

County Hunter News

October 1, 2005

Volume 1, Issue 10

Welcome to the On-Line County Hunter News, a monthly publication for those interested in county hunting, with an orientation toward CW operation. Thanks to Dennis, KK7X, who has provided us web space to bring you each edition of the CHN. Please visit his site, www.countyhunter.com and explore the many pages and pictures located there.

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, or provide news of upcoming events.

We hope you will enjoy the new County Hunter News. Feel free to forward, or provide links. Permission is given for copying or quoting in part or all (except to MARAC, Inc, or Officers/Directors of MARAC), provided credit is given.

De N4CD (email: telegraphy@prodigy.net)

Notes from the Editor

This month we announce another major improvement in the CHN. Next month, the On-Line County Hunting News will have its own URL – www.CHNewsonline.com . You'll either be able to take a link just like now from countyhunter.com, or go directly to the website address of the CHN.

This will provide us extra flexibility and allow the CHNewsonline to do bigger and better things in the future. The link from the KK7X website will remain, along with the link for the K3IMC forum! .

After last's month's issue, we received several emails saying that it was about time that someone talked about all the trashing and bashing that had been going on for the last seven years. Some of the feedback included:

“I enjoy your monthly editorial and am glad to see that I am not alone in my feelings about the SSB net on 20. I fit the

description of an old county hunter who came back I went back to my old net on 14336 and was blown away by the rudeness of the net control. I was active when K6KPS was a problem on the net, but this guy makes KPS look like a saint.

Several months ago I got to directly feel his hatefulness. I asked for a relay, and as I was repeating the report, KZ2P and I doubled. At that point, he went ballistic”

Our hobby doesn't need the likes KZ2P/K2JG.”

Another wrote:

“It's sad that it had to be taken so far before "forced change" was mandated but it's past time something happened. Your "KA1JPR" article is strong (I didn't say incorrect) and I have seen too much of his operating practices that you described. There'd be no finer NCS than Jim if What a tremendous asset he could be.”

A few others appear to have decided to take some verbiage from the chat room, and ‘complain’ not to the author of the newsletter about anything that was incorrect, but to others complaining that “someone” should ‘shut down N4CD’. Really? I suspect the only ones wanting to “shut down N4CD” (and the County Hunter News) are the two that are **STILL** bashing folks on 14.336, or those few who feel any actions and comments are justified as long as a net control shows up to run whatever mobiles are ‘allowed to run that day.

I suppose if you are front page news in the CHN, you might be upset. **The solution is really easy – just stop the ‘trashing, bashing, and banning, and there won’t be anything to write about!** That obviously solution seems to have eluded KA1JPR and KZ2P.

Really, folks, just how many folks use the word “aggrandizing” in everyday email? Sounds like a word coming straight from the ‘chat room’, doesn’t it?

So what is ‘aggrandizing’? A dictionary definition is:

ag·gran·dize

tr.v. **ag·gran·dized, ag·gran·diz·ing, ag·gran·diz·es**

1 : to make great or greater : [INCREASE](#), [ENLARGE](#)

2 : to make appear great or greater : praise highly.

So? Is promoting the County Hunter News on-line 'aggrandizing'? I guess one could say it, if we are increasing the sources of news to the county hunter community. Even more so if you don't have to pay yearly subscriptions that keep the bloated coffers full. Having another source of news would be good, right?

Is promoting the use of 30 meters over the past year "aggrandizing" county hunting? You bet – for CW operators, it's been a fantastic resource. Even some of the SSB folks now venture over to friendly 30M to snag needed counties. OK, I admit, I'm guilty of relentlessly promoting 30 meters, promoting CW operation, getting folks excited about the Master Platinum and other MARAC awards, promoting the County Hunter News On-Line. Is county hunting better off for it? You bet!

Is getting more people into county hunting, and more people onto CW 'bad'? I don't think so. Is providing folks with a free source of news 'bad'? I don't think so, unless you are one of the very few trying to 'control' the news and what gets heard and what doesn't get heard.

If you don't like what you read in the CHN, please just don't read it, or if you have a gripe about the facts or presentation, write a letter to the editor. It's funny, even a few 'complain' without ever reading it!..... Like little puppets bobbling their bobble heads when the folks in the "chat room" say 'bobble your head now'! If you are an "SSB only" person with no interest in CW, or other activities, or county hunters in general, then simply skip reading the CHN.

Sadly, it seems some folks just don't learn - it has been a little more than a month since 'higher authorities' got involved once again in matters on the CHN net, and declared that "the trashing, bashing, and banning" would end, or the guilty net control stations might find themselves no longer on the CHN. For less than a single month, things were quiet. Now, it is creeping in, again, and I suppose in another six months they'll be quite a record at the FCC.

So what did we hear in September? Mobiles trying to 'check in' when a call for "ANY mobile ready to run a county" and being told "**The frequency is in use**".

More 'running off mobiles' rather than running mobiles, while calling endlessly for a 'number one mobile to run'. What did we hear in September? Net Control reading through the numbers, and making comments after giving the call for an award, and saying "**Here is one for all of you that believe in the tooth fairy and other fairy tales**". (9/18/05).

Then more mis-statements – one about N4CD where Percy says over and over "**He said he would never run on SSB again**". (9/20/05)

Guess Percy can't do a simple web search since he would find well over 100 SSB runs for N4CD on ch.w6rk.com, many on 20M SSB. (Usually on the days that others were net control!) I had no interesting in running on 'the trashing, bashing, banning' net. Just how does he expect folks to finish up if he is more concerned about "running a mobile off" when activity is often very low on many days? Does he give a dang about YOU? And your needs? Would you rather listen to another hour of 'any mobile ready to run a county', or be working mobiles? It seems not all that much has changed after August 5, 2005, other than some of the blatant comments were just toned down for just a month. Now, it seems that KA1JPR is going to 'egg on' KZ2P to the point where it once again reaches the critical point in six months. Stay tuned.

Tom, K7REL posted on the K3IMC web site:

"One thing is certain = the bashing, trashing, and banning on 14.336 has NOT ceased, but instead has escalated with even greater ferocity and obscenities on the part of K2JG and his foul-mouthed cronies.

We still hear the usual accusations that N9STL and W7KQZ are lying, cheating, and falsifying their awards applications. KA3DRO is accused of not really being mobile at all, even though Ron has mailed out dozens of photographs, proving where he has been. We still hear the same - phony pleas for certain stations to "pick up" the net. We still hear fellow county hunters being insulted, accused of being homosexuals and pedophiles. We still hear disparaging remarks being made about the mobiles who, for some reason, still continue to run counties on 14.336 even though NCS insults or curses at them.

But now K2JG and/or his cronies are deliberately trying to "jam" the frequency, to prevent certain other county hunters from making contacts with the mobiles running counties. Every time the mobiles try to give certain people a signal report, the K2JG cronies start their cursing, swearing, and yelling obscenities right on top of the mobile trying to transmit. Then K2JG tells the mobiles not to bother logging the contact, because the other county hunters are always cheating. This has been going on for weeks now.

Is this really the kind of County Hunters' Net we want?? This kind of petty, vindictive behavior is sick and disgusting. It is an embarrassment to MARAC, the county hunting community, and amateur radio in general. The FCC should really take some kind of action against this guy and his cronies. "

Meanwhile, CW just seems to be working fine, with lots of activity, and good use of 30 meters as a 'sunspot cycle countermeasure' allowing more hours of the day to be used for county hunting. Each month we add some

new CW county hunters. Now, Larry, KA0SHC has joined in once again with his fixed rig, along with N9STL, WD4OIN, KY0E, NU0Q, K5RPC, W7GQK, K2RP, KA9JAC, KY0E, KB6TAL, KE3VV, and a whole raft of additions to the ranks cw county hunters (and 30M) in the past year..

Last year was a bad year for hurricanes in FL, with WG6X getting damage several times, W0OV had a tree fall through the roof. This year, hurricanes have devastated hams in TX, MS, LA, and AL. Sadly, Norm, W2IBB, lost everything in Pass Christian, MS. Fortunately, he evacuated, and is safe, but there is nothing left of his house now – only a slab where it used to be. Over 80,000 homes, and millions of lives were affected by these storms.

De N4CD

On the Road with N4CD

It was time for another N4CD road trip. August was quiet – maybe I was resting from the big trip in July from TX to NY, Canada, to VA to the National Convention, then back home again in just a few weeks. The urge to travel hit, and also it was time to go out to California for a week long camp high up in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, where I could enjoy some nice cool air while it stayed in the high 90s in Texas. After 3 months of baking in 95 to 100 deg temps, I could use a break. _____



Hey, would you believe this is N4CD in 1966? Six meter mobile with HiPar Saturn 6 antenna? Lafayette HE-45B mobile, in Sussex County, NJ, on Sunrise Mtn.(1650ft el) Car is Pontiac, circa 1957 or so. My call then was WB2KQL. .



The six meter “AM” days – maybe 8 watts out, vibrator power supply, all tube radio. Crystal controlled! Radio owned by my dad, WB2MHR, who was a Tech licensee at the time. For DX, I put up the “Hilltopper” 3 el beam. DX=75 miles

Early Wednesday morning, I headed out at oh-dark thirty, trying to get through the Dallas-Ft. Worth “metroplex” (about 60 miles) before rush hour traffic – all six lane highways, and sometimes 20mph at rush hour, sometimes slower depending upon accidents. No contacts for the first 1 ½ hours as I was too busy driving, with not much happening at 1100Z anyway! A CQ on 30M might bring in some VKs and JAs.

Since I had lots of miles to go, and many counties yet to run, I decided to get to interesting places as fast as possible, so it was straight out the interstate to El Paso, TX, about 600 miles. The bands open to the USA at 1200Z on 40m, about 1230Z on 30m, and just Florida coming in on 20M, with the SSB NC calling for an hour or two until some other mobile would finally decide to run a county.

After the discussion at the CW Forum at the National, I decided to try using 7038.5 as the 40 meter cw frequency (see Sept. issue of CHN on this). It seemed to work out well. If you recall, there was discussion about how beacons on both the east and west coast, located outside the USA, make operation on 7039 difficult. Seems that 7038.5 worked well. Maybe, like 30M, we all agree to shift to the new frequency?

My route would take me through the only 2 counties in Texas that I had not run the second time around as well (Hudspeth and El Paso). From El Paso, it’s a short side trip up to Otero, NM, then back, then off into Dona Ana on the Interstate for the evening at a Motel 6. There is an increasing number of decent Motel 6 around now. Very reasonable prices too. My planning budget of \$100/day on the road was being stretched already by high gas prices. That evening of the first

day, I wound up in NM – doing 700 miles, and putting \$70 in gas in the car in one day. OUCH! Over budget already, not including food!! I could plan on 10 cents per mile for the trip, with \$3/gal gas. (Motel \$45, food \$20, gas \$70= \$135!)

Before leaving town for this trip, a search was made to find a locking gas cap for the Buick LeSabre. It seemed that with gas hovering at \$3/gal, and likely more out in California, it just might be too tempting for some, so I searched the local area. No luck. Every car supply place was out of that particular one. Luckily, the first night of the trip, I found a NAPA parts store where I stopped in Las Cruces, NM, and picked one up – about \$17, and likely to give you some peace of mind that when you wake up the next morning at the motel, having filled the tank the night before, that most likely the gas will still be in the tank. PEP Boys also sells one (STANT #11506). I usually get all set to go in the morning without extra time for gas then.

The next morning, it was off again early headed towards the west coast, hitting some the counties in New Mexico that were ‘new’ for me. As I headed into AZ later that morning, N4CD earned a Magellan point. I usually mark the state maps with my route, and have a copy of the map from my coloring book, with the route through the counties - that makes it somewhat easier when you are zipping along at 70-75mph to not be too distracted while figuring out where you are. That works well as long as you have the right maps available!!

Well, I headed out of NM, into AZ, and thought I was in Graham, headed to Greenlee to put it out. The first county is Graham, right? Oops...The AZ map is still in the map case. I was using the atlas book, and hard to see county boundaries there. It turns out, on highway 70, you go immediately into Greenlee. Big “oops”, ran the ‘wrong’ county and had to announce a change later on when I realized it. I asked someone to post it as well, as I usually don’t take a computer along on trips. Is that one or two Magellan points? From then on, I had the maps out ahead of time. I ran the county line of Graham/Greenlee, so hopefully everyone got their contacts correctly. Then I ran Graham again later.

On the way out, I had responded to the “Any mobile ready to run a county” on the SSB. Apparently Net Control still has problems understanding “no trashing, bashing, and banning’ directives. The ‘frequency was in use’. Same ole, same ole. No one running – lots of people waiting for activity, net control asking for ‘any’ mobile ready to run. Well, if you needed those counties on SSB, you were ‘collateral damage’ since net control was more concerned with ‘running off mobiles’ than with hours of dead air time with nothing happening, or with running mobiles. No concern for your needs. Your loss. You lose when that happens. . No problem for me getting contacts on CW.

If you get to Greenlee County, on highway 70, you’ll hit the town of Duncan, which is not far from the QTH of Ernie, W7KQZ. Ernie invited me on the air to stop by for an eyeball QSO, so we met at his QTH for an hour or so. It’s not far

off the highway outside town, in a good r.f. environment with few neighbors around to bother. He's got a 20 meter beam, and handful of wire antennas covering all HF bands. Right now, he is using a rig that only puts out 5-10 watts on SSB (his other rigs are 'down'), so you have to often listen close to hear him. He does very well with the QRP power level though. The rig doesn't seem to work on cw, though. That's why he hasn't been on cw lately.

Starting back in the 1960s, Ernie had just about finished up working all the counties, but had never confirmed many of them. Some of those old confirmations he had, but others had also got lost in moves and shuffles. He got interested again around 2000, but discovered that getting confirmations from 30-40 years ago was a challenge. He compiled a list of over 30 Silent Keys, who had given him hundreds of contacts, and could not find current addresses for many others, and of course, not everyone had logs going that far back! It soon dawned on him that it would be just as easy to 'start over' and work all the unconfirmed ones again! So he did, finishing up with USACA #1065 in April, 2003. Of course, with all those thousands and thousands of unconfirmed contacts going way, way back to the 1960s and 1970s, he could easily finish up the Bingo award just a few months later since that doesn't require confirmations and all those old contacts count. Same for prefixes.

It was back on the road now, headed for California.....Jim, KB6TAL, and had invited me to stop by for lunch when I passed through his home town of Wilcox, AZ. We met at a truck stop for lunch and talked for about 90 minutes. Jim and wife run a small local airport, where is he is an AP Mechanic working on the planes. He's been very busy chasing counties on CW, and made some 'county putting out' trips in the past month. Soon he'll run some desperately needed Nevada counties.

One of the fun things of trips is that you get to meet new county hunters along the way!

Propagation had been poor for the past month –some days OK, and some days really bad, with hours of degraded signals. Murphy caught up with me in Santa Cruz County (AZ). After a 30 mile detour south to get there, and running along for another 20 miles in the county, not a single signal was heard ON ANY BAND. Zilch on 20M SSB and CW, Zilch on 30M, nothing on 40m. From one end of the bands to the other, not even a carrier! Of course, you first check the radio and antenna – still putting out power, SWR OK. Ok, where are the signals then?

Bands Dead. I sat for an hour – after yet another hour, I decided that I had to move on...not getting a single contact or transmitted county credit (that's when it helps to have a county hunting buddy along!). About 75 miles for naught. \$7.50 in gas. Oh, well, that's one of the things Mother Nature throws your way – total band dropouts. If you were counting on Santa Cruz, AZ, I was there - but the

band wasn't! So someday, if I want to complete transmitting from them all a second time, I'll have to take a big detour to Santa Cruz- maybe stay overnight there to be sure the band is open to make at least one contact! Only one person, Gene, W1TEE, has been to all the counties twice! All cw!

That second night was spent in Gila Bend, AZ, a hot, dusty town in the middle of nowhere with hundreds of square miles of deserted countryside around. Hot. Dry. Desolate. Temp over 100 deg. It's about the only town for 200 miles on the Interstate with motels and restaurants.

It was off the next morning early to get Yuma, then into California via Quartzite, AZ (gold country!) and La Paz, AZ. Lots of 'the same boring road' in California as you head west on boring Interstate Highway. After long hours driving across hundreds of miles of pretty desolate countryside, it was finally up into the Owens Valley on 395 – between the mountains of California, where the elevation keeps creeping up and up. Up through Barstow, - not much of anything for a while.

I had mentioned to Darrel, W6TMD, that I would get Alpine and several others for the folks. A tough one to get to, and when he was there just a few months ago, I couldn't copy him on 30M (band drop out?). He gave me just about all that I needed in CA on his trips, though. I think others missed him there, too. The road is marked to "Kennedy Meadows" (no route sign despite a route designation on the maps).

That road will quickly remind you of old-time back roads in Colorado, with sharp drop-offs off the side, no guard rail, and maybe 25-30mph speeds as you wind around the road hanging on the side of the mountains – for at least 10 miles as you head up and up. The one nice thing about California is that the county lines are usually well marked. Not only that, usually you have 0.1 mile signs with the designations for the county on them, i.e., Highway 395, mile 27.7, "SIE" for Sierra county, etc. The same in Nevada with two letter designations, i.e., CC for Carson City, DO for Douglas, etc. After 30 minutes of winding up and up to the 'pass', you find the Alpine county line, and just beyond a nice place to park and run the county on all the bands. Then it was back down the mountain in 1st gear most of the way.

Gas was getting up to \$3.50 in California, and once you get near the mountains, motel prices climb as this is 'resort area'. A double whammy to the budget. Overnight at the "Mt Whitney Motel".

The next day I ran up through Carson City, NV, headed west again to California, and took the long route to my destination through El Dorado, California. My car wanted to turn off the road near Sutter's Mill (but Charlie WORRY wasn't there to enjoy the 'gold' fever) –where gold was discovered, and the 49er gold rush commenced. Whenever he's along helping put out the counties, he can tell tales of the 'gold hunting days'. I took a stay overnight at 'low altitude' at a Motel 6,

and next day traveled to the Heidelmann lodge at 7100 feet AMSL for a week stay. It's right on the Nevada/Placer county line. When you see the CL sign, you turn into the driveway! Convenient. It's close to Donner Pass, and the normal snowfall is 300 inches per year there! Great for skiing. Temps were in the 30s to lower 40s in the morning, crystal clear skies, and mid day temps in the high 60s. Very nice, for me, after months of enduring 100 degrees in TX.

Wednesday afternoon was a free day with no activity planned, so I decided to run some new counties – I headed into Reno, NV, then headed north on 395, then over to Lassen and Plumas, then south through Sierra back to Nevada, CA where I was staying.

After the week long camp, I headed back through Nevada on the Interstate, leaving late Saturday morning.. I did this trip last year, and it SNOWED in September for several hundred miles in Nevada! I was hoping for better weather this year! Now it was 'hot'. There weren't too many zings and zags going home.

There were several desperately needed counties along the way. There is about ½ mile of Storey County on the interstate. About the time you realize you are in it, you are about to run out of it! I saw the sign, and realized I'd have to stop on the Interstate – which I did. Nervously, I ran on 20M cw, but figured after 8 or 10 minutes that my luck might run out. Hundreds of vehicles (more than half of them trucks) whizzed past me while I sat on the side of the road. Sooner or later, the police would come along, and the road was posted 'emergency stopping only'. I didn't get to run it on 30M, and it is one of the 'most needed on 30m". Darn. I was hustling toward Humboldt, which was 'desperately needed' by K8MFO. We got him Humboldt, NV, then I headed into UT.

It's a long, lonely road from the border towards Salt Lake City, in Tooele County. I didn't want to stop too early, as I had a late start. Salt Flats, water on the sides of the road, and no civilization! It was now getting dark, I was tired. I saw a sign for motel in Deelee, UT. There is nothing for 20 miles either side of this bump in the road. A old motel, being refurbished - \$35 including tax. Two channels on the TV. No restaurant nearby – Dinner was a frozen cheeseburger at the gas station, warmed up in a microwave. Next time I'll drive another 20 miles to Grantsville, UT. This motel is not recommended, even for budget travelers. N4CD was up early, headed to Salt Lake City, then down to Wayne and Garfield UT via the 2 lane roads. Wow! Miles of desolation, with a few highlights along the way, other than in the 'Canyons' – Capital Reef Park (Spectacular!).

That night I found myself in Gallup, NM. There are dozens and dozens of old motels along "Route 66". There must be easily 1000 cheap, cheap, motel rooms. I wound up staying in one that was \$19.95 plus tax. Other than a decent bed, the rest of the room likely hadn't been touched in 40 or 50 years – old carpet, old furniture, old paint. It still 'worked', there was cable TV, and it helped out the budget. Maybe next time, I'll spring \$40 for the Super8 or Days Inn. I was

carrying a load of stuff in the car, and it took five trips to get it all inside, so motels where you could park outside the door got my attention first. That's usually not the case, and I can get stuff inside in 2 trips.

Before the interstate system, Route 66 was a main route from the Midwest to California. Few sections of it are preserved well. Gallup, NM seems like it is right out of the 1950s-60s. "Historic Route 66".

However, the MacDonalds in Gallup was the MOST expensive I recall in the lower 48 states for breakfast. Ripoff. Over \$4 for what I usually pay under \$3 for.

It was then back down through AZ, into Catron, NM, headed east toward TX, running more 'new counties' for me, and for the folks. I finally got to TX, and was looking for a motel on 380 headed east around sunset. It took going to the second county, since the first county was so small it didn't have a single decent motel in "the town" that you pass through. Another long day. Next day it was a beeline back home, through hot, 100 deg Texas temps on Rt 380.. About two thousand miles in 4 days, with more than half on 2 lane road – whew!

On the trip, the further west I got, the easier it was to start running the county on 20M, then on 30M, then 40M. In California, it was tough to be heard at first on 30M. So I then started running 20M first. In the middle of the country, it is easier to start on 30M. It seems every time I went to 40M, W6TMD was there with a big signal, collecting counties on 40M. I worked him in most on the trip!

Things went well, the cw net controls ran me, did relays (QSP), spotted me, so things went very well. Occasionally, I'd show up on SSB when 'the frequency wasn't in use', with friendly net controls. Too bad so many had to miss the Platinum contacts on SSB. The CW folks got 'em all. More 'collateral damage'.

It was a fun trip, 4500 miles, \$450 in gas. Now I'll rest up a few weeks, pay the bills, and head on out again. You never know where N4CD will wind up. I've got plans for Denver in Nov. Then maybe back east for Thanksgiving (will I miss the snow in KY/WV?). All those counties to give out. So little time.

De N4CD

Awards Issued

3rd Time - #190 K9DCJ, MARAC club 9/27/05

Bingo #276 – KW5USA, Bob 9/11/05

Bingo #275 – K5XY, Alex, 8/31/05



Picture of KS5A rental car/antenna system in Dare, NC at Kill Devil Hills
20/30/40 meter Hustler resonators on K8CW mast

Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), UTC, “Zulu” Time

Nearly every experienced ham in the world keeps a log in “GMT”, and likely often puts a “Z” after the 24 hour time, ie, 1803Z. Where did the “Z” come from? What’s with the “Z”?

This all goes back to the days of the American Revolution, late 1700s. The British sea captains, who often attained their ranks through the aristocracy, plus a rigid formal education, thought little of the American sea captains. This despite the fact that the tiny American Navy had had great success against the mighty British forces.

After the end of the United States Revolutionary War, an American sea captain named Nathaniel Bowditch was quite perturbed that all honor and recognition of seamanship and celestial navigation was allocated to British sea Captains exclusively. He proclaimed that American sea captains were as proficient and capable as their English counterparts. To set the record straight, he decided to write a book to clarify this. In the late 1700's,

Captain Bowditch wrote his now famous navigation textbook - *The American Practical Navigator*.

Quickly, this book was recognized throughout the seafaring world as one of the best textbooks in sea-surface celestial navigation ever written. It was so well written that it is still referred to even today as a navigation textbook at The U.S. Naval Academy, The U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

Bowditch indicated that a method of noting local time zones was needed for references in a ship's log throughout the world. This was well before the era of Standard Time, ie, Eastern Standard Time, etc - Standard Time was initiated by the railroads in the USA in the mid 1800s! Before that, almost every town had their own 'local time' set by solar noon.

Navigators knew , with there being 24 hours in a solar day (23h 56m 4.091s in a sidereal day), and with 360° of longitude around the earth, that each 15° of longitude was essentially another "1 hour time-zone". What Bowditch proposed in his book, *The American Practical Navigator*, was the prime meridian (0° longitude) be designated as the center of a 15° time zone, (7.5° each side of 0° longitude).

He divided the remaining longitude 15° segments (7.5° each side of 15° East longitude, 7.5° each side of 30° East longitude, 7.5° each side of 45° East longitude, etc) around the world, and assigned a letter of the English alphabet to each time zone starting with the first zone east of the Prime Meridian. The result was that this made the zone centered on 15° East longitude, time zone "A", the time zone centered on 30° East longitude, time zone "B", and so on for the rest of the globe.

When he came to the International Date Line at 180° longitude, he solved a problem neatly. Realizing that although the time was the same in each 7.5° segment each side of 180° longitude...they were different days. So, as the International Date Line was being approached from the west, Bowditch designated the section from 172.5° East longitude to 180° longitude as time zone "M". He then started from the Prime Meridian and headed westward.

The first zone centered on 15° West longitude was time zone "N", the next time zone west centered on 30° West longitude became time zone "O", and so on. Approaching the International Date Line from the east, Bowditch designated the remaining "half zone" from 172.5° West longitude to 180° longitude as time zone "Y".

This left the letter "Z" remaining and this was reserved for the Prime Meridian Time Zone, running through Greenwich, England. Therefore GMT, GCT, UTC, is called "Z-time". This notation, "Z", is appended to times today to indicate that the time of the chart/log entry is in "Greenwich Mean Time". Using phonetics, this is often "Zulu Time".

Since the sound for the letter "J" was frequently not found in many languages of the time, Bowditch did not use the letter "J".

Now, when you see time written as 2400Z, 0800Z, you now know why! It all started with Nathaniel Bowditch, author of the *American Practical Navigator*.

Of course, we could get into a discussion on "UTC" – Coordinated Universal Time, which has 'replaced' GMT as the official time. Millions still refer to UTC as "GMT" or "Z" time.

If you ever get to Greenwich, England, there is a great museum there. It was the development of the precision ship's chronometer which allowed navigators to accurately determine their longitude. Latitude is fairly easy to determine, but to know your longitude requires an accurate time reference. Today, we have GPS that will give you your location within feet anywhere, but it wasn't until extremely accurate rugged chronometers were built that folks could sail the seas worldwide knowing where they were within several thousand feet.

So the next time you see something written as 1800Z, you now know why!

De N4CD

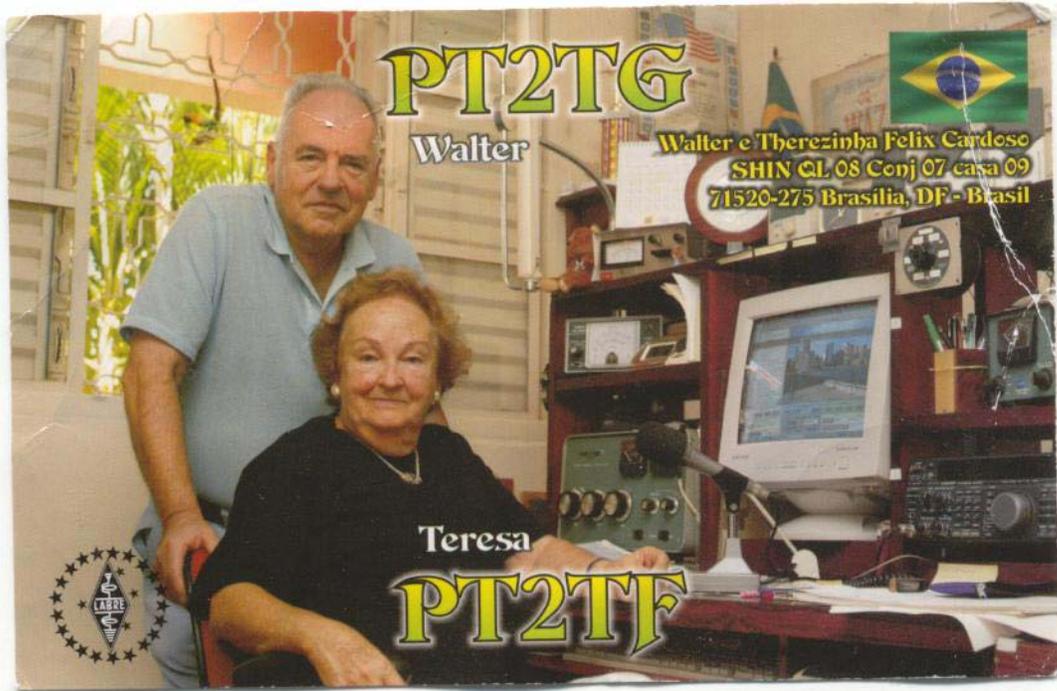
County Hunter Events in October

October 1-2 California QSO Party 1600Z Oct 1 to 2200Z on Oct 2. Exchange serial number and your State/Country, and CA stations give serial number and county. More info at www.cqp.org

October 8 - 9 PA QSO party – 1 600Z Oct 8 to 0500Z Oct 9, and 1300Z to 2200Z Oct 9. More info at www.nittany-arc.net/paqso.html

October 16, 17 Illinois QSO Party – 1700Z Oct 16 to 0100 Z Oct 17. more info at www.mycore.com/~jematz/rams.html

October's Picture Gallery



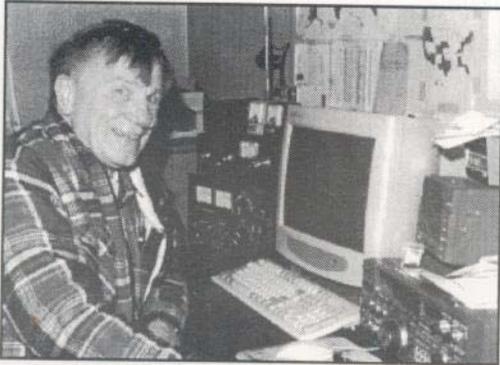
This is the QSL card from Teresa, who spoke briefly to the County Hunter Forum crowd at the 2005 Dayton Hamfest! She holds USACA #816.



Andreas, DL3GA's QSL card. He worked me on CW on 14.0565. I think he is on VHF here!



“Cool” operating location, N4CD, 2nd District AK, near Council, AK, near ‘the end of the road’ from Nome, AK – 1992. Mosquitoes terrible here. Truck is big Ford (only thing you can rent in Nome is a Ford). About 13 mpg. Picture taken by KD3GA, who I met at the B&B where I was staying! I made 200 QSOs here, when conditions were much better than today – 20 and 15 meters. 23 hours of sun a day in June. Never ‘dark’.



W8YPT 1946-1972

W8PN

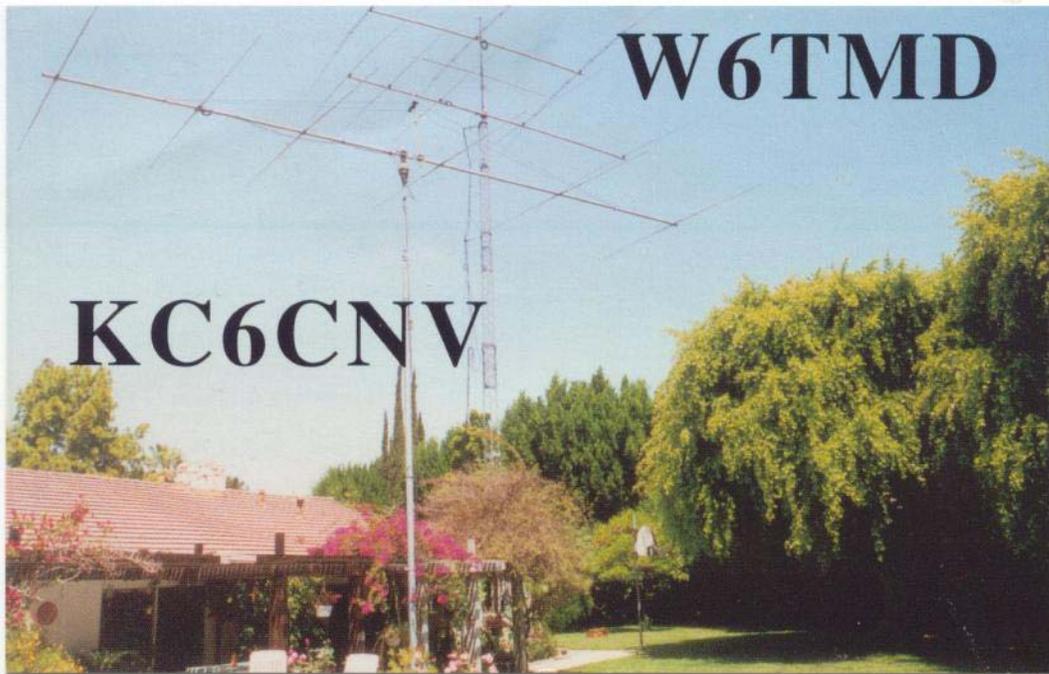
HAL J. BRASCHWITZ
3623 W. 139th Street
CLEVELAND, OHIO
USA 44111

CUYAHOGA COUNTY

AMATEUR RADIO	CONFIRMING 2-WAY CONTACT					
	DATE	UTC	FREQ	RST	MODE	QSL
N4CD/M	APR. 2 2005	22:23	10.1 MHZ	559	2x CW	TNX PSE

Hal.

QSL card from Hal, W8PN, active on 30M now



The Big Antenna farm at W6TMD – 40 meter beam on top!

Finis

That's it for this month's County Hunter News. There are some interesting State QSO parties (usually with very good participation), and I suspect lots of activity by regular county hunters. Some mobiles will be on the road for the mini in Chattanooga, so counties will get put out.

The hurricanes have sent gas and energy prices skyrocketing. Maybe in a few months we'll see some lower prices for gasoline, but expect higher heating (natural gas and heating oil) prices this winter. Filling the gas tank will be more painful until the refinery situation is straightened out once again in a month or two.

There was a comment posted on the forum that some felt that the SSB County Hunter net was 'like CB'. After listening to some of the comments made on the SSB net, where hams tuning across the net try to make a contact, using standard phonetics, as on every other frequency, and get 'yelled at' for using phonetics, or worse having mobiles tell them "I won't work you unless you give me your call WITHOUT phonetics!" and other things, as well as the unique jargon heard only on the net "You're 22 Minimum Minimum" or "33 Thirty Three Triplets, Triplets" or "57 57 Heinz" or "59 Maximum".

Really? In which common usage directory for ham radio do you find "Minimum", "Triplets", etc, defined? You think the average person stumbling across the net has any

idea how to spell K-tron New Mexico (that's what it sounds like, right?). How about Ponderay, WA (Pend Oreille). But put in a query on it, and first you get corrected as to 'we don't have queries here', then you are told to 'wait till the end of the run and it will be announced' (without phonetics, or even spelling, of course). Why no 'query'? (rumor has it – that it rhymes with 'fairy' – as in homosexual). The common ham radio usage is 'query'. Sometimes you don't even hear NC (or know there is one if you stumble across a run in progress).

It sure sounds a lot different than just about every other frequency. Some might equate that to "10-4 Good Buddy" "10-Roger" and other unique jargon. The SSB net is about the only place where phonetics are NOT used on HF bands. Or get scolded for using them.

Even worse are Net Control Stations that simply ignore stations asking for a relay (who put in their call with standard phonetics – since no one likely knows exactly what the new call is), and then chuckle about it on the air a few minutes later commenting something like "We'll, I sure told that W8 off – or he was 40 over S9, but I ignored him". Same for the 2 or 3 mobiles who follow NC lead, and refuse to work stations using phonetics.

With the other 'trashing, bashing, and banning', comments about pedophiles, homosexuals, alleged dishonesty, repeated over and over again, it hasn't been much better than channel 19. "18 year old blonds" comments...Viagra comments....need to take my 'meds'it gets tiring after a while.

Somehow, I don't think you can exhibit 'the county hunter net' at World Radio Conferences as the frequency in which 'advancement of the state of the art' occurs, 'where emergency preparedness' is demonstrated, where 'international goodwill' is demonstrated, where effective communications is demonstrated (confusion over calls and county names by newcomers). What do we have? Hours and hours of "55, fifty five, nickels, nickels, got your five five, you're 55, fifty five, over", and hours and hours of 'trashing, bashing and banning'. Not exactly a stellar reputation, and it seems **just a few** continue to drag down the entire county hunting community to the level noted.

As to the person who made the comment about 'it's just like CB', maybe after he saw some transcripts of the 'pedophile and homosexual' innuendoes and comments by the 'net control stations' on a repeated basis, he might just decide that there was no need to associate the callsign for which he is responsible with that sort of activity. Or that 'net' with the net control stations that continue that behavior. .

Same for many other county hunters who have either left the net, or just show up when they see a spot for a county they need, then disappear again, not having to 'listen' to 14.336, or else come to CW to escape just that.

There are many other ways to work the counties than sit on 14.336, including the great state QSO parties, other contests, CW nets, RTTY/PSK31, VHF, 40M nets, etc.

See you next month.

De N4CD