

County Hunter News

September 1, 2013

Volume 9, Issue 9

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** - It's been a good month for getting counties. We had a couple of events – KS, MD, OH, HI QSO Parties – and mobiles out on trips. I was traveling and others were on extended vacations. Bill, K2HVN liked Alaska so much, he went up there in July...then came part way back...then turned around and headed back to the 3rd and 4th AK. Others were spending weeks up in WI and the northern states, while Jerry, K5YAA was zipping here and there giving out counties. The sunspot cycle continues to confuse and not cooperate in bring gigantic sunspot counts in this cycle. We had a bunch finish up, but it got real slow at the end of the month. So, it's on to the monthly digest of county hunting happenings as seen at the N4CD QTH.

The days are getting 'shorter'. Up north, daylight is vanishing by a few minutes a day. If you head to Nome, AK, in September the daylight changes by over 3 hours in just one month as you head to winter. We're headed to fall with the 'leaf season' about to start up north. Band

conditions usually 'peak' in September at the equinox it should be good for the DX working US mobiles. So far, no hurricanes to worry about or avoid this season. It's still prime travel time and next month has many good QSO parties. The kids are back in school, so pay careful attention to the 'school zones' while out driving.

2) National Pictures

These are a few of the pictures taken of the group at the National Convention, If you attended to received nice high resolution pictures in the mail from Joyce, WB9NUL. We have to scrunch them down for the newsletter.



Group Picture at the National 2013



USCA Holders at the Convention



CW Ops at the National Convention

3) Mercedes cars wildlife alert !

I was reading my Popular Science magazine and noticed an interesting article. Seems last month I was suggesting it would be 'nice' to have a car system that looked out for wildlife, so when you are constantly seeing those 'deer warning' signs mile after mile, you could relax a bit and let the car do some work.

Well, Mercedes is working on it- at least at night. They currently offer an option – called Night Vision Assist which picks up pedestrians at up to 500 feet at night using infra-red imaging. Now, they are improving it for next year.

From their website

“Night View Assist Plus includes two separate LED headlamps that shine an invisible and non-dazzling infrared light onto the road. A near-infrared camera designed specifically for this type of light, located in the upper section of the windscreen, together with a far-infrared camera (thermal imaging camera) set into the radiator grille, are able to recognise what is happening in front of the car and activate the system's warning functions.

If the so-called "pop-up" function has been activated, a bright grey-scale image of the road

and the area in front of the vehicle appears in the display of the instrument cluster as soon as a potential risk is identified – whereby people and animals in the relevant warning zone, within 160 m of the car, are highlighted in colour and thus clearly distinguishable.

If there are people within this warning zone, the spotlight function set earlier will become active on unlit roads and at speeds over 60 km/h. A special module in the front headlamp flashes several times at any person in the critical zone to provide a warning. This alerts both the driver and the person at risk to the potential danger. The flashing function is not used in the case of animals, since their reaction is unpredictable.

In its basic setting, Night View Assist Plus is set to "Automatic activation of night vision image", in other words the pop-up function is activated. In this case Night View Assist remains active in the background. However, as soon as it detects a person or an animal within the danger zone on an unlit road, it automatically activates transfer of the image to show the situation on the display screen. Once the risk area has been passed, the image in the display automatically switches off again. As hitherto, the system can however be kept permanently switched on.”

According to the article, it was difficult to teach the system to recognize all the animal shapes that could be in the road. The European system switches on a steerable spot light to outline the danger point – not likely legal in the USA.

Stay tuned – smarter cars are coming!

Now..if we could just put electronic tags on every deer and elk....so we could track them.....or your car could pick up the signal and warn you if they are getting close.....ah.....maybe 20 years? Who Knows?

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Mobile Activity

K0ARS Jim, was on the road again putting them out.

K0MAF reached the 4th AK and put it out.

Cheryl, **KJ5PQ** and Mike, **KG5UZ**, were busy putting out counties in SD on 20/17 and 40M. On many days running everything in the state.

Norm, **W3DYA**, ran a few in TX on cw.

Ron, **KB6UF**, put out a few in LA.

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Gene, **WB4KZW** commented on his recent trip:

Alice, my xyl and driver, tells me we covered just under 3,000 miles. I think the county count will be slightly over 150. Thanks for all the company. It was fun to be out there again. Alice and I are already talking about our next trip.

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AC0HW, Richard, and Seth, **N3MRA** were running all over the country- big rigs.

Mike, **KA4RRU**, headed down to Dare, NC for a few days. Other days he was zipping around in VA from the north to the south.

Alex, **K5XY**, was out and about in NM.

Ron, **K2RP**, was spotted in a few in CA.

Bill, **K2HVN**, was on from AK many days.

W3DQT was on in MD and WV.

Barry, **N0KV** and Pat, **N0DXE**, were on in KS and MO

Tony, **WA9DLB**, was up in WI and MN.

Mike, **NF0N**, took a trip via IA, MN, to WI

KB9AIT was spotted in WI

AJ5ZX Randy was noted in TX

Kerry, **W4SIG**, spotted in many states – MS, AL, FL

K0PVW noted out in KS.

NU0Q spent some time up in WI

Doug, **WA4UNS** was out and about. In NC and GA.

Dick, **K5VYT**, noted in NE and CO headed back to home.

.Fred, **K0FG**, noted running in GA.

Greg, **NM2L**, was seen heading north from GA through SC, NC, and north.

Jim, **N8HAM**, seen out in WI

John, **K4BAI**, seen over in AL.

Ed, **N8OYY**, spotted in a few in WV.

Team, **W4FNW/W8FNW** running counties in IN.

WA3QNT was on in PA putting them out.

KC7QOP noted out and about in WI on SSB

N8MR seen out and about in MI.

Kyle, **WA4PGM**, ran in NC.

Ed,k **KN4Y**, headed up to GA for some LC's for LY5A. Success!

Rick, **AI5P**, put out counties in NM.

Karl, **K4YT**, ran counties in VA.

Mark, **W8MP**, was over in NC putting them out.

Rick, **W5QP**, seen in KS after the QP putting them out.

Al, **KG5J**, ran a few in AR

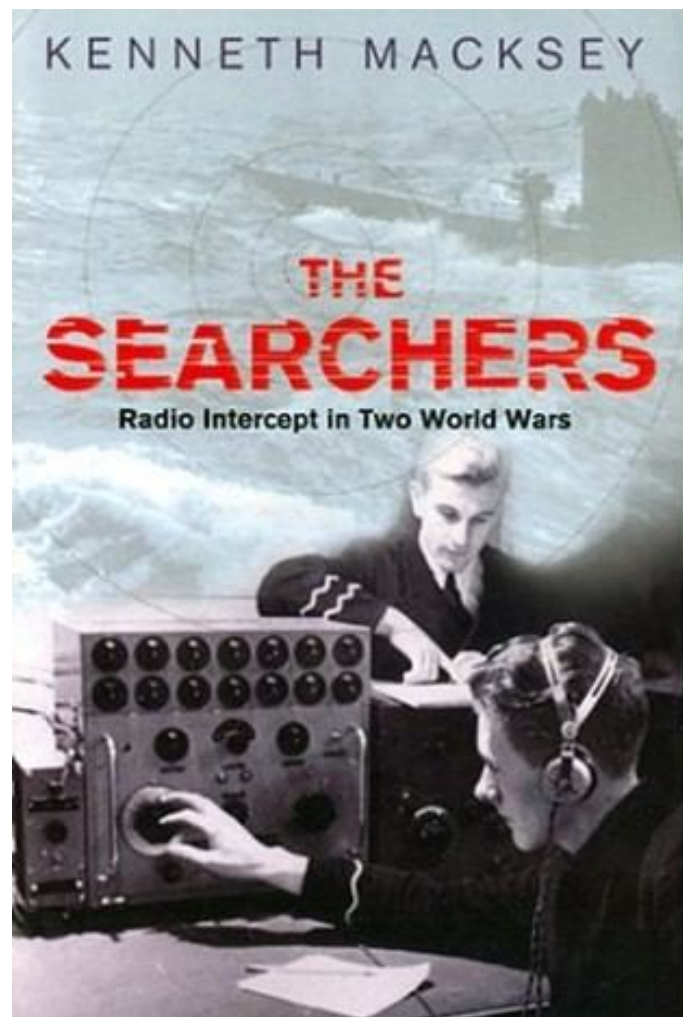
The Searchers

by Kenneth Macksey

AT the Ft Worth Hamfest in January, KK5NA gave me a paperback he thought I might be interested in. It was a pretty good read. Here's a quick review. It's primarily focused on the British Y Service which had over 15,000 people manning thousands of receivers trying to find each and every message sent by the enemy. Everything was in code – usually five letter code

groups – or entire messages in code. Folks worked 8 hours a day looking for and copying down messages for years.

Most of the folks are familiar with the 'code breakers' at Bletchly Park, who broke the Enigma machine code and helped the Allies defeat the Axis powers. This is the story of those who manned the hundreds and hundreds of receivers 24/7. It's heavy on the details of divisions and who was running things, but not so much on the equipment and set ups.



The book deals with the acquisition of Signals generated by electromagnetic means – that is, telegraphic, telephonic and radio . It's related closely to the techniques of disguising those signals by means of codes and ciphers designed to ensure that their security remains intact against all attempts to read them illicitly.

The main emphasis in the book is a focus on how those signals were intercepted – not about code breaking. It's the tale of Section Y – and Radio Intercept Services and how their dedicated searchers managed to provide the cryptanalyst with messages to decrypt.

Tens of thousands of people manned receivers worldwide to find and record the messages which then went to the crypto folks to try and break and read. In addition, the experienced receiver operators could often recognize various senders and transmitters to add to the information in the message, and of course, when operations were under way, message traffic increased. So it was both quantity, location, and other things that were of importance in assessing the current battle situations, supply situations, and other traffic.

The Robert Harris novel/film ENIGMA has popularized the subject of code-breaking and military intelligence as never before. Yet the ULTRA secret -- the Allied 'breaking' of the German 'Enigma' code was only part of a much wider story. In both world wars, radio was a primary means of communication -- and searching for enemy radio traffic became top priority. Using radio intercepts enabled the Germans to inflict devastating losses on the Russians in 1914; mis-using radio intercepts saw the Royal Navy fail to catch the German fleet. Radio warfare played a critical role during the Battle of Britain and the battle of the Atlantic: regardless of what a U-boat transmitted, the British developed the technology to catch them the moment they began to broadcast. From 1914 to the great campaigns of World War II, radio intercepts shaped the course of history. Kenneth Macksey reveals how.

As time progressed, technology also progressed with direction finding, panoramic adapters, improved receiver technology and antennas, and he covers a bit of this in the book.

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The National HRO series and RCA AR-88 were two of the main receivers used for intercept. They were made by the thousands for just such use.

Macksey wrote a dozen books on WW2 History.

You can buy this book for a couple bucks on-line - paperback or hardcover – both cheap! Haven't found a free one yet on line.

On the Road with N4CD I

There was a small hamfest in Oklahoma City held the last weekend in July (Ham Holiday). That's about 200 miles up the road from my QTH and a good excuse to go out and put out some counties in the US QSO Party that would be on Saturday and Sunday. The hamfest flea market started on Friday so I had to head north to be there for the 3pm flea market start. This is not a 'big' hamfest – maybe 500-1000 show up, but you never know what will appear in a flea market so it was worth a chance to find some 'goodies'.

Friday morning was rainy – which is unusual for TX this time of year. Most of the summer we hardly get any rain. It rained on me while I put the mag mount antenna on the trunk deck and got it secured and wired up. I left the house at 10am roughly for the 3 1/2 hour trip up there. The rain stopped after the first hour or so, then was on and off again till I reached my destination. It was 'cool' for this time of year in TX/OK.

It's a pretty boring route – up Interstate I-35 again – which I just did a couple weeks ago, but I still put out all the counties. This time it was later in the day than the real early time of the last trip, so maybe a few folks needed Love, Carter, Garvin, Murray, McClain, Cleveland – on the way up. Other mobiles were getting set to head out to their start points or checking out the equipment. Jerry, K5YAA was checking out his 'self spot' routine to be sure he could spot himself. The A index was up there and wasn't expected to get much better over the weekend. Maybe worse!

Things went well and I quickly zipped up to the hamfest site which is held in the Bricktown Conference center right off the I-40 near downtown Oklahoma City. It's a good size motel with lots of rooms, but I waited too long, so stayed across the street at a Motel 6 and 2/3rds the price (\$55) – but no breakfast included.

The Motel 6 looks like it was just converted from a Quality Inn – some of those signs were still around. The style was like the motel where we had the 3M. Not bad and I hardly spent any time in the room. The large screen TV worked fine.

The Bricktown Conference Center has some good size rooms for the flea market and enough other rooms for the various forums going on during the day. Way back when, the used to be held in a state fair ground 'barn' when folks hauled out more gear to sell – but the smell and the flies were not a great part of the 'aura' of the hamfest. On a real hot day, it could get nasty – hi hi. Now it's held in a hotel/convention center. Like everywhere else, the amount of stuff that shows up at hamfests declines year after year as newcomers only want nifty new stuff, and the rare items show up on Ebay for the most part.

Many of the vendors were setting up at 2pm and I entered and wandered around the flea market. There were some good items for sale. One fellow had two HQ-129X receivers – asking \$60 each for them and he had repaired and restored both of them. Same for another pair of receivers – HQ-140s. Nice big old tube type receivers that most Novices would have loved to have back in the 50s and early 60s. His hobby was fixing up receivers like that. At least half of them sold by the time I left early on Saturday morning. I picked up a Philmore Bluebird crystal set for a very reasonable price - good trading item.

One goodie I found was a nice isolation/voltage adjusting transformer for 7 bucks – it must weigh 20 lbs – good for testing tube type radios. It was designed for TV use so it will handle 300w loads. You could set the line voltage and it had 'low', medium and 'high' output plugs. Back in the day, TV techs could use it to try and find problems that occurred at low or high voltages in sets when customers complained – like it always goes on the fritz when the refrigerator starts to run!.....(dropping the line voltage).....

I bought a 20 foot length of 1 inch wide braid for \$5 – a deal. (of course, if you figure out 400 miles of driving round trip, plus a motel, all the 'goodies' and 'bargains' get a lot more expensive if you consider those costs – hi hi). Oh, and the \$10 to get into the hamfest. Well, I had a good time yakking with folks. ICOM had their booth there with the new radios on display and the IC-7100 was the main raffle prize for the hamfest.

This is more a meet and greet hamfest with a banquet at night, VE sessions during the day and a half dozen programs going on. It's centrally located in the state so it's a good place to have all the OK hams get together. I don't know too many OK hams other than the county hunters and it seems I only ran into Troy, K5OH. One or two others were scheduled to be there but we didn't connect and yak a bit.

After 3 hours (you could see everything in 1 hour with a lot of time to spare) – and checking under tables and waiting for the few new folks to arrive – I headed out to dinner at a local buffet place. Then back to the Motel 6 for the evening.

I was up early and headed over to the Iron Skillet at the truckstop nearby for a nice breakfast. Then it was over to the hamfest for the 8am opening of the flea market. Had to spin my wheels as there wasn't an easy way to get in early. At 8am the doors opened, and it appeared that only 1 or 2 new sellers had shown up. Dang. Disappointment. Well, I did the rounds, didn't see anything new, so I headed out for the first county line to be run in the contest. I'll probably skip this hamfest next year unless – it's the USQP weekend and I get a 'two for one' on the travel.

On the way home, I headed a bit east, then dropped on south, which would allow me to hit a bunch of new counties on the way home without adding in too many extra miles. I took the interstate I-40 to exit 169, which got me to the C/L of Oklahoma City and Cleveland and sat there till the contest started. Ran in on 30M just to let folks know where I'd be. When the

clock struck 1400z – well, the cellphone was the official timer since it is based upon a time base accurate to 1 part in 10E13 – I started giving out the county on 20 and 40M. I could spot that county line – had coverage.

That run lasted about 20 minutes between the two bands - and then I searched for other mobiles. NU0Q was out. W0GXQ, Jerry was mobile up in ND. Bob K7TM would show up in ID and AB7RW was in WA state. I know other mobiles were out, but just heard the pile ups for W3DYA, K5CM, WC5D, K5YAA nearly all day long with only 1 or 2 contacts the whole day.

From there it was east to get to the C/L of Pottawatomie and Lincoln..whew ...abbreviations sure help for those two! Ran that, then it was time to head south to get MCLA and GARV. I wound up on some teeny OKLA roads...not even on the OKLA map or the ATLAS...but 120 does cross the river on a very narrow – like entire bridge 8 foot wide and traffic lane limited to six feet with big timbers. Along this route, there was one town of maybe 20 buildings on 'main street' with all of them abandoned and falling down – the fate of many of the small farm towns that went away in rural OKLA as technology improved and you didn't need all the folks on the farms to make them work. I got to see some parts of OK never seen on my trips before.

In between runs, I hunted for mobiles. The band was full of the IOTA contest folks – giving signal reports and serial numbers and if on an 'island' the island designator, like NA-112. I worked a few of the US folks who had IOTA numbers. K1VSJ was on and I know he is likely on Dukes, MA – worked him many times before. Counties are counties. Likely didn't need any of the IOTAs but you never know. There were maybe a thousand Europeans on calling CQ and working USA folks. What a mess! IOTA is really popular in Europe!

I checked the spots.....wondered why not many takers for Marshall, OK – no spot – either I picked a bad freq, or it just didn't work out. Even worse, there's no wireless coverage when you get there! I usually run it just west of Fort Washita Historic Site. Oh well. After that disappointing run, I just headed back to the main highway then down into TX hunting for the other mobiles.

About 5:30 when I reached the home town, I hit the Boston Market for dinner (\$7.10 with senior discount) then headed home to unload the handful of hamfest goodies. The contest would go on for a bit – and worked one or two – but many had stopped for the night.

Tomorrow would be another day to hunt counties in the QSO Party.

Solar Corona Braiding

Scientists have long puzzled over why the surface of the sun is cooler than its corona, the outer hazy atmosphere visible during a solar eclipse. Now thanks to a five-minute observation by a small, but very high-resolution ultraviolet telescope they have some answers.

Even before the July 2012 launch of the High-resolution Coronal Imager, nicknamed Hi-C, scientists suspected that magnetic fields on the sun were responsible for ramping up its energy, resulting in a flaring corona that can reach 7 million degrees Fahrenheit, compared to a visible solar surface temperature of about 10,000 degrees.

Hi-C, which was launched aboard a suborbital rocket to study the sun without interference from Earth's atmosphere, revealed interwoven magnetic fields braided like hair. When the braids relaxed, they released energy.

"I had no idea we would see structures like that in the corona. Seeing these braids was very new to me," astrophysicist Jonathan Cirtain with NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., told Discovery News.

"Magnetic braiding" is believed to happen when small bundles of magnetic fields become wrapped around each other due to plasma moving around on the sun's surface.

Follow-up observations are needed to learn if the braiding phenomenon is widespread and how important is it to coronal heating.

"Are twisted-up field lines just all over the place? Do they only happen near 'inversion layers,' where you go from a positive net flux out from the sun's surface to negative net flux into the surface? How prevalent is this structure to the overall sun and how important is it to heating the sun's atmosphere? I think that's the next step that we will take," Cirtain said.

Source: "<http://news.discovery.com/space/astronomy/magnetic-braids-sun-heating-corona-science-130123.htm>

Official NASA release

A NASA suborbital telescope has given scientists the first clear evidence of energy transfer from the sun's magnetic field to the solar atmosphere or corona. This process, known as solar braiding, has been theorized by researchers, but remained unobserved until now.

Researchers were able to witness this phenomenon in the highest resolution images ever taken of the solar corona. These images were obtained by the agency's High Resolution Coronal Imager (Hi-C) telescope, which was launched from the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico in July 2012.

"Scientists have tried for decades to understand how the sun's dynamic atmosphere is heated to millions of degrees," said Hi-C principal investigator Jonathan Cirtain, a heliophysicist at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. "Because of the level of solar activity, we were able to clearly focus on an active sunspot, and obtain some remarkable images. Seeing this for the first time is a major advance in understanding how our sun continuously generates the vast amount of energy needed to heat its atmosphere."

The telescope, the centerpiece of a payload weighing 464 pounds and measuring 10-feet long, flew for about 10 minutes and captured 165 images of a large, active region in the sun's corona. The telescope acquired data for five minutes, taking one image every five seconds. Initial image sequences demonstrated the evolution of the magnetic field and showed the repeated release of energy through activity seen on the sun at temperatures of 2 million to 4 million degrees.

Many of the stars in the universe have magnetic fields. The evolution of these fields is used to explain the emission of the star and any events like flares. Understanding how the magnetic field of the sun heats the solar atmosphere helps explain how all magnetized stars evolve.

These observations ultimately will lead to better predictions for space weather because the evolution of the magnetic field in the solar atmosphere drives all solar eruptions. These eruptions can reach Earth's atmosphere and affect operations of Earth-orbiting communication and navigation satellites.

The images were made possible by a set of innovations on Hi-C's optics array. The telescope's mirrors were approximately 9 1/2 inches across. New techniques for grinding the optics and polishing the surfaces were developed for the mirrors. Scientists and engineers worked to complete alignment of the mirrors, maintaining optic spacing to within a few ten-thousandths of an inch.

"The Hi-C observations are part of a technology demonstration that will enable a future generation of telescopes to solve the fundamental questions concerning the heating of the solar atmosphere and the origins of space weather," said Jeffrey Newmark, sounding rocket program scientist at NASA Headquarters in Washington.

Hi-C's resolution is about five times finer than the imaging instrument aboard NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO) launched in February 2010 to study the sun and its dynamic behavior. The Hi-C images complement global sun observations continuously taken by SDO.

NASA's suborbital sounding rockets provide low-cost means to conduct space science and studies of Earth's upper atmosphere. The Hi-C mission cost about \$5 million.

"This suborbital mission has given us a unique look into the workings of the sun addressing a major mystery in nature. Hi-C has demonstrated that high value science can be achieved on a small budget," said John Grunsfeld, associate administrator for NASA's Science Mission Directorate (SMD) in Washington. "NASA's sounding rocket program is a key training ground for the next generation of scientists, in addition to developing new space technologies."

Source: http://www.nasa.gov/home/hqnews/2013/jan/HQ_13-030_Hi-C_Sun_Energy.html

Ebay Stuff of the Month

Here's a nifty item from 'way back' seen on Ebay. It's an Aero Signal Monitor made by Aero Products of Chicago IL.



The text says:

“The Aero Listening Monitor, a device primarily designed for the transmitting amateur. It is used to check the note of the transmitter, to determine the character of the transmitted wave with respect to note and stability. It is completely shielded in a black crackled metal case. Coils are furnished for the 20, 40 and 80 meter band. Furnished complete with batteries but less 99 tube. “

It looks like it is a grid leak detector set – no controls other than tuning. You'd use earphones naturally.

US Counties QP

Mobiles were out and running – maybe a dozen out there from K7TM and AB7RW out west, to maybe five in OK, to W3DYA going to MS and back, NU0Q out in IA, W9HB up in WI, four or five mobiles were in OK (K5ZZR, N4CD, K5CM, AF5Q), W0GXQ in ND, K5YAA in MO, WC5D in TX, NU0Q in IA, and more.

Even a few non-county hunters showed up, but not a whole lot. . Bruce, WA3AFS in Albany, NY jumped in and made 43 QSO on SSB. WW1ME was on from Cumberland, ME.

The IOTA party was going on at the same time on Saturday which made a mess of things, but you could chase a few IOTAs and get a county. They didn't always wait to hear your county – just wanted a 599 and serial number. N1LI was on from 'Long Island' in Cumberland County, ME. K1VSJ (NA-046) , Dukes, MA, was on. If you need Dukes, that's a good way to catch it.

Many of the QSO Party regulars were busy chasing IOTAs and not counties.

W0GXQ Mobile

I ran twenty nine counties in North Dakota during the US Counties QP. The band conditions were pretty poor from up north. I managed four (4) contacts with K5YAA the entire weekend, and pretty tough finding W3DYA, WC5D, and K5CM as well. The majority of my mobile contacts were with NU0Q, K7TM, and AB7RW.

Twenty different mobile stations are in my log, but doubt more than a dozen will submit

their logs to Norm. It seemed there was more interest from the fixed stations around the country this year, and I was pleased to hear many European stations on Sunday.

The most productive band was 20m. Forty was disappointing; only 152 Q's there. Fifteen meters netted 57 Q's. I had 80m mounted, but there was just not enough hours of darkness to be effective . . . made one contact! I did manage to break the one million point barrier this year.

The overnight in Minot was expensive . . . ND State Fair in town, and of course the oil influence out in the western end of the state. One hundred and twenty five bucks for a stay at a Days Inn, and they were not offering any discounts! Gas prices averaged \$3.70 this trip. The trip odometer read 1,136 when I returned home. Thanks to everyone for following along!

KS5A – AZ fixed - reported 136 QSOs and 110 counties worked

VE5KS 273 QSOs 226 counties

“Had a fantastic time, conditions were pretty good, even made a few contacts on 10 meters. I wish to apologize to the stations that I asked to repeat, heavy qrm and qrn on this end at times. I am amazed that W0GXQ could hear me on 40 meters, I loaded up my Cushcraft A3S (without the 40 mtr coils)- great ears. Had to shut down for about 1 - 1/2 hours due to a thunderstorm but otherwise I worked the whole contest.

This is one of my favorite contests.

I want to thank all the mobiles out there, you guys and gals make it fun.

K5YAA worked 35 times
W3DYA worked 20 times
K5CM worked 20 times
WC5D worked 18 times
KN4Y worked 15 times
NU0Q worked 12 times
W0GXQ worked 10 times

W0BH worked 10 times
N4CD worked 9 times
W9HB worked 7 times
W9OP worked 5 times
K4ZGB worked 4 times

Rig Kenwood TS 140S
Antenna: Cushcraft A3S at 40 feet”

AB7RW mobile

In my rush to select a mobile route before the contest was to begin, I again picked the wrong place to go. Barbara and I decided to drive down U.S. 101 along the Pacific Ocean, through Oregon. Everyone who has been out on the West coast is aware of the inability to make contacts across the Cascade mountain chain. This year was no different, except that the atmospheric conditions added to the agony.

Prior to the contest, I received some emails on counties that operators would like to have in their log. That did not happen. W0GXQ and N6MU were the only ones that I was able to keep in contact with. If not for them, I would have had to stop and check to see if I still had an antenna on the car. At one point, I tried to work K7RE. He knew someone was on his frequency, but after about ten minutes of sending my callsign to him, I gave up. The same thing resulted in two other counties, sorry Brian.

The trip down the coast was peaceful and the scenery was wonderful. Traffic was typical for a Saturday. We spent the night in Coos Bay, Oregon, and then continued down 101 into California, and back Northeast to Jefferson county Oregon, then into Grant Pass for lunch. Then we continued up Interstate 5 returning home at 8 p.m. (0300Z).

As we traveled on U.S. 197 from Del Norte County California to Jefferson County Oregon, we noted that the sight distance had begun to get less and less. At first we thought that it was a fog setting in. This area is prone to very heavy fog. As we continued and the visual distance was down to about one hundred yards or less, we began to realize that it was smoke from a forest fire. We kept our fingers crossed hoping that it would not interfere with the road traffic. We lucked out getting to Grants Pass and lunch. That was where we learned that there was a lightning storm last night that started 54 individual fires in the woods and our restaurant was out of beef and pastrami because they had sent over 300 sandwiches to the fire fighters..

Having made this trip, and never wanting to go back, we reminisced about the trip to Deadwood and how wonderful the signals were once we got out of Washington. It is all a relative measure. Oh yes, in the two days of the contest, I logged 118 contacts. Pretty terrible.

K6CSL – Stanislaus, CA fixed - 29 QSO

“U.S. Counties QSO Party is always fun. I chase counties, casually, and I always find new ones. When checking on the rules this year, before the contest, I looked at last years score and I was the only LP station that submitted a log for Stanislaus County. Just 11 QSO's. So this year I added a few more as I was also trying to operate the IOTA Contest. So both were fun. TNX to Hank, W6SX, for Mono County. I think he was the only KBer I worked. Bert, K6CSL”

N6MU – CA – Fixed 339 qso 284 counties

Fun despite the marginal conditions. Basically no 40 meters here due to contest timing. 15 was open Saturday but not much Sunday. As usual, the mobiles were plentiful. I had at least 5 Qs with: K5YAA(32), K5CM(29), W3DYA/W0GXQ(27), WC5D(25), KN4Y(22), NU0Q(14), N4CD(12), K7RE/W0BH(11), AB7RW(10), K7TM(6), W9HB(5). 73...

DL5ME – Germany - fixed

Here is a report for your journal from the "otherside" about CHQP.
First, many thanks for all mobiles who heard me (DL5ME).
Special thanks for K5YAA, W0GXQ, W3DYA and KN4Y with more than 5 QSOs.
Thanks for many new counties.

Generally:

Here in Middle-Europe I've three "main opponent" for QSO to North America are:

- +++ Magnetic Field (if we have K=4 impossible to break through the north pole barrier)
- +++ CW-Mode Contest in Europe/World.
- +++ Thunderstorm directly or indirectly (QRN) during summer time

If any of these is too strong, you can forget hunting county here.

CHQP last weekend:

Sat: Condx very low, no signal on 15m band, only 20m (in cw mode) possible, signals about S1-S2 (1400z-2000Z) after 2000z the signal were stronger (S5) but 2200z was the end for me (midnight).

There was a thunderstorm front from 1600z to 1900z, moved 50 km over and it created lots of QRN.

But the weak signals and the QRN were not the worst, the IOTA Contest was pure horror. All 300Hz CW filter bandwidth, contest station with a new S9 and more were everywhere. I could only receive US signals between the transmission breaks, A real challenge comes from the IOTA Contest to Europe. The contest is as popular as the WWDX in CW and SSB together.

Sun: Condx low, little bit better but still no signals on 15m. So just only "20m band mode" in cw. It was nice the IOTA contest was over..... much better...now had to focus only on the weak signals without Contest-QRM.

From 20.00z signals from the MS (W3DYA) and FL (KN4Y) to the point of illegibility weak but the signals from ND (W0GXQ) were stronger.

To 2100z was over for me.. Time to sleep. At 0300z my alarm clock rings to get up for work.

73 Mario



DL5ME - Mario



DII5ME Tower

K4ZNB – mobile in AL 127 qso 75 counties

“Operated in: ALCULM, ALBLOU, ALTUSC, ALPICK, ALFAYE, and ALLAMA.”

K5YAA mobile - mostly cw

“Had a good trip with no problems except parking on a couple of county lines. Barely got off the concrete path! The generator coughed a couple of times and I had to restart to get it perking again. I attributed it to the altitude but it may be the ride on the trailer that's doing it in.....

I got quite a few stares looking at my 6 meter HO Loop on the roof of the van - I just waved and kept rollin'. Looked at 6 a few times and never heard an opening. Seems that's the way I have always thought 6 meters was like - no openings.....

I found there are a good number of FB CW operators in MARAC. Moved right along with fairly high speed CW and didn't have many requests for repeats. Maybe that was due to the fact I spotted myself where there was service available. Two county lines there was no signals from the internet. Fortunately others helped out by spotting me. I could tell when the spots took hold - the pile up ensued!

I want to recognize a handful of stations that rode with me through the Ozark mountains. K1TKL(25), N6MU(35), LY5A(15), KN4Y/M(20)(Thanks for the new GA county Seminole - down to 3 in GA now) K7INA(15), WA6KHK(33), W7GVE(12), VE5KS(36) (A big Canadian signal) K4YT(18), KC3X(24), YV5OIE(24), W0EAR(9), W5IL(20), KS5A(25), N3RM(32), NW6S(30), W0GXQ/M(5) (Two new ones for me in ND), N4AAT(14) and many others, too many to name - you know who you are as I am in your log hopefully.

The Missouri hillside was a beautiful green as it usually is. I spent ten years in central Missouri at the high end of the Ozarks. Raised my boys and did a lot of fishing during those ten years. It's a wonderful state. The roads in southern Missouri wind and feel like a roller coaster at times. I found myself on Saturday afternoon in the middle of Branson with all the vacationers. I don't know why you would take a vacation and sit in lines on the road waiting your turn to turn but there were hundreds of them and it took me several minutes to get out of the crowd!

My log reflects every state except AK, HI, DE, NH, NV and VT. CA was quite active as was TX.

I found good openings on 15 and 10 meters but not many takers on 10 - a few followers made it down there and worked me. I tried 80 a couple of times but no one was around resulting in zero Qs on 80.

Sunday I made a couple of driving mistakes and found myself in St. Francois county magically! Stopped and put out a few in that county. The other driving mistake found myself in Reynolds county when I was looking for Dent county. I stopped in Reynolds and passed out several Qs. The two errors caused me to not make the Dent/Phelps line as planned. Nevertheless I made it in 23 counties which was more than planned. A good trip overall and I saw some beautiful farms with a lot of cattle in the fields. Also, there can't be more than a couple of Armadillos left in Missouri because I saw most of them on their backsides with their legs turned UP. One was right smack on the yellow line in the middle of the road! He almost made it.... Possums are another breed that the count has to be down on too. I saw many squashed ones. I didn't hit the two deer that crossed in front of me fortunately. I also didn't hit any birds like W0GXQ talked about last week. I was fortunate to not hit any animals at all. Didn't see a live armadillo or possum - they were all dead!

Thanks to all for a great radio weekend.

K5ZZR mobile – 33 QSO SSB

Slightly cooler temps made stopping to operate more pleasant than anticipated on Saturday but still ran the AC a lot. Sunday was warmer and only tried an hour before giving up after only one qso and heading home because of poor conditions. It wasn't a good day for SSB and 100W. Rig is 20 year old Yaesu FT-890/AT with a Tarheel 200HP. Had 9 DX QSO's thanks to the IOTA contest. Activated 6 counties in Oklahoma mostly near I-40 in the eastern part of the state so I could end up near home. It was my first MARAC US Counties contest and plan to do it again next year.

NU0Q Mobile

Thanks to all for following me around Iowa in the MARAC US QSO Party. My goal was to run all the counties in the NE corner of the state and enjoy some of the sights in the Driftless Area of Iowa.

The Icom 706MkIIg worked well with the Little Tarheel II. I had some issues with my computer, as Windows decided it was time to update itself while I wasn't looking. I had to operate manually for about 20 minutes until Windows repaired itself.

We ended up spending a lot of time (about 5 hours) away from the radio on little hikes at Backbone State Park, Mines of Spain in Dubuque, and on the new trail in Decorah. So, it seemed like we were stuck in a few counties for a long time. The best runs were on Sunday afternoon when there were more DX stations calling. Some people are saying that propagation wasn't the best, but it seemed like I could always hear someone. Thanks to all the spotters. It looks like I was spotted everywhere, although spotting myself on 40m was necessary at times.

We took a wrong turn in Dubuque and ended up in Wisconsin, so we ran an extra county that we didn't expect. And with all the stops for hikes and pictures, we ran late on Sunday and missed a few counties at the end. But we still made it home at a decent time.

Once again, I was having too much fun doing CW and never managed to make any SSB contacts.

Hope to see you in the Kansas QSO Party in late August. I'll be using N0U. Before that, we plan to be mobile for a few weeks in MN, ON, MI, WI, IL, and

MO. No specific plans yet.

Iowa Counties transmitted from (counts include dupes): Polk (12), Story (6), Hamilton (8), Hardin (11), Grundy (14), Black Hawk (18), Buchanan (21), Fayette (18), Clayton (27), Delaware (27), Dubuque (36), Allamakee (37), Winneshiek (15), Howard (24), Mitchell (27), Floyd (27), Chickasaw (14), Bremer (29), Butler (29), Franklin (23). Also, Grant County, Wisconsin (15).

Solar Coronal Hole – mid July

A 'gigantic hole' in the sun's atmosphere, hovering over the solar north pole, has been photographed by a space telescope.

The dark spot, which covers almost a quarter of the sun, is a large 'coronal hole' - a dark, low density region of the sun's outermost atmosphere, the corona.

It was spotted by the European Space Agency/NASA Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) spacecraft between 13 and 18 July, during which time it was spewing out material including solar wind into space.

While the hole looks devoid of solar activity, it was in fact releasing violent blasts of solar wind and spewing out solar particles at around 500 miles per second.

The holes have lower temperatures and therefore appear much darker than their surroundings.

Karen Fox of Nasa's Goddard Space Flight Centre said that while coronal holes are a typical feature on the sun, they appear at different places and with more frequency at different times of the sun's activity cycle, which typically takes around 11 years.

The sun's activity cycle is currently ramping up toward what is known as solar maximum, predicted for late 2013 - during which time the number of coronal holes decreases.

During solar maximum, the magnetic fields on the sun reverse and new coronal holes appear near the poles with the opposite magnetic alignment.

The coronal holes then increase in size and number, extending further from the poles as the sun moves toward solar minimum again.

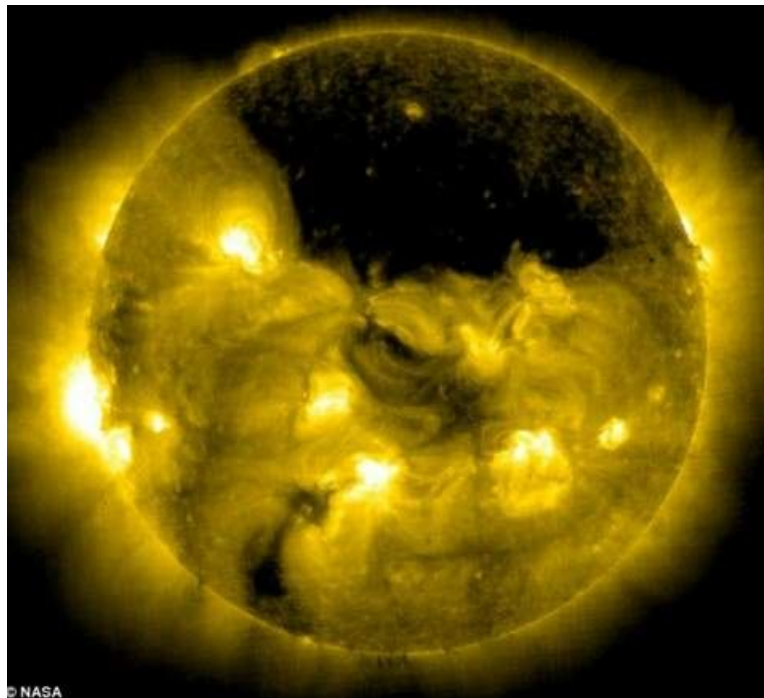
At such times, coronal holes have appeared that are even larger than this one, which measures approximately 400,000 miles across, or the equivalent to 50 Earths in a row.

While it's unclear what causes holes, they correlate to areas on the sun where magnetic fields soar up and away, failing to loop back down to the surface, as they do elsewhere.

Scientists study coronal holes to learn more about space weather, as the holes are the source of a high-speed wind of solar particles that streams off the sun some three times faster than the slower wind elsewhere.

The image of the coronal hole was taken by the \$1.3 billion SOHO spacecraft, launched in 1995 to monitor solar activity from a stable point between the sun and the earth.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2380823/The-gigantic-hole-SUN-thats-firing-solar-material-space-spotted-spacecraft.html#ixzz2aSWyfJnc>



New Jersey QSO Party

There were NJ stations on....but the only one spotted them seemed to be N4CD and one spot by N8CIJ. Where was everyone else? Really!

Activity:

I heard K8MR mobile, but never heard him outside of Essex, NJ. He was the only 'mobile' heard.

K2SQS – Burlington, N2CQ - Gloucester, WX2S - Somerset, KD2NX – Bergen , K2TTT - Morris, W2GSA – Mercer , N2MM - Burl, N2UU – Cape May,

From the3830 contest reflector

K8MR – Mobile – Essex, NJ - 30 cw contacts

“I'm spending some time with my daughter in Montclair, NJ, to help out with a new puppy. I brought along a radio, so spent some time in the MARAC and NJQSO Party contests.

Not much activity, poor conditions. I think I qualified as a mobile, using a HamStick on 20 meters and a 33 ft wire fed against the car, while operating from the patio at the house. Score is likely not accurate, as it did not show extra points for mobiles. But at least I passed out a few qsos and a multiplier.”

K2TTT in Morris, NJ reported in with 211 SSB QSO and 41 CW contacts.

W2KRD in Gloucester was on – SSB and made 60 QSOs.

Solar “Near Miss”

The earth barely missed taking a massive solar punch in the teeth two weeks ago, an "electromagnetic pulse" so big that it could have knocked out power, cars and iPhones throughout the United States.

Two EMP experts told Secrets that the EMP flashed through earth's typical orbit around the sun about two weeks before the planet got there.

"The world escaped an EMP catastrophe," said Henry Cooper, who led strategic arms negotiations with the Soviet Union under President Reagan, and who now heads High Frontier, a group pushing for missile defense.

"There had been a near miss about two weeks ago, a Carrington-class coronal mass ejection crossed the orbit of the Earth and basically just missed us," said Peter Vincent Pry, who served on the Congressional EMP Threat Commission from 2001-2008. He was referring to the 1859 EMP named after astronomer Richard Carrington that melted telegraph lines in Europe and North America.

"Basically this is a Russian roulette thing," added Pry. "We narrowly escape from a Carrington-class disaster."

Pry, Cooper, and former CIA Director James Woolsey have been recently demanding that Washington prepare the nation's electric grid for an EMP, either from the sun or an enemy's nuclear bomb. They want the 2,000-3,000 transformers in the grid protected with a high-tech metal box and spares ready to rebuild the system. Woolsey said knocking out just 20 would shut down electricity to parts of the nation "for a long time."

But Washington is giving them the cold shoulder, especially the administration. Woolsey told Secrets that some in Congress are interested in the issue, but the administration is just in the "beginnings" of paying attention.

Source: <http://washingtonexaminer.com/massive-solar-flare-narrowly-misses-earth-emp-disaster-barely-avoided/article/2533727>

DX Postage/Green Stamps

A while back, I saw a spot on the K3IMC forum about a county hunter who stated he would not return a DX MRC if there was only a 'green stamp' in it to cover the current \$1.10 stamp cost. .

The cost of a foreign stamp is up to \$1.10 and you can now buy International Forever stamps, so if you buy a handful or 10, it will probably last you a long time as only a handful of DX stations QSL direct, and some include US postage on their return envelopes.

Yeah, if you only get one 'green stamp' (dollar bill) to cover the postage, you might have to spend an extra dime. If you just got back from a trip, you probably spend a couple hundred.

I'd say to this county hunter – when postage was \$.080 to buy a postage stamp to return the envelope back to Europe..... did they send two dimes or a 20c stamp along with it? Or just pocket the 20c?

I get about 1 or 2 DX envelopes a month if I am active. Most include either postage already, or a green stamp or two. I'd hate to think there are county hunters who would not return the MRCs signed lacking a measly dime. It would probably cost him more in gas to run to the post office to buy the stamp...at ...about 10c/mile for a good mileage car, right?

Riding Along with Jerry, K5YAA

The Arkansas Trip

Started out midday (not an early riser) and figured I could make the Arkansas state line by evening. I ran a few in Okmulgee, OK then went down 75 toward Antlers where I ran Pushmataha, OK. 29 Qs all CW on 20, 17, 15 and 30 meters.

Next was McCurtain, OK on Hwy 3 East toward Arkansas. I put Broken Bow in the GPS to keep me on the straight and narrow. I recently got me an iPhone which let's me spot myself

when service is available. I really like using that device. In McCurtain I also made 20 Qs but some were on 14 SSB this time. OK1KT worked me on SSB. A nice signal when he was up. DL6KVA, DL3IAC worked me on both 20 and 17. CO3IT, SP5SA, DL5KVV and G3RPB made it in the log on 17 meters in McCurtain. I think McCurtain is a tough one in OK for DX to work.

About 6:20 CST I made it to Sevier, AR and stopped along side the road and ran Sevier having sent N1API an email telling him I would be there a day early. Al had to be somewhere on the day I told I would be there originally but we made contact and he bagged the K prefix for Sevier, AR that evening. I made only 13 Qs in Sevier that evening, 3 on 40 meters.

On the way to Nashville (city) , Arkansas I saw an Italian restaurant that locals seemed to be gathering at. A fairly nice crowd of vehicles. I was needing something to eat so I tried that place. I forget the total bill - something 15 bucks - I had Calamari as an appetizer, a salad and spaghetti and meatballs for the entree. A big glass of sweetened ice tea capped off the meal.

I stopped for the evening in Nashville, AR at an American (something) motel. 40 bucks! No breakfast though and concrete walls. The bed was fine, the A/C worked well so it was a good find. I was able to pick a parking spot under a bright lamp which I like to do with my mobile rig.

Next morning, after grabbing a sausage and egg McMuffin down the street from the motel, I headed out about 1500 UTC on Hwy 27 to Hwy 26 west and found the Howard/Pike County Line "near a chicken farm" - everything is near a chicken farm in southern Arkansas or so it seems. I saw dozens of long metal buildings in fields - I suppose some could have been turkey farms. Many had Tyson and Pilgrim farm signs out on the roadside. Once in a while you could catch a whiff of the droppings that collect in those places. Phew! Actually makes a cloud come over the countryside.

I made 37 Qs at the county line of Howard and Pike, 10 on 20 SSB and only a handful on 20 CW. Just 5 on 17 meters and 1 each on 40 and 30 CW. Folks weren't around much on 40 and if not for N0KV and W0GXQ on 30 I would have pretty well struck out on that band the entire trip. There was one county where I made about 10 QSOs in - a real goldmine at that one.

I backtracked on Hwy 26 and Hwy 27 to work Hempstead, AR. Found me a safe spot to pull over on Hwy 27 and had a nice run in Hempstead. At most of my stops I pulled out the camera and shot a photo of the county line sign. Arkansas has some good signs recognizable from a distance giving me time to stop without cratering the K3 and my laptop onto the floorboard! I had 30 Qs in Hempstead. 10 on 20 SSB the rest on CW. Again just one on 40 CW. 17 meters was playing pretty well but no DX yet.

Next was the County Line of Little River and Sevier (again). Things started to pick up. I made a total of 43 QS on this line. 20 CW produced 15, 17 CW 9, 15, 12 and 10 all had 3 Qs CW. Same guys chased me down to 15, 12 and 10 from 17. You get the same crowd. Still fun though and I'm happy to put out Qs for the multi-band award folks. KC3X is a CW nut! He somehow listens to 20 SSB yet gets to the CW bands quickly. Glad he is around. DX started up with DL6KVA, DL3IAC and DL2DSL making it in my log.

I left that county line and headed for Hwy 71 south into Texarkana. I expected to make Miller, AR next but just after crossing the Red River I saw a Bowie, TX county sign. Just happens there was a greeting center with a nice clean restroom that I stopped at. Worked Bowie from the parking lot after doing my business. Also picked up a new Texas and Arkansas map. She handed me an Oklahoma map too.

Can't have too many maps. I use them to mark off my QSO Party routes and cut them up to fit a cardboard box that I keep on the dashboard for easy finding amongst all the other trappings I have in the mobile. I also place on the opposite side of that cardboard my route and county abbreviations. Easy to grab and check even when driving. I made 29 Qs in Bowie, TX an added treat as I didn't think I was going to see any Texas lines. I guess that's what happens when you just get an itch and take off on a trip. You find things you don't expect too.

I made the Miller Lafayette Line about 2030 UTC. I think it was at this line that I stopped immediately after a bridge over a river. The county line sign for Lafayette was just after the bridge. It was safe to pull over on the shoulder so I did. KC3X asked me if I was on the middle of a bridge. No I wasn't the sign was in a safe spot and I took photos of both the Miller and Lafayette county signs. Both were on the side of the bridge I was on so all seemed correct to me to run the county line right where I was.

Picked up another 29 Qs - 4 DX including G3XVR who made it in the log on 17 meters. 40 meters produced one Q. It was N4CD and that was the only time I heard Bob during the entire Arkansas trip. Figured I would hear him more often on 40 - maybe he didn't need anything much in Arkansas or maybe 40 wasn't in that great a shape.

Onward to Columbia, AR 18 Qs - DL6KVA, G3XVR and PI4EME made it in the log. DL6KVA on 20 and 17. Both bands seemed to be in good shape. 3 SSB QS on both 20 and 40 meters. Some of the few I made on 40.

Next on the road was Union, AR. A cool thing happened - W4SIG was mobile in Union, MS and I worked him from Union, AR. Cool! Only 20 Qs from Union. All CW contacts - 30 and 40 meters had 4 each - a miracle! DL6KVA on 17 and DL3IAC on 20. Europe was building. The signals were true 57 – 89.

The UTC date now turned to August 2. Around 0020 I made it to Ashley, AR. A fairly strong

need based on the K3IMC needed list. I expected some good action there. Made 31 QS and found me a motel in Crossett, AR. 80 bucks for this one.

The evening I got there I was hungry but not for something very heavy. I looked up to see if there was a Waffle House (my favorite) but not to be. Well maybe a Huddle House - just about the same as a Waffle House. There was one and I took down the address for my GPS. Went there, only about two miles away and had me a plate of eggs and ham. Some coffee and apple juice too. I was thirsty from the road. Behind the counter at the motel I saw some airplanes that were made from aluminum coke cans. They were actually kinda neat looking - wings and a motor etc. I asked if they were for sale and the girl wasn't sure. She said an old man just makes them for the owners. I told her to see if I could buy one. A grandson I have loves airplanes.

I had a few danish rolls and some good coffee for the morning start. The next morning a new lady behind the counter asked if I was the guy that wanted to buy one of the airplanes. I said sure enough. She said 20 bucks so I pulled out a 20 and bought it on the spot. The road produces alot of funny things to buy.

Arkansas has numerous roadside produce stands. I was tempted to stop and get me a watermelon but what I would I do with it? Crossett, Arkansas has a huge Georgia Pacific plywood and paper producing plant. I think almost everyone in town works there. There were hundreds (no exaggeration) of semi truck trailers there at the plant. Big operation.

On the way that morning to Drew and Chicot I got a call from Ron N5MLP wanting to know if I was still in Ashley. Sure enough I had about 25 miles to go before I found the Drew Chicot Line. He said he needed the K prefix for Ashley and could I work him on 40 meters. He figured 20 would be too long. I figured that too. I told Ron I needed to gas up and would go to 40 in about 10 minutes. After the tank got full I moved on down the road a bit to get away from the town noise makers. I found me a nice pull over spot and dialed in 7.188. WG9A/M was running and he had a pretty crowd so I had to wait a bit. I worked WG9A though for a new one for me. Worth the QRX. Signed in and the first QSO was with N5MLP. Phone call was a success! While on 40 SSB - a rare occurrence for me - I worked 8 other stations. WG9A/M twice for two new ones - thanks Bill....

I made it to the Drew/Chicot County line about 1445 UTC and began setting up my laptop. Started on 40 SSB (was tuned there already from Ashley) and cranked out 18 QSOs. A nice count. The band seemed open to the north pretty well. Did a turn at 40, 30, 20, 17 and 15 CW then finally 20 SSB. Didn't take a look at 12 or 10. DL6KVA blew through again. Axel had a nice signal all day. He emailed me after my trip and said he worked 6 new ones. Glad the bands cooperated. A total of 64 QSOs on the C/L of Drew and Chicot. Things are picking up again!

Next was Desha, AR. Desha has a lot of corn and soybean fields. Actually quite a beautiful

site. I saw a couple of crop dusters flying around. Those guys have to be nuts! Found me an easy spot to park and sit back for some more CW. 47 QSOs total. As I left and was moving down the Hwy 65

I decided to take a look at 6 meters. Heard a fairly strong SSB station WA4DOS. Gave him a call and he gave me a 20 over 9 signal for me. Wow - 60 watts into a M2 6 meter Loop was working pretty good. There was only one other station on the band, an N3 calling CQ DX on CW. He was loud - I hollered at him - but he began calling DX again. I guess a /M is not DX in his mind. I am sure he heard me since I had just received that big report from Alabama.

I started to look at the map a bit more now wondering when I should begin to start home in a serious way. I figured I could run maybe three more counties and the next three were presidential names. Lincoln, Jefferson and Grant. What a way to finish off an Arkansas trip. I stopped in Lincoln county and had 71 QSOs - the most so far. Alright - my plan was paying off. I guess plenty of folks are chasing the Presidential county names. Maybe Jefferson and Grant will also be QSO goldmines.

Jefferson produced 65 QSOs and Grant put only 42 in the log. 17 meters was hot in all three President named counties. 12 meters even produced several QSOs. I was having a great time working everybody on CW but it was time to start toward home if I was going to be there on Saturday at the start of the NAQP CW contest.

I was put on a team by my good friend N4PN so I needed to have some rest and be ready for more great CW. So I headed toward Little Rock with maybe stopping one more time, that in Pope, AR since it too was on the hard to find list. I did that at around 2350 UTC and I stayed for 30 minutes passing out QSOs. After that I set my sites on the Oklahoma State line. Homeward bound I arrived at 10:15 local time - just what the GPS predicted.

Got a good nights sleep and readied for the NAQP which started at 1 PM local. You can see my NAQP writeup on the 3830 contesting.com posting if interested. I sat in the mobile for the whole 10 hours taking two hours off out of the 12 hour contest. The bands were still quite good during the NAQP.

Here are some totals for the Arkansas trip. Stats if you will. I like numbers myself. Especially when they have to do with working friends on the bands. A great hobby for me now since 1959. I am enjoying the mobile setup and hope to make many more trips.

Total QSOs - 779

10 CW - 9

12 CW - 16

15 CW - 55

17 CW - 130

20 CW - 261

20 SB - 160
30 CW - 63
40 CW - 39
40 SB - 49

DX was DL, JA, OK, CM, G, PA, I, LU, S5, GM3, SP and F. Canadian prefixes were VE1, VE2 and VE7. I think the following stations were the most worked ones. KC3X, W7KQX, W7GVE, K4YT, K7TM and others too many to name. Those are still in my head!

I picked up 23 new counties for myself while on the Arkansas trip. Nice addition and gets me near 2000 now. At the rate I'm going I hope to make the WBOW in a year or so. If I could get up a little earlier I would be bagging even more. Missed several the past two mornings that would have been new for me.

Already planning another western Oklahoma run maybe next week. The Kansas QSO Party is on the calendar for late August. I'll be an L in SUNFLOWER operating as W0L. September brings the Tennessee, Kentucky and Texas parties. I plan on doing all three which will make 8 for me this year. The mobile is holding up pretty well. I have to repair the Tarhell supports once in a while but otherwise all is staying put together. The K3 is quite a little radio.

73 - Jerry K5YAA/M

Radio Buzzers

On Ebay this month there were some 'radio buzzers' for sale. OK...so what is a radio buzzer? Good question and off to the web I went to find out.



Radio Buzzer

From a 1921 catalog for MESCO wireless equipment

“MESCO Radio Buzzers – with Shunt Resistance – US Army and Navy Standard - This buzzer maintains a constant note and is recommended as an exciter for checking wavemeters where pure note and ample energy are required. Sparking is almost entirely eliminated so that the energy lost to light and heat in the operation of other buzzers is here conserved and radiated in the form of oscillating energy”

It consists of practically a closed circuit field of low resistance, having a steel armature to which is riveted a strap supporting a movable contact. The armature tension is adjustable with a screw with a milled head large enough to be easily and permanently adjusted with the fingers. The stationary contact is adjusted by means of a separate screw. The magnet coils are connected in series with a total resistance of 3.9 ohms. Shunted across these coils is a resistor having a DC resistance of 3 ohms. This shut eliminates all sparking such as occurs at the break on ordinary radio buzzers and the energy saved is thereby transferred into any oscillating circuit connected to it, the result being that this buzzer as constructed radiates five times more energy than any other existing type. All connecting wires liable to be broken are eliminated. Contacts are of genuine platinum, which is essential in order to maintain a constant note.

Price \$2.50

When the Titanic sailed, it had as part of its radio test equipment a 'shunted buzzer' similar to that above! It was used to 'test' equipment.

Tom, W1TP, has a page here telling you how to make your own buzzer and 'wireless transmitter'.

More Solar News

Our nearest star has exhibited some schizophrenic behavior thus far for 2013.

By all rights, we should be in the throes of a solar maximum, an 11-year peak where the Sun is at its most active and dappled with sunspots.

Thus far though, Solar Cycle #24 has been off to a sputtering start, and researchers that attended the meeting of the American Astronomical Society's Solar Physics Division earlier this month are divided as to why. "Not only is this the smallest cycle we've seen in the space age, it's the smallest cycle in 100 years," NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center research scientist David Hathaway said during a recent press teleconference conducted by the Marshall Space Flight Center.

Cycle #23 gave way to a profound minimum that saw a spotless Sol on 260 out of 365 days (71%!) in 2009. Then, #Cycle 24 got off to a late start, about a full year overdue — we should have seen a solar maximum in 2012, and now that's on track for the late 2013 to early 2014 time frame. For solar observers, both amateur, professional and automated, it seems as if the Sun exhibits a "split-personality" this year, displaying its active Cycle #24-self one week, only to sink back into a blank despondency the next.

This new cycle has also been asymmetrical as well. One hallmark heralding the start of a new cycle is the appearance of sunspots at higher solar latitudes on the disk of the Sun. These move progressively toward the Sun's equatorial regions as the cycle progresses, and can be mapped out in what's known as a Spörer's Law.

But the northern hemisphere of the Sun has been much more active since 2006, with the southern hemisphere experiencing a lag in activity. "Usually this asymmetry lasts a year or so, and then the hemispheres synchronize," said Giuliana de Toma of the High Altitude Observatory.

So far, several theories have been put forth as to why our tempestuous star seems to be straying from its usual self. Along with the standard 11-year cycle, it's thought that there may be a longer, 100 year trend of activity and subsidence known as the Gleissberg Cycle.

The Sun is a giant ball of gas, rotating faster (25 days) at the equator than at the poles, which rotate once every 34.5 days. This dissonance sets up a massive amount of torsion, causing the magnetic field lines to stretch and snap, releasing massive amounts of energy. The Sun also changes polarity with every sunspot cycle, another indication that a new cycle is underway.

But predictions have run the gamut for Cycle #24. Recently, solar scientists have projected a twin peaked solar maximum for later this year, and thus far, Sol seems to be following this modified trend. Initial predictions by scientists at the start of Cycle #24 was for the sunspot number to have reached 90 by August 2013; but here it is the end of July, and we're sitting at 68, and it seems that we'll round out the northern hemisphere Summer at a sunspot number of 70 or so.

Some researchers predict that the following sunspot Cycle #25 may even be absent all together.

"If this trend continues, there will be almost no spots in Cycle 25," Noted Matthew Penn of the National Solar Observatory, hinting that we may be on the edge of another Maunder Minimum.

The Maunder Minimum was a period from 1645 to 1715 where almost no sunspots were seen. This span of time corresponded to a medieval period known as the Little Ice Age. During this era, the Thames River in London froze, making Christmas "Frost Fairs" possible on the ice covered river. Several villages in the Swiss Alps were also consumed by encroaching glaciers, and the Viking colony established in Greenland perished. The name for the period comes from Edward Maunder, who first noted the minimum in papers published in the 1890s. The term came into modern vogue after John Eddy published a paper on the subject in the journal of Science in 1976. Keep in mind, the data from the period covered by the Maunder Minimum is far from complete— Galileo had only started sketching sunspots via projection only a few decades prior to the start of the Maunder Minimum. But tellingly, there was a span of time in the early 18th century when many researchers supposed that sunspots were a myth! They were really THAT infrequent...

Read more: <http://www.universetoday.com/103803/solar-cycle-24-on-track-to-be-the-weakest-in-100-years/#ixzz2aqQrB7LS>

North American QSO Party

The North American QSO Party takes place a few times a year – a couple times on CW, a couple times on SSB and even on RTTY. The power limit is 100w output – so you have a chance of having fun without being wiped out by loud loud loud contesters.

This summer it was held on Saturday Aug 3. You can operate 10 hours out of the contest period.

I turned the radio to 10 meters at the start of the contest, not expecting to hear a whole lot. After all , 10 m has been dead as a doornail most days with maybe some Caribbean or South Americans at best coming through. What did I hear? Oh, wow!.....E skip on 10M – and I got busy working a couple dozen stations. Who was there? The regular testers – N2CU, K4AMC, KB9OWD and a bunch of others. Seems it was open to TN real nicely...then to parts of OH and IN and IL. CO came in a bit later – but within an hour, most folks had left for the lower bands and two hours later – there wasn't much there. Looks like we had a few hours of E-skip then it was gone. You never know – 10m could be open a lot more and just 'no one home' to find out!

From the 3830 contest reflector:

K5OT – TX – 701 cw

Austin Summerfest usually falls on the same weekend as the August NAQP. This year, I stayed at the hamfest a bit longer than I usually do, as I was helping sell a portion of the W5ZL(SK) radio estate. By the time I grabbed some lunch and made it out to the K5TR station near Johnson City, the contest was well underway. Even without the busy first hours, it was a lot of fun.

KN4Y – FL – 200 cw

It was 95F and 600% humidity, I got a large ink blotter and blotted a path into the shack. The AC was kicking humidity's soak, I went to 10-meters CW and made 3 contacts then all was quiet like a wedding night then reality.. I went to 15-meters CW and the band was jumping, a figure of speech. I even called for awhile, it was fun.I tried 40 and 80-meters and both were active with calls. I decided to go for 200 QSO's and at midnight I accomplished my goal.(Your grandfather will explain what an ink blotter is).

K4BAI – GA

10M was open to several areas of the country, but there wasn't much activity. A late surprise was KH6LC/KH6FOC very loud. 15M was as good as I have heard it for this contest in several years with good activity. 20M was only OK. 40M was great and could have produced more QSOs and mults if I hadn't cut time on it short to try for mults on other bands. 80M was very disappointing. I had some QRN here,

but called many, many stations who could not hear me.

Antique Wireless Association

The summer edition of the AWA Magazine Gateway is now available on line. It's got some good articles about radio technology. Free. Check out:

<http://www.antiquewireless.org/uploads/1/6/1/2/16129770/gatewayv3no2.pdf>

Ohio QSO Party

WB8JUI – Rover

I did the loop again this year, hitting the four counties of my hometown of Bellevue (Erie, Huron, Sandusky, and my home county of Seneca). Put a total of about 20 miles on the family truckster, making two passes, skipping HURO the second time through as KE8M seemed to have things well covered from there.

I have scoped out a few decent, somewhat secluded spots in each county with tall trees for wires.

Only had one "SSB" request, that coming from K1LT on 80, but didn't connect. By the time I found and untangled the mic and then fumbled around QSYing, Vic had probably given up on me.

I periodically checked 10 and 15. Found KE8M on 10 at 0011Z (and again at 0015Z on 15), and then K8ND (also on 10).

As others have mentioned, activity seemed to be off this year. Probably a combination of beautiful 80+ degree weather for a change in Ohio, punk conditions, and a few other contests siphoning off activity.

N2CU – mobile

Well, the intent was there but Murphy was too. Never would make Ohio for the start of the contest but did get to Ashtabula at 17:30. Spent an hour making 45 QSOs and then I saw my SWR going berserk and power folding back to 30 watts. Checked everything and can only figure that the toroid matching transformer at the screwdriver base was flaky - will find out today. It's a shame because the antenna worked so well last week in the NAQP.

I had planned on activating at least six counties in NE Ohio, but it was not to be. 230 miles traveled, 45 QSOs, 1 hour operating equals not much fun and 0.2 QSOs per mile rate :(

K8MR Mobile

After several good experiences last fall as a Rover in the PA and NY QSO parties I decided to give it a try in Ohio. While as a mobile one can rack up a big number of QSOs by repeatedly working the regulars on CW from many counties, one misses the great portion of those participating in the contest who operate primarily or exclusively on SSB. As a rover, with some operation on SSB with a real antenna, these people can benefit from my travels to lots of rare counties. And rover vs. mobiles makes things a lot easier on a full time driver with the frequent breaks from the road.

Or at least they could had propagation cooperated this weekend. Other than a few brief periods early, there was absolutely no in-state propagation on 40. In those few periods I did get a better than usual number of counties and new callsigns in the log. But otherwise even with the real antenna, 40 SSB yielded just a relative handful of out of state stations.

My fixed antenna worked out very well. I call it the 33 foot hamstick - 33 feet of vertical wire fed against the body of the Honda minivan. This time, rather than relying on trees for support as I had done last fall, I used a 33 foot DK9SQ fiberglass mast, supported by a tripod made of pairs of 4 foot aluminum army surplus mast. This gave a support point at six feet, which was quite stable, at least in the relatively calm weather we had. Setup time was about five minutes, teardown a bit less. Had the bands cooperated, the three S-unit improvement in signal over the mobile antenna would have returned the setup time in about five minutes. Checks before the contest also indicated a very

substantial improvement on 15 meters, though 15 was useless on Saturday and generally is not very active anyway.

We stopped to operate in six counties. We had planned to stop in another six, but with the bad propagation on 40 we could work just as many stations on CW with the mobile antenna, i.e. not many. As it was, my time estimate with the extra counties would have put us way behind our goal (successful) of getting back to AC8E's QTH by not much after midnight.

So it was quite a disappointment after the incredible experience in Michigan earlier in the year when I was able to make nearly 1500 QSOs as a mobile in the same time. But in any event, a trip around Ohio for the OhQP is always a good way to experience the waning days of summer.

KV8Q 386 cw

A rough OQP for me. Didn't feel very good and had a splitting headache by the end. Lots of QRN and not much propagation. 40 was not the producer it has been in the past. Only found 61 of the 88 counties. K8B (K8BTU) was my only five-bander (Thanks for the QSY to ten, Bill). And, for whatever reason, my Atomic clock was 3 minutes slow!!! Sorry about that, folks. Log is fixed; but, lesson learned - check WWV every time. Thanks for the Q's and I hope to see ya'll again next year. 73 Tom KV8Q

K8GU – Holmes OH portable

Took my 2-year-old son to Grandma and Popo's farm to give XYL a quiet weekend at home. How could I resist putting in a little OhQP time?! Did not operate phone because almost all operating time was when one or more were asleep.

Station:

- Elecraft K3/100 at 100 watts
- Hastily-erected open-wire fed 80-m doublet at 30 feet
- 13-inch MacBook Pro running TR4W under Windows XP in a VMware Fusion virtual machine

W8K – W8KTQ op

Decided to run high power on this one for a change so I fired up the 41 year old Heathkit SB-200 and was doing fine until it overheated and kicked the thermal breaker. Took the cover off and treated it to some nice cool air from a big fan and it worked well the rest of the contest. Wife got stung on the foot with a bee so that cost some time! Overall, bands were not the best! Lots of noise on 40 and 80. Still had fun and did OK.

So you thought 10M was 'dead'?

The 10-10 summer SSB contest was held in early August....just to let you know that N5XZ in Fort Bend, TX made 862 contacts on the weekend:

N5XZ - 36 hours of operating

What a weekend! The contest started with a bang!...at 2359 BEFORE the contest started, just as I was getting ready to switch from my regular log to N1MM, we had a power glitch! My amp went off-line and my useless UPS did not do its job, so the computer went dead (the 12VDC radio UPS worked, though). It took me 2 or 3 minutes to reboot, and we were well into 0001Z before I could make my first Q with WS5H, who was waiting on me! Conditions were fair the first night: I made only 89 Q's. I did work perhaps 2 dozen VK/ZL and a few KH6. (I even got called by NR5M who vowed to get his 10-10 number now!) I shut things down after our local net, but came back to the radio around 11pm to find the band open, so I worked another dozen or so until 12:30pm. Saturday proved to be a fair day, with some good runs and rates, even got called by about a dozen EU (G, F, DL, I, OE, etc.) in the morning, but no Africa like last year, which was a bit of a disappointment.. Lots of SA in the afternoon as usual and ended up the day at 502, at about 1:30 am...band still open but few stations. Earlier in the day, NN5O operated K0NM's station remotely from the Woodlands to Sugar Land as mentioned in their joint article also in this issue. It sounded pretty darn good, too!

Sunday was exciting (as things go in the Summer on 10 with lousy conditions!). I had a great run in the morning, only 1 EU (GW4BLE) then the band went almost dead. SA came back (I worked a TON of them!), we worked a couple of loud EA8's but with about 90 min left, the band opened up again and I had a sprint to the end, trying to beat my score of last February. I managed to beat it with 12 min to go! I ended up with 862 Q's/1288 pts. compared to 838/1274 last February (last year I made only 500 Q's/731 Pts. and got beat by Terry, TI5/N0TW). That's funny because I thought conditions were better last February than over the weekend. Terry was down in Dominica this year operating as J79TW. I am hoping to win my 12th 10-10 contest with this one. Looking back this is my 25th entry, my first being in 1986.

Other than hitting the wrong keys plenty of times, the hardware/software performed flawlessly: After I got the hang of using the N1MM software with the DVK voice keyer memories in ESM mode, making SSB QSO's at high rates was a breeze and it really saved my voice because all I had to say was the other stations callsign and hit [Enter]; type in his info and hit [Enter]...N1MM and the recorded audio memories in the K3 took care of the rest!

Equipment: Elecraft K3/P3, Alpha 78, 4-el SteppIR @ 75', N1MM controlling the K3 DVK memories via CAT.

K0NM came back from his business trip about 11am and got on the air...Fresh Meat! He started calling CQ Contest and got a lot of calls! I have to admit I was a bit envious that he was getting so many answers and my rate was down to one every 2-3 minutes!

Oh, and a HUGE thanks has to go to my wife Connie, KC5VHH who allowed me to spend the whole weekend on the air with few interruptions. Have to admit that I did buy her some roses BEFORE the contest to let her know in advance how much I appreciate it!

On the Road with N4CD 2

Mid August is a good time to get away from the 'heat' of Texas – with 100 deg type temps for weeks on end. The cooler northeast is a good place to head – plus there were several things

back that way just calling for me to head that way.

If I was in the mood and could stop to take some County Sign pictures, I'd get them and add them to the database. Gee – not a single sign from NJ. Hmm – lots of counties and no pics. NY wasn't in good shape either, and WV still needed lots filled in. When you are zipping on the interstate – sometimes you can catch them. Many tollroads have no signs at all – you are just 'out of luck'. I'd see what I could do. It would be a challenge to get at least 30 new ones in the 80 plus counties I'd run.

Gary, K4EXT, has added a new listing of who has contributed how many pictures for the database, now half way done!

The annual Antique Wireless Association convention is held in late August each year. It's worth attending if you have other things back east to do – otherwise it's a long 3000 mile round trip from TX. This year was the Grand Opening of the new museum – so it was 'bigger' than usual. In addition, I had five counties back northeast for Mobile Diamond that no one else was eager to run. I could also drop in on sister and brother in law at the old N2TPH QTH for a day or two. So.....I got out the maps, the coloring book maps, the needs off the K3IMC web site, and did some work to figure out a route that would get me to where I needed to get to.

On Wednesday I headed out for an up to two week trip. Jerry, K5YAA was running out in west Texas – I needed a bunch out that way. Golly, I need over 170 Texas counties for the next time around so I'd be hunting for him as I drove up the boring I-30 to I-40 all the way across X. The first day I knocked off 641 miles and stayed at a Motel 6 west of Nashville. Dinner at the Cracker Barrel. NU0Q was up in MN enjoying the cooler climates.

Thursday morning it was a nice cool 59 degrees (compared to about 80 in Dallas) as I continued across I-40 over to the Hawkins TN area. I needed to get up to Wise VA for one of the needed MD counties. Somehow I managed to miss that. Hawkins is just a 3 mile detour from the main route and that was a 'requested county' so I took the short detour. No problem. Then it was back up the route to Wise. When I left TX, I pounced in Norton, VA as the destination (in Wise VA) and just followed the directions of the GPS lady. Worked out fine – other than the short detour – she was happy. Wise, VA, went in the log – scratch one more for MD.

The next objective was getting up to Huntington, WV to see the great museum there. I'll cover that in a special section. It's worth the TRIP!. Thursday night was the Super 8 in Prestonburg, KY with dinner at the Peking China Buffet. Both good. 1096.5 miles from home and headed on.

The Museum is only open 3 days a week in the summer time (Sat and Sun the rest of the year) so I had to plan to be there at the right time. They open at 10am so I had to drag my feet a bit as I'm usually early. When you get off in Huntington WV, you can zip 1 mile to the north and

put out Lawrence, OH – a fairly rare county. Getting there is easy – getting back the one mile was a half hour wait as they are doing major construction and the line to get back was 2 miles long! Oh well – I was still early – and showed up at the museum 3 minutes late.

After the museum visit- it was 'making tracks' all across WV on the interstate headed for southern NJ – where two more MD counties awaited. There are few counties you have to stop to run on the interstate. Gilmer is one of them. I'm stopped conveniently in a sort of construction area and N8OYY comes flying by and honks the horn. Missed having an eyeball...maybe next time.

It turned out to be a late night. Motels around Baltimore were sky high – price wise and half I tried were full up. So I kept driving till I got to Harford, MD- late – at the Super 8 in Aberdeen. I didn't even realize I hit the county – I was just looking for a reasonably priced motel. \$60. I wasn't all that hungry – so it was dinner at the Burger King next door. I was 1640 miles from home after 3 days.

Part of the plan was to hit the NJ/NYC area on a weekend. Traffic is really really bad during the week – so I'd plan on a 'weekend'. That didn't turn out as well as I hoped. This was to be the day of **LOTS OF TOLLS! BRING MONEY!**

First you hit the Delaware Tollroad – then pay for the bridge. That's just the start to \$10 bills flying out of your wallet. After you get in NJ, you can head east on regular roads to try and get the ones you need. . Those elusive counties of Cumberland and Salem went into the log. You don't find county signs here – too often.

You can find a few NJ signs if you are lucky

Here's one



or if you look hard – you find some really old ones



They are obsessed with 'Townships' – everything is 'entering XYZ Township'. If you didn't bring along GPS/computer, you'd be looking hard at the NJ map to figure out where you were – or you'd need a good NJ map that had the townships on it. Not to worry – the GPS with county lines added worked fine. I actually found a few county signs to snap!

It was then back to the NJ Turnpike (No county signs along it). You zip through a half dozen counties. I was headed out to 'Long Island' which contains two of the Island counties!. Along the way I'd pass through Richmond (Staten Island). Wow – 3 island counties in one day – heh heh.

This is where the great plan didn't work out so well. You get off the NJTP to go to Staten Island on 287...and the first thing you hit is a five mile back up at the tollbooth for the first bridge. That one isn't too bad....then you have not that many miles in Richmond, NY – got to get off to not run out of the county and when you get off the QRN is horrible. So is traffic. I managed to get back on 287 (not having gone all that far) and then you pay \$13 to go over the bigger bridge to get out of Richmond into Kings. No sign for Kings but a nice “entering Brooklyn sign' and even a place to pull over and park along the water for a few minutes to unfrazzle yourself before heading on. Naturally, traffic is still fairly heavy even on a weekend – but the worse was yet to come.

After a few minute rest and starting to run “Kings NY” I headed out going east on the Southern Parkway. After a while you run into Queens – hmm.....I thought I'd only be here for a few miles and kept driving, not running it. Turns out it was more than a few miles. Then the big BACKUP occurred. I didn't see the sign for Nassau – but that was the least of my problems. It was now 5 mph stop and go traffic. What's up? Football game? Other game? Concert? It was noon on Saturday. It sure wasn't rush hour. I sat. And sat. And sat. Creep and crawl. I finally could check the map and establish I was in Nassau. Never passed a sign and the GPS had so many streets and other things on it you couldn't tell. It took an hour to go 20 miles.

What's this? Overpasses with signs – 8 foot 10 clearance ahead? Whoa! I got the big antenna that needs 9 and half feet. I notice there are no trucks on this road! Sure enough you see arched overpasses. At the edge, maybe 9 foot clearance.....but it looks like more in the center. Guess I better stay in the center lane! One of them; had under 8 foot clearance at the edges. If you had a big antenna on the left side of your car and were stuck in the left hand lane, you might have left part of it behind! (or right side in the right hand lane!). Jerry, W0GXQ would be in serious trouble with his giant rooftop set up! So would other county hunters. I just made darn sure to be in the 'center' for the 20 or so overpasses.



Low Clearance!

There's 25 miles of this Southern Parkway – and it's nearly to the point where everyone is essentially just a bit faster than 'parked'. It was built in the 1920s as an 'expressway' out to Jones beach. You hit Suffolk County at exit 32. When built it was 2 lanes each way – but now it is 3 lanes, sometimes with a fourth lane for an exit. Stay in the MIDDLE! Or lose your antenna! There's less than 9 foot clearance at the edges!

It finally dawned on me that it was Saturday...and it was a delightful 80 degrees...and a 'summer weekend' – and that folks were headed out 'to the beaches' for the weekend and to visit friends for dinner at the beach house. Duh!.....worse than rush hour! Suffolk came up near exit 31 as expected and there was a county sign...but I was so busy staying in the center lane – no hope of a pictures. I got off at the next exit – found a residential street to stop on – and put out Suffolk County. Not totally quiet but OK as I sat there. What a horrible mess of traffic getting there. I have NO PLANS of ever heading back.

That finished 'dot number 5' so all the MD counties had been reached in the northeast. Whew! At least I didn't have to head back this way for more counties any time soon. I was frazzled. The traffic was horrendous and it's totally built up and 'urban'.

I got back on the Parkway – there's also a sign for Nassau county there – but I was busy being in the center lane so as to not lose an antenna. It's a bit unnerving seeing all those low clearance solid stone overpasses – probably going back 70 years or more! - to a time when there were no mobile antennas to worry about and no large trucks! At least you didn't have to content with 18 wheelers. They simply would not fit.

The traffic going back moved nicely – I suspect on Sunday as all the beach folks head home, it's solid 5 mph stop and go...stop...and stop..and wait...and creep and crawl all the way back into the city. Somewhere along there I ran into Queens but never saw the sign and the GPS lady failed to identify the upcoming county. Next thing I knew the GPS lady led me over a bridge and there was “Bronx County”. Dang – where was Queens? I missed it on the return trip! Folks needed it, but sorry – I was not going back into that mess!....I was too frazzled already! No no no. Sorry.....I blew that one.

Ran Bronx, Westchester....more traffic jams slowed to 5 mph creep and crawl. Then scooted out of NYC across the Tappan Zee Bridge. I left about \$40 behind in tolls in DE, NJ, NYC area. Ouch! The Tappan Zee Bridge was free since I was going the 'right way'. They only collect tolls one way – they figure if you go into NYC you have to come back out (or vice versa). Into Rockland and on the Thruway (no county line signs) up to Albany NY then on the Northway (county line signs but not easy to get). Up to Warren County NY for a day or two of rest and fun.

Tell you what! I'm not planning on going back to the NYC area for a long long long time. I thought I'd get through with minimal traffic. Was I wrong!.....I sat and sat and sat and there were jams every time you turned around. One of these days, it's all going to be total grid lock and no one will go anywhere. Maybe a rainy day would have been better? Or a fall day when no one is going to the beach? What a mess!

I'd have a few days to recover up in rural upstate NY – with almost no traffic and no traffic jams!

To be continued.

Museum of Radio and Technology

If you're in the Huntington WV area, you might want to check out the following museum



<http://www.ohio.edu/people/poslr/mrt/>

Built into an old 10,000 sq ft school building, the museum seems to have quite an extensive collection. You can take a tour on-line of their collection at the above link. Lots of nostalgia including lots of old ham gear, Heathkit stuff, radio toys from the 50s/60s, TV sets, the 1920-1960s radios, plus old broadcast transmitters and gear.



They've got LARGE rooms full of 1920s radios. More rooms full of 30s and 40s radios. A room full of ham gear, plus half a dozen operating positions with vintage radios. You could probably operate from there for a couple hours if you wanted. More rooms full of vintage TV sets, old phonographs, transistor radios, radios from the 60s and 70s you might have grown up with!. Electronic toys of the 50s and 60s. A computer room with some of the early ones. Something for everything, including some military sets.

Worth a look. Open on Sat and Sun during the summer – see website for hours.

N4CD Hint – use the Alt “T” tab on your browser to open another window – and copy the link and open the page in a new window...then you can come back to continue reading the CHNews without waiting for it to reload again

There are LOADs of good pictures here! Don't skip visiting the site!

County Sign Database Project

Gary, K4EXT, added more to the database, now up to over counties. He also added a contributor column, so you can see who has sent in pictures (and how many). Is your call in there yet?

W4FNW/W8FNW sent in some from MN, OH, IL and ND.



W8FNW/W4FNW – Madison, OH

AD1B sent in some from MA – couldn't find the 'county line sign' but sent in ones from in the county – good enough when there are no others to get.

Terry, WQ7A, sent in some from the trip back home to the National.

Alex, K5XY, sent in some from NM and CO.

Jerry, K5YAA, sent in some pics from OK and AR.

Some states, like NJ, have zero entries. Maine isn't doing too well, while MT has all but a handful in the database. NY, PA, CA and GA are in sad shape for their size.

Jim, ND9M, sent in some from GA, AZ, MS and LA. Here's a pic of him in Franklin, GA



ND9M

Jerry, K5YAA, sent in a bunch from his trip to Texas.

Van, WC5D sent in this from Door, WI - He's good for the 'Natural Bingo' there.



WC5D mobile in Door, WI
Door/Kewaunee Line

Here's where to look:

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

Kansas QSO Party

The mobiles were out and running and there were at least a dozen fixed stations on with 1x1 calls trying to help you spell out the magic words – KANSAS SUNFLOWER QSPARTY. Conditions were so so but tens of thousands of contacts were made. I was out mobile so it was a challenge to find and work the mobiles. The pileups on 20m were ferocious at times. Quite a few of the resident county hunters were on using special calls. Here's some blow by blow via the 3830 contest reflector:

N6MU – CA 283 cw 160 ssb

Wow, what a Party! Even more 1x1s and mobiles this year. The cw mobile frequency assignments worked beautifully as all the mobiles used them and it was easy to find them. It's a keeper!!

Needed 16 counties after Saturday and they were all scheduled for Sunday. Conditions were much better Sunday and I found them all. My last five were BRO, ATC, DON, CLK and OTT. Best moment of the Party was being given the sweep by Bob, W0BH/K0A. He is the force driving the Party and the turnout speaks for itself. Congrats, Bob!

Got 39 of the 45 1x1s. We all know mobiles make the Parties and this was no exception. Top mobile for me was K0A with 81 Qs followed by N0P(44), W0L(39), N0R(36), W0Y/W0O/N0K(28), N0A(27), K0O(21), N0W/W0E(16), N0U(15) and W0W(10).

W0F – K0VBU mobile 293 CW 226 ssb

Great contest, awful conditions...

Family commitments again limited my operating time, but I enjoyed being the F in Sunflower! Never heard a peep on 28, nor anyone on 21 SSB. 15 was open here on Sunday afternoon, but very little activity!

N0W mobile – SSB - with WY0I op

I had a great time working the Kansas QSO Party as N0W. After a logging/computer glitch on Sat Morning which left little time for Decatur and Sheridan Counties we started to hit our stride in Norton County. My Son KD0JFP was my driver and we had a good time seeing new country on the back roads of NW Kansas. we covered 20 of our planned 21 counties with the addition of Ellsworth County. We didn't make it to Thomas County before the end of the day on Sat. We were able to log 318 contacts on Sat. Sunday went well with a circle of 11 Counties, although we were still unable to work Thomas County before time ran out. I wasn't too concerned because of all the stations that were working Thomas. We ended the contest with 598 total contacts, all but 2 were on 20 meters, we tried 40 meters on Sun but it was not very good. Propagation on Sat was better than on Sun.

I think the spotting site was good and I told a number of operators about it. maybe next year this can be better advertised.

W0L - K5YAA op – Mobile 965 cs 287 ssb

Well - my Vibroplex held up OK. Sorry for the extra dits or lack thereof now and then. The Kansas roads are actually quite good otherwise there would have

been even more choppy CW happening on .039 and .034 - I recorded roughly 10 hours of the 16 total. Heard SP5SA clear as a bell on the recorder but missed him in the heat of battle! There were several callers I simply couldn't pull out of the noise and I thank them for their efforts. Maybe another time and party. The K3 is pretty good at handling noise so the signals had to be quite weak for me to miss them.

Then there were those that had S9 plus signals every time they called in. Conditions must have been favoring them. A special thanks to the DX and Canadian stations that followed me both days. Especially VE5KS and VE7CV. They showed up in almost every county I made. Also hats off to VE6BMX, VE4QZ, VE9AA and VE1RGB. Thanks for the provinces. I always enjoy working those Canadians since my Dad was born in Quebec.

Congrats to John N6MU for again proving that a vertical and low power can get the job done. Have no idea how he does it. I need big power and lots of aluminum if I'm gonna play radio.

Many stations that rode with me in most of the 30 counties. I will name them from memory since I just finished transcribing my recordings. N8II, N4PN, K7BX, K6MM, ND3R, KQ3F, KB4FS, WA2VYA, W7BRO, W7GVE, K8MFO, K4BAI, KK4HEG, KJ4IWZ, W4UT, K7IA, AD1C, K2DSW, K5WAF, K0DEQ, KC3X, W0GXQ, KS4X, K9WA, N1API, KO1U, K0CCM, W1END, KK7YC, N6MU, W8POF, W7GF, AA4FU, N4UF, WB0TEV, KN4Y, W2CVW, K0PFV, K0MPH, K5VWW, and N3KR. That's most of them - I may have missed a couple. K5ZG - OM Hud in Colorado was having fun laughing with me on 40 CW. He carried on right through a QSO I had with another station. He was still laughing when I left to go to 20 CW!

Now for the DX stations. OM2VL must have a whopper of a station. He was 20 over in several counties and blew in on 40 meters like a local. Worked him 30 times - several times on SSB. Unbelievable signal. DL5ME was present on both days in many of the counties I ran. DX worked included OE, ON, SP, YO, DL, OM, G, F, OK, SM, I, RZ0, OH, and MD0. There were several G and DL stations that made it in the log. The bands seemed to be in better shape on Sunday but Saturday had its moments. On Saturday I was hollered at that 15 was open so I went down there right quick. I worked my full complement of 15 meter QSOs (6) on that swing. I looked at 15 several other times when it should have been open. I called many times with nil answers. Guess the timing wasn't there because I noticed that several people said the band was alive. I didn't find that to be the case.

Let's see - what else. I got off track twice. Once on Saturday when I ended up in Greenwood instead of Wilson. Altered my route to skip the Greenwood pass

since I was there early. Missed Elk but added Osage to keep the 30 total. On Sunday I had to take a real Kansas country road to get back on track from Kingman to Reno county. Didn't lose any time just got bumped around a bit more than I like. The girl on the GPS sent me on a wild goose chase once into a road that was closed. I turned around and made her give me a better route!

I had some fun transcribing the recordings I made of the party. Talked to myself a lot - cussed the frequency poachers and also the traffic a couple of times. Made a lot of grunt sounds when I was tuning up. Guess that helped the linear - don't know. Reminded me of Gator N5RZ and his operating habits! I kept my shirt on though. I used an Olympus W830 and it performed quite well. Sounded just like I was on the radio. Kinda fun listening to it all over again.

Had a nice dinner at Montana Mikes in McPherson with a couple of buddies from Texas and Louisiana. N5NA and NO5W showed up with Alan's FB mobile. Bob and his driving/operating partner Aaron N0QD was with us too. We took pictures and compared conditions. That Bob comes equipped for videos and photos. I had a reservation at the Best Western in McPherson. After dinner and picture taking I said to Chuck I need to find the Best Western. He said he thought it was down the road toward town a bit. I thought that too and took off. In the middle of town I put the address in the GPS and the lady told me to go 5 miles to the left. Off I went. She then told me 5 more miles to the left. I started to think another wild goose chase on the GPS. Well - in another 5 miles or so I ended up right where we ate at. It turns out we were standing and taking pictures right under the Best Western sign. Couldn't see the sucker from where we were standing and I never looked as I drove away! Silly me for not putting in the address into the GPS sooner. The lady might have saved me 25 minutes of additional driving.....

That's my story on this party. I had great fun with the pileups. My 811H amp TX/RX relay started sticking late Sunday but I worked through it OK. Will get it fixed before the Arkansas and Texas Parties later in September. N5WR - Erik Martin will be my partner for the Texas run. So everybody stand by for some FB CW.

73 for now and thanks much for all the Qs. The mobiles need all those fixed stations hollerin at them to make it a good weekend on the radio.

Jerry - K5YAA aka W0L

K0Y – KC0DEB 40 cw 274 SSB

Another edition of the KSQP has come and gone... and I had fun !
I reached the goal I had set for myself - 300 Q's -, although with the QSB and QRN it was pretty tough at the end. I tried 10m several times ;even checked 6m when 20m went real short; but no luck there. I hope I was able to give out the letter "Y" to everyone who needed it. Let's do this again next year!

W0P – N0JK 35 cw 3 ssb

Had to work Friday night - so didn't get out to Chase County 'til late Saturday afternoon. Very hot and windy. The antenna was a 2 meter mag. mount whip on the car with wires attached to resonate on 15, 20 and 40 meters. The end of the wire was attached to a 15 foot high mast lashed to a cattle fence. Was pleased to work Hawaii on both 15 and 20 meters and OM2VL on 20M CW while running 5 watts. 40 CW seemed the most productive for a while, as it got dark a lot of QRM from the Ohio QSO party made it tough to make contacts. Sunday morning had family activities, got back out to Chase about 30 minutes before the end of the contest and put KH6LC in the log on 15 meter SSB right at the end of the contest.

W0S – K0BJ 352 cw 1140 SSB

Worked VE9AA for new mult with 20 seconds left before intermission. Then got him 2 more times Sunday. Also added WY SD in the last 3 hours, so just left NE PEI and the Frozen North on the mult table. Good short skip Sat. and even shorter Sunday.

Big thanks to W0BH and the organizers and cert makers - it's great to bask in the accolades of the appreciative participants.

K0N – K0VXU – 214 cw 958 ssb

Band conditions were not good on 10 and 15 although I was able to make several contacts on those frequencies. It could be that nobody really gave those bands a shot thus activity was diminished. 20 meters was the workhorse from what I could tell. Most of the Kansas stations stuck with 20 meters. 40 meters was very noisy at this location however, 80 meters was not quite a noisy. Again, lack of activity seemed to be the norm on 40 and 80.

N4PN – GA - 267 cw 162 ssb

WoW! Plenty of party goers to this one...thanks to Bob, W0BH, for the promotion job....many great mobile operators with lots of big signals for the fixed stations...

My score includes the Bonus of 100pt for KS0KS.

W0BH,(K0A), was the leader here in Q's with 66, and also Aaron, N0QD, (N0P) with 40 Q's and Lorna, K0WHY (W0Y) with 21 Q's - all from the same mobile - 127 Q's!! Great to see many ole friends behind those 1X1 calls....thanks Jerry, K5YAA, (W0L) for rushing over the Chautauqua for the last new one this year....My fault for the not getting the sweep, as it was possible...congrats to John, N6MU (LP) for getting 'em all .. heard him get Ottawa for the last one... Thanks again to all for an outstanding show...

K7IA – NM 192 cw 59 ssb

45 1 x 1 callsigns made short work of spelling KANSAS SUNFLOWER QSOPARTY. Most of the 1 x 1's were mobile, and their many miles behind the wheel made for many mults. It was good fun to ride around Kansas with them!

15m was open to KS from NM. Too bad more ops didn't give it a go.

N0N – with N0NB op – 203 cw 110 ssb

I had a suspicion the bands would be poor and I wasn't disappointed. With just low wire antennas and a trap vertical, things would be tough so I decided to run the amp this year. I managed 352 in the log which is far down from last year's total of 423 on low power with the same antennas. I suspect I'll be well down in the standings in the high power category but that is the trade-off to making sure that as many folks as possible could have an opportunity to work N0N.

Highlights include having OM2VL pop in on 20 CW around 2100 on Saturday followed by several DLs, and OH, and a G. On Sunday morning I gave a few calls on 15m as I had seen some spots for one or two of the mobile ops and worked N8II, OM2VL, and K7IA immediately and then, nothing. Another several minutes of calling resulted in silence. Clearly these ops were monitoring the RBN to find me so quickly and then having no other answers. For a calling station with a very limited station, the RBN helps others find me quickly and helps my score as well. Also, I had immediate answers on PSK31 so those ops were likely monitoring PASKReporter.info. Now, something like this for phone would have

helped my rate on that mode which still requires tuning and listening.

Initially I loaded my 160/80m doublet on 40m in an attempt to assist others working me from close in via NVIS. That caused RFI into the USB port with the amp that I wound up using the memory keyer and the paddles to send everyone's call. That is why those ops received a lot of error dits from my station. Later I figured out that this was not a problem when on the trap dipole, the vertical, or on the doublet on 80m so I was able to use the program and eliminate sending mistakes. Yeah, I need more practice...

Just before noon on Saturday a strong signal started pumping my noise blanker. I widened out the display on the P3 to find a signal quite a bit stronger than any other down in the range the mobiles were operating. I suspect that my use of the amp caused them to shut down until they were well out of town! We didn't work each other, however.

This year I used a much nicer set of head phones--Yamaha CM-500--and left the aging Heil Pro-Set Micro in the drawer. The Heil had gotten painful (literally) to wear with glasses as they press directly on the ears. The CM-500 fits around the ears and I have no discomfort with them even with the glasses slipping underneath. The set includes a boom mic with an electret element that I can power from the K3. The set up gave me several unsolicited "great audio" reports which means it's doing something very well as I have a face for radio and a voice for CW!

My thanks to everyone who works hard to make the Kansas QSO Party the overwhelming success it has become in a few short years. The innovative ideas keep the interest high. You guys do so much that we ops are the lucky ones who get to play along.

AD1C – fixed CO

I originally started operating the contest to look for the 14 KS counties I needed on 40 meters, mostly in the west. I managed to work exactly half of them. I never heard Jefferson, the only one I needed in the east. I could not believe I worked the more difficult ones in the SW corner due to the short skip needed from the Denver area.

Most of my Saturday QSOs were on 40 meters; I did not hear very many KS stations on 20. Most of my Sunday QSOs were on 20 meters. It seemed to me that the mobiles did not do as good a job of going to 40 on Sunday as they did

on Saturday.

I was able to spell SUNFLOWER, KANSAS and QSOPARTY "naturally", without the help of the bonus station, KS0KS.

W0O mobile – W0ZQ op

The drive down from Mpls to Liberty (MO) on Friday afternoon was wonderfully uneventful. I had the opportunity to enjoy an ice cream bar or two along the way. It seems Iowa into northern MO has seen good rain as the countryside was green for this time of year. Saturday morning, just ahead of the contest, I drove through Kansas City to get to my starting point where DOU/JOH/MIA/FRA all come together. While driving, I tuned up my FT897 with its LDG tuner on 20m hmmm, the tuner took a few extra seconds to tune, that was different. I listened on 20m and heard not one signal. Wow, did we have a flare? Boy, that would not be good. I then punched in WWV on 10 MHz to get a time sync and no WWV. Hmmm. So driving along I thought through the problem and suddenly remembered that when I left the hotel in Liberty I had forgotten to actually connect the coax to the antenna ! Doh. Well, that explains no signals. What is interesting is that the LDG tuner loaded up about 15' of RG214 to a 1:1 swr on 20m. I guess those tuners can indeed tune up just about anything. Arriving at DOU/JOH/MIA/FRA I connected the antenna and all was good after that.

On Saturday I operated from 13 different counties on both 20 and 40m. I did try 15m a few times with no takers. While looking at the map while I was driving I saw that I could make a minor detour from my planned route and pick up AND county AND was not on the original plan.. As a solo operator in charge of strategy, tactics, operations, navigation, and HR, these state QSO parties are part contest, part road rally, and part endurance contests lots of fun. I think the highest temperature that I saw on my car thermometer was 95, but there was a good wind out of the south that help a lot so I have no complaints about the weather it was a great day to be out and about in the Flint Hills of KS playing radio.

The contest period on Sunday is half as long as Saturday and with the other QSO parties having ended the rates really pick up compared to Saturday. For me Saturday is more of a marathon while Sunday is more of a sprint. I stayed over night in Junction City and started out the contest Sunday morning in RIL with the plan to run nine more counties in Sunday's 6 hour time period. I had proportioned my Sunday operating time to include 40m at the start (9:00 am local) and from the next two counties after that, but then to focus solely on 20m for the last six stops which were during the afternoon hours when 20m was

hot and 40m more limited. My apologies to those who I missed on 40m, but rates were phenomenal on 20m during this time as you can see in the tabulation below. Each of those stops was about 20 minutes or so, so rates were in the 170 to 210 per hour range.

I ended the contest at the BRO/ATC/DON county line area where it was a 7 hour drive back to Mpls and home. Once again the drive back was wonderfully uneventful with a celebratory ice cream bar (or two). My goal this year was to beat my score from last year and make 1,000 Q's. Both goals were achieved and I had lots of fun to boot. Thanks to every one that I worked and thanks for your patience with me in some of those pile-ups. There were a few times that I heard some very weak CW signals that I just could not pull out, thanks for trying and we will do it next time. DX work include DK2OY, DL3IAC, DL5ME, G0DBE, I1EIS, MD0CCE, NP2X, OK1CF, OK2EC, OM2VL, ON4AAC, PA3ARM, RX3AGD, RZ0AF, S57KW, SP5SA, and V31MA.

A tip of the hat to Bob, W0BH, for his work in pulling this fun event together and to all the other KS stations, especially all the other mobiles.

N8II- Fixed WV

What a well organized turnout from a relatively low population state. Trying to mentally sort all of those similar 1X1 calls was a challenge and led to some interesting coincidences like when I moved N0S to 21340 and K0S was running there. They started up a conversation after everybody was logged. Also W0N moved in on N0W/M's frequency on 20 phone which caused some confusion.

Saturday was a bit of mayhem, especially when the OQP started and they were loud on 20 via Es. If I was working the OQP, I never would have had such good luck which turned into bad luck for the KQP. The opening to OH finally died out after about 2 hours but navigating around the OH guys on 20 still slowed things down to say nothing of 40 and 80 once they opened.

It was almost entirely a S&P contest for me with only about 4-5 stations answering CQ's and no luck trying to stir up badly lacking activity on 15. 15 was wide open to KS during the Es opening and I moved K0N up to 10 who was S9+ on both modes. A lot of potential QSO's were left on the table while almost everyone stayed on 20 and 40. 20 went long to eastern KS here around 2345Z and opened again around 0115Z with little activity.

Suggest a secondary 75 meter frequency of 3740 to avoid OQP QRM. What little

activity there was on 40 phone was pretty much in the clear above the OQP crowd.

Sunday was much more orderly with the mobiles pretty much sticking to their assigned spots on CW. It was a wear out the VFO type of event picking off what I could on 40 CW during the day and filtering out all of the QRM on 20. After the first hour on Sunday 40 was almost dead to KS the rest of the day with 15 opening best around 1445-1515Z when few showed up there making it a single band event from here. It was pretty tedious and tiring at times. I missed W0BH on Saturday in Sheridan county which turned out to be the downfall of a sweep. I started Sunday needing less than 15 counties and all showed up except Sheridan working Ottawa with Bob, K0A with 20 minutes to go.

Many many thanks to all of the mobiles who put in long lonely miles and especially to Bob, W0BH who was K0A along with his drivers N0P and K0Y, K0O and Jerry K5YAA who was W0L who kept moving virtually the entire 18 hours! You made it worth sticking around on the radio! By QSO totals thanks to: K0A 67/N0P 27/W0Y 19, W0L 46, N0R 36, N0K 32, K0O 31 in 31 COUNTIES all phone, N0A 27, W0O 23, W0E 18, W0U 18, N0W 17, N0U 15, W0W 11, N0Y 6, W0R 6.

Almost all of the 1x1 calls were logged and KS0KS was found on 40 and 20 phone for the bonus.

On the Road with N4CD - 3

Sunday – so what is 'rest' for a county hunter? Maybe putting out – without rushing – some nearby local counties? Yeah!

The temps were great in NY. It was in the 50s in the morning and went up to the 70s - Too cool for swimming but perfect for county hunting. Folks always seem to want Essex, NY and Washington, NY. You can look out the QTH windows and see Washington NY – just 2 miles away but getting there the short way takes a boat! I headed up the 20 miles to Ticonderoga in Essex County – ran that – then decided to zip on down to Washington NY – about 10 miles down the road. Ran that and a few folks were around. Back to Ticonderoga for a second breakfast and then figure out what I should do on my day of 'rest'.

If you are into history...this a great place to explore. In Ticonderoga, you've got historic forts nearby – the first being Fort Ticonderoga. Here's some history from Wiki

Fort Ticonderoga, formerly Fort Carillon, is a large 18th-century star fort built by the French at a narrows near the south end of Lake Champlain in upstate New York in the United States. It was constructed between 1754 and 1757 during the Seven Years' War, often referred to as the French and Indian War in the USA. It was of strategic importance during the 18th-century colonial conflicts between Great Britain and France, and again played a role during the American Revolutionary War.

The site controlled a river portage alongside the mouth of the La Chute River between Lake Champlain and Lake George and was strategically placed in conflicts over trade routes between the British-controlled Hudson River Valley and the French-controlled Saint Lawrence River Valley. The name "Ticonderoga" comes from the Iroquois word tekontaró:ken, meaning "it is at the junction of two waterways".[3]

During the 1758 Battle of Carillon, 4,000 French defenders were able to repel an attack by 16,000 British troops near the fort. In 1759, the British returned and drove a token French garrison from the fort merely by occupying high ground that threatened the fort. During the American Revolutionary War, the fort again saw action in May 1775 when the Green Mountain Boys and other state militia under the command of Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold captured it in a surprise attack. Cannons captured were transported to Boston where their deployment forced the British to abandon the city in March 1776. The Americans held it until June 1777, when British forces under General John Burgoyne again occupied high ground above the fort and threatened the Continental Army troops, leading them to withdraw from the fort and its surrounding defenses. The only direct attack on the fort took place in September 1777, when John Brown led 500 Americans in an unsuccessful attempt to capture the fort from about 100 British defenders.

The British abandoned the fort following the failure of the Saratoga campaign, and it ceased to be of military value after 1781. It fell into ruin, leading people to strip it of some of its usable stone, metal, and woodwork. It became a stop on tourist routes of the area in the 19th century. Its private owners restored the fort early in the 20th century. A foundation now operates the fort as a tourist attraction, museum, and research center.”

At the south end of Lake George, you also have Fort William Henry. It's open to tourists.

Well – it was just great county hunting weather, so why not try the new bridge over to VT? The old one collapsed and fell into the river a few years ago. That gets you over to Addison, VT which some needed. I took pics of the NY county signs. I thought I took them years before but maybe not. Been there so many times – maybe 20 times? Or 50 times? There's only two ways out of the former N2TPH QTH.

You get to Crown Point (another fort there) and then over to Chimney Point in VT – with another small museum there. The French had a small fort there in 1731.

Here's wiki on the Crown Pt site:

“Crown Point, was a British fort built by the combined efforts of both British and Provincial troops (from New York and the New England Colonies) in North America in 1759 at narrows on Lake Champlain on the border between modern New York State and Vermont. Erected to secure the region against the French, the Fort is located near the town of Crown Point, New York and was the largest earthen fortress built in the United States. The site is now administered as Crown Point State Historic Site.”

You can Google a not more history if you are a history buff. Indian Wars, Revolutionary War, and more all took place right in this neck of the woods. Not too far north you are into Canada – another 100 miles or so.

Here I was - it was still early in the morning – and the weather was totally fabulous.....well, why not head a bit north from there into Chittenden, another 20-25 miles north? No need to rush anywhere and conditions were decent. Well, one thing leads to another. You get to Chittenden..and the sign is GONE.....hmmm...new road construction and the side by side signs up on the pole (twin arrows) is not there any longer! No Chittenden sign for the database. Dang. Well, maybe somewhere in the house somewhere are the negatives for ancient pictures....or they are lost. Someone els will have to find the signs for the database.

Well...still early...and weather absolutely fantastic – so why not keep going? Head north a bit and you wind up in Franklin- you're on the interstate zipping north. You see a sign for the town...and at the bottom, they note the county. It's almost like the county is an after thought.

Keep going till you almost reach Canada then head west - at one point you are 1/2 mile from Canada and can see the customs stop/port of entry. I stop for lunch at a Subway. Then over to Grand Isle VT. Nearly all the Island is 'noisy'.....but the north road is nice and quiet - real quiet just before the bridge – the power lines go away. Well, whaddaya know...a sign for both counties right in the middle of the bridge. I go flying by it the first time. Circle back but can't stop due to traffic. Then I time it so there is no one after me as I head west once again over the bridge....stop on bridge to take the pic!



Franklin/Grand Isle VT
Very 'wet' county line but marked

You could make a contact or two from here if you really wanted to 'put out the county line'. But you can't stop for long as traffic will be coming. (unless you have a boat and can sit in the river!) You've got a couple miles to run Grand Island before the next bridge to NY.

You head over the second bridge into NY State (but no sign for Clinton) – and hit the interstate and wind your way back to the QTH on Lake George in Warren County. 300 miles on a trip around Lake Champlain. Lots of history....lots of easy driving. Just a trip around the lake.

Oh..and I got a few more pics for the County Sign DataBase.

Slept well.....no need for a/c there. Windows open and even had a blanket on the bed as it got down to the 50s at night. Wonderful. At least for now....in the winter, it can be 20 below zero up there!

Monday – another day to run some 'local counties'...except these are fairly big counties and there are no expressways to get you to Hamilton, Franklin and St Lawrence. They are over in the Adirondack Park – millions of acres of nice big mountains and few roads and few towns. It's definitely rural! I've been over the roads dozens of times before putting out the counties – let's seethat's going back about 20 years now. Back then, I'd be ferrying N2TPH up to the summer home and we'd run counties for a day or two before I had to get back to TX and work. Then repeat in the fall. Most of the towns are just as they were – not much is growing up in the boonies of NY. Lots of the real small towns and villages are slowly fading away as the jobs get wiped out by the eco-whacks (no logging, no mining, no new construction, every

stricter regulations and strangulation of businesses). You see lots of houses for sale that likely go back generations but are no longer needed.

Some desperately needed Hamilton – and I'd run through it on Tuesday but probably at 7 or 8am in the morning – not good for the west coast. Why not run some in the middle of the day that don't get run too often? The weather is great – the roads are in fairly good shape – but with a dozen 'construction zones' as they fix the roads during the short 'summer months' – and you make decent time. Lots of trees and scenery. Millions of trees.

I headed out on RT 8 from Warren – and then onto some 2 lane roads – 28N going and 28 returning. It's a couple hour trip up the C/L of Franklin and St Lawrence via Hamilton. You are on 'scenic byways'. There are gazillions of trees – and a few were starting to turn. Temps were down in the 50s as I ran through there even at 10-11 am. This is the 'coldest' part of NY and often the icebox of the east coast. Temps here can drop to 40 and 50 below zero in the winter! Winter is brutal unless you love snow mobiling, cross country skiing, and ski areas – which there are a few. I went through Speculator NY – often the coldest place back east – that and Old Forge NY which vies for the record. It did get up to 70 on the trip. That's not good for the tourists wanting to swim in the lakes, though.

There's no sign there at Franklin/St Lawrence lines. The road just is in St Lawrence for about a half mile and the GPS shows it nicely. The state doesn't worry about it. Most of the state maps show it but you can never really tell from them. You've got two quiet places to run that C/L. You've got the sign for Franklin at the bottom end of the county as you enter it.

Seen a sign like this in Texas? Didn't think so...another sign to obey or get a ticket in the winter time. There's lots of 'snowmobile crossing' signs too.



Snow Plow Turn Area -
Don't park here in Winter

Many times there will be a school bus/snow plow turn around at the county line up this way. It's usually just in one county though – but sometimes it spans the county line conveniently.

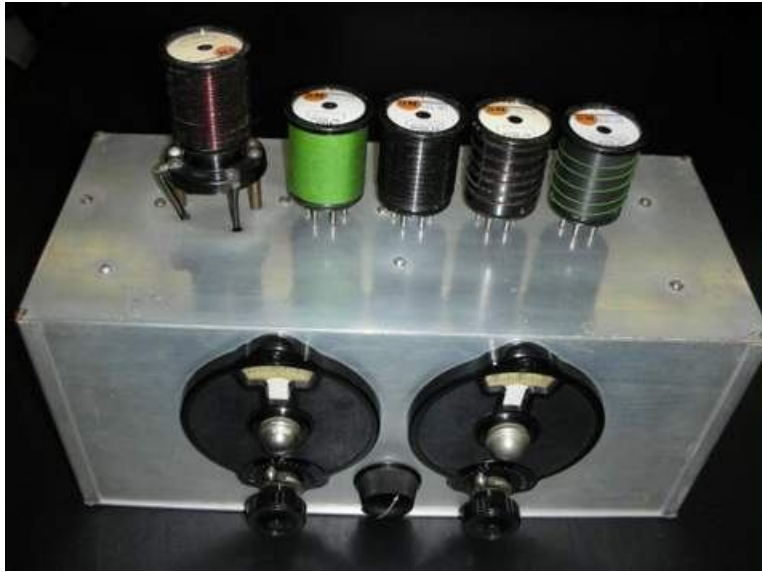
You go for miles without a house or building in this area. Only in a few small towns that go 'way way back' can you buy and hold private land in that area of NY. They try to keep it 'forever wild'. There's only a few roads, too. Millions of acres and half a dozen paved roads.

Good museum (Adirondack Museum near Blue Mtn Lake) if you are sight seeing....

I stopped for lunch - well, a second breakfast – and headed back home. It was 150 miles and it was another 70 or more miles to the 'next' county – so that wasn't going to happen that day. It was back to the QTH to get set for heading west. I'd leave things like Jefferson and Lewis for some of the others to run!

On the Trail of Regens

From Ebay this month – a kit from the mid-late 20s using the latest technology – a 'screen grid' tube! This radio sold for an incredible \$740 on Ebay! (I'd value mine at about \$200).



from the Ebay Description: Silver-Marshall "730 Series" screen grid short wave kits were available in two models, both of which were designed around a type 732 Essential Kit. Both are identical in external appearance, being housed in the same type of aluminum shielding cabinet, 14 inches long, 6 inches wide and 6 inches high, and weighing 14 pounds. The 730 "Round the World Four" is a four-tube non-radiating short wave receiver consisting of one stage of screen grid r.f. amplification, a regenerative detector and two stages of extremely high-gain audio amplification.



This is the insides – seen by removing the bottom! You'll note the coil socket is up on 'top' of the radio to keep the “Q” as high as possible. You want the coil in a regen separated from as much metal as possible and of course, want to keep the RF amp from seeing it as well. Note the tube cap on the top tube – the screen grid. They only had four pin tube bases when this set was designed! You needed a whole bunch of batteries to run this – a 6v wet cell for the filaments, 22.5v, 45v, 90v, and 135v, plus a 'C' battery of 4.5 volts.

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back to the Ebay ad:

Four inductance coils, which may be successively plugged into a 5-prong tube socket on top of the cabinet, provide four tuning ranges on the left-hand (tuning) dial (131-T: 17.4 to 32 meters. 131-U: 31 to 58 meters. 131-V: 56 to 110 meters. 131-W: 105 to 204 meters).

The right-hand vernier dial controls regeneration. The small lower knob regulates the detector filament voltage, and at the extreme anti-clockwise position turns the entire set off. The second Silver-Marshall kit was the model 731 two tube shortwave adapter which was essentially the same as the model 730 except that the two-stage audio amplifier is omitted (but may be added at any time if desired). The receiver featured in this auction is the model 730.

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The seller had a second one – and it sold for \$630! Ouch! Fairly rare but folks going nuts over this.

On the Road with N4CD - 4

On Tuesday I headed out to the Convention near Rochester NY in Monroe County. Took the 'scenic route' through Hamilton to Herkimer to Oneida then hitting the Thruway – Onondaga, Seneca, Cayuga, to Monroe.

The new AWA Museum Grand Opening was scheduled for today – at 2pm. They've been working on the project for several years and this was the big day. I would be there.

Here's one of the rare radios on display at the AWA museum



It's a rare (rare!) regen receiver made by REL. Never seen one or even seen it described before.! It says 'Amateur Band Receiver' on the front panel! Probably 1931 or so

Checking the RadioMuseum page, this turns out to be a Model 231 – 3 tubes – one RF untuned amp, one regen detector stage with plug in coils, and one audio stage. Battery operated with the new 2v tubes (type 30s?). It was available as a kit, or wired. 80, 40 and 20m coils supplied.

You can see the ad here

http://www.radiomuseum.org/r/radio17_231.html

Now....here's the FIRST ever! You can't say that very often and be correct!

This is an interesting item. It is an exact replica made, during the patent battles, for use by Armstrong in the patent litigation. It is an exact DUPLICATE of the original REGENERATIVE receiver that Armstrong made! The 1912 model. The legal battle went on for years and years...and Armstrong actually lost (after collecting millions in royalties along the way as his patent was good until over turned on a very very minor point.). Most people credit him 100% with inventing the regenerative receiver. Lee De Forest had a note in his lab notebooks that if you connect the 'output' back to the input of an amplifier, you get a squeal. Feedback. He didn't have a clue as to what it was or even understand how a tube worked...but that one little scribble in a notebook gave him the rights to 'regeneration'. By the time he 'won' the battle though, no one made regen receivers any more. History had passed them by. Of course, Armstrong had the patents for the superhet radio and FM radio -



In the upper middle, you see a 'glass bulb'. That is an 'audion' tube – the first tubes looked exactly like light bulbs except they brought out wires at both ends.

This is the start of the 'regen trail'. There is nothing earlier!

I'd love to find one of these at a flea market for a bargain price



Grebe Model CR-18
Short wave Regen RX

This covered 10-200 meters – one of the very first that covered this frequency range. They go for a thousand bucks – relatively rare. Finding the coils for them is even harder!

OK...here's another first.....the first ever, ever 'transistor radio' - from Bell Labs in 1951. It used 5 'junction transistors' in the RF and IF, and 4 'point contact' transistors in the audio. It put out 100 milliwatts of audio power. You needed 8 lbs of battery to run it for about 200 hours. It was the size of a typical tube based 'portable radio' as no smaller parts were available such as transformers, speakers, volume controls, resistors and capacitors, etc.



First ever "Transistor Radio"

The museum is actually in Livingston County – just south of the Thruway. You might want to

plan on a visit during normal visiting hours – worth a detour.

<http://www.antiquewirelessmuseum.com>

After the museum visit, it was time to check in over at the AWA Convention site at the RIT Conference Center in West Henrietta, NY (Monroe County).

There's four days of programs and events, including a 'book fair' with thousands of books, magazines, advertising and 'paper' for sale starting on Wednesday. The flea market starts on Thursday and there are presentations for 3 days. There are dinners in the evening with the big banquet Friday night, followed by the auction preview.

- - - -

One day had some time between events, so I snuck out and ran out to Genesee County for WQ7A and others. I managed to get to Wyoming and put out Livingston and Monroe before getting back to the programs. Just a 50 mile jaunt to get a few new counties. NY has good county line signs off the Thruway! Terry, WQ7A, needed that one for a LC.

- - - -

The 'theme' this year was Heathkit. Folks brought out some of the rarer units – plus there were 'contests' in about 15 areas from 'early tube radios' to novelty transistor radios to advertising, old pre 1912 wireless, telegraph items, etc.

Tom Perera, W1TP, gave a great talk on the Enigma machine. Seems more new evidence shows up each year – with the latest being the 'declassification' of the TICOM material by NSA in the past year – revealing lots of new stuff about the Submarine war in WW2 – and what was and was not decrypted by the code experts. Never heard of TICOM?

From the web – last year -

The National Security Agency Releases Over 50,000 Pages of Declassified Documents

The National Security Agency (NSA) announces today that it has declassified and released to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) over 50,000 pages of historic records. These records cover a time-frame from before World War I through the 1960s. This release of documents is the first in a series of releases planned over the next two years as part of NSA/CSS's commitment to meeting the requirements outlined in the President's 21

January 2009 Memorandum on Openness and Transparency in Government (Executive Order 13526).

Highlights of this release include:

- Manuals, charts, and other documents on the development of early computer systems at NSA/CSS, including the HARVEST. This innovative system was developed with IBM and was in use from 1962 to 1976;
- Early publications on cryptography, including Cryptology: Instruction Book on the Art of Secret Writing from 1809;
- Documents from World War II, including previously unreleased German documents from the Target Intelligence Committee (TICOM).

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The released documents will be maintained by NARA and available for review at the National Archives at College Park, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland. A list of the documents is available on [NSA's Declassification and Transparency Webpage](#).

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So just when folks think they have uncovered it all.....suddenly you throw away the history books and start over again. It happened in the early 80s when the British finally came clean on the Ultra project, where they were reading the German enigma traffic....but no one knew....until it was revealed. All the WW2 submarine war books went in the trash. Now....books written before 2011.....in the trash once again as history turns out to be a lot different than folks knew.

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Have you ever used an Enigma machine? Tom, W1TP, had one set up and working. You could push the buttons and watch the coded letter show up!



N4CD pressing “R” giving “H”

If you press the R button again, it will give you a different letter as the code wheels rotate after each letter press. There are more combinations in the Enigma machine than there are atoms in the known universe – 10 to the 183rd power!

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Each year, folks bring things to display – maybe \$100,000 worth of rare antique radios there....plus some 'normal' things as well. Tom Perera had one his \$100,000 Enigma machines opened up and apart so you could see the insides – something you won't see anywhere else. At a Christie's auction recently in London, one of the California Dot Com Millionaires paid over \$250,000 for a Nazi high command Enigma machine! Wowie!

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Whaddaya know! You learn something new every time. Here's a new Heathkit regen RX. It may have only been sold in the UK under the Daystrom label (Daystrom bought Heathkit in the early 80s – before that, Heath sold their kits in Europe under the Daystrom label).

This is a ONE (or two?) transistor REGEN receiver that covered Long Wave and Medium Wave (the broadcast band in Europe). The only way you can tell it is a regen is the lower left control is labeled 'reaction', which is the usual European term for 'regeneration'. It's a model UJR-1, circa 1959.



According to the RadioMuseum site, it is a 2 transistor radio – they have internal view but you can't tell.

http://www.radiomuseum.org/r/heathkit_ujr_1ujr.html

In any event, it's a regen on my list of things to hunt for at hamfests and auctions. If it ever showed up on Ebay it would probably sell for \$\$\$\$\$\$. Maybe \$500?

- - - -

Out in the flea market – I missed out – by about one minute – in buying a BC-137 regen military receiver! Dang! I showed it in a previous issue. 4 tube regen set that was part of a pack mule set up.

- - - -

Here's another extremely rare 'electrolytic detector. This used a small amount of liquid (various chemical compositions were used) with a 'point contact' just touching the liquid. That gave you a 'semiconductor' which made a good detector, and it would detect AM signals as well. The other detectors of the day – the coherer and the Marconi Magnetic Detector (Maggie) would not.



Electrolytic Detector

The unit on the left is the electrolytic detector. The center unit is the 'tuning unit' where you slide controls along the 3 coils for tuning and matching. It came with the original instruction book. Oh...if you had about \$50,000 you might find another one of these somewhere not already in a museum!

- - - - -

I did find one regen to buy – and it had an interesting past. I'd seen it before – but it didn't ring

a bell until the fellow mentioned that it was part of a lot bought at an auction – the Ellie Buc auction in Boston a few months ago! We discussed that and showed some of the super rare things that went up for sale, some at \$\$\$\$\$\$ - big big dollar numbers. A few of the items were on 'display' like the telegraph registers.

This was a homebrew set – no one else was the least bit interested. It was part of a lot of 5 receivers. I took off the cover and inside were two type 30 tubes. There was a socket for a plug in coil on the side. The parts were well worth what I paid for it – likely less than a third of what the seller paid for it. There were five receivers in the lot. It turned out to be nothing worth the big bucks according to the buyer. Likely lots of folks over paid. I knew at least 3 of the folks there and they all said prices were at 'insane levels'.



Regen set bought at the AWA flea market

The set weighed about 8 lbs...and all of the weight was dead batteries inside to power it. Hi hi It even had a handle to carry it. These days I tend to follow the 'one hand rule'. That is....if I can't easily carry it in one hand, I don't buy it! I don't need boatanchors! I've got enough!

- - - -

One of the items I found in the 'book fair' area was an early 'transistor' publication. It was a booklet of application notes put out by Raytheon in the '50s – titled “ Transistor Applications –

More than 50 Practical Circuits using Raytheon CK722 Transistors”

Now, you might recall that the CK-722 was the first transistor sold to the 'hobbyist' market. You could buy one for just \$7.50!....then it dropped to \$2, then to a dollar – which is when, way back when, I jumped in and bought one to build a code practice oscillator. It took mowing a bunch of lawns to afford that \$1. Minimum wage was like 40c/hr. Wow! It worked. Of course, they wouldn't go much above a MHz in frequency and most circuits were for audio amps and similar, but if you worked at it, you could build yourself a regen receiver and maybe get it up to the top of the broadcast band!

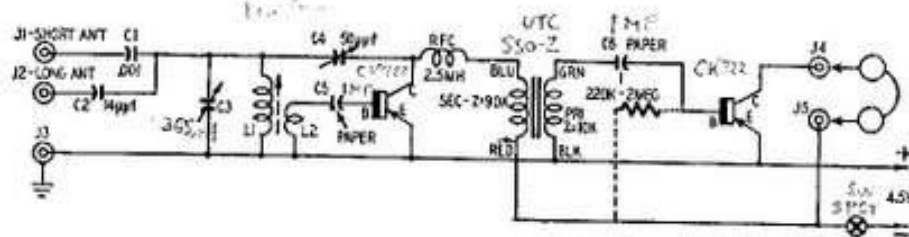


Fig. 1—Schematic of the 2-transistor radio. Circuit is grounded-emitter.

8

Well...that's nostalgia.....CK722 transistors, new in the package, are selling for \$20 and up on Ebay if you want one, or you might be lucky and find a jar of them at a flea market for 50c.

Almost everything back then used transformer coupling between stages in transistor circuitry – since it was all 'low impedance' matching and no spare 'gain' to waste on RC coupling networks. Now, you get 1.2 million transistors in an IC chip for a couple bucks.

That was it for the time at the AWA meet.

Solar Predictions

Solar Cycle 24 Weakest In Almost 200 Years – Shows Signs Of An Even Weaker Upcoming Cycle 25

By P Gosselin on 5. August 2013

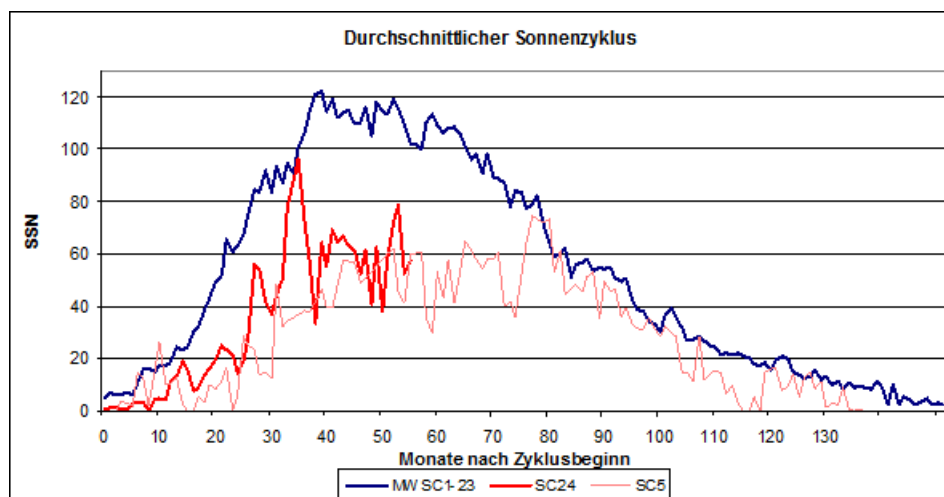
The website of geologist Dr. Sebastian Lüning and Professor Fritz Vahrenholt, authors of the

new book: “The Neglected Sun“, has a general solar activity progress report with some interesting observations on solar cycle 24 and comments about upcoming solar cycle 25. Original article in German – this is translation.

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The Sun In July 2013 – News and Some Statistics By Frank Bosse

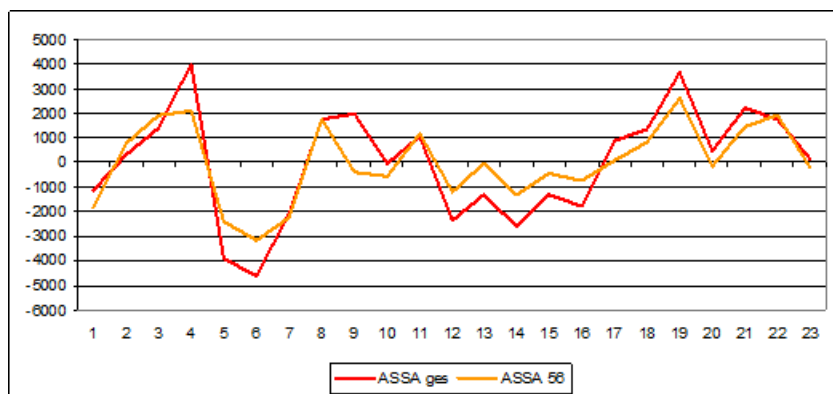
According to the Solar Influences Data Analysis Center (SIDC) in Brussels, the “official” solar sunspot number (SSN) last month was 57.0. Thus it reached only 57% of the mean value of cycles 1-23 in the corresponding time period, see graph below: “Average Solar Cycle”:



The chart is a plot of sunspot number (SSN) versus months after the start of the cycle. dark blue: mean value of cycles 1-23, red curve is the current cycle 24, and the gray curve is cycle no. 5.

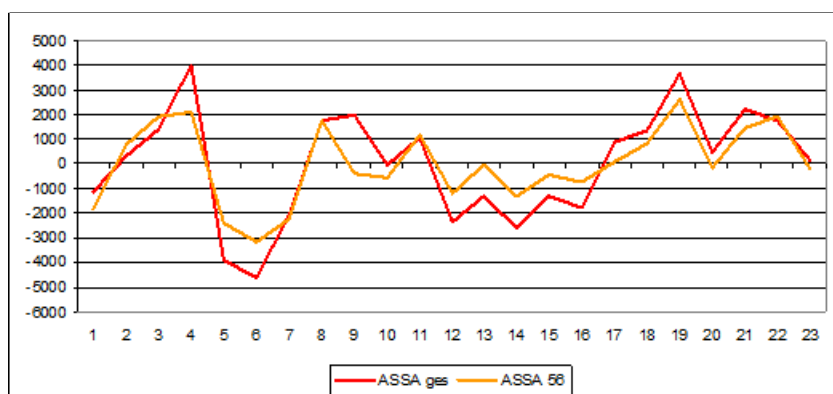
If you calculate using the entire Cycle 24, then we get an activity level that is only about 45% of the mean value. The comparison of all cycles up to the current month:

You have to go back all the way to 1827 (SC 7) to find a comparably small activity like what we have seen since 2009. Leif Svalgaard once called the sun a “messy place” in order to tell us that our mother star is always full of surprises. Could there be an unexpected increase in Solar Cycle 24 activity coming up and what is the probability of that happening? Here the solar sunspot number anomalies of the previous chart (ASSA 56 – the accumulated solar sunspot anomaly after 56 months after the start of the cycle) is compared to the total sum of the anomalies (ASSA acc) of the previous cycles 1-23:



Result: There's a very high probability (average 88%) that we will continue to see an extremely weak solar cycle. A lot indicates an anomaly of -2400 at the end of Cycle 24. Signs show that we are already past the maximum. Also renowned the website spaceweather.com determined this on 26 July 2013. Readers of our monthly Sonneninfo already suspected this earlier (see "The sun in June 2013 – on the way to a grand minimum? New work on the possible consequences"). Here the polar solar fields were depicted. Last month also confirmed the measurement data: The polarity has switched and the maximum is behind us. So how long will the weakening of SC24 take?

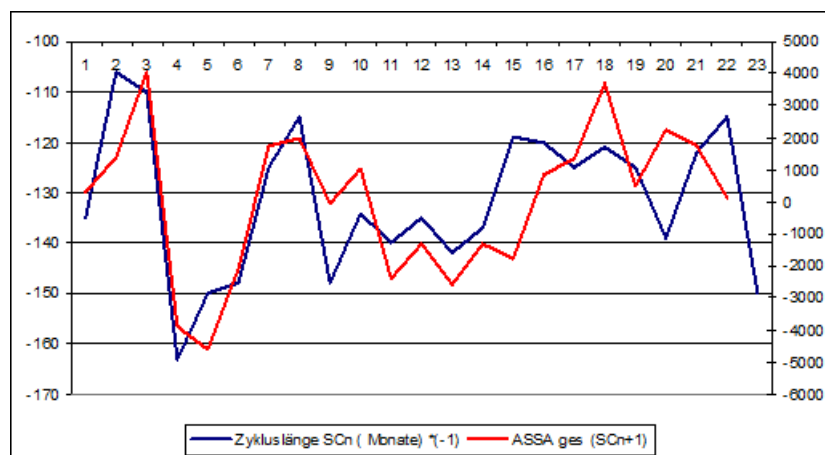
This question is hardly unimportant for telling us what to expect from the upcoming SC25. It has long been known that a long solar cycle of weaker activity is followed by a similar cycle, and vice versa. When you plot the length of the previous cycle with accumulated sunspot anomaly ("ASSA acc") together with the following cycle, you get this interesting diagram:



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weak solar cycle. A lot indicates an anomaly of -2400 at the end of Cycle 24. Signs show that we are already past the maximum. Also renowned the website spaceweather.com determined this on 26 July 2013. Readers of our monthly Sonneninfo already suspected this earlier (see “The sun in June 2013 – on the way to a grand minimum? New work on the possible consequences“). Here the polar solar fields were depicted. Last month also confirmed the measurement data: The polarity has switched and the maximum is behind us. So how long will the weakening of SC24 take?

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The inverted cycle length of Cycle 1 (blue) was compared with the ASSA acc (red) of the subsequent Cycle 2. Just the length of Cycle 23 (May 1996 until November 2008: 150 months instead of 131.5=10.9 years on average) should have led to the prediction of a weaker Cycle 24, the correlation is over 0.7. In the meantime David Hathaway of NASA has recognized: “Relationships have been found between the size of the next cycle maximum and the length of the previous cycle...”.

Summarizing: The current Cycle 24 is in total the weakest since 1820, the probability of a change into stronger activity is only 12% and the length of the cycle can certainly be a useable indicator for the development of the upcoming SC 25. If solar scientists Livingston and Penn are correct, SC 25 may be even weaker than SC 24 should the magnetic field strength B in the lower chart fall to 1400 Gauss on average. Below this limit no sunspot can be created. The last time that happened, it is suspected, was during the solar Maunder Minimum from 1645-1715.

Maryland DC QSO Party

Hello?? Anybody home?

I didn't see a single spot on W6RK - not a one – zero – nada – zip. Way less than one. What happened? Everyone off napping? Resident county hunters on strike?

I tuned around on 20M cw – never heard a MDC station on the 'recommended' frequency. Same on 20M. Nothing in the evening on 40M. Didn't check SSB. No one else apparently did either.

From the 3830 reflector:

N4JF reported 2cw QSO and 12 phone contacts.

WN4AFP in SC reported 7cw and 24 SSB contacts – all on 40M

KS4X in TN reported 3 and 29 SSB QSOmainly on 40M

VE5KS - “I was pleasantly surprised that on PSK I was able to find a few MDC stations, so most of my Q's were on PSK, I think that is the first time in any contest for me that PSK was the big point/mult maker.” - He had 1 cw, 5 ssb and 6 digital contacts.

N2CQ in NJ fixed - CW 13 24 SSB QSO

On the Road with N4CD - 5

After the AWA Convention in Monroe NY to home

The preview on Friday night for the auction revealed nothing interesting. Not a single

shortwave type regen (just some 1920s BC type sets like early Crosley Model 50s). Not a single plug in coil radio. Nada. There were some nifty things for other collectors. You could buy one of the ultra rare 3NF tubes – that is the tube with INTERNAL coupling capacitors for the second and 3rd stages – the first 'integrated circuit'. It would probably sell for well north of \$500. There was also a radio with one in it – that would likely be a \$1000 radio. There were boxes of tubes and rare individual tubes, but I'm not into that. Others were. A couple hundred attended the convention – but the attendance is slowly dropping off.

I could leave early Saturday morning and skip the auction which would last most of the day. It was 1500 miles or so to home from up there.

I was up fairly early – like 5:00 am. It was still dark outside. The temp was a delightful 52 degrees. Oh, it would be nice to take that cool temp back to TX. I packed the car and headed over 1/2 mile away to the McD for some coffee and a egg white McMuffin sandwich, then hit the road around 5:30 am before sunrise. I'm not a fan of driving in the dark, but the interstates aren't too bad. It was only a mile or so to the Thruway – I- 90 headed west to Erie NY then south to Erie PA. There's all sorts of stuff on the road in the mornings – dead tire carcasses and who knows what littering the road. It wouldn't be fun to run into a large piece of 'black' tire that you would have difficulty seeing as you zip along at 65-70 mph in the dark. There were miles to go, I was wide awake, so off I went.

Hollis was around early in the morning for the counties after a bit. I'd take 2 or 2 1/2 days to get home. No need to get home other than to stop spending money on motels and meals on the road – all the objectives had been met on the trip.

There's not much to report. There's no county line signs on the Thruway – anywhere along the 500 plus miles of it from Rockland County up through Albany to Erie NY (Buffalo) and back down to Erie, PA. Maybe 30 counties along it and not a single county sign. It helps to have a GPS/computer but in the 'olde days' the map would work fairly well. Sometimes you had to wait for an exit to know that you were 'in the county'. Others had rivers as borders so that was easy.

Hey, the KS QSO Party was going on – and I was far enough away for 20M. It was tough trying to get heard over all the 599 fixed stations piling on the mobiles but I managed to snag about 30 contacts in KS in the next day and a half. HI QSO party going on too! Caught 2 HI stations from the mobile but didn't find others. Likely 15m would have helped later in the day.

It was also the OQP weekend. That started at noon OH time and I was half way through OH. I put out several counties but either folks weren't interested, didn't listen to find out that N4CD was mobile in OH in the QP even though I went down in 'that part of the band' or the QRM from the fixed OH stations was so bad that no one could hear me!.. I worked a dozen fixed stations on 40M, never heard a mobile there and pretty much gave up on it after an hour of trying and trying to put out counties. Duh!.....I put out just about everything on the CH net and

gave a few QSO there to ND3R and WA6KHK who were in the OH QP. hi hi. Or maybe the QRM was so bad down in the 'contest part' of the band that I wound up on a busy frequency all the time. Hard to believe – but I couldn't get a run going. Too bad for the OHQP.

Saturday night I made it down to south KY. The GPS lady took me via Columbus OH (Franklin) then down to Cincinnati (Hamilton) to Louisville (Jefferson) then down I-65 to Nashville (Davidson) then I-40 to I-30 to home. OH has the counties marked – but you can't usually stop and take a county line picture. I got a few – but many were in construction areas. That slowed me down a little, but since it was weekend, not too much was going on – and the traffic kept moving. No delays. There's lots of needed county signs for OH! I added in a few.

Once you hit OH and KY, you have a few counties where you just hit the corner of a county and are in it for anywhere from 500 feet to a few miles. By the time you are spotted, you might be out, but I know there were people working me who likely thought they were getting the first spotted county – after I left it – even though I repeated the new county time and time again...then when the spot for the new county showed up on their system 4 minutes later, they would work me again – in the same county! They weren't listening! Duh!.....they worked the mobile and left – never having copied the county for themselves. Oh well! Since 90% of the county hunters are working on awards that don't require verification.....it will never get straightened out.

Once in TN, I stopped for 3 min on the interstate – only have a couple hundred feet – and that's the only way to get it out – but only one band of course. Otherwise, I'd be there for 15 minutes and that's inviting a traffic ticket! I did manage to snag a few county signs by very short stops.

After a 12 hour day, I stopped in Bowling Green (Warren, KY) at a Motel 6 (\$46). Dinner was at a nearby Cracker Barrel. They were busy but I got served right away and the food was as good as always. I hit the hay early. That's just over the line for Central Time. So I went to bed at 9:15pm eastern time – 8:15 there. I was worn out. Busy day between driving, running on net, trying to work KS mobiles, having no luck in the OH QP, and searching for HI stations. Never a quiet moment. I was halfway home.

Well, needless to say, I was wide awake early in the morning. I got up at 3:45 CDST and wandered over to Denny's – open 24 hours a day and had the Value Slam (\$4) and AARP coffee \$1. I was on the road at 4:30. It was dark. The sun didn't show up for nearly another 2 hours but I was making tracks toward home. It would be 2 hours before anyone showed up on the CH net. I-65 had a bit of truck traffic – all the way down to Nashville.

I stopped for a few C/L signs early in the morning on the interstate – easy to do when there is no one behind you for 3 miles!.....If you stop about 50 feet from the sign, turn on the highbeams...you can get the sign in total darkness.... hi hi.....use the telephoto lens to zoom on

in on the sign. (Flash doesn't work – tried that in the past – those reflective signs confuse the heck out of a camera when you use flash!)

Things went well – traffic moved at 5 over the speed limit. When I got to TX, the speed limit was 75 and traffic was moving at 82 so I just held it steady. Home by a bit after 4pm. Whew. Now to decompress and unwind and take care of chores and bills and everything else at home. Oh, and finish up this month's CHNews....

It was a good trip. I had lots of fun but it was a lot of driving. I think I'm going to rest a month or two before the next big trip – maybe Thanksgiving back east to MD. Only shorter trips – hi hi. 4000 mile trips in under 2 weeks get to you.

This trip – 4403 miles in 12 days. Plus, of course, 4 days at the convention out of that – so it was really only 8 days of 'on the road' for the most part. Whew! Now there are just some MD counties down GA way – and of course, the 4 in AK!....and folks need this county here, that one there....and there are hamfests, auctions, and other things going on to keep me going mobile!

Hope you had fun following me along on the trips!

HI QSO Party

It looks like you might find 10 stations on cw and maybe 25 on SSB with a good setup and from the west coast. Otherwise, you had a choice of some 'big signal' contest stations to work. I didn't see Kalawao spotted.

KH6LC – fixed

Despite the less than optimum conditions, we tried to make a decent show of it with a total of 5740 contacts, about a 1000 less than last year. Worked many who stated we were their 1st Hawaii contact. We worked 4380 unique stations of which 2020 were not in the Master.data database. Lots of casual operators. We reached our DXCC total of 102. Mahalo to John K6MM, Doug N7NM, and Steven K6AAB for working us on 10 band/modes. We also need to mention Tom K3TW who we unfortunately missed on 20 CW. We worked 6 stations on 8 band/modes. Rob NH6V found the weekend to be excellent therapy as he's recovering from his terrible bike accident, taking his mind off his constant headaches. Thanks to all for a most enjoyable weekend.

73 & Aloha, Lloyd KH6LC, Curt AH6RE, Rob NH6V, Fred KH7Y

WH7DX 0 cs 10 ssb 96 RTTY

This was my first Hawaii QSO Party. I decided I'd give RTTY a try and work some Hawaii SSB on the side. This was a tough RTTY contest. Having the SCC RTTY for the first day was difficult and confusing for many for obvious reasons. I switched over to SCC after sunset Saturday night to catch the last leg of that contest. I got back on the air Sunday afternoon for the last part of HQP and had the most fun during our greyline. I was getting slammed for almost an hour with some great W locations like NY, RI, SC, TN, MS, WV. That made the whole contest for me. I was feeling a little down about the poor mainland reception I was getting because of the mountain blocking my N/E path. I can get out for some decent DX, but that put a smile on my face. I also enjoyed the mellow contesting mode and all the Aloha's and working with K6GHA for my first 80M RTTY and N7NM for the 4 Bands. Thank you for working me on RTTY and sorry for those I couldn't quite pickup.

W0RIC – CO – fixed – 10 cw 21 SSB QSO

Another fun Hawaii QSO Party! Thanks to all the stations who work us. Always a fun QSO party.

Nice to see an opening on 10M!

WQ6X – CA – 4 QSO

This is another get-on-the-air-at-all-costs portable event from the Phoenix Lodge running an ICOM-7000 into an MFJ Apartment antenna modified with a 20-m hamstick. Pointing the antenna out the west window I had a direct shot to Hawaii across the pond from the SF bay area. I was disappointed by the lack of Hawaiian turnout; specifically on 80-m & 40-m. Look for me next year from a better QTH to Hawaii.

K6GHA – CA 53 ssb 7 RTTY 2 PSK-31

Aloha! This is still one of the friendliest contents I work all year. Although I operated QRP, I still had a great time trying (and failing yet again) to work all counties, make contacts in all bands (within my power limitation), and most modes.

Thanks again to all those stations that had good ears for my mostly compromised signal and in general accommodating any repeats, hanging in there to get my exchange when conditions were poor, and not giving up on my 5 watt effort.

This year there were many stations and operators to thank (you know who you are, you are in the log!).

Special thanks goes to: KH6LC, for working all phone bands possible for me, wow you guys were everywhere. WH7DX, for his first 80m RTTY contact, good job! KH6CJJ for all his kind words of support, even when he didn't know I was listening!

I look forward to next year, taking the Hawaiian Shirt out of the closet, putting on the shorts and flip flops, throwing some sand on the floor, mixing up that pineapple drink, and wishing I were where you are!

Mahalo

The Global Warming Kool-Aid

The politicians continue to feed you the global warming redistribution of wealth Kool-Aid.

Here some 'facts' to chew on:

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[Earth Gains 38,000 Manhattans Of Sea Ice - Blows Away The Old Record](#)

Earth has gained 2.2 million km² of sea ice since this date last year, wiping out the previous record gain of 1.1 million km² in 1994.

According to climate experts, polar ice loss is the canary in the coal mine for global warming, meaning that their junk science theory has flown the coop. All they are left with is newspaper and cable news excrement at the bottom of the cage.

<http://stevengoddard.wordpress.com/2013/08/27/earth-gains-38000-manhattans-of-sea-ice-blows-away-the-record/>

- - ----

This is the mildest summer in over 100 years as measured by the Number of 100 Degree Readings at All US HCN Stations.

This summer, the US has experienced the fewest number of 100 degree readings in a century. The five hottest summers (1936, 1934, 1954, 1980 and 1930) all occurred with CO2 below 350 PPM.

CO2 went over 400 PPM this year, indicating that heatwaves and CO2 have nothing to do with each other. Scientists who claim otherwise are either incompetent, criminal, or both.

I say criminal. These so called scientists are willfully ignorant.

<http://stevengoddard.wordpress.com/2013/08/27/mildest-summer...>

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Last week, the EPA issued its annual renewable-fuels mandate, telling refineries how much ethanol they must blend into the nation's gas supply. **This quota, which grows each year, is becoming a horrific financial burden on the industry, forcing many refineries to buy federal ethanol "credits" to satisfy the rules. The skyrocketing price of those credits is adding hundreds of millions of dollars to refineries' annual costs.**

Except every single penny spent by the refineries on Ethanol Credits and Ethanol costs is passed on to the American consumer at the pump. So think of it as another tax masquerading as a "biofuels" mandate to reduce CO2. <--- And right here, we meet once again, the fraud of global warming on the back of the American consumer.

So it was more than a little curious that the EPA, as part of its rule, announced it was exempting just one mystery refinery (out of 143) from this year's mandate.

And the owner of this mystery refinery is... drumroll please..... Alon USA of Krotz Springs,

Louisiana that has special "agreements" with Goldman Sachs which "has more than a few of its ex-executives in key Obama administration positions..." See <http://www.climatechangedispatch.com/home-2/11526-behind-an-...>

To add insult to injury the EPA is requiring the rest of the refineries to pay to cover for this exception. Wow, Imagine that. Actually there is no need to imagine anything, just picture this: <http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-t5guBML6XI/UA2Na25OfVI/AAAAAAAAAFb...>

At the same time these Ethanol mandates are causing food pricess to go through the roof.

For more than half a century, from 1950 through 2005, U.S. consumers benefited from gradually declining food prices. Since 2006, however, prices have sharply risen, with a typical family of four now paying \$2,055 more in food bills than would be the case if costs had kept to the 1950-2005 trend line.

Question: Why 2006?

Answer: The Biofuels Mandate kicked in to reduce CO2 emissions that are causing the global warming problem we are not having.

Rapidly rising corn prices, caused primarily by ethanol subsidies and mandates, are the most important factor in rising food prices.

“Fuel ethanol production capacity, based almost entirely on corn as a feedstock, exploded from 2006 to 2009,” the study reported. “Demand for corn to supply the new plants also exploded. Corn production did not keep up with the higher demand, and corn prices have more than tripled since the mandates came into effect.”

See <http://news.heartland.org/newspaper-article/2013/01/28/study...>

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One of the predictions of AGW alarmists is an increase in the number and severity of tropical storms.

Are hurricanes increasing in numbers or intensity? The US Government uses a metric called the Accumulated Cyclone Energy Index (ACE). Notice the ACE Index below shows global tropical cyclone energy. The current ACE number is 7.8. Normally by late August its about 17. So, we are running about 55-percent below the normal for this time of year in the Atlantic. Also note that global tropical cyclone energy is up slightly from its recent 34-year minimum. Globally, cyclone energy is well below its peak from the from the 1990s and early 2000's.

http://www.newsnet5.com/dpp/weather/weather_news/hurricane-s...

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Less than 1000 years ago, during the Medieval Warm Period, we had not only higher temperatures but higher sea levels as well. Take a look at Pevensey castle near the site of the Battle of Hastings at 1066 AD.

...Pevensey started life as one of the nine Roman forts on the Saxon shore, standing, as it did, on an island, protecting a large harbour...

So what makes this ruined castle so extraordinary? In 1066, the road we traveled along the sea coast would have been under water. The castle's moat was picture of The sea gateocean, and the gate into the castle was called the 'sea gate'. Prisoners, we were told, were disposed of by dropping them down into the walls near the gate, where they would drown, and be swept away with the tide.

The town of Battle, said to be the site of the Battle of Hastings, is not on the coast. Not anymore. It's about 8km (5 miles) inland. Pevensey castle itself is about 1.5km from the sea. See <http://todieadrydeath.com/2013/02/07/climate-change-isnt-new...>

You can see an outline of the 1066 AD coastline at the time of the battle compared to today's coastline here: http://www.conservapedia.com/Battle_of_Hastings

So, not only we had higher temperatures during the Medieval Warm Period but we had higher sea levels as well - And without the CO2.

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Steven Goddard in Real Science:

The Met Office conveniently provides data sets showing how sea level data has been tampered with over time.

Just take the "2006 data set" and subtract the "1987 data set." The difference between the two data sets is the cheating.

Like almost everything else the hockey team gets their hands on, they lower the past and raise the present.

Take a look: <http://stevengoddard.wordpress.com/2013/08/24/it-isnt-just-t...>

See also JoNova and Frank Lansner:

Frank Lansner's first graph surprised me. It's well known and often quoted that sea levels have been rising by 2-3mm a year every year for the last 20 years. But it's not well known that the original raw satellite data doesn't show that at all.

What astonished me was the sea levels first recorded by the Topex Poseidon satellite array showed virtually no rise at all from 1993-2001. Surely not, I thought. I asked sea-level expert Nils Axel-Morner, and he confirmed: "Yes, it is as bad as that." Now, given that Envisat (the European satellite) showed no rise from 2003-2011 (until it was adjusted) that means we have almost 20 years of raw satellite data showing very little rise.

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Keith DeHavelle of DehavelleDotcom quoting a story that appeared in the Irish Times on Thursday 8/23:

However, we will not make it to Pond Inlet. Though the reasons are beyond our control, it still hurts.

As I write, we are 550km from Cambridge Bay, which is only our halfway mark, and it could be the end of August before we get there. If so, this is where our expedition will finish. We are still giving this everything we have but it has been a difficult week.

See <http://www.dehavelle.com/>

According to some comments in the Irish Times:

...Did they mention how cold it was? This was the coldest Arctic Summer in the DMI record which started in 1958. Even if they had accomplished their goal it proves nothing as the Arctic Ocean was free of sea ice during the summer for much of the Early Holocene. 6,000 to 12,000 years ago these poor sods could have rowed an open Arctic Ocean to their hearts content with no ice to worry about. I'm not sure why they are pretending an open Arctic Ocean would be unprecedented. It's all hype to mislead the public....

The climate Alarmists should worry about sun cycle 25 and the Maunder Minimum.... It will be getting colder for the next several decades as the sun has entered into its 200 low sun spot cycle. Ireland and the UK have lost many to famine in previous low sun cycle climates. Beware the AGW crowds expensive energy fix as you will be needing more BTUs not to mention steady power.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/travel/long-haul/no...>

Note to the rowers: Guys, it is time to go home to your families and children. There is nothing wrong with the Arctic.

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The West coast of the North American continent - over 8,000 miles long - shows no sea level rise, accelerating or otherwise. In fact many stations are reporting a sea level decline. So where is this accelerating sea level rise we hear about every day?

Short answer: Sea levels, like temperatures, are not rising - Alarmists are tampering with the satellite record because the raw data from satellites do not show an increase in sea levels at all. [1]

Consider the following Tide Gauge Stations monitoring sea levels:

Nome, Alaska - Sea level is declining the last 20 years. See <http://www.psmsl.org/data/obtaining/stations/1800.php>

Kodiak Island, Alaska - Sea level is declining the last 30 years. See <http://www.psmsl.org/data/obtaining/stations/567.php>

Anchorage, Alaska - Sea level is declining the last 20 years. See <http://www.psmsl.org/data/obtaining/stations/1067.php>

Vancouver, British Columbia - No change in sea level the last 100+ years. See <http://www.psmsl.org/data/obtaining/stations/175.php>

Winter Harbor, British Columbia - No change in sea level the last 20 years. See <http://www.psmsl.org/data/obtaining/stations/1799.php>

Port Townsend, Washington - No change in sea level the last 30 years. See <http://www.psmsl.org/data/obtaining/stations/1325.php>

Astoria, Oregon - No change in sea level the last 80+ years See <http://www.psmsl.org/data/obtaining/stations/265.php>

Charleston, Oregon - No change in sea level the last 43 years. See <http://www.psmsl.org/data/obtaining/stations/1269.php>

Crescent City, California - Sea level is declining the last 80 years. See <http://www.psmsl.org/data/obtaining/stations/378.php>

Point Reyes, California - No change in sea level the last 30 years. See <http://www.psmsl.org/data/obtaining/stations/1394.php>

Alameda Naval Station, California - No change in sea level the last 70 years. See <http://www.psmsl.org/data/obtaining/stations/437.php>

Monterey, California - No change in sea level the last 30 years. See <http://www.psmsl.org/data/obtaining/stations/1352.php>

Santa Barbara, California - No change in sea level the last 35 years. See <http://www.psmsl.org/data/obtaining/stations/2126.php>

Port San Luis, California - No change in sea level the last 50 years - See <http://www.psmsl.org/data/obtaining/stations/508.php>

Los Angeles, California - No change in sea level the last 70 years - See <http://www.psmsl.org/data/obtaining/stations/245.php>

Cabo San Lucas, Mexico - No change in sea level the last 50 years - See <http://www.psmsl.org/data/obtaining/stations/1355.php>

Salina Cruz, Mexico - No change in sea level the last 45 years - See <http://www.psmsl.org/data/obtaining/stations/689.php>

So again, where is the sea level rise? Why don't we see this phenomenon in the 8,000 plus miles of the West coastline of North America?

Another short answer: **Because sea level rise from global warming is bunk!**

Step back and take a look at all these alarmists claims that are revolving around global warming:

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Park Service personnel recently discovered evidence of a buried forest dating back to at least 1170 AD high in the Forelands near the current glacier's edge.

About 1000 years ago, during the Medieval Warm Period we had a forest, and not a glacier, at this location. And this until the Little Ice Age kicked in and the glacier started advancing:

The Little Ice Age (LIA) was a time of global cooling from approximately 1350 to 1870

AD. During this time glaciers expanded in the northern regions, moving down the mountains and scouring the vegetation that had been in the valleys below.

And the advancing glacier buried the Medieval forest. Now that we are coming out of the Little Ice Age, the glacier is retreating again and voila, there is the forest from 1000 years ago.

The Canadian Exit Glacier began retreating at the end of the Little Ice Age, retreated at a much faster pace between 1889 and 1917 than anything seen since, and stopped retreating 40 years ago. As the glacier retreats, remains of a medieval forest are uncovered.

In other words, in less than 1000 years this glacier retreated during the Medieval Warm Period and advanced during the Little Ice Age and it is now retreating again given that we are coming out of the Little Ice Age. And all this without high levels of CO2.

These days alarmists are blaming the CO2 for something that is already happening naturally.

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Had enough of the Kool-Aid from Al Gore? Record low hurricanes this season. Record low tornadoes this past spring. Record low arctic summer temps. The 'northwest passage' ice free? Ha – the ice growth this 'fall' is record setting!

Everything they told you would be happening....isn't. The sea level isn't 'accelerating'. There are no 10 killer Category V hurricanes – we're at RECORD lows.

Yet.....what does Obama whine on and on about? (beside getting more money from the Greenies and rewarding his greenie buddies?)....global warming.....gay marriage.....stirring up race hatred...rewarding the border runners with amnesty.....anything but THE ECONOMY.....anything but the economy and mountain of debt he has created.

Time to wake up folks. Time to stop drinking the “global warming” Kool-Aid. That's just another way for government to redistribute whatever wealth and earnings you have to their leagues of welfare weenies and queenies who can be bought each election cycle with more and more promises that can't be kept and keep driving the economy into the dumper. They don't even call it 'global warming' any longer since there hasn't been any in a decade..now it's 'climate change' butthat isn't changing any more than normal.

Science News of the Month

It has long been an integral part of school chemistry lessons - and a revision nightmare for students the world over.

Now there is one more element to add to the periodic table - and a 'super-heavy' one at that.

Scientists in Sweden have confirmed the existence of a new chemical element, but its name may need some work.

The 'super-heavy' man-made element has been temporarily named 'ununpentium' and refers to the element's 115th place in the periodic table.

Ununpentium will likely get a new name if the discovery is formally approved by experts from the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics and Chemistry.

It presently has an atomic symbol of Uup and is approximately 289 times heavier than hydrogen, which is the lightest element.

Researchers at Lund University in Sweden lead the research and said their find backs up claims by teams in Russia and the United States a decade ago that had remained unverified until now.

The Swedish scientists say they conducted experiments which allowed them to detect the 'fingerprint' of the short-lived but heavy element.

The experiment was conducted at the GSI research facility in Germany.

Besides the observations of the new chemical element, the researchers have also gained access to data that gives them a deeper insight into the structure and properties of super-heavy atomic nuclei.

By bombarding a thin film of americium with calcium ions, the research team was able to measure photons in connection with the new element's alpha decay.

Certain energies of the photons agreed with the expected energies for X-ray radiation, which is a 'fingerprint' of a given element.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2403824/New-element-ununpentium-added-periodic-table.html#ixzz2dGWL5Bw5>

Awards

USA-CA #1236	Leslie, WA4EEZ	August 5, 2013
Second Time #423	Jim, W8FNW	July 28, 2013
Fourth Time #159	Dan, KM9X	July 25, 2013
Fifth Time #112	Tony, WA9DLB	July 27, 2013
Sixth Time #46	Bill WG9A	July 27, 2013
Eighth Time #13	Chuck, W3CR	July 28, 2013
Bingo #352	Dave, KW1DX	August 9, 2013
Bingo V #4	Hollis, KC3X	Aug 3, 2013
USA-PA-K #26	Terry, WQ7A	July 25, 2013

Upcoming Events for County Hunters

Thanks to the ARRL Contest Corral at ARRL, Inc, Newington, CT 06111

CWops CW Open

serial and name

www.cwops.org/cwopen.html

Aug 31, 0000Z - See website

Colorado QSO Party

Call sign, name, and county or S/P/C

www.ppraa.org/coqp

Aug 31, 1200Z - Sep 1, 0400Z

CW--50 kHz above band edge;

Phone--1.870, 3.850, 7.250, 14.250, 21.350, 28.450 MHz

Tennessee QSO Party

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

www.tnqp.org

Sep 1, 1800Z - Sep 2, 0300Z See website

Arkansas QSO Party

RS(T), county or S/P or "DX"

www.arkanhams.org

Sep 14, 1400Z - Sep 15, 0200Z

CW--40 kHz above band edge;

Phone--3.85, 7.18, 14.28, 21.38, 28.38, 146.55;

PSK31--3.58, 7.08, 14.07015, 21.08, 28.08 MHz

Ohio State Parks On the Air

"Ohio" or S/P/DX and Park ID

parks.portcars.org

Sep 14, 1600Z - Sep 14, 2400Z

South Carolina QSO Party

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

scqso.com

Sep 21, 1400Z - Sep 22, 0300Z

CW--1.815, 3.545, 7.045, 14.045, 21.045, 28.045, 50.095;

Phone--1.865, 3,810, 7.190, 14.250, 21.300, 28.450, 50.135 MH

Washington State Salmon Run

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

www.wwdxc.org

Sep 21, 1600Z - Sep 22, 2400Z See website

Texas QSO Party

RS(T), county or S/P/C

www.txqp.net

Sep 28, 1400Z - See website

CW--20 to 50 kHz above band edge;

Phone--25 kHz above edge of General segment

Maine QSO Party

RS(T), county or "DX"

www.maineqsoparty.com

Sep 29, 0000Z - Sep 29, 2359Z

That's all for this month, folks! 73