a very fun operating experience for Paul and myself. It was, as I said, great to be with a like minded operator. Paul's driving was magnificent and his knowledge of his home state makes him a real ambassador for Georgia.

I personally want to thank Paul and his wife for their kindness and for opening their home to a transplanted Texan now Okie. I look forward to many years of their friendship.

In addition, thanks to Alan, N5NA for his efforts in taking up the slack/lack of promotion for the Georgia party. Alan's map was of great interest and use.

Until the next party run - maybe Florida, 73 - Jerry K5YAA

Rig: That rolling Oklahoma Land Rush Mobile using a K3, AL811H amp, Tarheel and Hustler antennas plus a very well used Dell laptop, with an installed wireless keyboard running N1MM.

### **KN4Y mobile 734 QSOs**

It was a gruesome CW rover experience with a senior driver and a senior plus CW operator with diminished hearing from attending too many rock concerts, reduced eye sight from cataracts, an arthritic fist and then add poor band conditions. It was almost too much but our fiend Oxycodone saved the QSO party.

### **W3DYA (W3DYA op) mobile**

Saturday was a little slow, but Sunday got better as time moved on, as usual! I want to thank those who stayed with me: DL3DXX (40), WA2VYA (33), K8MFO (30), W0BH (30), K4BYN (26), K4SAV (24), W8PI (22), DL3GA (20), W5ASP (19) and twenty-five others who were there for ten or more QSOs.

Always a fine event, but the late starting time Saturday afternoon bothered me more than usual. Arrived at the state line Friday night, slept late, had a long breakfast, and still had to wait and wait. But it was fun when it did start and I got over it!

I activated 33 counties, and Karen did a good job getting me through the counties without any delays.

I'd end with a "see you next year" but at my age I'm getting conservative about future plans! Hi!

73, Norm, W3DYA



## **N1CC – fixed – TX - 136 cw 89 ssb QSO**

Lots of mobiles...good planning does help! Worked K5YAA 20X, W4AN 18X, KN4Y 12X, N4N 10X, W3DYA 8X, AD8J 7X, N4I 6X, N5NA and KC4YBO 3X each. With 101 different counties I am sure I missed several..

## **W0BH – fixed – Kansas**

While conditions were really tough for Georgia stations on Saturday, one place they could still seem to contact was Kansas! It was tough going sometimes, but no complaints.

Last year, I had the pleasure of running mobile in Georgia with Paul/n4pn as we found our way through 61 counties. This year, Jerry/k5yaa had that privilege, so I decided to follow k5yaa/m around as Jerry and Paul tried for 62. Of course once I got started, it was just too much fun to quit, so I ended up working the entire GQP.

Great job by the mobiles : K5YAA topped my list with close to 100 CW contacts, followed by W4AN/45, N4N/38, W3DYA/30, KN4Y/20, AD8J/18, N5NA/13, and N4I/12. A few of those are dupes as I got tired towards the end. They helped me find 142/159 counties missing BRYN COLU CRAW DADE ELBE GRAD JACK LANI LIBE LINC LONG MADI OGLE RICH SCRE TAYL and WAYN. I really didn't SSB CQ until Sunday, but once

I started, the Georgia ops kept me busy and I probably missed some mobile CW counties .. it's always a tradeoff. Overall, I worked 111 unique calls.

## CHNews Flashback to 2005

The County Hunter News has been around for 10 years now! Wow! It all started when certain MARAC officers (mainly one in particular and I'm sure you can figure out who very easily) pulled some shenanigans.....and the RoadRunner refused to run K2NJ's President's column. So an alternative media was created to get the news to the CH community.

In issue one – Jan 2005, we start out with:

“Welcome to the first County Hunter News, a new monthly on-line publication for all county hunters, with an orientation toward CW operation. In this inaugural issue, the initial format will be informal with topics of interest, news items, updates on awards, concerns, letters from readers, and CW and SSB happenings.

While it seems that there are multiple on-line news sources these days, this one will focus exclusively on county hunting, related ham radio activities, interesting stories, visits with hams along the way while traveling, updates on awards and other tidbits.”

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We then had a story explaining the sixth months of paralysis within MARAC when it had no President or Vice President in office. Thanks to, you know who, who lives in South Carolina.

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That was followed by the first 'On the Road with N4CD' story...and here is a good part of it. Previously I had written a few articles, like on visiting HI and AK, for the Road Runner.

### **On the Road with N4CD – First column!**

It's been a while since I've written a column, but the county putting out trips still continue, almost one a month. Bill, K2NJ, suggested that while MARAC was in a state of paralysis due to the efforts of one person, that it wouldn't be appropriate for me to

send in stories any longer to the RR. After all, both of us were 'in limbo', due to apparently poorly written bylaws.

I've just gotten back from a trip from Texas to Maryland, so I'll share a few experiences. I've done this trip for the past few year to visit family in the Washington, DC area, and it's a good excuse to go mobile! It's not necessarily financially smart, as one can fly there and back for a lot less than driving these days, but I still like putting out the counties, even after 10 years of mobiling. One can save a lot of money just sitting in a comfy chair at home, maybe with a TV in the corner, refrigerator, computer nearby to surf the web between mobile runs, and with big towers and amps to get through quickly. No hassles driving, with weather problems, flat tires, breakdowns, logging thousands of contacts, unknown motels and restaurants, checking and signing MRCs, etc.

Gas was up to nearly two bucks a gallon in many places, and hit over \$2.25/gal in California when I visited in September, so the daily budget gets stretched. Ten days on the road can add up to big credit card bills when you get back home, plus the wear and tear on the car. You're also eating all your meals out, so I figure on \$90-100/day for travel. Sometimes you can save a few bucks on motels, and I'm a budget traveler.

One of the challenges I'm working on is tracking transmitted counties second time around, so I try to keep hitting new ones – it's getting harder and harder as I run everything close by, within 500 miles, so I have to make some long trips to fill in new areas.

It was December, and I got the urge to put out some new counties, so it was off on a long 3000 mile trip with the trusty N4CD/mobile. About six months ago, I had tuned the antennas for optimum CW work, added a 30M resonator, and found that my tuner (an LDG) would not tune the 40M resonator up to the SSB frequency. After a quick visit to the local Texas Towers ham store, I acquired a Hamstick type 40m whip which was placed on a triple magnet mount on the roof of the car, along with the normal K8CW/W9UCW triple resonator 20/30/40m system on the trunk deck. I was hoping for better conditions on 40m SSB that we have recently had. Lots of folks needed counties on SSB. The 20M antenna would still radiate 25-30w on SSB even though not tuned for SSB.

Now, I should note that bad weather had seemed to be occurring more often on my trips, probably due to just the law of averages, or that I seemed to notice them more! On the trip to California in September to go to Button Box Accordion Camp for a week in the Sierras, it snowed on the way home in Nevada! Snow in September. Not a good precedent for upcoming trips! In November, the floods had dumped on Victoria Texas

the day before I got there, flooding out roads and requiring detours. Oh, well, you get a lot of nice days, and sometimes hit some of the not so nice days.

It was routine leaving Dallas in December, headed northeast, until I hit Arkansas – then I had snow flurries as I traveled off the interstate to Dallas and Jefferson counties. That would be a preview of what was to come! I've been running a lot on 30M CW, which seems to be a superb band. As most know, county hunters have been intensively using this band since the beginning of June, 2004, yet there were still many counties not transmitted from on 30M. I made it up to northeast Arkansas the first night, found a motel and stopped for the night (\$45). I'm usually on the road by 7:30am local time, sometimes earlier.

On CW, early in the morning you can start on 40m on 7039 as early as 1200-1230Z, and be working county hunters. Then around 1300, 30M starts to open, but 40M is still excellent with coast to coast signals. I wonder about the folks in CA up an on the air at 4 and 5 a.m. to catch their counties! During the day, 30M gives great results, and there are new folks joining the fun each day. In the middle of the country, 20M opens about 9am or 10am local time or later, other than the VKs and southern FL which come in somewhat earlier.

Each time I go, I try to hit counties that are both needed by the folks, as determined on the K3IMC site, and also ones I have not run recently. I plotted a path along southern KY, zigzagging, to get as many as I could while still headed generally northeast toward MD. People needed so many counties in KY it was a challenge, even though there are some active county hunters there.

I mark the maps, and try to really mark where I should take slight detours to get another county. Darn, zipped right past Calloway, KY – maybe a 2 mile detour, but forgot to take it! Worse yet, folks needed it, and I needed to transmit from it. Now I'll be driving 100 miles out of my way sometime to get back to it. Maybe if you were waiting for it, now you know why I didn't run it - forgot to take the turn! Maybe too busy running the county and not checking the map...those QRXs sometimes are for map checks. More than once, I found myself on the wrong road – I should have taken fork, and didn't – and had to go back a mile or two or three. Fortunately, I only missed one county on the entire trip.

As I stopped the second night, it was raining. It was getting very cold. Winter had arrived. There were three motels in this town, and it was the only town around. Darn, two real dumps, and the other was \$62. There went that day's budget. I typically eat dinner, go back to the motel, watch some TV, then sleep, get up, grab some breakfast,

and hit the road. I don't need fancy furniture, double suite walnut furniture rooms, refrigerators in rooms, hairdryers, etc. Give me a TV set, with cable, and a remote, and I'm happy. After making several hundred contacts, I'm ready just to crash, get a good night's sleep, and hit the road early in the morning.

Maybe I should have known better. The year before during trip up through KY and WV, it snowed for 3 days – terrible driving conditions, to the point where I had to stop early since the roads were so bad. Bill, K2NJ needed only two for WBOW, and I was out to get him Elliot KY for next to last. I was hoping to not encounter the same conditions, but that is not something you can plan on a week or two ahead of time.

This year, the snow started on the first day (flurries), a little bit the second day, and on waking up on the third day, very light snow was falling at times. I headed toward eastern Kentucky, where airline distances between towns is 5 miles, but the shortest roads are 15. There are lots of very wanted counties. Whichever way you turn, folks want 'the next county'.

The weather was gloomy, very cold, but I kept moving. I hit a town around sunset – asked if any motels, and told, "One". OK...\$32/night for the motel, and the heat worked fine. Eight pick up trucks in the motel parking lot, and my car. It got down to 15 degrees outside. Several inches of snow were in the forecast. You can't be fussy when the next motel is 40-50 miles down the windy narrow roads.

The next day, I started out early getting more KY counties, headed toward WV. Driving wasn't too bad...just light snow, no problems yet driving. Well, that was until I hit Wolfe, Magoffin, and other tough counties, and then over to Pike and others. Then it looked like a blizzard. Most of operation was on 30M, with most contacts made on 30m, then QSY to 40M and to 20M. It was now a big 'snow storm'. One of the fun kind with snow that sticks to the road signs, making it tough to read them as you go by. You drive along on strange roads, with signs you can barely make out, following the 'tracks' in the road, and hope you are somewhere on the pavement and that there are no 12 inch drop offs at the side of the road.

I was making slow progress, and had left myself extra time to get to MD even if I was 'snowed in' for a day or two somewhere. I finally made it out of KY, and figured it wouldn't be too bad in WV, since I was going to stick to the interstates after going through a few counties on major highways.

Well, that turned out to be a bad assumption! The highways were 'major' but the snow started to turn to 'major' as well. There were snow plows and sand trucks everywhere.

Traffic was moving at 40 mph. I came up finally to Charleston, and it was beginning to get dark. There were big fancy motels with big fancy prices everywhere.

It seemed that it might make sense to get past downtown Charleston, and to be on the other side to avoid rush hour traffic the next morning, so I went past Charleston. That turned out to be a VERY big mistake. Once you get past downtown, you find there are no inexpensive motels. No motels at all. However, there had to be some towns coming up, right? Always a suburb, right? Don't bet on it!

Oh, I still ran all the counties I went through, even stopping on side of snowy interstate for one short distance county- quickly! Yes, I guess county hunter mobiles are little nuts to keep doing what they do. If you wonder why the keyer gets cranked up to 30wpm, and I don't take QSP (relays) at times, that is one reason – not so safe a location.

Once you pass Charleston headed Northeast, you quickly find there are NO motels for the next 70 miles. There are lots of very high mountains, and the interstate goes up and up and up in elevation, and the snow comes down and down. Traffic was one lane each direction, moving 25-30mph, with lots of nervous drivers continually hitting their brakes, hoping I guess to go into skids? One car doing 20mph every now and then, and folks trying to get by in unplowed lanes and barely making it.

It was getting dangerous, and at each exit I looked for motel sign. NONE! The middle of nowhere! It was 2 hours more driving in the dark, with temps in the under 10 deg area, wind blowing 30-50 mph at the hilltops, a couple of inches of snow/ice on the roads, along with an inch of salt/slush/sand mix that kept getting thrown up on the windshield. More and more snow was falling. Surely there would be a motel coming up soon! It seemed like ten exits and no motels!

Finally an exit with motel sign appeared – Sutton, WV. I got off the interstate and headed the one mile to motel...nice 10 unit older style motel, \$25 plus tax, and 'good heat' said the nice lady. I needed the heat - woke up to 4 degrees outside the next morning. That was the only night I didn't take the radio out of the car for the night – too darn cold, and I figured there wouldn't be too many folks out looking to steal radios at 4 deg and 6 or 8 inches of new snow! Dang it was cold! Next morning I warmed up the car a bit, and headed off to a hot breakfast, then onto the interstate headed toward the PA/MD border. After all, things had to get better, right? (Ever try sending code when it is 4 degrees inside the car?)

NOT! - this was not to be a nice clear highway trip. I got up to Monongalia, WV, and headed east into Preston...the wind was blowing 40-50mph, the snow was 12 inches

deep, and the Interstate Highway speed was about 25-30mph. My window washer had frozen up, so that wasn't fun either having to stop every few exits and clean off the windshield. Texas folks don't use the 'good' antifreeze stuff, just stuff good to remove dirt and bugs with normal temps. Heck, down there the world comes to a stop at anything under 32 degrees.

I missed my turn to get to Fayette, PA -- so busy keeping the car on the road (and putting out the counties) that I didn't dawn on me I would have to go on worse road yet to get to the county. Only after I got into MD did I realize it, then had to backtrack 20 miles to get Fayette after running Somerset, on a twisty 2 lane road. I was trying to run all the counties along the southern border of PA, and northern part of MD, and if I missed, I'd have to come back and drive miles out of the way some day to get it later.

It sure helps to have navigator to keep you on track. One other trick I use is to copy the maps out of a coloring book, and plot my route on it, showing what counties I will run, in which order. That works as long as you have the time to look at it while driving!

Well, about that time a friendly voice invites me to stop by for cup of coffee at exit 3 off Interstate 70 – N2OCW, Larry. We set up a time to meet at the truck stop, and we both enjoy a short visit. My car is white from the salt. His pickup truck is also white from salt. It turns out he had been out putting out southern WV counties, and got caught up in the same snow storm that I did. Even worse, his radio had stopped working, and he had to come back without any radio contacts! Even worse, he has to live through that weather for every winter, while I head back to Texas. It was a good eyeball QSO.



N2OCW Larry

Then things improved...lower elevation, less snow, but still darn cold as I got further

east – no mountains.... I ran the pairs of counties along the PA/MD border and the fourth night was spent in a small, nice motel in PA for \$30/night. I had managed to not get snowed it, so I kept running counties for another 2 days headed down the eastern shore of MD, and getting all three counties in Delaware as well. It was clear – no snow and no rain! This was good county hunting weather.

I wound up staying at a motel next to the H&G restaurant in Easton, MD. It's a small world. I checked into the Econolodge motel next door after it had gotten real dark (I'm not a fan of driving in strange places at night), and called my sister in the DC area to let her know of my whereabouts. She said, oh, that motel is next to the H&G restaurant, right? Huh? How did my sister know about some restaurant 150 miles from her house? Turns out she had eaten there several times when the 'in law' side of the family had relatives that lived on the Eastern Shore. Small world! Great rolls and excellent seafood if you ever decide to stay there!

Next day I hit the remaining counties in MD, fighting the traffic in Baltimore City to run that (nice place at the Greyhound bus station to run the City!). As soon as I leave the City, someone says, "I need it for last". It is painful to try and get turned around again on 8 lane interstates that intersect with other highways with no easy way to get back. There are half a dozen counties like that one, including the boroughs of NYC. Highways that don't let you easily turn around, turn offs that put you yet on other hard to turn around roads. When I ran the NYC counties, Aaron, WA2AKB provided expertise assistance and volunteered to drive me around through the counties. That's the best way to do it!

I manage to navigate back into the "city" again, and get the contact while essentially taking a loop through the City and back out again. I'm sure glad I don't have to commute into a city by car every day. Then it is finally off to my sister's house for holidays and a couple days to rest and get some exercise.

The return trip was uneventful weather wise. I ran a bunch of counties, spent \$50-55/night on motels, and zigzagged in MS, but no snow! Or freezing temps – in fact, once I hit MS, it was in the 60s/70s all the way back home! Delightful!

I did have the pleasure of an eyeball in NM2L – as I came into the Atlanta area, he suggested a meet, and we got to chat for a while before I continued home. Greg has been very active on CW putting out counties in GA, AL, TN, SC on 20/30/40M.

While sitting on a county line in MS, AC4XL works me and tells me he had worked me and my mom N2TPH there 10 years earlier! That brings back pleasant memories as we had put out lots of counties on trips together. Gee, I wonder how many mobiles still put



out the counties 10 or 12 years after they start running mobile? It seems a lot 'burn out' after several years, or stop for health reasons.

Unfortunately, I still need to get to about 30 KY and 10 more WV counties, so who knows?? Maybe I'll tempt the weather gods next December as I head north again. Hope we hit some counties you needed! Thanks for riding along with N4CD"

- - -

That was issue 1 in 2005 – and we included the latest awards – and a story about how nice 30M county hunting was – lots of activity and good propagation. The first CHN was short but slowly expanded with more pictures and more stories, coverage of the QSO Parties, upcoming events, etc. That was not a fun trip through WV – no, no,no.

Gas was 2 bucks a gallon back then. Now, it's \$3.40 and up, depending what part of the country you are in. Some are paying close to \$4 now.

Hope you enjoyed the flashback – N4CD was busy doing other things this month so no current 'on the road' stories of significance....but coming up in May and June, for sure, for sure! Dayton, Alaska and who knows where else!

## New Mexico QSO Party

The weekend was tough with miserable propagation for many. The A and K index were way up there from a geomagnetic disturbance. 40M wasn't great and 20M was down quite a bit. Here, 20M seemed to work OK to NM. There was a good amount of activity with most of the counties on the air. A few mobiles were out, but some of our county hunters there seemed to be 'missing'. Or weren't heard or spotted, which may have been the case. Only a few spotters were around. AD1C was busy spotting on 40M SSB but didn't hear most of them. A few others spotted but that was severely lacking. The GA QSO Party was going on at the same time. It was tough from here just hearing them!

**K5ZZR - SSB mobile**

This is one of my favorite QSO Parties. The amazing thing about this year in the NMQP was the QRP battles going on by some well known California stations (John N6MU and Frank WA6KHK). It certainly shows the advantage of skill and perseverance over power. Operated from some remote eastern counties while seeing some great country and am looking forward to returning next year. Saturday started out with great propagation and for me slowed down about noon. I took advantage of the slow period to take a much needed nap and woke up refreshed and ready to go. The bands began to get with it again and it was lots of fun till I finally had to head the Tahoe back to Oklahoma. Russ K5ZZR

### **NI5T – fixed Hidalgo, NM**

Operator(s): N5IA N5BG W5CF K7JEM

The Virden Contest Club had not been able to meet the scheduling of the NMQP for 5 years. Fortunately this year the date and timing came together for a few of the club members. Last minute cancellations due to sickness and other obligations limited the operator corp to four.

We set up four operating positions with each position doing a single band, both modes, with the exception of the 10 Meter/80 Meter position which did both bands.

The only disappointment of the 12 hours of fun was the unexpected very poor propagation on the upper bands. Ten Meters was expected to be a great Q contributor with the recent super world wide propagation in mind. Not so. The first contact on 10 Meters was a CW contact with New Zealand. The 2nd 10 M contact was with N5UL in southeastern NM. And only 11 more Q's after that. It was a real let down as we had specifically installed new, stacked, 4 element antennas for that band.

One of our club members has the last name of MURPHY, so being he has broad shoulders we will blame everything on him. But Dan did super on his county line expedition operation to contribute to the club score.

Everything else went well with the balance of the operation. This station is not designed for multi-band, multi-mode contesting and we encountered two minor

cross band/cross mode interference problems. Those problems will be corrected with stubs prior to the next outing.

We missed Catron, Chaves, Dona Ana, Rio Arriba and San Juan counties in the state. I understand not making contact with the two rural counties, but Chaves (Roswell), Dona Ana (Las Cruces) and San Juan (Farmington)??????

We missed CT, RI, DE and WV for a WAS sweep.

We did not contact MB, NL, NU, PE and YT in VE land.

Due to poor propagation DX was limited to contacts with 3D2, 9J, A3, CM, DL, I, J6, JA, KH2, KP2, KP4, V5, XE and ZL.

We worked 174 contacts the first two hours. The next 10 hours yielded just 476 additional contacts. That is quite poor for a 4 station operation; just an average of 47.6 contacts per hour. That equates to just shy of 12 contacts per hour per station. 80 CW produced ZERO contacts in more than 30 minutes of CQing during the last hour.

20 Meter SSB carried the load, providing 52.6 percent of the total contacts. That stat really shows how poor the propagation was on the upper two bands.

Thanks to the in-state mobiles and portables for a super job of filling the voids.

Thanks to everyone for the Q's. The club is looking forward to next year and better conditions.

73 de Milt, N5IA

### **WD5COV – fixed – NM - 11 cw 866 ssb QSO**

Our local radio club, (Mimbres Valley Radio Club) had planned to run a portable operation from Hidalgo county this year. Unfortunately we had to cancel the event and decided to run from our own QTH's this year.

20 meters was the money band as conditions on the higher bands were very poor. I ran one 4/4 stack pointed east and the other 4/4 stack pointed west. This

gave me great coverage and endless supply of callers. I made most of the 40 meter q's the last hour of the contest and found I could hear better on the 160 meter 4 square than on the 4 el yagi. It was still bright day here.

For the first time in the last four years, we did not suffer with 50 MPH winds here on QSO party day! No blowing dust and high static this year!

73

Dave WD5COV

### **N6MU – fixed CA - 50cw 71 ssb**

Less than stellar conditions made QRP very challenging this year, especially on SSB. Missed EDD and OTE. Heard OTE on 40 SSB but he couldn't hear me. Never heard EDD at all.

Thanks to all the NM stations for their efforts but especially to the mobiles (KK6MC, N3MRA, NM5DX, K9GAJ, K5ZZR, W5IL and K5XY) and expeditions (K7IA, WK5T, and NM5RC). KK6MC was top mobile for me with 22 Qs. K7IA was top expedition with 8 Qs. 73...

John, N6MU

### **AD1C – fixed CO 18 cw 37 ssb**

“ decent amount of activity, especially on a tough band from Colorado. I was happy to finally finish NM on 40 meters! My last county was McKinley towards the end of the contest. 9 states down, 41 to go :-)

Thanks to all the mobiles and fixed stations for getting on the air!”

# N4CD Diet Report

Some of you might have been bored to death with the reviews of the health/diet books. Others have sent notes indicating their success with various diets. So after about five months on my 'revised eating plan' (minimal waffles, sorry Jerry, K5YAA)...

As you recall, my heart doc back in November suggested that I start on statins as my cholesterol level was getting up there(207) and the LDL/HDL ratio was horrible (4.3) . I tried the 'low dose' statin, Prevastatin, widely prescribed as a 'routine' cholesterol lowering drug. Tens of millions take it. It makes the drug industry a fortune. You got 'high' cholesterol or a bad ratio, just about every heart doc or GP will put you on it. Even now, as it is turning out that statins 'may' have MAJOR long term side effects and deleterious affects, just as contributing to early onset Alzheimers, brain impairment, muscle degeneration, and more. Folks report problems on Lipitor, one of the most widely used. Or it could be that those eating diets requiring the use of statins are doing themselves in, while taking a 'bandaid' to put on the problem rather than fixing the underlying problem (bad diet).

After a month on statins....I didn't feel great and got constipated. Big time. I stopped taking it. In some people, statins slow down the digestive system 'too much' . That's how most of statins work – block/reduce the intestines from absorbing certain things – slowing it down. In my case, it worked way too well.

I last visited the doc in Dec of 2013 for the major constipation and ran into a new doc in the regular practice for that problem I had. My regular doc was booked up for a couple days. New doc suggested I get and read Dr Joel Fuhrman's Super Immunity. Gave me stuff to end the constipation. Worked great. That problem fixed.

We reviewed Fuhrman's Super Immunity here a few months ago. Today, April 14, I headed back to see if my new diet was actually working and worth sticking to. No sense of beating your head against the wall if it doesn't work. Maybe you try something different. So after 4 months.....of G-BOMBS – that's Greens, Beans, Onions, Mushrooms, Berries and Seeds for the acronym.....lots of greens, too....and near zero 'pizza' and K5YAA loved 'waffles'.....just a bit of meat compared to before.....and a few minor tweaks...

Here's the results from my diet started in late Dec. You decide

<u>Date</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Total Cholesterol</u>	<u>LDL/HDL Ratio</u>
Nov 2013	175	207	4.3
April 2014	165	154	1.19

The guidelines are for a total cholesterol under 200 (lower is better) and a ratio of under 3.5 (and lower is better). The heart doc took one look at the horrible ratio in Nov and said I needed to do something! Quick! It was 'horrible'. Worse than bad. (Recommendation: take a statin). I did. I stopped after a month.

I decided to try to fix it naturally. Results above. Most people when taking statins don't even see a 50 point drop in total cholesterol. Triglycerides and every thing else better, too.

I'm a happy camper.

\* \* \* \* \*

FYI – from the FDA

“If you’re one of the millions of Americans who take statins to prevent heart disease, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has important new safety information on these cholesterol-lowering medications.

FDA is advising consumers and health care professionals that:

- Routine monitoring of liver enzymes in the blood, once considered standard procedure for statin users, is no longer needed. Such monitoring has not been found to be effective in predicting or preventing the rare occurrences of serious liver injury associated with statin use.
- 
- Cognitive (brain-related) impairment, such as memory loss, forgetfulness and confusion, has been reported by some statin users.
- 
- People being treated with statins may have an increased risk of raised blood sugar

levels and the development of Type 2 diabetes.

- 
- Some medications interact with lovastatin (brand names include Mevacor) and can increase the risk of muscle damage.
- 

This new information should not scare people off statins, says Amy G. Egan, M.D., M.P.H., deputy director for safety in FDA's Division of Metabolism and Endocrinology Products (DMEP). "The value of statins in preventing heart disease has been clearly established," she says. "Their benefit is indisputable, but they need to be taken with care and knowledge of their side effects."

FDA will be changing the drug labels of popular statin products to reflect these new concerns.

- Altoprev (lovastatin extended-release)
- Crestor (rosuvastatin)
- Lescol (fluvastatin)
- Lipitor (atorvastatin)
- Livalo (pitavastatin)
- Mevacor (lovastatin)
- Pravachol (pravastatin)
- Zocor (simvastatin).

- - - -

de N4CD: Methinks this is just the tip of the iceberg.....that is going to show that long term use of statins is NOT good for you. There's too many tens of billions at stake for the FDA to issue stronger warnings at this point. And of course, it's obviously working well for most who don't want to change their diet much. If you have had a heart attack, you'll be on statins as a 'preventive' measure. That's like closing the barn door after the horse has gotten out. The best thing is to never have a heart attack. Keep the barn door shut. Eat healthy. If you eat 'healthy' you probably won't need statins in the first place!

## South Dakota QSO Party

Yes, there was a South Dakota QSO Party. I actually found one station to work, K0JV in Pennington, County during the whole time frame. I think it was the only one spotted, too. It wasn't listed on the WA7BNM contest page – so I'm not sure what was going on. Not much of a QSO party was going on!

The band conditions were pretty miserable and the MI QSO Party was going on at the same time along with the Ontario QSO Party and the Nebraska QSO Party.

## North Dakota QSO Party

Well, there was a ND QSO Party – but I didn't hear a single station on cw. KJ4LTA worked 3 stations on 20M SSB according to the 3830 contest reflector.

## Ontario QSO Party

The propagation was horrid and there wasn't too much to catch in MI for most of the day. You'd tune up and down, check the spots, go do something for five or ten minutes, come back and repeat. The Ontario QSO Party was going on and some stations had good signals down here, so I worked whatever I heard. Keeps the cobwebs out the rig while it waits for a new county in the other QP's and give those folks a contact and some points. Why not? Help them out. They join in your state QSO Party to give you points and mults so return the favor. Give 'em a quick call. They like the contacts.



# UN IPCC Financial Fraud

Even by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's own lamentable standards, its new report - by Working Group III of the Fifth Assessment Report - makes no sense whatsoever.

Perhaps it never did but what definitely made it worse was the politicized meddling of the Obama administration.

Before the report's formal release, US officials - who had seen an earlier draft - wrote to the United Nations demanding it be amended.

"The discussion of the economic costs of mitigation is too narrow and does not incorporate co-benefits of action."

**Loosely translated this means: "If we admit how much we're spending to such little purpose, the taxpaying public is going to kill us."**

So the report was duly amended to suggest that the benefits of wind turbines, solar panels, biofuels - not to mention the losses entailed by leaving fossil fuels in the ground - more than offset the massive costs and inconvenience involved.

Perhaps this was an accurate summation of the report if you read it a certain way. But equally, it was accurate to report, as Breitbart London did, that it was basically a wish list for the eco-fascist new world order.

Or - as some other newspapers did - you could decide that the report's main take home message that the IPCC had now come round to the virtues of nuclear energy and was guardedly approving of shale gas.

How could the report lend itself to such different conclusions? Because it was written by a vast international committee and then tinkered with further by politicians in order to be all things to all men.

<http://www.breitbart.com/Breitbart-London/2014/04/14/How-the-Obama-administration-turned-the-latest-IPCC-report-into-meaningless-gobbledegook>

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de N4CD

What is wasn't was honest.

It's going to be trillions and trillions flushed down a UN run committee's wet dream of pet projects, fraud, pork, and corruption on a scale never seen before in history.

## Yet More Money Down the Greenie Rathole

### **Ocean Power quits on Oregon wave project**

The first week of April was a busy one for Ocean Power Technologies, based in Pennington, N.J.

The company, which has boasted about receiving the nation's first wave power permit for a small project near Reedsport, said it had abandoned that project.

The Oregon announcement was a setback to alternative energy boosters and to firms like Oregon Iron Works, which Ocean Power had hired to build a massive buoy for the project. It also delayed the day when electrical power will be generated by the waves that pound the Oregon coastline.

The Oregonian's Elizabeth Case wrote a detailed examination of Ocean Power's lack of progress last summer. She noted that the company had failed to file much of the paperwork necessary to develop the project. She noted that the company had temporarily lost track of one of its offshore anchors. And she noted that the company, which had received a \$4.6 million grant from the federal government and another \$500,000 from a coalition of utilities, continued to sustain significant financial losses.

Source: [http://www.oregonlive.com/business/index.ssf/2014/04/ocean\\_power\\_quits\\_on\\_oregon\\_wa.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/business/index.ssf/2014/04/ocean_power_quits_on_oregon_wa.html)

## Michigan QSO Party

Yes, there was a MI QP but it seems activity was down from last year. Several mobiles/portables were out including W8UE, K8IR that I caught, and a dozen or two fixed stations at least provided some action during the day. Nil propagation here on 15M – not a peep nor did I hear folks calling them. The A index was 8, K=2 and we were recovering from a flare on the day before. The mobiles were struggling for contacts. I recall the last few years you had to fight the pile ups to work the mobiles. Not this year.

From the 3830 reflector:

### **K8IR mobile**

We decided to run below the bridge this year to keep some of K8MR's counties warm until he returns next year.

Conditions on 40 were not good at the start with a lot of absorption, and 20 was better but not great. 40 starting coming around in the late afternoon, and except for a period around sunset, remained productive to the end. Despite a lot of strong signals on 80 before sunset, no one seemed to be able to hear us until it got dark. It was thankfully one of the quieter years for QRN on 80.

Activity seemed down, but we had a loyal group following us through the route. I see K0RI in the log 35 times, and K2DSW 30 times. Several others had over 20 QSO's. Thanks to everyone who called in and we hope we put a few new mults in your logs.

It seems like we saw almost as many deer as we had QSO's this year. They seemed to be everywhere. Fortunately the ones near the road were more interested in grazing and licking road salt than jumping out in front of us.

The weather during the contest was fine, but we had rain all the way home through the UP. At least it wasn't snow for a change.

I must again thank Eric, KG9GH, who graciously contributes his vehicle to the effort, and who drove the route plus 4 hours to the start and 5 1/2 hours back home afterwards. At times he was drawing up the route as we drove, and we managed to activate 25 counties, one more than planned.

Again, thanks to all who called in.

73  
Jim  
K8IR

### **N8M (N8XX) opr – QRP – Muskegon**

Conditions, and participation, not as good as last year. Bands seemed "up and down" though no complete washouts, at least not for any extended period. 40 was the "gold mine" it never really went south. Didn't seem to be as many mobiles, or I couldn't figure them out, so multipliers were down a bit. Object was to set a new record (current one is zero) for QRP in MUSKegon County, so didn't stay till the bitter end. Thanks to Gerry, K8GGL for helping with setup and tear down, and to his friend Joe Clark (non ham), who lives a city block into MUSKegon County and provided his barn and back yard for the operation!

### **DM5EE- Fixed – DX**

This year's MIQP was different. Aside from somewhat foreseeable circumstances (DF9LJ's station not available, family obligations on Saturday and Sunday) I had to get rid of my gall bladder on Wednesday. Got home from the hospital on Saturday morning, so a limited participation was possible but no full effort.

I did some rerouting of antenna cables before the contest which may have been the cause for some keying issued experienced during MIQP. Sorry for the occasional QSD as the internal keyer of the FT-1000MP kept acting up.

My plan was to go Low Power. Originally, I thought of tackling the DX Low Power record, but with the recent surgery this wasn't going to happen. Still gave it a try.

The contest started slow and conditions seemed to be mediocre at best. I had S9 local noise on 15 and never heard anyone there or on 10. 20m yielded only four QSOs in the first hour. I took a two hour break to participate in some Easter-related event in our village and found signals to be much better after 19z. Over the next two hours, 34 QSOs came in the log, then things slowed down. It was nice to have K8IR, W8UE, W8ZZ and K8MAD as mobiles for some fresh meat every once in a while. Hank/N8M made it into the log QRP on both modes as well as KT8K and W8CUB on CW.

Except for one QSO, everything happened on 20 for me. K8MAD was the only QSO on 40. I think that N8SS heard me too but the tremendous level of digital QRM between 7041 and 7050kHz in EU did not allow for the completion of a QSO.

When K8IR could not copy me from BENZ county, I figured that 20 was closing. At 2:30am local (0030z) it was definitely time to QRT. 40m was still completely trashed between 7041 and 7050. I heard N4PN, WO1N and K8JQ call MI stations on 40 but never could detect the other side in the digital mud. Maybe, the QRM would have gotten better towards our sunrise but I could not check it out this year.

I ended up with 63 QSOs during six hours of operation and a score which came up 20% short of my original goal, the DX Low Power record.

Hope to see you again next year,

73! Uli, DM5EE

### **KT8K – fixed – MI**

This one is always a blast - where else can a QRP-er do so much RUNNING?? 110 of my Q's, nearly half, were logged while running and none of the runs were less than 30 Q's/hr (one was 72/hr, held for 16 minutes!). This may not sound like much to you guys running the "big power" (over 50 Watts?) but it's a huge grin for me. My Mad River clubmates said "run like the big guns" and I did, and in this contest it actually worked.

Thanks to all who struggled to hear my weak signal. I wasn't having an easy time hearing, either. Noise levels here were mostly high, as in S6-7 on 20 and

40 meters - not so great. Still, even the signals down in the noise level were almost always workable, so maybe the noise was local to me.

The pace in this contest is always moderate, a bit more laid back and much like I would expect from a "QSO Party". I crank down the CW speed and just enjoy it (but I usually shift to match the speed of stations I'm contacting anyway).

Crowding was rare but it was great to have stations from all over the country and world participating. Perhaps because of the noise level, or because of the Easter holiday, there didn't seem to be nearly as much action as in recent years, but that might have been my noise level's fault, too. No matter - it was a great and fun contest as always.

Radio contesting is a great and unusual sport, in large part because successful competition means cooperation and collaboration, not evading or trying to hurt the other guy. This sport far more closely typifies the pioneer spirit - it wasn't gunslingers that built the Old West, for example, it was hard working farm families working together in communities that built it. I see that same spirit of helping each other played out in ham radio contests, clubs, elmering relationships, and cross-cultural friendships. I believe this is the spirit we need more of, today and in the future. In any case, I'm enjoying it, and plan to keep at it until they pry the paddles from my fingers and roll me away.

Best rx to all & 73 de kt8k -- Ti

### **K8MR – fixed – NJ**

It was 2000 when I did my first mobile contest effort in the MiQP with W8RU, and I had not missed one since. But this year, with Easter on Sunday and my mother's 98th birthday on Friday, the entire family came into town for the weekend. So no traveling.

As it turned out I did travel, except I headed east after the birthday celebration on Friday. My daughter in NJ delivered our first grandchild on Thursday (9 days past expected date), so NJ it was. My task for the first few days was largely watching their dog at home, so with that I had some time for MiQP. I only had a dipole at 20 feet, and with local urban noise and daytime absorption things on 40 were pretty slow for the first six hours. I was just a

bit too close for 20M , though did catch a few people there. Later propagation picked up on 40 and I was able to make a reasonable number of QSOs.

Good to catch my MRRC friends back in MI, but missed mobile activity other than a few late afternoon QSOs with K8IR. I hope to be back in 2015 to help the mobile activity issue.

73 - Jim K8MR

### **N4PN – fixed – GA 117 cw 159 ssb qso**

Only a few mobiles this year....kept looking for my buddy Jim, K8MR, and later in the day he called me from New Jersey....? His daughter lives there..

K8IR/m really put in an outstanding effort....worked 22 times!  
Others who gave me a new one or two included: W8ZZ, W8UE...  
see you in the next one..

73, Paul, N4PN

### **W8MMM – fixed – Leelenau, MI**

First event ever for W8MMM. Operators were my wife, Liz KJ6RQU, father-in-law, Bob K2YAZ and myself. Contest was a lot of fun, and it was great to see so many ops from outside of Michigan coming out to support us. Our apologies to K8MAD for first calling them a dupe when they worked us from TUSC, and then failing to copy their exchange for about 5 minutes(the op at W8MMM at the time shall remain nameless).

Ran 500 watts into wire dipoles at about 50 feet for 40 and 80 meters, and a hexbeam at about 25 feet on 20 meters. Thanks to all for a great event, and looking forward to next year.

73,

Ryan K6RQT

## Awards Issued

USA-CW IV #9	Tom, K7REL	4/10/14
6 <sup>th</sup> time #49	Ken, K4XI	3/25/14
USA Call Combo 1x3 #12	Gene, K5GE	4/8/14

## Upcoming Events for County Hunters

### May 3 weekend

7th Area QSO Party

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

7qp.org

May 3, 1300Z - May 4, 0700Z CW--40 kHz above band edge; SSB--1.845, 3.855, 7.235, 14.255, 21.355, 28.455 MHz



Note received from AE7LD

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 3, 2014. 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

#### Indiana QSO Party

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

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

May 3, 1600Z - May 4, 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 MHz

#### New England QSO Party

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

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

May 3, 2000Z - See website CW--3.540, 7.035, 14.040, 21.040, 28.040; SSB--3.850, 7.180/280, 14.280, 21.380, 28.380 MHz

#### Ten-Ten Spring CW Contest

Call sign, name, 10-10 number, state

[www.ten-ten.org](http://www.ten-ten.org)

May 3, 0001Z - May 4, 2359Z

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Big contest to avoid being mobile! Lots of QRM!

#### CQ WW WPX Contest - CW

RST and serial

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

May 24, 0000Z - May 25, 2359Z

Above courtesy of the ARRL Contest Corral for May 2014, ARRL Inc, Newington CT 06111

**DAYTON HAMVENTION – MAY 14-16, 2014.** County Hunter Forum 4pm Friday with dinner after at Golden Corral. Tim W8JJ is the moderator.

Tim sent along the following information on the Forum:

Friday, May 16, 2014

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 PM County Hunting Forum

Tim Eklin, W8JJ - Forum Moderator

Tim holds USA-CA #1203 and is currently attempting to work all US counties using CW. He also enjoys operating mobile to activate needed counties on multiple bands and modes. Tim will serve as host and moderator for this year's forum.

Lowell Tennyson, KB0BA and Sandra Tennyson, N0XYL – 1st Speakers

Lowell holds USA-CA #1154 and Sandra is USA-CA #1214. This mobile OM/YL team can frequently be heard running counties across the United States. They are two-time recipients of the "Mobile Team of the Year" award sponsored by MARAC. Lowell and Sandra will discuss their approach to county hunting. They will also share their 109 equipment configuration and operating techniques along with some stories from the road. Lowell and Sandra offer a unique perspective on county hunting as a mobile team.

Mark Pinsky, W8MP – 2nd Speaker

Mark holds USA-CA #1187 and will discuss his county hunting experiences as he travels worldwide and seeks out other amateur operators including county hunters. He is a commercial airline pilot and often coordinates visits with hams during lay overs in cities all over the globe. He holds the following DX call signs, JG1DVR and 9G5MP. Mark enjoys putting a face with a call sign and often surprises county hunters by scheduling an eyeball QSO when he is in their area. He will also share his most recent ham radio interests involving remote station operations.

We will also have introductions of all county hunters present at the forum so you can put a face with those familiar class signs that you hear on the air. It's a lot of fun and an opportunity to get off your feet for an hour after walking the ham fest all day. A dinner gathering is planned following the forum. More details will be provided as we get closer to the event.

Please join us!  
W8JJ 03/23/14

Wear your callsign name/badge if you remember to bring one along!

That's all folks ! See you next month. 73 de N4CD\*