

County Hunter News

May 1, 2015
Volume 11, 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

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

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

<http://countyhunter.com/cq.htm>

For general information FAQ on County Hunting, check out:

<http://countyhunter.com/whatis.htm>

MARAC sponsors an award program for many other county hunting awards. You can

find information on these awards and the rules at:

http://countyhunter.com/marac_information_package.htm

The CW net procedure is written up at:

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

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

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

Want county lines on your Garmin GPS?

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

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

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

Notes from the Editor

1) N4CD Rumblings

May will be election month. Many county hunters are likely clueless about what is going on. We cover it later in detail. This would be a good year to vote!

The spring weather is here and storms are popping up in Tornado Alley. Hopefully it won't be too bad a season. Out in the Rockies, they are still getting snow in Colorado. Mobiles are out in trips. Dayton is in May so there will be even more trips after the many to the MI Maxi.

It's been a busy month for QSO Parties and we report on all of them.

2) Award Chairman on Vacation

The MARAC Awards Chairman is on vacation until May 12. Please hold off sending any awards and LC's until then. Those that finish awards will get their awards back dated to the 'last contact' for submission.

Jerry, W0GXQ, noted that he finished up six time CW with the help of WQ7A in Dunn, ND. He will be good for the extra star on his trip. For those working on Star XX, you better be working him. Logger will NOT show that he has the extra star until the Awards Chairman is back, but if you recalculate that book, it will show up after the award gets through the system.

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Oh, and one more note....while it's nice to 'announce' folks have finished up on the K3IMC forum, be careful for those doing it the first time Yes, Jim WY8I finished up for the first time, but until all the paperwork is done, and there are no sudden 'reworks' that appear - needed for an MRC outstanding that never comes back....it ain't official till it gets announced by an award chairman/custodian! How many times have there suddenly been 'reworks' needed at the end? Hmmm! For those finishing up higher level awards, unless you screwed up, when Logger says you're done, your done! There are no reworks! But let's wait for the award to be issued before posting congrats on the Forum.

3) Can you help a county hunter?

Tim (KD5CXO) of the Logger Support team is trying to help one of our fellow County Hunters (Jim AA8JW) who is in an unfortunate situation. Several years ago when he moved from Texas to Michigan, a box containing all his county hunting records went missing. Jim recently purchased Logger and is having to start from ground zero to work toward the USA-CA Award.

It would be a huge help to Jim if each of us searched our Logger log for his old call. Go to **View/Edit – Log - Call - K8GSA**. (That's Jim's old call). If you find any contacts for that call in your log, click the **“Write to File”** button to create a **“.txt”** file in your data folder. The file will be named **“Text file – (Your Call).txt**

Send the file as an email attachment to Jim: oorah5054@att.net .

That would allow Jim to recover some of those lost contacts.

Expect to get an MRC to sign and return for the contacts to be confirmed.

Tim – KD5CXO

4) MARAC membership list

Tom, K7REL, compiled a mailing list for the MARAC membership with lots of work. There is over 11,000 entries in the database on line and about 470+ current paid up members plus one or two honorary members most likely.

From Tom (on the K3IMC website):

“Where did K7REL get the mailing list?” The answer is that I created it myself. It took weeks of going thru over 11,000 non-MARAC people listed in the county hunter database on the MARAC website.

I posted on the Forum a few months ago, telling people that I would gladly email anybody and everybody a copy if they so wished. I hear K2JG/KE3VV are absolutely furious now, after my little “Hello Test” message sent out earlier this morning. I was having problems with my mailing lists earlier, but fixed the problem. Things seem to be working fine now. I have received 10 or 12 messages already from members I have never heard of before, thanking me for the information..

I don't know what K2JG/KE3VV so upset about. A printed version of the database used to be available for \$3.95 from KD9ZP. You can see it advertised in old copies of the RoadRunner posted on the MARAC website. But that was when K2NJ was still President. Things went "top secret" after WB9NUL, K2JG, and KE3VV took over things. I have never heard of a club where the members are not allowed to see the members' list. Some HF clubs even post their members names, call signs on the internet. But the present dictators of MARAC feel members' names should be kept secret from one another, I guess. [de N4CD: It's all about 'control' and they want it. You are just sheeple to be 'managed'.]

Almost all the candidates requested a copy. N1API was the first one to request a copy. I have since put the members' list into my MS access database, so I can give it to people in Access, Excel, or Word format. Again, anybody wanting a copy just drop me an email.

Terry, WQ7A, also compiled a list of MARAC members. You can find it here

<http://marac.org/chdownloads/member%20list.pdf>

5) Note from K8ZZ date: 4-10 -2015

Retired yesterday after 47 years in the workforce.. Lots of time to ride the trails on my new Arctic Cat Trail side by side. Also try to finish up my HAM radio goal of transmitting mobile on Morse code from every county in the US.. 73 K8ZZ

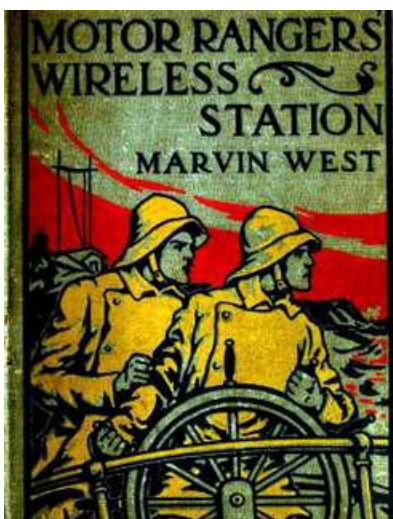
6) QSO Parties Operating Procedure

I know it's hard to break the procedure for the county hunter net when we acknowledge reports then give a report. In state QSO Parties, the idea is to make as many contacts as possible. There is no need and no requirement to acknowledge reports for a contact and it slows down things. Everyone is 599 in a state QSO party. Always. Folks are using logging programs that automatically put in 599 and have to do extra key strokes if it is not 599, and no one really cares about a true report. After you work them once, their computer already has your state in it.

When folks send 'r 599 ur 599 599' in GA GA – it slows things down. It's '599 GA' or whatever your state. The folks out mobile want to make as many contacts as possible. They might only be in a county for 10 minutes – and that means that some might not get through if too many slow things down! You might be one of them not getting through! So crank the keyer up a bit in speed and put 599 and ur state in a memory and just push the button.

Don't forget to spot, either. In the last couple of QSO parties, it was as if everyone decided to not help others out by spotting. I was off on the road for 2 hours in the MI QSO Party and no one, not a one, was spotting the cw runs and I don't think there were 20 spots on 20m SSB despite THOUSANDS of contacts being made all over the band! It was as if the QSO party were not even going on on the spots page!

Book Review of the Month



The Motor Ranger's Wireless Station

by Marvin West - 1913

Digging deep into the archives of barely known wireless adventure books for youths, this month we review yet another of John Henry Goldfarb's works – written under a pseudo name of Marvin West in the era of spark transmission and before 'licenses' existed. This is written for the 10-16 year old market of that era in a formula style of writing for the dozens of similar works.

There are six books in the Motor Rangers series, but only one with any wireless content. Think Model T Ford type motor boats with cantankerous engines and a constant need to twiddle with them to keep them running.

“The drowsy calm of a balmy afternoon at the Motor Rangers wireless camp on Goat Island was abruptly shattered by a raucous, insistent clangor from the alarm-bell of the wireless outfit. Nat Trevor, Joe Hartley and Ding-dong Bell, who had been pretending to read but were in reality dozing on the porch of a small portable wood and canvas house, galvanized into the full tide of life and activity usually theirs. Something doing at last! cried Nat. “

The adventure starts out as the youngsters intercept a distress call from a ship at sea, the Iroquois. A group of youngsters has set up a 'wireless station' on goat island and spend most of their free time there. One of them owns a fairly large motor boat capable of operation 'off shore' in the Pacific Ocean. That larger boat allows them to get to Goat Island – a few miles off the California coast.

Radio then consists of spark coils and transformers, 'detectors' with galena or similar crystals, sliding tuners on coil assemblies and the like – with, of course, big antennas. The frequency used, or should we say, wavelength, is 1000-1200 meters for the most part. This book was written even before the big to-do about the Titanic.

It is storming outside, but they volunteer to take their motorboat – the Nomad – to help transport a critically injured passenger to a hospital on shore. It's a 30 mile trek out and longer back. It turns out that the passenger is inventor Jenkins – who has just completed working on a 'wireless torpedo' that will help the US in war efforts. He was attacked viciously on the ship by an unknown assailant trying to get his model of the device and papers and is unconscious, suffering from head injuries. Jenkins had yet to file for a patent.

The youngsters do manage to get the injured passengers and he is accompanied by an alleged doctor passenger who is more than eager to accompany the injured man. This episode takes place off Santa Barbara California. They deliver the two passengers to land. Later they learn that the 'doctor' is none other than international arch criminal Minory – who was behind the attack, and did manage to steal the prototype and papers while on the Nomad. Now they've got to track him down, and hopefully recover the prototype and papers.

The story goes on from there, with the usual kidnapping, escape, attack by a gang led by Harley, an opium smuggler, with whom Minory has hooked up with to plan his escape. Through ingenuity and use of the wireless, which they eventually also put on the motorboat, the bad guys are caught and sent to prison, the good guys get a reward for the capture of the bad guys, and it all ends well.

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I found a copy on the internet for \$5 and it will be up for sale at the next hamfest or antique wireless club meet for about the same. Later I found it on line.

You can read this on line at:

<https://archive.org/details/motorrangerswire00gold>

in multiple formats – from PDF to Kindle to 'read on the web'.

Mobile Activity

N4JT, Jim, KG5UZ, Mike and KJ5PQ, Cheryl were on from Honolulu on SSB. Jim ran on cw. They also did the data modes. Later, Jim ran a few in TX.

K0PY headed from KS to MO then home again

NF0N headed from NE down to IA – and back

Kyle, WA4PGM, was on in VA Later made trips to WV. He was finally able to get WE7G one of his last few for WBOW. (KA4RRU tried but no propagation two days earlier – N4CD was there in Nov – and so was AB4YZ 3 months before that).

Sometimes it just takes all the pieces falling together at the same time for the contact to happen!



Hampshire WV – LC for WE7G
Rt 9 west

Dave, KW1DX put out a few in PA.

Jim, N9JF, was on the road – IA, IL, IN, TN,

Jack, K0MAF ran a few on SSB on the way from FL to home

K2HVN, Bill, trekked from FL to DE and put out a few on cw.

Mike, KA4RRU, was on in WV and VA.

N4JT, Jim, headed home to NC via a different route – putting them out on SSB/CW and data modes.

Team NX0X, Brain, Sharie, KB0MMH, and Cliff, AC0B ran Kalawao/Maui HI for the folks.

Don, K7DM, also put out that line on Molokai. Conditions were brutal.

Barry, N0KV, and Pat, N0DXE, headed east from CO headed to the mini in MI.

Terry WQ7A and Bonnie headed east from the west coast to the mini in MI.

KB0BA and N0XYL were busy putting out IA counties for the folks.

W0NAC/N0LXJ were mobile in CO.

Larry, W7FEN was NV headed east.

Phil, AB7RW was headed through WA, ID, MT headed east.

Gene, K5GE, headed out of south TX headed to MI

Frank and Kay, AA9JJ/N9QPQ were on the road headed to MI.

AB7NK/K7SEN left AZ and headed to MI via ND.

Then a whole boatload of mobiles headed to the MI Mini (WB0CQO, W0GXQ, WQ7A, AB7RW, K5GE, KA9JAC/KB9YVT, KB6UF, NF0N, N2JNE, AB7NK/K7SEN, N0KV/N0DXE, K2MF, and loads more). Then back home again – some via the County Hunter route of heading to KY first, then back to AZ.

Late QSO Party Tidbits

The CHNews went to press on the 25th. There were some late filed comments from the VA and OK QSO Parties. We include the commentary from the mobiles.

Virginia

K4VIG portable – Wythe VA - 378 cw 395 ssb qso

Like last year, we operated from a hunting lodge in Wythe County near Speedwell. The team consisted of Gary K4VIG (who grew up in Wythe county), Ken K3JWI, Howard WB4ZBI and Ted W4NZ. We had two stations set up Field Day-style with wire antennas and low power. This year we added an inverted-L for 160M. Conditions were not very good and activity seemed down from last year. Still, a bunch of guys out in the woods playing on the radio has to be fun and it was. Thanks to all the mobiles who called us and thanks everyone for all the QSO's.

73, Ted W4NZ for the K4VIG team

K0BAK mobile - 139 ssb qso

It was a tale of two contests. Saturday was a lot of fun with lots of contacts right up to 8pm or so when it started to dry up. Went down to RIC to start on Sunday morning, but the contest was dead, only getting one or two contacts in each county. My signal was getting out because I got QSOs with CT, MA, ON ... but only one in VA! Gave up after calling for a half hour from KGE around noon without response and headed home to PA. Thank you to the organizers, I had a fun time on Saturday ... but if I come next year, it'll be a one-day contest for me.

Oklahoma

AA0DX mobile 427 cw 124 ssb qso

Had a great time in the 2015 OKQP, a great way to start the 2015 contesting season. My wife was my driver and I had a new K3/100.

I planned my route so that my wife could do a little bird watching along the way. We ended up at Tishomingo National Wildlife Sanctuary on Sat evening.

My mobile vehicle is a 2004 Chevy Venture, and either the engine noise is worse or the K3 receiver is a lot hotter than my previous radio. Probably both are true. I was getting so much engine noise that I decided to change my route so that we could drive by hitting fewer counties. That way we could drive and

then stop and operate.

At the end of the day on Sat I got a call from John N6MU requesting that I change my route to help him get the sweep. We were able to accommodate John and pick up a few counties such as Johnson, Stephens, McClain and Grady and I believe we helped John get the sweep.

I sat on the Grady / McClain county line for 1 hour on Sunday, much longer than I had planned for. I had a 30 min pileup on CW and then a 30 min pileup on phone; it was a lot of fun.

Conditions were OK during the contest. Saturday was a little tough due to the Russian DX contest. I tried 20 mtr phone on Sat but just wasn't able to find a spot amid the other testers in the dx contest. I did work Uruguay on phone and a few Europeans on cw. But it was nothing like the MOQP last year when 15 was open to Europe most of the contest.

Thanks to Connie K5CM for organizing a great Qso Party and hope to work you all in Missouri Apr 4/5 as W0H/m.”

K5ZZR - mobile 292 ssb qso

I started out pretty slow until I finally figured out that 20M was the place to be. A VAQP op agreed they were only having success on 20M also. Sat mostly on county lines this time and my score was much better than last year. Can't wait for next year....

K5CM mobile 1084 cw QSO

Just a few of the most worked stations:

N6MU, K5WE, N9WKN, W5CW, K5TIA, K5WA, KE0G, KN4Y, KQ3F, N3KR, N4CD, N4PN, N4RS, N9WKN, ND3R, WA2ABD.

Normal Pam, N5KW is the driver/second op, but she was under the weather Saturday morning so had to do my own driving this time. Sure cuts down on the Q's and mults.

73,
Connie, K5CM

W0BH mobile 949 cw 844 ssb qso

I always enjoy heading south for the Oklahoma QSO Party, and this year was no exception. The route was planned with a trip down to the southwest corner of the state. The Astro van with 294,000 miles on it was tuned to perfection as was the Icom 706MkIIG with Hustler vertical stacks.

XYL Lorna/K0WHY drove for me again this year. We headed out from our Kansas farm about 6:00am for the 8:00am start at the Oklahoma state line. At first it was slow going with some lingering ground fog, but visibility gradually improved as we continued south. The weather was forecast to be good QSO party weather, which means cloudy (so we can see the GPS and computer screens easily) and relatively cool (since A/C in the van quit several years ago). Both conditions turned out to be true for Saturday and the recent rains had basically dried, leaving the back-county roads to three and four county lines passable.

I'm going to fast forward a bit. I usually jot notes down for a write-up as we drive along, but Saturday was so uneventful, smooth, and relaxing that for most of the day the note would read "simply fun". Activity was a bit down from last year, especially in the morning, but it picked up nicely as the higher bands opened up. DX conditions never did improve and the few DX contacts I made were difficult.

I know how important it is to make those 40m contacts for our close in stations and for in-state multipliers. The OKQP even rewards us with bonus points for trying. My goal was at least five 40m contacts per county and I came pretty close with 40m contacts in all 29 counties and five or more in 27 counties. Special thanks to N4CD who generally picked me up first on 40m and spotted me to let everyone know I there.

Let's continue the story from Harmon county, the furthest southwest county in Oklahoma. I originally left Harmon off my route because it was out of the way, but I got several county-hunter requests to go there and added it at the last minute. You all rewarded me with a huge pileup, the best of the day! We also experienced a one lane "paved" road. The quotes around paved are

deliberate because the road was barely wide enough for our van, and the potholes in the pavement were epic! We bumped along for a number of miles that way until finally making it back to civilization. While I was operating at the stop, Lorna, who is constantly bird watching, spotted sand hill cranes wheeling around the sky.

Other than a short QLF on the wrong 15m sideband and getting lost in Elk City trying to find our hotel, no complaints. We ended the day with 1219 contacts in the log.

Sunday

A peek outside the hotel early Sunday morning again showed fog. As we ate in the hotel dining area, a group of students and their instructor were discussing their "hunt" for prairie chickens. After they left, Lorna and I chatted with one of their pilots. It turns out they were doing a prairie chicken survey and had three Bell Jet Ranger helicopters in use as part of the survey. The helicopters were grounded because of the fog, so the students left in vans instead.

Sunday always goes too quickly with only 6 hours of operating time. After a relatively unproductive three county line stop (too early, I guess), we headed north through some big counties up to the Panhandle. We set up shop on the Beaver/Harper county line knowing that Jerry/K5YAA would come along in his very FB KW mobile setup. Sure enough, splatter on multiple bands as he got close, but I couldn't find him even though I tried. I must have been working stations as he went by (we were a bit off on a side road), because I didn't see him, but for sure he was there!

I was working SSB with a nice pileup as we turned east approaching Woodward county. Suddenly we were back in Ellis county for about a mile as we cut the corner (I had forgot to mark it on the GPS). I realized almost everyone I had just worked needed Ellis, even though I'd already spent almost an hour in the county. Lorna made an unscheduled stop on the ELL/WDW line and I worked everyone again for two more counties!

Our last 45 minute stop of the day was listed as Alfalfa/Woods/Major. After some dirt road maneuvering and only 30 minutes left, we made a final turn with one mile to go to the line. A cow appeared up ahead on the road and three pickups were "herding" it back to where it belonged. We had to stop

and let that scenario play out as the clock ticked down. When they went by, Lorna hoofed it to the line only to find powerlines everywhere and powerline noise so bad that I couldn't hear on any band. Since we had already been in Woods county, we looked for a noise-free spot on the Alfalfa/Major line. While heading that way, Lorna slammed on the brakes, backed up, and checked out a roadrunner sitting in a bush! We finally made the line and the CW pileup commenced. Those are the choices WE make :-)

Stats

I operated 17.9 hours, 1793 Qs, 535 unique calls, 3 dupes, 959 total miles.

DX worked : 7 countries : HA OK DL SP F LY XE

Afterwards

Thanks to Connie/K5CM for once again putting this together for us all. Sorry Pam/N5KW was under the weather and couldn't drive for you this year, but I know she helps out in numerous ways. Thanks to the mobiles and fixed stations who put all 77 counties out there, and congrats to John/N6MU for working them all once again (including all 29 of my counties).

The 2015 Kansas QSO Party is scheduled for August 22-23. 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

Some things from Ebay

A few rare interesting items popped up on Ebay – things you probably have never seen.

Here's a rare National NC-400 HF receiver. . It was only sold to the government so you'll find very very few around today. It had a list price of \$895 in 1962 (equivalent to \$6000 today) so not many were made – maybe 200 total. The circuit was similar to

the SP600 receiver of the earlier day with double conversion above 7 MHz. You could add in optional crystal calibrator and mechanical filters.

Some of these were used at FBI Field Offices. They could be configured for crystal control receive or use external tracking for diversity systems. Bidding price on this was up to \$1000.



National NC-400

There's even a YouTube video about it -see it working

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MmBp71d7TCA>

Here's something that was often needed to help out the early receivers on the higher bands as far as sensitivity. The low cost and medium price radios often lacked a decent front end (no RF amp) so it would take strong signals for it to work. Add something like this, a 'preselector/amp' and you'd have a better receiving setup.



Meissner 9-1008 RF Amp/Preselector

On the Road with N4CD I

Another weekend – another hamfest – 300 miles south this time in Fort Bend County Texas which is just a bit southwest of Houston, TX. I had never been to this hamfest before so now was the time to check it out. This was supposed to be a decent hamfest well attended. Nothing else was going on for the weekend and it could be a one day trip down, visit the hamfest, and a one day trip back. The weather forecast said great conditions with 70s on Friday and 80s on Saturday – and sun and clear. Great driving weather and flea market weather for the hamfest.

I checked the needs page – not too many needs posted for that part of Texas. Since I finished up another time (early March), those working on the Star XX award (total of 20 stars in each county) could get an extra 'star' in the counties I transmitted from – that's about 50 people so far chasing that award – you must finish Five Star first. Plus one day would be a weekend day and a few more county hunters are not on during the regular weekdays. AK8A had just headed up through TX so I'd avoid those counties for the most part, too. No sense to duplicate runs.

Friday morning I had a nice breakfast at home and waited for rush hour traffic to die down. My route started down I-45 which takes me right through downtown Dallas. You

either need to do that part at 6am or after 9am, not during rush hour where you will sit for at least an extra hour in stop and go traffic, maybe longer. It dies down by 9am so usually it's a clear shot through downtown and out I-45 through Ellis, Navarro, Freestone toward the city of Houston (Harris County). Traffic around that city is a big mess plus there are expensive toll roads so I elected to get off the interstate and head through Grimes and Waller (new 3rd time transmits, too) down to Ft Bend for the night.

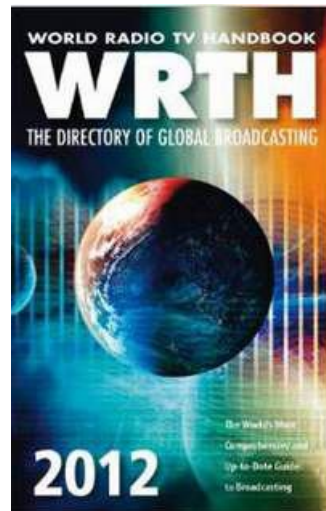
There's a Super 8 there - \$76 including taxes in Rosenberg where the hamfest is held. I got there about 3:30pm. A bit later I wandered over to a Denny's for a Avocado Chicken Salad dinner. \$9 with 15% off with AARP card. Good. Then back to the motel for the night. Most folks who come to this hamfest probably live in the local area of Houston/San Antonio/Austin. Didn't see any cars with antennas in the parking lot at the Super 8 motel.

K5YAA will be pleased to note they have waffles at this Super 8 for breakfast – along with coffee, juice, rolls, toast, cereal, oatmeal.....I had a waffle. About 1 mile away is the Fort Bend Fairgrounds where the hamfest is held. I left all the stuff in the room and headed there. I usually skip any programs (other than the Dayton hamfest) and focus on finding interesting items (goodies) in the outdoor flea market and inside. This was also an official ARRL event so there were forums for those looking for that.

The flea market officially starts at 7am but of course, folks were there long before then, including me. It was dark – real dark outside. I parked outside the fenced area and wandered inside the outdoor 'flea market' at 6:30. It was dark other than a few large parking lot lights. You needed a flashlight to see the stuff under the tables. Temp; 53 degrees – I should have brought a jacket. Lots of good stuff was or sale but I didn't need any of it. A few boatanchor rigs – old National Receivers – a few Heathkits and a Drake transceiver or two. Half a dozen 2m FM rigs. You needed a flashlight to see all the things for sale. A few KW amps were up for sale. Maybe 30 cars were there. Not overwhelming. There's more at Belton/Hamcom and of course, at Dayton there are hundreds folks in the flea market! Still, you never know where you will find a goodie. (the best boatanchor finds are likely in the north east – that's where folks have lived, never moved and cleaned house). 90% of the people who live in TX have moved here in the past 50 years – getting rid of the 'old stuff' at the time of the move.

The building inside doesn't open until 8am but I found a way in before that to scan what was up for sale. Nothing appeared interesting to me but most of the tables were still covered over so the full inspection would have to wait till opening time. I headed back outside for more digging. The only thing I found worth buying outside was a World Radio Television Handbook for 2012. If you were an SWL from the 50s, 60s, or 70s,

you probably remember this. Before the 'internet' it was the bible on radio stations in every county world wide – frequency and call letters and power.



For example, it listed all the US AM radio stations by frequency starting at 540 KHz – every station – call letter – power day/night, and state. Like 820 WBAP 50KW/50KW, TX. If you were a broadcast band DX'er it would help you identify a station you heard – and maybe had trouble getting the call letters. I've sprung for a few in the past. This one was nostalgia and just a buck! It also lists all the shortwave stations in every country by frequency, and has a few articles plus reviews of shortwave receivers. Not worth \$31 to buy a new one, but the price was right!

Here's a description from Amazon dot com

“This is the 66th edition of "WRT Handbook" and this great directory continues to offer the most comprehensive guide to broadcasting on the planet. Completely revised and updated, this new edition is the most accurate guide to national and international SW, MW, and FM broadcasting available. "The World Radio TV Handbook" is divided into a number of sections covering numerous topics, from National Radio - which looks at the world's domestic radio services, listed by country and including contact details, to International Radio - featuring full facts about all broadcasters transmitting internationally; and from Television Broadcasts - which details the world's main national broadcasters and large regional networks to frequency lists of all MW and international and domestic SW broadcasts. Also included in this revised edition is a reference section that contains listings of international and domestic transmitter sites, standard time and

frequency transmissions, DX Club information, as well as other essential print and electronic resources. “

There was an interesting 'update' on digital broadcasting – for both AM and shortwave. This was another thing pushed by European standards groups and manufacturers hoping for a gigantic turn over of home radios to the new standard. In most cases, the consumer just yawned and wasn't interested in spending big bucks to go 'digital' on AM. European governments have wasted billions and consumers haven't forked out the big bucks to go 'digital'. That's no different than in the US with “AM STEREO” which most folks could care less about! Most AM stations are now 'talk radio' or 'sports radio' or 'news radio' 24/7. Who listens to high quality music on AM radio? Kids listen to Pandora or other web services on their Smartphones or laptop computers to get their music, or download tunes from the Apple Store directly. Same for shortwave. No one wants to spend more money to have the same thing but in 'digital'. In the US, folks with extra cash sign up for satellite radio. However, some countries are pushing on with digital broadcast for AM, FM and shortwave.

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I continued the search inside. Hmm...what's this? An old Knight Kit Span Master regen receiver. I've got a few of them in various states of repair/disrepair. This one was recapped and in 'good operating shape'. It didn't have the correct left knob but the price was low – about 1/3 of what they sell for on Ebay. I made an offer and it followed me home. I've got some spare parts (knobs) to fix it up right.

Knight Kit sold 3 major kits for SWLs – the low cost Ocean Hopper – now a 'cult item' with big prices– with plug in coils, with a 12AT6 triode detector and 50C5 pentode audio amp. You needed to use headphones with his. It did cover 100KHz to 30 MHz with the range of optional plug in coils. The cabinet was an option – until the National Electric Code required one be included to avoid the shock hazard.

The mid price unit was the two band Space Spanner, with AM and 6-18 MHz shortwave coverage – and used a 12AT7 triode detector, first audio amp and 50C5 audio output tube. It would drive a speaker on most stations.

The top of the line was the Span Master 4 band radio. Pentode detector, triode first audio and pentode audio out. It was the only one with a power transformer and selenium rectifier. The other two less expensive kits were AC/DC.



Knight Kit Span Master Regen

I've got a 'soft spot' for the Span Master. It was my first kit shortwave radio I built back in the 1950s. Well, my dad and I built it...I was maybe 12 years old at the time – hi hi

Tens of thousands of these Knight Kits kits were sold and most are still floating around or in someone's basement or garage. Each year, there are fewer and fewer 'shortwave broadcast' stations to listen to, and hams are no longer on AM. Tuning in SSB and CW with these budget kits is difficult.

Not much later, I made the 'find of the day'. I spotted some Hustler Resonators and one of them was a 17M one. I asked what the price was. The seller said 'it's the same price for all of them'. Huh? He said 'take all of them for \$5'. All of them. Not one – but all. OK.....I grabbed two handfuls of stuff - it looked like two 20m resonators, a 75 meter one, maybe a 40m – label worn off – the 17m one – and maybe a 15m one. Only 2 had the stingers – but there were some longer stingers that might be adaptable. Also there was a 18 or 20 inch Hustler mast section.

I didn't need the others but they all came at one price. He wanted to move the pile. I have no need for the 75m one. You won't find me out running counties at night these days and it probably won't cover the cw band anyway. If I remember I'll stick it in the car and bring it to the MI Mini if anyone wants it.



Later, I wandered into Keith, NM5G, the publicity man for the TX QSO Party. He had the big display up and was enthusiastically promoting the TX QSO Party – coming up the end of September and always a good one. He's practicing up on his cw so he'll be set for this years event. He'll be out mobile.

While there, Mike, K5UO dropped by. He mentioned he used to be an active mobile out Wyoming, Montana and South Dakota way when he was **KB8KW** back in the 80s and 90s. Maybe you old timers remember him or have him in your logs from the wayback days. He recalled one contact that turned out to be a LC WBOW. It took a while before he realized what that was from all the commotion on net after the contact.

Wow...I checked the 'last counties page' for him. I don't even remember most of the calls back then. Do you remember from the 80s WO0OIB, WA0MQM (WBOW contact), WB3DWH, WA9Ezt, N9AXV(KD9ZF), W3ARK, WB9UIA, N5QQ, W7BKM, NE8V, N8ACL, W1CRL (WBOW contact), WB1ENJ, KB5DM, N0AKC, KC4OV, WB2ZSO, N9DR, KA1CKX, WD9CQF, K4JG, Many are now SK - most in the 1990s– if not most by now. Most of them finished up for USACA.

The only calls I recall from back - where he gave a last county – and are still active are N7AKT (now N4AAT), W4RKV, K5HT(now K5JF) , G4KHG, KB4XK(now N4JT) , WA3QNT, K5IID. Maybe I missed one or two changed calls. Well, that was an interesting flashback.

That was about it at the hamfest. I did find one plug in coil – manufactured 4 pin one

with label on top in a big box of plug in coils, mostly poorly done with cold solder joints.....and bought the one for \$5. Couldn't talk him down.

I headed out about 9:30am back to the motel, picked up the radio and GPS and spotting pad, loaded up the car and was on the road by 10am headed toward home via some new counties a bit further to the west. Route was up highway 36 for a while into Austin TX. Then north to Washington, Burleson, Brazos, Limestone. There's a Subway in Mexia TX – been there before – and that's where I was headed for a late lunch.

All went well until.....I drove over something (didn't see it) and one of the tires goes pop/whack as something hits the underside of the car. Hmm....Half a mile later the car monitoring system is beeping away – **check tire pressure**. The Malibu lets you read the pressure in each tire. Left rear tire was down to 22 and dropping fast. I found a spot to pull into a parking lot and figured it was going to take a call to A.A.A. The place where I stopped was in the Bush's Fried Chicken place (it's a chain in south TX) so I went inside to ask the street address. She handed me a receipt – 500 E Milam Street. Called AAA and they took down the info. Oh, yep, the tire was definitely flat. Yes, I had a spare (some new cars don't have a spare but a can of fix-a-flat which may or may not work depending upon what got your tire. The nice lady said it would be five to 60 minutes before help arrived.

Five minutes later, the AAA truck driver calls and asks my location. Told him I'm in the Bush's Fried Chicken place. He knew where it was. Two minutes later he shows up and the spare gets put on the right rear. Yep, there's a 1/2 cut in the tire right between the treads of the flat tire. Not good. Fortunately I checked the spare a few weeks ago and it was at 60 lbs after I pumped it up. How often do you check the air in your spare? . In another 15 minutes I was on my way home – 110 miles from there and I could drive on the spare that far.

Not much else to report on the trip.

Conditions weren't great. The EU DX was very marginal. HA9RE was worked a half dozen times. SM6VR caught me a few times, and DL3IAC was barely, barely there on 17M CW. Only a handful of contacts were made each county on 17 or 30AM and maybe 1 or 2 on 40M. Mike NF0N was running down from NE to IA on 30M and caught him in some new ones.

I arrived near home about 4:30pm – and stopped by the Discount Tire Store where I bought the tires. Counter guy looked at it and said 'not repairable'. They can't fix a 1/2 inch cut – whatever it was that got me. (The AAA guy who changed the tire in Mexia

said it was likely 'toast' as well). So I'd need to replace the tire. Hmm...they don't have that tire in stock – sell another Goodyear tire. For the best handling you want four of the same brand/model tires on your car. Things can get squirrely with different variations of tires. I asked can he order the 'old' tire – he checked – yes, but it will take a few days.

Not to worry – I'm not going anywhere for a few days. I left the tire/rim there and he'll call in a few days. It was then home to unload the tires and unwind.

Good hamfest trip other than the tire incident. Seems I'm averaging one tire problem every 50,000 miles or so. No major breakdowns on the road although the car is getting to the point where things can wear out. Every mechanical device follows a 'U' shape curve. Higher initial failure rate (defective parts weeded out – early failures) at the beginning. Then a long period of little trouble. Then, up the “U” as the mechanism ages and wears out. We have some folks with 200K miles on vehicles – some with 300K on trucks – you just have to expect a lot more maintenance and headaches after 200K miles.

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Post Script. The tire came in at Discount Tire. Since I had purchased road hazard coverage on the tires, there was no charge to replace the tire. Nice. I did have to pay \$23 for a new tire warranty as that wasn't included in the deal. Sweet! Brand new tire for \$23. Ready to go county hunting/hamfesting again!

Missouri QSO Party



K0E – MO QP – op KC0BEM- Scott
ran a few on SSB

K5YAA mobile with N5WR - 2655 cw 128 ssb Qs

What a terrific run in this year's Missouri QSO Party. The bands were in great shape both Saturday and Sunday as DX callers were as loud as the US on both 15 and 20 meters. The record for Qs in the Oklahoma Land Rush Mobile was shattered as we managed to beat both 2014 Florida and Texas QSO Party totals.

Two minor mechanical problems, more a nuisance than trouble, that spares or a screwdriver fixed quickly. The stinger on the Tarheel came loose from it's two hex screws and landed in the trailer where I found it when gassing up the generator. Oh no, I didn't pack my hex wrenches. But, I have two spare stingers. Was gonna say, Off with the old and on with the new but the old was already off!. The Alpha Delta 4 banger coax switch knob got loose on us two or three times but a screwdriver tightened it back up for more twisting to move around the bands quickly.

The old Dell, XP running laptop, may need to be replaced before long but it made it through "one more" party doing it's reliable thing. It was

pressed into service because the spare SamSung laptop's screen washed out badly in light, not bright sunlight, just light! The Dell has a slower processor so at times I'm sure folks heard some hiccups in the CW as N1MM+ wants some speed it seems to send perfect CW. N1MM+ is a nice piece of work so I will get a laptop that can be seen when the sun is up. The SamSung would have performed well but like I said, it couldn't be read in sunlight. Had to cobble up "ropes" to hold the old tired Dell's screen in a position for reading as the hinges are worn out and a repair effort on them was not successful, so some string and that handy stuff called duct tape made the screen stay in position "most of the time". Erik did a much better job at using the kludge than I did as the right "rope" came loose on me and things started getting messy what with the left hand typing and the right hand holding the screen in place. The Gator and I are hunt and peckers on a keyboard so one handed just don't quite cut it. Erik took a little time Sunday morning before the start to do some of his surgery on the right hand rope and tape job. It lasted the whole 6 hours on Sunday even with me operating! Paul, N4PN would be proud of the job Erik did with my cheap roll of duct tape, the thin stuff, no toughness to it, tears easily, that kind of tape. Holds keyers on top of empty Dunkin Donuts coffee cups sitting on a \$3.00 bottle holder however.

Made it to 46 of the planned 47 counties. Somehow the sign for Monroe never showed up as we were heading West last evening or we simply blew right past it. Hate it when that happens

Erik and I want to thank all the callers for their QSOs. Very well mannered group as when we sent a letter or two to cull out the pile only that guy called - most of the time. There were several stations who followed us the entire weekend and a handful who only had one day or even Sunday afternoon to get in the fray after Easter Services.

These US stations made the log more than 30 times.

AA4FU - 33
AF6GQ - 56
N4CD - 35
N4PN - 41
N4RS - 31
K2DSW - 32
K5CM - 48

K5KDG - 51
K5TIA - 31
K7TM - 35
KC3X - 35
KN4Y - 38
KO7X - 31
KQ3F - 55
WA2VYA - 35
W7GF - 53
W1END - 39
W1DWA - 69

Thanks gentlemen for your dogged efforts to hammer away at us. Impressive Q totals. Many others made Q counts in the high twenties. Thanks to each of you also. Indeed, thanks to everyone who made the weekend a lot of fun for us as that is what this great hobby is all about. Hopefully you got a kick out of beating others in the pile now and then. I hope to work each of you again in the 7QP this May from Eastern Montana where myself and Matt K7BG will be motoring.

Finally a couple of funnies as I have been known to write about in the past. Seems Missouri's service stations and sandwich shops have some later technology deployed than the ones down in Texas Hill Country. We only managed to hamper one gas pump by keeping it from reading the credit card the first try. The lady inside noticed but didn't call the Sheriff. At a Subway sandwich shop, Erik pulled "Around Back" leaving me hammering away. He said, as he pulled out his twenty to pay, he heard some beautiful CW on the cash register. As Erik did down in Texas, he scurried back out and said, we might ought to leave here. He did however say, maybe no problem as the people behind the sandwich making counter didn't really seem to notice that their machine was playing CW music. On down the road we went, sandwiches in hand and no worries.

The second funny is when I ventured up to SSB on twenty. Here was N4PN (Papa Novembah) asking for any station, just any station in Missouri to call. The guy is a beggar. I hollered at him, official mobile and all, with a new county. We exchanged our regular insults then WA2VYA called me on Paul's frequency. I said, up 2 VYA after calculating how far I needed to move to get out of Paul's way because I know he would have harassed me if I caused him any QRM. Up two I went and worked VYA. So, being on a different frequency I started out with a CQ the Party. Some ole boy asked is the frequency busy? I said, why were you going to

use it? He said, "Well I was thinking about it." I asked, "Where are you?" He said, rather proudly, "Corpus Christi Texas". I then said, "Well, seems I was here first and I didn't think about using it I'm actually using it so "CQ the Missouri QSO Party". He grumbled something and went about his way. Some true characters up there on SSB for sure. Fortunately he didn't hang around to give me any grief and anyway I wasn't going to be there long because a new county was on the horizon and back to CW I would scamper.

A very special thank you to the Missouri QSO Party organizers. Y'all put on a good one this year and even made sure the WX was Missouri Spring Style to boot. Couldn't ask for a better Party for sure.

73 - Jerry K5YAA and Erik N5WR

Rig: K3 and a solid state amp into 3 HP Hustlers and a Tarheel for 40/80. An old tired Dell laptop whose days may soon be numbered and a Honda generator that keeps on ticking since I learned to keep water out of it's gas supply.

W0M (AF5Q) mobile - 424 cw 230 ssb QSO

Besides the MapQuests oopses (will not use it again) and losing 4 hours because of it, computer doesn't want to work, etc, wasn't bad.

Can't figure out how to use writelog, so I logged by hand, and sent all my cw by hand. Overall I had a great time. Thanks to all those that followed me.

I will be back nest year, and I will be covering some new ground. Thanks for a great QSO party.

KC0MO (K0OU op) - fixed - Jackson MO - 359 cw 356 ssb

TNX to the BOEING ARS for sponsor this QSO party. It is really fun having people looking for you rather than having to break a pile-up for a Q. Actually had a pile-up on me on 20m phone. Also, only ran the amp part time as it would lock up the computer. The

feed-line on the 40m yagi is broken so Ended up using the vertical on that band
- it seemed to work OK. TNX to all for the Q's
WN4AFP – fixed – SC 87 cw 38 ssb 69 mults

What a RUSH!!!!!! I work most of the QPs each year and the MOQP is in the Top Five of active mobiles. Thanks to these mobiles for all the counties (I hope that I don't omit anyone) - W0S, W0O, W0M, W0H, W0E, N0W, N0E, K5YAA, and K0W. It wasn't easy to work the MOQP and MSQP because each had similar county names.

N4PN – fixed – GA 139 cw 168 ssb Mults = 101

N6MU – fixed – CA 273 cw 68 ssb Mults = 95

Really enjoyed the new format without numbers!

Worked Jerry, K5YAA, in 45 of his 47 counties for a total of 96 Qs. Close behind was W0E with 91 Qs from only 26 counties. Thanks for all the QSYs, Mark!

Kudos to all the fixed and mobile stations for hanging in there on Easter weekend. I lucked out as the last church service Sunday was half an hour after the Party ended so didn't miss any time Sunday morning.

KN4Y - fixed - FL 124 cw 71 counties

Did not hear the 1x1 'W' station on CW, dang it! Chasing the nine mobiles on CW was fun, better than hunting eggs in a cow pasture. A great weekend.

OM2VL – fixed – DX 208 cw 146 sbb 106 counties

What a weekend ...

I was very tired from last 2 month qualification contests for WRTC 2018 (ARRL CW, ARRL SSB, RDXC, WPX SSB) + QSO Parties: MN, BC, VT, NC, ID, LA - total 9 weekend on the QTH.

But for me it was impossible to ignore MO QP. Some weeks before the QP some of my friends sent his schedule and reminded me - "MO QP coming soon"

I don't like when on the same weekend are more QP - I can't ignore any of them but of course I missed many when I worked stations in another state ...

This weekend was the "TRIPPLE M" : MO, MT, MS.

My tactic was try CQ'ing on 15m SSB when condx good and often checked the mobile frequency on CW. Fortunately the condx were excellent and many MO stations answered to my CQ - thank you very much for the many QSOs to resident stations and especially for some mobiles which came back on my freq and gave me new points and multipliers. During this QSOs 10.000 times checked freqs : 14034 W0M, 14037 W0E, 14041 K5YAA, 14046,7 N0E and when not found same freq on 15m. Sometimes we tried QSY also on 10m with W0E, signals was over the noise level but 9 times we can do it on CW and 1 time on SSB (1x W0H, NW0M and other with W0E)

After ending first part I must go back home because every year on Easter Sunday we have lunch with my brother's family, sister on my parents house. After the lunch I went back to the QTH and started the 2nd part on 15m SSB and S/P mobiles on CW.

I am very happy with my final result, I never dreamed to make 354 QSO during MO QP.

Most QSOs with mobiles:

K5YAA/M 72/45 (QSO/Cty) I missed only Platte from Jerry's route

W0E/M 67/24

W0M/M 26/14

N0E/M 21/17

W0O/M 15/9

K0E/M 12/12

W0S/M 12/2

KD0VMM/M 11/8

W0H/M 8/6

N0W/M 5/5

K0W/M 3/3

N0O/M 2/2

1X1 CALLSIGNS: I worked 16 from 17 - missed only N0S.

Missed counties: DUN, GAS, MRE, OSA, OZA, PEM, RAY, TAN, WAS.

Once again my BIG THANKS to all stations who called me, to all mobiles for giving me so many QSO's + counties and to BEARS for organizing this excellent QP!

antennas:

80m: 2 el Yagi - 50m up + beverage

40m: 3/3 Yagi - 46/12m up

20m: 6/6/6 Yagi - 38/25/12m up

15m: 6/6/6/6 Yagi - 34/25/16/7m up

10m: 6/6/6 Yagi - 30/23/17m up

TCVR: FT5000DX + OM3500 amplifier

logging program: N1MM

regards, Laci OM2VL



AD0DX (W0H?) Dunklin/New Madrid/Pemiscot

K0W mobile

This weekend our club AA0WV ran as K0W I think the total was right at 20 counties and 528 contacts although we had no Missouri contacts. Saturday we ran a three person crew in the truck K0BRT Charles ran the radio a friend of his working on tech did the logging and I W0OWE Russell drove and navigated we ran 20 meters all day. Rig in truck is a TS-480 HX running at 200 watts into a Scorpion 680S antenna we had a ball

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Once again, the MO QSO Party folks had their own spotting site – see

<http://cwfun.org/funspots/moqp/frames.html>

Guess we'll have to have half a dozen windows open to get all the spots during a contest.

They also had Twitter and Facebook going during the event.



N5PHT/0 Dent County Portable

On the Trail of Regens

From Ebay – some interesting items from Silver Marshall – a maker of radios and kits for sale back in the late 20s and 1930s. One All World Four was up for sale along with an even less seen model 730. This used 4 tubes – no shielding between stages – in a set with an untuned 224 RF amp, UX200 regen detector and two audio stages – driving headphones. You'd use plug in coils.



The left hand dial is for tuning, the right hand dial for regeneration control. One plug in coil – the standard pin type. The part with the orange label is an audio interstate transformer.

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National – the first receiver National made was the SW-2 (really rare) with 2 tubes. It was made for receiving TV signals (at about 3 MHz or 100 meters as it was called back then). The year was 1927. The radio did not even have a sheet metal cabinet – just fiberboard base and front panel.

The next receiver they made was the SW-4 with an untuned RF amp for general shortwave work. (4 tubes) On Ebay this month –and it is 'rare' and sold for over \$500!

Also up for sale were several other National receivers – the SW3- shown before and fairly common – many hams used them – and the rarer SW-5 set with five tubes. One of the rarer models is the SW-4 – not many made – starting in 1929. Here's what they look like:



Front View - National SW-4



National SW-4 Top View

Note the coils were kept internal – they are Unique – contacts on the outside of the coil forms, not the usual pins. This preceded the SW-3 which was a much better performer – it had a tuned RF amp, shielding of RF amp and detector – and normal pins on the coils for plugging them in. Likely no one else made them in that size or the coil form external contacts like theirs.

This radio was in a sheet metal cabinet – but fiberboard type base and point to point wiring under the chassis!

This radio used a 222 RF amp, a 200 detector, and a 240 and 171 audio section. Then the Depression hit – big time – 1929 – the stock market crash and economy crash!

The SW-5 came out in 1930 – expensive – too much for the times. It didn't sell well. It had push pull audio output for lots of audio. A Cadillac in the Great Depression.

National then designed the 'economical SW-3' that many hams could afford. It stayed in production for over 30 years!

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In addition, a National SW-58 Thrillbox was up for sale. This is another fairly rare model made in 1932. It was a repackaged SW-5 in lower cost cabinetry.



National SW-58 front



National SW-58 Top View

Note the copper shielded compartments! This ran off the a/c line.

Tube line-up – 58, 58, 27, 45, 45 – and internal power supply. Sold for \$240 on Ebay.

Mississippi QSO Party

K4ZGB – mobile – 270 cw QSO (4.5 hours operating time)

W3DYA mobile 864 cw qso

No driver, so stopped to run. Stopped on 9 county lines, and once in last county. Lots of activity most of the time, and 15M was open most of the time. MS team came through with good WX, but LA rained all over me on the way home Sunday.

NO5W mobile - 328 cw qso

Wow, a tip of the hat to Norm-W3DYA for an outstanding score. Being driver-less and not being able to find any county lines where we could safely operate we were not able to get much momentum going due to some long drives between operating locations. Pearl River is one long county. I think we spent about an hour getting from our operating position in Forrest to the area where we operated Hancock and Pearl River.

Weather was nice this year with the only rain being at the start in Pike. After that the sun came out and the temps stayed in the 60s. A nice day, but a lot of driving for only 3 hours of operating time.

Thanks to all for the Qs including the following who were my most active callers and amounted to half of my QSOs: OM2VL(15), KV8Q(14), N4CD(13), NU0Q(12) KQ3F(11), W0GXQ(9), W1END(9), WA2VYA(9), N5NA(7), WN4AFP(7), W0EAR(6), ND3R(6), K2ZR/4(6), W1ATV(6), NX4C(6), VA3ATT(6), KG4IGC(5), N3RM(5), WQ7A(5), KB8OMG(4), K8NYG(4), N4PN(4), W7OM(4).

73/Chuck/NO5W

NA5NN – fixed – MS - – multi op 382 cw 762 ssb Qs

K2FF and W5UE operating from W5UE's QTH

note de N4CD: They worked over 100 stations on 10 meters and over 80 on 15m. The bands are not dead if you have big antennas!

KN4Y – fixed – FL 45 cw 25 counties

Worked only two mobiles on CW, the number of fixed station on CW also down, guess out hunting alligator eggs.

OM2VL – fixed – DX 68 cs 33 ssb 48 counties

Second time on MS QP, because I can collect all counties for my US County award. Thanks for mobile station I can work some new ones! Some still missed, so I must take part also next year ... :)

It is not very good when on same weekend are more QSO Parties, because I can't ignore any of them. I sure missed some mobiles when I am worked with stations from MT or MO, but it was fun hunting stations from 3 states!

I worked 23 Montana and 354 Missouri stations.

Most QSOs with:

W3DYA/M 24/18 (QSO/CTY)

NO5W/M 14/11

K4ZGB/M 7/7

KK4TE/5 6/6

Thanks a lot for many QSOs and especially for the new counties for me.

73 Laci OM2VL

Things from Ebay

Some nifty stuff from 'over the pond' this month showed up. Here's a nifty and rare AM/SW receiver made by Lowe in the UK.



From the Ebay ad:

“This sale is for a nice Lowe HF-125 shortwave communications receiver that was manufactured in England from 1987-1988. Designed by the legendary shortwave design guru, John Thorpe, this Lowe represents a wonderful value in the category of DX receivers. Thorpe has gained quite a following over the years with his influence on a few well designed receivers that have enthralled shortwave enthusiasts.

Let me now provide a little information about this Lowe receiver. The stock HF-125 is a highly stable (30 Hz drift after 1 hr) double conversion superhet that operates on less than 300ma of power. It is supplied with 4 bandwidth filters that give the user a nice selection to use for both AM and SSB and filters have excellent shape factors. The receiver has good image rejection of all tuned frequencies in the HF bands so if you live

in a high RF environment, this may be helpful for you.

When evaluating this receiver, it becomes obvious that this is not your standard desktop receiver. First of all, there are only a total of 9 controls on the front panel eliminating clutter and placing most needed controls at the user's fingertips. Despite this scant number of controls, the HF-125 offers the user some outstanding reception. The main tuning dial and s-meter are illuminated and the readout gives the user tuning information in 1 kHz increments. However, tuning is much finer than the display indicates as tuning resolution ranges from 50-500 Hz in AM and 8-250 Hz in SSB. As you tune the display faster, the encoder will speed up tuning so that you can move through the band more quickly. But if the need for fine tuning is dictated, the receiver is capable of delivering this precision which is especially important when clarifying the signal on sideband.

Here are some features found on this HF-125 receiver:

- Coverage from 30 KHz through 30 MHz
- 4 bandwidths of 2.5 / 4 / 7 / 10 KHz
- S-meter
- Built-in speaker
- 30 Memories
- 1 MHz up/down buttons
- Modes of AM / LSB / USB / CW
- Optional Synchronous Detection (not installed in this unit)
- 400 Hz Audio CW Filter
- Operates off of 12 VDC

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Here's another Lowe receiver – this one a 'Cadillac'...or should we say “Rolls Royce”?

From the Ebay ad:

This sale is for a nice Lowe HF-225 shortwave communications receiver that was manufactured in England from 1990 - 1997. Designed by the legendary shortwave design guru, John Thorpe, this Lowe represents a wonderful value in the category of DX receivers. Thorpe has gained quite a following over the years with his influence on a few well designed receivers that have enthralled shortwave enthusiasts. This particular unit has the Sync Detector option installed....thus, a good receiver made better as it locks onto those weak or fading signals. You can see the sync board in the picture at the top of

this listing as this board appears vertical in relation to the main chassis board.



Here are some features found on this HF-225 receiver:

- Coverage from 30 KHz to 30 MHz
- Sync detector (optional and installed)
- 4 bandwidths of 2.2, 4.0, 7.0, and 10.0 kHz
- Built-in speaker
- 30 Memories
- Dual VFOs
- Modes of AM / LSB / USB / CW
- Stability of <30 Hz / hr
- 200 Hz CW filter
- Operates off of 12 VDC

Five Band Award

One of the toughest awards you can work on is the Five Band Award. Here's the rules for it from the MARAC Awards Web Page.

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with amateur radio stations in All USA Counties on any five (5) amateur bands.

SPECIAL RULES: Any Valid Contacts submitted for other MARAC awards may also be used for this award.

AWARD LEVELS: Basic Certificate for 2000 counties on five (5) bands.

MARAC Trophy for All USA Counties on five (5) bands.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees. There is no charge for the MARAC Trophy

Only one has been awarded to date, to KC3X, Hollis, for 2000 counties on each of 17, 20, 30, 40 and 80M bands.



This one is listed in the MARAC database – you can find out all the recipients of this award. As of this day, only 1 person has earned it.

It's fairly easy to get all counties on 20M if you've been on long enough. Same for 30M if you are a cw op to get to 2000 there. Same on 40M if you live in the east half of the country. 75M-80M is a lot tougher – way back when there were county hunting nets that ran all night long! Now – you are limited to QSO parties and other activity on the band – no nets for CH. Of course, you could use 6M or 10M. Dunno if 2m would count if you and partner went zipping all over the country together I remember way back when when a several mobiles used to go tailgating each other all over TN and nearby during the 3M week, putting them out on the five bands back then (10,15, 20, 40, 80M) running up their band totals. Ralph, WA4HXG, was one of the leaders of that outing every year.

Here – I've got all of them on 20M, all on 30M.....and over 2000 on 40M....but that leaves a lot to go since I need about 1700 on 80m to get close...and 17m isn't great from the middle of the country compared to living on a coast. Hmmm..... well, I need a partner and go zipping around working each other on another 2 bands from the counties – or more! It's not going to happen from my current QTH.

Montana QSO Party

WA6KHK – fixed – CA 7 cw 9 ssb 5 mults cw 6 mults ssb

Once again no MT rovers...guess I'll never work Petroleum county (last county in MT) until there is one because there are no hams in that county.

KN4Y - fixed – FL 4 cw 3 counties

Did not hear much activity on CW, worked the four Big Sky County hams that know CW, quite a thrill.

OM2VL – Fixed 11 cw 12 ssb 4 counties cw 8 counties ssb

Unfortunately there were no any mobile stations. I found some resident on CW and was called by some stations on SSB. I try move these stations on another mode for multiplier but no luck. The highlight was QSO with K0SN/7 on 80m!

Totally worked 10 counties: FLA, GAL, JEF, LEW, MAD, MIS, RAV, SAN, SIL, YEL
Still missed many for my US County award ...

73, Laci OM2VL

On the Trail of Regens II

A nice VLF receiver from the WW2 days showed up on Ebay. It was an AR 8503 long wave receiver. Just the receiver – asking price \$200. Didn't need another regen for VLF – not much there to listen to, but 30-40-50 years ago, that's where ALL the commercial ship traffic was done.



From the Western Radio Museum Site (and do stop by there if you are in Storey County NV – Virginia City)

<http://www.radioblvd.com/WWII-PostWar%20Hamgear.htm>

“RAZ-1 was the Navy designation for a group of equipment consisting of a four tube longwave TRF receiver with regenerative detector, a matching one tube preselector and a one tube AC power supply - all built for shipboard use. The Navy number for the receiver is CRM-46092 but it was also known as the AR-8503 in commercial applications. The AR-8503 was in use as early as 1938, mainly in commercial shipboard radio rooms. The receiver circuit uses one RF amplifier, a regenerative detector and two stages of AF amplification. The one tube preselector is Navy number CRM-50092 or commercial number AR-8503-P and the AC power supply is Navy number CRM-20096 or commercial number RM-6. Tuning is from 15 KC to 600 KC in four bands. The Preselector was used to reduce regenerative signal radiation to the antenna in addition to increasing sensitivity and selectivity. The National Type "N" dials are 0-100 scaled with 180 deg. rotation and a calibration chart is included in the manual . The RAZ-1 could be operated from batteries if necessary. Performance of this operational RAZ-1 is incredible with an ability to extract weak signals out of the noise that is impressive. NBDs from all around North America, LW BC stations and Navy VLF RTTY stations from around the world are easily received. Output is to a set of Western Electric 509W earphones as

recommended in the manual”

Here's another very rare 1932 type receiver from MacKay. This one covers up to 350 -550 KHz and 3 to 28 MHz and is another 4 tube regen. It's a model 101 “Station Monitor”. It uses plug in coils and uses battery power (or a external supply).



Mackay 101 S/N 261



The plug in coils are stored inside on the right hand side.

Sold for \$96 plus \$62 shipping on Ebay.

Mobile, Portable, Fixed

AJ2I asks: Why must people running counties be mobile?

I'm speaking of 336 or the other "county hunting frequencies". I understand what MARAC stand for. But curious why can't a county be portable/fixed?

N4CD replies: During state QSO parties, there are fixed, portable and mobile stations on. No problem. If you are mobile, sign mobile. If you are portable (not at your home QTH) or with a temporary antenna set up, hooked to power, etc, then sign portable, like /2 or /p.

Some of the county hunting awards require working a mobile (YL mobile, mobile to mobile)

Some of the county hunting awards require working a mobile or portable. (No Star Award).

The 'net control' -" Mr you know who" - on .336 some of the time makes up his own rules. He only likes 'mobiles' lately.

When I was in AK last summer, I operated both mobile and portable at guest stations in the 4th, 3rd, and 1st district. Tried for the 2nd but that didn't work out. Just mobile there in 2nd. Of course, I didn't run on .336 when 'you know who' is around. Since I wasn't at 'home', I signed portable when using a fixed station of someone else. That helps with the more marginal folks who might not make it through to a mobile but need the county. For most county hunting awards, ANY station will do if they are 'in' the county.

In the good ole days, before the 'you know who' net control took over, the net would run both fixed stations and portables to fill in, rather than listening to 8 hours of noise a day. Some stations would be recruited to show up on net. Maybe a passer by would be invited to put out his county. When folks got another "Star" they would be invited to put out the county with the extra star. Naturally, they were limited to ten minute runs, and maybe less if mobiles showed up to run. It worked out fine. Some rare counties got run.

If you have internet access on the road, you can always spot yourself from a mobile or portable location, and QSO parties are a great time to jump in and put out counties. You don't have to run on .336 if 'you know who' is around.

My 2c

County Sign Database Project

The county sign database is trying to obtain pictures of every county line sign in the USA – all 3077. So far, good progress has been made with over 2790 in the database now and a few added each month. You can find the county sign database at:

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

About a dozen new signs were added this month. Barry, K2MF added signs in GA,PA, and NJ.



Cumberland PA by K2MF



Dorothy N2FUN and Barry K2MF
At the MI Mini 2015

KW4M added some new ones in GA. Not familiar with that call and not listed in the County Hunter Database.



Johnson GA by KW4M

Larry, N2OCW sent in a few as well. Here's Monroe PA



Monroe PA by N2OCW

Mary, AB7NK added two in South Dakota



Tripp, SD by AB7NK/K7SEN

Abandoned By Science, the Climate Cult

Is A Full-Time Witch Hunt Now

he climate-change cult is a full-on witch hunt now, and very little else. Bereft of any actual climate change, desperately seeking to avoid tough questions about why none of its sacred computer models has borne even the slightest resemblance to reality, forced to watch its every attempt to grab a headline debunked within hours, and facing new studies that might deal a death blow to its core beliefs regarding “greenhouse gas,” the Church of Global Warming can do nothing except attack its critics as heretics – or “deniers,” to use the term they haven’t yet realized isn’t scaring anyone.

A running Inquisition is the only way our mandatory State religion can keep the faithful in line. Remember, we’re not talking about anything resembling “science” any more – the scientific method says that when real-world data fails to confirm your hypothesis, you change the hypothesis, and the theory we’re talking about was supposed to be civilization-smashing climate apocalypse brought about by human industry, not naturally-occurring variances in global temperature so tiny that odds must be laid on whether they’ve occurred at all. The climate cult is scrambling to explain why there hasn’t been any significant global temperature variation for two decades, and has been reduced to screaming “GOTCHA!” when someone says the amount of climate change has been exactly zero when there’s a chance it might have changed by some tiny fraction of a degree, maybe, depending on how the data is compiled.

Thus we have a piece at Slate attempting to work up a little burn-the-witch political enthusiasm by sobbing that the best-case scenario for the climate cult from the 2016 is preservation of the status quo, “leaving us with a climate-conscious president, if a Democrat wins, still stymied by a climate change-denying Congress.” The worst case, of course, would be some Republican heretic who accurately points out that nothing even vaguely resembling the crisis we’ve been taxed billions of dollars to prevent has occurred, so maybe it’s time to cut into the Church of Global Warming’s lavish funding a bit.

Given that polls show the American people are weary of climate alarmism, and can’t help noticing that none of its predictions have been coming true, the Slate guide is useful if you turn it upside down and take the toughest skeptics as your best bet. Skepticism is

the essence of true science, not a perversion. People are generally willing to entertain the theory that industrial emissions can affect the environment, and possibly alter the climate – remember that most voters today grew up with non-stop indoctrination about “greenhouse gas” in both school and popular culture, and they’re not generally up to speed on the latest news about how the effects of man-made carbon may have been dramatically overestimated.

But people can also see what’s right in front of their faces, and if they’re old enough to remember the early days of global warming hysteria, they know 2015 looks nothing like what the doomsday prophets of the Eighties predicted. They’re also rightly skeptical of international deals that think the planetary climate can be fixed by hammering clean U.S. industry ever harder, while the rest of the world goes right on polluting.

They also know enormous sacrifices have been made in the name of environmentalism, and they can see tangible results from the more sensible policies, so they resist the demands for a few hundred billion more, especially at a time when the American economy is too shaky for such hysteria. ”

<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2015/04/03/abandoned-by-science-the-climate-cult-is-a-full-time-witch-hunt-now/>

Note de N4CD: The democrats have lined their pockets with 'green subsidies' for the last 30-40 years. Al Gore, the Clintons, and all the members of Congress have charged us all tens of billions and sent it to agri-business conglomerates and fat cat investors taking 'wind power credits' by the billions. We're stripping the rain forests worldwide to provide land to grow 'bio-diesel' plants (palm oil) while bemoaning the fact that the rain forests are 'disappearing'. We have 20 times more oil spilled in rail accidents, inconvenience tens of millions at railway crossings waiting for 100 car oil trains to pass.....rather than build a safer oil pipeline. Thank the Democrats and Green Extortionists for all of that.

Jerry's Quest to Reach 1000 LC's

Jerry, W0GXQ, is on a quest to reach 1000 transmitted last counties. He's now reached 920 and counting – trying to reach the 1000 number that only a handful of county hunters have ever done. He's got more trips planned, and will be attending the MI Mini – maybe picking up some LC's along the way. He's up to over

Kalawao Tales

from the K3IMC forum:

K7DM: I got to the county line this morning around 2100 Z and there was NX0X and his entourage. I didn't know they were going to be here, but they had seen my post and had just finished running. They said they made very few contacts because of lousy band conditions. Anyway, we had a nice visit and after they left I began to set up. I got the 20M resonator tuned for CW and was just getting the power leads connected to the car battery when a park patrolman pulled up. He informed me that there's a state regulation prohibiting transmissions of any kind from the park! Wonderful! I politely pointed out that I'm licensed by the federal government and therefore that should override any state regulation. He agreed and said he'd check on it, but he had no cell phone coverage so he said he'd go back down the highway to where he could get coverage and come back. So, I continued to set up and got the rig on and YUK! Nary a sound of audio anywhere. I fiddled with the 706 for a bit, but couldn't fix the problem. About that time the patrolman came back and said I was OK as long as the antenna was on the car, that the regulation prohibited setting up towers or antennas in the park. So, I'm back at our place and I'll try to figure out where my audio went. A lot of gremlins have made things interesting on this trip. Stay tuned. 73 de Don, K7DM

K7DM 04/12/15

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K3IMC forum - NX0X: What are the chances of running into a fellow county hunter on the Maui and Kalawao county line? I passed the law enforcement on the way down as I tapped the brakes to check my speed leaving the park as he went by. Hopefully you see better band conditions. Will get the photo emailed out to you when we get home later in the week. Enjoy the rest of your stay. Aloha from Honolulu...

-- --- -

via email from Brian

Just thought I'd send you a picture of when we were out running the county line of Maui/Kalaweo, Hawaii last week. What are the chances of running into another county hunter on that line of all places?... hihi.....

We ran into Don - K7DM as he was vacationing on Molokai that week. We (Myself - NX0X, my dad Cliff - AC0B and my wife Shari - KB0MHH) were out visiting the islands that same week and made a day trip over to Molokai on Sunday the 12th of April to put out the county line. As we ended running the different bands/modes Don pulled up and we had a nice chat. I know he tried to put out the line also several times but with band conditions the way they were he did not work anyone at all the first several days he was there. Not sure what he ended up with after being there all week.

I was lucky I guess that I was able to get several county hunters in the log on CW like, K8ZZ, AK8A, and K7TM . I heard a few others call but they just were not hearing me well enough to get my reply back to them. Later, I saw the band conditions with the A index up to around 45 and the K index around 6, With a day trip like that planned ahead, you hope for better band conditions but was happy to have worked anyone...

The below picture is NX0X, K7DM, AC0B, KB0MHH at the county line.

73,

Brian – NX0X



NX0X, K7DM, AC0B, KB0MHH
Kalawao/Maui HI

Obama and the Warmist Fraud

President Obama has made a very public attempt to link his daughter's asthma to climate change. There is no strong science to support the claim that the increasing incidence of asthma has any link to climate change. And of course what is even more egregious (and non-scientific) is that the President is trying to say that the specific case of his daughter's asthma is linked to AGM/climate change.

What are some real facts here:

There is strong science for a genetic predisposition to asthma:

"Asthma and allergic diseases are examples of disorders having an unmistakable genetic predisposition, but in the absence of a classic Mendelian inheritance pattern. These "complex" genetic disorders are caused by the interactions of multiple interacting genes some having protective value and some contributing to disease development and with each gene having its own variable tendency to be expressed. In addition, these disorders require the presence of appropriate environmental triggers for their expression."

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/10353570>

There is also a fair amount of thinking that asthma may be triggered at an early age by some environmental exposure.

[http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/health-topics/topics/asthma/...](http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/health-topics/topics/asthma/)

And what is one of the most commonly cited triggers?

Seconhand tobacco smoke:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db126.pdf>

"Environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) has harmful effects on children's respiratory health and has been linked to higher risk of middle ear infections, bronchitis and pneumonia, coughing and wheezing, worse lung function, and asthma development. Children with asthma whose parents smoke have more severe symptoms and more frequent exacerbations."

And of course we know that President Obama has been a cigarette smoker for many years only giving up smoking in 2011. So his daughter may very well have been exposed to second hand smoke for years. That may very well be a key factor in triggering her asthma.

However what the President has done here is a clear disservice to science and public policy. His intent is clearly to convince individuals that climate change is causing real problems in their lives. But he is using lies in that pursuit. He has indulged in the type of uncritical "junk science" thinking that is far too present in our current media. The path to the truth requires careful critical thinking and a persistent demand for real evidence.

New Mexico QSO Party

Some years the propagation is great and lots of NM is worked from TX. This was not the year to be – it started out with A=34 and K=4 and 'poor conditions' listed just about every frequency. 40M offered four contacts – and then disappeared. 20M never opened

to most of NM from my QTH. Mobiles were spotted on 20M, but zilch here. Oh well, another year! There were a few mobiles out on cw. KK6MC was running county lines. NS5J was out. Half a dozen fixed stations were spotted. In the evening I snagged another 1 or two on 40M. There are 33 counties in NM that were up for grabs.

From K3IMC:

N5KGY: NM QSO Party ... (more)

Sounded like a great turn-out. Only had a couple of hours to play, but worked over half the NM counties and saw all but one spotted.

N3MRA: NM QSO Party: "Thanks to all that worked me in the NM QSO Party. I ran 20 meters (in spite of the band conditions), and operated from: Sandoval, Bernalillo, Santa Fe, San Miguel, Torrance, De Baca, Roosevelt, Curry, Lea, and Chaves. I am still working through the recordings, so I don't know how many QSOs yet, but I did rack up 742 miles of driving. My car hit 351,000 miles on this trip, and you guys have been along for many of those miles! Seth, N3MRA "

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From the 3830 contest reflector:

NS5J mobile 57 cw 31 ssb qso

Operated mobile Starting at San Juan/Rio Arriba County Line ran south into Catron County, NM

WD5COV – fixed – NM 129 cw 754 ssb qso

For the past several years on this contest day we have experienced high winds and sometimes heavy blowing dust. I remember a few years while running a multi multi op at my qth with local club members, the highway was closed and everyone got "trapped" at my QTH for several hours. This year we have had no wind to speak of - yet and oh what a beautiful day we experienced weather wise.

As for the band conditions, well they were very El-Stink-O.

15M was completely dead for hours and only managed 3 qso's. However the plan was to start out on 40M to work the local NM counties and then go to 20M. We were able to get a few good runs going on 20M.

This is the first time I have worked all states in this qso party. Worked 22 NM counties and only 8 DX this year. In past years well over 40 dx in the log. And we can't forget about the 7 Canadian prov we logged.

I guess considering the poor band conditions this was not to bad a result and we did manage to have a lot of fun working everyone. Thanks for the Q's and CU again next year , this time hoping for great weather and great band conditions!

73

Dave WD5COV

NI5T – fixed – NM 157 cw 653 ssb

One thing is for certain, this was NOT a great HF contesting weekend. We had hoped to have some increased upper band activity, but that was not to be. Only 20 and 40 Meter SSB had any significant amount of active stations. Propagation on the active bands was not long so DX mults were way down from last year.

Thanks to very active mobiles and a dedicated 40 M station to track them, we were able to work 29 of the 33 NM counties. We missed Sierra, Lincoln, Valencia and DeBaca.

We managed to work all states with the exception of VT and AK. VE mults numbered 7 out of the 13 available. The usual Maritime and northern Provinces were not heard at this location.

Shuffling of operators and stations had to be done due to the lack of upper band propagation. We were joined this year by Jim, W7AZY and Marie, K7SKS, a husband and wife team. Although we weren't able to provide them with high volume runs, we certainly enjoyed their dedication to digging out the sparse offerings. Hopefully they will be with us next year.

Thanks to Larry, N5BG, for hosting the Virden Contest Club operation at his fine station. Thanks to all the stations who called and were logged.

73, and CU all next year for the NMQP. Milt, N5IA

KK6MC – mobile - 230 cw 36 ssb

Conditions, particularly on 20M, and on 40M within the state of NM, were terrible most of the day. As a result, I spent most of the time on CW. Things picked up for the last 2 hours or so and 40M CW was very productive then. I made over 100 QSOs the last two hours, although many of those were twofers on the SMI/TOR county line.

Originally we had planned on doing 14 counties, but at the turnaround point we found ourselves 1.5 hours behind, mostly because conditions were poor and it took a while to accumulate the 15 QSOs per county for the bonus. So we decided not to do three counties. Still, 11 counties is a no small undertaking in NM; when it was all over, we had traveled 519 miles and used about 19 gallons of gas. Having a driver and being able to work while in motion helps a lot.

New this year was a table I made for county line crossings from the NMDOT milepost map which gave the driver heads up when she was about to hit a county line as well as filling in when the signs were missing.

This is a better score than last year, mainly due to visiting two more counties and making a lot more CW QSOs.

K8TE Mobile 144 cw 64 ssb QSO

Horrible line noise, bad conditions, new at roving, I guess I was lucky to score what I did. I have lots of lessons learned for 2016!

KJ4LTA – fixed AL 15 cw 42 ssb Mults = 30

KS5A – fixed – NM - 21 cw qso 16 counties

Not much action when you are just next door. The mobiles did a great job,

especially making those daytime moves to 40m. Thanks for the Qs. 73/Guff

W1END – fixed – NH - 21 cw 9 counties

Abysmal conditions during the day. Too much absorption caused by fire-breathing dragons in the ionosphere. Things picked up later in the evening.
Thanks for those qso's I could make.

N6MU - fixed – CA 40 cw 33 ssb 30 counties

Brutal conditions on 20. Usually NM stations are loud on 20 all day but not this year. Couldn't even hear most central and western NM stations. Many just CQed in my face. Oh well, next year! 73...

John, N6MU

MARAC Election

Wow..the 'powers that be' , KZ2P and his cronies, have pulled out all the stops attempting to influence members (or coerce them might be a better phrase) with emails from the 'secret' MARAC mailing list. Of course, in the past, the mailing list was never 'secret'. Gene, KD9ZP, would send you a file – and if you wanted, a diskette with the database on it. For over 30 years, Bill, W0OWY of the B&B Shop in Arizona, put out an annual volume with all the county hunters info in it- name, QTH, awards, email, phone number, etc. It 'never' was a secret until, well, the KZ2P cabal took over.

We reprint the column from last month followed by some emails and posts. You're the ones who will decide.

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from last months County Hunter News OnLine:

MARAC Elections are coming up. The voting period is the month of May.

The following people are running for office: (per the MARAC webpage)

2015 MARAC Election -

Candidates Vice President - Terry (WQ7A) (unopposed)

Great Lakes District Director - Dan (KM9X) and **Timothy (W8JJ)**

South Central District Director - Dick (K5VYT) and **Barry (N0KV)**

North East District Director - **David (KW1DX)** and Al (N1API)

North Central District Director - **Mike (NF0N)** and Tony (WA9DLB)

South East District Director - Jim (N4JT) and **Kerry (W4SIG)**

You can vote for your candidate of choice in your 'District'. For too long, most of the directors and officers simply 'rubber stamped' whatever was proposed by 'the leaders' (KZ2P, KE3VV and crew) and didn't do good for the county hunting community. It's time for a major shift.

In Great Lakes, Dr. Tim, W8JJ has done a great job of doing good for county hunting. He leads the County Hunting Forum each year at Dayton, no easy task and is an active mobiler. He's anxious to get things moving again in MARAC. **He's on both SSB and CW.**

In the North East, Dave, KW1DX has one again thrown his hat back in the ring, anxious to get MARAC straightened out again. If elected, he'll likely re engage on the Logger upgrade. He's constantly mobile. **He's on both SSB and CW**

In North Central, Mike, NF0N, is anxious to get some 'change' in MARAC. **He operates both SSB and CW.**

In South Central, Barry, N0KV, is anxious for getting MARAC changed for the better. **He operates both SSB and CW.**

In South Central, Kerry, W4SIG, has great ideas for getting things moving. He's the spark plug now behind the MARAC booth at the Dayton hamfest. **He's on mobile both SSB and CW.**

It's fairly easy to decide who to vote for. If they help and 'enable' the current mess on 14.336 by doing relays or acting as assistant net control – they are not part of the 'solution'. Simple. If they run mobile on 14.336 these days when the S.C. NC is around...and enable the poor behavior, they are not 'part of the solution'. Don't you want folks that operate both CW and SSB as well on the board? **A good part of the membership are working on cw awards.**

Who showed the interest and showed up at the Mini in Michigan? Well, N0KV, Barry, and Mike, NF0N, Tim, W8JJ, and Dave, KW1DX and W4SIG, Kerry were there. Who wasn't there? K5VYT, N1API, N4JT. You know who the active mobiles are now, right? Tony, WA9DLB was there also.

MARAC is the **MOBILE** awards club.

If you think participating on a net where 40 or 50 MARAC members cannot run is 'guilt free' you need to see a shrink. If you close your ears to the scathing attacks by NC and his mouthpiece in FL (Just Plain Rotten) are 'ham radio' and what it stands for, you really need to look in the mirror. If you want the same behavior to be 'rewarded' with NC of the Year and similar, with no repercussions, you really need to look yourself in the mirror.

If you want 'County Hunter of the Year' going mostly to Officers and Board members, vote for those who want to keep things the same.

If you want board members who operate both cw and SSB, that narrows the choice a whole lot. Why should the board be 'SSB dominated' like in the past? Better yet to get some active MOBILES on the board. After all, MARC is the MOBILE Amateur Radio Awards Club.

There needs to be a major shift in MARAC thinking. In a year or two, we can go after change in the other offices of MARAC and complete the transition. If you haven't got a 'MARAC KEY' you will need to go to the web site and key a MARAC key to be able to vote. Contact KV7N to get your key. If you have voted in the past, your computer will likely remember your voting key. Voting is on line. Or you can print off a ballot and mail it to Kent.

The team that can change things – NF0N, N0KV, KW1DX, W4SIG. You'll have to chance to vote them in.

Otherwise, you get the 'secret email' bunch. The ones who condone what happens on .336 and aid it. The ones who really don't care about half the active mobiles being 'run off'.

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Then, it seems that Bob, KC6AWX, sent out an email. It looks very suspiciously like KZ2P, that is Kay Zed Two Pee, wrote it. Read it carefully. This is your Officer's handiwork – accusing members of dishonest behavior and worse. It is using your position to influence an election through intimidation. Not much different than the YEARS of name calling, degrading comments on .336! Incredible! And I have no idea what information allegedly 'was false' that was published in the MARAC Road Runner! Nor do I have any problem with any of the candidates running. Do you? Really, this was a sleazy slime job showing the contempt the board shows toward the membership! You are supposed to fall in line or 'else'.....Just like being on .336 with threats and extortion. You dance to their tune or you don't get relays, or worse, you are constantly berated and vilified.

I've **bolded** the really offensive part and substituted 'other' for what they perceive, deluded, as chosen by 'someone' somewhere other than them!...Heh heh....

- - - - -

From: Robert T. Devine [mailto:rtdevine@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2015 4:15 PM
To: kc6awx@kc6awx.com
Subject: Upcoming Elections

Sorry for the bandwidth, but I feel that it is imperative that I respond to the patently false information that you have received via unsolicited emails and also an article that appeared in the Roadrunner.

I am writing because I am concerned about our Club. Tony WA9DLB is running for District Director in your district. I have known Tony for many, many years; he is and has been a valuable and strong MARAC supporter. Tony has always presented MARAC in a positive manner. Tony has represented the district members for several years and as he informed the other Board members of your questions and concerns. Tony has continuously helped all County Hunters by getting them needed counties. When he was available, he has run mobiles and assisted on nets for numerous hours. Unlike the opposing ticket, Tony has always helped each and every County Hunter!

As your Awards Manager and Pacific Director, I see no way I could work with

those on the (other) ticket as they have demonstrated unscrupulous behavior, and keep the Awards integrity and produce them timely to all members!

I have interacted and dealt with several of these individuals on the “other ticket” throughout the years. I have found them to be dishonest and disreputable. If by chance they actually wrest control of MARAC from your current leadership, I would strongly suggest that all of the members who have escrowed funds deposited with the Awards Manager immediately withdraw them. Please VOTE!

I urge you to consider MARAC’s future and vote for WA9DLB.

Thank you and 73 – Bob KC6AWX

de N4CD

Now when has a **MARAC official** sent out an email saying “VOTE FOR” before? Is this ethical? Trying to throw an election? Making threats?

wow – talk about a slanderous email sent out to members by KC6AWX. Those folks are DESPERATE to keep their buddies in power. Sorry, WA9DLB is part of the problem, and falls in line with whatever the KZ2P crowd says. SSB only.

Worse, KC6AWX states MARAC members “they have demonstrated unscrupulous behavior”. Double WOW. This is your MARAC Pacific Director talking. Let's see. NF0N, Mike? Kerry, W4SIG? Barry, N0KV? Just who (or all 3) is he accusing? Really now!

Sorry, it is many of the current officers of MARAC and many of the directors who are part of the problem. It's time to send a message. More than a message. Replace the current structure of MARAC. Replace those who let MARAC go six months without a President or VP at one time! Gross mismanagement!

Worse, Bob, KC6AWX suggests that magically the award funds on deposit from members will be 'taken away' and you should immediately get yours back. What planet does he live on? No one has suggested such.

I have seen no 'other' 'ticket' - just folks running to get MARAC going right again - nor did I read any article in the “RoadRunner” with false information. I assume that the Election Coordinator fact checked any submissions. . I have no clue what delusions he

has at this point. Do you?

Then it was followed by yet another email to members in a different district! Do you have a clue what he is talking about? Same email but urging folks to vote for the 'handpicked' candidate there.

Is this proper use of authority? Same threats! Same innuendoes!

from KC6AWX

Sorry for the bandwidth, but I feel that it is imperative that I respond to the patently false information that you have received via unsolicited emails and also an article that appeared in the Roadrunner.

I am writing because I am concerned about our Club. (candidate) is running for District Director in your district.

..... His opponent has demonstrated his disdain for the duties of his office by refusing to perform them when they conflict with his personal goal(s) (*N4CD: I assume he means W4SIG*)! His negativity of MARAC is well known and he publicly damages the club with his posts on the K3IMC Forum! This is not the type of person who has your best interest at heart! He is a representative for MARAC at the Dayton Hamvention this year and his negativity will drive prospective County Hunters away.

Just like the county hunting room at Dayton has done for years. They tell complete prevarications and make all of us look bad to other Amateur Radio Operators. He has also chosen to join forces with K7REL and KA3DRO to publicly demean and degrade MARAC. So PLEASE VOTE this is your club and do not let a handful of malcontents destroy it! The 'other' ticket is just like the leader...out to destroy MARAC!

As your Awards Manager and Pacific Director, I see no way I could work with those on the 'other' ticket as they have demonstrated unscrupulous behavior, and keep the Awards integrity and produce them timely to all members!

I have interacted and dealt with several of these individuals on the 'other' ticket throughout the years. I have found them to be dishonest and disreputable. If by chance they actually wrest control of MARAC from your current leadership, I would strongly suggest that all of the members who have escrowed funds deposited with the Awards Manager immediately withdraw them.

I urge you to consider MARAC's future and vote for (their candidate)

Thank you and 73 – Bob KC6AWX

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A MARAC member notes:

Yep, we are aware of the slanderous emails sent out by KC6AWX.

It is too bad that he has sunk this low to try and intimidate the members with lies and slander. [And 'threats'. Same as 14.336]

One of the priorities if we get control of the BOD will be to honor KC6AWX's retirement dates that he has stated each year for the last couple. A qualified replacement was offered, but the President declined the offer so that the powers in place could keep control of MARAC. We think this is another bad idea for MARAC.

Looking forward to seeing you and all our other friends in MI. Will not run on 336.

- - -

It seems Kerry was locked out of the MARAC board meeting site – by, well, you can guess 'who'. He still managed to log in via video conference with KW1DX to be present and able to vote! We need folks up to date with technology!

- - - - -

Tony is a nice guy – SSB only. Folks like him But I believe Mike, NF0N would be a stronger rep. But vote how you will. Jim, N4JT – good guy but Kerry is a 'spark plug' with lots of ideas to make things IMPROVE! Better!

You decide. Do want thugs and threats to be the norm for MARAC? We already get a near daily reminder of that mentality on 14.336. Look who KZ2P and KC6AXW desperately want.....then you decide. Their choice to keep the 'status' quo, or change! They want to keep the 'power' to run roughshod over the rest of the folks. You don't matter to them. Really! Remember, they have run off over 50 MARAC members

from 336. Ask if Tony would relay in W4SIG, N4CD, N9STL, if they asked for a relay? Tony would have a conniption fit, and say “Jim won't let me relay you in”. Duh! What kind of a Director is that? Think about it. He'd sell his soul to KZ2P, not to the county hunters he is supposed to represent.

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For the first time in decades, Kerry, W4SIG, was willing to man a booth at Dayton for MARAC. Did any other MARAC officer step up? Nope! Often the previous Awards Chairman (KD9ZP and others previously) spoke at the Dayton County Hunter Forum. Did this one? Nope! K4QFK was always eager to participate. Unlike the 336 net, all county hunters are welcome at Dayton and there are over 50-60 that show up each year! No one gets 'run off'!.....No one is publicly 'called out' and accused of 'things' without being specific.

Worse, I think the County Hunter get together at Dayton (50-70 – 80 people) represent the best of county hunting each year! It's been the ONLY thing at Dayton having anything to do with county hunting! Oh, right – N4CD was the Forum Coordinator for 5 or 8 years. That's enough to set the current MARAC thugs in a tizzy. But Dr Tim, W8JJ, has had it for the past 5 years or so. Before that it was KJ8V, Dave. It goes way way back to the 80s? ? (K4QFK? and others).

Best reason to go to Dayton other than the flea market for county hunters and each year we recruit a few more people into the hobby.

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Here's another response from a county hunter that got KC6AWX email:

“Here is a message we received yesterday. First, we didn't know that REL chose you folks, nor do we believe that!! Second, the second to the last paragraph sounds like a threat! We have no reason to believe that any of you would abscond with the award money on hand. In face, this message sounds more like a threat from Mr. Devine.

We have great respect for Tony, but the veiled "demand" to vote for him is over the top. Just thought those of you who are candidates should know what is being said.

Meanwhile, we are looking forward to seeing all of you at the Michigan MAXI in a few days. We're excited about catching up with friends we have made, and meeting some new ones. Have a great weekend -- and travel safely when you head to Michigan.”

the KC6AWX email was attached.

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IMPORTANT STUFF – read this

from the K3IMC forum

Subject: From your Candidates for office

Message: This is a reminder to all that the few of us who volunteered to run as candidates in the upcoming election are truly concerned about the direction that MARAC is heading. Each one of us has tried in our own way, individually, to make MARAC a better place but have failed due to the ability of the current board to squash any positive change. By coming together we believe that we can achieve what most member want, a more friendly, active, moving forward MARAC.

By submitting our names as candidates for Vice President and District Directors we are giving the MARAC membership the opportunity to make a choice in this election.

Our stated goal is to return MARAC to the days when all were welcome and treated with respect. The days where it was a pleasant experience to spend some spare time on the County Hunter Net working mobiles and enjoying the camaraderie of fellow County Hunters.

We want you to know that this team has come together without the assistance of K7REL. Tom has had nothing to do with creating our “platform” or with the selection of candidates. It is blatantly wrong for KC6AAWX to give K7REL either the credit or the blame for our candidacy. It is also improper of KC6AAWX to equate our stance on issues with K7REL’s sometimes hateful posts on the K3IMC Forum. We do not want the toxic relationship between K7REL and KC6AAWX to sway the election process one way or the other and our ultimate goal would be for this hateful talk from all sides to go away altogether. Their feeling towards each other is not our fight.

As candidates for positions on the MARAC Board of Directors we will each stand on our personal performance and reputations. We share a common concern for the future of MARAC and we want our organization to once again be an example of the true Ham Spirit.

As you prepare to vote, don’t rely on the emotional rants and ramblings of one or two

individuals. Please check the facts before you vote. Contact the candidates in your district, call them, email them, text them but get the truth from them not someone else. Once you have done this we believe that you will join us in changing MARAC for the better.

Signed: WQ7A, N0KV, W8JJ, NF0N, W4SIG and KW1DX

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Here is their platform

Candidates Platform “Moving forward to restore the fun”

The following platform was developed and is endorsed by the following candidates in the MARAC 2015 elections: Terry (WQ7A), Dave (KW1DX), Kerry (W4SIG), Tim (W8JJ), Mike (NF0N), and Barry (N0KV), with advice and support from several other senior MARAC members.

1. Elect and support MARAC members interested in actively participating as part of the MARAC leadership and with an interest in treating everyone fairly and working toward what's best for MARAC, county hunting, and the amateur radio community as a whole.
2. Establish MARAC-sponsored nets on 20 and possibly 40 meter SSB. (Net operation on 14.336 is not recognized by the current Board of Directors as a MARAC activity)
 - a. All amateur radio operators should be welcome and treated fairly, equally, and with respect.
 - b. All services provided on the net, such as running counties from a mobile,

tutoring, relaying, etc. should be equally available to all radio amateurs.

c. Net control operations should be shared equitably.

d. The MARAC net control award should be associated with net control operations on MARAC-sponsored nets.

e. During periods when mobiles are not running, less formal activities, such as brief exchanges between members, signal reports, etc. should be allowed so long as breaks are given to recognize anyone ready to run.

3. Revise MARAC Bylaws to:

a. Require the President to convene a special Board meeting within 30 days following a petition for same by 5 or more MARAC directors and/or officers.

b. Resolve what is, in our opinion, a conflict of interest for the MARAC President and counsel positions being held by the same person.

4. Re-establish a cost-effective Logger II software development effort to replace the current MARAC Logger program.

5. Encourage develop of new MARAC awards, including an award for those to work on that have completed the Mobile Diamond Award.

6. Continue and increase support to MARAC efforts to encourage amateurs not already interested in county hunting to do so.

a. Welcome new check-ins and encourage them to work the mobiles.

b. Provide for a mentoring/tutoring effort for new members.

c. Encourage presentations at conventions and hamfests.

d. Provide succession planning for all elected and appointed positions.

- - - - -

Wow...there have been several new awards sponsored by MARAC in the last few years. Did the Awards Manager or his representative show up at Dayton to talk about them? Nope? Did MARAC for the past 20 years have a table at Dayton to try to recruit new county hunters? Nope! Did MARAC try to sell Logger at Dayton? Nope! Has

MARAC looked for a source for a new Coloring Book? Nope. Or MRCS? Nope. County Map Program? Nope. There's a lot of things MARAC could do if the right people were in place. Is there a reason NC of the Year can be issued to someone who discriminates against over 50 MARAC members? Should membership lists be 'secret' along with most of 'business' you never hear about?

Voting starts May 1. Be there!

- - - -

Not to be outdone, KA1JPR – that's “Just Plain Rotten” (his phony-ettics, not mine).....sent out a similar email begging folks to vote for the 'rubber stamp' folks who will go along with whatever KZ2P/KE3VV demand.....

Here's one copy forwarded to me.

To: Undisclosed-Recipient@
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2015 5:50 AM
Subject: NC - WA9DLB.docx

Sorry for the bandwidth, but I feel that it is imperative that I respond to the patently false information that you have received via unsolicited emails and also an article that appeared in the Roadrunner.

I am writing because I am concerned about MARAC's future. (deleted)..... is running for District Director in your district. I have known (deleted) for 25+ years; he is and has been a valuable member of our Club. (deleted) has always represented MARAC in a positive manner. (deleted) has been your District Director for many years and done anything and everything possible to help and answer your questions.

I urge you to consider MARAC's future and vote for (their candidate)

Thank you and 73 – Percy KA1JPR

- - - -

Wow....the gang of 3.....Percy, James and KC6AWX in desperation sending out frantic emails 'suggesting' you vote for their rubber stampers who will vote any way James tells them to vote. You know they are desperate.

Notice how they all are the same. You can guess every email was crafted at the QTH in SC and distributed! Four identical copies!

- - - - -

Rumor has it that KE3VV, KC6AWX and KZ2P will all instantly resign if they don't get their 'rubber stamper' candidates elected!.....They are frantic! They are about to lose their 'power grip' on MARAC that has paralyzed it for half a year at a time!... Time for a change. That would be the best thing for MARAC. It would save us a year of time! (until we could vote out the 'rest of them')

Terry, WQ7A, Kerry, W4SIG, Mike NF0N, Tim, W8JJ, Barry, N0KV, Dave KW1DX.....the team we need. Next year, if they don't instantly resign, we'll vote the rest of them out - KC6AWX, KZ2P and KE3VV out of office.

Georgia QSO Party

Mobiles were running. I could not hear much of anything with a A=34 and K=4. 20M was almost devoid of any signals on 20M cw for the morning and nothing coming through from the NM QSO Party. Saw spots for a few and heard nothing. NM started out with a few contacts on 40M, then 40M went flat. This was not a good start to the Georgia QSO Party. Saw spots – heard not much of anything for a while – then prorogation went from near nothing to 'not so great' but the fun began. Later in the day, mobiles would be heard – well some of them. Then the spots starting appearing in droves.

On Sunday, it started out fairly decent with an A of 20, K of 2 and as the day progressed, the A dropped to 5. Conditions were decent on Sunday afternoon – at least from GA to TX. The rest of the country struggled. Mobiles went to 15m – the DX was there – plus some western US. Not much happened on 10M – a few contacts were made but not

many.

Mobiles made over a thousand contacts for the multi-transmitter ones and many others did quite well.

Yes, there were a handful of mobiles to chase – WA1S, KN4Y, W4AN, W4W, AD4ES, N4G on cw and others on SSB. I wound up doing pretty well – considering I needed 155 of the 159 counties when I started! Just about everything was 'new'!

The highest total so far I've seen checking the results is 120 cw mults.

From the K3IMC forum:

K5KDG: Georgia qso party - - Well conditions were bad but got 3 of 12 needed to finish GA on cw. On 20 meters Europe was so loud couldn't get my 100 watts down to GA. Finally heard about 4 I needed on 80 meters, but too many KW's.....Still was fun.....STEVE K5KDG

from the 3830 reflector

KB4KBS rover - 357 ssb qso

Rover Operation covered: FRAN, STEP, HABE, RABU, TOWN, UNIO, FANN, GILM, PICK, CHER, DAWS, LUMP, WHIT, HALL, BANK, (FRAN), HART, MADI, CLKE, OCON, BARR, GWIN, FULT, FORS, (CHER), BART, PAUL, COBB, (FULT) (26 unique counties)

Got lots of nice flutter on the signal - I ran my trusty Yaesu FT-450D and Ham Sticks on trunk-lip-mounts attached mid-way up the back hatch on my wife's Chrysler Town and Country. I used my MFJ-949 as a coax switch only.



Scott, KB4KBS

I spent a few minutes on 15M a couple of different times with no luck before I abandoned it in favor of 40. I had several stalkers - the prize for most entries in my log goes to K5KPE with 19 entries. Thank you to everyone who called me - especially the stations in ND, WA, and OR, who called me in the last hour Sunday evening.

Of course an undertaking of this magnitude is not a solo effort. I must thank my wife Eileen who drove the entire trip (willingly) and helped to alert me to county lines. I didn't check the odometer before we left, but the mapped plan was over 500 miles and we made a few changes that I'm certain pushed the number to over 600.

Scott Straw
KB4KBS

N4G mobile multi op - 1825 cw qso (W5JR N5ZZ WK4U)

Decided to switch from Single to Multi-Op Rover this year, including two stations. The normal N4N call from previous years was in use for a FL event the

same weekend, so selected N4G.

I set up the rover platform with a pair of Flex 6300's using outboard Dunestar D-600 multiband filters. One quickly discovers that running two HF mobile stations is much more than just double the hardware and effort, but it all played well together with both antennas - HiQ 580 and Little Tarheel - mounted on the back of the Yukon in the same places as last year's Single Op effort.

Remote manual tuning was used versus auto-tuning. Having the radio client and N1MM+ on a single laptop per station allowed for adequate room for the Ops to "comfortably" sit side by side in the second row seating with all of the gear bonded together and securely strapped down in the back. Rather than beefing up the Yukon 12v electrical system, power was supplied by a Honda EU2000i strapped down on the trailer hitch cargo carrier feeding a pair of UPS units which worked great when the Honda ran out of gas a few minutes short of a planned stop.

It was a really slow start with few signals/prop making us nervous about achieving a good score but the rate picked up each hour, restoring confidence thing might turn out. Managed to average 91+ Q rate despite the slow start and time off each day for food and fuel. 80m was rocking late Saturday night and probably could have moved there sooner as 20m seemed to close earlier than anticipated. On Sunday, 20m stayed open to the end with 90+ per hour in the last two. This is the first time I've had the Sunday Q total exceed the Saturday total.



N4G – the W5JR mobile

The "fly by wire" radios were up to the challenge. Once up and running, the Flex's were stable. We appeared to have a power supply problem on one where it turned off a couple of times. A pair of Flex Controls handled the RIT chores. N1MM+ fed a pair of USB Winkey's to generate the CW. A pair of Denkovi (Bulgarian) USB 8 relay boards were managed by K5FR's DDUtil program to drive the Dunestar's for automatic band following. There was virtually zero interaction between the two stations other than the expected harmonic relationships despite the antennas being only 5 feet apart. No vehicle/engine noises. No LAN birdies, but we didn't operate on 10m. And no ferrites were needed or used, probably due to the attention to bonding the equipment to the body, which I bonded to the frame years ago.

If we do a two station Multi-Op again next year, the Flex's are definitely our radio of choice given the smaller footprint at the Op position. The radios were operating with Flex's SmartSDR v 1.4.3. Maybe next year we should use N4F to highlight the "Flex". It's the same length as N4G.

KN4Y mobile - 1000 cw qsos

Saturday the party started with overcast and occasionally rain showers but not bad overall. No 15-meters Saturday mostly 20 and 40. Sunday was better with some sun and 15-meters was open. Tried 80-meters after dark but the dash meters went crazy my fix did not correct the problem, so stayed on 40-meters. Plenty of activity, no time to snooze. I am aged and not fast nor am I old and slow, I am a half fast senior QSO party participant.

W4AN mobile 1653 cw qso

KK4BNC drove me (K4BAI) on Saturday while I operated. Many thanks, Randy! On Sunday, KU8E and I swapped off operating and driving. Band conditions were poor on Saturday. No signals heard on 15 and weaker than usual signals on 20, particularly from Europe. 40M was long and other GA stations and parts of adjoining states were within the skip zone. 80M was good Saturday night, but I didn't figure it out in time to

take full advantage of it. All bands were better on Sunday. 15M was open to Europe, the west coast and other parts of the US. 20M had stronger signals and more Europeans. 40M didn't seem to have any skip zone so we could work the locals OK. Many thanks for all QSOs.

IC756Pro, 100W, Hustler mobile whips (2).

73, John, K4BAI.

W3DYA mobile 981 cw qso

Thanks to these ops for the many contacts:

DL3DXX 34; K5YAA 30; NT2A 29; WA2VYA 28; K2DSW 25; K6MR 23; NS9I 22; N4CD 21; N4RS 21.

Thanks to many others for contacts from one to 20!

Thanks to all who spotted me; it really makes a difference.

I've been doing several QSO parties for years, but the dits and dahs always seem sweeter in GA; must be the orange blossoms?

73, Norm

K5YAA – fixed – OK 281 cw 101 ssb CW-Dig Mults = 111 Ph Mults = 52

Very good mobile coverage of the state. Number of QSOs with each mobile in parentheses. N4G did some traveling for sure and the Judge with his partners likewise. KN4Y(20), W3DYA(30), N4G(51), AD4ES(28), W4AN(43), NE4S(5), W4W(18), N4FD(8), WX4TC(3) and N4I(7) - I believe that is all of them. My hats off to each for the contacts as I know from experience how much difficulty it is to motor around without getting lost while keeping the masses happy.

The bands could have been better but they did improve on Sunday with an opening on 15 meters. At times DX on 15 and 20 were louder than Georgia. DL3DXX and HA8IB surely increased their county standings with this one.

I enjoyed working home bound friends, especially that Papa Novembah fellow. He

was my only countable QSO on 15 SSB and we worked both modes on 15/20 and 40 meters. I ventured down to 160 and found a few Georgians. 80 meters is still an SWR problem here but amazingly with 6:1 SWR and low power I was able to get a few GA stations to hear me.

I had told a friend in Missouri that I would likely do a part time effort in the party but once you get rolling it's hard to put one of these things down so 17 hours later of "part time" effort another Georgia QSO Party is in the books.

Thanks to the organizers and workers who put this one on each year. I opted to not drive down to Georgia and operate as a rover this year as I'm saving the mobile van for a run to Montana late this month to do the 7QP with Matt K7BG then I hope to make Dayton again this year.

73 - Jerry K5YAA

WN4AFP – fixed – SC 60 cw 56 ssb

Very, very strange band conditions on Saturday! I only worked 16 Georgia stations on 40m on Saturday. I heard stations all around me (FL, VA, NC, KY, TN) working Georgia, but I couldn't hear any of them. I can typically work GA anytime on 40m but not this weekend. I couldn't even hear N4PN. On Sunday, my money band, 40m was back to normal. I had only limited time, but I was able to "run" with success. I could have had a really good score in this game, if conditions would have been on Saturday. I had a blast following the mobiles including W4AN, AD4ES, KB4KBS, KC4YBO, N4G, W3DYA and W4W. Thanks for all for the contacts.

. 73's Dave

N4PN – fixed – GA 485 cw 1346 ssb qso

GREAT GQP...LOTS OF ACTIVITY EVEN THO THE BANDS WERE IN TERRIBLE SHAPE ON SATURDAY. MUCH BETTER ON SUNDAY MORNING AND

IMPROVED DURING THE DAY. THANKS TO ALL WHO MOVED ON EVERY REQUEST FROM BAND TO BAND AND MODE TO MODE..

THANKS TO MY FRIEND, GEORGE, KD4QMY, FOR MOVING THE MOST - FIVE TIMES TO GIVE ME A FIRST EVER - 7 BANDS...160-6M!

THANKS TO ALL THE MOBILES FOR KEEPING THE INTEREST UP...

73, PAUL, N4PN

KG5U – fixed – TX 89 cw 55 mults

Talk about some awful conditions! Virtually everyone was weak everywhere. 15 never could open up properly. Static crashes and sound of distant thunder held off as long as it could--I pulled the plug at 2353Z just as the rain started.

This was my first QSO party from home in a long, long time. While it was fun, it's definitely more fun on the road. :-)

Thanks for the QSO's!

73 de Dale/kg5u

KM4DAY – fixed – Murray GA 382 cw 322 ssb

This was KM4DAY's very first QSO party/contest. Eri got her Technician last summer during the WRTC in Boston. The WRTC atmosphere was apparently contagious - 2 months later she upgraded to General and started bugging me about doing some contests from GA. The first training session was the phone SS from her office at Emory college with some very improvised setup. After the SS, we decided to put some more serious effort in the GA QSO party. KM4DAY's place in Atlanta is environmentally unfriendly, that is, no outside antennas are allowed at all and putting some small stacks on the roofs of Emory was not an option. We rented a nice cabin near Chatsworth on a beautiful hill-top location and set up a real field style operation. The setup was as simple as possible but it took us the whole Friday and most of Saturday to build and put up the antennas - a 100 ft dipole on a 12m Spiderbeam pole and a super heavy-duty home brewed version of Spiderbeam designed to withstand the drop with the 32 ft mast. The last feature was tested only once and the performance deemed satisfactory.

The contest was fun, although the conditions were not at their best. KM4DAY did

most of the operating, while I was busy logging and filled some CW here and there. At the end, seems like the QSO party was a great success and beyond some radio activity we got the opportunity to enjoy some of the beautiful scenery that Georgia mountains have to offer.

Thanks to the organizers of the GA QSO party and to all of you who took the time to encourage the main operator. We will be back!

73, Alex LZ4AX

DL3DXX – fixed – DX 327 cw 116 counties

Third operation from DR1A super station

Even with big setup and QTH most close to US (just 5km from PA0 border) I felt like having no antennas when the party started on Saturday.

10m - no signal

15m - no signal

20m - could not hear the mobiles, fixed stations in the noise.

Only 12

QSOs in the first hour. Later 20m improved but closed early around 22z.

No QSO on 10/15m first day. Fortunately 40 and 80 played better and working N4G on 40 and 80m helped to keep the QSO rate acceptable.

Sunday condx improved a bit but propagation never recovered completely.

15m was open until 18:30 however I was able to work weak W4QO at 19:17 and KN4Y at 20:04. Often checked 10m without success. Heard some South America. So at least antennas were connected. At 17:53 I found N4RJ just above the noise level for the only contact on ten.

Thanks to the organizers for a great party again and especially to all the mobiles without the party would not have been so enjoyable.

Worked N4G(51), W4AN(49), AD4ES(37), W3DYA(34), KN4Y(32), N4FD(10), W4W(9), N4I(5), NE4S(2).

I hope next year we will have open 10 and 15m bands...

73 Dietmar DL3DXX

NT2A – Fixed NY - 302 cw QSO

My thanks to the team of GQP and to all fixed and mobiles ops, that kept me busy all of Party. Conditions for my location wasn't bad, but mainly at the 20 and 40m I used FTDX5000MP, 100-150 Watt, 3 El yagi at 10/15/20-15-20 m (Mosley TA-33 cl), the double Bazooka on 40 m, L-type vertical for 80 m and tried to work on a the 160 m band by using 20 m yagi with a tuner. Thank you Ann WA1S which was able to hear me on 160 m. Still needs Macon County for my USA-CA 4-th time.

Best regards and see you again next year.
Gene, NT2A

County Hunters at Visalia

Each year there is a giant DX get together in Visalia CA. Rick, AI5P sent along a few pics of the DX operators who were there.



Dick, K4XU
Home County: Deschutes OR

You'll hear Dick in the 7th Area QP, and occasionally mobile to and from events.



W9DC USACA #688 at Visalia



Rick, AI5P and Mark, W9OP

On the Road with N4CD II

The Bell County Hamfest (Swap meet) is held twice a year in Belton, TX. It's usually on my list of places to go. This year was no exception. You never know what kind of 'goodie' you'll find in the flea market. Some years are great (I find one) and other years you just see a few old friends and get to view lots of rigs that folks are selling.

I loaded up the car with a few things to sell – I got an inside table (\$15 which includes admission) and headed on down there well after morning rush hour. It's right through downtown Dallas and then down I-35. I stop in Temple, TX just north at the Super 8 Motel (\$60), then head on down to the hamfest which starts whenever folks get there outside – some a day earlier! There were about 20 folks selling things in the outside flea market on Friday afternoon. They let folks in at 2pm to set up inside. I didn't have a lot of stuff but you can drive right in to your table and unload it. Lots of boat anchors show up that way!

Not much to report on Friday. A friendly ham gave me a ten meter resonator – I guess that's about what they are worth with current conditions – ZIP. I made the rounds inside and out, then headed out for dinner at the Golden Corral in Temple, then back to the motel. About 6pm the thunderstorms moved through and dumped an inch of rain. That ended the flea market for the day, for sure! Out in west TX, there were 10 tornadoes spotted on the ground. It's spring weather season in TX and 'tornado alley'. Propagation wasn't too great on the way down but I worked a few folks. N0KV was on in IN and OH headed to a stop in MI on his way to the mini. Not much else happening on cw.

Early in the morning the Super 8 has breakfast (before 6am on hamfest days), so I hit that early, having one nice waffle, juice and decaf coffee, then headed over the 10 miles to the Bell County Fairgrounds. At 6:30am it was still dark but folks were wandering the outdoor fleamarket. There were puddles everywhere from the rain overnight. Nothing found in half an hour of careful searching – and just a few new folks showed up. Seems like attendance was down a bit – could have been the weather (or the economy).

Then I headed inside for a quick look around before general admission time started at 7am. Nothing interesting that screamed 'bargain' and that I needed. Lots of old rigs for

sale. Saw one nice old fairly rare Globe Hi-Bander for 6 and 2M. They must be rare because in 20 years of hitting flea markets, I'd never seen one. It could be used mobile. The Globe was a 60w AM/CW transmitter for 6 and 2M. This one was nice with a copy of the original manual. The output tube is a 6146 modulated by a 6L6.



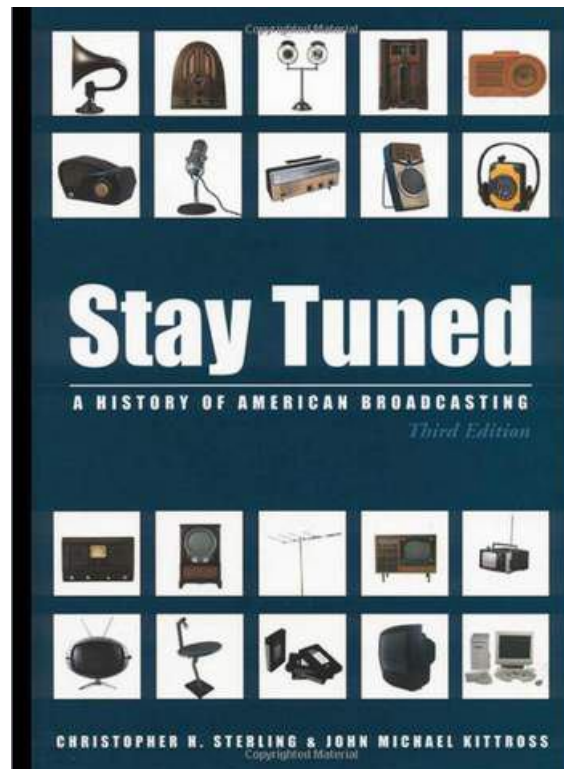
Globe Hi-Bander

There were two county hunters there – Bob KK5NA and Terry, W9UX. Terry has now moved to Killeen, TX to escape the four letter words in his old QTH in IL – those words being 'COLD' and 'SNOW'! Now he's a full time Texan.



Terry, W9UX

I bought two things at the hamfest. One was a book – written by a friend/college Professor at GWU – Chris Sterling.



This book sells new for over \$100 on Ebay. This was a 'withdrawn' copy from the Dallas Library. Print date 2002 – latest edition. Guess no one checked it out. It's a fantastic history of broadcasting from Day 1. Dr Sterling is a good friend and college professor/administrator who was in charge of the Telecommunications Policy program at George Washington University in DC.

From Amazon.com

“Since its initial publication in 1978, *Stay Tuned* has been recognized as the most comprehensive and useful single-volume history of American broadcasting and electronic media available. This third edition has been thoroughly revised and updated to bring the story of American broadcasting forward to the 21st century, affording readers

not only the history of the most important and pervasive institution affecting our society, but also providing a contextual transition to the Internet and other modern media.

The enthusiasm of authors Christopher H. Sterling and John Michael Kittross is apparent as they lead readers through the development of American electronic mass media, from the first electrical communication (telegraph and telephone); through radio and television; to the present convergence of media, business entities, programming, and delivery systems, including the Internet. Their presentation is engaging, as well as informative, promoting an interest in history and making the connections between the developments of yesterday and the industry of today.

Designed for use in undergraduate and graduate courses on the history of American mass media, broadcasting, and electronic media, *Stay Tuned* also fits well into mass communication survey courses as an introduction to electronic media topics. As a chronicle of American broadcasting, this volume is also engaging reading for anyone interested in old radio, early television, and the origins and development of American broadcasting. “

Super interesting book...and only \$5, too!

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The other item was a MFJ power line noise detector.



There sell for about \$100 new. I got it for \$40.

from the MFJ website:

“This MFJ handheld power line noise meter lets you walk or drive around the neighborhood to search out leaky insulators, loose hardware and corroded ground lines quickly. You can track the noise source right down to the pole, transformer or insulator. You can also pinpoint faulty dimmers, electric fence arcs, sparking power equipment, neon signs and much more! Let equipment owners hear how troublesome their noise is and see first hand whats causing the problem.

The MFJ-852 is a sensitive superhet AM receiver with a noise field strength meter. A telescopic, direction-finding dipole antenna is balun isolated and optimized. This gives you a sharp, clearly defined null for accurately pinpointing noise sources quickly and easily.

It operates in the 135 MHz region when activity is a minimum and radiation from corona and arcing is far more localized. 0.3 uV sensitivity and wide-range AGC give you an ultra wide range noise level meter - over 70dB!

Plug in headphones and hear the noise youre tracking or plug-in a tape recorder. With your tape, you power company may figure out whats causing the noise and know how to fix the problem before they even come out if youve done most of the detective work,

they are more likely to cooperate. Compact size. Use 9 Volt Battery. “

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About 10am, the hamfest was over for me. I sold a few things including a big military 500w heavy dummy load that I've had for 35 years good to 900 MHz. It just sat on the hamshack floor collecting dust. How often do you need a dummy load with modern rigs, and you can buy a good MFJ one for \$15 at a hamfest that weights 3 lbs. Sold a few other items then things slowed down. So it was time to head back and work a few MI QP stations along the route when it started. I'd be headed to MI in a day or two, so no long jog to the west this time.

Phil, AB7RW was on the road headed east. N0KV, Barry ran a few and W0NAC/N0LXJ, Matt/Sharon were on in CO. Then the MI QP started and there were mobiles and fixed stations to chase while driving along. I even worked a few stations on SSB just for the heck of it. I'm only counting cw for the next time around, but I gave out a few points to the louder stations.

I worked one Summit on the Air station while mobile (Another later at home). Now I have to figure out where he was - - hi hi. Most of these operations are QRP as folks have to carry their gear with them most of the time. Very few summits have roads to the top!

Oh, and the NE QSO Party happened – sort of. I tuned by 14.271 and KC0HW/M was nearby and calling CQ NE QSO Party. Worked him in one and he was headed west to run more. He was spotted later in another county! Bet he could have used a spotter on SSB in each he ran but almost no one spots SSB runs these days off frequency! NF0N was in his home county giving out Dakota county. That was nearly ALL the NE QP cw activity I heard or saw spotted other than NE0QP that was zilch copy at my location until real late. Only one or two other ssb runs were spotted. I only need most of NE. Maybe next year!

Also the Ontario QSO Party was in progress. I worked a few to give them some points. Not much other reason to work them but heck, it only takes 15 seconds. Maybe they'll get the county hunter bug one of these days. We've had a bunch of Canadian County Hunters in the past. Just a few now a days.

The car pulled in the driveway a bit after 1pm and the radio was fired up at home to chase MI stations. They were not strong for the most part but got a few.

Good trip down and back – no long detours. Saving the driving for the upcoming trip to the MAXI in MI.

Michigan QSOS Party

Oh wow...the A index was up at 40 or more for most of the day, only dropping late in the afternoon. That didn't make for great propagation. I heard the mobiles on 20M and managed to work a couple dozen counties while mobile – fixed stations and some mobiles. Signals were not strong. The mobiles were out and running – K8IR, W8UE, KK9K, W8CAR, on CW. More on SSB.

AE8M Mobile 226 cw 103 ssb qso – ran 6 counties

Operating time = 7 hours, 53 minutes, average rate = 42 Q's/hour
KX3/KXPA100 into hamsticks on 40 and 20, Hustlers on 80 and 75

In 2011 I made a similar mobile effort which resulted in more Q's (352) in less operating time. Whereas in other contests, the rate seems to go up after dark, this time it went down. I had plenty of time to operate in the last two counties. But after initial good runs in each county, contacts became sparse no matter which band or mode I tried.

Thanks to all who called. The most frequently worked stations were WA3HAE 7, KA8O 7, K2DSW 6, K8BKM 6, W4ANT 6, K8RYU 5, VE3WG 5 WN4AFP 5.

The low point of the contest actually occurred just before the start of the contest. I researched on the internet a nice operating site in Manistee County

on a beach by Lake Michigan in the town of Manistee. When I arrived, the sky was blue and the beach and lake were beautiful, sea gulls were flying around. It seemed perfect. But the darn bathrooms were locked. Locking the bathrooms is not the way to keep Michigan pure.

KK9K Multi OP mobile (KK9K NE9U N9BCA) 479 cw 160 ssb

Another fun time!

But I thought conditions stunk and activity was down....Operating way north in the U.P. isn't the optimum place to be when the A index is 25 and the K is 3...but we tried. :-)

Our rates started out real slow...improved as the day went on. But it seemed activity was low and in driving through the huge counties we were in, we just ran out of new stations to work.

This was the 24th year NE9U and N9BCA have teamed up for mobile operations....next year is our Silver Anniversary, so we need to think up something special to do. This was year 3 for KK9K to join in the fun.

73 and hopefully see everyone again next year!

Scott NE9U

Rig: K3

Logging software: TR4W

Antenna: Homebrew all band vertical

KT8K – fixed MI – QRP

Another great Michigan QSO Party! A BIG thanks to the organizers as well as everyone else involved, and special thanks to all who listened hard (sometimes) to pull my peanut whistle signal out of the noise. 20 meters wasn't very good to me - when I checked there was rarely more than a single station there on SSB or CW. I heard someone saying they made some Q's on 15m but I never found anyone to work there, so I didn't spend much time there. 40 and 80m were the money bands for me, as usual.

Thanks to the rovers, though. They put real effort, time, and money into what they do, and watching out for and trying to find them makes it more fun.

This year marked a change of strategy I don't know if I want to share (but it's pretty obvious anyway). In past years I always spent more time on CW, lured by the "2 points per QSO" (combined with the challenge of operating QRP and the relative advantage of CW in signal-to-noise ratio). This time, quite early in the contest, I decided multipliers were a better thing to chase since (though I didn't do any exhaustive what-if math modeling) it seemed like a more equal number of Q's and mults would produce a better score. That meant spending a lot more time on SSB, but fortunately conditions were good enough that I was almost always heard by those I called. As a result, this is a personal best performance in score and multipliers but not QSO's, and the raw score is almost 18% higher with 14 less Q's than my previous best. (I'm gonna start modeling these contest scoring rules mathematically, like I should have done when I started "contesting" back in 2003 or so.)

This is my FAVORITE contest for running, which I almost never get to do as a died-in-the-wool QRP op. This contest is a little like ARRL Field Day, I also noticed - a lot of ops are clearly not experienced testers. Still, the more the merrier!

No new equipment or antennas here, unfortunately, but what I've got is doing well for this small city lot. I had a great time overall, though it took a lot of caffeine and determination. Thanks again to everyone for all the fun!
72(73) to all de kt8k - Tim

Equipment

- Tentec Orion dialed down to 5 Watts, using the diversity mode receive to always keep one antenna in each ear - that way I can switch transmit quickly to the best one for that QSO.
- N1MM+ software* and my old MFJ Grandmaster keyer with early 1980's Bencher paddle do the CW, and a WGA TR-2000 headset handles the mic function.

Antennas

- 20/40/80m triple parallel dipole in a 'W' configuration hanging from trees, feed point at about 45 feet.
- 10/15/20 trap dipole suspended vertically, center about 50 feet up in the trees
- 500 foot not-very-horizontal loop (the South side of it is up 60 feet or so,

but the North side of the loop is at about 15 feet, and the wire zigs and zags wildly. The loop is shaped like a circle with one side poked in about 30% of its diameter.

N4PN - fixed – GA 110 cw 199 ssb - 48 cw mults 66 ssb mults

Condx not very good, but enough activity to keep me in the chair.

Nice seeing a lot of ole friends...

Thanks to the sponsors and all who showed up...

The mobiles really made the day...KK9K, w8CAR, W8UE and many others.

73, Paul, N4PN

K8AO – fixed – Delta MI 142 cw 382 ssb (USACA #1197)

US Digital Awards

If you dig deep enough, you can find stuff out. Here's a list of who has received the US Digital Award for 1000+ counties, courtesy of the RR Jan Newsletter and W0NAC's column plus latest awards. If it weren't for him, we'd likely lose a bit of history as you can't even find most back issues of the RoadRunner these days.

- 1 KD7KST Bill
- 2 NX4W Lloyd
- 3 W0NAC Matt
- 4 AA8R Randy

5 N0LXJ Sharon
6 N1API Al 6
7 N8CIJ Dick
8 W4YDY Dave
9 Mike NF0N
10 Dennis N6PDB
11 Mike KA4RRU

It's a shame there's no listing on the MARAC Web Pages under Awards....or under the individual call signs that list the other awards for each person in the database.

Same for the County Challenge Awards.

Nebraska QSO Party

Mobiles were out – two by my count on cw, one on SSB. NE0QP and NF0N were on cw. NE0QP was also on SSB along with K0HW. Didn't hear too many others or see too many other spots but a few more counties were on.

From the 3830 reflector:

K5ZZR Mobile – 58 SSB QSO

Thunder and lightning caused me to not start on time but I got in 6 hours of operating before I decided that I'd better head back to Oklahoma while I still had a window to the west that would allow me to miss the tornado activity going on in Kansas. Saw a lot of new territory met some nice people. One guy came up to me as I was dismantling my Tarheel 200HP and asked if I was a storm chaser. I said "Heck no, I'm trying my best to get the h-ll out of here"....

Was very happy to help WA6KHK get a much needed county and made the trip worth while for sure. As always John N6MU was there to encourage us mobiles and add a familiar voice to the contest. Looking forward to Kansas and Colorado in August. Russ K5ZZR

WA6KHK – fixed CA 18 cw 10 ssb

Thanks to Russ, K5ZZR/M, for getting me Franklin county, and especially to Fred, NE0QP/0 for getting me Otoe, Pawnee, and Saline counties. I worked him 12 times for 600 bonus points. Only 41 more for all US counties for the second time! Good job by NF0N/M who put out a lot of counties. Good to see rovers in the NEQP!!!

Kalawao Mystery

Two months ago we had an article about Kalawao – and who had been there in the past year. No one offered any other information on who else had been there in the past year (other than the recent N4JT/KJ5PQ/KG6UZ trip after this period). We know this county hunter didn't work the three that had been there. So the mystery remains. How did one long time experienced county hunter (and his club call) finish up working all counties again without working a Kalawao County station?

Maybe it was an 'undocumented feature' of Logger to fill in missing counties one night? Might have been overloaded with 250,000 or 500,000 redundant contacts for 'both calls'. I dunno. The mystery remains. Anyone got a clue?

Global Warming Testimony

Dr. Judith Curry has abandoned the notion that Global Warming is an alarm - and rightly so. After all, Global Warming stopped 18 plus years ago and counting, CO2 sensitivity is

plummeting with no end in sight, Polar Amplification never materialized, the Tropospheric Hotspot is still AWOL, all the IPCC models without exception are failures and what do we have left? Fabricated temperatures? There is no science supporting Climate Change or Anthropogenic Global Warming or whatever it is called these days.

Dr. Judith Curry's testimony to The House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space and Technology Hearing on the President's UN Climate Pledge. From Climate etc:

"Here is the content of my verbal testimony:

The central issue in the scientific debate on climate change is the extent to which the recent (and future) warming is caused by human-caused greenhouse gas emissions versus natural climate variability that are caused by variations from the sun, volcanic eruptions, and large-scale ocean circulations.

Recent data and research supports the importance of natural climate variability and calls into question the conclusion that humans are the dominant cause of recent climate change. This includes

- The slow down in global warming since 1998
- Reduced estimates of the sensitivity of climate to carbon dioxide
- Climate models that are predicting much more warming than has been observed so far in the 21st century

While there are substantial uncertainties in our understanding of climate change, it is clear that humans are influencing climate in the direction of warming. However this simple truth is essentially meaningless in itself in terms of alarm, and does not mandate a particular policy response.

We have made some questionable choices in defining the problem of climate change and its solution:

- The definition of 'dangerous' climate change is ambiguous, and hypothesized catastrophic tipping points are regarded as very or extremely unlikely in the 21st century
- Efforts to link dangerous impacts of extreme weather events to human-caused warming are misleading and unsupported by evidence.
- Climate change is a 'wicked problem' and ill-suited to a 'command and control' solution
- It has been estimated that the U.S. national commitments to the UN to reduce

emissions by 28% will prevent three hundredths of a degree centigrade in warming by 2100.

The inadequacies of current policies based on emissions reduction are leaving the real societal consequences of climate change and extreme weather events largely unaddressed, whether caused by humans or natural variability.

The wickedness of the climate change problem provides much scope for disagreement among reasonable and intelligent people. Effectively responding to the possible threats from a warmer climate is made very difficult by the deep uncertainties surrounding the risks both from the problem and the proposed solutions.

The articulation of a preferred policy option in the early 1990's by the United Nations has marginalized research on broader issues surrounding climate variability and change and has stifled the development of a broader range of policy options.

We need to push the reset button in our deliberations about how we should respond to climate change.

- We should expand the frameworks for thinking about climate policy and provide a wider choice of options in addressing the risks from climate change.
- As an example of alternative options, pragmatic solutions have been proposed based on efforts to accelerate energy innovation, build resilience to extreme weather, and pursue no regrets pollution reduction. Each of these measures has justifications independent of their benefits for climate mitigation and adaptation.
- Robust policy options that can be justified by associated policy reasons whether or not human caused climate change is dangerous avoids the hubris of pretending to know what will happen with the 21st century climate.

This concludes my testimony.

<https://curryja.files.wordpress.com/2015/04/house-science-testimony-apr-15-final.pdf>

North Dakota QSO Party

There was a North Dakota QSO party. Stations were far and few between with three on cw and likely a few on SSB. There were no mobiles out that I noted.

KC0W, AE0EE, and KE0A were on CW. WA0CSL (YL) was on SSB. That was all the activity spotted and I noted on 20M. Some contacts later on 40/80m

The thunderstorms moved in here so went QRT at 8pm so no hope of 40m from here.

From the 3830 reflector:

K0BBC Mobile (K0BBC W0ZF) - 190 SSB

What a thrill to hand out ND county contacts from the Jeep. Twenty meters was the best band but caused problems with the Jeep engine computer, so, we were only on 20 when parked on county lines. We activated Barnes, Dickey, Kidder, LaMoure, Ransom, Richland, Sargent and Stutsman counties. I know the drought isn't any good for the farmers, but, it made for excellent trail conditions to get back to many remote county borders. A special thanks to AE0EE for camping in Hankinson for the duration of the contest and W0ZF for fixing what needed fixing and putting QSOs in the log while I drove. Plans are in the works to return next year.

KC0W – fixed – ND 211 cw 931 ssb

Thanks for the Q's.

No 160/80 meters due to getting called into work.

Tom KC0W

AA0EE 92 cw 18 ssb

Field-day style setup, camping in a park near Hankinson, ND, in Richland County (EN16), where I and several other ops had gone for the W1AW/0-ND operation last August.

100 W (5 W for the locally late parts of Saturday night) into a 15/40 m dipole and a 20 m dipole. One tent kept the generator dry, while the other housed the operator overnight. Saturday afternoon and evening the weather was pleasant and I operated outside at the picnic table, but after dark with forecast, I headed into the operating/operator tent.

There was a breeze and some rain overnight, but it was a steady, light to moderate rain, not the torrential thunderstorm and buffeting winds that were there the last time.

This was a joint effort with K0BBC and W0ZF. They transported me to the campground, lent me some supplies for the operation (generator, tent for it, etc.), and then continued on their way as a rover. Two operations for the commute of one! Unfortunately, our plan that I would get a sweep of their county operations did not come to pass---in fact, I only worked them once, on 2 m a few minutes after they had left the campground. It was to be my only ND QSO; more on that in a minute.

The 40 m band was in bad shape, with S9(+) noise for pretty much the entire QSO party. I had better luck on 20 and 15 m, including some DX (G, DL, UA). With the high noise, I could barely hear the stations I was working, so CW seemed to be the way to go. With a few people having requested RTTY contacts, I obliged with some RTTY operation, but was unable to make contacts with the folks who had requested it.

Apart from my contact with K0BBC, I heard only one other ND station. As I was looking for K0BBC late Sunday morning (end time is 1:00 PM local) on SSB, I came across W0ND. I could barely hear him, but he worked a few stations, then announced he needed to close his station. He encouraged the pileup to look for other ND stations. As soon as he signed off, I took the frequency. The start was a little slow for the pileup which had been there, but a run soon developed.

Overall, I had a good time and things worked as planned. It would have been nice to have the tent setup and antenna launching move more quickly, but the job got done without mishap or excess anxiety. The weather forecast was accurate from 3-4 days out, and none of the weather was severe. Because there were other campers (RV camping) and the national guard wasn't there (as they were last time) with generators much larger than K0BBC's, I turned the generator off around 9:30 local time. I still made 5 QSOs on 40 m with 5 watts from a battery.

Field day won't be the first time this year I've operated from a tent (in the rain!) on non-commercial power with temporary antennas. Operating in the field was quite enjoyable, and made for some added excitement---like being an in-state entry for the NDQP.

Global Warming Fail –So it's Sustainability

The problem with global warming is that eventually it must meet reality. Either the globe is warming up at horrific rates as the models have promised, or it isn't. And if it isn't, then those still calling themselves “scientists,” and meaning it, must admit failure and move on.

Incidentally, the globe is not heating up as promised, and hasn't been for decades. Stand by for scientists to admit it.

The good thing about global warming, while it lasted, was that it called for government to cure it; indeed, government was the only possible solution. And this was very welcome news for government, which is why it fought so hard to support those scientists and organizations that were sure they saw global warming lurking in every shadow.

Therein lies the true cause of the global warming movement: government-as-solution, a way to push and insist upon progressive ideals for the salvation of the planet.

But what happens now that global warming has met reality? Well, as said, it has to

disappear. Sadly, its absence leaves nothing for government to cure.

Enter sustainability, a secular religion which is gaining converts faster than “outrage” spreads across the Internet. **Rachelle Peterson and Peter Wood at the non-progressive National Association of Scholars call sustainability “Higher Education’s New Fundamentalism”**, and have written a report describing this new form of paganism. Anybody interested in the future of the Western university should read it.

Global warming had a mortal weakness. It was testable. Sustainability does not suffer from the same fault. It need never meet reality. No matter what any individual or organization does, its activities can always be labeled “unsustainable.” This is because there is no definition of what sustainability is. It always means just what someone claiming to be more eco-holy than thou wants it to mean. True sustainability is a goal ever disappearing into the distance, one which can never be reached, but which must be pursued with ever increasing vigor — and funded by ever burgeoning taxes.

Like global warming, sustainability will “save” a planet which is in no danger of disappearing. It is, however, perceived as a Herculean task, one which only a government seeped in progressive ideology can undertake. So not only higher education, but government is embracing sustainability.

The interesting thing about sustainability, as Peterson and Woods point out, is that unlike the rest of the environmental movement, it did not start out as a grassroots effort. Instead, it was pushed from the start by John Kerry and Teresa Heinz, who at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 conceived of the group Second Nature, whose stated purpose is to “transform” higher education.

Second Nature created the Presidents’ Climate Commitment, a creed which is used by college presidents to tell to other college presidents how morally eco-pure they are. Of course, these officials also see that government is willing to pony up millions upon millions in grants to support sustainability causes, and no college president wants to miss his place at the trough.

At this writing, nearly 700 college and university presidents have committed their institutions to the path of sustainability. They pledge to make their schools “climate neutral,” a physical impossibility. They promise to bully students into participating in RecycleMania, a contest which tests students’ knowledge of which piece of trash goes into which colored bin. They also swear they will “attract new sources of funding.”

It isn't only about the money. It's about elites signaling their purity. This is why groups like the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education exist. These folks invented the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System, a trademarked "transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance." Just like in kindergarten, different colored stars are awarded for better and worse performance.

College presidents are pushing for sustainability to be "integrated" across the curricula, and for the most part, as Peterson and Woods document, professors are complying. Cornell University, for one typical instance, has an "Ethics of Eating" course.

The NAS isn't sitting still on their exposé. They've begun a series of conference calls for interested participants to learn what schools are doing next.

On the 16 April call, Peterson emphasized the lack of interest in global warming among college students. It was "a given, but not a primary motivator. They are all fired up about social justice, rolling back racism, promoting women," essentially "equality" in all its forms. Sustainability is progressivism by another name.

<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2015/04/18/think-global-warming-is-bad-wait-until-you-meet-sustainability/>

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De N4CD – It's all about taxes...more taxes...ever more taxes..and redistribution of that tax money to favored special interest groups, cronies, and others willing to make big kickbacks to politicians' re-election campaigns.

On the Road with N4CD III

Monday

Headed to the Michigan Mini - N4CD joined the crowd headed toward northern MI. It was nice and warm in the Dallas area when I left with temps in the upper 70s and 80s. However, I still packed my winter weather gear since I had checked the weather for Traverse City – and the forecasts was for cold weather up there – spring time up there but definitely cold for us southerners. This was going to be about a 10 day trip as it's

1330 miles the 'short way' but few county hunters ever go 'the short way. I'm also working on 3rd time transmit all counties – so the route up would be different than the route back – as much as possible. Not to worry – it's 2 1/2 days the short way and I had a few extra days to spend on the way and get a few extra counties. Over 100 folks were expected to show up in Michigan....this was going to be more of a Maxi than a Mini.

So early on departure day I headed out up through OKLA on the same boring counties up route 75 and 69 all the way up to the Northeast corner of OKLA, then into MO -where I hit some new 'transmitted counties'. Mapquest had shown the shortest route would be to leave the interstate and follow MO highway 5 and then 54 through Camden County up to Pike County then hit the Interstate again in IL after Pike IL. That would be OK with me as it hit some of the rarer counties – as least for me. As I'm headed toward a Super 8 Motel in Osage Beach – the phone rings and it's Fred, K0FG – and he says he's in Camden County and he'd love for me to stop on by for the night. Sounds good to me and the car makes a detour to the QTH of K0FG for an overnight stay.

We head on out to nice dinner at the Cannon Shot Saloon nearby. After dinner Fred gives me the tour of the local area (the less crowded part of Lake of the Ozark). He's been there a while. At his home, he's got a nice beam up in a super quiet location, plus dipoles for the lower bands. You'll hear him mobile usually in the nearby counties and occasionally he and the XYL will head to TX or Phoenix AZ to visit relatives – on a long county hunting trip. I enjoyed the visit and hospitality!

Tuesday

In the morning after a nice breakfast it was back on the road headed up to IL – zipped across IL and over into IN for the night at a Super 8 in the South Bend area. I did stop and have some pizza and a big salad for dinner at Memories Pizza in Walkerton, IN – a detour. That place has been in the news lately. This was the place the 'gay-stapo' tried to shut down for not being willing to 'cater' a 'gay wedding. Duh! They have never catered a wedding. It's a hole in the wall pizza place in a teeny town that does mostly take out pizza.



Memories Pizza – Walkerton IN

Not a bad pizza. Then on to the Motel 30 miles away in South Bend Area – Motel 8. \$60.

Wednesday

waffle for breakfast at the Super 8.

Today I headed up the west coast of the lower peninsula – hitting counties like Mason, Oceana, and Benzie as I wound my way north. The bands were hopping with activity on cw. Barry, K2MF and Charlie, N2JNE were coming in from the east. Phil, AB7RW, N0KV, Barry, Jerry, W0GXQ, Mike, NF0N were coming in from the west. Kerry, W4SIG headed in from TN a bit later – ran to the wee hours of the morning. I'm sure SSB was buzzing with activity- didn't have much time to listen there but occasionally went to 14.271 to catch Terry, WQ7A and Barry, N0KV/Pat, N0DXE who were running there along with Kerry, W4SIG. I listened a few times on 7188 and it was wall to wall activity. KB0BA/N0XYL were on the road. Lowell would pop up occasionally on CW. Ron, KB6UF, headed north and ran on 30 and 17M CW on his way north after the SSB runs. Wasn't able to stick around long on the evening he was there and took off for ME.

I arrived late afternoon in Grand Traverse County – where the mini is held at a 4 story Holiday Inn 'resort' right on Grand Traverse Bay. It was cool – very cool – right at freezing with a very stiff north wind of 30 mph! Brrrr – and cloudy – no sun. When I got to town, I took a quick detour of less than 2 miles to get to Leelanau County. It was deja vue all over again – recognized the county line and the building on the right – pulled into their parking lot, sat right by the water, and ran the county. Been there twice before! Nothing has changed there! Hi hi.

Since I arrived a day early, I elected to stay at a former Super 8 motel – it was the Super 8 but now was a different name. Same building, same rooms, and only \$57 including tax vs the \$100 or so at the Holiday Inn. I went by the Holiday Inn parking lot and didn't see any antennas - - nothing going on yet.

Checked in to the Super 8 clone, and still had lots of daylight. I decided to head on over to Antrim County – about 20 miles up the road from the motel. There are at least 50 motels along the strip – most sparsely used this time of year. You could probably find one for \$40. I arrive at Antrim and pull into the first driveway to the left – large driveway back to a business. Then it starts to SNOW!....there had been a few flurries during the day. It's a snow squall that lasts 20 minutes – coats the grass and the car with snow – but the road is warm enough to melt the snow. It's blowing horizontal with the 30 mph steady wind – and the temp is right at 32. Brrrr.....OK.....I run the county then decide it would be wise to head on back to the motel.



White Stuff Coming Down – Antrim MI

There's a Bob Evans restaurant next door to the former Super 8 so I walk on over – with

the ski jacket, hat and gloves!.....had a nice dinner. They were featuring 'slow cooked' meals. Tried it – decent.

Thursday

I'm a county hunter – plain and simple. So what does a county hunter with time to spare do? Go run counties! It's just about freezing and the wind is still howling out of the north. I'm up early at 6am for the free breakfast at the motel – and decide to head east over to the rarer counties like Presque Isle, Alpena, Alcona then back to the Mini. As I head there – at times the roads are covered in caked snow in places – I can handle that – it's a bit slippery but you can still make good time. Band conditions are rotten and I struggle to make a dozen QSOs from each county. The contacts per mile are about 0.2 – not good.

The loop is a couple hundred miles – takes most of the day and I'm back around 3;30pm to check in to the convention hotel – and meet a few folks. You'll see lots of signs like this:



Snow Mobile Crossing sign
Everywhere in northern MI

Things went well, the check in went without hitch and the room was nice. It had a refrig in it so I could use that to store some fresh bought OJ and fruit from a local store.

There are all sorts of places to eat nearby and within a short driving distance – along the 'strip' – everything from fast food to seafood to Italian and loads of pizza places. The hotel has a restaurant as well. The parking lot is filling up with antennas. I'm looking forward to meeting lots of county hunters, some for the first time.

It was about 1450 miles up there – plus another 250 local miles in county hunting trips around the area.

On the Road with N4CD IV – At the Mini

Every year, the Michigan Mini is hosted by Ed, K8ZZ and Joe, W8TVT. It's been going on for years and years – but this is the first time N4CD headed there to help run up the numbers for a 'record crowd'!

Here's the list of who registered for the mini:

K8ZZ Ed, Traverse City, MI
Reverend Kate, Gaylord, MI

W8TVT Joe, Traverse City, MI
N8RRR Janet, Traverse City, MI

W8JJ Tim, Grand Blanc, MI

W0GXQ Jerry, Park Rapids, MN

NF0N Mike, South Sioux City, NE

KB0BA Lowell, Blue Grass, IA
N0XYL Sandra, Blue Grass, IA

K7SEN Neil, Cordes Lakes, AZ
AB7NK Mary, Cordes Lakes, AZ

WQ7A Terry & Bonnie, Yelm, WA

W4SIG Kerry, Collierville, TN

WY8I Jim, Fair Haven, MI
N8DMW Karen, Fair Haven, MI

K2MF Barry, Lutz, FL
N2FUN Dorothy, Lutz, FL

N2JNE Charlie, Saugerties, NY

WB0CQO Joe and Judy, Murray, IA

NA8W Darl, Findlay, OH
KA8JQP Pamela, Findlay, OH

W7FEN Larry and Rita, Box Elder, SD

WG9A Bill and Sandy, Batavia, IL

N8KIE Bob, Clarkston, MI
N8RLJ Jaci, Clarkston, MI

NW6S Jim and Carolyn, Henderson, NC

NM1G Chuck and Sandy, North Kingstone, RI

KD9ZP Gene, Fond du Lac, WI
K9FDL Dottie, Fond du Lac, WI

K5GE Gene and Mary Ida, Seguin, TX

NN9K Pete, Colonia, IL
N9DQS Nancy, Colonia, IL

AA9JJ, Frank, Mesa, AZ
N9QPQ Kaye, Mesa, AZ

N9QS Silver and Bonnie, Collinsville, IL

K0PFV John, Omaha, NE
WAOVDO Marian, Omaha, NE

WA9DLB Tony and Helen, Barrington, IL

N8WTQ Doris, Midland, MI

W8TZA Bill, Kalamazoo, MI
W8WKD Sharon, Kalamazoo, MI

K8OOK Mike, Grand Rapids, MI
N8IPG Nancy, Grand Rapids, MI

W9OP Mark, Winnebago, WI
W9PIP Joan, Winnebago, WI

AB7RW Phil, Vancouver, WA
AC7UH Barb, Vancouver, WA

KW1DX Dave, Hollis, NH

WB4KZW Gene and Alice, Hertford, NC

N8CIJ Dick and Carol, Ashland, OH

KA9JAC Bob, Hortonville, WI
KB9YVT Ann, Hortonville, WI

AA8R Randy, Grand, MI
W8TAX Patti, Grand, MI

W9GUY Don and Nikki, Walton, IN

K8EMS Mike and Sherry, Gladstone, MI

W8FNW Jim, Delaware, OH
W4FNW Damaris, Delaware, OH

W8GEJ Al, Delaware, OH

WD9EJK Paul, Rockford, IL

WD9EJN Jim, Ogle, IL

N4CD Bob, Plano, TX

W0NAC Matt, Parker, CO
N0LXJ Sharon, Parker, CO

KD5CXO Tim and Faith, McCalla, AL

W0FP Frosty and Cheri, Liberty, MO

WB8JZN Bill, Hastings, MI
KA8ZPN Brenda, Hastings, MI

W9LHG John and Virginia, White Bear Lake, MN

KB6UF Ron, Kentwood, LA

N8HAM Jim, South Lyon, MI

N0KV Barry, Parker, CO
N0DXE Pat, Parker, CO

AC0B Cliff and Kathy, Saginaw, MN

K8AO Duane and Judy, Gladstone, MI

W0ULU Fred and Kaye, Cottage Grove, MN

NX0X Brian, Duluth, MN
KB0MHH Shari, Duluth, MN

WA3QNT Bob and Jackie, Franklin, PA

N8OR John, Charlevoix, MI

W8MP Mark, Ann Arbor, MI

AF3X Jeffery, Knoxville, TN

KJ8V Dave, Bear Lake, MI

KJ8W Sandy, Bear Lake, MI

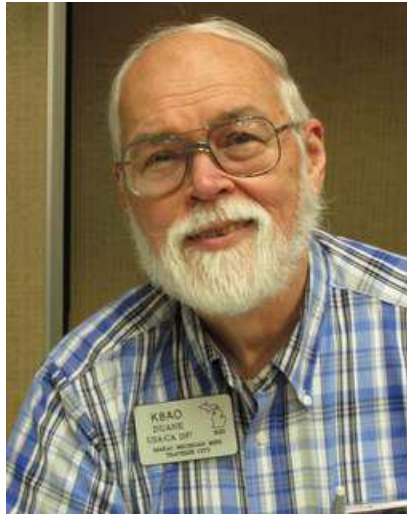
Several who registered were unable to come – we missed them. Maybe they'll make it next year.

There's a big hospitality room at the mini – this year Ed, K8ZZ had to expand it with so many coming. It was 'meet and greet' and yak and yak till late hours of the night.

Here's a few of the pictures I took.



W4FNW Damaris and W8FNW Jim



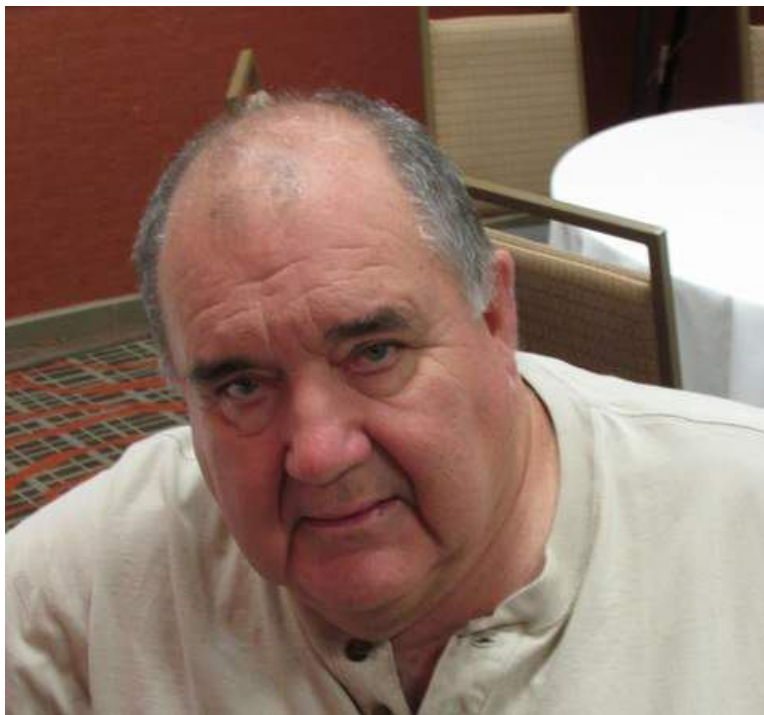
Duane K8AO



Darl, NA8W



N9QPQ Kay and AA9JJ Frank



W9GUY Don



AC0B, Cliff

Barry, K2MF (picture elsewhere) had an interesting shirt. Here's what it looked like:



How true!



Gene, KD9ZP and Dottie, K9FDL

Jerry, W0GXQ, was the winner of the MARAC CW contest. Here's the plaque for First Place:



W0GXQ – First Place – MARAC CW contest 2014

Friday evening most of the folks QSY'ed over the local Elks club for a Fish Fry dinner. Seems like most of the group joined in. 80 attended!



The Fish Fry Night - Friday

Saturday Night there was the banquet. As is tradition, everyone brings a gift for the gift table....then the tickets are drawn one by one for folks to go up and select a gift. There were lots of nifty things from clocks to ruggedized VOMs to computer software programs, 32 gig memory cards, a nice current balun, \$25 gas gift cards, jugs of maple syrup, fancy candies, and lots of other prizes that vanished quickly. One of the prizes was a large poster that everyone present signed.



Gift table a the banquet



The banquet hall - 94 attended

More Meet and Greet



Jeffrey, AF3X



Dave KJ8V



Rev Kate and Ed, K8ZZ, Convention Co-Host



K8EMS Mike



W8WKD Sharon and W8TZA Bill



N8CIJ, Dick



N8HAM Jim



KW1DX, Dave



Gene, WB4KZW



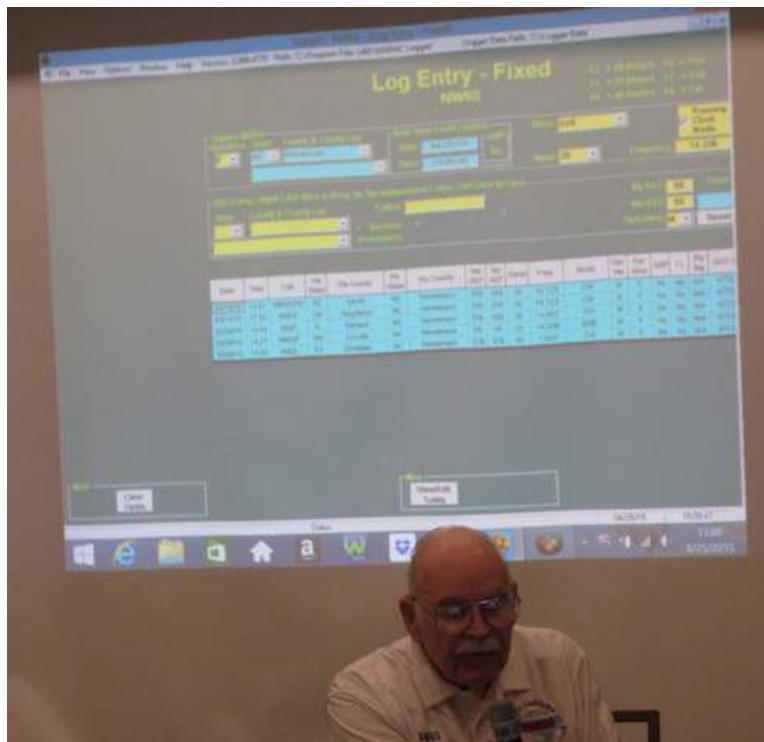
John, K0PFV

On Saturday, W0GXQ, Jerry, and NF0N, Mike, presented a program on Dual Operation. Each year they have put together multi-day trips. Mike NF0N does most of the SSB operating and Jerry does most of the CW operation. They talked about how they had things set up, and also how they used a K3 on battery power, with a dummy load antenna, to be able to work each other in the counties on 40/30/20/17 and 15m bands. They also put them out for the other folks.



Mike, NF0N and Jerry, W0GXQ

Following their presentation, Jim, NW6S, talked about Logger



NW6S and Logger Presentation



Fred W0ULU

Florida QSO Party

The FQP occurred while many folks were at the MI Mini- Saturday and Sunday. I tried working a few from the parking lot – it's tough being mobile trying to fight the crowds but I put a few counties in the log before getting too frustrated being the last to get through – if I ever did. Some of the mobiles had real good ears. Sunday I was chasing Florida stations in between hunting for county hunters and putting out counties. Caught about 30 Florida counties – needed just about all of them, but it was tough. This is one

of the busiest QSO Parties of the season with hundreds and hundreds calling. I just had to wait for the top 50 people to work them before I had a chance to get through – hi hi. Other fixed stations had a blast working them all. All the counties were on the air. Ed, KN4Y, was one of the county hunters participating in the event, out mobile.

We have to go to 'press' before all the comments were filed, but here are some of the mobile reports for your enjoyment.

From the 3830 reflector:

N4FP Mobile – 1981 cw qso

My xyl, Marty, WB2VYK, and I had a blast. 600 miles, 24 counties, 18 hours. Worked 48 states, missing only Alaska and Maine. Trusty old Kenwood TS-440SAT we purchased new 28 years ago worked flawlessly. 100 watts to horizontally mounted Hustler antennas atop 3 ft mag mounted mast on Kia Rondo. Totally manual operation, keyed paddle with right hand, logged N1MM+ with left. Station was set up in back seat on plywood bench and I operated from back right seat. Used inverter to power notebook, monitor, and keyer. Took 2 hours off Saturday afternoon to watch the Air Force Thunderbirds perform at Lakeland Sun 'n Fun. Great show. We decided to stay away from the interstates this year and Marty did a great job driving. Totally fun weekend.

K4FCG mobile (K1KNQ) 1144 SSB QSO

Rig: Kenwood TS480HX (150 watts)

Antennas: High Sierra sticks 10, 15, 20, 40 (roof mounted)

Auto: Venerable Blue PT Cruiser

Logging software: N3FJP, NO5W (County Lines)

I was able to get to 30 counties of the 32 planned.

Kudos to all the stations who followed me from county to county.

Some excitement Saturday evening as a huge thunderstorm passed through the panhandle. Had to stop a couple of times due to the heavy rain and wind.

My best effort ever.

73, "OJ"

Jack, K1KNQ

N4CW mobile - 630 cw qso

Even with several "glitches" in the operation, the Party was a success. Saturday, the XYL and I HAD to drive to St. Petersburg (from St. Augustine) for a family memorial service and celebratory dinner -- this is a 4-hour drive, one-way! Plus, we had to board the dog overnight. Thus, I got to operate in only a few counties.

I found that "pulling over" was almost impossible in the Orlando area...you just don't casually do that! So we got home just before midnight...

Sunday morning started with a minor disaster: I use 45-AH AGM batteries for mobile operation (because the car battery isn't wired for mobile operation...yet!). I had used one battery on Saturday, so I wanted to swap over to the other "freshly charged" battery. In limited light in our garage at 7 in the morning, I inadvertently connected the battery incorrectly and blew the 25A fuse to the TS-480! No spare fuse!!! My neighbor had one rated at 20A, so I used that temporarily...it worked well enough so I could make a few contacts before we had to go pick up the dog at 9 AM (the kennel "dictates" pickup times...as you well know). So I was able to start my day's excursion around 9:30...a tad late. I wanted to put a few more STJ Q's in the log, so after I picked up a coffee and bagel, I parked and worked a few on 20 and then QSY'd to 15. The 480 antenna tuner wouldn't tune...something wrong there...so I had to operate without it by making sure the antenna was resonant/with low SWR. Couldn't do it, and lost time trying, so I committed to operating on 20 for the remainder of the day. Fortunately, all my "glitches" were behind me.

All in all, Sunday was a lot of fun. My compliments to all the ops that responded to my giving partial calls by standing by if what I copied didn't apply to them...well done! Pileups were a real "rush"...over and over.

To net it out, it's amazing that I worked all those stations in 5 hours and 44 minutes (total, per N1MM) with two days' driving...
Again, MANY thanks for the Q's and good times. 73, Bert N4CW

N5NA mobile – 2186 cw QSO

A couple of months ago my wife said she'd like to go to Universal Studios Orlando. My first thought was "When is the FQP?" So, we planned a trip to visit relatives in L.A. (Lower Arkansas), my son in Charleston, then Universal, finishing with the FQP. By the time we get back home to WTX we'll have traveled over 3900 miles!

Last September I bought a new truck and the next day headed to AR, SC, and back home to Texas, operating in those QSO parties. The injector noise in the new truck was terrible, particularly on 20m. The week after the TQP I ordered some large ferrite cores and added a ground to the driver's side battery. That seemed to knock the noise down but I wanted to give it a good test under QSO party conditions. The noise level from the truck is now minimal. If I could just do something about power line noise. Maybe I should have picked up one of those magic wands at The Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Universal!

Chuck, NO5W, told me I was in for some huge pileups and he wasn't kidding! Some counties it was pileup from county line to county line. Usually in my QSO party adventures the pileup drops off a few minutes after entering a new county. I do my best at picking out calls but when callers are all zero beat and sending at the same speed it's all but impossible for me. Sometimes the off frequency weaker signal is the one that gets through.

I worked three other mobiles, W4AN, K4OJ, and NO5W. Chuck, NO5W, along with Ted, KN5O, and I had planned to meet for dinner on Sunday. We were both headed west on I-10 when I heard a strong station a few KHz away. Turned out to be Chuck. We were both in Santa Rosa but weren't sure how close we were. CQ/X logs the lat/lon of each QSO so after the QSO party we determined I was about 1.3 miles ahead of Chuck.

I had absolutely no problems with hardware, software, or RFI. I think we only made a couple of wrong turns but never got far off the planned route. We were about 30 minutes behind schedule on Saturday and about 5 minutes behind on Sunday. We crossed into AL about 10 minutes before the end.

Equipment: Elecraft K3, Scorpion Antenna, Dell Latitude D630 running CQ/X, 2015 Ford F250 Superduty.

Thanks to everyone who called and the FQP organizers. A special thanks to my wife, K5AKS, for suggesting we visit Universal Studios and driving me around

FL!

K4OJ mobile Multi OP

Hi Friends,

Well, well, well - we thought our fun in last years FQP could not be topped, but that is exactly what happened for the K4OJ 'Suburbanites' team (as NO5W has dubbed us). Once again we built a Multi-Multi station into my trusty Suburban - like an overstuffed Calzone of people, equipment, antennas, spares of just about anything imaginable, and of course plenty of teamwork!

This year our team took a slightly different strategy to try really amp up our score - it worked beautifully, more on that below.

First, the results and some stats:
4942 cw QSO's

Our MM station:

2002 Chevrolet Suburban, 2-wheel drive, 345K miles - The NX4N "Sub" worked flawlessly – again.

BAND	OPERATOR	RADIO	ANTENNA
40m/10m	Kevin, N4KM	K3	40m Hustler - Roof
mounted;	10m 1/4 wave whip -	Roof mounted	48" from 40m ant
20m	Red, K0LUZ	K3	20m Hustler - Roof
mounted	20" from 40m ant		
15m	Bob, N4BP	K3	15m Hustler - Roof
mounted	30" from 20m ant		

Driver, Spare Parts Supplier, Station Engineer, Cheer Leader, Host and Team Lead - Chris, NX4N

Co-Host, Restaurant and Hotel owner, sandwich/snack/drink provider Lili (NX4N's A1 wife)

Backup op and driver for September 2014 dry-run road testing - Larry, KR4X

Power - A Honda EU-2000i 2KW generator driving individual switching power

supplies for each station. Generator was mounted with an external fuel tank and K5YAA-inspired 'plumbers delight' rain cover with vent on a hitch-mount cargo carrier. E0 ethanol-free premium fuel was used. Fuel consumed over 24 hours of actual run time = 6 gallons.

Other gas consumed includes Regular E85 for the 'Sub' and Sonny's BBQ Baked Beans for the operators.

RF Compatibility - Inter-Station Interference was the biggest challenge and it required our perseverance, patience and just plain old dumb luck. It is quite lengthy but I think a worthy, fun story so I hope you will read on down at the bottom of this report.

GET READY, GET SET...

Things were looking up and the team optimistic. We had the RFI optimized as much as possible - no RFI to 40m and 20m, no 15m RFI during the day and 10m RFI at manageable levels.

The weeks leading up to FQP I started preparing the Suburban for FQP (roughly 40 hours of work to install the stations). Jim K5AUP kindly loaned us his two K3's (thanks Jim!) so we had 4 total K3's - one for each of three stations plus a spare. Tons of wires everywhere, radio mechanical and electrical function checks performed. More than a dozen sandwiches, snack bags and innumerable drinks that Lili made, packed and/or organized.

We're Ready! But Murphy had many tricks up his sleeve for us this year.

GOTTA LOVE THOSE BLUE LITTLE GUYS:

Bob N4BP came up Friday afternoon and we finished installing his K3 for 15m - ahh, the last station is ready. Operator ergonomics are reasonable but nothing great (think airline seats). RFI checks sound good. Friday night brings the restless sleep of all FQP mobile ops - they know two huge long days of much excitement, pileups and surprises await. How will it go???

Saturday morning Bob, Lili and I share a nervous breakfast of Cherrios, bagels, cheese and coffee. Hard to enjoy the chow with the butterflies. We leave at 8am for our two hour trip to SEM to meet Kevin and Red at the Publix parking lot. We're off! But...as we get on I-4 we see a foreboding sign flashing

overhead - "EASTBOUND ACCIDENT AHEAD 10 MILES - ALL LANES CLOSED". No way! Couldn't Be! I sure hope they're ok, no fatalities, please, saying a little silent prayer.

I called Lili in a panic - help! I only have 3 more exits before I get to the closed lanes. Lili was walking our dog Hannah and no where near a computer but promised to walk quickly home and check out options on line. At this time I am in full freakout mode - and then I notice the love of my life (besides Lili), my Precious...

The GPS says to get off at the next exit; I think to myself, why would it take me off I-4 to get to SEM? Duh? I get it and silently and completely obey it's every command. We turn north, heading directly on a small bumpy country road to...what's this?...the Tampa Bay Blueberry Festival. Lots of traffic and I silently curse this electronic contraption - God must think I'm schizo, prayer for the accident victims one minute and then cursing a GPS the next. Perhaps I should have just stayed on I-4 and waited for the accident to clear?

We turn east and follow behind a s-l-o-w tractor-pulled festival shuttle bus for attendees. Sorry, no little blue guys for us today- we have a contest to go to! The shuttle turns into a parking lot and we're on our way, then BUMP...pause...BUMP...pause...BUMP. Oh no, this stupid GPS now has us on another country road with 12 foot overhanging oak tree branches that subject my poor antennas to several miles of torture with no place to pull over. I slow to 20MPH (40MPH speed limit), folks behind me on my tail, passing me with dirty looks - but Bob and I keep going. Finally, Precious tells us to turn south and go to I-4. We enter the on ramp curve and see - HUGE lineup of totally stopped cars with drivers outside their vehicles. You stupid @\$%^&!!! GPS! But wait! Could it be? The accident was juusst before our on ramp, and we sailed right past it onto an empty I-4! Let the flags fly and the banners waive - we did it!

That GPS saved our bacon several times as well during FQP when the over-confident driver got lost.

I now sleep with the GPS under my pillow.

GO! AND WE'RE OFF!

We meet up with Kevin and Red - handshakes and grins are shared and we

immediately start loading up and getting everyone re-familiarized with their stations. RFI sounds reasonable - nothing like repeatable results to make you believe good things will happen.

We share a picnic lunch that Lili packed for us and hit the Publix bathrooms one last time - gonna be along time before we visit one again. 15 minutes before noon we load up and drive to our starting location in LAK.

CQ FQP! The bell tolls and the QSO's are coming faster than usual on all the bands. Stations are playing like a symphony and operators are pressing their best skills into action. As we head North I could tell that Red, Bob and Kevin were are having fun, the county change signaling system is working well - LAK, SEM, VOL, FLG and onward we go on plan. I have timing runs for every leg of our trip so I know if we are hitting our marks. Traffic on I-4 is a pain but I-95 is much more open. Looks like smooth sailing...

MURPHY SNEAK ATTACKS:

Later on as we headed north in CLA, the clouds ahead looked ominous. Sky getting darker and darker, the rains begin and get quickly very heavy. Much wind whipping around but thankfully very little lightning.

Red shouts, "UH OH! My swr is high!" My heart sinks...20m - why 20m??? Normally we run with K3 tuners bypassed so if SWR goes bad the rig will cut back and save the band pass filters from overheating until the op notices the issue for disposition. There was no way any of us were going outside in the torrent to fix anything - the ops and radios would be soaked the instant we open a door. We made a quick decision to engage the K3's tuner and keep operating. In fact, that was our mantra all weekend - just keep operating. We drove through some nasty weather and got lost a bit in NAS; emergency lights alerted us to a pickup truck no less than 30 feet into a retention ditch and into the wet mucky woods beyond. The 20m SWR got better as we passed through the rain, but it was just not quite the same the rest of the weekend, with SWR at 2:1. Normally all of our SWR's are 1.3 or less. But it was usable and Red was making QSO's so we just kept going.

It was not until until several hours later that Murphy struck again. Kevin made the switch as planned from 10m to 40m - what's this? S9+ RFI spikes on 40m from 20m- no way! We never saw this before. Something had changed our setup in that storm and now it was looking like a l-o-n-g night on 40m when we needed the

rate badly. Kevin the Lion Hearted put up with the QRM for quite a few counties but we just had to stop and try to fix this before it got too dark to do so. We stopped at a shopping plaza in MAO(?) where I put together a complete replacement of the 20m antenna and checked all connections. Ha! I found the original 20m antenna resonator was loose - likely too many tree limb hits at the blueberry festival. We put up the new antenna and no more 40m RFI; man, our we smart, huh?

Until of course we hit 45MPH when it came back - rats!

And it cost me a nasty gash on my leg where in my hurry I bumped against a sharp edged spare antenna mount on the cargo carrier. Throbbing pain and much bleeding and cursing ensued as we go down the road with 40m and the driver both limping along.

But Kevin had just had enough of this wimpy RFI BS. He just puts on his Man-Face and makes the best of it, making even a higher peak rate on 40m than last year. I can hear the crackling of 20m RFI from Kevin's headphones - he wins the K4OJ Man-Face-Operator award this year.

MMM- YUMMY!

The remainder of the trip Saturday went with workman-like efficiency - the logs showed a first day with significant upticks vs. last year. 40m was a tad behind but we new that was part of our strategy. We finished the last 8 minutes of FQP in the driveway at home.

As our reward, we were treated to a Feast of Sonny's Barbecue with all the fixin's - happy clams all. A brief period of time later John K4BAI, Jeff KU8E and his two harmonics Andy and Randy (fine young men and very excited to be part of Dad's trip!) joined us for dinner. We had a great time together; so glad they could stop by. Before they left for their hotel we snapped a group photo and then traded tours of each others' mobile setups. Jeff had come up with quite a nice mount on his wife's minivan, with John sitting in the middle row operating, Randy in the back row, and Andy helping dad up front with navigation. Cool station setup too - Jeff told me how well his DX-Engineering top hat worked well (a new twist for next year?). We parted with team W4AN/m and then racked out - morning would be coming soon!

YET ANOTHER MURPHY ATTACK:

A sleepy K4OJ team left 5 minutes late but we had time to get to PIN before the contest started. As we fired up the stations, we noticed the 40m RFI from yesterday was still there but we only needed that band for about an hour before the switch to 10m. But we had to stop because 40m now was getting into 15m. We found a loose 40m resonator (blueberry attack), tightened it and resumed our chase. Kevin kept running 40m while Bob put up with the QRM on a modestly open 15m.

An hour into the contest, Kevin switched to 10m as planned - HUGE RFI on 10m from 20m. Oh, come on man! How could this be? We stopped - again - to look things over and found that the base coil on the 10m antenna had broken (more Blueberry issues?). Fortunately I had made up a spare coil so in less than 5 minutes we were on the road again. It Worked!

We had *finally* shown Murphy the door and he did not reappear for the remainder of the highway. Once we hit MON all heck broke loose; the QSO rates on all bands soared and we never looked back.

IN SUMMARY:

Incredible. Simply incredible.

I can hardly believe we came *very, very* close to a 5K run - that is, nearly 5000 QSO's in 20 hours from 3 mobile stations. At the end, we all were nearly speechless (especially unusual for me :-) - just Incredible!

I challenged our team to make 4700 QSO's and they ran that gauntlet and keep on going without looking back. We started the contest better than usual with good but not super conditions. Between the rain and all of Murphy's shenanigans I thought that perhaps it was just not our year, but we pressed on from Saturday morning onward.

By mid-morning Sunday we settled into our saddles and just let the horses run - I am very lucky to have 3 such talented operators on our team. Red, Bob and Kevin just tore up the bands, the antennas worked flawlessly and our out of state friends made our entire trip special, tracking us down on all the bands over and over again as we switched counties. While I was driving, I could hear HUGE pileups leaking out from 3 sets of headphones.

I do have to say that the conditions were the best in many years for FQP. Saturday was good and Sunday was exceptional. Worked a JA on 15m at 2pm local

FL time! EU and JA on 40m. 10m was alive with nice replies from EU/SA/KH6 - fantastic. The roof hard-mounted Hustlers gave us a big signal feeling on all bands - each op remarked that we had FB signals on their band(s)

MANY THANKS to all of the folks who worked us on all the bands and counties.

Our team had a great time working you all! We also truly enjoyed each others company on this most unusual endeavor - a journey we will not soon forget.

We would like to thank FCG leaders Dan, Ron, Chris, Eric, George, Fred, Steve and many others who make the FQP the very best QSO Party around. Sincere tnx and 88 to my FB fun-loving wife Lili - she cooked dinners and breakfasts, packed our lunch/snack bags/drinks and was a full team member in every respect! No ham could have a more supportive spouse.

Big thanks also to Bob K0RC for his amazing tracking sheets; they were revamped this year with super cool "find my counties" search macros that made chasing the mobile mults even easier. Great thanks as well to Chuck NO5W with his FB CQ/x contest software and county tracking tools as well. Both of you guys are A1 in my book - we are very lucky to have your terrific support. Thanks again!

To our fellow road warriors - well done! Each of your results and write ups is eagerly awaited and just fantastic to read...CU on on the road!

As always, then biggest appreciation is reserved for our many, many friends both in and out of state who tracked and worked us (or tried) repeatedly, put up with our QRX, QSY, QRQ, QRS, QRDeaf and QLF -
THANK YOU ALL FOR THE MANY QSOs!

Finally, sincere thanks to my vy FB teammates Kevin, Red, Bob, Larry - guys, let's see if we can do this again next year! The challenge has been set - we shall see. And of course many thanks to my ever-lovin' wife Lili; I am truly blessed with her by my side supporting all this craziness.

Jim K4OJ - dear FQP friend, we hope this little escapade of insanity made you smile yet again! :-)

vy 73/OJ,

Chris, NX4N team lead
K4OJ Multi-Multi-Mobile

A POST REPORT "TAIL":

Ye Old RFI War - A Tiger by the Tail -

Needless to say, interstation Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) is the toughest challenge in any Multi-Multi station, but it can be a real Bengal Tiger with vertical antennas mounted this close together over an undersized ground plane such as a car/van roof. Our team has been mauled by this 'tiger' many times; we spent literally days of both stationary and on-road empirical testing to either minimize the beast, and just as often lost the battle and had to lick our wounds and change tactics many times over. And the battle still rages on...but we have made *significant* progress.

Below are some of the more interesting descriptions and moments that have happened since 2014 FQP. All I can say is that RFI is like babies - one is a lot of work to pacify, but twins/triplets/quadruplets (stations, that is) is a whole other paradigm!

THE BATTLE GEAR:

The car was well bonded with RF braid on all doors, engine and tailpipe. We started with a single point ground (the roof) to try to snare any wayward ground loops. Our Heavy Artillery included 3 W3NQN Band Pass Filters and Coax Stubs (sometimes double stubs) for each band, each strategically spaced and placed between each Radio and Antenna. W2JVN gave great insight into optimal stub spacing.

Supplementing this were no less than 20 Ferrite chokes at various RF Hot Spots.

PC's and switching power supplies can be particularly problematic so special focus was placed there accordingly. And we had a bucket of more ferrite available which was later needed during FQP. For example, early after the contest start the 20m station shut down but placing a quick choke on the power supply output remedied it; all done while driving and continuing to operate of course. Our mantra - keep operating.

EARLY PREPARATION/TESTING IS KEY:

A FIRST SWITCH IN STRATEGY- CRASH AND BURN:

Upon completion of 2014 FQP, the team(Bob, Kevin, Red, Lu, Chris and Larry KR4X had agreed that something must be done to improve the RFI or we would not try the MM/m thing again. So we got together in September 2014 for a road test to eliminate the RFI.

We spent much of the day in frustration in the hot summer sun trying to beat down the RFI beast, but to no avail. 40m got into 15m in a big way, and 10m was getting killed by 20m. Oh my. Team cheerleader NX4N was thoroughly disheartened but the rest of the team stayed positive with promises to come back for another shot. We just *had* to figure out a way to get this Tiger back in it's cage!

After this crash and burn event I suggested that we try a different approach. Why not switch to a triband vertical with a triplexer? This has worked at plenty of home and Field Day stations, so perhaps it would help us at least eliminate the 10m RFI.

Our 2nd road test was held in March, this time with a new triband hustler arrangement for 20/15/10 along with a triplexer from VA6AM. Testing in the driveway looked tantalizing - no RFI between the 10m, 15m and 20m stations and somewhat reduced RFI from 40m as well! Joy!

Road Testing was next; the team piled into the SUV with Larry KR4X at the wheel so I could man the 10m station. We left the subdivision and started up the Suncoast Parkway; operating commenced at that time. Our joy quickly switched to dismay as N4BP announced that he had S9 RFI; while continuing to drive we determined 20m was the culprit - this had never happened before. We already had passed the nearest exit, so it was a long, dejecting ride home in alternating fits of silence and brainstorming.

RED's RIDING SHOTGUN:

As we sat seriously frustrated back in the driveway we started planning ways to figure out why we hadn't heard the 15m RFI in the Driveway, but humongous buckets of it on the road. I got out of the vehicle to check that all antenna and coax connections (more than 20 per band!) were secure - yep, all tight. We sat in the driveway and retested - NO RFI! WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON? Then I had a thought - could it be? Really? Really?

While in the the driveway we had been performing all our testing with the car doors open. As the guys operated I went over to the front passenger door - this is where Red sits to man the 20m station. Sure enough, as I began to close is door, Bob said the RFI went from under S1 to S9! I opened the door- and Bob heard no RFI again - magic!

Further revolving door experiments showed a minor amount of RFI when closing the rear right door and all other doors/opening had no effect. We spent the next two hours trying to cut the door RF bonding, replacing the bonding with new braid material, tightening connections in the door, etc. Someone suggested that we simply remove the door for the contest so Red rides true

country-style-shotgun; Red quickly nixed this solution.

In the end, another savage attack by the RFI Tiger. Each solution offered only bite and claw marks in return. The team made the decision to return to the monobanders; at least we did not see Door-Magic in this configuration. The team went home both laughing and crying a bit, with two problems still remaining (15m RFI from 40m, and 10m RFI from 20m). Only 6 weeks until FQP - yikes!

ACHIEVING A ZEN STATE - JUST GO WITH THE FLOW:

I manage a couple of EMI Test labs (not an expert, just the manager) so I have enough background to know that RFI can be eliminated several overall ways. RFI has three basic components - an offender (tx), a conduit for the RFI (ex- ground loop, antenna coupling, etc.), and a victim (rx). As ham 'techies' we focus nearly always on the conduit and that is what our team had done since 2013 when the dream for this craziness began. I started thinking about our days (daze?) of testing with some but not sufficient mitigation of the RFI. So I had a thought - if you can't beat 'em, join 'em. Perhaps we could just eliminate/minimize the offender- a true 'AHA!' moment.

I looked at our 2014 40m log and noticed that we made 165 QSO's during all daylight hours. That is not bad, but we missed hundred more QSO's on 15m because we could not hear through the RFI. Clearly, during the day our 40m offender was hurting our 15m victim more than it contributed to our score. At night, 40m is king and 15m is a whisper. Could it be that simple? So I proposed, and the team agreed, that we eliminate the 4th station and combine one station to run 40m at night and 10m during the day. Voila! The Tiger was largely put back in its cage; this was a key strategic move that directly led to our much improved score on 15m (400 more QSOs!).

KEVIN - THE HEART OF A LION:

Now, the remaining issue was the 10m RFI caused by 20m. Last year, our poor 10m op Lu W4LT had to put up with S5 to 10-over-S9 RFI- ouch! The signals are so quiet and the need for a preamp so great on 10m that eliminating RFI altogether had little chance for success. However, during our experiments we did manage to reduce the RFI to S2-3 without the preamp and S5-6 with it on; not great but usable. This is as good as we could make it, and Kevin stepped up to the challenge and worked 300+ stations this year through the RFI. Well done, sir.

In summary, taming RFI take a lot of planning, even more testing and a bit of luck too; fortunately, we managed to make it work. Watch out for Voodoo Doors. We have more improvement plans in the works... so see you next year for another update! 73, Chris :-)

W5WMU mobile – 2128 cw qso

Just drove in to home...report to follow tomorrow...best contesting weekend of my life...two handicapped guy's who both said the same thing when we drove into our home driveway...Wow...can't wait 'til next year.....Pat

WA6KHK- fixed CA - 171 ssb qso

Clean sweep on 10, 15, and 20 meters SSB with the six 1x1 stations! Hats off to K4FCG/M, the only mobile that was always on SSB!!! The bands were open on Saturday but Sunday morning was a little rough. I had a software crash on Sunday morning too...I guess I will find out how bad it was after this soapbox entry! hihi. Lots of fun guys!

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Maybe some more FQP reports next month. Time to get the CHNews off to the web and out of time to wait for more reports!

Wow- mobiles putting out 2000 and 5000 contacts in just two periods on a weekend! The bands were humming!

On the Road with N4CD V - After

Sunday morning came and it was time to head on back to TX. I was up early (sunrise is about 6:15 am in MI this time of year) and on the road at 6:30am. Others were already traveling. Usually I'll wait for daylight and try to avoid the wildlife that starts running in the morning. I did see a few deer and half a dozen turkey spottings while headed

south. My route was 'one in' from the western edge – headed down through Newaygo and other counties. Likely every county in MI, other than maybe Keewenau, was run during the event. I heard at least 40 MI counties. At times I could work W0GXQ at 100 plus miles on 20m and 17m (he's got a big antenna on the roof of the car), and of course, 40M was hopping most of the time on cw and SSB. I stuck to cw 99% of the time. There were dozens of mobiles on SSB and just six or eight on CW. It's 1330 miles the short way, and I had 3 days to get back to TX. Or 4. The doctor appointment was in five so had to be home for that.

The FQP starts again today – I'll be hunting for them as well as cw county hunter contacts from the mobiles headed home.

The weather was good and I made good time. I went the 'county hunter way' adding in more miles to get to 'new' counties I did not run on the way home. Down through IN a bit down to I-70, then west on I-70. After a good 600 miles, a Super 8 motel showed up in Bond County, IL on the GPS, so I shut down for the day. Other mobiles were still going.

Hopefully everyone ran every county they went through. Those working on Master Gold will thank N4CD for bugging them to make at least one contact from each county they go through – even if it is the same as the one they ran on the way up! At some point if they work on Master Gold, you need 1500 points of 'service'. You get that by 1 point per hour of net control time or assistant, or by so many hours of credit for hosting a national or mini, or by being an officer of MARAC or newsletter editor, awards committee member, etc, OR.....by getting one point per transmitted county – up to 50 times for the same county.

Now, maybe Logger II will track multiple times transmitted county, but now you have to track it on your own. When to go to apply for MG, you will need to come up with 1500 points. If you go through 50 counties on the way to a convention, make at least ONE contact from every county. Work another mobile – or put out the county. Just one contact is enough, but of course the 'county hunter' way is to try and run it for the other folks. On the way home, if you have to take the 'short way', run the same counties again. You get credit. Logger now will only track 'new' counties and not show the multiple times. Maybe Logger II can be improved on this. At the convention, go out to the car and make a contact every day! That can be 3 or 4 more transmitted counties for MG credit! Just do it! You can run the same county once a day. You'll be glad you did when you start to serious work on Master Gold.

Well, back to the narrative of the trip home. Next to the Super 8 was Chang's Chinese

Buffet – so I headed there and had some veggies, fruit and meat pieces.....then fueled up the car – was getting about 31 mpg in the Malibu – and was sound asleep by 9:30pm. Up early in the morning – breakfast was those frozen small waffles you stick in a toaster oven – not great – plus a bowl of sugar laden Raisin Bran, a small orange, and cup of decaf coffee – then on the road before 7am headed back to TX.

Ed, K8ZZ, is working hard on his MG. He's down to a handful and two were in OK – Hughes and Seminole. I could get those two for him. He's done a lot of work with this convention. He needs one in TX (N4CD will get), Flathead MT, and a few in AL, FL and GA. Let's get together and get him finished up so when he starts traveling big time – he just retired – he'll be good for Master Platinum. He needs:

K8ZZ MG needs:

AL: Russell, Geneva

FL: Calhoun

GA: Hancock, Henry, Pulaski, Putnam, Screven, Effingham

MT: Flathead

On Monday, I decided to head to Branson, MO for the night. Whew.....there's the easy way and the county hunter way to get there. The easy way is down the interstate and down from Springfield on a nice 4 lane highway. I'd already run those counties. So, of course, you know that N4CD left the interstate and wandered down through the roller coaster highways of MO.....up and down...up and down on 2 lane roads with zero shoulder for 100 miles down to Taney MO. You don't make time this way – but someone has to run those counties like Texas and Wright! Branson has at least 100 motels. I just stayed at the Super 8 (\$64 including tax) but there are many budget places this time of year for \$45 and up. Most were just partly filled as this is not prime vacation season. It gets really crowded in the summer time. Branson is now 'music heaven' with 30-40 music events going on every day during the season with name performers, and loads of other activities from waterparks to big shopping malls, lazer tag places for the kids, dozens of museums including the Titanic exhibit and ship recreation, and probably a hundred places to eat.

Shows are at 10 am, 2 pm and 8pm typically and you have a big choice of music genre from country western, 50s/60s rock legends, comedy shows, name entertainers, Nashville sound, rock and roll, and just about everything you can think of.

I stopped by the world's largest Toy Museum. They probably have over one million toys in there – toys from the 1800s and 1900s – everything from the 'cars' (thousands) to

trucks to tractors, dolls, erector sets, trains (every kid you can imagine plus more), toy guns, cowboy stuff, Elvis,and on and on. Took a good hour to wander through it.

You can take the virtual tour here:

http://www.worldslargesttoymuseum.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=104&Itemid=213

A million toys!.....take a look

Dinner was at the Grand Buffet (\$15)...and not as good as the Golden Corral (which was a few miles away). Then I took in one of the shows (\$32). Good. Then back to the motel. Slept well.

On the road at 6:45 wandering east. The GPS lady took me on the back roads. There is no easy way out of Branson going south, east, or west. Two lane twisty rural highways for 60 miles at 40 mph average till you get down into AR and hit I-540 headed south down to I-40 going west. The route was a beeline to get K8ZZ his last two in OK for MG. I zipped on down through Hughes and Seminole OK around noon time after a quick stop at the Subway – then headed straight south on 75 all the way to TX.

Here's a Compressed Natural Gas pump I saw at exit 221 on I-40. You don't see too many of these!

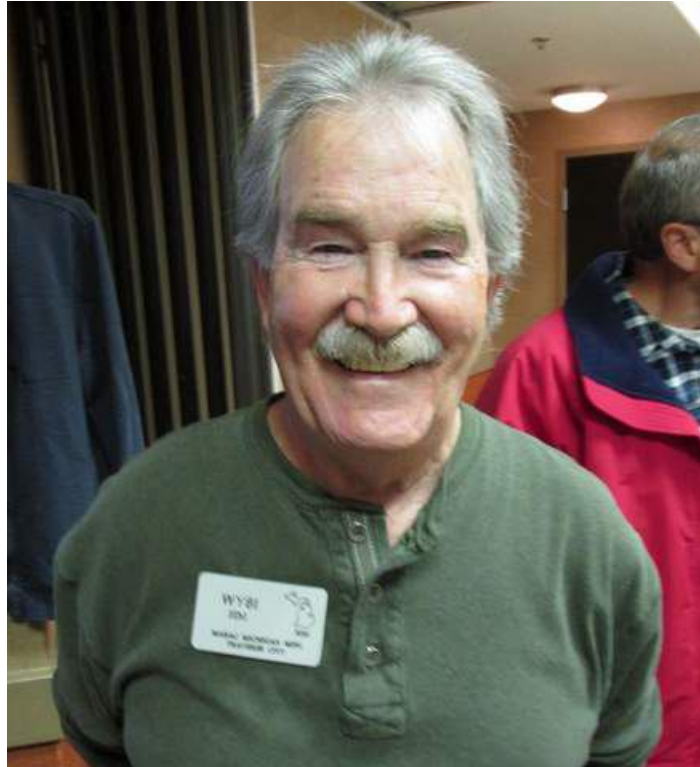


CNG Pump in Okfuskee OK

Some counties/towns have large trucks that run on CNG. Only one maker (Honda?) has a car that runs on CNG and those are leased in CA.

Home by 4pm with some drizzle along the way. 3101 miles round trip. Was a good one. I'm looking forward to next year!

Awards



Jim, WY8I – now USA-CA #1249
Picture At the Mini

USA-CA 3077 #1249

Jim, WY8I

April 25, 2015

The MARAC Awards Chairman took off on vacation from Mid April to Mid May. No awards were processed during this time. Awards will be back dated to the last county worked date. In fact, I see no awards processed in April. The Awards Chairman was

busy sending out election emails as detailed above.

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Looks like a lot of folks are now applying for long available awards in droves. The US Presidents Award, Native American Counties Award, and the fairly new County Challenge have 'taken off'. This were all issued the last week or so of March.

U.S. Presidents #48	PhilAB7RW 3	3.24.15,
U.S. Presidents #49	Tom, K7REL	3.26.15,
Native American Counties #51	Phil, AB7RW	3.24.15,
County Challenge Level 9	Kent, KV7N	3.26.15
County Challenge Level 12	Dave W4YDY	3.27.15,
County Challenge Level 13	Chuck, NM1G	3.3.15
County Challenge Level 13	Mike NF0N	3.24.15,
County Challenge Level 14	Jim, NW6S	3.30.15,

Events for County Hunters

Several good QP s and they all take place the first weekend of May!

May 2

7TH Area QP

May 2 1300z to 0700Z May 3

Exchange ; RST and S/P/C or RST and County/State

7qp.org

Indiana QP

May 2 1600z to 0400z May 3

Exchange: RST.....or RST and Indiana County (DX give RST only)

www.hdxcc.org/inqp

Delaware QP

1700 May 2 to 2359 May 3

Exchange: RST and S/P/C or RST and Delaware County

www.fsarc.com

New England QP

May 2 2200z see website

Exchange: RST and S/P/C or RST and NE county

www.neqp.org

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CW folks – take warning – or join in (note: Many operators are NOT at their home stations in WPX and DX contests! In contests like this there are many 'guest operators' at other stations away from their home county).

CQ WW WPX Contest

May 30 0000Z to 2359z May 31

RST and serial #

www.cqwpw.com

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Islands on the Air

For Immediate Release Hams Hit the Water for the new US Islands Awards Program's "One-Day Getaway" - Saturday, May 9, 2015
February 19, 2015 Fans of portable ham radio are encouraged to grab their equipment and head for the water as part of the new "One-Day Getaway," sponsored by the US Islands awards program. The annual event

will make its debut on Saturday, May 9, 2015, from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC (Friday evening to Saturday evening in the continental US). Founded in 1994, US Islands promotes portable ham radio operations from islands found in all bodies of water: lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, and coastal islands in US territorial waters. The One-Day Getaway is an on-air activity, not a contest: no scores are tallied and no prizes are awarded. Participation from all radio amateurs, regardless of experience level, is encouraged. "US Islands is a great way to go on a mini-DXpedition without spending a lot of money," said US Islands Awards Manager Jay Chamberlain, NS4J. "Discovering islands in your own back yard and setting up a station outdoors is always a good time. If hams have only operated outdoors during Field Day, we offer another route to get outside and enjoy portable ham radio in a different way." Contacts can be made with any station; US Islands offers achievement awards for both island activators and island chasers, including a certificate for your first US Islands activation. While there are over 2,800 islands on the US Islands list, there are more than 17,000 islands within the United States. Participants can use Google Earth to locate new islands and be the first to operate ham radio from that location! Complete information on the US Islands Program, a how-to guide for One-Day Getaway participants and a list of currently qualified islands is available at

www.usislands.org

Nearly all of the islands that are activated – SSB only!

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Dayton Hamfest

Dayton Hamfest May 15-17 Hara Arena (same place as usual).

The County Hunter Forum will be on Friday afternoon at 4pm – hosted by W8JJ, Tim. Afterward we'll QSY to the Golden Corral for dinner at 5:30pm.or 6 PM. As soon as you can get there!

See many of you there!

3M – Mini in Murphreesboro

The MMM will be held in Murfreesboro, TN October 8-11. Hotel will be the Clarion (previously Holidome) at 2227 Old Fort Parkway. Cracker Barrel next door plus other places for meals. Pets are free... remind them so you get an outside room. Reservations at: 615-896-2420 . Friday lunch group at Mary BoBos being planned as well. You do not have to be an Old Timer to attend..... just be a friendly face wanting to meet other kindred spirits and honor Bill Bell... KM4W.... who initiated this meeting and ran it for 25 years.

The Old Timers Meeting will gather in Murfreesboro, Tn. October 8-9-10-11 for several days of world class rag-chewing and eye-ball qso's. We have reserved outside rooms so you can unload direct from your cars to your rooms.... or you may request a second floor and/or interior room if you prefer... all at our same \$80/night rate that includes a super hot buffet breakfast. Note also, they have waived their pet fees... but you MUST have an outside room with a pet. I have also just learned they have a few special rooms dedicated for smokers if you still enjoy that weed.

The Cracker Barrel is located just a 100 yards away as are several other fast food spots.... other restaurants are within a mile or so and the hotel, The CLARION is located just off I-24 in Central Murfreesboro. There is a large interior atrium area with a pool for our social activities and we have the deck and a social room for our pleasure as well. Perhaps we can entice a few of the musically inclined to entertain us once again with their renditions of some songs???? Or how about some full-contact Backgammon???

K5KDG, Steve, is taking the reservations for Mary BoBos which at your choice can include a free visit to the one and only Jack Daniels Distillery and if you golf... bring those sticks along..... maybe we can get Gene, N4ANV to lead us around the course once again???? and the shoppers best save some room for some world class shopping as well...Info available from KA3DRO, N8EMV.

This event is NOT sponsored by MARAC.

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from KA3DRO

note: reservations must mention "HAM RADIO 3M Reunion"..... that's the way the group is in their computer and appears the only way their reservations clerk can give the \$80 room rate and outside rooms in our block.... also note... Pet Fee waived for our group.... and to have anyone who prefers a second floor or inside room to mention this to the reservations clerk.... they get our rate, which includes the hot breakfast buffet.. I also just found out that there are a few special smokers rooms available... if there is anyone who still smokes??? This is open to ALL (OK... almost all !) COUNTY HUNTERS....

Thanks/ 73/Ron

NOTE: Use the term " HAM RADIO 3M REUNION" and this will get you right in to our reservation block. The computer they use is kinda specific ! phone: 615-896-2420

Note2: For those interested in attending the 3m mini this year and want to go to Mary Bobo's on Friday October 9, 2015 this is the telephone number. Area 931-759-7394. Tell the person that answers the phone you are with the Ham Radio 3M Reunion Group. We have reservations for 1 P.M. They suggest we arrive before 12:30 P.M. Everyone has always enjoyed Mary Bobo's in the past so should be fun time with lots of great food. Hope to see a lot of you there. STEVE AND WILLA K 5 K D G

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National Convention – Florida – in July - see the MARAC site for info.

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Norm, W3DYA, has announced he'll sponsor the annual CW county hunter contest for this year. From the forum:

“I will be managing the County Hunters CW Contest again - 07/25 and 07/26/2015. “

Details in coming issues of the CHNews. Or you can get it at:

<http://www.countyhunter.com>

Whew! It's been a 'super issue' this month – twice the normal length/bits but a lot was going on!

That's all folks!

73

de N4CD