County Hunter News

November 1, 2009
Volume 5, Issue 11

Welcome to the On-Line County Hunter News, a monthly publication for those interested in 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 attempt to 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.

County Hunter Nets run on 14.0565, 10.122.5, and 7056.5, with activity occasionally on 3556.5 KHz. Also, with low sunspot activity, most of the SSB activity now is on 'friendly net' 7188/7185 KHz. The cw folks are now pioneering 17M operation on 18.0915. (21.0565, 24.9155, and 28.0565 when sunspots better). Look around 18135 or 18.132.5 for occasional 17M SSB runs.

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

De N4CD (email: telegraphy@verizon.net)

Notes from the Editor

N4CD Bob USACA #883

October was a good month. We had several major QSO Parties – with the TX QSO Party at the end of September, then the PA, NY, and CA QSO Parties, plus several mobiles on the road on trips – KM6HB, KL1V, N4CD, K8ZZ/W8JJ, N8KIE and more. There was a re-union of the 'Manchester Mini' group with mobiles headed to and from TN for the event.

Propagation didn't do much for most of the month. We had a week with a sunspot or two, but those spots quickly faded within a few hours, and we are back to zero, zero, and more zero for sunspots once again. The experts are confused and the hams just have to live with poor HF conditions with minimal openings above 20M, and not so great propagation most of the time

on 20M. Toward the end of the month, a small sunspot (cycle 24) formed for a few hours, and we had a day of aurora propagation on 6M and VHF in the more northern locations. Then back to zero. At the end of the month, sunspot 1029 appeared with much excitement. Flux reached 76. Then it went over 80 for the first time in YEARS! Maybe we are actually going to see some activity?

Mobile Activity in late Sept/October

1) **Ed, K8ZZ, and Tim, W8JJ,** took a trip to New England. From the K3IMC forum:

Home safe.. BEAUTIFUL color tour trip! Tnx to all for riding along with me.

Transmitted from 101 counties and made 1865 contacts on CW and SSB. Highlight of the trip was being invited for dinner and a eye ball contact with Paul, WB2ABD, in Erie county, NY. My son Tim, W8JJ, and myself really enjoyed some of the stories from way back, when Paul started county hunting using different color pens etc., and hand log everything to keep track of the awards. Many tnx to the NC'ers and all who spotted me..73 Ed K8ZZ"

Kent, KL1V, was on the road for 3 weeks in VA, WV, OH, MI putting out the counties on 20 and 40M. Nearly 7000 miles on the rental car in 3 weeks.

Scottie, N4AAT, took a 5 day 'the short way' trip from his home, about 100 miles away, to the mini in SC via MO, TN, LA, MS, AL, FL and GA.

Lloyd, NX4W, was busy on PSK31 in GA and SC and NC putting out the counties on 20/30/40M.

Dan, KM9X, and Judy, KB9MGI, made the trip to SC and back. Ran on SSB.

As usual, **Frank, AA9JJ, and Kay, N9QPQ,** were mobile headed to SC and back this time of year.

Silver, N9QS was spotted on the way to SC in a few counties.

Hollis, **KC3X** made it to the TN mini re-union and has made several other trips around on the east coast.

Steve, AK8A, was putting them out on CW in late September.

W8GEJ and W8FNW made several trips around OH and KY.

Bill, WG9A, Gene, K5GE, **Gene, N4ANV**, and others were on the air around the mini time in TN.

Jimmy, K4YFH was out west running counties.

Barry, N0KV and Pat, N0DXE were spotted in MO.

Don, N5XG, was out and about on many trips in TX in the past month.

Bill, K2HVN, continued his trek headed east across the US.

Jim, N9JF, probably was out in more places than any other during the past month – traveling on business, but putting out the counties when possible.

Jim, K0ARS, and Dave, KD5JWC, were running them on cw, too.

Jerry, W0GXQ was spotted in WI, and **K6JN, Cliff, and Nelda, W6XJN**, trekked cross country.

N8KIE, Bob, was out on a trip to finish running all 3077 in MS and nearby states.

Lowell, KB0BA, and Sandra, N0XYL, made a trip cross country.

Jim, K9JF with W7SAF, ran cross country back to WA.

Jeffrey, **AF3X**, was busy in FL running lots of counties. Then made a beeline to SC, then back home.

Several mobiles were active on the way to and from Charleston, SC – on cw or digital- KB4XK, W9OP, NX4W, KC3X, KE3VV, N9QS, and KN4Y.

K4EXT, KG4VBK, K8AO, W8DCD, N8ERF, WA4VOC, WA4HXG, WD4OIN, N5KUC, K8ZZ, KB6UF, KC0HLZ, W8TAX, AA8R, W4HSA, N8OYY, N8ERF, N8II, K5TER, N4JR, WB5TMW, N5MLP, W9GUY, W9GBH, KC0SCO, W8RCW, N9JPF, WA4JA, were spotted on the W6RK spot page.

2) OH QSO Party Picture

K8MR W9MSE W1NN

K8MR and W1NN ran in OH QSO Party in 2009

3) Note from Sandy, WB4EVH

JUST A NOTE. GOT WIRE ANTENNAS UP EARLIER IN THE YEAR. A COUPLE OF STORMS TOOK THEM OUT. DESTROYED MY COAX, ETC. TRYING TO GET ANTENNAS BACK UP TO GET ON. IT SEEMS I HAVE REALLY MISSED A LOT OF GOOD ACTION THIS YEAR. STILL HAVING TROUBLE GETTING A MOBILE INTO MY TRUCK. NOW THAT THE WEATHER IS COOLING OFF, MAYBE I CAN GET THAT DONE ALSO.

LAST WEEK WE GOT 5 INCHES OF RAIN IN JONE CO. GA. WE HAVE GOTTEN 2 INCHES THIS WEEK. MY FREE TIME IS BEING SPENT MOWING GRASS. CAN'T GET A HEAD FOR THE RAIN!!!

MY BOOK IS FINALLY PUBLISHED. TALL TALES, TALLER TALES AND OUT AND OUT LIES IS AVAILABLE FROM AUTHORHOUSE. IT IS ALSO SUPPOSED TO BE AVAILABLE ON LINE AT THE BOOK STORES. I HAVEN'T PAID FOR A MARKETING PLAN YET, RAN OUT OF MONEY, DON'T KNOW WHAT I REALLY WANT TO DO MONEY WISE FOR MARKETING YET.

DRIVE SAFE, HOPE TO BE BACK ON THE AIR SOON

SANDY WB4EVH"

4) Sunspots

What sunspots? For nearly the entire month, we have been mostly 'spotless' with the A index bouncing around from 68 to 72 or so. Some sunspots are trying to form, but not making it to visible sunspot status. There has been no joy for HF operators with improving conditions. A few spots seen on 17M and 15M, but the skip is long (1000 miles) on those bands. The two spots that formed disappeared within hours! Where are our sunspots?

Sunspot 1029 appeared at the end of the month – with hopes it would start a trend – but it didn't do much – the flux reached 76 for a day, then dropped back. Then on 10/27/09, the flux was at 81 – sunspots! I'm holding out for at least flux of 150, and maybe 180? Well, we can dream. You never know!

5) WB4UHI - Mark's Book Out

If you are a Civil War fan, check out Mark's new book – he's been working on it for years, and now finally out.

http://www.gastongazette.com/articles/local-39408-author-need.html

""The New Civil War Handbook," by Mark Hughes of Kings Mountain, is an up-to-date guide for American Civil War enthusiasts and novices, complete with tables, charts and nearly 150 photographs to trace the history of the war from the beginning of the conflict through the final surrender. The book is $14.95; to purchase or for more information, visit

www.civilwarhandbook.com."

- - - - -

Several county hunters are into genealogy and make trips all over the country researching their ancestry. My sister has done a bit of research, finding one ancestor who was in the Civil War, and some who came over in the 1910 timeframe – about the same time as the Titanic and other great ocean crossing ships. You can wind up on some interesting diversions while county hunting. Or use them as good excuses to zip all over the country putting out the counties!

More Than Sunspots

Solar Cycle Driven by More than Sunspots; Sun Also Bombards Earth with High-Speed Streams of Wind

September 18, 2009

BOULDER-Challenging conventional wisdom, new research finds that the number of sunspots provides an incomplete measure of changes in the Sun's impact on Earth over the course of the 11-year solar cycle. The study, led by scientists at the High Altitude Observatory of the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) and the University of Michigan, finds that Earth was bombarded last year with high levels of solar energy at a time when the Sun was in an unusually quiet phase and sunspots had virtually disappeared.

"The Sun continues to surprise us," says NCAR scientist Sarah Gibson, the lead author. "The solar wind can hit Earth like a fire hose even when there are virtually no sunspots."

The study, also written by scientists at NOAA and NASA, is being published today in the Journal of Geophysical Research - Space Physics. It was funded by NASA and by the National Science Foundation, NCAR's sponsor.
...Gibson and her colleagues focused instead on another process by which the Sun discharges energy. The team analyzed high-speed streams within the solar wind that carry turbulent magnetic fields out into the solar system.
...Scientists previously thought that the streams largely disappeared as the solar cycle approached minimum. But when the study team compared measurements within the current solar minimum interval, taken in 2008, with measurements of the last solar minimum in 1996, they found that Earth in 2008 was continuing to resonate with the effects of the streams. Although the current solar minimum has fewer sunspots than any minimum in 75 years, the Sun's effect on Earth's outer radiation belt, as measured by electron fluxes, was more than three times greater last year than in 1996.

Gibson said that observations this year show that the winds have finally slowed, almost two years after sunspots reached the levels of last cycle's minimum.

The authors note that more research is needed to understand the impacts of these high-speed streams on the planet. The study raises questions about how the streams might have affected Earth in the past when the Sun went through extended periods of low sunspot activity, such as a period known as the Maunder minimum that lasted from about 1645 to 1715.

Buffeting Earth with streams of energy

For the new study, the scientists analyzed information gathered from an array of space- and ground-based instruments during two international scientific projects: the Whole Sun Month in the late summer of 1996 and the Whole Heliosphere Interval in the early spring of 2008. The solar cycle was at a minimal stage during both the study periods, with few sunspots in 1996 and even fewer in 2008.

The team found that strong, long, and recurring high-speed streams of charged particles buffeted Earth in 2008. In contrast, Earth encountered weaker and more sporadic streams in 1996. As a result, the planet was more affected by the Sun in 2008 than in 1996, as measured by such variables as the strength of electron fluxes in the outer radiation belt, the velocity of the solar wind in the vicinity of Earth, and the periodic behavior of auroras (the Northern and Southern Lights) as they responded to repeated high-speed streams.

The prevalence of high-speed streams during this solar minimum appears to be related to the current structure of the Sun. As sunspots became less common over the last few years, large coronal holes lingered in the surface of the Sun near its equator. **The high-speed streams that blow out of those holes engulfed Earth during 55 percent of the study period in 2008, compared to 31 percent of the study period in 1996**. A single stream of charged particles can last for as long as 7 to 10 days. At their peak, the accumulated impact of the streams during one year can inject as much energy into Earth's environment as massive eruptions from the Sun's surface can during a year at the peak of a solar cycle, says co-author Janet Kozyra of the University of Michigan.

http://www.brightsurf.com/news/headlines....ms_of_Wind.html

N8KIE - 3077 Transmitted #9

Bob, N8KIE completed running all 3077 US counties, making at least one contact from each county. He took a trip to AK this summer – all four districts, then finished up with a trip to MS to get to the very last ones to be run. He is the ninth person to have transmitted from 'all' the counties. Congrats!

On the Road with N4CD

There were things to do and places to go. I loaded up the car and headed toward Tennessee, taking my time and not rushing. Slowly, I was knocking off transmitted counties for second time, and I was hoping to fill in a lot of missing counties along the way back east. Eventually I might get to all of them again – after this trip – will be down to 200 to go. The ones I need to run are mostly far, far away – not conducive to short trips any longer. With current conditions, some of those 'far away' counties might wait for better propagation.

A group of the folks who had attended the Manchester Mini had put together a re-union in Manchester for those who had attended the original minis held in Manchester. That's going back a bit in county hunter history.

Herb, W9GBH, Ron, KA3DRO, Bill, KM4W, Al, KG5J

It's about a 12 hour haul from Collin County to TN, so I split it in two days.

When I was working, well, you just took Friday off and drove the 11 1/2 hours to get to Murphreesboro, starting real early before the sun rose and getting in after sunset. Now, being retired, I could take 2 days to get there, plus Manchester is another 30 miles down the road. The first night I stopped at a Super 8 in Wheatley, AR. The good thing about that Super 8 motel is that it is very inexpensive- $39.95 plus tax. The bad news is that it is in the middle of nowhere, with not much choice for dinner. Twenty miles down the road is another one in Forrest City at almost double the price! In that city there are dozens of good places for dinner. I went with the less expensive, and had dinner in a BBQ place across the street– not bad but not great.

The next day (Friday) I got in early afternoon at the Holiday Inn Express in Manchester, TN. The parking lot was full of antennas. Ron, KA3DRO, Gene N4ANV, Bill, KM4W, Al, KG5J, and a few others arranged to hold a great re-union get together there. (The original was at a different hotel).

Most of those present had attended many of the original minis which started in 1981, and ran till about 1989 when the crowds got too big for the facility, so it was moved to the Holiday Inn in Murphreesboro – and it became the 3M – the **M**anchester **M**ini in **M**urphreesboro. Bill, KM4W, was the one who coordinated the hotel and banquet for over 25 years, up to about 2004,

which was the last one. In the early 1990s, up to 260 people were at the banquet.

At the first one, there were 51 in attendance. At the reunion, there were 51 people present, but of course, not all the original attendees. Many others wanted to be there but had other commitments, or just weren't able to travel to get there.

MANCHESTER REUNION ATTENDEES-2009

NAME	**CALL**	**XYL**
BILL GREW	WG9A	SANDY
AL GARRETT	KG5J	EVELYN
BILL BELL	KM4W	JIMMIE
HERB MORGAN	W9GBH	JOAN
BOB VOSS	N4CD	
GENE BARNES	K5GE	MARY IDA
RUFUS BURDETT	KD4HXM	ROBBIE LOU
GENE TYREE	N4ANV	KC4TBS (PAT)
JOE CHAMBERS	KF5AT	CAROL
PAT EDWARDS	N4UGH	
RALPH ELLIOTT	WA4HXG	BEVERLY
JERRY WEAVER	WD5JGS	JEAN
JOE LINDLEY	WB0CQO	JUDIE
STEVE BATEMA	AK8A	PAULA (N8EMV)
HOLLIS THIGPEN	KC3X	SANDY (K4SMT)
BOB FUSS	W4OWY	BARBARA
LLOYD GLASSCOCK	K0GEN	
GAYLE GLASSCOCK	KI4WHK	
ELDON HALL	N8STF	MARY
TROY WARREN	K50H	EVELYN
KAREN THORNE	WB9ZNA	(XYL OF K9DAF)
NORM BEAVERS	W3DYA	KAREN
BOB LAWRENCE	W4UB	
SCOTT LAWRENCE	K4SL (AA4LY)	
RON ROSENWALD	KA3DRO	CHARI

ROY GLASSCOCK	N9QS	BONNIE
CHARLES DILLARD	N4EED	JANE
RICHARD MARSHALL	W4CCT	FAITH (W5XFM)
LARRY PRITCHARD	W9SUQ	ROSE (KA9KQN)

TOTALS: 51

The Manchester ReUnion Crowd – pic from N4ANV

Wow…we had a great time talking about the 'old days' for the next two days. There were no arranged events. Some made the trek to Mary Bo-Bos for the sit down country style dinner in small groups, but nothing formally was organized. For those arriving early to the previous ones, the annual trek to Mary Bo-Bos was part of the 3M experience. Herb, W9GBH was the usual coordinator. Gene, N4ANV, was the official photographer, as usual.

Cooter, N4EED USACA #527

The hotel provides a full breakfast, so the eyeballs started early in the morning at breakfast and went all day long. Saturday night we all headed over to Charley's next door and we had a group dinner. Then it was back to the hotel for more eyeballs and telling tall tales of county hunting, and finding out how the others we knew about were doing.


Ralph, WA4HXG USCCA #794

On Saturday, the Texas QSO Party was in full swing. I had to sit that one out as a mobile, but both Norm, W3DYA, and I were chasing the mobiles in TX to get the counties we needed - from the parking lot at the motel for a few hours. I spent a few hours Saturday looking for the TX counties, then more on Sunday as I headed east. It's hard in TX working much on 20M from home with current conditions. There aren't too many other TX CW mobiles, either! Caught 50 new TX counties – still need more than half!

Sunday morning came and it was time to head on out. My next stop was going to be Warren County NY, where my nephew was getting married in six days. That left lots of time to go county hunting. On Sunday, I could chase the TX counties in between putting out counties as I zipped on east.

The bands were a mess with a European RTTY contest – QRM everywhere on 20 and 40M. However, the TX stations managed for most of the time to find empty frequencies, but the RTTY made a mess of 14.0565 for running counties. In the afternoon on Sunday, there was a massive DX pileup that filled most of the entire band on 30M, knocking that band out, too! Very poor practice to take up that much room – but they were everywhere from 110 to 129. I have no clue who, but it must have been something really rare!

I had a few counties here and there to run for second time transmit – the next one I had to run was Buchanan, VA so I headed that way, and ran the counties along the way in between hunting for TX counties. DL3DXX was in there beating me most of the time to the TX mobiles – he worked 131 counties. I was busy driving and missed a bunch, but still got a lot of new ones. I needed just about everything and there are few mobiles in TX on cw normally that I can hear from home. Many times, the only way to get them is go mobile with a friend and work them with QRP at 20 feet!

OH3JF made a request for Tazewell – I was headed through it, but the QRM was fierce on net frequency with RTTY. I ran the county but we didn't hook up. Later, as I was headed to Buchanan on Highway 460, running to the northwest in a horrible location, we tried again. The path to the northeast was over a 200 foot type ridge all along that road as you climb to the pass at the top (which is bad news) for the county line of Buchanan and Tazewell. We made it 339 both ways for his last county in VA.

N4CD Tazewell, VA

I then ran Buchanan from not too great a spot, and headed on to the next needed to run county – Huntington PA. I did it the lazy way – punched in a city in PA in Huntington on the GPS, and let it tell me the fastest way to get there.

It agreed with what I had plotted myself, so it was up through WV to get to PA. This trip was mainly to try to finish up some states for second time transmitted all counties – down to under 250, but now I had many stragglers that I had managed to miss somehow on other trips. So many counties – so little time. Actually, W1TEE had run all the counties twice, so when I finish up, I come in number two for that. Am I crazy enough to do it three times? Well, first I have to finish second time, and that means expensive trips to HI and AK, plus more counties in snow country – meaning next summer at the earliest for them.

That short route this time was up through West Virginia. A few hours later, I stopped near Sutton, WV. There was no decent pizza place, so despite the fact it was Sunday, I ate at the Chinese Buffet place. I'll look for pizza on Monday.

The trip continued hitting some of the harder to get to PA counties – the ones that are a pain in the neck to get to and get out of, but I needed to run

them. If you look at the PA map, you need to navigate going northeast in southern PA because that is the way the ridges run – and those roads going NE are good, but try going SE, and you have lots of tiny roads over mountains that take forever to traverse. Fortunately, most of what I needed were running in a line to the northeast. It was up through PA into NY and quickly across to CT – just inside the border near Waterbury. I found a Super 8 there – the other motels were $120 a night and up – nothing but Marriott Delux and similar with big price tags. This one was half that price, and included breakfast, too.

I got my pizza at the co-located Italian restaurant. They had novel pizzas on the menu along with the traditional ones, so I tried on with white clams and shrimp ……. It was different but I don't think I'd get it again.

Tuesday I headed up toward Rhode Island, ran all five counties, finishing up RI, then up toward Maine. I had to skip three counties in MA (plus I didn't have time to run the island counties). It had been raining for 3 days, and finally the rain stopped part of the way in Maine and the sun came out for a day before the rain started again. I headed along the south side of ME, stopping near Bangor at a Super 8 motel. Then the next day was circling around the north part of Maine. It was near peak for the leaves – but with the rain and clouds, it wasn't too spectacular most of the time. On the day with some sun periods, it was interesting scenery.

Trees in Maine

It was ‘near peak’ in some higher elevation areas for the foliage watchers. They get lots of tourists especially in VT and NH in ‘leaf season’. It might have been 10 days early, but the trees were turning. I headed west again into NH. The temp outside was 40 degrees and it was raining in NH. The entire time I was there in NH it rained, had just stopped raining, or was about to rain. I stopped at the Super 8 in White River Junction VT that night just out of NH to the west.

If you have some time, you can drop in at the Narrow Gauge Railroad Museum in Portland, Maine. Way back when, Maine was home to five long narrow gauge railroads that ran on two foot wide tracks. They were used to reach the interior of Maine, haul out lumber and other resources, and connect the inland towns. Some were later replaced by full size railroads, then, like in many areas of the country – went out of business as trucks took over.

http://www.mngrr.org/

They also offer rides on a short line along the Portland water front.

Not to be outdone, there were some two foot wide spaced narrow gauge railroads in Colorado - if you are in Victor, CO area, you might check out the narrow gauge operating railroad there –

http://www.cripplecreekrailroad.com/

Of course, two of the best and longest narrow gauge rides is from Durango to Silverton, CO, and the other from San Antonito to Chama – but they are on wider three foot tracks.

Here's a page of links to narrow gauge railroad museums worldwide

http://www.wwfry.org/links.html

Using lighter tracks and equipment allowed railroads to be built at a fraction of the cost of heavy duty 4 foot six inch spaced 'standard' trains. Some railroads operated on tracks of 12 inches and 15 inches – a few are still tourist attractions around the world. Well, back to county hunting.

In the morning it was west again on route 4 in VT…with a detour up to get Addison which quite a few needed. The GPS said take the Ticonderoga ferry…but that can cause you a hour wait…and cost something like $15. I took the simple way across route 4 to NY, then up in Washington County, which a bunch needed, up to Ticonderoga, in Essex, NY, then down the other side of Lake George to Sabbath Day Point.

Coming across VT, I saw a few snow flurries and 35 degree temps crossing VT up near Killington ski area. My final destination was my sister's house in Warren County. My nephew was getting married, so I spent a few days there – lots of folks coming and going for 3 days, lots of activities, cloudy/rainy weather, so I didn't have any time for radio. My BIL (brother in law) has a big family with lots of relatives, and they all had headed north.

Nephew's bride to be had a grandmother who came from Korea for the wedding along with some other relatives. After the normal modern church wedding at the 1865 chapel on Sabbath Day Point, at the reception, the bride and groom also went through the traditional Korean wedding ceremony in full Korean ceremonial dress. That was interesting to see. As part of the ceremony, the parents throw dates and chestnuts into the apron of the

bride….and how many she catches tell how many sons and daughters the couple will have. They better buy a big house! Hi hi.

On Sunday, after the conclusion of the ceremonies and activities, partying, etc, I headed out to the west headed for PA and more counties I hadn't run a second time, this time along the northern part of PA – counties with lots of twisting roads and small towns to slow you down. Things went well, there were only a few drizzles and the bands were humming. PA has lots of not to frequently run counties – like Elk and Forest. The CA QSO party was still going on, so 20M was a bit crowded and the CW frequency was sometimes buried in QRM. Still, most runs were good. W9MSE/W0GXQ were out mobile in WI, and that seemed to be it for CW mobile county hunter activity.

Since it was Sunday night, it was dinner at the Pizza Hut next to the Super 8 motel in Jefferson PA. I managed to get counties for Jack, N7ID, and Ed, N4UJK on SSB. Ed was down to 2 to go for WBOW….so now he is down to one. I guess I dedicate the pizza to getting him the 'next to last' for WBOW. Hopefully he'll be done soon. Dan, KM9X, must have needed a few because he was in there on cw calling in a few counties.

Nick, KA1NX now coming over to CW, and Terry, WQ7A is now a frequent caller on CW working counties left and right. He's likely to try and work all of them on cw. Gene, K5GE, is also working them all on cw. Slowly, we are converting more and more SSB folks over to CW. Dick, N8CIJ, is there most days frequently working them as well.

After Armstrong PA, another than I had managed to drive around many times, it was into OH to get Trumbull and Knox. I had plotted out the route, but let the GPS do most of the work to get between them quickly. Most of the time we agreed on the route, but occasionally it went a different way. Then it was into IN to run Adams, the only one remaining there, and over to IL- to run the only two there not run a second time – Kane and Dupage. So far, I had finished up Rhode Island, Maine, Indiana, and Illinois, and down to 1 in NH, and 5 in MA. So many counties, so little time! Still 4 in PA, and 1 in NY (NY, NY – yuk).

Now, strangely, there was only 1 left in WI – Marquette - so it was 150 miles north to run that one. Mission accomplished – WI is now done. If you wondered why N4CD zigged and zagged, it was to get to the counties

that were stranded from previous trips. Of course, I ran everything I went through, so lots got run. Then it was over to MN the fastest way, hitting Houston. That's an interesting county. If you look at the MN coloring book, you see folks running from west to east along the interstate headed right toward Houston. If you need Houston, you think great…..that will be the next one after the one to the west. NOT! The interstate zips to the north missing it and skirts in on the north side. I headed on down through it to get to IA. That night I wound up in the first county in IA – lots of Super 8 Motels on this trip. They are everywhere in IA and MN and WI and NE.

I had 12 counties there to run, scattered out in clumps – I hit 9 of them, with 3 up northwest I'll get when I go back to MN to run most of it.
Iowa went fine – easy to get around – flat as a pancake over most of the state and roads between counties when you needed them. It was then into NE- I had five to run there. I made it in two counties into NE, and stopped at what used to be a Super 8 motel….but now was under a different name – Heritage Inn. It was still in the GPS Garmin database (4 years old) but not the Super 8 Motel current book. Not bad. Then it was west.

Dave, K9AAA, was down to two to finish up first time. He needed Webster NE, which was no where near my route. Well, someone has to get the next to last for WBOW, so I changed to trip to get to Webster which is on the south border of NE as far south as you can get.

Webster, NE – Next to LC WBOW for K9AAA

Whoa….I got seriously lost on dirt roads…trying to take a shortcut to save some miles ….the road started out fine, then turned into a good dirt road, but a bridge was out, and it was navigating on dirt roads that went for a few miles, then ended with a 'tee' with no clue which way to go. I passed the county line, I think (Power line road) but no signs to be sure. Often on back roads there are no county line signs on gravel roads.

When I reached a town definitely 'in the county' finally and got back on paved roads, I could run Webster – and Dave and I hooked up on 20 cw, then he worked me again on 40 and 30 at the following county line. You gotta take a pic of LC WBOW and next to last….and at the county line were the signs. I take lots of 'Percy Pics'…..it's fun to have them for folks for their LCs.

Lots of dirt roads in the middle of nowhere have no C/L signs. But often there are other tell tale signs, like change of road, sometimes change of road designation or route, and similar. It's always nice to find a 'county line' road, too! If you have a PC running Street Atlas you can find the county lines, but most don't yet run the PCs.

I had had some spare time, so out of curiosity just listened a bit on 14.336, and lo and behold, Jack, N7ID was on the road putting out Ada, ID. Hmmm…that is not far from Owyhee, ID, the last one needed by K9AAA. I guess Dave had called him with special request, and later that day I learned they had worked each other for his LC WBOW. Great. Another Next to LC WBOW given out by N4CD the same day the LC WBOW was worked, too! Maybe I can start a trend? Every time I go out for a Next to Last WBOW, someone will be on the road the same day to get the LC WBOW for a county hunter? We'll get a lot of folks finished up quickly that way – hi hi! Let's see…that's 3 times in the past few months that has happened.

I made it over to Keith NE that night – Ogallala NE – another Super 8 motel. Not too many choices for dinner other than fast food or the truck stop restaurant. OK….BBQ ribs and shrimp, corn on the cob, rolls, salad at the truck stop.

It was going to get cold. The next night they were expecting 3-8 inches of snow in the area and to the north, west and east. It was time to get the heck out of NE. The next morning, I had to scrape the ice off the windshield – 22

degrees outside. Fortunately no wind – for the past two days the wind had been 30-40 mph from the north making it really interesting to drive – if you were headed north, it seemed like the car was doing 100 mph getting blown about a bit. It was going to be in 'near record lows' the next night, too. More reason to get out of NE. The tire pressure was down with the cold temps, so I got out the little air compressor (Pep Boys, $20 or so) and put a few pounds more in each tire. I need to get max miles out of tires they way I put the miles on the car. The new cars tell you the tire pressure in each tire. On most cars, you'll lose a few pounds over six months, too, so it helps to occasionally check if your car doesn't have the latest tire pressure sensors per wheel.

I ran over to get Banner, going through Garden and Morrill. I stopped at a gas station there, bought a bit of gas (it was 40c more a gallon than in civilization, but the tank was down to less than half) – put in five gallons. With the a/c off, the car was getting 34 mpg- great. Western NE is interesting scenery, but not much else – vast expanses of barren country side, grassland, or farms along the river valley but not much in the way of towns – you pass through one every 20-30 miles – population 140 or 250. Likely, the population decreases each year as the teenagers grow up, go off the college or trade school, and never return. The attendant at the gas station was curious about 'those big antennas' and we got into 15 minute conversation about ham radio. I gave him the URL for ARRL so hopefully he'll find it interesting and maybe become a county hunter some day.

I headed south to get to Denver where I planned to attend the Peak Oil Conference put on by ASPO – the Association for Study of Peak Oil. I'd hit 4 of the last 5 conferences and it's on my list of things to do each year. I was originally going to try and run some counties in WY (need 4 there) but with forecasts of nasty winter weather, record low temps, I decided that those counties could wait. No sense to get stuck somewhere or have an accident in bad weather or get stranded by 6 foot snow drifts. N4CD doesn't 'go in snow' when I can help it.

Barry, N0KV, and Pat, N0DXE, had invited me to stop on by their spread in Parker, CO (Douglas County), so I decided to get to Denver a day early, take up their invitation, and visit with them. Barry has a couple acres, a big antenna farm with two towers, verticals, and beverage receiving antenna for 80 and 160M. Pat, N0DXE, is closing in down to just a handful.

Hopefully, she'll be done before long, and she is working on some skeds to fill in the ones she needs.

Like many the first time, she had held back sending some MRCs to folks with only one county – some were in the CA QSO Party – where you might get a 50% QSL response. So she had about 10 outstanding, and had sent off MRCs with SASEs to the ones she had worked, but never got confirmed earlier. There were also a few waiting to be worked the first time. Some had never responded.

She and Barry have been putting out the counties. Recently they took a long trip back to ME pulling the motor home. Occasionally, they'd go out for a day trip without the trailer just to run counties. Barry did the CW, and both were a team on SSB. Barry is working hard on his MG now.

Friday night, we all got together at the QTH of Matt, W0NAC, and Sharon, N0LXJ, to celebrate Matt's Birthday. It was the 38th anniversary of his 39th Birthday. We all yakked for a few hours after enjoying a nice chili dinner. Matt and Sharon moved into a townhouse – taking care of the house was getting to be an issue. Unfortunately, no 'outside antennas' are allowed, so you'll hear them out nearby 'mobile' many days a week. Matt has gotten permission to put up a loop antenna above the roof up 40-50 feet – it will be an 80m full wave loop. He must use professional installers but he is hoping to get it up soon and working. It should be good, and he'll be able to stay home.

Hmm…the winter weather didn't cooperate – Saturday morning it was 22 degrees and the car was coated with a good coat of frozen sleet/snow. Barry and I worked 15 minutes to scrap the windows on the car. Brrrr…my fingers got frozen. I can do without 22 degree weather! I left the antennas at Barry's house so they won't be on the car in downtown Denver – otherwise, I'd drag them up to the room at the motel. I'll drop by on Wed morning on the way out of Denver to his house to pick them up, then head back to TX the fastest way.

Saturday it was off to downtown Denver for the ASPO Convention. The event was held at the Sheraton – room rates $165 plus 15% hospitality tax. Ouch. Needless to say, knowing N4CD, you know I stayed at the Econolodge downtown, 0.7 miles away, for a savings of $125 bucks a night, including tax. Multiply that by 4 nights….and you save enough to do a

week of county hunting! The bus costs two bucks to ride that short less than mile distance, and I wimped out and took it because it was 'record low high temps' while I was there!. Hi hi. I'm not used to cold weather yet. Probably never will be!

The convention ended Tuesday evening, so Wednesday it was off to N0KV's house to pick up the antennas – and then a mad dash toward home, arriving at 10:30pm the same day – whew – too much driving, but I was tired of being 'on the road' for 3 weeks. I only ran a few counties on the way home, instead concentrating on putting miles behind me as I drove quickly toward home to cover the 650 miles.

As I hit Texas, I finally defrosted and warmed up – it was 90 in the TX panhandle – then it was in the 50s and rainy all along the Red River – getting foggy in places with 40 mph speeds – then finally clearing up for the last 150 miles with temps in the high 70s. I slept with the windows open that night – 78 degrees in Collin County TX, and I had scraped ice off the windshield in Denver that morning. Well, that's the difference of being on the warm side of a cold front vs. the cold side.

So now it is time to sort out logs – TX QSO Party – CA QSO Party – missed the PA and AZ QSO Party – too busy at the convention. Oh, well, I'll have to catch a PA station in the November SS to fill in for my State QSO Party of the Year contact for PA.

Hope you caught something you needed. It was three weeks on the road, 5000 plus miles, and fun (most of the way). I completed a few states more for transmitted counties, but the remaining ones are mostly in 'snow country' so it might be a while before I whack off some of my needed ones. Two Next to Last for WBOW given out. That leaves lots of other trips to get counties that others need. So many counties, so little time. So who needs a 'next to last' within driving distance now?

Cool Winter?

The average person may not associate coolness with the sun.

The sun releases energy through deep nuclear fusion reactions in its core and has surface temperatures as hot as 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit, according to NASA's Web site.

Not cool at all.

But the sun's recent activity, or lack thereof, may be linked to the pleasant summer temperatures the midwest has enjoyed this year, said Charlie Perry, a research hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Lawrence.

The sun is at a low point of a deep solar minimum in which there are few to no sunspots on its surface.

In July through August, 51 consecutive days passed without a spot, one day short of tying the record of 52 days from the early 1900s.

As of Sept. 15, the current solar minimum ranks third all-time in the amount of spotless days with 717 since 2004. There have been 206 spotless days in 2009, which is 14th all-time. But there are still more than 100 days left in the year, and Perry expects that number to climb.

Perry, who studies sunspots and solar activity in his spare time, received an undergraduate degree in physics at Kansas State University and a Ph.D in physics and astronomy at The University of Kansas. He also has spent time as a meteorologist.

A sunspot, Perry explains, is a location on the sun's surface that is cooler than the surrounding area. When there are more sunspots, the sun's surface becomes more dynamic and an opposite effect takes place, releasing more heat and energy when other parts of the sun become hotter.

A solar minimum is when the amount of spots on the sun is at a low and the reverse is true for a solar maximum. The complete solar cycle is about an

11-year process. Perry says the current solar minimum could continue into 2010.

"There's a fair chance it will be a cooler winter than last year," Perry said.

Perry said there is a feeling from some in the scientific community the Earth may be entering into a grand minimum, which is an extended period with low numbers of sunspots that creates cooler temperatures. The year without a summer, which was 1816, was during a grand minimum in 1800 to 1830 when Europe became cooler, Perry said. Another grand minimum was in 1903 to 1913.

Perry said there is anecdotal evidence the Earth's temperature may be slightly decreasing, but local weather patterns are much more affected by the jet stream than solar activity.

However, Perry said snow in Buenos Aires and southern Africa, the best ski season in Australia and a cooler Arctic region are some of the anecdotal evidence for a cooling period.

So, Perry said, sunspots may have a far greater impact on weather than previously thought.

Perry is a proponent of the cosmic ray and clouds theory as opposed to the CO2 global warming theory to explain recent global warming trends.

The cosmic ray and clouds theory was first put forth in the late 1990's by Danish physicist Henrik Svensmark.

In a July 2007 issue of Discover magazine, Svensmark said the theory is simply that solar activity can alter the amount of clouds in the atmosphere, which affects the temperature of the Earth. More clouds mean a cooler Earth because more of the sun's heat is being reflected. Fewer clouds equal a warmer Earth.

Perry says data indicates global temperature fluctuations correlate to a statistically significant degree with the length of the sunspot cycle. Longer cycles are associated with cooler temperatures.

Johan Feddema, acting chair and professor of geography at KU, studies global warming. Atmospheric science is a program in geography at KU. He says he is skeptical of any one phenomenon being the direct cause of global warming because there are so many climate variables that factor into global temperatures.

Feddema said the warming trend earlier in the century could be attributed to anything from solar activity to El Ninos. But since the mid 1980s he believes data doesn't correlate well with solar activity, but does correlate well with rising CO2 levels.

Feddema believes we may hit global high temperatures in a few years with the underlying factor being rising CO2 levels, coupled with the solar cycle returning to a maximum and an El Nino.

For more information or to view graphs of data pertaining to global climate change, Feddema recommends visiting the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Web site at www.ipcc.ch/ where 2007 assessment reports on climate change can be viewed. He also recommends the Wikipedia entry on solar variation for good visual graphs of data.

Perry said he recommends www.icecap.us/ for climate information; www.discovermagazine.com to learn more about Svensmark's theory; www.global-warming-and-the-climate.com/images/sunspot-lenght-&-teperatur... to view a global temperature and solar activity graph; and his own research Web page at ks.water.usgs.gov/waterdata/climate/.

FROM CJNEWSONLINE.COM

Sun Down: High-Energy Cosmic Rays Reach a Space Age Peak

A prolonged lull in the sun's activity has allowed energetic particles to penetrate the solar system with record intensity

By John Matson

It's been a slow two years for solar activity, with 2008 bringing the greatest number of blank, or sunspot-free, days in nearly 100 years. And now this year, albeit there are signs of stirring on the sun, is on pace to top 2008 as the sleepiest since 1913.

One consequence of this deep and prolonged lull in solar activity is an unprecedented bounty of high-energy cosmic rays that stream in from violent astrophysical events outside the solar system. Data collected by NASA's Advanced Composition Explorer (ACE) spacecraft show that cosmic rays now are as intense as they have ever been since the Space Age began, the space agency announced last week.

When the sun is at a low ebb, the solar shielding that usually deflects cosmic rays from our neighborhood recedes, and a long dormancy such as the one at present is accompanied by a large swell in radiation. That surge serves as a reminder that the solar system is a dynamic place in constant flux, and raises questions about the amount of shielding necessary to protect astronauts on future missions to the moon or Mars.

ACE has been in orbit since 1997, near the tail end of the last solar minimum (solar activity waxes and wanes in a cycle that repeats about every 11 years). "We've compared this solar minimum to the last, and then we've used data from other spacecraft to go back to the 1960s, when the first real cosmic-ray measurements at solar minimum began," says Richard Mewaldt, a California Institute of Technology heliophysicist and a member of the ACE science team. "Most solar minima have looked the same, to within a few percent, as far as cosmic rays go, but in this one...they've reached roughly 20 percent higher than what's ever been seen before."
Cosmic rays, often made of atomic nuclei that have been stripped of their electrons, zoom across the galaxy at nearly the speed of light. They are thought to originate in bulk from supernovae, or stellar explosions. Rarer species of cosmic-ray particles include electrons and their antimatter counterparts, positrons.

For the most part, Earth denizens are shielded from harm by the planet's atmosphere and magnetosphere, but even so, cosmic rays pack such a punch that they have been implicated in introducing errors in computer memories.

Some researchers have even proposed that the energetic particles striking the atmosphere are what initiates lightning.

Outside Earth's protective shielding, space travelers would be seriously threatened by cosmic rays without proper safeguards, the development of which some researchers have deemed a possibly insurmountable obstacle to interplanetary travel. In a 2006 *Scientific American* article, physicist Eugene Parker cited a NASA estimate "that about one third of the DNA in an astronaut's body would be cut by cosmic rays every year," potentially causing cancer, cataracts and even brain damage.

Mewaldt notes that the recent rash of cosmic-ray bombardment coincides with a number of solar-minimum phenomena. Among them: the weakening of the sun's magnetic field as well as the diminished pressure and speed of the solar wind—the stream of charged particles emanating from the sun. The solar wind, Mewaldt explains, is "what blows the bubble in the heliosphere that protects us from the interstellar medium. And since that pressure has been low for the last few years, that means the bubble is getting smaller."

The bad news for future space travelers is that the recent peak in the intensity of cosmic rays may not even be that unique. Mewaldt notes that on longer timescales, measurements in polar ice of a heavy ion of beryllium, produced in the atmosphere when cosmic rays strike, show that the Space Age may have simply begun in an anomalous span for solar activity and cosmic radiation. "If you look back over the last 1,000 years, cosmic rays were actually on average much higher than they are during the 50 years where we have direct measurements," he says. "Perhaps what we're observing is something that's more normal, and the space era has occurred when there was more solar activity, and so cosmic rays were excluded."

Source: http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=cosmic-rays-solar-minimum

State QSO Parties – Texas

This was another good one. Chuck, NO5W, is an endless promoter of the TX QSO Party, and it gets better year after year. N4CD was mobile in TN – at the "M" reunion in Manchester on Saturday, but that didn't deter me and Jeff, W9MSE, who sat in the parking lot for a few hours chasing mobiles. On Sunday, I left headed east so 20M was decent for chasing some TX mobiles.

Wow, there was some severe competition for bandwidth with a major SSB contest filling up 20M SSB, and a CQ RTTY contest wiping out most of 40M CW in the afternoon and evening hours, and even during the day. I'd vote for moving all RTTY activity above 7060 and 14060 forever, and only have CW below that frequency, but I don't think it will happen. The RTTY just infest the CW bands during major contests with no regard for a frequency already occupied by a cw station. RTTY is all computer controlled and no one listens or monitors a frequency before blasting away.

From the 3830 Contest Reflector

N6MU: 255 CW QSO - "20 was up and down with no mobile readable all the time. RTTY QRM on 40 was atrocious. Top mobiles were NO5W-33, N5NA-23, K5YAA-19, K5WAF-19, K0RU-17 and WW5X-16. Always one of the best Parties."

N5NA/M (TX) - 1165 CW QSO – "First off a BIG THANKS to my wife, K5AKS, for driving me all over west Texas this weekend, a total of 855 miles!

Wow, what a blast! This is the first time I've operated both days in the QSO party. I usually just operate Saturday and call it good. This year I mapped out a more ambitious route with a stop over in Alpine. We arrived in Alpine at 7 pm to complete a 10 hour day just in time for dinner. Sunday the route cut the time a bit closer arriving in our last county, Ector, about 16 minutes before the end. If we hadn't have left Alpine 30 minutes before the start we wouldn't have made it.

The other change this year was the addition of a K3 for my mobile rig. In the past I've used my Icom 706MkIIg. The K3's noise reduction really helped with the line noise which seems to be along EVERY road. I know there were some stations calling at times but with the noise I just couldn't pull them out, even with the K3.

My other equipment consists of a High Sierra HS-1500 with manual control, Winkey, a 2000 Chevrolet C2500, a Dell Inspiron 2200 running NO5W's CQ/X. CQ/X is the ONLY way to go if you're operating mobile in a QSO party!

The following counties were activated with the indicated number of QSOs: Terrell(82), Culberson(73), Crockett(71), Pecos(61), Winkler(60), Upton(56), Reeves(53), Andrews(51), Presidio(49), Brewster(47), Reagan(47), Ward(44), Crane(43), Loving(43), Howard(42), Irion(41), Hudspeth(40), Martin(39), Borden(37), Jeff Davis(36), Ector(35), Midland(34), Dawson(34), Glasscock(33), and Gaines(23).

Thanks to the following stations for contributing more than half of my QSOs:

W0GXQ(25), N6MU(23), N9FC(23), KV8Q(22), DL3DXX(22), W4UCZ(20), WA3HAE(20), W4IX(18), N1LN(18), W9MSE(16), N4CD(16), NT2A(16), K9CW(15), N3RJ(14), N8II(13), A9ZES(13), W9UX(13), W7GVE(13), NX5M(12), K5LH(12), WF5X(12), AA6YX(12), DL5AWI(12), N8NA(11), WA6KHK(10), KT4LF(10), K8JQ(10), SM7ZDI(10), K4LRP(10), K8DD(10), SP5SA(10), K6WSC(9), N3UM(9), AD5WI(9), NM5G(9), W8IQ(9), KB9BIT(9), K2SX(9), K9OSC(9), K8QWY(8), KN4Y(8), KI6OY(8), W0ETT(8), ND3R(8), KM1C(7), and N9NE(7).

W0BH: 108cw 341 SSB – "This weekend was the Hesston College Centennial Celebration, so instead of running as a Texas mobile, I enjoyed the TQP from the "other side" as time permitted.

40m propagation was great all weekend, and the collection of fixed stations and mobiles was impressive. Because of the RTTY contest, many of the CW mobiles spent little time on 40m but I know they had good runs on 20 because I could hear the pileups. On SSB, I was able to run stations the

entire time and picked up lots of counties from the SSB mobiles who found me.

Overall, I worked 149 counties. The eastern part of the state map was pretty much filled in and the panhandle was well covered, so most of my missing counties came from the west and southwest and from taking time off for college activities.

I'm now convinced every op in Texas has a mobile because I counted an astonishing 36 mobiles or rovers in my log. Many of them weren't seriously working the TQP, but a number of them gave me multiple counties as they traveled along. Just for fun and as my way of saying thanks, here's the complete mobile list from my log. Special thanks also to the fixed stations listed:

15: K5MRA/m (also consistently loudest signal into Kansas award!)
9 : K5NOT/m N5UV/m
8 : K5YAA/m
7 : K0RU/m K5UN/m
6 : NO5W/m
5 : KB6OJE/m KD6HWD/m KE5ZQV/m KU5B/m KY5S/m
4 : K5LOL/m KE5LQ/m KK5LO/m N5ENU/m WB0TEV/m WW5X/m
3 : K5ASU/m KD5GEN/m KE5PRZ/m KG5U/m N0XMZ/m W5ETJ/m WC5D/m
2 : AD5EW/m KA5GIL/m N0JSN/m N3BB/m W5UOT/m WB5LJO/m
1 : KJ5UY/m KK5W/m N5BE/m W5MCT/m WB9NUL/m

N8II (WV) 199cw 380 cw 182 multipliers! "The best laid plans... I planned on being ready for the start at 14Z, but my teenage daughter's written driving test hit a snag when she forgot her glasses which cost me an extra 45 minute round trip, + longer time there. Rain was coming soon so add on another 30 minutes to walk the dog. My first QSO was 1550Z. I really wasn't in the mood to operate and would have to say there was a lull in activity when I started, few stations were heard on 20 CW and phone was full of SAC phone activity, not TXQP. I was able to run about 1-2 a minute for 15 minutes or so on 20 phone, then it dried up; I almost quit. Activity improved by around 1645Z, but the SAC traffic/QRM was still a pain. I really wasn't in a very positive mood, so just ran on 20 phone when I could rather than S&P a lot for mobiles on CW. By the closing bell Saturday, I had 400 Q's logged, pretty good considering the late start and

taking time off for 2 meals and a couple of short breaks. 20 stayed open at least to west TX until around 0115Z, but running was slow to nil after 22Z. Condx actually improved around 2330-0100Z. As always, quite a few mobiles called me on phone both days which added to the score a lot. Many thanks!

I managed to work NO5W a total of 28 times in 25 counties just missing a county twice as he crossed into a new one. I caught Jerry, K5YAA in most of his counties. I was not happy with my CW S&P; I ended up with 182 counties and should have been close to 200.

Sunday was much easier mentally, but a slow slog with maybe 50 new stations answering 20 M phone CQ's; I tried running on 40 phone especially when 20 dried up Saturday evening, but only ran about 20-25 stations.

Thanks for the nice turnout! Lots of casual ops stopped by on 20 and my QSO total was the best ever in 3 serious tries at TXQP. 20M condx were pretty good from here. There was plenty of mobile activity, but it was hard to work them on 40 during the day (too weak/QRM) and night. TXQP has the best balance of home station and mobile activity of any of the state QP's, plenty of both. I mentioned to Chuck, NO5W post contest that activity from Fort Bend Co. was high with about a dozen Q's as well as Houston and metro Dallas. He gave presentations in all 3 areas about TXQP. Many thanks for all of your efforts and all of the mobile Q's!

Mobiles worked by the numbers with primary mode:

	Counties	QSO's	Mode
NO5W	25	28	CW
KK5LO	16	17	SSB
K5YAA	13	14	CW
N5UV	13	14	SSB
N5NA	13	13	CW
WW5X	12	14	CW
KE5LQ	11	11	SSB
K0RU	10	13	CW
K5NOT	10	11	SSB
KK5W	8	8	SSB
K5WAF	7	7	CW
KA5GIL	7	7	SSB

KG5U 6 6 CW
N5TM 6 6 CW
KD6HWD 5 5 SSB
WD5BDX 5 5 SSB
KJ5UY 5 5 SSB

Thanks again to you all as well as mobiles N3BB, WB9NUL, KU5B, KD5JWC, KB6OJE, KE5ZQV, WB0TEV!

The conflicts with SAC on 20 phone and especially CQWW RTTY on 40 CW hurt the activity. There were very few brave souls CQ'ing on 40 CW. The QRM extended down to 7025 or lower. “

NO5W/M (NO5W, K5OT, W5ZL)

“We had only punched a dozen or so QSO tickets in our first county when the main 40M antenna, a Hi-Q 4/80, developed high SWR. After several tests with an analyzer whose batteries seemed to be going fast we determined that it was indeed the actual antenna rather than the feed line. Disappointing because that antenna usually puts out a good signal, but not to worry we thought, we would just maintain our multi-two plans by putting K5OT's spare Little Tarheel on the vehicle. Murphy says nope, it's not to be, that Little Tarheel's got problems too. We found out Murphy was right after several attempts and lost time trying to get it going.

So our multi-two had suddenly become a multi-single but we pressed on, feeling like NO5W/Murphy rather than NO5W/Mobile, about two hours behind schedule after having conversation with an interesting Mason county codger and on-looker of our attempts at fixing the two antennas -- "what you boys up to with those antennas and all that gear, you radio hams?" Yes sir, we're in a Texas road rally for hams and right now we're in deep stuff.

Fortunately that was the last major visit by Murphy although there were other small problems along the way. We were able to make up some good time on some of those wide-open spaces of the Texas plains -- beautiful scenery to go along with some great pileups, and some dirt roads to nowhere except the next county line. Saturday night we rolled into Post, TX founded by cereal mogul CW Post of raisin bran fame, right at the closing bell having

missed only three of our proposed Saturday counties but seriously behind where we planned to be QSO-wise with only about 600 Qs.

Sunday was a beautiful cool crisp windy day in Post and we got away right on time to make the run across Garza county and all the way to the Kent-Fisher county line for the start of the session. To give you an idea of the remoteness of Kent county we only saw three other vehicles during that fifty mile trek across Kent. So there was definitely not much traffic to contend with and by midday we were ahead of schedule by about 30 minutes. The railroad was rolling and we had a great time cutting corners of counties, stopping for a stop and run, stopping for a "whizzle stop" and a few photo-ops among the windmills, using the software to keep everyone advised of where/when the railroad would be stopping next, and to keep us on schedule.

The worst part of the weekend was our lost time in getting the train out of the station with all the antenna problems but the ending easily made up for all those troubles. We had put Williamson on the route as a "time-permitting" stretch at the end and as we came down through the town of Lampasas with a number of stop lights and emerged from Lampasas county into Burnet with only 20 minutes to the closing bell not one of us thought there was a chance for making Williamson 20 miles on the other side of Burnet. But the railroad kept rolling and ZL at the wheel kept us on track and out of trouble with the trooper that had passed us and seemed to be maintaining a pace about half a mile ahead. OT kept filling the log with Qs, and with 1 min 14 seconds to go the software and county marker clicked over to Williamson and the pileup began. Seventy-four seconds later OT had nine WMSN QSOs in the log. Now that's mobile contesting!

Of course none of that excitement would have been possible without some dedicated well-behaved followers who created the pileups, stayed in the chair, and kept coming back for more Qs in the next county. Here's the stations whose tickets were punched 10 or more times by the conductors:

N6MU(40), NT2A(32), N8II(30), N1LN(29), WA3HAE(28), KV8Q(25), W4IX(21), NO3M(20), AA6YX(20), ND3R(19), W0GXQ(19), DL3DXX(19), VE3OM(17), NN9K(16), K8DD(16), N8NA(16), K8QWY(16), WA6KHK(15), N3RJ(15), KM1C(15), W7GVE(15), K9CW(14), N3UM(14), W4UCZ(13), VE3KP(13), K2SX(12), HK3Q(12), K3TN(12), WK5X(10), AB7RW(10), N4CD(10), K4LRP(10), KB9BIT(10), and DL5AWI(10).

In a state with as many counties as Texas it's not an easy task to activate all counties on a single weekend. Prior to the event it looked very promising for doing that this year but the logs will tell the tale of whether that was actually accomplished -- darn-it sometimes work and other commitments get in the way of plans at the last minute. So we'll have to wait and see how we did. But what can be said, from what I've read on 3830, is that Texas mobiles and fixed stations really came forward to put on a lot of QSOs in a lot of counties -- I saw that N8II had 182 counties in his log and I'm sure there are others with big county numbers. Many thanks to all those Texas stations that participated, fixed and mobile. Hope you'll be back again next year.

In addition we had a lot of help from our neighbor and almost neighbor to the north -- namely OK and KS. Thanks to the following operators for helping out.

K5YAA/OK keeping the bug alive and filling in some northeast Texas for W3DYA who had a 20 year county hunter reunion to attend in Tennessee WW5X/OK reeling off the Qs in the panhandle AF5Q/OK putting some panhandle counties on filling in for another regular, N4CD, who also attended the county hunter reunion

K0RU/KS who drove all the way from Kansas City area to fill in for W0BH who had a 100 year college celebration to attend.

Fortunately 100 year college celebrations and 20 year reunions come even less frequently than sunspots so we're looking forward to Bob, Norm, and Bob being back next year and hope Rob will continue coming down from KS to sample the BBQ and 807s at Amarillo's Red Barn. And of course the guys from OK are always welcome to help us out. If we get everybody back, including K5NA who was at a 50 year high school reunion, and we do a little more recruiting in Texas, heck we might have 40 mobiles traveling Miles and Miles of Texas next year. Now that would be awesome."

K5YAA/m: 027 cw 4 ssb - I'm getting it figured out now. Next QSO Party where I may have to do the driving I believe I will spring for a limo with driver for both days. That plan will allow me to continuously be on the

air and I will have someone to gripe at if we stray from the intended path. Might be a costly one but should produce more Qs.

Took me a while to find my way out of Gladewater< TX - at least to get going in the direction of RUSK County. Once I made it to RUSK I realized that I was running behind my estimated schedule of counties so I went east and did not go into NACODOCHES County. Glad I did because my time wasting road mistakes weren't over quite yet. I went past my left turn to the west to go into MORRIS County and went all the way to Atlanta, TX in CASS County. Another 30 – 45 minutes burnt - except by this time I had put the laptop aside and was on the air as I drove with bug and pencil so was putting a few more Qs in the log. Made it to Mt. Pleasant - TITUS County with part of the last hour to spare and decided to check in for the night.

Seems Mt. Pleasant has had a big time June Bug problem this summer. There were hundreds of them around the motel. The desk clerk said they were much worse a month ago! Hmmm - crunch, crunch as I went to the room which amazingly had NO June bugs in it.

Next morning the WX was perfect again and I wanted to go back to using the laptop so that's how I operated the 5 (supposed to have been 6) hours on Sunday. I had 2 PM in my head as the party end time - I think because in the spring we end the OKQP at 2PM which is the same Zulu time but with 6 instead of 5 hours difference... Oh well, I used that last hour well as it put me closer to home than I otherwise would have been.

I did enjoy the run through East Texas. I hadn't been there in nearly 20 years. Stopped once in a while and did admire the pine trees under very nice weather conditions.

Arizona QSO Party

Arizona held a stand alone QSO Party after the 7th area party a few months ago. It looks like there was good participation from many fixed stations, with many making 700+ contacts with most on 20M. One mobile out for the QP.

This was held the same weekend as the PA QSO Party

From 3830 Reflector:

K4BAI (GA) Congrats for a FB first AZ QSO Party. A lot of activity on CW and SSB and from mobiles. Apparently all 15 counties were QRV.

KS7S/m 162 cw 6 SSB – "It was a long (800 miles), but fun weekend doing "the mobile thing" in the 1st AZ QSO Party. I had originally planned on activating eight counties, but discovered I wasn't too far from PNL at my overnight stay in GLA, so started Sunday morning from there before continuing on my original plan. Of course, that put me a couple of hours behind my original schedule and I ended the contest in GHM on my way home. For me, the fun part was seeing what domestic and DX stations followed me from county to county " sure were some nice signals out of EU.

I had planned on some stationary 80M operation from my stopover point but was just too worn out at that point and even 40M didn't sound all that active after 0200Z or so. I know I missed a lot of contacts by being primarily CW - maybe next year I will try some more SSB too.

Thanks to all for the QSOs, especially the "followers" - Frank, WA2VYA, was the champion working me in all 9 counties! Many others caught me in 5 to 7 counties. DX champs were HA8IB, DL3DXX, SP5SA, and OK2EC.

Thanks to Gary, KE7DX and the Catalina Radio Club for sponsoring this fun event!

Equipment: ICOM IC-7000 (100W) " High Sierra Sidekick w/5' whip and TurboTuner " assorted HamSticks on Tri-Mag Mount " DXE Cap Hat and CB whip on Sidekick base section for 80M stationary operation"

W0BH (KS) - "This weekend I worked both the PAQP and the AZQP. I was pleasantly surprised to find a number of AZ stations on, and many were loud into Kansas! While there was more activity from PA, it wasn't fast and furious. The AZ activity made a nice difference in overall rate and kept me in the chair longer than planned. I think the two QPs complement each other nicely.

After the PAQP quit on Sunday, my county total stood at 14. I decided to see if I could find Navajo county and finally did at 2253z when KJ7KY called in. *From reading the other posts, it appears that La Paz county was the rare one* this year. I worked La Paz earlier when N6VQL/m called me. I'm not sure if he was working the QP or just traveling through, but it appears I certainly owe him a big thanks! That goes times six for KS7S/m, who did an outstanding job of county coverage in a big state with big counties.

Overall, I worked 80 unique calls with top honors to KS7S/m. Stations with 3 Qs included KK7AC, N7AT, N7CW and N7MAL. Besides KS7S/m (6) and N6VQL/m (1), the only other mobile I worked was KA0IYS/m with one contact. I also worked Gary, KE7DX, and compliment him and the Catalina Radio Club on a definite first year success. That hard work paid off!"

.

KM6HB Does New England

From an email from Mark:

"I did about 600 miles total. I worked ssb and some cw. 40,30 and 20. Propagation was generally poor with only a 2 hour window E.S.T. in the AM providing good propagation all over including west coast. Approx 300 qso's .

I put out all of Connecticut, Bristol, Ma and Washington, Kent, Providence and Bristol Rhode Island. Wx was very good with only one day of rain.

KM6HB Rental Car and Mast on Top

Highlight of the trip was a tour of W1AW. I guest operated from HQ for about an hour on 20 meters and worked a very steady pileup. I used their Yaesu FT 9000 dx. What a rig!!!!

Another highlight was giving out last counties to N4GOA, and K4EXT and others.

All ops on all the bands were very courteous. I appreciate the patience on cw. It's a lot different being on the other end giving out qso's. It was a lot of fun and my operating improved a lot from the first day to the end.

My rig was a Yaesu FT-100d, MFJ tuner and Hustler coils on a 22" mag mount mast.

KM6HB Temp Rig and Tuner Install in Rental Car

Hopefully more trips to come.

73

Mark KM6HB

State QSO Parties – California

As usual, the CA QSO Party was a big success! Mark, KO1U, indicated he had a ‘clean sweep’ on 20M, and missed only one on 15M from his QTH in MA.

N4CD was mobile for one of the days in NY/PA, so I had a bit of fun, but I missed Saturday as my nephew was getting married, and there was a lot of things going on at the family residence in NY state – and ham radio was not one of them! I caught a few dozen Qs on Sunday while I was putting out the counties in NY and PA, filling in some needs.

From the 3830 contest reflector:

NM2L (GA) 202cw 113 SSB – 57 or 58 mults - "Part time with my wires in the woods. Great Fun! I just ran out of operating time. "

K4BAI (GA) 364 CW 350 SSB - "Pretty good conditions. Good activity. Glad for good openings on 15M." (he noted 115 contacts on 15M!)

AD1C (CO) - 186 cw 164 ssb - "My first SWEEP! But I had the DX Cluster and the County Hunters' mIRC channel helping me. I think that except for Yolo, I would have worked all the rest without help.

Once again, "I wasn't going to operate this contest" but sat down for a few minutes shortly after 1700z, and 3 hours later, I had 53 counties in the log! So then I became compelled to look for the remaining 5 on and off Saturday night into Sunday.

I wanted to watch the New England Patriots play football Sunday morning, so I set up the laptop on the couch next to me. As I was setting up, about 10 minutes before game time, W6OT was spotted in Yolo, so I ran downstairs and got that one. About an hour later, K6CSL was spotted in Stanislaus, so I paused the game and had a marginal QSO. After returning to the game, about 5 minutes later, W6XK was spotted in Stanislaus with a booming signal. I worked him later on phone.

I was especially happy to work the last two CA counties I needed on 40 meters - Napa and Sierra - Saturday night.

Thanks to all the fixed, portable and mobile activity that makes this contest so successful. My "cloud warmer" must have just the right take-off angle for W6, as almost all signals were S9 or better (some were 20 to 35 over S9!)"

KN4Y (FL) 215 cw – "I did only CW and there were plenty of fixed stations to keep me occupied between my power naps. I worked only one mobile, in 13 counties, I guess going mobile is not recommended in a green state. Missed a clean sweep by three counties. Dang naps."

N4PN (GA) : 240cs 484 ssb – clean sweep - "Could only operate about half of this one...had to leave for Kentucky on Sunday afternoon for a meeting....then turn around on Monday and back home to get ready to leave on Tuesday morning for Honolulu and on to K4M..." (85 Qs on 15M)

W0BH (KS) 220 cw 787 SSB! (wow) - "One of my favorite parts of the CQP is the race to the Sweep. This year at 2020z, W6OAT/m rolled into Sutter and found me on 20m for #57. I knew Trinity was out there, but for the next four hours I was still looking. WB6FZH called in to end my pain at 0024z. A few minutes later, I finally found N6YEU in Trinity for the first of five contacts. I still can't see how I missed them for so long since they were so active, but that's the CQP!

Thanks to mobiles K6AQL/m for 5, K6VVA/m for 2 and W6OAT/m for 2. I worked many other casual mobiles and three maritime mobiles who all made me wish I could change places. I also wish I could have changed places with stations on the east coast to enjoy some 15m propagation. Lots of ops found me on 20 and told me I needed to go to 15, but I only heard a few of the strongest stations on 15 and it was usually a struggle to make the Q. 40 was also surprisingly tough even though signals seemed to be loud.

Overall, I worked 669 unique calls with special thanks to AE6Y, K6NA, K6XX, W6YI and W6YX FOR 7 Qs. As expected,
San Diego (120) and Los Angeles (105) came through with the most Qs with Santa Clara (75) not far behind."

Peak Oil Update 2009

While in Denver, I attended the 2009 ASPO (Association for the Study of Peak oil) convention. There were about 400 people from around the country and 38 countries present for the 3 day long event. They consistently deliver good, solid data on the state of energy and afford an opportunity for

vigorous and stimulating discussion with some of smartest and up-to-date experts in the world. This year was typically outstanding.

Here's a summary of what went on during those days by Chris Nelder.

"Perhaps the thing that struck me most was how much the outlook on peak oil has changed since the first conference in 2005. Those who thought conventional oil had probably peaked back then were considered extremely pessimistic, where the consensus view saw the peak another 5-10 years off, and the optimists put it 20 years away or more. Some thought the peak rate of "all liquids" would be around 100 million barrels per day (mbpd), up from 85 mbpd at the time. Most thought non-OPEC production would increase up through 2010. Biofuel boosters were sunny about their future.

Four years later, the view on oil and biofuel has grown considerably worse. We now know that conventional crude did in fact hit its peak-plateau in 2005, having remained around the 74 mbpd level ever since. The expected growth from non-OPEC mostly failed to materialize, as depletion of mature fields took its toll and the cost of new projects soared—especially for deepwater and production from marginal sources. More pessimistic observers now think the 87 mbpd all liquids peak recorded at the height of the 2008 boom was *the* peak, and the more optimistic ones have cut their expectations to under 100 mbpd, with 90 mbpd looking more likely.

Biofuels now have a black eye from the corn ethanol frenzy of 2007-2008, which has all but collapsed. Ethanol from algae and cellulose still looks about as far in the distance as it did in 2005, as no one has figured out how to produce either one at commercial scale or with an acceptable net energy return. And biodiesel has remained a minor player, with little expectation for it to scale up any time soon.

But the most surprising change has been the outlook for North American natural gas. In 2005, the majority of observers seemed to think it had peaked for good, and saw gas prices remaining in a high range of $11-15/Mcf. I don't think any of them expected the recent boom in North American shale gas, and there was certainly no suggestion that gas prices would crash to nearly $2 this year.

In fact the main worry about gas now seems to be that the shale gas boom will prove to be short-lived, and sucker us into building more vehicles and

infrastructure to use it just as it sputters out. We only have a couple of years of data to work with on shale gas wells, and the only good data is from the Barnett Shale.

Running down the depletion numbers on shale gas, analyst Arthur Berman found that in the first year of production decline rates have been in excess of 50% for Barnett wells, and 90-95% for Haynesville Shale wells. The average well in the Fayetteville Shale is "profoundly non-commercial" he said, and predicted that most shale gas wells will be abandoned in less than five years after their first production because the output will be so low.

There is also a fear, which I have articulated previously, that with an average production cost of $7-8/Mcf for shale gas and prices through most of 2009 staying around $4 or less, new wells simply haven't been getting drilled. The effects of that lapse should show up next year and cause our "glut" to disappear quickly, taking prices much higher. “

With the end of growth in the rate of global oil production now either in the past or looming in the next few years, attention is progressively focused on the depletion rates of mature oil fields and the rate and date of overall decline.

Most observers believe the globally averaged depletion rate has risen from 4.5% per year in 2007 to about 5 - 5.5% now, which will accelerate to around 6.5% per year by 2014. This is more or less in line with the average rates from IEA's report last year. Petroleum geologist Chris Skrebowski pointed out that a 5% per year decline rate means a loss of 4 mbpd per year, equivalent to all the volume of biofuels, tar sands and heavy oil combined, or losing the entire North Sea in about 14 months, and that it would be a huge challenge to replace those lost volumes.

Analysts using the Megaprojects database (of large oil projects started up after 2005) generally agree that production will peak in the 2009 - 2010 time frame. Net new supply each year is expect to begin declining around 2014 - 2015 as depletion overwhelms new projects. Supply may reach as high as 92 mbpd in 2010, then plateau to around 89 mbpd in 2014, then decline to 84 mbpd in 2020 and 78 mbpd in 2030.

That view was generally in line with comments from oil consultant and former head of exploration and production for Saudi Aramco, Sadad al-

Husseini, in a video interview clip. Seeing insufficient large new projects in the next 5 - 6 years to compensate for decline rates of 6.5% in non-OPEC and 3 - 4.5% for OPEC, he expects a shortage of capacity in the next 2 - 3 years.

The poster child for decline rates is, of course, Mexico with its crashing Cantarell field. Matthew Simmons projected that its decline would end Mexico's long era as an oil exporter in 18 - 36 months. David Shields, an author and expert on Mexican oil production, delivered a devastating indictment of the country's political leaders and its oil company Pemex, asserting that Pemex officials knew exactly what Cantarell was going to do as far back as 2002, but said exactly the opposite in public. A chart that Pemex shared with the Mexican Senate showed that production from its largest fields would fall to 1 mbpd by 2017, a full 1.8 mbpd lower than the official forecast of about 3 mbpd. If political manipulation is distorting the public impression of Mexico's near-term oil potential (and I believe Shields on this point) then it could be very bad news for the U.S., for which Mexico is the #3 source of oil imports.

On the whole, I would say there is now a strong consensus (at least among analysts who prefer data to faith) that global oil production will begin to decline in the 2012 - 2015 time frame. The later-dated estimate is based on the notion that the global recession of the last two years has probably given us that much longer before terminal decline sets in.

Peak oil deniers who have projected continued growth for many decades hence and ultimate peak rates of 120 mbpd or more have obliquely capitulated in the face of the recent evidence and switched to a "peak demand" argument: It's not that supply couldn't keep up for geological reasons, it's that demand wasn't strong enough to support high enough prices to raise supply further.

It's a classic tactic to try to change the game if you can't win it, but the peakers aren't buying it. As Skrebowski pointed out, the peak demand argument only really holds for the OECD, where demand is off a few percent from the peak.

The real demand story is shifting quickly to the developing world, particularly China. Analyst Steven Koptis projected that China would

overtake the U.S. as the top consumer of oil by 2018, and if supply is available, would double U.S. consumption by 2025.

Indeed, as petroleum geologist Jeffrey Brown pointed out in his presentation of the Export Land Model, the U.S. has already been outbid by *Kenya* for oil. According to the model he developed with Dr. Samuel Foucher, the top five oil exporters in 2005 will in aggregate reach zero net exports by 2032, and most of that will be shipped early on. In just three years, they shipped 1/5 of their total expected net exports after 2005.

As a counterpoint to the generally gloomy data on global oil supply and demand, a razzle-dazzle keynote was given by Dr. Marcio Rocha Mello, president of HRT Petroleum and a 24-year veteran of Brazil's oil company Petrobras. He asserted that the recent pre-salt finds in very deep formations off the shore of Brazil, like the much-hyped Tupi field, indicated that there was a great deal more oil in the pre-salt layers—we just need to drill deeper. In an extremely animated presentation that at times seemed more like a carnival sideshow than a serious analysis, Dr. Mello served up combination of stratigraphic charts and contrarian theory to make the case that between the pre-salt of Brazil, West Africa, the Congo basin and the Gulf of Mexico, there are another 500 billion barrels yet to find.

While entertaining and humorous, I don't think Dr. Mello made too many converts in the room. As former BP oil exploration chief Jeremy Gilbert pointed out the following morning, none of the alleged pre-salt oil is yet proved, and in fact he'd be surprised if there were 5 billion barrels of proved oil there. "Don't confuse passion with precision" he warned, and noted that it would take 20 - 30 years to prove the resource. In short, it doesn't change the peak oil story at all. By the time pre-salt barrels come online, we'll be well down the back side of the production curve. Rising resource nationalism in Brazil also bodes poorly for very many of those new barrels to make it to foreign markets. “

Source: http://investorvillage.com/smbd.asp?mb=4288&mn=39242&pt=msg&mid=8078569

Many of the presentations are on-line for those interested in pursuing it further:

http://www.aspo-usa.org/2009presentations/

State QSO Parties – PA

Norm, **W3DYA**, sent in the following on his PA QSO Party experience:

"My trip to MD and NJ was to visit relatives, but it was a good opportunity to operate mobile in the PQP so my wife agreed to drive.

We started OK in Fayette County, but were stuck in traffic at two construction sites for three hours in Allegheny County. We were way behind the planned schedule, so I skipped several counties (detours off interstate) but still arrived very late Saturday night at our reserved room in Altoona (Blair County). I didn't even bother to mount the 160M antenna: too cold, too dark, and too late!

Sunday was much better and activity seemed to increase right up until the end at 2200Z. It was just luck I was able to operate in Monroe, Wayne, and Lackawanna in the last hour. Always fun to finish with a flourish hi!

I managed 708 contacts, which is hardly worth mentioning, especially as I had a steady driver. Most on 40 and 20M, and a bunch on 80M; don't recall anything on 15 and 10M. I haven't got my log on the computer yet.

I had forgotten that this was primarily an intra-state contest, with extra points for contacts on 80 and 160M. I was disappointed in the activity, which just doesn't seem to measure up to the activity in the other contests I've been operating as a mobile in the past few years (GA, MS, LA, TX, OK to name a couple). But it's always a fun contest, and I probably need most of the counties I worked for third time CW.

There were also a couple of pleasant surprises on the trip. First, I passed Jim, N9JF, on Route 55 in AR. We stopped and had lunch - nice guy and pleasant rest stop. Paul, WB2ABD, suggested we try to meet in NW PA

and after the delay in Allegheny County I had given up. But we both arrived near the I79 and I80 intersection in the afternoon and managed a few minutes together.

I'll mail confirmations to the DX stations, as usual, after I get the lot in the database. I've already returned several cards which beat me home. All in all, it was good to get back to PA and visit relatives nearby.

73, Norm W3DYA

From the 3830 contest reflector:

Paul, **WB2ABD**, was out mobile and operated from home – "operated mobile at beginning of contest in PA (4 counties). Have to do a lot of work on mobile log, as the laptop died before starting - so it was the "Pencil-vania" QP. Came home and operated fixed the rest of the time. Had to answer a lot of questions about that. Didnt get too many mobile Q's - well inside of the skip zone. Plenty of home station activity."

K8MR(see pic above of him) : "Our W3USA/M route includes about a 4 mile stretch through rare Cameron county. Rather than sit parked there being a weak mobile, this year I took time out to throw up an 80/40 dipole at the Wycoff Run parking area and operate as a weak (but less weak) fixed station. The antenna was up about 25 feet at the center and five feet at the ends. I did chat with several people while putting it up and taking it down. Is there a Field Day like bonus for operation in a public place?

I never got any roaring pileups going, but people did answer my CQs, unlike the case when mobile on SSB. I tried CW but not get a quick response so went back to SSB.

For mobiles who do only SSB and don't operate while driving (a wise idea), I highly recommend taking the effort to put up a full size antenna so people will hear you. Be a rover rather than a mobile."

W3USA/m K8MR, AC8E)) "Again this year AC8E and I did a Sunday only route around WPA. I've decided that driving/riding for 6+ hours after dark when 80 meters is the only real band is not worth it. A big part of

mobile contesting, and especially in PA at this time of year is seeing the scenery while driving, which doesn't work well at night.

Our route takes us through a 5 mile corner of rare Cameron County. Along this stretch is a very nice trail head parking area where we've stopped in past years. This year I decided that if we were going to spend an hour parked there, we'd throw up an 80/40 dipole and have a chance to be heard. The PAQP rules don't allow mixing fixed rover setup operation with mobile operation, so we used K8MR as the call while parked in CRN. Did exactly on hour on the air plus setup and teardown time. See the K8MR report for more about that. We were in fact low power, not high power as listed.

Conditions seemed OK other than an hour around noon in Blair County. We had the same thing happen last year, maybe there is something about that time of day. Out of state activity did seem down a bit, with a number of the usual folks who follow around in the various states missing in action. Not sure what that was about, maybe they can't take seriously a contest that requires a snail mailed summary sheet?

Despite the break for the CRN portable operation, our score was up from last year. 80 meters played well for most of the time. As we did in Ohio, we used a "mini-window" concept of using 3540 for short frequent visits. Our 80 meter CW QSOs were up a hundred from 2008, and with also more 75 meter visits had about 15 more counties.

All four 15 meter qsos were with NN3NN. Found that we could "QRB" (Q-can you Run the Bands?) very efficiently. Had 20 qsos with Ty, plus one from the K8MR CRN operations.

So a good time was had. The mobile gear has been packed away until next April's Michigan QSO Party. See you then! “

Gore-Backed Car Firm Gets Large U.S. Loan

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125383160812639013.html?mod=...

A tiny car company backed by former Vice President Al Gore has just gotten

a $529 million U.S. government loan to help build a hybrid sports car in Finland that will sell for about $89,000.

The award this week to California startup Fisker Automotive Inc. follows a $465 million government loan to Tesla Motors Inc., purveyors of a $109,000 British-built electric Roadster. Tesla, like Fisker, is a California startup focusing on high-end hybrids, with a number of celebrity endorsements that is backed by investors that have contributed to Democratic campaigns.

The awards to Fisker and Tesla have prompted concern from companies that have had their bids for loans rejected, and criticism from groups that question why vehicles aimed at the wealthiest customers are getting loans subsidized by taxpayers. “

Our money is being risked to create jobs in Finland and Britain to build cars that only rich people can afford while at the same time enriching Al Gore and other big Dem donors. This is what I would expect from the folks who brought us AGW hysteria and hype.

Oil Train Wreck Coming?

“World oil prices hit their highest point for a year yesterday, as a major new report urged governments around the world to take drastic action to head off an approaching oil supply crunch.

US light crude futures pushed above $79 a barrel, supported by the view that a recovering world economy would raise demand for crude. Oil prices have more than doubled from the low point they hit in the spring, but are still around half the all-time high of nearly $150 a barrel they reached in early summer last year.

Analysts have been surprised at the recent resilience of oil prices given the impact on energy demand of the global recession. In spite of this year's volatility in the oil price, the underlying trend for a decade has been for it to rise steadily.

A report from the non-governmental organization Global Witness – famous for its exposé of so-called "blood diamonds" – pointed to an impending supply shock that could be so severe that many of the world's poor countries would simply be shut off from the world of energy by sky-high prices.

Two years in the preparation, Global Witness's report, Heads in the Sand, accused governments of ignoring the fact that the world could soon start to run short of oil. This would lead to huge consequences in terms of price shocks and much higher levels of violence around the world than last year's food riots.

"There is a train crash about to happen from an energy point of view. But politicians everywhere seem to have entirely missed the scale of the problem," said the report's author, Simon Taylor.

"We are all addicted to oil but if you look at the mathematics of the problem, they simply don't add up in terms of future supply and demand."

The report went through the latest figures from the oil industry and the Paris-based International Energy Agency, which last year drastically reduced its estimate of the available oil.

The IEA figures showed there could be a gap of 7m barrels a day between supply and demand by 2015. That represents about 8% of the expected world demand by then of 91m barrels a day.

The IEA expects production from existing oilfields to fall by 50% between now and 2020 and warned the world needs to find an additional 64m barrels a day of capacity by 2030 – equivalent to six times current Saudi Arabian production.

But Global Witness took issue with the IEA's recommendation that the oil industry spend $450bn a year chasing these supplies, many of which may well not be there. Because of the demands of climate change, the report argued, the money would be better invested in moving rapidly to a post-oil world of renewable energy and conservation.

Taylor said even the new IEA projections of how much new oil the world would discover were likely to be over-optimistic. He said the so-called "big"

oil discoveries of the last few years added up to nothing like the "discovery rate" needed to replace the world's dwindling supplies from existing fields. They have totaled around 16bn barrels, or only around 1.7m barrels a day, once up and running.

The report said that between 2005 and 2008, global oil production ceased to grow in spite of widespread investment and rising prices, which should normally have brought forth a big rise in supply. It notes that the biggest year for new discoveries was 1965, since when they have been falling. Global oil production overtook new discoveries in 1984 and has outpaced them ever since.

It also dismissed as myth a widely held expectation that tar sands in Canada could fill the supply gap. Tar sands are unlikely ever to yield more than 3-4m barrels a day, equivalent to the pace at which existing fields are declining every year.

Taylor said the four key issues about oil – declining output, declining discoveries, increasing demand and insufficient projects in the pipeline – have been apparent for many years.

"But governments and multilateral agencies have failed to recognize the imminence and scale of the global oil supply crunch, and most of them remain completely unprepared for its consequences," he said.

"There has been a decade of dithering and it is now too late to avoid the consequences unless the authorities move like there is no tomorrow."

Dr Jeremy Leggett, author of books on peak oil and convener of the UK Industry Taskforce on Peak Oil and Energy Security, said: "A steep premature descent in global oil production would be worse than the credit crunch in terms of economic impact. Unlike the credit crunch, however, the peak oil risk assessment involves big companies sounding the alarm alongside organizations like Global Witness."

Source: http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2009/oct/19/oil-prices-rise-supply-warning-report

Iowa QSO Party

On Saturday, Oct 17, the reconstituted IOWA QSO party was held. It was a good one , with several mobiles out and about, plus many fixed stations on the air for the event.

Jeff, W9MSE was running in the northern part of the state. Pete, NN9K, was running in the south part of the state, and Bill , NU0Q, was in the middle of the state. All were running through at least a dozen counties. K0PC was mobile as well. Conditions from TX were good most of the time on 40M, although it went nearly dead a few times in the afternoon. I needed about 15 and filled in about half of them. There were probably a hundred spots. From TX, not a peep on 20M, but I heard folks calling the mobiles naturally. There were spots on 20M SSB as well.

From the 3830 contest reflector:

N6MU - 66 cw Q, 56 mults -7 "Interesting rule only allowing one Q per mode. Not much activity other than the four mobiles who kept it going. Top mobile was NN9K(17) followed by K0PC(16), W9MSE(14) and NU0Q(9). They accounted for 85% of my Qs.

K0PC/M 465 cw Q "Thanks to the Ottumwa ARC for sponsoring the IA QSO Party. Great job! A beautiful day for a ride through the country side and a nice turn out for the first year of the QP.

40M was the money band but 20M provided good propagation and some nice DX to Europe during the day. Then there was power house DL3DXX who worked me on both 20 & 40 (I don't think I was doing much of the work on those Qs).

Many familiar calls and great signals in the log. Thanks to the following stations for contributing more than half the QSOs

K8MFO(17)
N6MU(16)

W7GVE(16)
KO1U(16)
NT5O(14)
K0HNC(9)
N4VA(8)
DL3DXX(8)
NN8L(8)
K4AMC(8)
K9EN(7)
KI2G(7)
WB0PYF(7)
LY9A(6)
AD1C(6)
N7JXS(6)
K8QWY(6)
W0GXQ(5)

Thanks to my faithful driver John, W9DND, and to all of you for riding along.

73, Pat K0PC"

Obama and the Dog

So Obama tells you that YOU will have to reduce your carbon footprint? How about starting with him?

"Save the planet: time to eat dog?

www.stuff.co.nz/environment/2987848/Save-the-planet-time-to-...

The eco-pawprint of a pet dog is twice that of a 4.6-litre Land Cruiser driven 10,000 kilometres a year, researchers have found.

Victoria University professors Brenda and Robert Vale, architects who specialize in sustainable living, say pet owners should swap cats and dogs

for creatures they can eat, such as chickens or rabbits, in their provocative new book Time to Eat the Dog: The real guide to sustainable living.

The couple have assessed the carbon emissions created by popular pets, taking into account the ingredients of pet food and the land needed to create them.

"If you have a German shepherd or similar-sized dog, for example, its impact every year is exactly the same as driving a large car around," Brenda Vale said."

Oh, wow! Did anyone tell Obama this before he bought a dog? Did anyone tell Al Gore this? Let's see…if we want to get the equivalent of 1 million cars off the road….. we go after the dogs? Reduce our carbon footprint? Do the 'greenies' know this? Have they given up their pets?

New York QSO Party

This year it turned out to be a good event. It starts late and runs till the wee hours of the morning – making it difficult for mobiles to get in much time before it gets dark. For the past few years, the only NY activity has been a teeny weeny activity event where almost no one ever showed up - rather dull, to put in mildly. This year was the first real NY QSO Party in decades.

The weather didn't cooperate with some snow in the south portion, but at least two dozen fixed stations were on the air, some in 'rare' counties. I worked a few dozen stations, most on 20M, but come late afternoon, 40M was decent for the louder stations. In the evening activity shifted to 80M as RTTY moved in on 40M, and activity just vanished on 40M during the evening hours.

I noted two mobiles – Paul, WB2ABD was out, and W2LC ran several counties. I listened on 15M but no joy. It looks like W2JO was also out mobile.

WB2ABD noted: "40's and rain in Monroe, 60's and sun in Yates, 33 and snow in Allegany, 31 and heavy fog in Cattaraugus and Erie ... what an interesting drive for the NYQP. BTW the absolute worst A/C line noise was in Chemung...

"Park and run: no driver
Too many Murphy hits to list...but at least I didn't have to touch a pencil this time. Weather ranged from rain and 40 to sun and 65 to snow and 30 in greater WNY: had to dodge many deer in pea-soup fog in so. Erie.
Ran SEN YAT SCH CHE TIO STE ALL WYO CAT ERI: changed route when weather turned.

Need to have the contest time slot moved back for more daylight operating time. Thanks to everyone who heard and worked me, and to RDXA and participating clubs for sponsoring the event. C'ya next year... with real antennas."

From the 3830 contest reflector:

AK2X/m – 57 SSB Q – "Everything went well for the first 3 counties, after a brief "Ham Dinner" at my Sisters, propagation seemed gone. From 7pm local to 10pm local we made 4 Qs. Turns out we broke the shield on the coax connecting the radio to the tuner. OOOps."

K8MR (OH) - "It's only two hours to the New York state line, so I had considered driving up to operate mobile. However, once I realized the hours, I gave up that idea pretty quickly. Driving around for 8 hours after dark when 80 meters is likely your only working band is not my idea of a good time. Little did I know that I would have had to deal with snow as well!

I had hoped to spend more time than I did, but a one hour job of reorienting a side mounted yagi at K8AZ turned into a bigger project when we discovered that the boom to mast plate was seriously cracked. We got it

fixed, but after that and taking my wife out to dinner it was 80 and 160 only time.

Not much evening activity from the NYC area. Was everyone watching the Yankees instead?"

W2LC/M (QRP) "I got a late start since the coax connections to the antenna mag-mount were so rusted there wasn't any connection left. No wonder it hasn't been working well. A trip to the hardware store for a couple drill bits and a 3/8-24 tap, and about 45 minutes of work and I was back in business. I broke the rusted bolt trying to get it apart, so I had to drill out what was left of the bolt, re-tap the hole, replace the bolt, re-do the coax connections and put it back together. I guess I am ready for next year. I only started about 30 minutes late, so that's not too bad.

I was running 5 watts with an FT817, since I couldn't get my TS-430 to work, not enough juice from the 12V outlet. I didn't have time to tie into the ground on the vehicle, so I taped a couple radials to the top of my Caravan which seemed to help. 75 QSO's mobile with 5 watts isn't too bad. So OK2EC if you are reading this, I am really impressed that you were able to hear my 5 watts on 40 meters!

My directions were pretty good so I didn't get lost - well not too much. And I only hit one tree with the antennas, which is amazing since the whips were on top of my Caravan. Driving through Ontario, Seneca and Yates counties by Seneca Lake is some of the most beautiful NY country side you would ever want to see.

All of the Seneca Lake wineries (the west side of the lake) seemed to have something going on, but I didn't stop for any wine tastings. I was really tempted, but I pushed on. I stopped at a lake side parking area in Geneva and enjoyed Seneca Lake while working stations. The finger lakes region of New York state is a great place to visit if you like great countryside and wine tours.

After dark my otherwise good directions got much harder to follow, the darkness made it much more difficult to see the road signs, but I managed. I went way on top of some hill in Schuyler County but by that time 20 meters was dead and 40 meters was pretty long. I couldn't work many stations from what is one of the least populated county in New York. A lucky 4

stations made the log (40m CW) for Schuyler County even OK2EC, my vote for best ears in the world.)

I activated 7 counties including Onondaga, Cayuga, Wayne, Seneca, Ontario, Yates, and Schuyler. My plan was to activate 4 more counties, Chemung, Tioga, Steuben and Tompkins, but 20 meters went dead about 6:30PM local. 40 meters went so long that 40 was basically useless after about 7:30PM local. No 40m and no 20m with 6 and a half hours left in the contest! Ouch! That really hurt, since my best mobile band is 20m. 40m worked okay too, but not enough daylight for the shorter distance contacts.

Looks like 47 QSO's on 20m and 27 QSO's on 20m, and only 1 QSO on 80m. 80 meters didn't sound good, very long skip and I couldn't hear the NY stations too well, let alone work any of them.

I called CQ on 40m for an hour without an answer, so I decided to pack it in. The last 2 hours yielded only 2 QSO's. I tried 80m but all the New York stations were S-zero and I could only hear W1IBQ and W0BH. QRP and mobile on 80m doesn't work too well.

Actually all the bands went so long so early I didn't work a single NY station! I am very disappointed that I couldn't work anyone in NY. I was hoping to work some of those rare NY counties myself. Oh well. At least I was able to give out a few.

73 Scott W2LC/m"

W0BH (KS) "Good activity and great fun for an excellent first NYQP! Activity really slowed down during the game and late, but some good runs in between. I picked up 6 mobiles, but only worked each of them once:

WB2ABD, WJ20, K2ZAA, W2PV, N2YTF, KC2QZF.

It was obvious from several of the posts that the late hours discouraged mobile activity which is really important to most QSO parties. I enjoy going /m in QSO parties as well, but my enjoyment really declines after dark because the driving and navigation becomes more difficult and 80m mobile is less efficient than higher bands. Perhaps a change in hours would help get more mobile activity out there for next year.

Having said that, the fixed activity was excellent. Overall, I worked 125 unique calls. “

Illinois QSO Party

This was another good one with good mobile activity, some portables, and many fixed stations getting on for the event. There seem to be more portables than many other QSO parties, with some sitting on a 3 or 4 way county lines giving out all with one contact. That can be a problem for county hunters who normally only work ‘two’ at one time on a county line, but the rules for each QSO Party are different and IL allow you to have contacts for all 2,3, or 4 counties with a single contact for that station. How you log it is up to you for your own record keeping.

Jeff, W9MSE, and Pete, NN9K, after driving all over IA on Saturday, were again mobile on Sunday in the IL QSO Party along with several other mobiles, like K9AA, KJ9C, W9WI, N9BIL, and others on SSB. The band was in and out like a yo-yo during the afternoon. By evening the RTTY was moving in, and most of the activity shifted to 80M. However, things were good till dinner time.

From the 3830 contest reflector:

NO5W (TX) 80 CW QSO – “Nice party. I stayed longer than I had planned but had no problem staying interested with the good activity on the part of the IL ops and a few visiting mobiles. I was really surprised at how productive 80M was when I returned from dinner and decided to give it a try not thinking it would yield much. I particularly enjoyed working the two stations on the four corner county boundaries.”

KN4Y (FL) “Great band conditions, Great mobile numbers, Great signals, Great mobile CW operators, Great CW fixed stations, Great county line operations, Great QSO Party. and did I say it was Great fun?”

W0BH (KS) "Good conditions into IL from KS this year. I worked 174 unique calls. The mobiles were out in full force and did an excellent job :

15 KJ9C
10 K9AA - consistently loudest mobile into Kansas award!
7 N9BIL N9JF W9MSE
5 N9DT N9YPN
4 NN9K W9WI
3 W9OES

I worked W9MSE and NN8K on Saturday in the IAQP as well .. good warm-up! Other dedicated stations included the 4-county portables. Those Qs really help fill up the log. Top fixed/portable stations included:

N9FN NF9D KX9DX WA9LT"

Sadat Al Husseini on Oil

The former VP of Engineering at Saudi Aramco speaks: (from a video presentation at the ASPO Convention):

"**Sadad:** I'm a geologist by training and a reservoir engineer—production engineer—by actual work experience. I started with Aramco back in 1970 and retired in 2004. Most of my time was spent with exploration and production activities but also in project management. I've carried on after that as a consultant.

Question: Assume for the moment that declines in demand have flattened and that we resume modest growth in demand in a year or so. Are there adequate new oil projects in the pipeline to meet rising demand for a few more years?

Sadad: I've been tracking the number of projects, globally, for a long time both in the Middle East and elsewhere—Russia, Brazil, west coast of Africa,

and others. A lot of this information is in the public domain, so there is no mystery there. The International Energy Agency recently reported on the same numbers. The bottom line is that there are not enough projects. There is not enough new capacity coming on line, within say the next five to six years, to make up for global declines. And that's assuming a very moderate level of declines—6% to 6.5% for non-OPEC, perhaps a 3.5% to 4% decline rate for OPEC.

Even at these modest decline rates, we are basically going to see a shortage of capacity within two to three years. We're being lulled by this current excess capacity, which has more to do with lower demand than anything to do with supply. So we do have a problem in the near term. In the longer term it's even worse because in the longer term the lead time to discover, develop and put on line production runs into 10 years. And there isn't enough being done in the long term as well. So it's both a short and a long-term problem.

Question: In Saudi Arabia, is 12.5 million barrels a day now sustainable and is there a plan to expand capacity beyond that?

Sadad: Saudi Arabia has a very credible and professional record in terms of declaring capacity and meeting its production targets. When the Kingdom announced a target of 12.5 million barrels of capacity, they actually committed funds to develop that capacity and we've seen them now commissioning those: 250,000 additional barrels in Shaybah; 1.2 million barrels in Khurais; 500,000 in Khursaniyah; 900,000 coming on stream in a couple of years in Manifa. So these are real projects and real capacities. I don't think there is an issue that Saudi Arabia can deliver the oil it says it can deliver. The question is, what about the rest of the world? Is the rest of the world able to make up the difference? If we're looking at 85 to 90 million barrels a day, and Saudi Arabia delivers 12.5 million, who's going to deliver the rest and how much effort is going into that? And with decline rates of 7% to 8%, that's four or five million barrels a year of net new capacity that has to come from new projects. So that's where the challenge is. I don't think the problem is Saudi Arabia. I think the problem is the rest of the world.

Question: Why do you think there is so much denial that world oil production is approaching or has reached a plateau?

Sadad: There is a push-back to the notion that there is a plateau in world oil supplies which is largely based on lack of information or lack of research. In

fact, if you look at published information—for example, British Petroleum's annual statistical report—it very clearly shows that from 2003 forward, oil production has hardly increased. So the information is there. If you look at some of the advertising that Chevron has been putting out for years now, they clearly say we're half-way through the world's reserves. The information is there. The facts are there. Oil prices did not jump four-fold over a three- or four-year period for any reason other than a shortage of supply. Yes, there may have been some recent volatility in 2008, but the price trend started climbing way back in 2002-2003. So, these are realities and the push-back is a sense that somehow the market is not able to deal with these realities, that somehow people can't cope with these realities. On the other hand, if you don't talk about them, you never will fix the situation. This is not going to get any better. This is going to get worse because you have population growth all over the world, you have a standard of living that is improving all over the world, you have aspirations across the globe for a better quality of life, and people want energy, so it's actually important to talk about the facts and come up with solutions rather than act as if these issues don't exist and then wait for some solution to materialize out of nowhere. That's a role of government—to highlight these issues and to fix them, or at least take a stand and try to fix them. So I think the push-back is probably ill-advised.

Question: What are your views about the roles of unconventional oil supplies going forward?

Sadad: I think it's very important to understand the difference between conventional oil projects and unconventional oil projects—let's say, the extra-heavy crudes. The IEA put out their report in 2008 on the long term. They listed a whole lot of projects. If you look at the conventional oil projects, which I have, and plot the cumulative capacity against cumulative cost, what you come up with is $30,000 to $32,000 per barrel of capacity for conventional oil. That's for projects coming on-stream between 2008 and 2015. If you look at the unconventional—that's the Canadian extra-heavy, and I included two Qatari gas-to-liquids projects—the cost per barrel of capacity is $92,000 per barrel. It's three times the cost of conventional oil. That means that if you want 100,000 barrels of unconventional oil (syncrude), you've got to invest $9 billion. And those are just at current costs. For the conventional oil, when you can find it, it's $3 billion per 100,000 barrels/day. But even the conventional has gotten very expensive. If you look at the Tengiz and the Kashagans, they're running $40 billion to $50

billion to get 500,000 to 600,000 barrels of oil/day. So everything is getting far more expensive and slower to develop.

I think, yes, we will have synthetic crude oil. The Germans ran their World War II machine on coal-to-liquids, but that was a very expensive solution; we can't replace 80 million barrels a day with coal-to-liquids. So they will be important supplements but not replacements.
Question: Will the net energy penalty associated with unconventional oil resources be a large drag on their development?

Sadad: There no doubt that the energy that goes into extracting extra-heavy crudes—be it in the form of fuels such as natural gas to heat the bitumens to get them to flow, be it in terms of the surface process of mining two tons of sand for one barrel of oil, then the cracking and refining to convert them to synthetic crudes—these are very high penalties. The same thing goes with gas-to-liquids; basically it takes one-third of the gas to deliver the other two-thirds as a liquid. So these have diminishing returns. Yes, you will be able to deliver, I think everybody forecasts 4 or 5 million a day from unconventional crudes, maybe going to 8 or even 10 million barrels by 2030. But that 8 million a day is only 10 percent of total consumption. It's not a solution.

Question: There have recently been a lot of fairly recent announcements about new oil discoveries. Can you put those in context for us? How and when will they contribute to the world's oil supply?

Sadad: There has been a regular number of discoveries in the last, say, five to ten years, in terms of major fields and even giant fields, in the ultra-deep-water in the Gulf of Mexico, for example. But these are very tight formations and very expensive. When you drill a well that costs you $80 million to $90 million, that one well doesn't tell you what the reserves are so you have to go drill four or five additional wells to delineate the accumulation. And then you have to look at how you are going to stimulate and fracture what is basically source rock at that depth. These become very expensive accumulations to develop. The West African fields, say in Angola, are a tremendous exploration success, but they've now moved from the shelf to the deep continental shelf, and they're running out of concession area, out of acreage.

In Brazil, Tupi is a fantastic discovery; in a geophysical sense the seismic has been superb, the clarity of delineation is wonderful. These are formations that should have plenty of permeability.

On the other hand, [with some of these new finds] you do have issues of paraffinic crudes, of very sour gases that have to be separated from the production gas and reinjected into the reservoir. You have salt zones that are very plastic and may be an issue in terms of maintaining well integrity. So there are a lot of challenges that come with these fields that need technology breakthroughs in their own rights. So yes, we have had discoveries, they are important, they are slow to evolve. If the Tupi discovery, which happened a couple of years ago, is going to take until 2017 or 2018 to be online, that's a long time to wait. What's the target? A million barrels a day. Declines will have overcome that rate a long time earlier, certainly in Brazil itself. So we're basically staying even."

Source: http://www.aspousa.org/index.php/2009/09/interview-with-sadad-al-husseini/

Alaska Statehood Day

About a dozen stations around Alaska got on for the Alaska Statehood Day (10/18) celebration. KL5O callsign was used at multiple stations. I heard quite a few county hunters working KL5O on 20 CW, and heard them weakly on 17m. The KL50 live spot site had them spotted up through 10M worldwide – cw, ssb, RTTY, PSK31. A special QSL card is available.

Check out www.KL5O.com Soon you'll be able to see your Qs that are in their log.

The Bakken "OIL FIND"

Folks keep sending around emails about the Bakken Oil find, which 'has more oil than all of Saudi Arabia'. True. And the oceans hold more gold

than all the gold in Ft. Knox. It's amazing the hype and misconceptions that are around.

Yes, the Bakken likely holds 500 billion barrels of oil, more than Saudi has. Unfortunately, it is not in conventional reservoirs, and the US Geological Survey (USGS) estimates that out of those 500 billion or so barrels of oil, spread out over Canada and two US states in a thin layer, that you might be able to recover about 3.65 billion barrels – over 20-30-40 years or more.

Now, according to the emails and promotions going around, the Bakken is supposed to 'end our dependence' upon foreign oil, etc. blah blah.

Let's do the math. We use 20 million barrels of oil a day in the US. That is 365x20, or 7.65 billion barrels a year….of which 60% is imported. So, even if you could suck the Bakken dry in one year, it would be less than half a year's supply for the US. Going to end our oil dependence? Hardly. On the other hand, you might be lucky to get to 200-300 thousand barrels a day and maintain it – hardly enough to replace the 12 million we import every single day from sources outside the country. Maybe a half million barrels a day. Now, even a fifth grader will tell you that a half million is a lot less than 12 million.

The other great promotional 'find' is the oil shales in CO and UT. Great…except no one has yet figured out how to extract solid rock, melt the oil precursor keragen from it, and not use more than a barrel's worth of energy to do it. Yep…there is 'two trillion barrels' of oil precursor locked in solid rock that must be melted out. Just like there is a few trillion in gold simply in ocean water dissolved, and on the bottom of the ocean in layers of sediment. All you need is a way to spend less than $1000/oz to recover it in large quantities. And you'll find that as the price of gold goes up, the cost to recover it will go up even faster.

So when you see these emails going around, send them to the 'trash file' where they belong. Bakken = ½ year supply for the US at best – but of course, if you know oil, it will be extracted over 30-40 years, so it is about 0.3% of the oil needed by the world each year in what it will produce. Oil Shales out west – figure out how to heat cubic miles of earth for several years up to 600-700 degrees, freeze around the edges and bottom to keep the oil from contaminating the water table, and use less energy that what you

will produce with the recovered keragen, and you'll be rich. Same as recovering all that gold and uranium in sea water.

Here's a good simple explanation of the Bakken you can send to those who keep sending you these pie in the sky emails.

http://energy.usgs.gov/flash/Bakken_slideshow.swf

Getting Folks Finished Up

Here some stats from the MARAC database – Number of people completing USA-CA in the last 10 years, per year

2000	23
2001	23
2002	22
2003	27
2004	22
2005	23
2006	16
2007	18
2008	13
2009*	12

Well, that is not a good trend. Starting about 4-5 years ago, the number of folks finishing up for first time has taken a serious nose dive. Unlike DXing, where when the upper HF bands die, county hunting has activity on 80, 40, 30 and 20M – and folks can go and get your counties, you can work them at 10 feet mobile to mobile, and have other ways to work around bad propagation. In the past, when DX has gotten abysmal, hams have gravitated toward county hunting, which you can do regardless of the sunspot cycle. Will things turn around? We need to keep interesting folks in county hunting to keep it alive, and get new mobiles out there to work.

Al Gore Wrong Once Again

THE starkest views of climate change paint war as a looming threat. The idea that violence will erupt as drought and rising sea levels displace people from their homes is, in part, why the Nobel Prize for peace was awarded in 2007 to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and Al Gore. Yet a newly published study analyzing the historical connection between war and climate throws into question the assumption that rising temperatures and violence go hand in hand.

Aware that evidence for the link was lacking, Richard Tol of the Economic and Social Research Institute in Dublin, Ireland, and Sebastian Wagner of GKSS, a research institute near Hamburg, Germany, set out to collect data on climate and conflict in Europe over the past thousand years. Their results have just been published in *Climatic Change*.

"The chart shows the correlation between the number of conflicts and the average temperature during most of the second half of the millennium, the period for which the data are best. Until the mid-18th century, this correlation is continuously and significantly negative (the line remains close to the 95% confidence level, suggesting there is only one chance in 20 that it is an accidental, random effect). **In other words, lower temperatures mean more wars."**

Source:
http://www.economist.com/sciencetechnology/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14585709

Well, wouldn't you know it. Al Gore is wrong once again on an issue. Can't he do anything right other than create ever increasing levels of hysteria so he and his cronies can haul megabucks to the bank while laughing all the way? Is he smarter than a fifth grader? Apparently not!

Has Saudi Peaked?

In a discussion with Jim Puplava, FS Radio, Jeffrey Brown described his analytical work with Dr. Samuel Foucher, also part of logi Energy, where they determined that annual production in Saudi Arabia has never exceeded the production in 2005 and believe it never will.

Jeffrey went on to discuss his land export model and the ramifications of depleting oil fields and increasing demands within exporting countries by their own citizens. He and Dr. Foucher have determined, through deep analytics, that the exports from the top 5 exporting countries has peaked and half of all oil ever to be exported after 2005 by these countries will be exported within 4 years, by 2013.

If this proves to be true, the biggest ramification for this prediction is that there will be global oil shortages in the US and other OECD countries before 2013 even at the current low demand levels. The practical application of this statement is less exports resulting in an increased likelihood of gas rationing in the US.

Jeffrey Brown, logi Energy's VP Global Oil Supply Analysis, joined Jim Puplava on his renowned Financial Sense Newshour as the FSN News Team Energy Expert. The segment, posted October 24 at 1:00 AM, can be accessed any time for listeners' convenience and Jeffrey's' full presentation can be downloaded on the Financial Sense Newshour webpage.

Jeffrey, with his oil and gas exploration and production experience from West Texas, is most likely the global leader in interpreting the analytical modeling of these phenomena. He has been speaking on the subject nationwide and is the co-developer of the Export Land Model as a way to predict future export capacity from the world's major oil exporters. This month he delivered a paper to the Association for the Study of Peak Oil & Gas–USA, presenting the work that he and his frequent co-author, Samuel Foucher, have done on the top five net oil-exporting countries.

Awards

4th Time #145	WQ7A, Terry	10/13/09
Ran All Counties #9	N8KIE, Bob	10/709
Second Time #394	WB4KZW, Gene	10/13/09
Five Star #43	KA1NX, Nick	10/8/09
Bingo III #16	N0ZA, Ross	10/6/09
Bingo #313	W9JR, Rich	10/6/09
USA-PA-N #6	KC3X, Hollis	10/5/09
USA-PA-N #5	N8KIE, Bob	9/26/09
USACA #1188	W3DLM, Don	9/26/09
USA-PA-N #8	N9STL, Joyce	10/19/09
USA-PA-N #7	WA5OPO, Ray	10/08/09
USA-CC- 1x3 #5	N9STL, Joyce	10/19/09
USA-CA #1190	K9AAA, Dave	10/26/09
USA-CA #1189	N8RLJ, Jaclyn	10/26/09
Bingo IV #4	KC3X, Hollis	10/23/09
Seventh Time #15	KC3X, Hollis	10/23/09
Bingo #314	N6PDB, Dennis	10/27/009
Bingo II #63	KA1JPR, Percy	9/22/09
Five Star #42	KA1JPR, Percy	10/3/09
Ran All Counties #10	N8RLJ, Jaclyn	10/26/09
USA-CC-1x3 #6	N8RLJ, Jaclyn	10/26/09
USA-PA-N #9	N8RLJ, Jaclyn	10/26/009
Mobile to Mobile #10	N8RLJ, Jaclyn	10/26/09

Operating Events for County Hunters

There is one QSO Party, plus the ARRL November Sweepstakes Contests – SSB and CW. Don't get caught trying to run counties on these weekends – it's a real zoo on the bands. OK to run cw on SSB weekend or vice versa, but forget trying to compete with 10,000 stations calling CQ SS contest – unless you want to hide out on 30M on cw that weekend and hope there is no DXpedition either messing up 30M – hi hi.

ARRL CW Sweepstakes NOV 7
http://www2.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/novss.html

Kentucky QSO Party RST and serial or KY county www.wkdxa.com
Nov 14, 1400Z - Nov 15, 0200Z
CW--1.815, 3.550, 7.050, 14.050, 21.050, 28.050, 50.090;
SSB--1.855, 3.820, 7.240, 14.280, 21.390, 28.390, 50.190.

ARRL SSB Sweepstakes Nov 21-22
http://www2.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/novss.html

The last State QSO Party of the year will be held Dec 31 – the new South Dakota QSO Party. Keep that date open to catch some SD stations. In Dec – 160M contest, 10M contest.

That's it for this month. Whew – been a busy month for QSO Parties – and we can wind down coverage of those for a while. See you next month.

More spots were seen on 15M toward the end of the month, and in the CQP. The solar flux got up above 72 for several days, making 17M and 15M contacts easier, but skip still very long on those bands. Heard folks from the west coast working mobiles on east coast, but never heard the mobiles.