County Hunter News

November 1, 2013
Volume 9, Issue 11

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 - October has been a great month for county hunting. We ended September with the Texas QSO party – and it looks like 253 of the 254 TX counties were on the air. One mobile took a wrong turn and missed Wilbarger! There were mobiles out on trips – giving out hundreds of contacts. We had the AZ, CA, IA and PA and IL and NY QSO Parties so there were hundreds of counties more to work in those ones, too!

Band conditions have been decent and solar activity is actually up a bit. 10M has DX on it many days but not much stateside propagation, but 15, 17 and 20M are working well. A few mobiles go to 30M and when they do, the band is fairly decent. There were thousands of contacts on 80/40m in the QSO parties, too.

So it's on to a LONG newsletter with lots of coverage of the QP's and other activities, lots of pictures and some misc stuff so grab a cup of your favorite beverage and enjoy.

2) County Sign Database Project - Oops - Last month we said OK was the only state finished in the County Sign Database beside DE. Well, I forgot that HI and AK are 'done' as well. Small ones as far as counties but still 'done'. Who is going to finish off their state next? I'm slowly working on TX but it's a big state. There's lots of opportunities for other County Hunters to contribute. Just snap a picture of the county sign – on your smart phone or with a digital camera and send in to K4EXT.

3) Mobile Reports

Jack, KC7YE reported from his Salmon Run trip

Got home Tuesday night, 9/24 Nasty WX on way home from NW OR.

After drive down to Pacific, ran a couple counties on way. Had to QRT in Wahkiakum WA due to thunder storms, just a few made it before QRT.

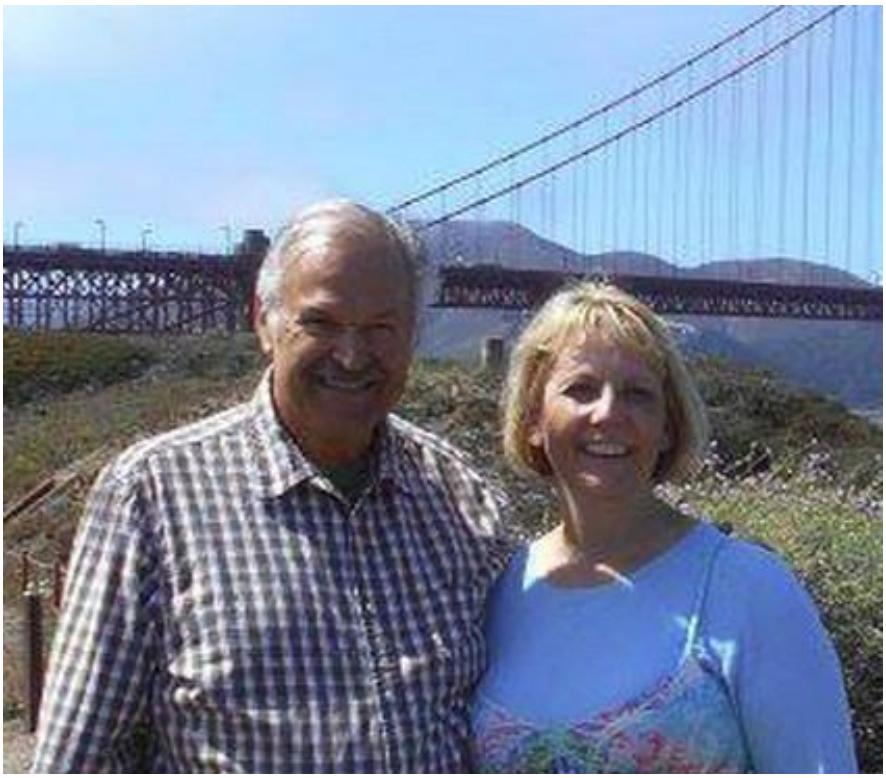
Set up in vacation cabin in Sea View, Pacific cty WA for Salmon Run. IC 718, home brew "S9" with a few radials on ground, AH4 tuner. 80 -10 meters. Lost a few minutes at start as antenna had come down during night. Got going after redeployment. Good results 9/ 21 busy entire contest period. Sunday 9/22 very slow only 46 Q's Sunday. 348 total, all CW for test. Some DX, N. Europe. Were more stations active from Pacific then in past. AF7BF did SSB a few miles from me, nice set up in van, warm & dry. Had heavy rain entire weekend.

On Monday, after test went to NW OR, met AD7BF & XYL (can't remember her call) for lunch in Astoria OR. Then down to lincoln for night. Tuesday ran on way to Portland, damaged 20 mtr coil in motel lot, it quit in Yamhill OR. HRO was just over hour away, stopped, coil out of stock. Did tourist things with XYL then ran for home. Heavy rain entire run home.

Jack KC7YE

Alan, KO7X, took a nice trip out west. He noted:

Howdy from my home in Carpenter (Laramie County), Wyoming. I just returned from a month long trip to California, Nevada, Utah and Western Wyoming. I finally got my old IC706 set up in my new Dodge Nitro and it seems to work with a standard plain vanilla (very old) hustler. It's amazing what can be done with low power and a small antenna when the ionosphere cooperates. Thanks for all the QSOs and there will be more to come in the future. 73 de KO7X



Alan, KO7X and wife Vicki – out in San Francisco

Lowell, KB0BA (with N0XYL) reported:

For those of you are wondering what happened to us last month when we were in Indiana, Ohio and West Virginia... we had some problems with the radio, or the mic, or an antenna. Who knows! We stopped in Hamilton, OH and bought a new mic and cord but that didn't seem to help.

Then on our way home from Indiana, our truck broke down in White Hall, IL. AAA took five

hours to find a wrecker big enough to tow the truck and 29' camper to Jacksonville, IL. The wrecker came from Hannibal, MO! Long story short -- the transmission died. Can't imagine why -- only 147,000 miles on a F250 Ford diesel pick up. We had to rent a car to get home and return five days later to get the truck. Repair bill? Just a few dollars under $4,000! Rental car? $218.

Oh and the GPS died, so we had to buy a new one. Expensive trip, but we enjoyed our three week trip! Diesel fuel was $3.89 a gallon in most places, but we did have to pay $4.25 once.

Jerry W0GXQ reported on his trip down to Texas and back:

Ran counties seven days between October 1st and 15th. Propagation was up and down, but there was lots of activity. Some days I operated on eight bands and some only six.
Total miles 3,095, but I didn't break the 4K mark in Q's like I thought . . . but a respectable 3,885. I transmitted from 109 counties in eight states. Picked up 43 new transmits for MD which leaves me with 37. There were sixteen LCs given and I sent K4EXT eleven new county sign pictures.

The breakdown of contacts per band were as follows:

20m = 1,281

30m = 705

40m = 670

17m = 596

15m = 517

12m = 56

80m = 40

10m = 20

I hope that you picked up lots of new Band/Counties and Stars.

Bill, K2HVN sent a few pictures of his trip to Alaska along.

He had an eyeball with K0MAF up in AK, met up with N4RS in NEBR and with KV7N (Kent, formerly KL1V) in ID, and Jack, N7IV in ND. Here are a few pics.

Jack, K0MAF

Jack lives in MO

Here's N4RS, where they went out Geo-caching together.

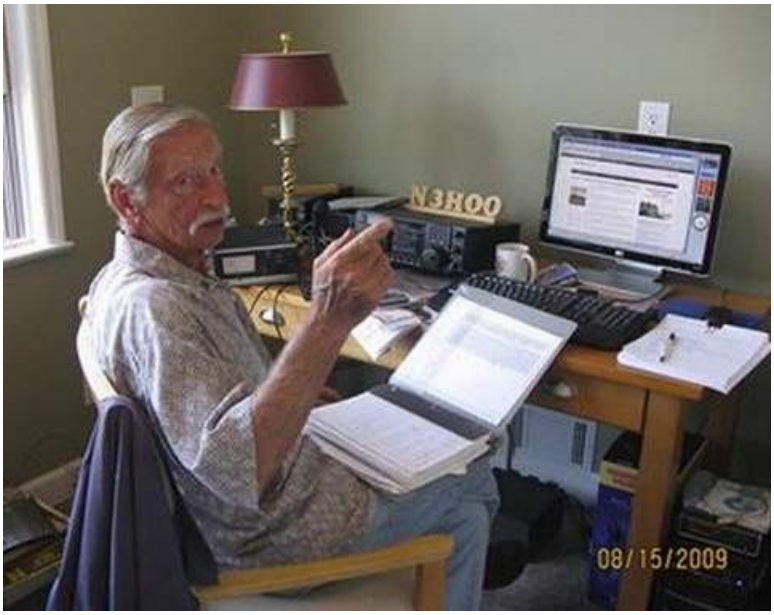
Tom, N4RS USACA 1031

Here's a picture that Bill took of Jack, N7IV up in North Dakota

Jack, N7IV

4) Another month of county hunter losses – N4UJK, W7KQZ, and N3HOO (SK)

This month the news was spread about the loss of three old time county hunters. Ed, N3HOO, USACA #1174, Ernie, W7KQZ USACA #1065, and Ed, N4UJK, USACA #878 became silent keys.



Ed, N3HOO – USA #1174 - SK
Picture courtesy KC3X

Ernie, W7KQZ, operated out of Green Lee County, AZ and would often be around when no one else was for a contact if you needed one while out mobile.


Ernie, W7KQZ #1065 SK

Many will remember Ed, N4UJK, as the one who provided the "Magellan" County Map Book (Coloring book) which he printed up. He also printed and sold the MRCs (mobile reply cards) that many newcomers used to confirm contacts. Ed had a booming signal out of St Johns County Florida. Five Niner!

N4UJK – Ed - -USACA #878 - SK
(Tnx WG6X for pic)

Note de N4CD – I like to put pics of current county hunters in the News Letter. Both N4UJK pic and W7KQZ pics appeared in earlier newsletters. Don't wait 'till the end' for your pic to show up in the County Hunter News! If your pic hasn't appeared yet, send me a nice pic of you by your mobile rig or in your hamshack or doing other radio stuff. I've enclosed an appendix at the end of this newsletter of who has been in the Newsletter and the issue that had the pic. It doesn't matter if the pic is 10 or 20 years old.

5) Reader Feedback

from **K0DEQ**

Thanks for another interesting issue of CH news, especially the reference to the info about K9EAB.

Although I was in college in the period 1958-65, and had limited time for ham radio, I was somewhat active in the early days of CHing, and certainly remember many QSOs with K9EAB and his father. My earliest QSL from K9EAB is for a QSO on July 12, 1961 on 40m CW. He thanks me for Pulaski County, MO (where I lived at the time) saying that it would "help on CQ's USA-CA." The name of Cliff's father was Cliff Corne, Sr., per QSL cards in my collection. I don't recall him being called Charles on the air although, as other of your correspondents have mentioned about themselves, my memory is not reliable. There was an

active CH net on 75m PH in the early days, which I think was referred to as the “IL County Hunters Net”. It met on Sunday afternoon as I recall and the regulars would try to get their friends who lived in various IL counties to check in to give the net members a new county. Cliff, Sr. would sometimes go out mobile during those sessions also. They tolerated this kid from MO and I had QSOs with many IL counties on that net. I think I can find my old log books which may provide some more history on this subject.

My recollection of the meaning of “CC” or “Cliff Corne” number such and such is different than others, apparently. My recollection is that when a person was awarded the 500 level certificate from CQ, he could then put “USA-CA” on his QSL card with list of his other accomplishments, and in fact I did that for a very long time until I realized a few years ago that now the meaning of “USA-CA” is understood to be achieving the all county level. As some other guys slowly began to follow Cliff’s lead and reach the all county level, I think those guys would say that they had CC #2 or 3 or “Cliff Corne #2” etc. which we understood to mean that this person now had the all county award. I may be able to find some QSL cards which list “CC” or “Cliff Corne” number ___ to signify that the owner of that card had achieved the all county level.

73

Bill, K0DEQ

Mobile Activity the past month

Ray, **AB4YZ,** headed up to New England to run the last counties to complete all 3077. Like his trip to AK, where he only ran on 2M FM working his wife, he traveled over to Dukes and Nantucket running them both only on 2M. Ran on SSB up and back through the rest of the counties. . Was seen in PA running some counties along with a 'ride along' club call in the QSO party. (which would not count by contest rules – one call per transmitter).

Jerry, **W0GXQ,** took a trip from MN down through KS, OK, into the north of TX, back up through AR and MO to home. Kept the cw bands humming from 40 to 10m with an

occasional trip to 80M. Over 4000 contacts.

Frank, **AA9JJ,** and Kay, **N9QPQ,** headed east from AZ to the east coast and back via MI and IL. Long long long trip with lots of counties.

Tony, **WA9DLB**, took a trip east down to the coast and back. .

AC0B, Cliff, was out and about in WI

KO7X, Alan, returned home to WY after a long trip out west.

N9QS, Silver, headed east over to PA then down to SC and to home.

Dave, **KW1DX,** was spotted out in New England Counties, then headed south to SC and back home.

Kyle, **WA4PGM**, returned home from his trip to TN.

Jeff, **W9MSE** , was running counties in MN and WI.

Pete, **NN9K,** headed west from IL into CO running on 30M. Not much heard once he reached CO.

N8KIE , Bob, headed on down to SC and back.

Bill, **WG9A** returned home from MI.

Scottie,**N4AAT,** put out a few in SC.

N9AC was on vacation in New England and was putting them out of the folks. If you don't recall, he received USACA #780 back in 1992. Good for Bingo everywhere. Put 'em out on the way home in WI.

Jim, **N9JF,** headed over to IA and NE on a work trip and back. Then was in the I and later down in MO.

W8FNW/W4FNW/W8GEJ headed to IN and KY and put them out on SSB and CW. Later just on SSB in KY running all over the state.

Dick, **W3ZUH,** was mobile in MD and VA.

Hollis, **KC3X,** put out some in NC.

Larry, **W7FEN**, took an extended trip back east putting them out. Another long trip with lots of counties put out.

Mike, **KA4RRU,** was out and about in VA on several days putting them out.

Jim, **N4JT** put out a few for the folks in NC.

KU4YM, Dave, took a trip to SC to run some counties. He noted:

"Trip was reasonable for about the first half or so. Then it went to heck with no contacts at all. Mea culpa. I should have known enough to get out of the car and check the connections. The antenna feed worked its way loose. 73 Dave "

Ron, **KB6UF,** ran some in LA for the folks.

N9CJH, Max, was on the road running counties on SSB.

W3DQT, Dick, was on in MD and DE.

Jimmy, **K4YFH**, was on a multi-day trip in southwest NC putting out the rarer ones.

WW7D and the Salmon Run

Better late than never. Here's an interesting story from WW7D's last Salmon Run trip. He goes 'all out' to put out some of the rarer ones.

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"This is my fourth year running /M in the Salmon Run, and it was my most ambitious effort to date. Compared to the 2012 Salmon Run the mobile platform was improved, the route was refined to be more efficient and cover more counties, and I went into this year's Salmon Run with a LOT more experience in mobile contesting.

Even with the somewhat reduced band conditions this year, the net result was more QSOs and multipliers.

For the previous three Salmon Runs, my rover platform was an econobox car with the antennas hanging off a rear bracket. At some county line stops, I augmented the vehicle with a street-legal aluminum extended frame/ground plane. But the antennas were fundamentally mounted

in a low, suboptimal position that lowered efficiency.

In February, I purchased a 1988 Toyota pick-up truck that was, in part, intended to serve as a new rover platform. My first chance to try it out was for the Idaho QP last March. The results were terrific!

WW7D's new Mobile

For the Salmon Run the platform was pretty much the same as I used for the IDQP. I had done some additional bonding of body panels to the chassis, I added better chokes on the screwdriver control lines and rebuilt the screwdriver antennas prior to the Salmon Run. Small improvements were made in the location of the heads for the TS-480SAT and FT-857D. A capacitance hat was added to one of the screwdriver antennas.

Another major change was the addition of gain antennas for 2m and 6m to the front of the truck. A week before the Salmon run was the ARRL September VHF contest. So I simply left the rotor and mast on the truck and reconfigured the antennas. A 2 element hex beam for 6m sat atop a 4 element yagi for 2m.

The two screwdrivers in the back of the bed were generally used with the TS-480SAT. Hustler resonators for 40m and 75m were mounted toward the front of the bed and connected to the FT-857D. These allowed periodic checks for daytime local QSOs on the top bands.

Dedicated rigs monitored 2m and 6m FM simplex frequencies (but saw little use). Bricks provided 170 watts for 2m and 6m SSB and CW. A Tascam DR-1 (upper right) recorded the entire run. I started out using a headset mic switchable between the TS480 and FT857, but RF was getting into the audio. I ended up switching to separate handheld microphones for the rigs over most of the contest.

Day 1

The first day included eleven counties, with six stops on pairs of county lines.

The morning began with a trip to Federal Way, WA across the street from the North Shore Golf Course. There is a safe pull-over that sits directly on the King–Pierce County line. In previous Salmon Runs, I had used locations just off of I-5 and Hwy 167. The problem with those locations is that they are in valleys (less than 140′ MSL), and the surrounding industrial areas created lots of RF noise. This Federal Way location was on a plateau at 300′ MSL and had much less RF junk around to cause interference.

At 1600Z I began calling CQ on 20 meters CW. The first response came from John, N6MU, who, it turns out, would have the most QSOs and the very last QSO of the contest. After a few contacts, I switched to 15 meters CW and worked W7WA, but I wasn't hearing a whole lot. Back on 20m, I got a small CW run going. After that dried up, I tried 20 phone and worked John, N6MU, again (first phone QSO).

I tried 40m a couple of times and made a few QSOs, but couldn't really get a run going (pretty much the daytime pattern for the weekend). I managed to work Gabor, VE7JH, on 40 CW. Gabor knew I had 6m and 2m antennas, and I knew he had them on his 6,000′ mountain top location. We quickly worked 6m phone and CW and then switched to 2m for phone and CW QSOs.

In the final 10 minutes, I got a small run going on 15m CW. At 1734Z (4 minutes past my schedule departure time), I left the line with 72 QSOs (36 x 2 counties).

It takes awhile to get into the groove of driving and working stations. I eased into it while en route through Pierce County, working eight stations, and eight more driving through Kitsap County. I reached the Kitsap–Mason line stop about 5 minutes behind schedule, and parked on the county line at the edge of a wrecking company parking lot. This stop was moderately productive on 20 meters and 15 meters. I "ran the modes" with VE7JH again on 6m and 2m.

Driving through 35 more minutes of Mason county, I hit "the groove" of working stations while in motion, achieving almost one QSO per minute, and periodically switching between phone and CW.

The Pacific–Grays Harbor County line was a new location for me this year. It was a pull-over along a dirt road. It was in pretty good shape. I worked a couple of runs on 20m and 15m, worked Gabor on 6m (but not 2m), and then finally got something going on 40m with a long run on phone.

The next stop, on the Thurston–Lewis line was only county line stop that I had used in a past Salmon Run. It is an isolated frontage road along side I-5 with a good pull-over spot marked by a county line sign along the interstate….

This spot was quite productive on 20m and 40m, with about 100 QSOs in 90 minutes. At some point I worked N7VZU who was booming in on 40m. He reported Columbia County, typically a rare one. I hesitated for a second and asked if that was Columbia County, Oregon, which was about 45 miles due south of me. Alas, it was Columbia, Washington, some 200+ miles and one mountain range to the east of me.

It was an hour trek to my next spot on the Wahkiakum–Cowlitz county line. When I got there, I wasn't happy with the location, which was at 500′ MSL, but surrounded by terrain on three sides. So I kept driving uphill until I found this spot at 1,000′ MSL.

Still, this spot was not overly productive, only generating some 30 QSOs in 90 minutes. I made some QSOs on 75m and 80m for the first time in the contest. I did briefly stop on the county line on my way out, and worked 4 more QSOs.

I was only 5 minutes behind schedule as I began the 95 minute journey to the last stop for the day, on the Clark–Skamania line. The trip added 30 more QSOs to the log, primarily on 80m CW.

Eighty minutes remained when I got to the new-to-me spot on the Clark–Skamania line.

I worked just over 40 QSOs on the Clark-Skamania line, primarily on 80m CW, with a few 40m and two 75m QSOs thrown in. In the last minute before midnight, I worked K2DSW in Iowa on 80m CW. As it turns out, K2DSW would be my first QSO the next morning 9:00am on 20m CW, some 100+ miles east on the Yakima–Klickitat county line.

A hotel room was awaiting me about 20 minutes away in Washougal, WA.

I was out of the room and on the road by 6:00 am on Sunday. The day began with a 150 mile, nearly 3 hour drive to the Yakima–Klickitat line, all before the contest re-started at 9:00am. The schedule for the day included eleven Central Washington counties, with few county line stops:

The morning started out well on the Yakima—Klickitat line with 106 QSOs over the hour stay. Twenty meters was hot; 15m, not so hot. This was my only stop for a long time—the next five counties were worked in motion.

Benton county only yielded 26 QSOs over 50 minutes of driving. One of the more interesting experiences was taking a 5 mile unimproved gravel road called S. Ward Gap Road on a descent through the hills over Prosser, WA.

Franklin produced 17 QSOs in 40 minutes of driving, Adams gave 34 QSOs in 50 minutes, and Lincoln gave 40 QSOs in 60 minutes.

The transition from Lincoln to Grant Counties was interesting. I had intended to come in into Grand Coulee via Grand Coulee Hill Road, rather than Hwy 174. The reason is that Hwy 174 dips into a valley that might not be conducive to making QSOs.

The problem was that, about a mile from the county line, at the intersection of Old Coulee Road, Bagdad Road, and Rosenberg Road, progress was hindered by the fact that Old Coulee Road was closed for construction. And there was no detour information whatsoever. I pulled over and whipped out my cell phone, ready to use Google Maps to find an alternative. Alas, there was no data connection. Instead I called up my friend Dave—the person who drove for our 7QP adventure—for some alternatives.

Dave suggested I head north on Rosenberg Road, turn to the West on Menke Road, and then head SW on Rosenberg Road. The plan was good, except that Rosenberg Road and Menke were unimproved gravel road. And the end of Menke and part of the second stretch of Rosenberg were bad dirt roads that descended a couple hundred feet, with sheer drop-offs on the side. I didn't make any QSOs for this stretch of road.

Fortunately, I was dumped back onto Old Coulee Road just past the end of the construction… and now in Grant County. The descent into Grand Coulee was awesome, and about half way down the winding road, I got a run going on 20m CW that forced me to stop for a few minutes. The 20 minutes in Grant County produced 16 QSOs. But I would be back in the county before the contest was over.

Between Grant County and Okanogan County is a 1/3 mile stretch of Douglas County. I drove through without activating the county. My aim was to reach the Okanogan—Ferry Line ASAP. I would return to Douglas County later. The 15 minute drive through Okanogan county was worth eleven more QSOs.

The Ferry–Okanogan line had a good pull-over spot on the rural highway. And it was quite productive. I spent 70 minutes on the line and made something over 124 QSOs (before eliminating some dups). Most were on 20m CW, but I briefly switched to 20m phone and got a couple of small runs going on 40m CW.

I left the county line with 50 minutes remaining in the contest. Google suggested it was about 25 minutes to this spot on the Douglas–Grant line. My pre-contest internet surveillance suggested that, once there, I could pull a little ways onto a dirt service road, almost underneath some high voltage transmission lines and be sitting right on the county line. I was hoping there wasn't a fence or sign to keep away. I was also hoping there wouldn't be too much RF noise from all the power distribution systems in the area.

I arrived in 23 minutes and got positioned on the county line–just as a light rain started.

I got down to business quickly to make the best of the 26 minutes remaining in the contest. I got a good run going on 40m CW for about 10 minutes before switching to Phone. With seven minutes remaining, I switched to 20m CW and worked five more stations (10 QSOs). In all, those final 26 minutes yielded 116 QSOs. It was a good run to end the contest on!

It took me over a week to get all the QSOs transferred from paper and a digital recording to the computer.

In the end, I had 972 QSOs—775 CW and 197 Phone

More details and pics on his trip here:

http://ww7d.wordpress.com/2013/10/08/ww7dr-does-the-2013-salmon-run/

The Radio Detectives by A Hyatt Verrill

This is a series of four books by Verrill. He wrote over 115 books during his career and these are the ones with some 'radio' in them. It seems that 3 of these were just put on line this April of 2013, which I why I never found them before! On a 'dead band' type day with few/no mobiles running, you can read one of these in a few hours and kill some time in the hamshack waiting for a mobile to show up. Hi hi.

We review all four this month. Here's the first one:

You can read it in the Amazon "Cloud" reader on your PC – don't even have to download a program to read it, but 'Kindle' reader programs are free to download so you can read regular Kindle files and other types as well. .

http://www.amazon.com/The-Radio-Detectives-ebook/dp/B00AQMGFCE/ref=tmm_kin_title_popover?ie=UTF8&qid=1376158679&sr=1-3

or here free G-book, too

http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/39576

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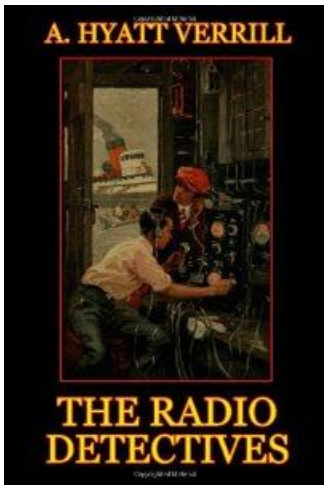
The Radio Detectives



Tom and Frank are youngsters in the 1922 time frame. Tom builds his first receiving set – a crystal set, then quickly graduates to a tube receiver set. He has a friend, Frank, and they are both very enthusiastic radio buffs. Broadcasting has started, but all the stations are on 360 meters – the ONE frequency allocated for 'entertainment'. Nearly all other communications is 'cw'. Then he progresses to a 'single knob' tuner – 3 tuned circuits ganged together in a TRF set.. (this is long before the era of the superhet which didn't come out till '25 or '26. The boys find 'mysterious messages' being sent among all the others.

Tom's father is a government employee - Secret Service – and has to travel to Cuba. The boys manage to receive messages from the ship and hear that it has arrived in Cuba. Apparently, there is a rum smuggling operation they are trying to find and stop – but without success. It's a large racket but they have been unable to crack it. It could be the mysterious communications have to do with that.

The two boys – Tom and Frank – overhear a suspicious message nearby that seems to refer to Tom's father arriving in Cuba. The boys build a 'loop' antenna and they can now determine the direction from which a signal is arriving. They talk another friend into setting up a 'loop station' so they can triangulate the source of the mystery signal.

The messages come, a few a week, and the boys note every message starts off with a 'flower'. The messages don't seem to make sense, and they have never heard the other side of the

messages, just the one side which seems to be originating somewhere in the lower Manhattan area (where most of the radio detectives live).

The story then gets into diving with self contained breathing apparatus into the East River – and submarines – and underwater radio – and all sorts of other intrigue. This 1922 era – all of this stuff is 'new' and some of it – well, imagined more than reality – but , heck, that is what is fun about reading the older stuff. They manage to find the HQ of the gang but miss getting the submarine they are using for smuggling. The Secret Service gets involved. They find the mystery wireless station, and learn from the captives of a really sinister plot against the US, one that would inflict major damage.

Shortly thereafter they find the submarine abandoned 100 miles off the coast – but it reveals nothing new.

Now they need to come up with a way to capture the kingpin of the operation and all the ill gotten loot - millions – that the gang has collected. They head off to the Caribbean – but you need to read the next book to find out what happens next. You'll just have to buy the next book to find out what happens!

It's a couple hour read. And the best of the 4 books to read. There is less and less radio as time goes by.

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It's hard to find an original copy of this – hardcover – but now you can buy a 'print on demand' paperback copy for $7! (plus it is free to read on line as well)

go to www.abebooks.com and type in Radio Detectives - and you can find the 'book on demand' ! Nifty. All of the titles. A hardbound book is really rare! They are asking $60 and $80 and up for the original. Technology now brings you reprinted softcover books cheaply! Who would have though that just 10-20 years ago?

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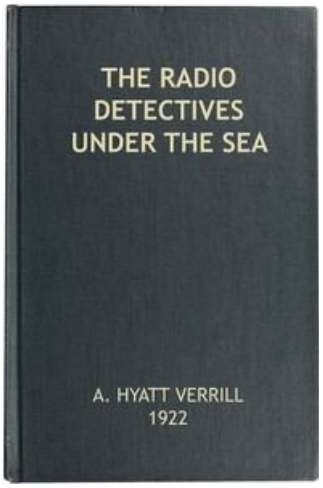
There appear to be several in the series including The Radio Detectives in the Jungle (#4) (Kindle edition) and the Radio Detectives Southward Bound (#3) and the Radio Detectives Under the Sea. (#2) Onto book two in the series.

Radio Detectives Under the Sea

http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/42569

Well, might as well review the second one, since I read through it next – it picks up where the last one leaves off. The Radio Detective Boys, with their government official(Secret Service father, head on a steamer to the Caribbean hunting for the HQ of the smugglers and where the kingpin of the sinister plot against the USA is hiding – somewhere. They have to find him.



So the Radio Detectives head after the gang – and discover they are using a larger submarine. With the help of the inventor of the dive suits, who also happens to be able to run a submarine along with some Navy folks, they use the captured German sub to go after the larger submarine. There's a bit of direction finding with 'resonant coil' antennas (???). The larger German sub fires a torpedo at the smaller one and thinks they've sunk the one with the Radio Detectives. Not so – they still follow surreptitiously.

The follow the mysterious larger sub and wind up on a small island off the Dominican Republic and the two boys run into natives who are doing a Voodoo midnight ceremony. Turns out OK.

They find the secret hideout of the gang on the island. It's just a bit late. The bad guys get away once again. And so ends the second book in the series. You'll just have to read book #3 to follow the bad guys and hope they get caught!

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Then it is on to book III

Radio Detectives Southward Bound!

http://archive.org/details/TheRadioDetectivesSouthwardBound

This one is a Word Document you can download. Works for me!

In this one, the adventure continues. Not much radio to speak of, but submarines, island caves in the Caribbean, run ins with the bad guys and a lot of adventure. A couple hour read. Unfortunately, the kingpin gets away.....narrow escape, but he's gone but most of the gang is now captured or dead.

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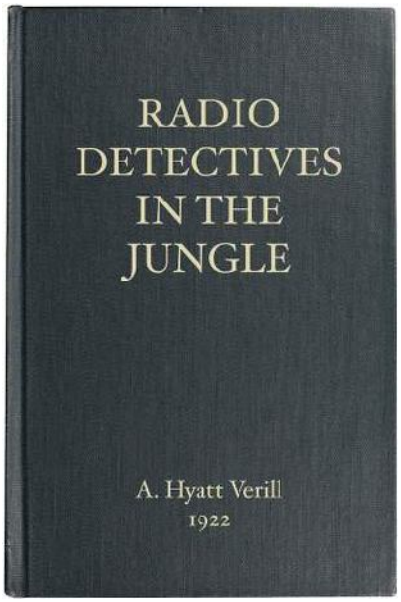
The fourth and last book can be found here –

Radio Detectives in The Jungle

http://www.gutenberg.org/files/42545/42545-h/42545-h.htm



It starts out:

“To those who have followed the Radio Detectives through their previous adventures the group upon the crippled destroyer’s decks will need no introduction. There was the trim, spick-and-span Commander Disbrow, the deep-sea diver, Rawlins, Mr. Pauling and his friend Mr. Henderson and the two boys, Tom Pauling and his chum Frank.

But for the benefit of those who now meet the Radio Detectives for the first time a few words of explanation will be needed.

Months before the story opens, Tom Pauling and Frank had discovered a most astounding plot by means of their radio telephones and thereby enabled Tom’s father and his associate, Mr. Henderson, who were federal officers in the Secret Service, to make prisoners of a number of members of an international gang of scoundrels whose activities included the distribution of Bolshevist literature, the destruction of property, smuggling contraband liquor into the United States and conducting a widespread series of holdups, robberies and other crimes. Through confessions and other evidence Mr. Pauling and Mr. Henderson had learned that the arch criminal or master mind of the plot was hiding in a secret lair in the West Indies which--after a series of thrilling adventures on the part of the two boys and their companions, including Rawlins and Sam, a Bahaman negro--had been located, only to find that the leader of the criminals had slipped through the net set for him.

Then, influenced by a “hunch” on Rawlins’ part, Mr. Pauling and his companions had followed a tramp steamer, of which they were suspicious, to St. Thomas. Although there was no evidence conclusive enough to warrant holding the tramp, suspicion pointed to the fact that the leader of the gang of criminals was somewhere in the vicinity. Owing to mysterious radio messages, the party chartered a schooner and went to the neighboring island of St. John.

Here they met a Dutch naturalist named Van Brunt who was dealing with the “reds.” Rawlins, spying on him, was held up and narrowly escaped death at the hands of a man whom he recognized as the master criminal they were seeking. Later, this man was found dead and proved to be a person disguised to impersonate the real leader, while Van Brunt visited the schooner and convinced Mr. Pauling and Mr. Henderson that he was innocent and knew nothing of the “red’s” activities.

Becoming friendly with the boys, the Dutch scientist took them on a trip into the bush and while they were in a huge cave, deserted them. Soon afterwards a severe hurricane swept the island, imprisoning the two boys within the cavern by a tree falling across the entrance. In the meantime the other members of the party were compelled to seek refuge from the hurricane in the village on shore and were amazed to see the tramp steamer entering the harbor to escape the storm. As soon as the gale was over a searching party started out to find the missing boys and discovered that Van Brunt’s house had been destroyed by lightning.

While they were hunting for the boys, Tom and Frank had been made prisoners by a red-bearded man whom they knew was one of the gang. They had been placed on a submarine

where Van Brunt confronted them, admitting he was a member of the “reds” and had purposely betrayed the boys. From the submarine they were taken to a locked cabin on a vessel and later were rescued in a most astounding manner by Sam, the Bahaman, who also killed Van Brunt. During their imprisonment the boys had overheard a plot to capture the other members of the party by means of a decoy letter and reaching their friends safely Tom and Frank related their tale in time to save the others from falling into the scoundrels’ trap. Soon afterwards a destroyer, which was in constant touch with the schooner by radio, arrived in response to Mr. Pauling’s summons. The tramp, in a last desperate attempt to escape, tried to run down the schooner but failed owing to Rawlins’ quick wit. Then, turning, the tramp endeavored to leave the harbor by a narrow entrance, but was sunk by a shot from the destroyer’s guns.

From the boys’ descriptions and Sam’s discoveries the Americans learned that the tramp was a “mother ship” for the submarine with a huge cradle or opening in the hull wherein the underseas boat could rest and be carried from place to place. But although a search was made of the wrecked tramp no trace of either the submarine or of bodies could be found. Mr. Pauling and the others felt convinced, however, that the leader of the gang was still at large and while discussing this matter their attention was drawn to a seaplane which they decided was a United States government machine sent from Porto Rico or St. Thomas to learn the cause of the explosion.

After the aircraft had disappeared the party returned to the destroyer and to their amazement were given a radio message from the aviator which Mr. Pauling recognized as coming from the arch criminal whom they were seeking.”

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It's adventure in the jungle as they go upstream and finally capture the lead bad guy. Not much radio but a good adventure story.

And that's the last of the Radio Detective Books.....which wraps up all the loose ends as the series ends.

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Four books read in two weeks – you can tell how the lack of activity is giving me lots of spare time to do things. Just turn up the radio real loud, go in the other room and get comfy in the chair, and read a couple chapters between any activity on 20M. If someone runs off frequency, though, I never know it. Snagged a few counties during the week during the month, but it is not like summer travel season for sure.

I've found some comments that a lot of these books other than the Radio Boys books, which seem to have been printed in prodigious amounts for the first few years of the 1920s, are 'hard to find' because most of the press run was done in softcover – paper covers – and they were thrown away or didn't survive the 70 years from then till now. Interesting. The Radio Boys

books (about 25 of them) were hardcover – the later ones are 'rarer' since apparently kids lost interest in them as radio became wildly popular as the 1920s progressed and broadcasting went 24/7 with good programming for the kids. The last were printed in 1930 – the start of the Great Depression. It's rare.

You could listen to your adventure stories on the radio – serialized in short episodes. The last Radio Boys book, Radio Boys to the Rescue, is selling for $300 on Ebay on rare occasions. It was published after the 1929 crash and the start of the Great Depression – when most kids didn't have any spending money and one in four Americans was out of work. (due to bad Progressive Policies – which also prolonged it. Normally, the depression would have been over in 18 months, but FDR and his massive spendaholic ccontrol freakisth programs doomed the country to a depression that lasted well into the 1940s).

However, with the advent of Project Gutenberg and others digitizing and putting them on line, soon all of them will be available for free to all because their copyrights have now expired or been handed over to the public domain. A fair number of others show up on Amazon.com from book sellers around the county. There aren't a whole lot of book collectors in the upcoming generation of kids and any senior 'old enough' to remember these is likely downsizing, not reading much, not interested in 'nostalgia' or having a 'collection', or already a SK.

There's one book out there I'm still hunting for – Google Books lists only 4 libraries in the country with The Ocean Boys on Wind Swept Seas- published fall 1917, the last of the six Ocean Wireless Boys books. That might have been at a bad time – WW1 ended about then, and no one was interested in war type stories any longer! That was 'over with' and everyone was war weary (WW1- 1914 to 1917). Probably not many were sold, and there are none for sale in book searches on line. The first ones in the series are widely available for a few bucks. All five of them are available, but nothing for book six.

Well, that's the fun of the search. Sooner or later, Google books or Project Gutenberg might reach to those libraries or private collections and it will appear – otherwise it will be a 1000 mile trek to get to the nearest library that has one of them to read!

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Audio Books – Free – On Line

Wow...just followed a lead to another web site:

www.librivox.org

There you can download 'audio books'. Some of the reviewed books are there – free- but be aware they are giant files of 100 mbits or so and zipped. The files are in MP3 format – chapter by chapter.

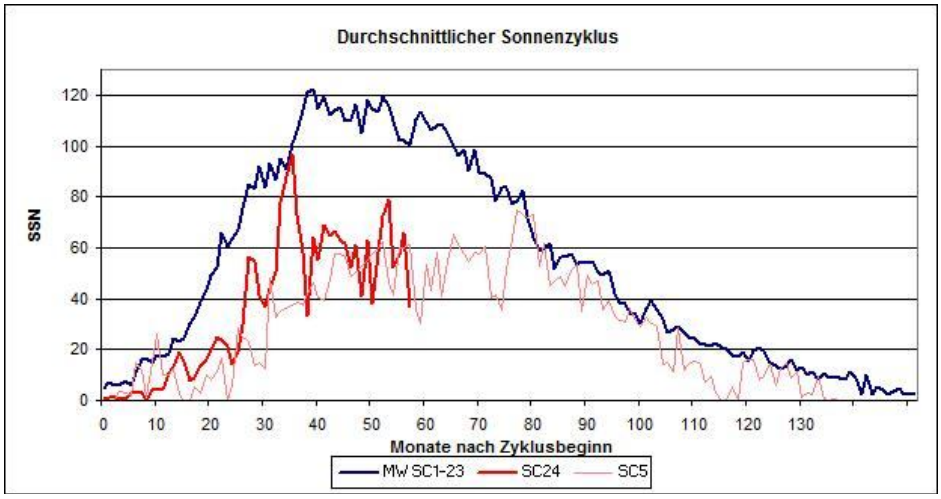
The Brighton Boys in the Radio Service – one I read – is available. Don't know what else is, but I'll leave it up to you to explore!

Solar News of the Month

The (tired) sun in September 2013 and spectral progress

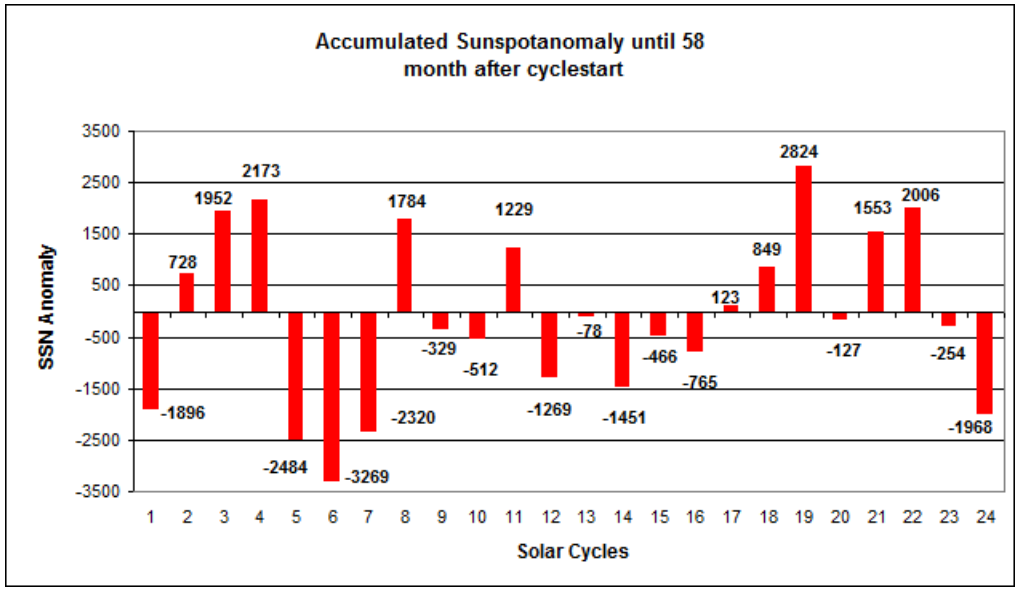
By Frank Bosse and Fritz Vahrenholt
(Translated/edited by P Gosselin) -

Currently solar activity is especially low. Solar sunspot number (SSN) in September was at 36.9, and thus was just 36% of the usual mean value 58 months into the cycle. The sun continues to remain in an unusually weak cycle 24, which was characterized by a 1-2 year delayed start in November 2008.



Cycle 23 in Blue – Cycle 24 (current one) in Red

Several publications suspect that the current cycle could have a double hump. Yet there are lots of indications that a second peak already occurred in April/May 2013. It's possible that the maximum of SC24 is already behind us and that solar activity is now trending downward. It also appears that the magnetic field of the sun has also reversed



Since SC 1 (1755-1766) until today the difference between the mean value and the observed monthly sunspot number is summed up. The diagram above shows up to SC24, and it shows that no cycle has been weaker since SC7 (1828).

Since the end of the Dalton-Minimum 190 years ago, never has the sun in its last 7 years been so inactive

Many people have been doing a lot of thinking about what the implications for the Earth may be. After all, the sun is practically the sole source of energy for our planet. At the top of our atmosphere it provides a gigantic 1365W/sqm. Here the solar radiation is distributed over a wide spectrum from infrared to gamma rays and we receive most of it within the visible light spectrum. And it is precisely this part that is hardly impacted by the solar activity fluctuations. The variation between a quiet sun and one of maximum activity is a mere 0.1%. That's one reason we are still around. With more variation life on the planet very likely would not have been able develop over the 3 billion years our planet has existed.

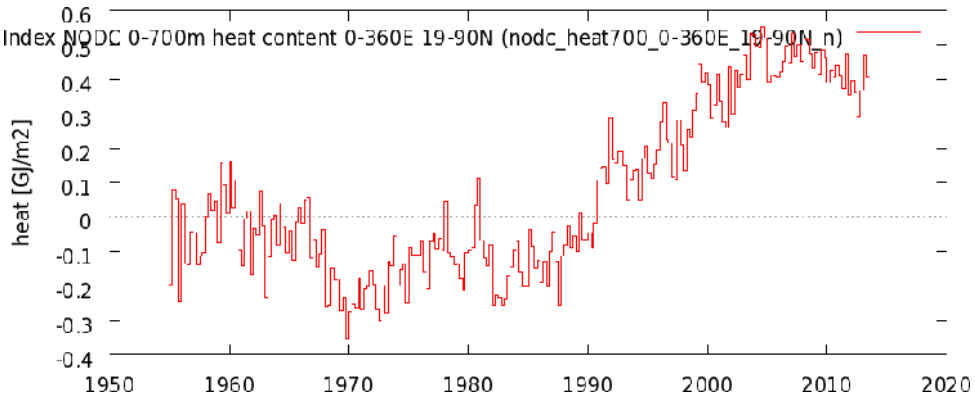
All the frequencies within the solar radiation spectrum is what we call Total Solar Irradiance (TSI). In the past in climatology often only this magnitude was taken into consideration and the following conclusion was drawn: The sun cannot account for more than 0.1°K of temperature

variation, whether it is active or inactive. This is the argument presented yet again by the latest 2013 IPCC Report. The radiative forcing is given as 0.05 watts per sqm. That is less than 2% of the anthropogenic radiative forcing (2.24 W/ m²).

But there is one massive argument against the IPCC's view. During preindustrial times, the climate fluctuations in relationship between solar activity were observed to be much larger. Countless studies show this. Yet the IPCC obstinately sticks to its verdict that the impact of greenhouse gases has been the dominant force on climate since mankind has been adding greenhouse gases such as water vapor and CO2 into the atmosphere. In 2007 in the previous IPCC report a warming rate of 0.2°C per decade was assumed should CO2 rise at a modest rate which indeed has been the case. Using the climatically relevant period of 30 years, global temperature thus should rise 0.6°C by 2030 compared to 2000. In the latest AR5 2013 report, an increase of 0.3 to 0.7°C is forecast for the period 2016 to 2035.

So where do we stand today 13 years after the start? The observed reality has deviated markedly from the prophecies since 2006.

The winter temperatures in the northern hemisphere really don't give much back to the oceans, rather it's the land mass between 30 and 60° latitude north! Also the thermal energy amount in the sea down to 700m in the region of the extra-tropical northern hemisphere everywhere refuses to cooperate with the climate models, and shows having reached a peak value in 2007 and since then it has gone downwards:



The extra-tropical southern hemisphere shows very little change. There the thermal energy in the oceans increased slightly. How does this fit with the theory of greenhouse gas forcing or the

escape of heat to the depths of the ocean below 700 meters? Could the sun be playing a major role?

A new study very well worth reading by Ermolli et al. (2013) looks at the influence of the spectral variation of solar radiation (SSI), especially the ultraviolet spectrum: It is fluctuating much more strongly, by up to 10% between a quiet and an active sun. And at low solar activity, it generates precisely the pattern in the wintertime that we've been seeing since 2006: The North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO), which impacts the temperature in the Eurasian region especially in the wintertime, is controlled and effected by the UV radiation of the sun. When there is less solar activity, it gets colder in the region. This is precisely what we are observing, and the large part of the deviation observed in the pure GHG models stems precisely from that. Shouldn't this be a wake-up call for the climate scientists to look more closely at SSI? This should have been done long ago. However, that would have meant conceding that CO2 is not everything.

The new IPCC report squandered the opportunity to produce scenarios that include the large impact of the sun, which we know always played a major role in the past. The IPCC limits the sun's impact to the TSI only and they estimate it to be close to zero: -0.1 to +0.1°C.

However, the longer the chasm grows between climate models and reality, and the longer the projected warming fails to materialize, the more the world of science will have to acknowledge the questions of natural variability, especially UV radiation.

- See more at: http://notrickszone.com/2013/10/07/current-sunspot-cycle-weakest-in-190-years-recent-model-temperature-deviation-due-to-solar-activity-experts-say/#sthash.DGRrckGG.dpuf

H.A.C. Regen Receivers
On the Regen Trail – UK Style

Hey, did you watch the American Pickers this month? They wound up in Italy picking through the 'treasures' and 'junque' in Italy. Well, we'll do a bit of the Regen Trail – UK style, with the main supplier of kit radios, ala Knight Kit, for the young lads over there. We've shown one before, but now it is time to dig a bit deeper.

Over across the pond, in the UK, there were a series of kit radios offered under the label “H.A.C” or 'Hear All Continents. Here's a bit of the history of the various kits that were offered. (In the UK, a vacuum tube is called a 'valve'). Photos and info courtesy of the web site referenced below- many thanks.

The earliest model of the kit was the single tube HAC DX as shown below.

H.A.C. Model DX

There were many variations of the Model “DX”. The most significant change was the introduction of the Denco coils in the early 1950s. Note the extra spare for a second tube – an audio amplifier. The example above uses the AC-22 valve. HAC usually was supplied with war surplus (WW1 and WW2) tubes. Later versions used an LD 210 instead of the HL2

Here's a unit with the second tube installed”

Options of the kit supplied a vernier tuning dial, critical for decent short wave reception along with a front panel. It was a basic basic kit. You just had a paper label you glued on the front panel for the knob 'calibration'.

A bit later, they introduced the Mk 2 version which used an HL23DD dual triode tube. Note the grid cap on the tube. It's equivalent was the AR-8, CV-1306 and ZA 7022, tubes not likely in your US tube junk box. It, too, used the octal based Denco green plug in coils.

Picture is below.

H.A.C. DX Mark 2

The Model K used a 1T4 miniature tube with much lower filament current requirements. The above versions needed 3v supplies for the 2v tubes at higher current levels. The 1T4 needed only a 1.5v supply. Note the 'green' Denco plug in coils. “Green” indicated they were intended for regen detectors – having the appropriate feedback winding.

Denco Plug in Coils – Octal Base

The originator of the HAC kits passed away in 1974. The tube version kits were sold up into the 1980s, but it was a struggle by the widow to keep the business going.

Eventually, the bonanza of war surplus tubes ran out, the cost of B+ batteries got to be outrageous as almost nothing else needed them any longer, and HAC went on to supply the solid state version – Model Twin T (two transistors). The circuit used an MPF 102 FET for the regen circuit with a bi-polar audio amp stage. The receiver now used 'miniature' Denco coils with a 9 pin base.

Here's the Twin-T

H.A.C Twin T

The top of the chassis has nothing but the plug in coil and the solid state parts are all placed on a point to point wired board with terminal strips under the chassis.

The original DX used the war surplus (Like WW1) HL2 tubes – probably not too much different than the 01A of the USA. Later they would substitute army surplus AR-8 tubes (HL23DD) but that took a revised chassis. Keep in mind that the market for radio kits in the UK is significantly smaller than the US – it's only got 1/5th the population!

These are also UK tube sockets – weird – well, weird for us! Old US based tubes won't fit them. They're the 'Mazda' sockets of old.

Not many of the H.A.C. Kits made it to the USA. You'll see one or two of them every year or two show up on Ebay by a UK seller. Just a set of coils can sell for $200.

HAC reference pages

http://www.wftw.nl/hac.html
http://www.wftw.nl/hac3.html

Here's a list of what was offered when

Super One Valve Model 1938/39
Model C (one valve) 1946/49
Model E (two valves) 1946/49
Model DX 1958 one valve
Model DX 1958 two valve
Model K 1959
Model K 1964
Model CX 1959
Model DX 1966
Model DX 1968
Model DX 1976
Model DX 1977
Model DX Mk.2 1980
T-Twin Transistor 1980
Triple-T Transistor 1980 (extra audio amp stage)

HAC also offered an 'antenna tuner' – ie, matcher, kit. They were a full service provider with repair station for their units. Some were shipped factory assembled.

As always, if you run across one of these at a bargain price,....buy it and send it to CHNews HQ! Or be sure my phone number is in your cellphone so you call urgently call!.....I'd love to find some of the old and rarer regen radios.

Greenie News Quote of the Month

This week marks eight years without a major (category 3-5) hurricane landfall in the US. That has happened only once before, during the 1860′s.

Global Warming experts say that global warming makes hurricanes more intense, despite the fact that there is zero evidence to back up such a claim.

Where are Al Gore's Category six killer hurricanes? Oops, guess he was wrong once again!

This year the US recorded the fewest 100º F readings of any year in the past century, and about one sixth as many as 1936.

http://stevengoddard.wordpress.com/2013/10/18/fewest-100-degree-readings-in-a-century-in-the-us/

Remember Al Gore telling us how the planet is burning up?

Where are Al Gore's record setting temperatures and a sizzling planet? Guess he was wrong yet again.

Greenies – consistently wrong and always screaming for massive carbon taxes and massive regulation to strangle the economy and redistribute wealth to the Swiss bank accounts of 3rd world tyrants and tycoons.

Texas QSO Party

Wow! What can you say? The biggest state and the largest number of counties on the air in a weekend period! According to Chuck, NO5W, 253 of 254 counties made it on the air – either SSB or CW and 240 or more were scheduled to be on CW with nearly 190 on SSB. One mobile missed a turn and didn't get to Wilbarger, the only one that seems not to have been on the air! Chuck will made sure he has an up to date Texas state map next year! Hi hi

At the N4CD QTH, I needed LOTS of TX counties. Last year I missed part of it so this year I planned on spending nearly the whole contest time in front of the radio hunting for as many of my needs as possible and putting out my home county a few times in between lulls in activity. There weren't too many times with no activity as there were a dozen mobiles out on cw including K5YAA, K5CM, W3DYA, N5TM, NM5G, N5NA, W0BH, WC5D, NS5J, K5JX, W5CT, N5DO. ON SSB, I saw N5MLP spotting the 40M SSB mobiles. ON SSB there were: KK5LO-, N5AUS, N5UAO and WB0TEV and 3 or 4 others

N5NA was great and ran every county on 40m, which is more than you can say of some others who seldom went there as 20M and 15M were so busy they could run through 20 miles of a county and not get to the bottom of the pile up! N5NA mentioned he ran some only on 15 and 40m as it was just so good on 15 but he went to 40m to help out all the TX stations (and nearby states) get the counties. We in state folks appreciate that. I'm sure the 'out of state' folks appreciate the 20 and 15m too! The mobiles were really BUSY!

If my count was right, I snagged 169 counties on cw. I heard all the QSO Party regulars and many many county hunters working stations – but saw VERY VERY VERY few spots for the SSB mobiles! What's up? Do SSB stations have spot-o-phobia? Or can work stations by the dozens but can't seem to spot any of them?

Comments from K3IMC forum:

W0GXQ: "went in needing 125 and snagged 94 while competing with the KW stations! "

K2MF:"It was really quite awesome. My needs in TX dropped from 192 to 119 this weekend.

From th3 3830 reflector:

N5DO mobile – 1216 QSO

Thanks again to K5FD for driving. We be used my Honda Pilot this year instead of K5FD's truck. I've offered to let him operate, but he has no desire to do so. (Some people are just strange!)

I used a different screwdriver antenna -- a High Sierra instead of the Alpine one I've used the past several years. I think it worked just as well, or better. We were going to use the Honda last year, but had terrible noise on all frequencies. The noise came as soon as the key was in the ignition. I spent a lot of time trying to find the source of the noise, to no avail. K5FD brought a Field Strength meter over a few months ago and we found it right away -- the XM Radio receiver which transmits an FM signal so you can listen to XM Radio on the car FM receiver. James said "certainly we turned that off last year, didn't we?" But no, we just turned off the FM radio in the car not the add on XM radio. So dumb, and such a waste of time, when the answer was so simple!

We followed the same route again this year as last year. Usually my head is buried in the computer and radio so I don't see much of the scenery, but this year I couldn't help but notice the major difference between last year and this year was the huge increase in the number of oil company vehicles on the roads throughout the oil patch counties. Loving County is the smallest county in Texas, and has the lowest population, but has the highest per capita income of any county in the state. Last year when we drove through it we saw very little traffic. This year it felt like we in the middle of the rear echelon of an army division in a war -- there were trucks everywhere! And this was a Saturday -- I guess it would be the same on Sunday.

Hudspeth TX by N5DO
added to the County Sign Database

The next county, Winkler (home of Wink, where Roy Orbison was from), was not much different. At the intersection of two small roads (SH 302 and FM 1292) there was a traffic jam of oil service trucks!

On the ham bands, I made more QSOs this year (1296 vs. 1073), but the mults were down (116 vs. 138). This was because I made a lot more 40M SSB QSOs last year with a lot more QSOs with Texas stations and more Texas counties. So the overall score was only about 24,000 more than last year.

Despite the fatigue when I finally got home, it was another fun Texas QSO Party!

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de N4CD - N5DO contributed a few more pictures to the County Sign Database while on this trip

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N5NA – mobile 1865 CW

Other mobile ops always seem to have a humorous story or two but everything was clicking with the equipment and route, other than a few missed turns. The most excitement was spending too much time stopped in Glasscock and Coke on Sunday morning. I hate to leave a county with lots of stations calling. But my schedule was tight and the extra time stopped put us late arriving in my last county, Nolan. To top it off we missed a turn in Eastland so we just headed straight north to hit I20 and hopefully make up some time on the interstate. My wife put the pedal to the metal once we got on the interstate. I was watching the time to next county display in CQ/X and was estimating we'd make it with 5 or 6 minutes to spare. Finally got to Nolan with about 7 minutes to spare with the first QSO in the log at 19:53:46. Whew! Didn't want to be the guy that kept the TQP from activating all 254 counties! Managed to get 21 Nolan county QSO's in the log.

As others have noted, 15m was hot. In some counties I was only on 15m and 40m, skipping 20m. I like to try to get on 40m from each county so the close in stations have an opportunity to work some of the WTX counties. Plus I usually pick up a some county multipliers.

Thanks to the following stations for contributing more than half the QSOs:
N6MU(38), VE3KZ(37), N4CD(33), K5LH(32), NR5M(28), DK2OY(28), AE5GT(28), OM2VL(27), K5OT(27), WA6KHK(24), K4AMC(23), N8II(23), KI0I(23), N4PN(22), N4JF(21), AD1C(19), KQ3F(19), ND3R(19), WB5KSD(19), W5CW(19), KC3X(18), DL5ME(17), VE7CV(17), DL6KVA(17), W5LXS(17), DL8MLD(17), WB5BKL(17), N1LN(16),
W0GXQ(16), SM6VR(16), VE3OM(15), K4BAI(15), W4UT(15), N9AUG(14), OK2EC(14), K1TN(14), WB0PYF(14), N4UF(14), N3RJ(13), SP5SA(13), W1DWA(13), K5IID(13), W4RKV(12), N3RM(12), WD5IYT(12), K8JQ(12), N5OE(12), KN5L(12), K3TW(12), K5XR(11), N4VA(11).

Equipment: Elecraft K3, Scorpion SA-680 antenna, Dell Latitude D630 running CQ/X, 2000 Silverado C2500 antenna support.

Thanks to everyone for all the QSO's! A special thanks to my wife, K5AKS, for driving me all over WTX on our 29th anniversary!

Alan, N5NA

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Alan found two of the signs missing from the database for Texas along his route. He used Google Street View to find them and forwarded those pics to Gary, K4EXT to add to the files! He didn't have to stop to snap a pic. Nifty.

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K5JX mobile - 826 cw QSO

This was my third and most ambitious TQP effort in as many years, and the most fun of all thus far. Murphy was relatively merciful this year. Many thanks to my wife Velda KC5VIA, a great (and very patient) driver, and to Jaxin, our 7-year-old second harmonic, who came along for the ride and wss a great sport the whole time. And, of course, many thanks to all you great ops who were able to hear my peanut whistle on wheels.

W5MJ – mobile (W5MJ K5PI ops) – 1214 cw 112 ssb

W5MJ and I went a-roving in the Texas QSO Party again this year. We'd planned this event as a twosome but at the last minute our old friend Mr. Murphy showed up and expanded the team.

Last year, the Turbo Tuner went on strike the night before TQP. Since we couldn't automatically tune the Tarheel, we decided to just it for 40 only. We put a magnet mount and a 20M hamstick on the hood and roared off. Those antennas worked well on the air, but Madison's Jeep protested mightily. Various lights on the dash went on and off all weekend. Saturday evening the Check Engine light on and stayed on. We managed to complete our route but a chip under the hood had to be replaced, making our adventure significantly

more expensive than planned.

Fast forward to this year. A little cleanup and tighten had gotten the Tarheel going again or so we thought! Just before this year's event, the Turbo Tuner again went on vacation. What to do?! We decided to again keep the Tarheel on 40M and to use other antennas on the high bands.

Several CTDXCC friends stepped up to assist. "King Burrito" K5NA lent us a trailer hitch mount, to which we attached KV5V's Hustler mast and resonators for 20 and 15. Madison had a flash of inspiration and had an extension welded on for an additional mount off the trailer hitch. That would hold a hamstick for 10. Madison set up some great grounding, and I tweaked all the antennas into resonance.

After conferring with TQP Grand Poobah, NO5W, we planning a route that would take us in generally the same direction as last year north from Austin to the counties bordering Oklahoma. We'd spend the night north of DFW, then loop around the metroplex, through Athens and Corsicana, to Waco and back home. We planned a little over 10 hours of driving on Saturday and about 5 on Sunday, having learned from last year that "stuff happens".

I loaded the route into NO5W's CQ/X great GPS-integrated logging program, and we were ready to go!

We blasted off on time but almost from our first QSO, we had some challenges. The biggest one was RFI. Our connection between the laptop and the rig was completely overwhelmed. The GPS interface was suffering, too, but it was serviceable. Some of the nicer features of the software (e.g., time to next county) were only intermittent. The Winkey held up but speed changes once transmitting were hit-or-miss. Toroids, you say? Nope, but guess what's at the top of list to bring next year! And the Jeep was protesting again, with several dash lights indicating On The Air status.

We wrestled a bit with the software, too. NO5W has been very patient with us as we ask him to make all features of his program work exactly as we want by simply by hitting the Enter key.

Then we made a couple wrong turns and lost almost an hour. We hit some weather that slowed us down, too. But the QSOs were going into the log, and that makes everything all right!

By the time we got up to near Abilene, we realized we were going to have to adjust our route or we'd be very late getting to Denton. The only good

option seemed to be to head straight for Wichita Falls. Unfortunately, that took Wilbarger, Foard, and Hardeman counties off our route. Near Denton, we did add a minor detour to add Cooke and Grayson.

We saw a lot of pretty country, but we believe we discovered the roughest paved road in Texas - 1810 west of Decatur. Madison apologizes if he was slow to respond or sent your call wrong -- it was like trying to type will riding a horse! He's acquainted with the Wise County judge and is preparing a lawsuit for whiplash and general pain and suffering. It was so bumpy, the sleeve on or Hustler mast worked its way down and briefly changed our 20/15 antenna into an inverted L!

Band conditions seemed quite good on Saturday. Twenty was a little slow to open, but then was very solid. After sunset, 40 was very good and gave us some of the best rate of the entire day.

We spent the night in Denton and dreamed of high rate and no RFI.

Sunday was MUCH smoother. We'd developed workarounds for almost all our glitches. The vehicle warning lights were annoying but didn't seem to be of any lasting consequence. We got a rhythm going with the software and managed to stay on course. We made one unplanned county line stop to work through a nice pileup, but got back on schedule and ended just where we planned.

Band conditions on Sunday seemed quite different. Signals on 20M were down considerably, although 40 was good into much of the country into the early afternoon.

We tried 15 a few times but couldn't get much traction. Our European repeat customers would find us there, but we couldn't get much going stateside.

We operated about 90% CW. Neither of us has much patience for phone, but there are lots of contacts to be made there. It seems if you want to do SSB, you have to go regularly to establish a presence.

We made almost exactly the same number of QSOs as last year but managed a dozen more mults.

We're brainstorming about how to take care of this year's issues. See you next year!

de K5PI

K5ZZR mobile – SSB

The good thing about operating mobile in the panhandle is that there's lots of places to park away from trees, power lines and buildings. Hi The bonus points for 5 or more contacts per county made the contest a great time for me and I really enjoyed myself, although I didn't hear many other mobile stations. The voice got a little hoarse toward the end but held up ok. Looking forward to next year. Russ K5ZZR

K5YAA mobile team (K5YAA and N5WR) 2229 CW QSO

1,550 round trip miles from Claremore, OK to and around Central Texas.

How to start? First a special thanks to my operating partner N5WR Erik. We have a lot to report about a great party. How about those band conditions? We were pleasantly surprised and welcomed the early openings on 20 and 15 both mornings. Those two bands kept us busy the whole QSO party. 20 meters had pileups we never really worked down so apologies if you were calling and didn't work us in a county you needed. Both Erik and I "basked in the sun" so to speak with our HP mobile. It produced the deep pileups you go for in these State QSO parties. Heavy downpours were with us in LIMEstone, FREEstone and McLennan counties. I put the generator cover on Saturday AM in anticipation of the predicted thunderstorms. Our thanks for the persistence all callers demonstrated. We were stroking the keyboard as fast as we could. You all made our weekend for sure.

A listing of some contact totals and band usage in a minute but first a funny....At least Erik and I found it to be funny. The proprietors probably didn't. We drove through a number of small towns in Central Texas. Many of them didn't even have a gas station! BUT - there were two little towns that did. We luckily found them (lucky for us not them as you will hear in a second) and got a fillup before we ran out. Erik was sweating a bit as one time the empty light was on for quite a while as we drove along looking for gas. Having Erik with me meant one of us could keep the rig stroking while the other one filled up and went inside for a pit stop. At the first little town Erik was operating and I did the fillup. I went inside to do my thing and when I came out one of the store attendants was out at the pump next to our van. Erik said they were concerned about a diesel pump breaker that was clikity clacking - sounded something like Morse! Turns out we were pumping our 800

watts too close to the diesel pump... At least that's what we decided as we made get away number 1.

At stop number 2 - a little later that morning we continued our escapades by hammering the keyboard while the other guy filled up and then went inside. This second time I was the op. The K3 went into full-breakin mode for some reason and the 811 amps TX/RX relay was doing a full breakin thing. We both attributed that to the overhead canopy on the station. We figured it would straighten out after we started moving again. Turns out it didn't and we had to menu ourselves back to semi-breakin for the poor 811 amp. Erik got out at this second station and filled up then went inside.

K5YAA/m sets off the alarm here

While he was looking the drink box and snack counter over for some refreshment and an energy bar, he overheard the attendant on the phone saying something like:

"We don't know why the alarm is acting like it is - it just keeps going off".

Erik - rather quickly - paid for his drink and snack then quickly shuffled out

the front door. He told me we had better get going - the Sheriff might be showing up. Turns out I was not only hammering the pileup, I was also causing havoc with their "older" style alarm system. I say older because later in the day at a newer built station we didn't cause an alarm breakdown or diesel pump circuit breaker trouble.

At least we don't think we did because there was no "panic" like at the other two gas stations! I will not say the name of those two little towns because photos of our getaway car, maybe even photos of us, could be on their post office walls by now. That's our funny report for the party - at least we found it funny and laughed now and then as we merrily drove down the roads of Texas.

This year I have been around a good deal of the country in these parties. I never ran over an animal in any of the states I was in. In the Texas Party there was finally a casualty caused by the Oklahoma Land Rush Mobile. Seems a quirky little squirrel (they all seem quirky) in or near LIMEstone County found his fate. He did, as most squirrels seem to do, dilly dallied around not making his mind which way he was going to go. Erik was driving and said the squirrel made a wrong decision. The squirrel took a left instead of a right. The left turn put him under the front tire of the van that was going about 70 MPH. I was operating the K3 and never knew - until Erik told me later - that we had destroyed a poor squirrel in LIMEstone county. Road kill for the buzzards in Texas. Squirrels are famous for indecision. I saw one running down the center white line on a farm to market road one time for almost a city block before he decided to get to the roadside where it was safer. Took him a few herky jerky moves before he decided which side to go to....

Murphy visited us only once. Friday evening after supper we were double checking everything for our start on Saturday morning. All of a sudden the K3 started keying up. A bit of inspection showed a frayed wire on the comm port keying device attached to the laptop that would touch the other wire at times. I had to search for my soldering iron, carry almost everything including the kitchen sink in the van somewhere, so knew I would eventually locate it. Did and found the solder roll too so we were in business to do a bit of surgery. Erik is an emergency doctor - this was indeed an emergency so he was the one that did the final surgery. My initial effort at soldering the wire didn't hang in there. Erik did a magnificent job at repair - I took a picture of the doc operating. We tested the repair and tied the laptop cables together with a tie-wrap for a secure support of our work. All worked as we tested so off to bed we went at 9:30 with only a 30 minute or so delay. Next morning all was well and it stayed that way for the whole run. Murphy was at bay - he didn't show his face again!

Now on with the rest of our report on the Texas Party. We had a great time working the pileups. Maybe I already said that. Will probably say it one more time or two before the report is done. With Erik's unique navigating we managed to add two counties to our original list. MADIson on Saturday and COMAche on Sunday morning. Those two brought our total county count to 32. Looking through the log there were a handful of counties where we never got to leave 20 meters. We drove through HAMIlton three separate times. We were there three times due to a wrong turn by myself in Meridian City on Hwy 22. I should have gone East instead of West. I hate it when that happens. Cost us 30 minutes or so to get turned back the right direction because I was merrily going on down Hwy 22 for a while before we ran back into HAMIlton. Ooops - how did we get back in HAMIlton? We should have been in BOSQue. We used the lady to get us turned back around. That was the first of two navigating problems we experienced. The second was on Sunday morning when we ended up at the edge of COMAnche county instead of in the middle of it. The second error wasn't near as costly as we sat in COMAnche and worked 20 for a while then went back on our scheduled route to EASTland. Probably a dupe or two in HAMIlton so sorry if we caused any confusion with that one.

There are many stations to thank for their staying in the chair and following us around. DX was a big part of our log. A special thanks to the following ops.

Call - Q Count

OM2VL - 48 <- great signal as always.
DK2OY - 42 <- he was everywhere we went.
DL6KVA - 30 <- so was Axel it seems.
DL5ME - 22 <- ME wasn't far behind. He dropped in "ME" trying to break the pile.
LA8OM - 20 <- A great signal from up north. One of our benchmarks for band condx.
DL8MLD - 19 <- good signals and operating.
OK2EC - 18 <- the strongest OK for us.
UA3AGW - 15 <- warbly at times stout at others but another benchmark.
OE5KE - 15 <- a unique sounding CW signal easy to pick out of the pile.
SP5SA - 15 <- a long haul from Texas.

Total DX multipliers for us were - 20 and included LA, OM, DL, G, SP, SM, UR, RA, I, OH, OE, YU, OK, LY, HA, ON, GM, 9A, HK, and KP2. Most are avid county hunters. Working all 3077 counties from a DX location takes a great deal of patience and perseverance so thanks for all the work done way into the European night. 0200Z is in the log for several European stations. That's what

I call radioing...

Texas was best for us on 40 so we went down there as often as possible looking for mults. K5OT was a cinch on every band we worked. Larry, K5OT was sitting back in air conditioned comfort with some cool refreshment picking off stations with K5TR's fine antenna farm.

Worked Tom, K5IID at his HILL county location. The wires work pretty well Tom and nice to know you are alive and still kicking. Several stations could be counted on when we made our rare 40 meter moves. Those Texas counties have come in handy as mults. Worked a few mobiles here and there - but found it more productive to CQ rather than S&P for mobiles. Thanks to the mobiles that gave us a call, also thanks to the DFW group for a fine turnout.

The US was at times weaker than DX - especially on Sunday morning. Many avid US county hunters were on the air looking to increase their county totals. Too many to mention but you know who you are. Thanks for all the QSOs. Hope we provided some needed ones for your first USA-CA or even a second or third time for many. Thanks to Chuck NO5W for our only LA multiplier. Not only does he do the Texas QSO Party coordination and drive visitors to the airport but he operates the radio too!

To emphasize the openings on 15 meters, one time when we loaded up down there we had a run of 10 Europeans before we had one call from stateside. The band was in great shape much of the time both days. Nice to have more than two bands to choose from. Took a look at 10 meters only once. N1MM didn't like our HP and went kinda squirrley (definition above) on us so we didn't stick around to see if the band was open. I never threw the coax switch to 6 meters - just didn't have an extra second to do that what with the pileups on 20 and 15 - or did I mention those pileups already? States missed were VT, the Dakotas (what's new?) and Alaska for a total state count of 46.

Not leaving 80 meters out, we gave it a try Saturday evening as we approached BROWn county. A bit noisy but we were able to work both coasts and made a total of 28 Qs in the short time we spent on the band.

That's about the end of this report. Hope you enjoy the reading - we sure did enjoy the run. My special thanks again to my operating partner Erik N5WR. He gets to do little radio nowadays so I hope it was a special treat for him. It was for me. I enjoyed his friendship and FB operating. The K3 has two earphone jacks so we used the second one for the driver. Got to be part of the action while motoring along and both of us hollered out a call now and

then.

Finally - Thanks Chuck, NO5W and all the Texas QSO Party workers. It was a barn burner this year for you. You should be proud as the turnout apparently was FB.

73 - Jerry K5YAA and Erik N5WR operators of the Oklahoma Land Rush Mobile a HP beast that worked flawlessly for us on this run.

K5CM mobile 1597 cw QSO

Condx were good both days. The large pile-us made this party fun. Hard to leave a county with stations still calling.

We lost a lot of time when we headed for the KAUF/ROCK county line. I have never seen such bumpy roads. It was all I could do to keep the laptop on my lap at times hi hi. Pam stayed busy dodging all the holes and low hanging trees. Then to add insult to injury, when we got to the county line there was a sign reading; road impassable when wet. We were only 1 mile from getting back to a hard surface road, but we had to back track 30 mins over the same bad road we came in on.

Connie, K5CM and driver Pam, N5KW

The only other excitement was when we came upon several trucks stopped in the road. Pam and I wondered what was going on. Come to find out they had stopped to catch or maybe kill this (looked like) six foot rattle snake!

After reading Jerry's comments about filling up while transmitting, I just have one request, let me know your route so I want be anywhere near you hi hi...

We did enjoy our Friday afternoon/overnight stay in Paris. Went to MTC and walked around the old part of town.

Rig:
K3 at 100 watts, Dell model 620 laptop, Tarheel 200HP with 7 foot whip and tophat, used manly on 40 and 80, Hamsticks on 20 and 15 meters all on F-150 4X4.(see picture on qrz.com)

NM5G (and K5GQ)mobile 483 cw 156 SSB

This was my first TQP to operate mobile. Learned a lot. Had a blast.

Next year we plan to go mobile again, but will have a more efficient operation.

I drove the entire route, a total of about 940 miles. We missed about 10 counties due to tactical planning and driving errors. These should be fairly easy to eliminate for next year.

WB0TEV mobile - 413 SSB QSO

Score includes 18,000 points for activating 18 counties. After a frenetic effort last year (35 counties, >900 Qs's) that netted the top spot for SO SSB mobile I decided to do a more leisurely drive this year. Only did 15 counties Saturday and 3 more Sunday afternoon. Nonetheless, based on what I see posted so far I may have a shot at winning it again. Time and log checking will tell.

I tried to spend at least 30 minutes in each county and spend an appreciable amount of time on both 20 and 40 with brief forays to 15m. 15m only netted 7 Q's and unlike last year when 10m was open to EU (resulting in some nice DX

mults) I didn't get anything on 10 this year and had only 2 DX mults courtesy of XE2JOC and OM2VL.

The "olde grey lady" (my antenna festooned 1986 Pontiac Parisienne) and I had a grand time motoring around NE Texas handing out Qs.

Victor

W0BH mobile with AD0DX

"Retired" in Texas by Bob/w0bh

Friday

After seriously fun Kansas QSO Party runs, Ron/ad0dx and I decided to team up once again for a Mobile Multi-Op effort through the Texas panhandle. Last year we had to cut the run short by about 20 minutes to get Ron back to the Wichita airport on time. This year we added an extra county and could take our time going home. We were apparently the only CW station in the panhandle, so getting to all our counties was a priority.

The weekend weather forecast was for a line of storms on Friday as we headed to southwest Kansas, but clearing in the panhandle on Saturday and Sunday. The forecasters were right. About an hour out of our Friday night stop in Liberal, we ran right into the line of storms. It wasn't bad as Kansas storms go, but the rain was pouring down and I didn't see the dead deer in the road. The deer caused quite a pair of bumps as the '91 Chevy Astro with 289,000 miles on it rolled over its back end at about 55 mph. Nothing seemed to be damaged, and we continued on to Liberal without further incident. A check of the underside and tires after we arrived came up negative. We attached the Hustler antenna arrays, guyed them, and called it a night.

Saturday

Because of the excessive rains last month (and our almost getting stuck experiences last year), I'd planned Saturday to be on all paved roads. We left early and drove to the far end of our first county to start on a two-county line, arriving with five minutes to spare.

We also had a county line sign photo project assigned to us by N4CD, so I snapped the

Hansford county sign before settling in for the 9:00 am start. K5OT was there on 40m, followed by N5NA/m and we were off! After just 18 minutes, OM2VL checked in on 40m with the first and second of his 78 contacts. Amazing job, Laci!

I'm writing this almost two weeks after the fact so the memories are starting to dim, but a few observations stick. We had good pileups, but band conditions weren't as good as a year ago. East coast stations were strong, but the usually loud west coast was unusually weak. The first several hours was also along a road with major powerlines, so I'm sorry if we couldn't copy your signal at first. We could hear ops calling, but just couldn't get past the noise. Once we turned south, conditions improved and 15m opened, so it started to feel more "normal" again.

I ran the first three counties, then turned the Icom 706MkIIG over to Ron. With a year of practice and a previous TQP under his belt, Ron was ready to go. He didn't even turn down the code speed! It was fun picking out calls for him, but he was often already sending the same call I heard. We both had keys, so it was also fun tag-teaming at times. As things slowed down on CW, I would take the mic and let Ron enter the Qs. It's particularly fun to touch base with the CW ops on SSB when I get the chance, and we tried to put at least a few SSB contacts in the log from each county (often many more than a few in the longer counties).

We didn't miss turns this year and all our roads were open, but we fell behind the schedule at times. Once we heard a loud bang and thought we'd lost an antenna, but a stop and check of antennas and tires once again found nothing wrong. Later, the van did start to vibrate some, so we speculated that the deer must have done some damage after all. As we hit Floyd county, the plan called for us to take a quick trip north to Briscoe county before going back through Floyd. Ron was driving about 65 mph and I was letting everyone know we were five minutes from Briscoe when I heard Ron say something which even made it past the noise canceling headphones. Then the van came to a rather sudden halt. Our right rear tire had blown out and Ron did a terrific job of driving to keep us going straight.

Wow, I haven't had a blowout like that in 30 years, but here we were - on a lonely road in Texas with a shredded tire down on the rim. As we waded through the grass on the side of the road to look at the tire, we found out it wasn't so lonely after all as we were suddenly surrounded by mosquitoes! My backpack always has DEET packets, unused for many QSO parties, but gold on this one.

They did their job and we got on with the work at hand. The road had almost no shoulder, and what shoulder there was appeared to be too soft to support a

jack, so I drove the van back on the road. I always carry a "real" spare tire, a big commercial jack and a breaker bar lug wrench, so changing the tire turned out to be work but a non-issue. A check of the log shows a 35 minute break, so not Indy-car pit stop quality, but we were mobile once again. Many ops thought they'd missed us in Briscoe and were pleasantly surprised to find us there after all. So were we!

Now well behind schedule, we decided to continue our published route anyway. We'd miss our last county, but we could start there in the morning. We arrived at the mortuary turned motel named Hunter's Lodge in Paducah, tired but happy. A big group of Texans in big hats with big pickups were also staying there overnight, so Ron and I enjoyed listening to real Texas drawls as they tried to figure out what we were up to. The owners of the motel even remembered us from last year! I spent awhile with the GPS trying to fit one more county on the Sunday route.

Sunday

Sunday morning was clear and cool. Since we were leaving from the motel, we had some extra time to enjoy a breakfast at the cafe next door, complete with quite an assortment of locals. I also remembered what not to order from last time. As we packed up the van, I noticed that the spare tire was low on air, so I got out the portable electric air pump and put in about 15 pounds. We checked the tire every few hours and had to air it up several times during the day.

Sunday went all too quickly and the rates were much better than Saturday. In order to add the extra county we missed from yesterday and still make it to Lipscomb, we reduced time at our favorite four-county line, working it only on 20CW for half an hour and leaving with many still calling. That hurt.

But we did make Lipscomb and the pileup there was amazing. Ron had the honors and I still remember the look on his face when he put out the first Lipscomb CQ. The avalanche began with N4PN. Those last 15 minutes were memorable. Usually, one of us can quickly pick out a call in a pileup after a CQ, but at times it was next to impossible. The silence was deafening at the closing bell when so many realized they wouldn't get through in time. But many did, including K3TW/qrp, OM2VL with contact 78, and N6MU for his "sweep" of all 36 of our Texas counties! We ended the TQP on the Texas/Oklahoma border. Sandwiches and pictures afterwards were a much needed break before starting our five hour trip back to Hesston. Would we do it again? Count on it!

Stats

2013: We operated 17.0 hours, 1955 Qs, 421 unique calls, 12 dupes, 1375 miles.

Afterwards

The spare tire held up for the trip home, the van now has new tires, the spare no longer leaks, and the batteries are recharged for the next mobile adventure.

Thanks as always to Chuck/NO5W for his excellent mobile coordination (and the Louisiana contacts)! Chuck and Alan/N5NA just won the Kansas Mobile Multi-Op plaque in the Kansas QSO Party. While they were here, I enjoyed meeting both of them for the first time as Lorna and I hosted them overnight at W0BH/K0WHY. Next year, we'd like to invite even more Texas mobiles to the Kansas QSO Party! Thanks to NARS for sponsoring the event and as always, thank you all for another great Texas weekend!

73, Bob/w0bh and Ron/ad0dx

K5UI – fixed – TX - 54 SSB

Had a great time. Ran the entire contest on a recently acquired Collins S Line and used paper logs to complete the retro experience. Definitely don't need to do the latter any time soon. First contest I have run in years. Will definitely be back.

KN4Y – fixed - FL 224 CW 138 mults

I thought I had died and went to CW heaven, although Texas and heaven is stretching it a bit, the CW Angels were going from county to county at 80 miles per hour. Next to Florida this is the funnest QSP party so far this year. Last time I had so much fun working Texas was the Armadillo Run many, many years ago.

WD5IYT – fixed TX

Wow...working TQP from a fixed station is much different than as a rover!

I had a good time, but I really missed roving. Hopefully, next year I will be in better shape and able to rove again!

Jim WD5IYT

DL6KVA 173 qso 116 mults

OM2VL – fixed – Europe - 355 cw 58 ssb Mults = 189

My first TX QP. Thanks for the nice contact's especially for the many mobile QSO's and QSY's to other mode or band.

About 20 min before the starting of the QP I was on 10m and on my CQ answered stations from the USA - I made 39 QSO during 17 minutes.

I asked worked stations in QP at the begging to try 10m QSO ... who followed me to this band have me in his LOG :)K5IID 1QSO, K5ME 1, K5OT 1, N1CC 2, N5JB 1, W0BH 7. tnx!

15m was excellent with FB condx - so pity that mobiles not QSY from all his counties on 15m :)

20m: this time fortunately no EU contest = no BIG QRM as I have usually in QP's - many mobiles were weak on this band, thanks for his patience during the QSO's . I missed some counties, because I can't break the pileup.

40m: CQWW RTTY Contest / hundreds of BIG EU contest station = QQQQQQRM. Despite of this I made 41 QSO. Sorry for the delays, during the QSO's, but I can listen only, when RTTY station was in listening mode

80m: I had still only dipole, I HRD K5OT with FB signal, several times I called him, and he got "OM OM ???" ... no QSO.

Thanks for the mobiles for the many QSO's:

W0BH 74/32 (QSO/CTY)
K5YAA 46/29
K5CM 32/22
N5NA 28/25
W5CT 22/22
N5DO 16/15
W3DYA 16/14
N5TM 15/13
K5JX 13/8
WC5D 10/6
NM5G 6/6
KE5MS 5/5
K5WL 2/2
K5ZZR 2/2
NS5J 2/2
WB5KSD 2/2

PSE QSL's for my US County award (I have confirmed only 50 from TX)

K9CW -fixed - 206 qso 116 mults

This time around I logged 11 mobile stations in more than 5 counties each - amazing!

N4PN – fixed – GA - 334 cw 281 ssb 214 mults!

K5LH – 5fixed MLEN TX - 516 qso cw – 219 multipliers

Wow, that was fun! Congrats to the organizers for an exciting experience despite average conditions and even some TX-size downpours Saturday night. Here in central TX, 40 meters was the band to pick up multipliers as the mobiles would graciously drop down from their usual feeding grounds on the upper bands every now and then to throw crumbs to the local needy.

Shell Abandons Oil Rock Project

Royal Dutch Shell on Tuesday became the most recent company to abandon efforts to turn Western Slope oil-shale rock into oil, announcing it is abandoning its Mahogany project. Chevron stopped its oil-shale research in Rio Blanco County in February 2012.
"The energy markets have evolved since we started the project in 1982," said Kelly op de Weegh, a Shell spokeswoman. "We are exiting our Colorado project to focus on other opportunities."

The aim of the Mahogany Research Center was to turn oily shale rock into liquid by heating the rock in situ and pumping it out.

"The economics of oil shale have always been the issue," said David Abelson, an analyst with Western Resource Advocates, an environmental group opposing shale development.
Shell spent an estimated $30 million to create a test subterranean "freeze wall" to hold in the shale oil when it was heated.

Full-scale production would probably have required building a dedicated power plant.
The new oil plays in North Dakota and Texas and along Colorado's Front Range, which are producing large quantities of oil, hurt the viability of oil shale, said Jim Spehar, former mayor of Grand Junction.

"Out here on the Western Slope, oil shale will always be the fuel of the future," Spehar said.
Shell on Tuesday announced plans to build a $12.5 billion plant in Louisiana that would turn natural gas into diesel, jet fuel and other liquids.

"We have a large portfolio of opportunities, all competing for capital," op de Weegh said.
Shell has learned a great deal about oil shale in Colorado and will apply that knowledge to oil-shale plays in other parts of the world, op de Weegh said.

As for Colorado, she said, "Our focus is to work with our staff and contractors to safely stop research activities and close the site."

Source:”http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_24167353/shell-abandons-western-slope-oil-shale-project”

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de N4CD

You hear the pitchmen tell you the US has billions of barrels of oil in the 'oil shale' of CO and UT – the Green River Formation and others. True, it does have a billions of barrels of 'keragen' but no one has yet to find a way to extract it. It seems it always takes MORE energy to extract a barrel of oil that the oil produces itself. Many have tried and failed on just pilot projects.

Keragen is an oil 'precursor'. First you have to literally cook it out of the rock.....and then put it through a multi step refining process. You've got to go through billions of pounds of rock to get the keragen out.... 600 F degree type temperatures. You either mine it by the millions of tons, or you try to heat it in place, keeping the oil from moving to the bottom or sides getting into underground water systems. That's terribly difficult.

It's just like 'the oceans are full of uranium'...all you have to do is find an economic way to recover it!...same for gold, too! Thousands of tons of gold dissolved in the sea in sea water.....but it costs you more per ounce to recover it than you get for it.

It really doesn't matter what the price of oil is...even if it is $400/bbl, since it still takes a barrel or more of energy to recover just one barrel of oil from the keragen.

On the Road with N4CD

Twice a year, the Belton Swapfest/Hamfest occurs –and usually around the beginning of October for the fall edition. It was a very warm fall day for Texas on the Friday as I headed south the 160 miles down Interstate 35 to get there. The temps were in the mid 80s headed to around 91 for the day, and that was also true down in Bell County. That's about 10 or 15 deg above normal for this time of year. One week warm, next week cooler. You never know.

This year I upgraded and planned to stay overnight at the Super 8 in Temple, TX. I reserved ahead as the place usually fills up with folks for the hamfest, for the fishing contest that seems to be the same weekend, and other activities. The traffic was light as I headed out about 10am for the 3 hour trip.

On the way down, I stopped at the Czech Stop Bakery in West, TX (where they had the big fertilizer plant explosion six months ago) and grabbed a snack of two Kolaches. Hmmm Good! (fattening, too!)

I arrived at a bit after 1pm – having the run the counties on the south leg of the trip. Even though every county had been on the air just last weekend (The Texas QSO Party), you never know when someone will need them. Not everyone gets into the TQP with the pileups and of course, not all counties are run on cw, and not by a mobile good for the more advanced county hunter awards. Propagation was good. You've got to stop in Falls County as there's only a few miles of interstate and you're out of it before you know it if you don't stop.

Gary, K4EXT, needed the Bell County sign for the database. Nope! Not this year – the road was totally torn up with construction and all the signs were down! Dang.

When I got to Temple I checked in at the motel. ($60 including tax). Then it was over to the Bell County Exposition Grounds where it's held – half indoors and half outside flea market. You can get a table for $15 and that includes two admissions. Set up inside starts at 2pm so I had some time to wander around outside where a few folks were setting up. Nothing interesting to buy appeared but there was some good ham gear for sale.

At 2pm I headed inside and unloaded a few goodies from the car. I'm still downsizing from having bought too many bargains at an auction 3 years ago. This year it was a Johnson Mobile TX, Globe Chief 90A transmitter, Heathkit HG-10 VFO, Central Electronics 10A SSB TX, and half a dozen smaller items along with 3 books from the Radio-Phone Boys series of 8 that were up for sale. The hamfest opens at 7am on Saturday but you can go inside and set up your table on Friday afternoon. Naturally a few things disappear from your table ahead of official starting time. No 'sales' till Saturday morning, officially.

It was very warm and humid – 90 deg with 57% humidity – 66 deg dew point. There was a small breeze from the south, but the sun was beating down. I went through a quart of water keeping cool. The weather was about to change, though, just like it did last year on the same weekend. Naturally I was wearing shorts and a tee- shirt but still sweating a bit.

I covered my stuff over with a plastic tarp, wandered around inside (finding nothing to buy) and then went back to the Super 8. At 5pm I wandered up the road a mile to the Cracker Barrel for the normal country ham dinner ($10 including tip) then back to the motel. I had a good book to read – then hit the hay early. Up at 5:30 am.

After a nice breakfast (Waffles!) at the motel just before 6 am, it was down to the fairgrounds at 6:20am - way before sunrise. The temperature was about 75 degrees and humid with strong south wind. Had my shorts and a tee shirt on. I wandered inside and uncovered the table, then looked around to see if any nifty goodies showed up. No luck. I made a quick pass

outside but it was still dark and you needed a flashlight to see much. There were 50 sellers setting up and 200 folks wandering around looking for those bargains. I didn't find any. Last spring I hit the jackpot on finding things – with a haul of regen receivers and some 1920s style BC sets. You never know. One year it is great, next time you find nothing that you want. This hamfest is essentially over by 10am so come early!

Here's one item you don't see too often. It's a 902 MHz transmitting converter, taking in two meters and putting out an SSB signal on the 902 band. This one did have have the power amp so it only put out about a watt. It's made in Germany. You could also buy the ARRA preamp for receive to go with it. Anyone for 902 MHz SSB/CW? Most activity in VHF/UHF contests.

LT 33S 902 MHz Transverter and Tower Mt Pre-Amp

Here's the specs from the SSB Electronic website – impressive (but expensive)

http://www.ssbusa.com/transys.html

"VHF & UHF models utilize: Low noise GaAsFET high dynamic range preamplifers, three pole post preamp filters, High Level +17 dBM Schottky Double Balanced Mixers (DBM's) on receive yielding input 3rd order intercept points of +7dBM and output 3rd order IP's of up to +27dBm. Depending upon model, either a high level or low level DBM is used on transmit. All receive mixers are terminated with diplexers. 28MHz.-IF operation is featured and separate IF In/Out BNC connectors are provided. All IF and RF switching relays are built in. RF IN/OUT is common to one N-connector, however: RF IN/OUT can be separated if desired for EME dual feed line operation or to eliminate the input relay on a high power linear amplifier. All transverter are housed in an attractive cabinet and include: dual local oscillator strings for IF QSY plus a built in power meter. Drive requirements are: 1.0mW - 500mW via a back panel adjustable attenuator. 13.8VDC operation @ 3.5A " - 20W output at 902 MHz.

There were dozens and dozens of vintage rigs. Health SB-104, SB-220 amps, Kenwoods, IC-706s by the dozen it seemed and other HF mobile and VHF mobile rigs. One fellow brought about 20 Hallicrafters receivers he had gone through, replaced the bad parts and had brought back to life. The same sellers appear each year selling tubes and parts, and there are about a dozen 'vendors' selling new radios, antennas, accessories, and books. Maybe a thousand people show up. There were half a dozen Collins rigs for sale but no bargains on the prices. A few amplifiers were up for sale including a SB-220 Heathkit and an Ameritron or two.

Every half hour I made a sweep outside, and my friend Bob, K5MVZ was there and he had his eyes open for regens. None was to be found. The temps climbed until it was muggy 90 degrees outside and a bit warm inside the building. The only vintage homebrew item seen was a two tube transmitter – osc and 6L6 output tube for $35 including a power supply. It sat there all day.

By 10 am this hamfest is mostly over. All the sellers have arrived by then, and most of the serious buyers were there for 3-4 hours already. I had sold some of the heavier items, so it was time to head back home. Things were packed up and hauled out to the car not too far away.

I came home with 2 things – a book – and a BC-221 frequency meter. The old BC-221 has a 30H audio choke that is great for making regens. If nothing else, I'll tear out that choke and throw the rest of the 20 lb unit away, or, who knows, it can be converted itself into a regen. This is a WW2 era frequency meter that was well calibrated on the HF bands – using a chart to convert dial readings to frequency – for its 'time'. Now, we'd chuckle at 'the state of the art' back then. It was mil spec and built like a battleship.

Many hams had to have a 'secondary' frequency standard back in the 50s and 60s to tell what frequency they were on. That was an FCC requirement. You might have a a 'calibrated receiver' with a 100 KHz crystal calibrator in it, as some of the kit radios did. That would let you set your frequency to within a KHz or better on a ham band, or let you find the bottom of most ham bands so that you didn't transmit on 6999.5 instead of 7001 KHz or 20999.5 instead of 21001 Kcs. I'm sure the government paid the better part of $100 plus back in the WW2 days to set military transmitters/receivers and verify the frequencies.

BC-221 Frequency Meter

The BC-221 was developed in 1941 and put into production in 1942.

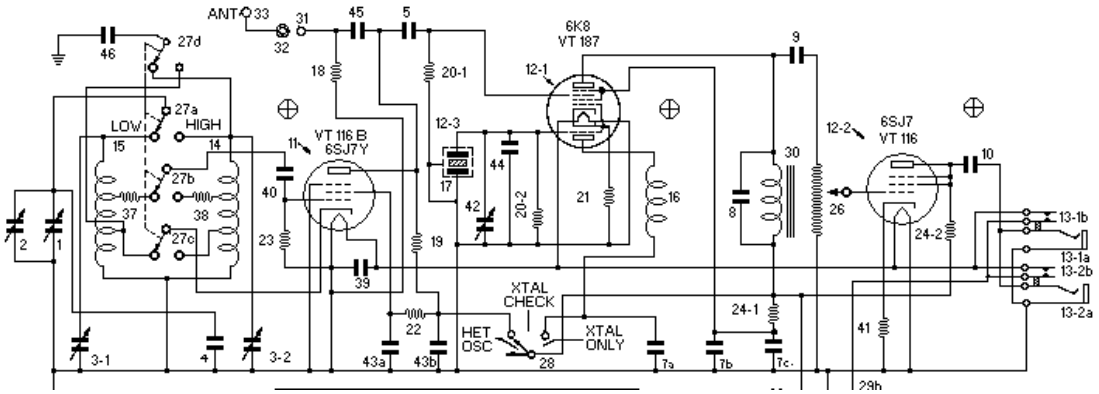
The BC-221 normally ran on batteries. A similar unit – the LM- ran on a/c power.

They consist of two high precision variable frequency oscillators, one covering from 125 to 250 kHz and one covering 2.0 to 4.0 MHz. Using these two ranges, and harmonics of each, the units are capable of providing a stable known frequency anyplace from 125 kHz to 20.0 MHz. In addition, they had a crystal so you could have a crystal based oscillator – selected with a switch.

The basics are simple, if the low frequency VFO is tuned to 125 kHz, then its 2nd harmonic is at 250 kHz, its 4th is at 500 kHz, and its 8th is at 1.000 MHz. So, the low band 125 to 250 kHz VFO gives you coverage from 125 kHz to 2.000 MHz.

Now, the high frequency VFO (2.000 to 4.000 MHz), when tuned to 2.000 MHz, yields known signals at 2.000, 4.000, and 8.000 MHz. Between the two VFOs, you can set it to produce a signal on any frequency up to 20 MHz.

It sounds a might confusing, but it is very simple to use.



It uses a 6SJ7Y tube for an oscillator and a 6K8 pentagrid converter for a mixer with an audio stage of 6SJ7.

Here's an interesting page on the BC-221 with pics, how to use it,what to use it for, etc.

http://home.mchsi.com/~token/BC221.htm

and here more pics top, bottom, insides

http://yb0ah.tripod.com/schematics/bc211/

Each unit was individually calibrated. It would take 16.5 hours to do it manually per unit. The government developed a semi-automatic 128 tube calibration unit for this, and it still took 6.5 hours to measure the 357 calibration points and print out the 'calibration book'. The equipment was driven by a paper tape reader.

After WW2 in the 50s and 60s, , these were sold surplus for $5 (without crystal and vital calibration book) to $50 (compete with crystal, book, and accessory kit). Most hams thought were essentially useless but several articles appeared in QST showing how to calibrate them for the hambands and make them useful. There were no inexpensive 'digital frequency meters' back then. They didn't arrive until the late 70s.

Some QST articles:

1. "Notes on the BC-221," Herbert W. Gordon, W1KWB/W1IBY, CQ Magazine, August 1962, pages 52-56.
2. "Calibrating the LM Frequency Meter," Gilbert L. Countryman, W4JA, QST, April 1965, pages 18-20.
3. "Frequency Measurement with the LM/BC-221," Kenneth N. Sapp, W4AWY, QST, September 1965, pages 28-31.
4. "Solid-State BC-221 Frequency Meter," R.S.N. Rau, VU2CX, QST, February 1977,

pages 35,36.

The book I found was Remote Operating for Amateur Radio by WB8IMY, an ARRL pub that sells for $30 new. Got it for $5 and didn't haggle on the price. Published in 2010.

As I headed north after the hamfest, the sky was dark and ominous ahead. I stopped to run Falls County. The temp was falling. At Temple at 10am it was 90 degrees. Just 50 miles north it was 75 degrees. The next 50 miles brought the temp down to the 60s with some light drizzle, just enough to make you turn on the wipers on intermittent, and by the time I got home at 2pm after a stop or two for gas and chow, it was in the 50s! I did manage to snap a pic of the Dallas County Line headed north in the rain – it's in the Database now..

The same transition from 'warm fall weather' (Above normal by 15 degrees) to chilly weather happened last year – same time, same hamfest. From a/c weather to turn on the heat weather! It's headed into the 40s tonight!

Out west, there's blizzards in WY and the Dakotas with up to 2 feet of snow in Deadwood SD, where we had the annual convention. Denver was in the 30s. Larry, W7FEN, reported temps in the 20s already. Thunderstorms rumbled across the midwest in the second 'severe weather' season. The TV news showed Wall, SD covered in snow – a 'winter wonderland'. Winter has arrived up north so I'm not complaining. Just no more 'shorts and tee shirt weather' here this year - hihi - at least not in the mornings and evenings. Well, you never know in TX. Could be warm again.

So it was an interesting hamfest – met lots of folks and yakked a bit, saw lots of vintage radios from the way back days that I would have loved as a Novice in the 60s, but resisted other than 2 items mentioned. I've still got the Swan 117 power supply for sale plus two boxes of other small items.

There are a few small hamfests left, barely worth going to, but who knows? Might be a good excuse to run some counties to get to them.

Next big hamfest is January in Ft Worth unless I drive some distance before then.
Smaller one 120 miles up the road in OKLA at the end of October.

Then it's a long ways till hamfest season again. But you never know! Maybe I'll head to Orlando FL for the big one there in Feb 2014.

The Quest to Save AM Radio

When many of the county hunters were kids in the 50s and 60s, there wasn't much other than AM radio. That's where the 'rock and roll' started and every kid had a radio tuned to the local station. They broadcast the baseball games and kids listened in. Back then, I remember my mom getting a FM radio and she listened to 'classical music' and 'easy listening music' (from the 30s and 40s) and some of the 50s 'elevator type' music on FM – which hardly had any ads. You wouldn't find a kid listening to FM at all. Now, the situation is just the opposite – nearly all the rock and roll, pop music, jazz, and even some classical on FM, and almost none in most markets on AM. Other than small stations in small markets, AM's dominance has gone.

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from a recent article in the paper:

Is anyone out there still listening?

The digital age is killing AM radio, an American institution that brought the nation fireside chats, Casey Kasem's Top 40 and scratchy broadcasts of the World Series. Long surpassed by FM and more recently cast aside by satellite radio and Pandora, AM is now under siege from a new threat: rising interference from smartphones and consumer electronics that reduce many AM stations to little more than static. Its audience has sunk to historical lows.

Ajit Pai, the lone Republican on the Federal Communications Commission, is on a personal if quixotic quest to save AM. After a little more than a year in the job, he is urging the F.C.C. to undertake an overhaul of AM radio, which he calls "the audible core of our national culture." He sees AM — largely the realm of local news, sports, conservative talk and religious broadcasters — as vital in emergencies and in rural areas.

"AM radio is localism, it is community,"

"When the power goes out, when you can't get a good cell signal, when the Internet goes down, people turn to battery-powered AM radios to get the information they need," Mr. Pai said.

By 2011 AM listenership had fallen to 15 percent, or an average of 3.1 million people. While the number of FM listeners has declined, too, they still averaged 18 million in 2011.

Although five of the top 10 radio stations in the country, as measured by advertising dollars, are AM — among them WCBS in New York and KFI in Los Angeles — the wealth drops rapidly after that. In 1970 AM accounted for 63 percent of broadcast radio stations, but now it accounts for 21 percent, or 4,900 outlets, according to Arbitron. FM accounts for 44 percent, or 10,200 stations. About 35 percent of stations stream content online.

"With the audience goes the advertising revenues," said Milford Smith, vice president for radio engineering at Greater Media, which owns 21 stations, three of them AM. "That makes for a double whammy."

Nearly all English-language AM stations have given up playing music, and even a third of the 30 Major League Baseball teams now broadcast on FM. AM, however, remains the realm of conservative talk radio, including roughly 80 percent of the 600 radio stations that carry Rush Limbaugh. Talk radio has helped keep AM alive.

But why try to salvage AM? Critics say its decline is simply natural selection at work, and many now support converting the frequency for use by other wireless technologies. A big sign of AM's weakness is that one hope for many of its stations may be channeling their broadcasts onto FM.

Not so fast, said Mr. Pai, who has been pushing the F.C.C.'s interim chairwoman, Mignon Clyburn, to put the revitalization of AM high on the agency's agenda.

He wants to eliminate outdated regulations, for example, like one that requires AM stations to prove that any new equipment decreases interference with other stations, a requirement that is expensive, cumbersome and difficult to meet.

Mr. Pai also wants to examine a relatively new technology known as HD Radio, which has allowed some stations to transmit a digital signal along with their usual analog wave, damping static. (HD Radio is a brand name; it does not stand for high definition, as in HDTV.) But some critics still fault the F.C.C. for allowing too many broadcasters to crowd into a relatively narrow AM band of airwaves.

In the longer term, Mr. Pai said, the F.C.C. could mandate that all AM stations convert to digital transmission to reduce interference. Such a conversion, however, would cost consumers, who would have to replace the hundreds of millions of AM radios that do not capture digital transmissions.

Finally, Mr. Pai wants the F.C.C. to consider what are called FM translators, which send duplicate AM broadcasts over FM airwaves and help to reduce interference. In 2009, the F.C.C. granted permission to AM stations to use such translators.

“Our business has improved rather dramatically” since the conversion to dual bands, said Bud Walters, owner of Cromwell Group, which operates 23 stations in four states, six of them on the AM band and five of which share translators.

The F.C.C. has said it is behind Mr. Pai, although it is a long way from committing to the overhaul he envisions. In August the commission approved a measure requiring the builders of any new radio tower to compensate an AM station if the tower interferes with the station’s broadcast.

Nearly every recently manufactured electronic consumer product — not just proliferating smartphones but televisions, home air-conditioning systems, refrigerators, computers and even energy-saving fluorescent light bulbs — emits radio signals that can interfere with AM broadcasts.

The economic boom of the 1980s and 1990s also contributed to the problem with an increase in the construction of tall buildings in suburban areas and beyond, blocking AM signals. Another issue is that the F.C.C. requires most stations to turn off or greatly reduce signals at night, a rule aimed at keeping high-powered AM stations from interfering with smaller local ones.

(The rule, which hardly engenders loyalty among listeners, was adopted because of the way radio waves in the AM frequency travel. Once the sun goes down, AM signals bounce off the ionosphere and reflect back down to earth hundreds of miles from where they originated. That is why listeners of WRDN-AM (1430) in Durand, Wis., for example, on some nights discover they are inadvertently tuned in to a broadcast from St. Louis.)

Mr. Pai said that unless the problems with AM radio were fixed, people would keep fleeing. “There are plenty of other options,” he said. “They will switch the dial to something else.

Source: NY Times

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de N4CD – you can't listen to “HD” AM radio on your crystal set or regen receiver. It just sounds like a 'buzz' and HD signals are wider and interfere more on skip to existing stations on adjacent channels. There is no cure all, and like 'stereo' AM, HD AM probably isn't going anywhere unless 'mandated' by the FCC, which will, in all probability, just kill the market share to where it goes bankrupt. It will fall in with Quadrasonic Sound and Stereo AM as another failure. However, Europe is switching 100% to HD type digital radio, meaning every broadcast receiver ever made will be 'obsolete' and useless. Europe marches to a different drummer – the socialist one. They love regulation and imposing horrendous costs upon their people just to be 'cool'.

The iPod did in a lot of broadcast stations – AM and FM. Apple with their iTunes put another nail in the coffin of broadcast radio. Why listen to ads and music that doesn't get you excited when you can have your favorite tunes 24/7 and download them for a reasonable fee?

Silent Key Database

Mike Carroll, N4MC, who operated the "Vanity HQ" website for 14 years before taking it dark earlier this year, says the National Silent Key Archive™ of Amateur Radio Operators that he founded remains up and running. "The only thing that was carried over from Vanity HQ would be the unique call lookup," Carroll told ARRL. On the "Tools" menu, click on "Research Hams" to enter a name or a call sign.

http://www.silentkeyhq.com/

The National Silent Key Archive provides an opportunity to add Silent Keys (all submissions are reviewed prior to incorporation into the Archive) and for friends and family of radio amateurs who have passed on to create memorial pages that may include photographs and text. Carroll points out that the National Silent Key Archive has been up and running for 2 years or so and functioned separately from Vanity HQ, which, he reiterated, he has no plans to resurrect. According to the site, "The purpose of the National Silent Key Archive is to collect and preserve photographs, life event narratives, and data artifacts of deceased Amateur Radio operators, and to make the Archive's digital library available to anyone wishing to view its contents online.

The National Silent Key Archive is a wiki, which means anyone can contribute contents or to add a member to The Archive, and without first obtaining a login ID or password." All content submitted is reviewed by the Archive and edited, if necessary, before being added to its digital library. Each day the site features Silent Keys from a different call district. --

from ARRL Newsletter 9/25/2013

County Sign Database Project

The database of sign pictures is at:

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

We had contributions from several county hunters this month. I zipped N5DO a note asking him to take a few pictures on his TQP trip, and he came through with new signs for Texas including Maverick, Culberson, Hudspeth. We're slowly filling things in.

Maverick, TX by N5DO

I found an old picture album and dug up some missing ones. Seems I didn't have the negatives

and only had the print squirreled away. No problem. I added a few in VT and TX and other states from the 1994 era! Way back when with film cameras – golly – we used film for over 100 years – I'd get double prints made, and most of them were mailed out along with the MRCs to county hunters. We didn't have the internet like today with pictures and databases and newsletters on line! All the needs were done by hand, too!

Here's a sign that may or may not be there today– the old style signs. Franklin/Chittenden VT

Franklin/Chittenden, VT

Here's another from the wayback machine

N2TPH at Hunt County Line, TX 1994

Norm, W3DYA, sent in some missing TX ones on his TQP trip, including Bowie, Smith and others. Here's the W3DYA mobile complete with 'flying saucer antennas' at Bowie:

W3DYA Bowie, TX

Joyce, N9STL, send in a dozen or so from IL on her recent trip.

Tazewell, IL – N9STL/m

Here's one from K0MAF -

Henry MO – K0MAF/m

Rory, WY0A, sent in a few more from KS. Here's Cowley KS

Cowley KS - by WY0A

Gary is updating things with new additions from KB0BA and N5MLP on their trips. Jerry, W0GXQ, sent in a bunch from his trip. Who else is going to contribute?

Find out what is missing at:

http://www.charchive.com/cntyneed.asp

Some states are getting well filled in. Vermont is almost complete, just missing 3 now. UT only needs 4 more to finish it off. South Dakota needs just five. Pa, NY, and many other medium to large states are in terrible condition! Isn't anyone out there?

Nanotube News

In an advance toward a future of smaller, faster and more powerful electronics, researchers at Stanford University on Wednesday unveiled the first working computer built entirely from carbon nanotube transistors.

While primitive, the invention proves that transistors made with these unusual carbon fibers, among the strongest materials yet discovered, can be assembled into a general purpose computer. It can run a basic operating system, perform calculations and switch between different processes running at the same time, the scientists said.

"It really is a computer in every sense of the word," said Stanford University electrical engineer Max Shulaker, who led construction of the device. "This shows that you can build working, useful circuits out of carbon nanotubes and they can be manufactured reliably."

"They have tamed nanotubes," said carbon electronics expert Franz Kreupl at the Technical Institute of Munich in Germany, who wasn't involved in the project.

Mihail Roco, senior adviser for nanotechnology at the National Science Foundation, which helped fund the work, called the nanotube computer "an important scientific step." If perfected, he said, "this would allow a computer to work faster, and with smaller components and with about one-tenth the energy."

Researchers are tantalized by the digital potential of carbon nanotubes, which are exceptional at conducting electricity and heat, and at absorbing or emitting light. Long a laboratory curiosity, they are made from sheets of carbon just one atom thick and rolled into tubes about 10,000 times thinner than a human hair.

"Of all the candidates that have been considered as a successor to silicon, carbon nanotubes remain the most promising,

The first nanotube transistor—a version of the digital on-and-off switch at the heart of almost every commercial electronics device—was invented in 1998. Until recently, though, researchers found it all but impossible to manufacture batches of the infinitesimally small tubes with the perfect alignment, regularity and purity required for a computer's complex integrated circuits.

Nanotubes are grown, like crystals. They fall into place randomly, like a shower of pick-up sticks, which can cause cross-connections. About 30% develop unpredictable metallic impurities. Any imperfection can cause a short-circuit.

"People said you would never be able to manufacture this stuff," said Stanford electrical engineer Subhasish Mitra, who was part of the project. The researchers developed a special circuit design and a powerful debugging technique to overcome the impurities.
Driven by the commercial possibilities, researchers have been racing to harness the material's promising electrical properties.

Last year, IBM researchers showed off carbon nanotube transistors that run three times as fast as conventional silicon transistors, while using a third of the power. And last October, scientists at the IBM's Watson Research Center reported a way to create batches of 10,000 or more carbon nanotube transistors arrayed on a single computer wafer. They have yet to connect them into a working circuit.

Last week, at Cambridge University in the U.K., scientists said they had devised a simple way to grow the densest array of carbon nanotubes to date—about five times as compact as previous methods, while researchers at the University of Southern California recently found a way to custom-tailor their atomic structure.

At Stanford, the experimental nanotube computer contains 178 transistors formed from "several tens of thousands of carbon nanotubes," Dr. Shulaker said. A conventional silicon chip today can pack two billion transistors in an area the size of thumbnail. The Stanford system contains as many transistors as in the earliest transistor-based computers made in the 1950s. The researchers used a logic design on a par with computers made in the 1960s.

The Stanford scientists assembled 985 of the nanotube computers—each with 178 carbon nanotube transistors—on a single chip wafer, using standard chip-fabrication techniques and design tools.

"What we have demonstrated is a very simple computer," said Stanford engineering professor Philip Wong, who worked on the device. "There is a vast distance between what we accomplished and an eventual product."

Source: WSJ

California QSO Party

Each year, the folks in CA head to the hills with 'County Expeditions' to insure all the counties make it on the air. Usually one or two mobiles – heard K6AQL/m – head out to fill in a few

more or just like to run mobile in the QSO Party. Conditions were good to TX with 15 and 20M wide open and for a few hours, I did search and pounce up and down the bands just for the heck of it. I logged a bunch more 1x1 calls and some Natural Bingos this year.

Sierra was the tough one to catch this year. W1UE made over 1000 contacts into CA (some the same station on multiple bands/modes).....but many folks who missed the sweep lacked SIER. Del Norte had a County Expedition – N6R – last year that was the 'missing county' for many folks. Merced and Colusa were tough to come by this year – but K6AQL/m hit those.

From the 3830 contest reflector.

K6XV County Expedition – Sutter County - 742 cw 527 ssb QSO

Operated FD style running low power with N6VV using a 2000 watt Honda generator at a county park located in Live Oak, CA (Sutter County). Very windy conditions on Friday made setting up difficult!!

Rig: TS480
Antennas: Force 12 C3 @ 25 feet, 40/80 Inverted V @ 24 feet.
N1MM latest version

Missed NT for the sweep!

N6YEU – County Expedition – Glenn CA 685 CW 645 SSB QSO

Great conditions! 10 was really open nice. Even worked a few EU on that band! Wx was super windy night before setup on Friday but during contest it was very nice. As I was camping in the national forest it is nice to have good wx!This has got to be the best I have ever done on one of my annual county expeditions. Few slow periods. I had difficulty on 20 phone. Seemed the band just wouldn't work for me. Anyway I had a ball in the contest. Never found/heard NT for last mult! 73,Fred

AD8J County Expedition Alpine 863 cw 295 ssb

I've always wanted to operate the CQP from CA so this was my big chance. This was a two week vacation with the XYL and we did a lot of hiking in the

mountains. For the last week we rented a house at 7,000' in ALPINE County and I put up dipoles for each band and used a TS-480SAT barefoot. Everything worked fine except the 10 meter antenna so I missed the nice opening on 10 meters, which hurt the score. In hindsight, I should have worked on the 10 meter dipole during the two hours on Sunday morning when the bands took a big dive. My overall observation from CA is that the big guns on the East Coast were still big guns while the little pistols may have been a bit weaker than I'm used to hearing while operating mobile in the East Coast state contests. I was disappointed that I only got to work one JA. I was expecting to hear tons of them. Anyway, it was a fun trip and CA puts on a nice QSO party.

K6QK – County Expedition – Imperial CA 1072 cw 934 ssb

We had a great 1 hour run to EU on 10 M CW on Sunday AM, but otherwise conditions were only mediocre. Thanks for all the great activity!

K6Z County Expedition - Inyo

Operator(s): K6ZZ W6PH KI6VC K6VR N6WIN W1MD WA1Z K1QX

Four stations running

10M/80M = K3 and 30L-1; 5 Element Beam at 30 Ft, Quarter-Sloper for 80M;
15M/160M = K3 and AL-1200; 5 Element Beam at 48 Ft, Inverted-L for 160M;
20M = K3 and LK-500ZB; 3 Element Beam at 48 Ft;
40M = K3 and AL-80A; 40-2CD Beam at 48 Ft;

Antennas were installed on portable AB-577 military surplus masts and a homebrew tower trailer. Yagis for 10M, 15M, 20M were homebrew as well.

Another enjoyable Multi-Multi County Expedition to Inyo County. Once again we had several friends join us from out of state which is a testament to how much fun CQP can be. As we have done for the past several years, we setup Field Day style at W6PH's cabin near Lone Pine, CA. This year we took advantage of the new 7 Day Rule for setting up expedition equipment. W6PH

started moving the AB-577's and antennas from storage at his house on Monday. In the past we had waited until Thursday so we could set up on Thursday afternoon and Friday. The extra time was helpful as the weather was very windy all day Thursday and Friday morning. Half of our crew worked all day Wednesday and Thursday setting up. The other half arrived on Friday. We managed to have everything set up by Friday afternoon so we were able to kick back and enjoy some of KI6VC's great BBQ and Homebrew, a tradition for our CQP crew. It is interesting to see the transformation of the cabin site from quiet cozy little hideaway to "what the heck are those guys doing" site. I'm sure the locals think the NSA has dropped in for the weekend! We always have a few people stop by and wonder what we are up to.

We had a few minor technical issues but for the most part everything worked fairly well. The 80M Sloper was hung from the same AB-577 that supported the 40M beam which resulted in a lot of inter-station interference on 40M. That hurt our productivity on 40M somewhat. We also had a PC failure and had to swap computers on one station. Conditions overall weren't quite as good as the past few years but conditions into Europe were vastly improved. We were fortunate to have snagged all 58 multipliers about 5 hours into the contest.

W6C – County Expedition - Modoc

This was the 3rd collaborative expedition from Modoc county by WQ6X & N6GEO, running and ICOM 7000 & Yaesu FT-897 into a multiplexed TH3-jr 8mh, along with a pair of phased cobra dipoles (for 40-meters), an HF2-V Vertical (for 80-meters) and a Buddipole (for 10-meters), all powered by a Honda generator.

We both ran Cw & SSB, making contacts on all bands from 160 to 10 meters. While we listened for 6-meter openings nothing came our way so N6GEO replaced the 3-el 6-meter beam with the Buddipole so we could take advantage of the surprising 10-meter opening on Sunday.

The TH3 made possible super 15-meter openings to Europe on both days and an incredible opening to Europe Sunday morning on 10-meters. We successfully ran the 8JK Cobra dipoles as phased inverted V's for 40 meters. For 80-meters, the ground mounted HF2-V was outstanding, producing an opening to the east coast at the unheard of time of 02:45z. Careful tuning of the HF2-V with an old Dentron jr. tuner allowed WQ6X to make a single contact on 160; enough to say that we

were there.

Missing in this year's CQP were stations from Africa and Oceania. We also missed a sweep by 2 sections; QC (VE2) and Vermont (VT), which we are told produced 5 stations.

Our proposed QSO count of 1,129 easily surpassed our 807 QSO record from previous Modoc expeditions.

Pics of site, equipment and ops here:

http://wq6x.info/CQP/CQP2013/

K6R – County Expedition – Del Norte

A bunch of us from Medford, Oregon and Grants Pass, Oregon started a new contest club, the Rogue RF Project, back in May. Our first contest was the 7th Call Area QSO Party (7QP), where we took second place overall with call sign K7LIX, and first place in Oregon.

We got most of the group together again for the California QSO Party, with a plan for an expedition to Del Norte County, population 28,610, using call sign K6R. We decided to operate from the KOA Kampground near Crescent City. We had two portable towers with tribander yagis and six operators, and we were set up as a multi-multi.

We arrived to find perfect weather, with temperatures in the mid-seventies and little or no wind, which was welcome since the area had been thrashed with an unseasonably early storm a week before.

The dreaded gremlins put in an appearance: our computers refused to network at first, despite having worked perfectly with the same router at home. Eventually we got that sorted, and we set to work. When the dust had settled, we'd made some 867 contacts and 56 multipliers, missing only VT and NT. That was short of our goal, which was to beat the all-time record for Del Norte County of 1,081 contacts, set in 2010 by N6YEU as a single-op. Oh well, we're rookies and there's always next year! We sure had a great time. The high point of the weekend was working SM7ZDI for his last California county, finishing his quest that he started twelve years ago.

W6XU (K6JS) fixed – CA - Sonoma - 729 cw 486 ssb

I've been doing an off the grid County expedition to Plumas County for many years. It's usually several days off work, hundreds of miles of driving and a ton of work.

This year I operated from Josh's shack on the hill in Occidental. One thing I can say... It sure was nice to be home by 4pm after CQP.

Missed NT and SD.

I lost the amp after 8 hours and from 5pm Saturday I was LP - 100W and the K3. It was tough to get anything going on SSB with LP. Plenty of EU stations were worked, I even worked a few EU guys on 4 bands, 10-40. On Sunday, 10M had good signals to the East coast and 8, 9 land, but not a lot of activity.

NX6T County Expedition

ops WA3IHV K4RB N6CY K6GO NA6MB AF6WF K6KAL W2PWS WA200B N6KI

Well, Murphy hit hard in this CQP. As much as we tried, we could not get any substantial runs going on 10 meter SSB Saturday and again on Sunday when the band initially appeared to open better then Saturday. I saw that several other coastal SoCal stns also did not do well on 10, with fewer than 100 SSB Qs but K6QP CCE team in Imperial County out towards ElCentro, hit the Jackpot on 10 mtr band with well over 200 Qs compared to our paltry 62 SSB.

We missed the only VY1 station VE8GER, who apparently was S&Ping and giving out the golden mult to a lucky few stations. We picked a site that unfortunately forced our tower trailer to be too close to the operating position and internet modem, causing RFI problems for the first few hours with stuttering CW keying and never letting us use packet or skimmer spots to any avail. Two mornings in a row I felt like I was doing a "My Cousin Vinny" rerun, as starved for sleep,I was awakened at sunrise Saturday morning as our hosts had apparently lined up a worker to come in and play a nice loud tune on his chain saw outside my open window and on Sunday a flock of about 3 dozen Crows decided to sing me another lullaby again at sunrise. Ah,

yes, quiet country living.

We felt the team did very well on all other bands and modes but found 15 very trying at times with poor propagation and deep QSB fades. 20 did not play as well as last year's CQP but 40, 80 and 160 conditions seemed better than last year. see you all next year from a better County Expedition site.

W6ML County Expedition – Mono

This was my 22nd consecutive county expedition to Mammoth Lakes in Mono County. I arrived in Mammoth on Sunday night before CQP and spent Monday through Wednesday and part of Thursday putting up my five all wire antennas in the pine trees. The weather was absolutely beautiful during most of the week which made spending so much time outside a more enjoyable undertaking.

Even though I was getting good signal reports during the week, my score this year was down from the prior two years. And for the first time in 22 years I missed the NT section...sorry to see that extra-long NT lucky streak come to an end. I probably spent too much time hanging out on 15 & 20 SSB hoping that an NT would find me, like they usually do, but I guess my timing was off. It was fun working all the familiar calls plus 133 DX QSOs (mainly EU).

After the contest ended, the weather was so beautiful it inspired me to get as much done as possible, I got down all of my antennas except for the 40M dipole. So what took 3+ days to setup, came down in about 3 hours.

Thanks for all the QSOs and great ops in CQP!

73,

Jim, W6KC @ W6ML, Mammoth Lakes, Mono County

K6MI County Expedition – Tehama

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Operator(s): K6GHA K6MI K6VLF KK6GRP K9YC N3ZZ N6RNO W6GJB WB6HYD
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NCCC may have another new member -- Ranjeet, KK6GRP, was recruited by WB6HYD after he passed his General exam only a week earlier! After a couple of long shifts with a second set of headphones listening to K6GHA and W6GJB, Ranjeet, with WB6HYD in the second chair, took over when they went to bed and turned in a quite respectable shift in the SSB station. While we certainly missed NI6T,

we were equally happy to have K6GHA join us. Not only that, but Rhino was back after a one year hiatus, and outdid himself launching ropes for wire antennas high into the scrub trees using nothing more than his arm and a borrowed tennis ball from N3ZZ's launcher.

We needed no help from Murphy to make things go wrong. K9YC lost count of power amps, discovering as we began setting up stations late Friday afternoon that we had only two KPA500s for three K3-equipped stations. And somehow the slick rebuild by W6GJB of the 2-element vertical array that bought from W6NF got installed facing KH6 rather than W2. We worked KH6 on 40 pretty quickly though.

73, Jim K9YC

NC6DX County Expedition

We operated again multi-multi from 5000 feet in a Sierra wilderness area using solar power, batteries and generators. No commercial power, no paved roads and no neighbors other than deer, bears (small ones)and rattlesnakes for miles. :-) We had three HP stations operational. We are all old farts..the youngest is 64 and three of us are in our 70s! We had some health issues and Murphy issues this weekend but we still had a lot of fun. Thank you NCCC for creating a great contest event for all of us! Bob-2, K6ON, Ted, K6XN, Bob1, K6YN and Gordon, W6NW

W1UE – fixed MA – at K1LZ station - 420 cw 624 ssb - 58 mults – clean sweep

“Interesting Contest. Several years ago, I got a clean sweep in 3.5 hours. Last year, I did it in about 6.5 hours. This year, at the 3.5 hour mark, I only had 50 mults! I did all my usual tricks, but was rather surprised at how many mults were missing. I finally got the sweep about 8:45 in, when K6AQL made it to Merced county. I did eventually work another Merced, but only one Sierra made it into the log. I figure, someone else will get the "fastest" this year!”

KN4Y – fixed FL – 228 cw 47 mults

Ten meters likes CW, CA stations took advantage of the fact. Worked many of the

same stations on three bands. Saturday was best, Sunday slow. Missed the sweep, did not even get close. Got to get a mike.

OM2VL – fixed - DX 238 cw 233 WWB

Last few weekends I was QRV in several QSO Parties, and because I was so tired I hesitated to take part also in CA QP ...

I made my decision in Friday - TO TAKE PART IN IT:)

1st day: 1 hour before the contest I CQ on 10m and have nice pileup, but not any West Coast station. I began on 15m and Californian stations was strong. My last QSO on 15m was at 20:15Z. Unfortunately 20m was open only till 21:07Z and my first QSO on 40m made only at 00:34Z ...

40m was excellent, On CW I was only S/P and made 69 QSO.

2nd day I began on 20m at 13:52Z, but made only few QSO's and I QSY to 15m. The condx was same excellent on this band as on Saturday. Sometimes I checked 10m, and at 15:01Z I found my first CA station on this band... :)

I missed only SIERRA county.

73, Laci

Arizona QSO Party

There did not seem to be as much activity as usual. Contacts on cw were very limited and I didn't hear half the counties show up on cw. Didn't hear any mobiles either! Most of the 'county expeditions' didn't seem to happen this year!

from the 3830 contest reflector:

K5JT at station K8IA – fixed AZ – Maricopa

I moved out to Arizona over the summer for a 6 month gig. Prior to moving out here Eric, NM5M got me in contact with the Arizona Outlaws Contest Club. Bob K8IA invited me to participate in their annual M/2 for the CQWW SSB contest at the end of October and wanted me to have a chance to get a feel for the station prior to the contest so he invited me for AZQP.

It was good to see 10 open, worked several ZS's on 10. 15 certainly had it's moments with the SAC SSB Contest happening it was nice to get a little DXing in during the contest.

20 as usual in this kind of contest proved the sweet spot of just running guys. 40 wasn't really hot, but I needed a chance to use the 40 meter set-up to get a feel for it for at Bob's station for CQWW in two weeks. There were a few loud Europeans on 40 for the SAC contest that I worked but not much stateside (except for the ragchewers).

It is certainly interesting to see the strategy differences coming from a background guest operating in Texas and coming to Arizona. The time difference does make band change times different and I'll have to get used to the different patterns when it comes to attention location. But really looking forward to CQWW and appreciate Bob's invite for some much needed radio time.

NI7R – fixed – Pinal AZ

This was not a good contest for stations with limited antennas. Endless CQing with no answers. However, I did get a couple of small runs going on 20 meters SSB and also thanks to the PA QSO Party for 30 of my Qs. **Lack of participation by Arizona stations is ruining this contest.** By comparison, I had 526 QSOs in the last 7QP. The PA QSO Party had lots of participation and PA stations were making lots of Qs.

K7DPS – fixed – AZ -SSB

Thanks to those who made contact with us. **Otherwise, for two stations on the air as a multi-multi with decent antennas, this was obviously a bust in terms of Qs and score for a 15 hour effort.** Not sure why we couldn't generate anything. Must not be a popular contest as our time was spent endlessly running the voice keyers with nearly no takers.

VE9AA – fixed – Canada - 9 cw 2 ssb

In the past I've done better than this. Every spin through the bands looking for PA stns, I also listened for 7's (AZ 7's) and barely ever heard any. Was expecting to hear K6LL and did not, so that took me by surprise.

With 11 Q's I hardly have a leg to stand on to complain, but really did see a drop off from years past.

KN4Y – fixed FL - 17 cw

"Did nit hear much CW activity from Arizona,heard no mobiles. Worked who I heard."

Cold, Hungry and in the Dark

Bill Powers wrote a new book on Natural Gas. I've seen him give presentations at the Association for Study of Peak Oil (ASPO) conventions on several occasions. When the new book came out, I bought a copy and digested it, end to end. Here's some tidbits from an interview mixed in with N4CD comments:

In the 1970s, the US experienced a 'natural gas' crisis. This was just before the 'oil crisis' of the same decade – maybe the 'senior' county hunters will remember the gas lines of the 1973 era, the 'out of gas' signs at gas stations, the odd/even rationing plans, and the purchase of 'only six gallons' at a time? The same was happening in industry in NG at the end of the decade. Schools were shut down or opened late. "interruptible' customers got interrupted – many times and for weeks. Industry shut down or moved overseas to more reliable energy supplies.. The price quadrupled in just a few years. Now, Bill Powers says the 'glut' of current NG will be gone in a few years, and we'll be back to doubling and tripling of NG prices once again, and the add on problems of industry once again facing massive rising energy bills which will stun the economy and stall growth. What followed was a building binge of NUCLEAR and COAL power plants since there wasn't enough NG to go around! Just 30 years ago. How many forgot those times?

Remember – things can fail.

1) Housing crisis....despite dozens of assurances from 'the government' and Bwarney Franks (D) who was out to protect his extremely high paid buddies at Fannie and Freddie....they did collapse, sucking 150 billion out of taxpayers wallets to bail them out. Housing went down the tubes despite the saying 'Housing is your safest investment'. Many found out the hard way that wasn't true. Millions. But...the government told you and the real estate industry convinced you that 'housing was safe' and 'prices were appropriate'.Did you see it coming?
2) Financial Crisis – hey, no problem here , right? Let's see...trillions in wealth evaporated. “derivatives' and toxic CDOs....and who saw it coming? Did you?
3) Natural gas – since 2008, the US has been on a natural gas boom. The pundits tell you we have a 100 year supply. Bill Powers says don't believe it. The supply will peak before 2018 and regardless of the price, the supply won't be there.

The government and industry lie to you all the time. The government because they don't like bad news, and they simply 'project' things out, not really investigating what is going on. Mindless bureaucrats. Industry always hypes itself. Why would a NG driller or company tell you it is going to be running out in five years? They want you to sign up as a customer, or invest in their drilling operations. I'm sure Blackberry's annual report looked rosy till they essentially went bankrupt.

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From an interview:

“The numbers don’t lie — but politicians and industry bigwigs do. While pundits still wax poetic about an era of American energy independence, Bill Powers, author of the book “Cold, Hungry and in the Dark: Exploding the Natural Gas Supply Myth,” sees productivity plummeting in almost every major shale play. In this interview Powers tells us to forget about LNG exports and a manufacturing boom and get positioned for a bust. How? Invest in energy equities. Powers names his favorites for maximum returns when the bubble bursts.”

Bill Powers: More data points have come in supporting my views and making it very clear that the Fayetteville and Haynesville shales are now in decline and the Barnett had a very steep, 17% decline in H1/13 on a year-over-year (YOY) basis. It is now producing about 4.6 billion cubic feet a day (Bcf/day), which is substantially down from its peak of near 6 Bcf/day. The facts are starting to show that declines for the older shale plays such as the Barnett, Haynesville, Fayetteville and Woodford are very serious. More important, once production growth from the Marcellus slows down, it will no longer be able to offset declining production from shale plays as well as conventional, offshore, CBM and tight sands production, which are all in terminal decline.

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BP: “About 80% of production will come within the first two years for most Haynesville wells, so current gas prices have an outsized influence on an individual well’s economics. There are still a number of companies out there willfully drilling uneconomic wells, which boggles my mind. These companies are continuing to drill to keep their production from collapsing entirely.

There’s been a lot of evidence put forward by myself, Art Berman, who wrote the forward to my book, and David Hughes, that the shale industry has overbooked its reserves by approximately 100%. The write-downs of the last few years have largely proven this out. More importantly, if shale operators are writing down reserves at the rate we’ve seen, this also speaks volumes about the total recoverability of all shale gas in the United States.

The strong growth in the play has really been the only thing that has kept gas production even close to flat this year in the U.S. As I discussed earlier, it will not be long before future shale wells will not be able to replace production from older wells.

Many of the people promoting the 100-year myth were doing it for either financial or political reasons. Let’s look at why the U.S. government promoted the myth.

Industry mainly wanted the ability to sell acreage to latecomers.

Other promoters of the 100-year supply myth include people such as T. Boone Pickens, who has a very self-interested agenda to get natural gas vehicles onto the road. Pickens, who said on CNBC in 2011 that the U.S. will recover 4,000 Tcf and has never provided any support for this statement, promoted this patriotic idea that we should convert our vehicle fleet to natural gas rather than buying oil from the “enemy.” Pickens has been known to refer to certain oil-exporting nations as the “enemy.”

However, Pickens almost never discusses the fact that he is one of the largest owner of a company that is one of the biggest providers of natural gas refueling stations and that stands to benefit significantly from the growth of natural gas vehicle adoption. The legislation that T. Boone Pickens is advocating for in the Pickens Plan, which includes large tax credits and grants to the natural gas vehicle (NGV) and NGV refueling industry, would benefit him uniquely because he owns approximately 18.1 million (18.1M) shares of Clean Energy Fuels stock. Pickens’ shares are currently valued at around $230M. There are very few people, and you can count them on one hand, who want to discuss the reality of shale gas, which my book does.

In addition, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), after heavy lobbying, changed its rules in 2010 to allow for a significant increase in proven undeveloped reserves to be booked, so the SEC was also complicit in the perpetuation of the shale gas myth. Without this change in how shale gas reserves were booked in 2010, most shale operators would have been forced to take large write-downs rather than booking increases in reserves. I believe this rule change by the SEC grossly distorts the value of a company’s reserves since it allowed for a large increase

in the booking of proven undeveloped reserves.

I think it will be similar to the housing crisis, where a handful of people saw it coming and profited from it. There was significant evidence that housing prices were unsustainable, but most people were surprised when the housing bubble popped. People from Alan Greenspan to Ben Bernanke and others had a lot of information about the economy and how unsustainable house prices were, but did not want to talk about it publicly. There's a saying that "the impossible can become the inevitable in the blink of an eye." I think this will happen with natural gas. For example, in the first week of December 2000, gas prices went from around $4/Mcf to over $10/Mcf in only a few trading sessions. This was due to falling production, lower storage levels and a cold spell that set in across much of the United States. This price spike was the first of numerous spikes during the last decade.

Shale gas is a finite resource. When prices start to escalate, unfortunately, the situation will be even worse than the spikes we had in the early part of the 21st century, and even more so than the 1970s. From 2000–2010, we were able to increase our imports of LNG, and in the 1970s we built dozens of nuclear-fired power plants and hundreds of coal-fired power plants to reduce demand for natural gas. Now we are seeing the nuclear industry in decline, with five plants shutting down this year out of 104 plants, and many more closing in the next two to three years. Dozens of coal-fired power plants will be shutting down before mercury emissions laws take effect in 2015 and few new plants are likely to be built given the stringent emissions standards. Even worse, for the first time in the industry's history, world LNG trade shrank last year. We are seeing record-high global prices for LNG with no sign that this is going to slow down or reverse. When the U.S. is forced to go back out and try to secure cargoes to import LNG, the prices we will be forced to pay are going to be much higher. The current price of LNG in Chile, Brazil and Argentina is $14–15 per million British thermal units ($14–15/MMBtu). In Japan and Korea it's been over $16/MMBtu. Even Mexico is currently importing LNG at $16/MMBtu due to demand outstripping supply and lack of pipeline capacity to connect to U.S. markets. The U.S. is going to be forced to pay much higher prices when it will not be able to meet its own domestic needs, as shale gas rolls over and Canadian imports decline as the country begins exporting LNG to Asia via British Columbia.

BP: The U.S. is heading toward world gas prices. To recap, this means double-digit prices within the next three to five years for a number of reasons. First, in addition to lower U.S. production, our imports from Canada are going to be diverted toward Asia through LNG exports. Canadian production continues to fall, and 2013 will mark the 12th year since it peaked. Canada will be unable to export to both the U.S. and Asia due to lower production and record domestic consumption. Second, the U.S. is now far more reliant on natural gas to generate electricity than it was in the 1970s. The U.S. got out of that gas crisis by building nuclear and coal-fired power plants, not through increased gas production. Last, this time it's going to be very difficult to destroy demand because we are starting to see manufacturing come back to the U.S. and coal and nuclear plants are closing.

- –
de N4CD

It's a good read if you are interested in energy – critical to the US economy. Come back and re-read this article in five years and see how well his forecasts turn out. If your energy bills are triple, he hit a home run. Maybe quadruple. With industry moving overseas to find better energy deals. We live in interesting times.

PA QSO Party

Things were hopping again this year but mobile activity seemed to be scarce, at least on 20 CW. I heard N2CU in one county and K8MR in one county and that was it. I needed six counties in PA and found one of them, Somerset, so I could strike that off the list, but the others eluded me – including Pike, Fayette, Montour, Mifflin, and Northumberland,

This is primarily a 40 and 80m contest, and if you aren't near PA, you aren't going to do that well.

It looks like N2CU, KB3CO, K8RYU, KN4SK where mobile. Saw KN4SK spotted on SSB in many counties I could use on CW...but no luck. Seemed to have company and ran on 'net frequency' on 20M and gave out bogus 'club call' contacts for the contest violating standard contest rules. . Only one call per transmitter allowed – no multiple calls for the same transmitter during the contest period. Worked K8RYU/m in just one county on cw.

The bands were good from TX to PA on 20 and 15 meters. I didn't hear a peep or see a spot on 10M. Some PA ops reported a few dozen Qs on 10m thought. However, spotters were scarcer than rare counties in PA....On Saturday there were only 3 spotters on cw on 20/15 and just one on SSB (N5MLP). Guess folks too lazy to spot? Sunday was a bit better, and of course, in the evenings when stations move to 40M and 80M the spot activity picked up. Unfortunately about the time the skip gets good ot PA from TX, all the stations disappear down on 80m and that does not good for me!.. I still had fun and worked 80 contacts (about 60 stations) in PA. We could have used a few more mobiles or 'county expeditions'.

There were a few 'big gun' multi-ops on. A few of the county hunters joined in that way. Scott, KA3QLF joined the N3KAE group in Wyoming, PA.

There were some Arizona stations to chase at the same time – The AzQP was going at the same time, and a few special event stations like N1D in Androscoggin, ME and KS4S/P on an island in Brunswick, NC were there for the taking if you could hear them.

I checked 10m, but nothing here from PA. DL3GA was calling CQ AZ and about 20 over S9 into TX but not many (if any) responded to his CQ AZ. Also heard N4JF in AL calling CQ AZ on 10m but didn't hear him work any. Just some DX on 10M and a net in MN/CA looking for check-ins.

So it was search and pounce for the weekend hunting for PA and AZ, and working a few county hunters out on trips. W5QP, N9AC, and NN9K and W8GEJ on cw, and a handful were out on on SSB.

From the 3830 contest reflector:

K8MR Mobile – 3 counties – with W3JL

A Murphy outing. I had a Saturday evening wedding in Cleveland, so PAQP was a Sunday only event. This year I was joined by one of my longest time radio friends, Glenn, W3JL.

Shortly before the start of the contest on Sunday we stopped to get Glenn into the driver seat. Pulling out he asked if there was something odd about the brakes on the minivan, and I said no. But a few miles down the road when he pushed the brake pedal nearly to the floor and the brake warning light came on, we decided that there really was a problem. Got out to find brake fluid all around the left rear wheel.

So me made the obvious decision to head back to his QTH and then home. Fortunately we weren't all that far away, and the road (US422) was mostly 4 lane and relatively straight by PA standards. Good thing the brakes didn't break heading down some big hill a hundred miles from home.

We stopped on the way back to set up the mast and 33 foot wire in BUT, then in Glenn's driveway in Lawrence. After an hour there we headed out to lunch (in his car) at the original Quaker Steak & Lube in Sharon, along with K3LR, K3LA, and K3LA's XYL.

After lunch a few more qsos from Glen's driveway, I then did a careful drive on I-376, I-80, and I-271 back to my home in Cleveland. I made a brief stop just off I-376 to activate Mercer. No problems on that part of the trip, and I dropped the car at the repair shop where my wife picked me up.

Conditions did not seem very good on Sunday, compared to what I heard from home in Ohio on Saturday. Highlight was moving Uli, DM5EE, through five QSOs on 20, 15, and 10 CW. Barely heard him on 10SSB, but no QSO.

Sorry I wasn't able to pass out a lot more QSOs than we did.

73 - Jim K8MR

KB3CO multi op mobile 647 cw contacts, 406 SSB

"Operated from 27 counties."

Note de N4CD – 647 cw contacts **AND NOT ONE OF THEM ON 20M CW!** Only 80 and 40m. On SSB, made 406 SSB QSOs but only 8 on 20M! 27 missed counties for those living more than 800 miles away – which is 50% or more of the population of the country. Sad.

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NG3P/Portable in Armstrong

Loaded up the car and drove across the county line into ARMstrong
Set up at Freeport Community Park on a nice hilltop overlooking Freeport, PA.
Opened the back of the car and ran the Yaesu FT-857D at 50w off of a pair of car batteries **into a 40m Inv Vee** hoisted into a tree. A little bit of rain about an hour after the 9AM start, but it didn't last very long and the rest of the day ended up being rather nice. I even got to enjoy a few kids soccer games later in the day.

Worked 63 counties from ARM.

It was nice to give out a new one to a lot of folks, and to keep hearing "Thanks for ARM, I needed that one" made it worth sitting/standing under the car hatchback in the rain for 30 mins or so trying to stay dry but getting wet anyway :-)

73, George N3GJ

Note de N4CD - 102 cw and 247 ssb qso on 40 meters only. No 20m for the rest of the country.

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N2CU mobile

First, thank you to all the stations who called in and made my weekend a blast. I operated both days and activated 12 counties. 500 miles (exactly) driven for the two days. Worked bonus station W3ZGD 16 times; I don't think I ever worked the bonus station in previous years.

Most productive counties were Cameron (166), Forest (154), Warren (133) and McKean (104). The first three are pretty rare and the pileups proved it. I got many thanks for providing a sweep with their last county.

My modified screwdriver antenna worked great. I got many fine signal reports, even on 80m. I did have an intermittent SWR issue Sunday morning right at the start, but found the problem and fixed it on site. Whew!

I would have liked to try 20-15-10 more but CQing and not getting answers gets old real fast when rates on 40 and 80 were terrific.

WA3SRU – Bucks PA

First PA QSO Party for me. Had a ball. Also had a clean sweep of all 67 counties. I;ll be there next year.

Note de N4CD – SSB only and 80% of the contacts were on 80 and 40M SSB. :(

K3JWI with N4NZ, K4VIG = County Expedition - Huntington

This was our first attempt at a QSO party mini-expedition. Ken K3JWI, Gary K4VIG and I traveled from Tennessee and Georgia to operate from Ken's family cabin near Greenwood Furnace State Park in Huntingdon County. Ken grew up in nearby Belleville. Our setup consisted of a TS590/G5RV and Elecraft K3/40m EDZ with tuner. The antennas were strung among the trees and up 40 to 50 feet. We used two laptop computers networked and running N1MM Logger software. Conditions seemed very good with loud signals from all over. We were cw only and out-of-state activity seemed a bit sparse at times. However, PA activity seemed very good. Maybe we'll add ssb operation next year.

I've done several QSO parties from a mobile but this was a new experience. Thanks to all who stopped by to give us a QSO and help make this mini-expedition a success and a lot of fun.

KD8MQ – County Expedition – Jefferson PA with WI8T KD8KMQ

(Made 58 cw and 257 SSB QSOs all on 80 and 40m. ZERO ON 20M!!!!!)

This year, we came up short on counties. We missed CRN, FRA, INN, NUM. We packed it up about 2 PM, so we could get things packed up before the predicted rain showed up. No Six meter activity was heard from our location, and technical issues forced abandonment of RTTY, & PSK.

We were running my new FT-950 at Sigel, PA. Logging was done by N1MM. The level of integration between the rig, and the computer was higher than in years past. We had several issues with the system.

a)The CAT interface would lag on updating the frequency from the rig to the computer. As a result, callsigns that we typed into N1MM would disappear, since the frequency was still moving.

b)After completing a CW Q, we would get an error message which would imply that N1MM was trying to send a CW message. This even happened when the CW interface was not configured. (We curd this by doing a complete new install, and importing our QSOs.)

c) the computer stopped recognizing the signaLink USB
d) Occasionally, a wave file would try to send on completion of a voice QSO.
I've never configured the DVK.

Most of Sunday's QSOs were worked with the CAT interface disconnected. I'm still scratching my head as to the cause, but I'm inclined to blame USB port issues with my laptop. Possible heat issues may have entered into it as well.

KU8E – fixed – GA

"This is the first time I really spent much time in the PQP. **It appears that most of the activity is on 40 meters (during the day and 80 at night)with PA stations mostly working each other. If you were too far away to work PA during the day on the lower bands this QSO party would really suck.** I'm borderline and could work the louder stations on 40 later during the day. Too bad more stations didn't go to 20 meters "

N4PN – fixed – GA

Fixed stations showed up on Sunday afternoon for the last two for the sweep....WB2LPC in Tioga and K2LNS in Pike.

Note de N4CD: Paul made 75% of his QSOs on 40 and 80m – cw and SSB

Greenie Corruption Story of the Month

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine filed suit against solar power company Willard & Kelsey Solar Group, charging the company with fraud in connection with loans it received from two state agencies.

Job Promises Never Materialized

DeWine's suit says Willard & Kelsey defaulted on two $5 million loans granted in 2009 and 2010. The Ohio Development Services Agency and the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority granted the loans.

Prior to receiving the loans, Willard & Kelsey boasted it would create 450 jobs, and its website claimed it manufactured "the world's finest" thin-cell solar panels. Ohio officials declared the company in default on its loans in late 2011, and Willard & Kelsey idled operations at its northwestern Ohio facility in June of this year.

Multiple Charges for Misconduct

In all, the Ohio AG's office leveled 17 charges against the company, including two counts of fraudulent and unlawful transfers, two counts of civil conspiracy, and two counts of civil aiding and abetting. Having defaulted on its loans and having shut down operations in the summer, Willard & Kelsey may not have the money the state is trying to recover. As a result, Ohio authorities are holding the company's shareholders individually liable for the funds owed to the state.

The suit says the company failed to secure the certifications needed to sell its products and company president James Appold gave Willard & Kelsey a personal loan "at an unconscionable interest rate."

Powerful Political Backers

Even more disturbing is how Willard & Kelsey received the loans in the first place, when financial data showed the company was severely undercapitalized, **Vice President Joe Biden** and then-Gov. Ted Strickland gave the company high-profile support despite its apparent financial problems. At the time, both the company **and its political supporters** touted the hundreds of jobs they said the solar-panel manufacturer would create.

"The entire episode has more than a faint whiff of 'Solyndra' to it," said Greg Lawson, a policy analyst with the Ohio-based Buckeye Institute.

"However, the larger public policy question is why the state was offering these kinds of loans in the first place, and essentially picking winners and losers," Lawson explained. "That is something government should not be doing, because it is inevitable that these types of situations will raise their ugly head."

"Solyndra-style scandals are not limited to the federal government," said Jay Lehr, science director for the Heartland Institute, which publishes *Environment & Climate News*. "Taxpayers in many states are getting burned by their state legislatures authorizing the very same types of sweetheart renewable energy deals as Solyndra."

"State-level renewable power subsidies make no more sense than Solyndra. Renewable power costs more to produce than conventional power, and even with substantial subsidies renewable power has a difficult time competing. **Ultimately, taxpayers are left footing the bill for failed**

companies," said Lehr.

Source: http://news.heartland.org/newspaper-article/2013/10/07/ohio-sues-solar-firm-recover-11-million-loans

Some Stuff from Ebay

Back in the 40s, 50s, and 60s, some hams tried to build 'midget' transmitters – Post Card size QRP rigs. Here's one that you probably would not want to put on the air.

Post Card Size TX

This one was built with ta25Z6 tubes and 25L6 – one as a rectifier, the other as a single stage

TX, crystal control on 80m. It has a 'line resistor' cord and it wouldn't surprise me if the chassis was tied to one side of the a/c line. It had a plug in coil and a link output (not adjustable). Probably would put out a watt or two on a good day. Up for sale on Ebay with an asking price starting at $25 plus, of course, shipping of about $15.

The Race of the Red Queens

U.S. Oil Boom Races Against Red Queen as Shale Wells Fade Fast

Chesapeake Energy Corp.'s Serenity 1-3H well northwest of Oklahoma City came in as a gusher in 2009, pumping more than 1,200 barrels of oil a day and kicking off a rush to drill that extended into Kansas. Now the well produces less than 100 barrels a day, state records show. Serenity's swift decline sheds light on a dirty secret of the oil boom: It may not last. Shale wells start strong and fade fast, and producers are drilling at a breakneck pace to hold output steady. In the fields, this incessant need to drill is known as the Red Queen, after the character in Lewis Carroll's "Through the Looking-Glass" who tells Alice, "It takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place."

The U.S. is producing 7.809 million barrels of oil a day, more than it has in nearly a quarter-century, according to the Energy Information Administration. Crude from shale formations has cut reliance on imports and put the U.S. closer to energy independence than it's been since 1989. The International Energy Agency in Paris predicted last year that the U.S. would overtake Saudi Arabia by 2020 as the world's largest producer.

Whether current production can hold up is the subject of debate, Bloomberg Businessweek reports in its Oct. 14 issue.

"The Red Queen syndrome just gets worse and worse and worse," says David Hughes, a geoscientist and president of Global Sustainability Research Inc., who has examined the life span of shale wells. "The higher production goes, the more wells you need to offset the decline."

The EIA estimates that about 29 percent of U.S. oil production today comes from so-called

tight oil formations. These dense layers of rock and shale are cracked open by blasting water, sand, and chemicals deep underground, creating fissures that allow the oil to flow into horizontal pipes, some of them thousands of feet long. **Production from wells bored into these formations declines by 60 percent to 70 percent in the first year alone,** says Allen Gilmer, chairman and chief executive officer of Austin, Texas- based Drillinginfo, which tracks the performance of U.S. Wells.

Traditional wells take two years to slide 50 percent to 55 percent, and they can keep pumping for 20 years or more. In North Dakota's Bakken shale, a well formally known as Robert Heuer 1-17R put out 2,358 barrels in May 2004, when it went live, state records show. The output proved there was money to be made drilling in the Bakken and kicked off an oil rush in North Dakota. Continental Resources Inc., the well's operator, built a monument to it. Production declined 69 percent in the first year.

"I look at shale as more of a retirement party than a revolution," says Art Berman, a petroleum geologist who spent 20 years with what was then Amoco and now runs his own firm, Labyrinth Consulting Services, Inc., in Sugar Land, Texas.

"It's the last gasp."

There are plenty of people who disagree. Aubrey McClendon, founder and former president and CEO of Chesapeake, called Berman a "third-tier geologist" in a 2011 interview on CNBC's Mad Money With Jim Cramer. Harold Hamm, the chairman and CEO of Continental, estimated in 2010 that there were 24 billion barrels of recoverable oil in the Bakken and other formations underlying the Williston basin.

Now, Hamm says improved technology could eventually boost that number to 45 billion. "We're just getting started," Hamm says.

North Dakota

Since Continental drilled the Robert Heuer, North Dakota's oil production has increased more than 10-fold to 874,000 barrels a day, according to the EIA. That beats Ecuador and Qatar, the two smallest members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, according to a Bloomberg survey of oil companies, producers and analysts.

Global Sustainability's Hughes estimates the U.S. needs to drill 6,000 new wells per year at a cost of $35 billion to maintain current production. His research also shows that the newest wells aren't as productive as those drilled in the first years of the boom, a sign that oil companies have already tapped the best spots, making it that much harder to keep breaking records. Hughes has predicted that output will peak in 2017 and fall to 2012 levels within two years.

“The hype about U.S. energy independence and ‘Saudi America’ is deafening if you look at the mainstream media,” Hughes says. “We need to have a much more in-depth and intelligent discussion about this.”

On Oct. 7, Abdalla Salem el-Badri, OPEC’s secretary general, said at a conference in Kuwait that U.S. shale producers are “running out of sweet spots” and that output will peak in 2018.

Oklahoma Boom

If the boom goes bust, it will profoundly affect the fortunes of states such as Oklahoma, which from 1907 to 1923 was the biggest oil-producing state in the U.S. Its production has increased more than 80 percent since Chesapeake drilled the Serenity well near the Kansas border, according to the EIA, the statistical arm of the Energy Department.

Drilling has been propelled by oil prices that have averaged more than $85 a barrel since the start of 2009. Rigs are targeting the Woodford shale, the Mississippi Chat, and the Mississippi lime, hardened deposits left by a shallow sea that covered Oklahoma 350 million years ago. The cost of drilling a horizontal shale well ranges from $3.5 million in the Mississippi lime to $9 million or more in the Bakken, according to Drillinginfo. That’s far more than the cost of a similar vertical well, which goes from $400,000 to $600,000, the company said.

Higher Costs

In September, Steve Slawson, vice president for Slawson Exploration Company Inc. in Oklahoma City, sat in a trailer about 35 miles north of his office, watching monitors as his crew shattered the Mississippi lime thousands of feet below. The well, known as Begonia 1-30H, will cost about $3.7 million, Slawson says. One-third of that is the cost of fracking, Slawson says.

First, thin pipes loaded with explosives are threaded into the hole to blast the ancient reef. Then, at a cost of about $80,000, the Begonia will consume 50,000 gallons of hydrochloric acid to dissolve the limestone; another $68,000 will pay for 1,000 gallons of antibacterial solution to kill microorganisms that chew up the pipes; $110,000 goes for a soapy surfactant to reduce friction; $10,000 covers a scale inhibitor to prevent lime buildup; and $230,000 purchases 2 million pounds of sand to prop the fractures open so the oil and gas can flow into the well.

Then there’s $300,000 in pumping charges, plus the cost of equipment rental, pipe, and water, which brings the price tag for fracking the well to $1.2 million. A host of other things, from cement to Porta Potty rentals, accounts for the rest of the cost.

There’s little doubt Begonia will produce oil, Slawson says. The question is whether it will be enough to cover the cost of drilling and how quickly. Slawson Exploration’s first Mississippi lime horizontal well, the nearby Wolf 1-29H, produced the equivalent of almost 1,185 barrels a

day when it started flowing last year and has paid for itself twice over, Slawson says. After the Wolf, a third of his wells were “dogs,” and only a third have come even close to it.

Slawson sees a few more years of growth in U.S. production if prices stay high. Below $70 a barrel, the number of rigs hunting for oil will drop, and production won’t be far behind, he says. “Like anybody else who is over the age of 50 and has been through the boom-and-bust cycle, I am concerned,” Slawson says. Companies that borrow heavily to pay for drilling will be hit especially hard if prices decline. Since natural gas prices started falling, Chesapeake has been forced to sell off assets to pay for drilling. It’s also started cutting jobs. Chesapeake would not comment for this story.

Oklahomans know about bubbles. In the Osage Nation, a tribal territory, derelict oil pumps rust away on the prairie, part of the Burbank oil field. Discovered in 1920, the field saw its production peak in 1923 at a daily average of 72,000 barrels, according to the Oklahoma Geological Survey.

The town attracted thousands of people and supported 300 businesses, John W. Morris wrote in “The Ghost Towns of Oklahoma” (University of Oklahoma Press, 1978). The locals called it Whizbang. Today, other than a few farmhouses and a street sign, Whizbang has vanished into the grass. “

Source: http://investorvillage.com/smbd.asp?mb=4288&mn=123238&pt=msg&mid=13197250

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Note de N4CD – more than likely, we're going to see increased production from the shale oil fields for a couple more years – maybe out to 2018 when nearly everyone agrees they'll likely peak out, and the Red Queen will win. Then it will be interesting to see how much more money is needed just to maintain production (hundreds of billions) and whether it will be available, and how the world economy is doing at the time. We're in a shale oil 'bubble' – so don't get caught up in the hype. Same for NG.

New York QSO Party

Wow – these folks have their act together another year. There were mobiles out and running – N2CU, N2ZN, W2PV, WJ2O, NT2A and maybe others I missed. Signals were good on 20M

and occasional contacts were made on 15M from the QTH here in TX. I never heard a peep in NY on 10M although there was lots of DX there in the WAG – Work all Germany – contest. It was also the 10-10 weekend, but not much heard on 10M here other than folks in the WAG contest.

There were two dozen fixed stations on cw and some of them county hunters like WB2ABD and NG2T. You could snag some 1x1 calls, too!

There seemed to be a complete and utter lack of spotters most of the day. However, when spots showed up, there would be a good 8 or 10 county hunters working the stations within a few minutes so you know folks were WATCHING the spots, but never themselves contributing. Only a few folks actually spotted NY stations which is disappointing.

If you don't get the mobiles and fixed stations spotted, they don't get the contacts from those who aren't good at digging out new ones, and if you don't get the mmobiles lots of contacts, the QSO party falls apart real quick. Mobiles don't want to be burning gas for nothing, and fixed stations want to run up their totals rather than sit around calling CQ QP all day with few answers. If you want the QSO parties to be successful, you've got to 'stimulate' the activity by spotting.

I needed six in NY and caught 3 of them. Don't think the others were run – at least they weren't spotted. I missed a few hours with other activities but checked the spots.

Spotters? Joke? Joke? I checked W6RK and there were exactly THREE spots on SSB for the NY QP. One of them happened to be on 7188 so. Is there really not a single person out there hunting for NY counties on SSB? According to the results on W6RK, some NY stations racked up hundreds and hundreds of contacts on SSB, but almost NONE of them got spotted. Have all the SSB county hunters got rusted dials on 14.336 or simply can't be bothered to help out their fellow county hunters?

One nice thing this year was the 1x1 calls – more fun for all chasing 1x1s and for those using them!

Sadly, a lot of reporting stations noted operations only on 40 and 80M. While many do go to 20m, at least half the stations participating can't get their band switches off 40 and 80 m during the contest to help out the other half fo the country and all the DX.

One problem with this contest is it was held the same weekend as the WAG – Worked All Germany Contest – and back east, they filled the band end to end. In TX, we only heard 'some' of them.

From the 3830 reflector:

W2Q – Rover - N2BEG/KC2JXP ops 56 cw, 258 ssb – (13 contacts on cw on 20m)

Thanks to all who put us in their logs, Had fun from CAT,ALL,WYO and LIV.

N2CU – mobile 433 cw 103 ssb QSO

I didn't get enough mobiling in last week in the PAQP so I hit the road again :)
About 230 miles driven this time. Nine counties activated; ALL, CAT, CHA, ERI, LIV, ONT, STE, WYO and YAT.

Only two encounters with the general public; one guy thought I may have been a hunter when I pulled off the road onto his land, and another who said there was nothing on the road I stopped on to operate. Almost got an 8-point hood ornament on the way home. The buck was standing on the side of the road as I approached and then ran about 50 feet right next to my car before deciding to turn right into a field. I dropped my speed from 60 to 10 MPH in about a second!

All in all, a good time and many thanks to all who joined in and to the RDXA for sponsoring this event.

Elecraft K3, Eliminator screwdriver, N1MM

73,
Tom N2CU

N2ZN mobile 384 cw 82 ssb

Thanks to all who called. Had some some occasional local noise and computer issues, but otherwise everything went well. Hope to have an 80 meter antenna next year so I won't be begging for QSO's after dark.

County activity breakdown:

RoverLocations: CAY, JEF, LEW, ONO, OSW, SCU, SEN, TOM, YAT

See you next year-

Ken N2ZN

W2LC mobile QRP

As usual I operated on my way to the Clarkson University hockey game in Potsdam NY, with the game at 7:30 I only had a few hours to operate. Potsdam is in the most northern part of NY, only 30 miles more and you're in Canada !

I did pretty well running an FT-817 QRP with 40m and 20m hamsticks. I operated from Onondaga (9 Qs), Oswego (7 Qs), Jefferson (36 Qs), Lewis (26 Qs) and St. Lawrence (16 Qs) counties. All total it was about 320 miles to Potsdam NY and back with the side trip to Lewis County.

The ride back home on route 11 from Northern NY is one of the darkest and loneliest trips you can have. There is not much to see on route 11 and it is really dark between the small towns. I left Potsdam at 11PM and got back home about 1:45AM with a pit stop at my favorite Nice & Easy in Pamelia.

Last year there weren't too many QSOs from Jefferson and Lewis counties so I planned a bit of extra time in those counties. Thanks everyone for pulling out the 5 Watts, and thanks to WA2VYA with 6 contacts and N4PN with 5.

73 Scott W2LC/m

NT2A mobile

Worked alone without driver this year. Crossed 5 counties SUF, NAS, QUE, KIN, RIC. I planned to run Bronx and NY-NY, but crazy traffic in city made it impossible to do . I spent more than 2 hours in hwy traffic from Nassau to Kings county.

The conditions was very nice. I had a fun. Many thanks to RDXA for support and organization NYQP.

I used Kenwood TS480 (100W), Hustler and Tarheel Little II,

73! de NT2A, Gene

N4PN – fixed – GA 134 cw 160 ssb – 60 mults

Missed ESSEX and FRANKLIN up north somehow...two of the largest counties in the state..

Great to hear W2PV, Jim's old call, active...That mobile led the way in Q's with 15; followed by Tom, N2CU and WJ2O with 10. Also, thanks to N2ZN for 7; NT2A and W2LC for 5 each...K2MTH for 4..

OM2VL – fixed – DX – 200 QSOs!

Excellent condx on 10/15m. Thanks also for the 18 QSO on 80m!
I have better score than last year. I can't follow the mobiles sometimes, because I was also taking part in IA QP - made 86 QSO.

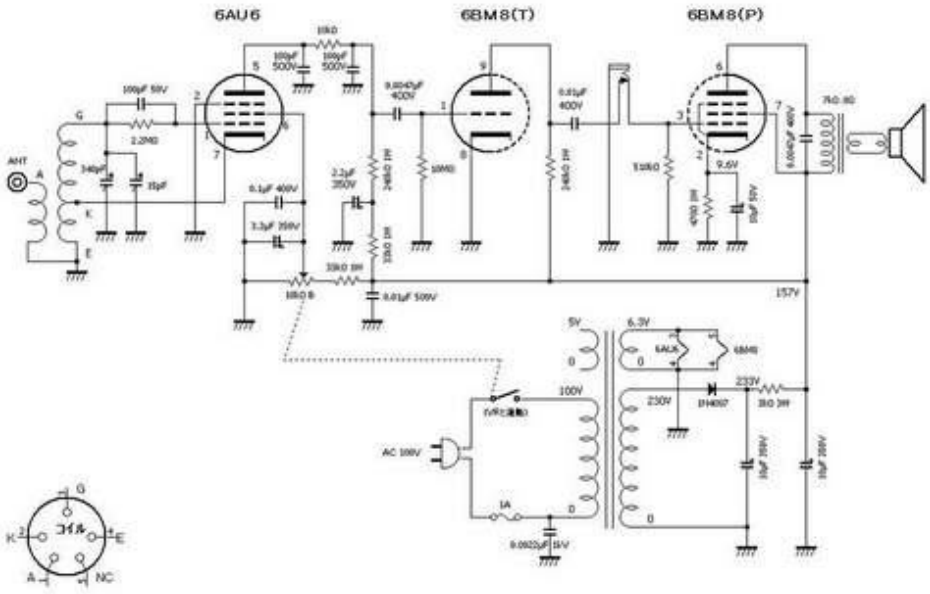
W2PV 13/11 (QSO/CTY)
WJ2O/M 11/8
NT2A/M 9/5
N2CU 7/6

73 Laci OM2VL

On the Trail of Regens

I ran across an interesting Japanese site where the ham builds regen receivers for fun. At one time, there was a Japanese shortwave 'kit' radio similar I would guess to the Knight Kits. He made his own copy of it. It was sold by Kagaku Kyouzai-sha.

Here's the schematic – similar to US kits



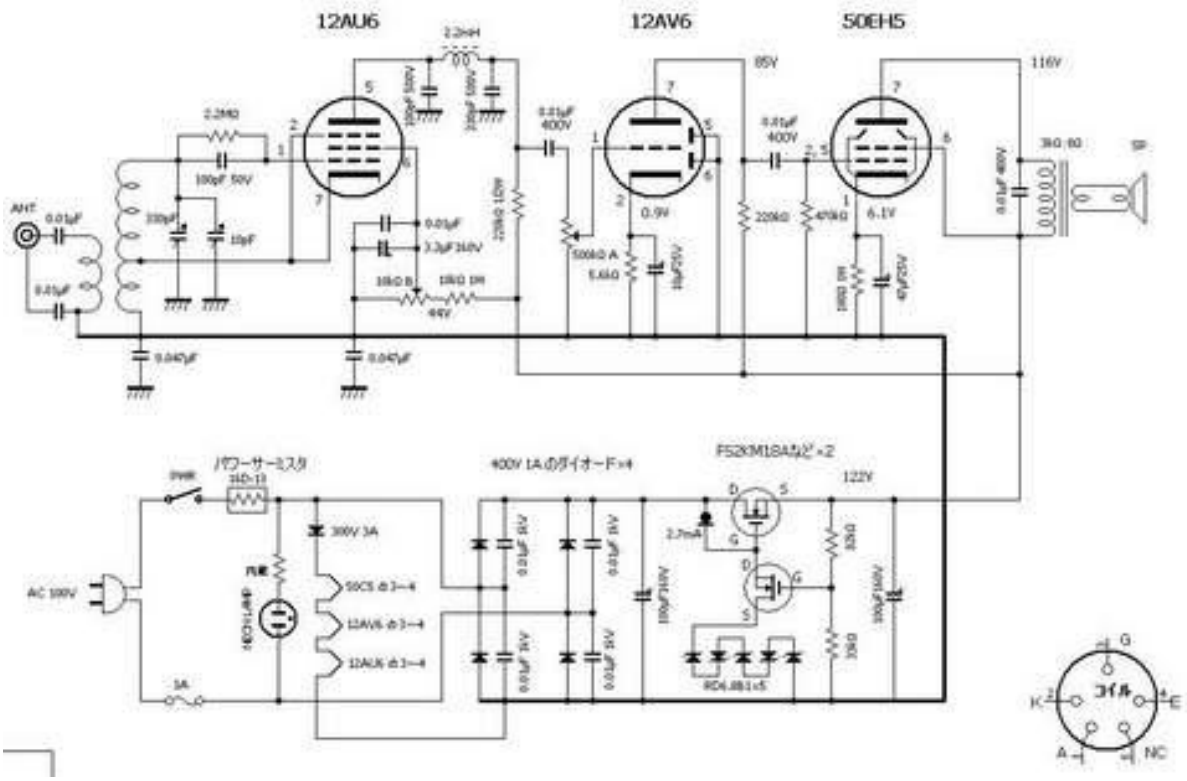
It uses a 6AU6 and a 6MB8 tube (triode pentode) in a Hartley regen detector and the performance was likely like the Knight Space Spanner – except this one uses plug in coils. He does a very nice job of construction and recreation of the original.

links to his site

http://www.geocities.jp/shoranosekai/EnglishVersion.html

http://www.geocities.jp/shoranosekai/0-V-2_Kyouzaisha_Type.html

Here's another one he built. Note the way the power supply is built! Up to date. In Japan, they have 100v AC line voltage. That's right, 100V AC. He runs the filaments which total 74v with a half wave diode – effectively dropping the line voltage to 'average 70v'.



There's a 12AU6 , followed by a 12AV6 and a 50EH6. The power supply is full wave bridge followed by voltage regulation – right off the line. It uses the 'floating ground' you see in most

AC/DC 5 tube consumer broadcast sets and the two Knight Kits – Space Spanner and Ocean Hopper.

Iowa QSO Party

This was another good effort. W0GXA was out and running. If you didn't check up at 7064 and 14064 or so, you'd never find him. (bet he doesn't have a cw filter in the rig – hi hi). NU0Q was out mobile and K0PC came down from WI to run some in IA for the folks. I heard AC0HW work someone as a 'rover' but never heard him on cw other than him working other IA mobiles. There were a handful of fixed stations including county hunter K2DSW. WI0WA was out mobile for the folks.

K0PC mobile with W9DND driver

It was another beautiful fall day in northwest Iowa for the 2013 IAQP. This year not only was the sun out but the sunspots made an appearance. I don't know how long it has been since I made a QSO Party QSO on 10M but the streak is broken. My driver John W9DND and I ran a 21 county route and were able to stay very close to our schedule.

Participation was very good again this year. Of the 622 QSOs there were 158 unique calls. The propagation allowed DX stations to be heard all day on several bands.

The Top Five list for QSOs:
49 - N6MU
37 - OM2VL
36 - K0MPH
22 - W8CAG
20 - WA2VYA

Special recognition goes to Roger K0MPH who decided to ignore the leaves in his yard and follow us around all day. Roger was about 200 miles away so he had a great signal on 40M but 20M was ESP level at best. Roger copied our mobile signal on 20M in 16 of the

21 counties. Just an amazing accomplishment from that close.

Thanks for all the QSOs and we hope to be back in IA again next fall.

73,

Pat K0PC & John W9DND

KE0G Rover - 309 cw QSO

Elecraft K3/10 running 5 watts to a 34' vertical with 5 radials laid on the ground, fed with balanced line and a Matchbox tuner. Had a great time sitting at the intersection of 4 counties: Chickasaw, Floyd, Howard, and Mitchell.

My vehicle was safely off the road, on a field approach, with one radial wire within 10' of the actual 4 corners. Enjoyed a lot of activity on 80, 40, 20, and 15 M. Worked four EU stations on 20M, solid copy both ways. Had one even more unusual QSO: with wi0wa on 15 meters. wi0wa was about s-2, so I'm sure I was very weak, but we confirmed one county each. IA hams, Thanks for throwing the party ! 73, Dan ke0g

N6MU – fixed – CA 96 cw 17 ssb qso and 45 mults

100 bonus points for working WA0DX. . 10 and 15 were open all day.

The mobiles contributed 86% of my Qs. Top mobile for me was K0PC with 49 Qs followed by NU0Q with 25, W9FZ/KE0G with 8 each and WI0WA with 7.

KV1E and K2DSW deserve the CW fixed station award for perseverence. They hung in there the whole time with endless unanswered CQs on 10-20. Caught K2DSW on 40 the last few minutes for my only 4-bander. Thanks to all the IA participants. 73...

John, N6MU

OM2VL – fixed – DX

This year less points/multipliers, than last year. Maybe because I was hunting also NY stations - I made 200 QSO on NY QP.

Very good condx on 10/15m. Unfortunately IA mobiles used on 40m frq between 7035-7040, but because of the RTYY contest it was impossible to copy him.
I made on this band only 4 QSO.

Thanks for the nice QSO's and new counties for me! (Bob, W0GXA made his route according my needed counties from IOWA - thank you BOB! I am really appreciated it)

The most QSO was with Pat, K0PC - Thanks for the many QSY's for other band for my request!

K0PC/M 38/20 (QSO/CTY)
W0GXA/M 14/13
NU0Q 13/8
WI0WA/M 7/4
KE0G 4/4

73 Laci OM2VL

More Greenie Falsehoods

The debate about climate change and its impact on polar bears has intensified with the release of a survey that shows the bear population in a key part of northern Canada is far larger than many scientists thought, and might be growing.

The number of bears along the western shore of Hudson Bay, believed to be among the most threatened bear subpopulations, stands at 1,013 and could be even higher, according to the results of an aerial survey released Wednesday by the Government of Nunavut. That's 66 per cent higher than estimates by other researchers who forecasted the numbers would fall to as low as 610 because of warming temperatures that melt ice faster and ruin bears' ability to hunt. The Hudson Bay region, which straddles Nunavut and Manitoba, is critical because it's considered a bellwether for how polar bears are doing elsewhere in the Arctic.

The debate over the polar-bear population has been raging for years, frequently pitting scientists against Inuit. In 2004, Environment Canada researchers concluded that the numbers in the region had dropped by 22 per cent since 1984, to 935. They also estimated that by 2011, the population would decrease to about 610. That sparked worldwide concern about the future

of the bears and prompted the Canadian and American governments to introduce legislation to protect them.

But many Inuit communities said the researchers were wrong. They said the bear population was increasing and they cited reports from hunters who kept seeing more bears. Mr. Gissing said that encouraged the government to conduct the recent study, which involved 8,000 kilometres of aerial surveying last August along the coast and offshore islands.

Mr. Gissing said he hopes the results lead to more research and a better understanding of polar bears. He said the media in southern Canada has led people to believe polar bears are endangered. “They are not.” He added that there are about 15,000 polar bears across Canada’s Arctic. “That’s likely the highest [population level]there has ever been.”

Source: http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/healthy-polar-bear-count-confounds-doomsayers/article4099460/

Illinois QSO Party

This year it was another great one with lots of mobiles to chase and lots of fixed station activity. Jeff, W9MSE/m, headed down from WI to zip over the NE part of IL, and KJ9C/m from IN was down in the southeast part. Jim, N9JF/m was in the western areas, and Pete NN9K was up in the northwest part of the state on cw. KF9D /m was busy putting them out in the east half. There were some mobiles out on SSB as well. They were not spotted although I suspect county hunters worked them.

There were loads of fixed stations putting out counties around the state and there were the signature 3 and 4 county line stations were you could work 3 or 4 counties with one contact by their rules. Most of them sat on those lines all day long so you had a very good chance of working them. Three or four expeditions were out like that.

Propagation was good on 20M from here to IL for the first half of the contest, but even hung in there till late evening. 40M was zip for the first few hours of lots of daylight then improved to where you could work mobiles anywhere in the state if you could get through the big pile ups. Some stations never made it up to 20M, though, just working IL stations.

Didn't see too many spots on 15 or 10m, but then again, it seems there was a severe lack of spotters despite hearing the regular county hunters on from KC3X to W4YDY, to K7TM, K5YAA, W0GXQ, etc. If there were contacts on 15 and 10m, no one spotted any that I recall. The upper bands were open and on Saturday before this event – were filled with

stations working the WAG- Work All Germany – contest end to end. According to filings on the 3830 contest reflector, the loud fixed stations worked a dozen or two on 10m and more on 15m – mostly DX.

I needed about 10 in IL and caught half of them during the contest, so it was good. Even heard Larry, W0QE and some other seldom heard county hunters in there making contacts.

From the 3830 reflector:

KB9OWD - fixed WI - 117cw 184 ssb

Played around a lot more than I planned. Moved K9PG around for all bands CW and SSB with the exception of 160 CW. Good activity from the mobiles and rovers. Most worked was W9MSE followed up by N9JF and KF9D.

Missed: Alexander, Coles, Franklin, Jo Daviess, Logan, Perry & Scott

N4PN – fixed – GA 144 cw 101 SSB Mults = 89

K4BAI – fixed GA 158 cw 107 wwb Mults = 85

20M was OK start, then went long and only Northern IL stations were beyond the skip zone, and then went shorter in the late afternoon. 40M signals were weaker than usual until late afternoon. 80M was OK.

Awards Issued

USACA #1237	John, W5RQ	October 9, 2013
USA CA #1238	Paul, N7JPF	October 24, 2013
Fourth Time #160	Randy, N3RM	October 7, 2013
Sixth Time #47	Dave, W4YDY	October 8, 2013
Bingo II #93	Al, N1API	October 6, 2013
Bingo III #29	Don, W0EAR	October 20, 2013
Master Platinum #22	Gene, WB4KZW	October 6, 2013

Upcoming Events for County Hunters

Nov 2 2100Z 4 0259Z
ARRL November Sweepstakes CW
Serial, category, call, check, ARRL/RAC sec
www.arrl.org/contests

Nov 9 1400Z 10 0200Z
Kentucky QSO Party Ph CW Dig
RST and KY county or S/P/C
www.wkdxa.com

Nov 16 2100Z 18 0259Z
ARRL November Sweepstakes Ph
Serial, category, call, check, ARRL/RAC sec
www.arrl.org/contests

Nov 23 0000Z 24 2359Z
CQ World Wide CW Contest CW
RST and CQ zone
www.cqww.com

Picture Database

Pictures	**County Hunter News Issue** see www.chnewsonline.com
AD4IA	April 2008
AI5P	Jun 06, Aug 06, Feb 08, Aug 09, Aug '12
AI9Q	Aug 2012
AJ5ZX	March 2009
AH6NF,AH6RH	October 2011
AB7NK	Aug 2012
AB7RW	Jul 2006, Nov 2008
AK8A	April 2008
AD8J	March 2013
AB8JF	August 2009
AA8R	Jul 2007, Nov 2008, Oct 2008
AA9JJ	May 2006
AA9KH	Jun 2006
AA9ZZ	July 2008
AC0B	Aug 2013
AA0IP	Aug 2007
AC0HW	Aug 2013

AA0LV	Jun 2010
AD0DX	April 2013
AH0A	October 2011
DL3GA	Oct 2005
DL5AWI	Feb 2008
DL5ME	Sept 2013
DL8MLD	Sep 2005
G4KHG	May 2005, Sep 2007
HB9RG	Feb 2008
I2PJA	Feb 2008
JH8GWW	Feb 2010
K1BV	Aug 2012
K1DFO	April 2009
KM1C	May 2006, Oct 2007 Dec '12
K1SO	Jun 2009
KL1V	Aug 2007, May 2009
K1TKL	Aug 2013
K1YE	August 2011
KA1YZV	Aug 2013
K2HVN	August 2011 dec 2012
K2NJ	Aug 2006, Oct 2006
K2RP	Aug 2007
KA3DRO	Sep 2005, Sep 2006, Dec 2006
K3IMC	May 2006, Sep 2006, Dec 2006
KA3QLF	Jun 2013
KC3X	Dec 2008
KE3VV	August 2011
K4BAI	Jun 2009
KS4BO	June 2011
K4DI	Jul 2007
K4EXT	October 2010

KM4FO	Jul 2007
KD4HXM	March 2010
KC4HW	July 2013
KB4IPA	June 2011
K4SSU	Jul 2007
KA4RRU	Jun 2009
K4SL	Dec 2009
KA4TYG	Dec 2005
KM4W	Nov 2009
KB4XK	Sep 2009
KG4VBK	October 2010
K4YFH	March 2010
K4YT	Dec 2007
KS5A	Nov 2005, Jul 2005
KF5AT	March 2008
K5CM	March 2013
K5FBS	Jun 2013
K5GE	Aug 2008, Sept 2008
KG5J	Nov 2005, Nov 2009
KK5MI	Jul 2007
K5NVY	March 2010
KK5NA	Feb 2012
K5OH	Mar 2005
K5OT	July 2009
KK5QA	Feb 2012
KC5QCB	Mar 2009
KG5RJ	July 2009
K5SF	Feb 2007
KA5TQF	Oct 2008
K5UH	August 2010
K5WAF	June 2012
K5XY	Oct 2006
K5VYT	Sep 2007
KH6G	Nov 2008
KB6TAL	Nov 2005, Feb 2006
KB6UF	Aug 2006
KL7D	Aug 2012

KH7DL	Nov 2008
KD7DST	Jun 2005
KG7E	May 2009
K7KWO	Aug 2012
K7SEN	Aug 2012
K7TM	Aug 2012 Dec 2012
KH7U	October 2011
KI7WO	Dec 2006
KB7QO	Aug 2005
K7RE	Aug 2013
KK7X	Apr 2007, Aug 2012
KC7YE	Aug 2012
K8AO	August 2011
K8CW	May 2006
K8XTQ	Jun 2005, Jun 2006
KJ8F	Dec 2005, June 2008, Dec 09
KD8GWX	June 2012
K8MFO	Jun 2006
K8MR	Jun 2013
K8OOK	August 2009
K8QWY	Sep 2009
KE8TQ	Jun 2005
KF8UN	Jun 2005
K8YJ	Jun 2009
KJ9C	Jun 2013
K9EAB	Jan 2007
K9IA	Mar 2011
KA9JAC	August 2009
K9JF	Jul 2007
KB9MGI	August 2009
K9WA	Jun 2006, Jan 2007
KM9X	August 2009
KB9YVT	August 2009
K0AD	March 2010
K0AP	October 2010
K0ARS	May 2006
K0AYO	August 2010

KB0BA	Sep 2007, Jun 2010
K0FG	June 2012 July 2013
K0GEN	Dec 2009
KY0E	April 2009
K0ERE	Sep 2007
K0KY	Sept 2009
KK0L	Aug 2007
KF0LZ	May 2007
K0PC	March 2010, April 2012
K0PY	August 2011
KA0SHC	May 2005
K0WJ	June 2012
LA9SN	Sep 2005
LY2ZZ	Sep 2005, Sep 2007
N1BY	July 2009
NW1O	March 2008
NM2L	Feb 2005, May 2007
N2OCW	Sep 2007
N2OO	Jun 2006
N3HOO	Nov 2013
ND3T	Apr 2009
N4AAT	Apr 2006, Dec 2006, August 2008
N4ANV	Dec 2009
N4BU	October 2010
NX4C	Dec 2012
N4CD	Sep 2006, April 2009, June 2006
N4CW	March 2013
N4EED	Nov 2009
N4JF	July 2013
N4JR	June 2010
N4OO(really N2OO)	Jun 2006
N4PJ	Jun 2009, Oct 2010
N4PN	July 2013
N4UJK	Dec 2005, Nov 13
NX4W	Sep 2009

NN5B	Jul 2007
N5EBD	Oct 2006, Dec 2005
NM5G	July 2013
N5MLP	Apr 2009
N5OHQ	April 2008
N5PR	Oct 2006, Jan 2006, Dec 2006
N5UZW	April 2008
NO5W	July 2009
N5XG	Dec 2005
N6PDB	April 2013
NW6S	Jul 2006, Jul 2007
N7HT	Aug 2012
N7ID	August 2008
N7IV	August 2010 Nov 2013
N7JPF	Apr 2012, aug 2012
NA7W	Dec 2005, Jul 2006. Apr 2006
N8BGF	August 2011
N8HAM	July 2008
N8KIE	Aug 2006, Feb 2007, Apr 2007
N8OR	Sep 2009
N8STF	Jul 2005
NA8W	June 2011
N9CBA	March 2010
N9JF	Jun 2006
NN9K	May 2005, Jan 2007, Jan 2008
ND9M	Aug 2005 Sept 2013
N9NE	May 2010
N9QEI	July 2008
N9QS	June 08, Jan 2010, Aug 2010
N9QPQ	May 2006
N9STL	Jun 2006, Apr 2007
NE9U	March 2010, May 2010
N9WNN	June 2012
N0DXE	Nov 2010, Aug 2011 dec '12

N0SM	Jun 2006
NG0T	Sep 2007
N0IJ	March 2010
N0KV	Nov 2010, Aug 2011 Dec '12
NF0N	June 2008, Dec 2008
N0PI	March 2010
N0SM	June 2013
N0XYL	Jun 2010
N0ZA	Jul 2005
NX0X	Jun 2005, March 2013
OH3JF	Feb 2008, Aug 2013
PT2TF	Oct 2005
RK2FWA	Aug 2006
SM4BNZ	Feb 2008
SM5CAK	Feb 2008
SM7ZDI	May 2013
UA2FF/UA2FM	Aug 2006
VA3XOV	October 2010
VE3EXT	Mar 2011
VE9DH	Sep 2006
W1UE	Jun 2010
W1VA	Jun 2010
W1WLW	Feb 2010
WB2ABD	Oct 2007
W3DYA	Aug 2006, Oct 2007
WB3JDC	March 2009
WA3QNT	Feb 2010, Aug 2013
WA3ZTY	March 2009
W4CCT	May 2008
WY4D	July 2009
W8DCD	Sep 2009
WB4EVH	May 2011
WB4FFV	Jun 2005

W4FNW	Mar 2011
W4GNS	April 2006, Oct 2006
WA4HXG	Nov 2009
WA4JA	June 2012
WD4OIN	July 2009
WA4PGM	June 2010
W4OV	Apr 2005, Jan 2006, Oct 2006
W4QNW	August 2009
W4SIG	Jan 2011
W4UB	Dec 2009
WB4UHI	Dec 2008
W4YDY	May 2009
W5AL	Aug 2013
WC5D	July 2009 July 2013
W5DU	Jan 2008
WA5OPO	Jan 2008, May 2010
W5QP	March 2013
WI5G	May 2005
WA6OCV	April 2013
W6TMD	Oct 2005, Aug 2006, May 2008
WG6X	Dec 2005, Dec 2007
W6TPC	Aug 2007
W6XLR	Aug 2006
WB7ATT	Jun 2010
WW7D	Oct 2012
W7KQZ	Jun 2007
W7LQT	Sep 2006
WY7LL	Oct 2006, Apr '07. Jan 2011 dec '12, Aug '13
WY7ML	Apr 2007, Jan 2011
WA7SLD	Apr 2005
WA8OWR	Jun 2010
WD8CTX	July 2009
W8DCD	Sep 2009
WB8FBJ	Sep 2009
W8FNW	Jun 2007 Mar 2011 Sept 2013
W8JJ	Jun 2006, Jun 2007, March 2008

WB8JZN	Sep 2009
W8MP	July 2008, Oct 2008
W8OP	June 2008
W8PN	Oct 2005
W8TAX	Nov 2008
WG9A	April 2008
WA9DLB	Jan 2010
W9DND	April 2012
WD9EJK	June 2008
W9GBH	Nov 2009
W9GUY	June 2008
W9JL	July 2009
W9KB	Jun 2007
W9MSE	Aug 2006
W9LHG	Aug 2013
WB9NUL	March 2009
W9OP	Aug 2006
W9SUQ	May 2008
W9UCW	Mar 2009
W9UX	June 2008
W9XYL	Mar 2011
WI9WI	May 2010
W0ANT	October 2010
W0DSY	Aug 2007
W0EAR	June 2012
W0FP	March 2008
W0GXQ	Apr 2006, Aug 2006, Aug 2007, Aug 2011
WA0KAQ	Oct 2007
WA0MHJ	March 2010
W0NAC	Jun 2006
WA0RKQ	Aug 2013
W0RRY	Jun 2005, Apr 2005, Jun 2006, Sep 2006
WA0SMX	August 2011
W0ZQ	March 2010
XE1L	June 2010