

AWARDS RULES
THE MOBILE AMATEUR RADIO AWARDS CLUB, Inc.

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General Rules and Definitions for MARAC Awards

Award Application Process

Formal or official award application forms are not required for MARAC Awards. Applicants may apply for awards using on-line forms on the MARAC web site (when available), email to the **Awards Manager**, or other mail or delivery services. When appropriate, the **Awards Manager** may accept a request for an award by telephone, as long as required contact or multiple contacts **Log** information is also received.

The applicant must submit the following to the MARAC **Awards Manager**:

1. A **Log** of **Valid Contacts**;
2. The call sign of the applicant;
3. The applicant's phone number, mailing address and (if applicable) email address;
4. The date of the last contact submitted for the award;
5. A request for a plaque, if applicable; and
6. The applicable fee for the requested certificate or plaque.

The **Log** may be a hand-written log, a computer printout, a computer diskette or CD, or an email attachment. Digital logs may be in an ASCII or text file; Microsoft Works, Word, Excel, or Access file; Kwiklog, KwikWin, MARAC Logger, or other computer logging program output file that does not require the **Awards Manager** to have the application program in order to read the file; or any other format acceptable to the **Awards Manager**.

Printed logs, diskettes, or CD logs will only be returned if accompanied by sufficient return postage or delivery fee. Please check with the **Awards Manager** to determine the current cost of return postage or delivery fee.

Under Section 5.1(d)(10) of the MARAC Bylaws, each person who applies for a MARAC Award stipulates to having observed all MARAC rules, being bound by the MARAC Awards rules, and being bound by the decisions of the Board of Directors and the **Awards Committee**.

Awards Committee

The **Awards Committee** was established by the MARAC Board of Directors to act as an advisory committee to the Board of Directors. The **Awards Committee** provides recommendations on the awards program and the rules for, including recommendations on the adoption of new awards and revisions to existing awards. The **Awards Manager** acts as the chair of the **Awards Committee** and forwards the recommendations of the Committee to the MARAC Board of Directors. The Board of Directors must approve all new awards and modifications to existing awards or award rules.

The **Awards Committee** consists of one or more MARAC members from each of the six districts represented on the Board of Directors. The **Awards Manager** appoints the members of the **Awards Committee** in consultation with each District Director. Each Member serves on the Committee for a term of one year and may be re-appointed for additional terms by the **Awards Manager**.

The MARAC Board of Directors or the **Awards Manager** may remove any member of the Committee at any time.

Each member of the Awards Committee must maintain the following qualifications to serve on the Committee:

1. Be an active member in good standing of MARAC;
2. Have access to Microsoft Word and email on the Internet;
3. Be familiar with existing MARAC Awards and rules; and
4. Actively participate in the activities of the **Awards Committee**.

Award Date (see **Starting Over**)

The date of a MARAC Award is the UTC date that the application is processed by the **Awards Manager**. An individual award certificate or plaque (such as a **Last County** plaque) may contain the actual date of the contact for which the award is given.

Awards – Effective Date of New Awards

For all new MARAC awards that require earning a prior award as a prerequisite to the new award, the new award becomes effective on the date the new award is approved by the MARAC Board of Directors. **Valid Contacts** for these new awards must be made after the effective date of the new award.

Award Levels

Some MARAC Awards are available in stages reflecting incremental levels of achievement. The achievement of each **Award Level** is recognized by the issuance of a certificate; endorsement plate, sticker, or seal; plaque; or trophy. The rules for individual awards establish the **Award Level** criteria and type of recognition.

Awards Manager

Under Section 5.1 (AWARDS) of the Bylaws of the Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club (MARAC), the President of MARAC appoints an **Awards Manager** from among the regular members of MARAC. The appointment is subject to ratification by the Board of Directors. The **Awards Manager** administers the MARAC Awards program in accordance with the policies and procedures adopted by the Board of Directors. In addition, the **Awards Manager** receives and disburses funds in connection with the awards program in accordance with the policies adopted by the Board of Directors and procedures established working with the MARAC Treasurer. The **Awards Manager** serves as the chair of the **Awards Committee**.

Band

A segment of radio frequencies allocated by the FCC to the amateur service. Unless specified in a particular award, a **Valid Contact** may be made on any **Band**.

Big Rig

A large truck consisting of a tractor unit that is capable of pulling a cargo trailer and is being driven by an operator holding a Commercial Drivers License (CDL) rated for the rig being operated (for a rig rated at 26001 GWD or more).

A **Big Rig** is also sometimes referred to as a “Semi” or “18- wheeler.” To qualify as a **Big Rig** for MARAC Awards, the tractor must have at least 10 wheels with tires touching the ground (or the equivalent using wide-base tires). If a trailer is attached, the trailer may be either loaded or unloaded.

Note: The definition of **Big Rig** does not include RV’s, dump trucks, 5th-wheels, tow trucks, buses, or panel/delivery trucks.

Club Stations

A club station may apply for and receive MARAC awards. Applications for awards for a **Club Station** must be filed by the trustee of the **Club Station**. Contacts with a **Club Station** are **Valid Contacts** for all MARAC awards except those awards that require contacts with operators who have earned individual achievement MARAC awards, such as the Master Gold or 5-Star awards. For these awards, the operator must use his or her personal call sign to make a **Valid Contact**.

Confirmation of Contacts

Contacts used for MARAC Awards do not require confirmation. Therefore, all MARAC Awards can be achieved without the exchange of QSL cards, MRC's, or eQSL's. This is different from the *CQ Magazine* USA County Award, which requires confirmation of contacts.

Contest Contacts

Contacts made while operating in a contest or QSO party may be used for MARAC Awards. If the contest or QSO party rules regarding contacts or operation differ from the rules for MARAC Awards, only those contacts that conform to MARAC rules may be used for MARAC Awards.

County Line (see Wet County Line)

A **County Line** is the legally defined boundary between two **USA Counties**. A marker or sign usually identifies this boundary; however, some **County Line** markers are located close to, but not on, the actual surveyed boundary. For purposes of contacts for MARAC Awards, the official government **County Line** marker or sign is deemed to be on the **County Line** boundary except where there is a **Wet County Line**.

A mobile may (but is not required to) use a more accurate method of determining the location of a **County Line** boundary, such as a survey map or global positioning system (GPS). On secondary roadways or country lanes, other **County Line** markers may be found, such as a livestock gate, cattle guard, or a monument placed in the fence line. A change in the composition of the roadway surface may also be an indication of a **County Line** boundary. When no other means of identifying a **County Line** is available, these markers may be used.

County Line Contacts

A stationary mobile may operate on a **County Line** and contacts with the mobile can be used as credit for both counties. Some part of the vehicle used for the mobile contact must be located in each county on the **County Line**.

Only one **County Line** at a time can be run for MARAC Awards. If the mobile is operating from the intersection of three or more **USA Counties**, only two counties at a time may be counted for the same contact.

Disqualification

Under Section 5.1(d)(8) of the MARAC Bylaws, "Evidence of disruptive operating practices or inappropriate conduct in any aspect of MARAC participation may lead to disqualification from all participation in the program." Based on credible evidence, the MARAC Board of Directors determines whether disqualification will be imposed on an operator and the length of disqualification. Actions that may lead to disqualification include, but are not limited to:

1. The submission of forged or altered confirmations or applications;
2. Transmitting from a location other than the one specified during the operation;
3. Participating in activities that create an unfavorable impression of amateur radio, such as malicious attempts to cause disruption or discreditation of an operation;
4. Blatant inequities in confirmation (QSL/MRC) procedures and continued refusal to issue QSL/MRCs.

District of Columbia

(see **Federal Parks, Independent Cities, and Other Enclaves**)

A contact with a mobile in the **District of Columbia** may be counted as Montgomery or Prince George's County Maryland, or Arlington County, Virginia.

DX Contact

A **Valid Contact** with a licensed amateur radio operator located in a foreign country or any CQ or ARRL DX entity other than the United States, Hawaii, or Alaska.

Eligibility for MARAC Awards

MARAC Awards are available to any licensed amateur radio operator anywhere in the world. **Valid Contacts** using any combination of mobile, portable, or fixed operation and various modes of operation may qualify for MARAC Awards, although some awards or endorsements require that all contacts be made using a single **Mode** or type of operation. Some MARAC Awards are available for Short Wave Listeners (SWLs) on a heard basis.

Endorsements

Any MARAC award that can be accomplished by making contacts on a single **Band** or using a single **Mode** may be endorsed for the single **Band** or **Mode** (or both) when all of the contacts used for the award use that **Band** or **Mode** (or both). For example, an award might be endorsed "Worked all on 20 Meters" or "Worked all using SSB" or "Worked all on 20 Meter SSB."

Endorsements are also available for specific methods of working the **Valid Contacts** for an award.

The following endorsements are available on most awards (when appropriate):

All Mobile	All One Band	QRP
All Mobile to Mobile	All One Band and Mode	All Confirmed
All One Mode	No Relays	

Other endorsements may be available as stated in the rules for an individual award.

Federal Parks, Independent Cities, and Other Enclaves

When a station is operating in an independent city, a national park or other federal enclave, or the **District of Columbia** where the neighboring county lines do not extend into the area, then the contact with that station may be counted for any adjacent county. Only one adjacent county may be counted for any award. For example, a contact with a mobile in Richmond, Virginia, may be counted as either Chesterfield County or Henrico County for an award. If a contact with a station in Richmond is used for Chesterfield County, then the contact used for Henrico County must be with a station actually located in Henrico County.

Fees

Unless otherwise specified in the rules for a specific MARAC award, the **Fees** for each MARAC award are as follows:

Certificate:	MARAC Members - \$1.00	Non-Members - \$5.00
Upgrades:	MARAC Members - \$3.00	Non-Members - \$7.00
Plaque:	MARAC Members - \$40.00	Non-Members - \$55.00
Last County Certificate (Database and email):	Members and Non-Members - \$1.00	
Last County Certificate (paper):	Members and Non-Members - \$3.00	
Last County Plaque:	Members and Non-Members - \$20.00	

Manual input of paper LC-1 applications - \$3.00 each

All fees are subject to change by the MARAC Board of Directors. A list of all awards issued each month is published in the MARAC Roadrunner. Individual LC-1 Awards are posted on-line in the MARAC database. Other awards are posted on the MARAC web site home page.

Fixed or Portable Operation

Any radio transmission from a location that is not a **Mobile Operation**.

As long as a vehicle is capable of being moved under its own power, is not attached to an external antenna system, and is not using commercial electric power or other external source of power, it is a mobile rather than a **Fixed or Portable Operation**. However, if a trailer, camper, or similar non-powered vehicle is separated from the towing vehicle, an operation from that vehicle is fixed or portable.

Independent Cities

(see **Federal Parks, Independent Cities, and Other Enclaves**)

Carson City, Nevada is an **Independent City** that is not part of any adjacent county. One of the adjacent Nevada counties (Douglas, Lyon, Storey, or Washoe) may be used for a **Valid Contact** with a station in Carson City. On the other hand, Baltimore City is a separate county from Baltimore County in Maryland.

There are 42 **Independent Cities** in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The following list will be modified automatically on the effective date of a change in the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia adding or deleting an **Independent City**:

Virginia Independent Cities and Adjacent Counties

Alexandria	Arlington or Fairfax	Manassas	Prince William
Bristol	Washington	Manassas Park	Prince William
Buena Vista	Rockbridge	Martinsville	Henry
Charlottesville	Albemarle	Newport News	York
Chesapeake	Isle of Wight	Norfolk	Isle of Wight
Clifton Forge	Alleghany	Norton	Wise
Colonial Heights	Chesterfield or Prince George	Petersburg	Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, or Prince George
Covington	Alleghany	Poquoson	York
Danville	Pittsylvania	Portsmouth	Isle of Wight
Emporia	Greensville	Radford	Montgomery
Fairfax	Fairfax	Richmond	Chesterfield or Henrico
Falls Church	Fairfax	Roanoke	Roanoke
Fort Monroe	York	Salem	Roanoke
Franklin	Southampton	South Boston	Halifax
Fredericksburg	Spotsylvania	Staunton	Augusta
Galax	Carroll or Grayson	Suffolk	Isle of Wight or Southampton
Hampton	York		
Harrisonburg	Rockingham	Virginia Beach	Isle of Wight
Hopewell	Prince George	Waynesboro	Augusta
Lexington	Rockbridge	Williamsburg	James City
Lynchburg	Amherst, Bedford, or Campbell	Winchester	Frederick

Last County

The final county worked in a State (or USA) for an award. Among county hunters, it is a generally accepted practice to reward the operator who gives you the Last County for a State with a Last County Certificate. The operator who gives you the last county in the USA (also called the "Last County for the Whole Ball of Wax") can be rewarded with a Last County Plaque.

Nothing in the rules prohibits giving more than one Last County award. For example, if you work a mobile team for a Last County, you could give a certificate to one or both operators. Also, if you have to re-work a last county for a confirmation, it is suggested that you give a Last County award to the operator who actually confirms the contact.

Log (see Valid Contact)

The log data generally required for all MARAC Awards are the following:

1. Call sign of the station or operator worked;
2. Date;
3. State and county worked.

Some awards may require additional information (such as whether the station worked was mobile or fixed/portable) or that the **Band** or **Mode** be specified (such as an **Endorsement** for a single **Band** or **Mode**).

Any required information for a particular award that is not contained in your **Log** should be included in the application or in a cover email or note to the Awards Manager. Although a **Signal Report** or other information exchange is required to be a part of each **Valid Contact**, it is not necessary to include this exchange in the log submitted for an award.

Mobile Operation

Making contacts using a radio in or on a movable vehicle is a **Mobile Operation**. The vehicle does not have to be in motion. The radio must be powered by the vehicle or other power source that is contained in the vehicle and which is independent of all commercial or other outside power sources.

The vehicle must be capable of movement without having to disconnect any wiring or antennas in order to move to another location. Examples of vehicles that are capable of mobile operation include automobiles, trucks, RV's, trains, bicycles, airplanes, and buses.

Mode

Any mode of operation that is legal for amateur operation under the rules of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) may be used for contacts for MARAC Awards. The **Modes** of operation that may be used for MARAC awards and endorsements include SSB, CW, and Digital Modes. Digital **Modes** include RTTY, Baudot, ASCII, AMTOR, PSK, packet, and other digital operations authorized by the FCC (other than CW and digital voice).

Net Contacts

All contacts made on a net must meet the contact criteria required for the MARAC award for which those contacts are used.

Net Control - Hours of Service

For purposes of MARAC awards, credit for service as a **Net Control Station (NCS)** or **Assistant Net Control (ANCS)** can be earned for assisting mobile stations to make contacts with other county hunters on MARAC-sponsored nets. **NCS** and **ANCS** time may not be claimed for non-MARAC sponsored nets.

A log must be maintained by the **NCS** or **ANCS** that specifies the date, start time of net operation, and hours of operation (to the nearest 1/10 of an hour actually worked as **NCS** or **ANCS**). Other information supporting the time of service claimed, such as call signs of mobiles run and the names of counties run, is optional. This log must be submitted with any application for an award where credit for **NCS** or **ANCS** is claimed. When applying for an award, the applicant must also submit a summary of the log showing the total number of hours or service as **NCS** and **ANCS** claimed.

New Awards – Proposed Awards

The MARAC Awards program attempts to further the goals of effective mobile amateur radio operation. To suggest a new award or a modification to an existing award or MARAC award rule, please submit your ideas in writing to the **Awards Manager**, a member of the **Awards Committee**, your MARAC District Director, or any MARAC officer. Your written suggestion should address the following:

1. A brief description of your idea for an award or modification. Include a draft of the new award rules or suggested modifications.
2. Why should MARAC adopt an award based on your idea or adopt the modification you suggest? Some possible questions that your proposal for a new award might answer are:
 - (a) How will your proposed award or modification promote effective and efficient **Mobile Operation**?
 - (b) How difficult is the award to achieve? Is it reasonably attainable by more than a few county hunters? Should the award be earned in levels?
 - (c) Are any county hunters already making the kinds of contacts that would be required to earn this award?
3. What do you suggest as a formal name or title for the award?

If you have any ideas for a certificate for the proposed award, you may provide a sketch or other artwork. A copy of your **Proposed Award** should be sent to your District Director.

All suggestions for new awards and changes to current awards or rules are subject to review and modification by the **Awards Committee** and require final approval by the MARAC Board of Directors.

Portable and Remote Operation

(see **Fixed or Portable Operation**)

Operation from a non-mobile, temporary fixed location. This includes battery-powered operation that is not in a vehicle. Remote operation (remote control of a distant station, including use of the internet to communicate with the remote station, or other indirect operation) is allowed for MARAC awards.

QRP

Low-power operation. For purposes of MARAC Awards, a **Valid Contact** using **QRP** requires that one operator in the two-way communication be using a **QRP** power level. Only HF frequency contacts may be used for **QRP** contacts. For MARAC Awards, the fixed, portable, or mobile **QRP** station must be using five (5) watts output or less.

Replacement Certificates and Plaques

Replacement certificates will be available if you provide the required information and send it along with the basic award **Fee** for that certificate or plaque.

Stars

A station has one **Star** for each time that station successfully completes all USA counties. The first **Star** is for receiving the *CQ Magazine* USA County Award. An additional **Star** is earned for each time the station receives a MARAC Worked All USA Counties (multiple times) award for working all **USA Counties**.

Starting Over

For sequential awards, such as working all **USA Counties** multiple times, all **Valid Contacts** for the subsequent award (the next award in the series) must be made on or after the **Award Date**.

Team Contact

A **Team** consists of two mobile operators transmitting from the same vehicle. Each **Team** member must hold a current amateur radio operator license that is valid for the operation on the **Band** and **Mode** used for the contact. A **Valid Contact** with a **Team** must include an exchange of information with each **Team** member, and the call sign of both **Team** members must be logged.

Transmitted Counties

Transmitted Counties are the counties where a mobile operator is located when making a **Valid Contact**. When the mobile operator is located on a **County Line**, both of the counties count as **Transmitted Counties**. For purposes of different awards, **Valid Contacts** made on multiple **Bands** and **Modes** each count as a **Transmitted County**.

USA Counties

The list of counties of the United States that are used for certifying all applications for MARAC Awards includes all of the Louisiana parishes, the judicial districts of Alaska, and the counties of the other 48 states. When a county, parish, or judicial district is added or removed, the official MARAC **USA Counties** list will be modified on the effective date of the change stated in the law effecting the change. The official list is subject to approval by the MARAC Board of Directors.

Valid Contact

MARAC Awards require valid two-way radio contacts with other licensed amateur radio stations. A **Valid Contact** must be made in accordance with all applicable rules of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) relating to amateur radio (such as **Mode**, licensing, and operating procedures). A **Valid Contact** requires an exchange of information between two amateurs.

Contacts made through “repeater” devices or any other power relay methods (other than satellites) are not valid for MARAC Awards. When using a remote operation for making Valid Contacts, the distant station is must be located in the same country or ARRL DXCC entity as the controlling station. In addition, the operator using a remote operation to make contacts shall add the portable (/P) designator to the call sign of the remote operation.

Wet County Line

A **County Line** boundary may be a river, lake, water reservoir, creek, brook, stream, or other watercourse, including a dry riverbed or arroyo. This type of county boundary is called a **Wet County Line**. As long as a **Wet County Line** can be run safely, it may be run using the same requirements as any other **County Line**.

YL-OM Team

To be a **Valid Contact** for the MARAC **YL-OM Team** Award, the **Team** must include a female (YL) operator and a male (OM) operator who each hold a current amateur radio operator license that is valid for the operation on the amateur frequency and mode used for the contact. The YL and OM operators do not have to be married or otherwise related. Both **YL-OM Team** members must be operating from the same county and using the same radio. You must make a **Valid Contact** with each team member individually and the call sign of each operator must be included in your **Log**.

MARAC Awards

Big Rig Award

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with amateur radio operators who are driving or riding in **Big Rigs**.

SPECIAL RULES: **Big Rig** is defined in *General Rules and Definitions for MARAC Awards*.

AWARD LEVELS: Basic Certificate for 500 counties
New Certificates for 1000, 1500, and 2000 counties
Plaque for 2500 counties
Endorsement Plates for 2600, 2700, 2800, 2900, and 3000 counties
Special Plate for 3065+ USA counties

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees. The standard certificate fees also apply to seals and endorsement plates for each level.

Bingo – The Master County Hunter Award

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with stations that match the first letter of the county in which the stations are operating with one of the letters in the suffix of their amateur **Call Sign**.

SPECIAL RULES: In addition to matching the first letter of the county name (Cobb, IL) with one of the letters in the call sign suffix (W9ABC, KA2CBA), there are several special rules that apply to dual letter call signs and short call signs, as well as two wild cards:

- **Short Call Signs:** Any letter that matches the first letter of the county name may be used from 1X1, 2x1, 1x2, or 2x2 call signs. This includes the letters in the prefix. For example, **W1AB** is good for Bingo in counties that begin with **W** or **A** or **B**. **KB3DC** is good for Bingo in counties that begin with **K**, **B**, **C**, or **D**.

- **Repeated Letter Call Signs:** If a letter is repeated in a call sign (W1MMM, W2MMA, W3MAM, or KM4M), the letters preceding or following that letter alphabetically may be used. For example, the **MMM**, **MM**, or **M-M** counts for Bingo in counties that begin with the letters L, M, or N (as well as any other letter in the suffix). Note: Calls with **WW** or **YY** may be used for counties that begin with **V** or **W** or **Z**, but do not count as the “X” wild card. The **ZZ** double letter can be used for **Y**, **Z**, or **A**, and the **AA** double letter can be used for **A**, **B**, or **Z**.

- **Wild Card Call Signs:** Call signs with an **X** in the call (such as **KX1AB** or **W1ABX**) and call signs belonging to operators with one or more **Stars** are good for Bingo in every **USA County**.

The term **Stars** is defined in *General Rules and Definitions for MARAC Awards*.

For counties with two or more words in the name, the first letter of any word may be used to coincide with the call (**West Baton Rouge** or **Jim Hogg**).

For Alaskan judicial districts use **First Judicial District – South East**; **Second Judicial District – North West**; **Third Judicial District - South Central**; and **Fourth Judicial District - Central**.

AWARD LEVELS: No intermediate levels. **Bingo** is awarded for working **All USA Counties**.

After completing **Bingo**, each sequential award (Bingo II, etc.) can be worked by **Starting Over** and working **All USA Counties** again for the sequential award.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees.

Bingo Cinco Award

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts in all **USA Counties** with **amateur radio operators** who have earned the Bingo I, Bingo II, or higher level Bingo awards in order to collect a total of five (5) Bingo credits in each county.

SPECIAL RULES: All **Valid Contacts** for this award must have been made on or after September 15, 2015. Each **Valid Contact** with an **operator** who has earned the Bingo Award (a “Bingo Holder”) counts toward the five **Bingo credits** needed for each county. If you work five different **Bingo** holders in the same county, you have 5 Bingo credits and have completed all the needed Bingo contacts for that county.

Valid Contacts with amateur operators who have earned higher level Bingo awards (Bingo II, Bingo III, etc.) count earn multiple **Bingo credits**, depending on the Bingo award level. If you have a **Valid Contact** with someone who holds the MARAC Bingo V Award, that contact is worth five **credits** – all you need to complete the county - you have completed the county with only one contact! Contacts with one Bingo II holder (2 **credits**) and one Bingo III holder (3 **credits**) would also finish the county with a total of 5 **Bingo credits**.

You can only count a contact with each **Bingo holder** one time per county. In other words, even if you work a Bingo II holder twice in the same county, you still only have two **credits** for that county.

However, if you have an additional **Valid Contact** with an operator who has earned a higher level Bingo award after the date of your original contact, you can add the additional **credit(s)** to your Bingo Cinco log. In no case, however, can you claim more **Bingo credits** for a Bingo holder call sign in your log than the total number of **Bingo awards** actually held by the operator at the time of your last claimed contact in that county.

Also, you cannot claim credit for **Bingo credits** earned by an operator after the date of your last contact unless you make an additional **Valid Contact** with that operator in the county.

AWARD LEVELS: Certificate and plaque for earning a total of five **Bingo credits** in each county for all **USA Counties**.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees.

Bingo - Natural Bingo

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with stations that match the first letter of the county in which the stations are operating with one of the letters in the suffix of their amateur **Call Sign**.

SPECIAL RULES: For counties with two or more words in the name, the first letter of any word may be used to coincide with the letters in the suffix of the **Call Sign** (West Baton Rouge or Jim Hogg).

For Alaskan judicial districts use **First Judicial District – South East**; **Second Judicial District – North West**; **Third Judicial District - South Central**; and **Fourth Judicial District - Central**.

The special rules that apply to Bingo – The Master County Hunter Award for short call signs, repeated letters in call signs, stars, and wild cards do not apply to Natural Bingo. Only the actual letters in the suffix of the **Call Sign** may be used.

AWARD LEVELS: No intermediate levels. **Natural Bingo** is awarded for making **Valid Contacts** with **All USA Counties**.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees.

County Challenge Award

- IN MEMORIAM:** The County Challenge Award is dedicated to Bill Inkrote (K2NJ-SK). In addition to his years of service to MARAC and leadership as MARAC President, Bill was an active DXCC Honor Roll member, contester, DXpeditioner, and a dedicated county hunter who led the way in working counties on all bands and modes.
- OBJECTIVE:** To encourage county hunters to work and activate counties on as many bands as possible and to work as many counties as possible on the following bands: 160m, 75-80m, 40m, 30m, 20m, 17m, 15m, 12m, 10m, and 6m.
- SPECIAL RULES:** The number of counties worked for the award is the combined total of counties worked on each band. For example, if 500 counties are worked on 80m, 1500 on 40m, 2000 on 30m, and 3000 on 20m, the County Challenge total is 7000.
- AWARD LEVELS:** Each one thousand (1000) counties worked is one level of the award. For example, a CC total of 7,000 counties would be eligible for CC Level #7.
- APPLICATION AND FEES:** Standard application, logs, and fees.

County Hunter of the Year Award – SSB

County Hunter of the Year Award – CW

- IN MEMORIAM:** The County Hunter of the Year Award - CW is in honor of Ed Sanders (WA6VJP, SK). Ed was a seven-time winner of the Net Control of the Year Award – CW, as well as a winner of the County Hunter of the Year Award - CW. Ed had one of the best "fists" in America and worked all counties on CW five times.
- OBJECTIVE:** To recognize members of MARAC who have made a significant overall contribution to MARAC and county hunting. A member of MARAC may only receive this award only once (for each category).
- SPECIAL RULES:** The recipients of this award are determined by an annual ballot of the MARAC membership. The vote is conducted before each annual meeting. The candidates for the award are nominated by MARAC District Directors.
- Each District Director may select one nominee for each category (SSB/CW) to be placed on the ballot from among the nominees submitted by MARAC members from that Director's district.
- The District Director must receive nominations not later than the end of the fourth month preceding the annual meeting or by the deadline announced in the MARAC newsletter.
- The District Director must forward his or her selection and reasons for the nomination to the Awards Manager by the middle of the following month.
- If the Awards Manager receives more than three nominations for a category, the Awards Committee will select the three nominees for each category for the ballot.

If less than three nominations are received from District Directors, the Awards Committee may select additional nominees to bring the number of nominees for the ballot up to three.

Criteria for nomination for County Hunter of the Year include the following:

1. Quality and quantity of operating to provide **Valid Contacts** from multiple counties while in **Mobile Operation** or while assisting mobile county hunters as a Net Control Station (NCS) or assistant NCS.
2. Participation in MARAC activities and service to MARAC and the members of MARAC.
3. Other activities in support of county hunting.
4. Technical proficiency in design or usage or implementation of enhancements to mobile operation or county hunting net operations. Overall amateur radio general support in a manner consistent with good operation and advancement of the hobby.

AWARD LEVELS: A MARAC special plaque is presented at the MARAC annual convention to the nominee in each category who receives the most votes. Certificates are presented to each of the other nominees on the ballot.

APPLICATION AND FEES: There are no fees this award.

Double Diamond Award

OBJECTIVE: To make **Valid Contacts** in **All USA Counties** with other mobile operators who have earned the MARAC Mobile Diamond Award, including contacts while in a **Mobile Operation** transmitting from at least 500 counties as the holder of the Mobile Diamond Award.

SPECIAL RULES: All **Valid Contacts** for this award must have been made on or after September 15, 2015, and after the applicant has received the Mobile Diamond Award.

After having received the Mobile Diamond Award, the applicant must make contacts with holders of other Mobile Diamond Award holders in **All USA Counties** (Mobile Diamond contacts). Both Mobile Diamond holder operators involved in each Mobile Diamond contact may count both counties toward the Double Diamond Award.

The applicant must make **Valid Contacts** while transmitting in a **Mobile Operation** from at least five hundred (500) different counties.

In each of the 500 different counties transmitted while in **Mobile Operation**, the applicant must use at least (2) different **Bands** and make at least three (3) **Valid Contacts** with different stations on any one **Band** and a total of three (3) or more additional **Valid Contacts** on one or more additional **Bands**. At least one of these contacts must be with another holder of the Mobile Diamond Award and that contact may be on any **Band**.

For each **Valid Contact**, the two Mobile Diamond Award holders must be in separate counties (or countries) at the time the **Valid Contact** is made.

AWARD LEVELS: The Double Diamond award is awarded for making Mobile Diamond contacts in **All USA Counties** and making multiple contacts while transmitting in a **Mobile Operation** from at least 500 different counties on at least two **Bands** as a Mobile, one of which is with another Mobile Diamond award holder.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application and logs. There are no fees for MARAC members for this award. Standard fees apply to non-members.

DX Mobile Award

- OBJECTIVE:** To make contacts with amateur radio operators in DXCC countries while operating mobile.
- SPECIAL RULES:** The *ARRL DXCC List* in effect at the time the award application is received by MARAC is used to determine valid DXCC entities for this award.
- The applicant's home DXCC country cannot be used for this award unless the applicant makes the contact while mobile in a different DXCC entity. For example, a German applicant could count a contact with Germany if the contact was made while the German ham was mobile in Italy.
- Valid Contacts** with Alaska or Hawaii can be counted by applicants from the "lower 48" United States because Alaska and Hawaii are different DXCC entities.
- Aeronautical or maritime mobiles must be within the territorial limits of the country for which a contact is claimed.
- AWARD LEVELS:** Basic Certificate for 25 DXCC entities
New Certificates for 50, 75, and 100 DXCC entities
Plaque for 150 or more DXCC entities
- APPLICATION AND FEES:** Standard application, logs, and fees. The standard certificate fees also apply to seals for each level. List contacts alphabetically by DXCC entity call sign.

Five Band Counties Award

- OBJECTIVE:** To make contacts with amateur radio stations in All USA Counties on any five (5) amateur bands.
- SPECIAL RULES:** Any **Valid Contacts** submitted for other MARAC awards may also be used for this award.
- AWARD LEVELS:** Basic Certificate for 2000 counties on five (5) bands.
MARAC Trophy for All USA Counties on five (5) bands.
- APPLICATION AND FEES:** Standard application, logs, and fees. There is no charge for the MARAC Trophy.

Five Mode Award

- OBJECTIVE:** To make contacts with amateur radio stations in **All USA Counties** using five (5) different **Modes** for each county.
- SPECIAL RULES:** Each of the five contacts for each county must be made using a different **Mode**.
- The contacts may be made using any **Band** and may be made on the same **Band** or on any mix of **Bands**. Any of the **Modes** used to complete a particular county may be different from any or all of the **Modes** used to complete other counties.

Any mode of operation or form of modulation (including, but not limited to, SSB, FM, CW, SSTV, and the many digital forms of modulation) that is legal for amateur use under the rules of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) may be used for this award.

For each **Mode** that has variations in speed or other parameters (such as CW-R or PSK 63), the variations do not count as separate or different **Modes**. **Modes** with variations in speed or other parameters are referred to as “**Mode sets**.” The variations in each **Mode** set are collectively considered a single different **Mode** for purposes of this award.

Valid Contacts that are eligible for other MARAC awards may also be used for this award.

When at least one of the stations is a **Mobile Operation**, both stations may count the contact.

AWARD LEVELS: A separate award (certificate and mobile plaque) is available for each State.

All counties in a State must be completed for the award for that State.

Each State award may be earned multiple times up to a maximum of ten (10) times, but only the first time is a numbered award. An applicant must complete contacts with all counties in a State (using five different Modes) before starting over in that State.

A special MARAC Trophy will be awarded for completing contacts using five different **Modes** in all **USA Counties**. There is no fee for the special MARAC trophy.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees.

Five Star Award

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts in all **USA Counties** with USA-CA holders and MARAC multiple-time Worked All USA Counties Award holders totaling five (5) **Stars** in each county.

SPECIAL RULES: Each contact with a **Star** counts toward the five **Star** total needed for each county. If you work five different USA-CA holders in the same county, you have **Valid Contacts** with five **Stars** and have completed all the needed **Stars** for that county.

Contacts with amateur operators who have earned more than one **Star** count for the number of stars earned. If you have a **Valid Contact** with someone who holds the MARAC Worked All USA Counties Fifth Time Award, that contact is worth five **Stars**, and you have completed the county with only one contact!

You can only count a contact with each **Star** one time per county. In other words, if you work a two-**Star** holder twice in the same county, you have only accumulated two **Stars** for that county.

However, if you have another **Valid Contact** with an operator who has earned one or more additional **Stars** after the date of your original contact, you can add the additional **Star(s)** to your Five Star log. In no case, however, can you claim more **Star** credits for a call sign in your log than the total number of **Stars** actually held by the operator at the time of your last claimed contact in that county.

Also, you cannot claim credit for **Stars** earned by an operator after the date of your last contact unless you make an additional **Valid Contact** with that call sign in the county for which the additional **Stars** are claimed.

AWARD LEVELS: Certificate and plaque for contacts with five **Stars** in all **USA Counties**.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees.

Gemini Award

- IN MEMORIAM:** The Gemini Award is in honor of Jack Scroggins (WØSJE, SK), a charter founder of MARAC and the first MARAC Awards Manager.
- OBJECTIVE:** To make contacts with amateur radio operators who have received the MARAC Worked All USA Counties Second Time Award (two **Stars**).
- SPECIAL RULES:** Only one **Valid Contact** with each two-**Star** holder may be used for this award.
Each **Valid Contact** must be made on or after the date that the MARAC Worked All USA Counties Second Time Award was issued to that two-**Star** holder.
- AWARD LEVELS:** Basic Certificate for contacts with 25 different two-**Star** holders.
New Certificates for contacts with 50, 75, 100, and 150 two-**Star** holders.
Plaque for contacts with 150 or more different two-**Star** holders.
- APPLICATION AND FEES:** Standard application and logs. Standard fees apply to the certificate and plaque. The standard certificate fees apply to seals for each level.
List the two **Star** holders call signs in numerical order of the MARAC Worked All USA Counties Second Time Award number, starting with the lowest number. Logs for higher levels should list all contacts cumulatively.

King of the Road Award

- OBJECTIVE:** To make contacts with the same mobile operator in multiple counties and States.
- SPECIAL RULES:** The applicant must make **Valid Contacts** with the same operator while that operator is in a **Mobile Operation**. If the operator has changed call signs, all of the different call signs for the same operator may be used for this award.
The applicant may also order additional award certificates and plaques to be presented as a “thank you” to the mobile operator with whom the multiple contacts are made for each category of this award.
- AWARD LEVELS:**

King of the Road - Multi-County Award

A certificate is issued for making contacts with the same mobile operator in 100 different counties. New certificates are awarded for making contacts with the same mobile operator in 250, 500, and 1000 different counties respectively.

The MARAC Mobile Plaque is awarded for making contacts with the same mobile operator in 1500, 2000, 2500, or 3000 different counties.

A MARAC Special Plaque is awarded for making contacts with the same mobile in **All USA Counties**.

King of the Road - Multi-State Award

A certificate is awarded for making **Valid Contacts** with the same mobile operator in fifteen (15) different states. The certificate is upgraded with MARAC

New certificates are awarded for making **Valid Contacts** with the same mobile in 25, 35, or 45 different states.

The MARAC Mobile Plaque is awarded for making contacts with the same mobile in 48 or more States.

King of the Road (State) Award

A certificate is awarded for making contacts with the same mobile in all counties of a single State. A separate certificate is available for each State.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees.

Last County in a State Award

IN MEMORIAM: The Last County in a State Award is in honor of Ken Carpenter (KC4UG, SK), who was one of the most active mobile operators in MARAC. Ken received more than 500 last county awards and was always ready to drive the extra mile to get a last county for a fellow county hunter.

OBJECTIVE: To recognize the operator who transmits a **Valid Contact** for the last county in a State needed by a county hunter.

SPECIAL RULES: This award is presented by a county hunter as a “thank you” to the operator who transmits the last county needed to complete a State. See the *General Rules and Definitions for MARAC Awards* for further guidance on how this award is used by county hunters.

AWARD LEVELS: Last County in a State awards are recorded in the MARAC database and a notice of each award is published in the MARAC Roadrunner monthly newsletter. A paper certificate can be ordered from the Awards Manager. After transmitting twenty-five (25) last counties, a MARAC member receives a **Roadrunner Award**.

APPLICATION AND FEES: The fee for both members and non-members applying for this award is \$1.00 for the award. After the first award certificate, the fee for a certificate by mail is \$3.00. The Last County award application is available on the MARAC web site. MARAC will manually input paper applications for a surcharge of \$3.00 for each application.

NOTE: This award is paperless.

Last County in the USA Award

OBJECTIVE: To recognize the operator who gives a **Valid Contact** for the last county needed by a county hunter to finish working **All USA Counties** for any MARAC award that requires the applicant to work **All USA Counties**.

SPECIAL RULES: This award is presented by a county hunter as a “thank you” to the operator who transmits the last county needed to complete **All USA Counties**, which is also known as the “Whole Ball of Wax.” See the *General Rules and Definitions for MARAC Awards* for further guidance on how this award is used by county hunters. This award also counts as a **Last County** for the MARAC **Roadrunner Award**.

AWARD LEVELS: None.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Both members and non-members applying for this award pay a flat fee of \$1.00 for the certificate (\$3.00 by mail) or \$20.00 for the certificate and mobile plaque. The plaque is delivered to the recipient by MARAC.

The **Last County** award application is available on the MARAC web site.

Master Gold Award

IN MEMORIAM: The Master Gold Award is in honor of Arnie Bachmann (K9DCJ, SK). Arnie was a big part of the history of county hunting and was the unofficial MARAC historian. In 1991, Arnie authored the “USA-CA Award: The Story of County Hunting,” which was published as a three part series in *CQ Magazine*. He wrote county hunting history articles for the MARAC convention annual reports.

OBJECTIVE: For holders of both a **Star** and the Bingo - Master County Hunter Award (“Bingo”) to make **Valid Contacts** in **All USA Counties** with each other and perform service to MARAC and the county hunting community.

SPECIAL RULES: All contacts for Master Gold must be made after the applicant has earned at least one **Star** and the Bingo Award. Each contact must be made with another operator who has also earned at least one **Star** and the Bingo Award.

Both counties involved in a **Valid Contact** may be counted by both operators.

In addition to making contacts with other eligible operators in or from **All USA Counties**, the applicant must provide proof satisfactory to the **Awards Manager** of a total of 1500 hours of service consisting of any combination of the following:

Service to the county hunting community as Net Control or Assistant Net Control.

Service to the county hunting community for assisting mobiles. Credit for service is 10 minutes for each mobile run. You must provide all of the following assistance to each mobile:

- Announce the mobile - giving their call and county;
- Post the mobile (if you have Internet access);
- Remain on frequency and assist with relays; and
- Announce the mobile and county at the end of run.

Service to MARAC, including any combination of the following:

- Awards Manager (500 hours per year); Newsletter Editor (500 hours per year)
- Secretary (500 hours per year); Treasurer (300 hours per year)
- President or Vice President (200 hours per year)
- District Director or Past President (100 hours per year)
- Appointed position or committee service (actual hours)
- National or mini convention coordinator (actual hours)

An applicant may substitute *transmitted counties* for hours of service at the rate of one transmitted county equals one hour of service. You may transmit from the same county multiple times (but no more than once on the same date), and the same county may only be counted a maximum of 50 times.

All **Valid Contacts** for this award must have been made after June 1, 1994, and at least half (750) of the hours of service or transmitted counties (or combination of both) must have been performed after June 1, 1994.

AWARD LEVELS: Master Gold is awarded for working **All USA Counties** and completing the full 1500 hours of service or transmitted counties.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs (showing contacts for both worked and transmitted counties), and fees. Service hour logs must include total hours of service claimed and all of the following information for each mobile run: Mobile call sign, date and time, **Band** and **Mode**, County and State, and total hours of service

Master Platinum Award

- OBJECTIVE:** To make contacts with Master Gold Award holders, including transmitting from at least 500 counties after the applicant has earned the Master Gold Award.
- SPECIAL RULES:** An applicant must make **Valid Contacts** with holders of the Master Gold Award in **All USA Counties** (Master's Gold contacts).
All **Valid Contacts** for this award must have been made on or after February 12, 2003.
Valid Contacts with Master Gold Award holders made before the applicant receives the Master Gold Award are good for the county where the Master Gold Award holder is located. After the applicant receives the Master Gold Award, both operators may count both counties.
After the date of the applicant's Master Gold Award, the applicant must make additional **Valid Contacts** with other holders of the Master Gold Award while transmitting from at least five hundred (500) different counties.
The two Master Gold Award holders must be in separate counties (or countries) at the time a **Valid Contact** is made.
- AWARD LEVELS:** The Master Platinum is awarded for making Master Gold contacts in **All USA Counties** and transmitting from at least 500 different counties as a Master Gold holder.
- APPLICATION AND FEES:** Standard application and logs. There are no fees for MARAC members for this award. Standard fees apply to non-members.

MARAC Achievement Awards

- OBJECTIVE:** To provide recognition of achievements by a county hunter or other member of the amateur radio community.
- SPECIAL RULES:** Presentation of the MARAC **Outstanding Achievement Award** plaque must be approved by a majority of the MARAC Board of Directors. Presentation of the MARAC **Lifetime Achievement Award** trophy must be approved two-thirds of the MARAC Board of Directors.
The MARAC **Outstanding Achievement Award** and MARAC **Lifetime Achievement Award** are usually presented at the MARAC annual convention.
- AWARD LEVELS:** There are three levels of MARAC Achievement Awards
The MARAC **Special Achievement Award** certificate may be presented by the MARAC Board of Directors from time to time for any reason deemed appropriate by the Board. In addition, a **Special Achievement Award** certificate is presented to the second and third place runner-ups for the Mobile of the Year, Net Control of the Year, and Mobile Team of the Year awards.
The MARAC **Outstanding Achievement Award** plaque is presented by the MARAC Board of Directors to recognize an exceptional accomplishment by a county hunter or other member of the amateur radio community.
The MARAC **Lifetime Achievement Award** trophy is presented by the MARAC Board of Directors to recognize the cumulative accomplishments by a county hunter or other member of the amateur radio community over a number of years.
- APPLICATION AND FEES:** The **Outstanding Achievement Award** and **Lifetime Achievement Award** are initiated by submitting a written recommendation to the MARAC Board of Directors that includes reasons for making the award. There is no fee for this award.

MARAC Contest Awards

OBJECTIVE: To recognize highest scoring entrants in the annual MARAC county hunting contests.

SPECIAL RULES: MARAC sponsors annual SSB and CW contests.

Each contest is organized and chaired by a Contest Manager who is appointed by the MARAC President. The Contest Manager will recommend contest rules for approval by the MARAC Board of Directors, announce and publicize the contest, receive and score contest entries, and notify the **Awards Manager** of the results of the contest.

AWARD LEVELS: Contest award categories are defined in the contest rules.

A certificate is awarded to each of the four highest scoring entrants in each contest category.

A certificate is awarded to each entrant with at least 100 valid contacts.

A certificate is awarded to the highest scoring entrant in each U.S. state, the District of Columbia, each Canadian province, and DX entity (other than the United States, Alaska or Hawaii).

A MARAC mobile plaque is awarded to the two highest scoring entrants in each contest category, the two highest scoring entrants in North America, and the highest scoring operator located in CQ or ARRL DX entity other than the United States, Hawaii, or Alaska.

APPLICATION AND FEES: In order to be eligible for an award, an entrant must submit a log and entry information that meets all of the requirements of the contest rules. There are no contest entry fees or other fees for this award.

MARAC Custodian's Award

OBJECTIVE: To recognize members of MARAC who are supportive of the goals, objectives, and needs of the MARAC awards program.

SPECIAL RULES: Each year the **Awards Manager** may select one or more members of MARAC who are deserving of special recognition. The criteria for this award are solely within the discretion of the **Awards Manager**, but recommendations may be obtained from any county hunter.

The MARAC **Custodian's Award** plaque is usually presented at the MARAC annual convention.

AWARD LEVELS: None

APPLICATION AND FEES: No application is required. There are no fees for this award.

MARAC Service Awards

OBJECTIVE: To provide recognition of service to MARAC and the county hunting community.

SPECIAL RULES: Presentation of the MARAC **Outstanding Service Award** plaque must be approved by a majority of the MARAC Board of Directors. Presentation of the MARAC **Lifetime Service Award** trophy must be approved two-thirds of the MARAC Board of Directors.

The MARAC **Outstanding Service Award** and MARAC **Lifetime Service Award** are usually presented at the MARAC annual convention.

AWARD LEVELS: There are three levels of MARAC Service Awards:

The MARAC Awards Manager will present a MARAC **Certificate of Appreciation** to any person who provides a special service to MARAC. This award certificate is presented upon the recommendation of any member of MARAC and does not require action by the MARAC Board of Directors.

The MARAC **Outstanding Service Award** plaque is presented to recognize exceptional service to MARAC by a county hunter or other member of the amateur radio community.

The MARAC **Lifetime Service Award** trophy is presented to recognize the cumulative service to MARAC over a number of years by a county hunter or other member of the amateur radio community.

APPLICATION AND FEES: The **Outstanding Service Award** and **Lifetime Service Award** are initiated by submitting a written recommendation to the MARAC Board of Directors that includes reasons for making the award. There is no fee for this award.

Mobile Diamond Award

OBJECTIVE: To make **Valid Contacts** in **All USA Counties** with mobile operators who have earned the MARAC Master Platinum Award, including contacts while in a **Mobile Operation** and transmitting from at least 500 counties on at least two different bands after the applicant has earned the Master Platinum Award.

SPECIAL RULES: All **Valid Contacts** for this award must have been made on or after September 15, 2010.

After the date of the applicant's Master Platinum Award, the applicant must make contacts with holders of the Master Platinum Award in **All USA Counties** (Master Platinum contacts). Both Master Platinum operators involved in the contact may count both counties toward the Mobile Diamond Award.

After the date of the applicant's Master Platinum Award, the applicant must make additional **Valid Contacts** while transmitting in a **Mobile Operation** from at least five hundred (500) different counties.

In each of the 500 different transmitted counties, the applicant must use at least (2) different **Bands** and make at least three (3) **Valid Contacts** with different stations on each **Band**.

In each of the 500 different transmitted counties, at least one (1) of the **Valid Contacts** must be with another holder of the Master Platinum Award. The contact may be on either of the two bands.

For each **Valid Contact**, the two Master Platinum Award holders must be in separate counties (or countries) at the time the **Valid Contact** is made.

AWARD LEVELS: The Mobile Diamond is awarded for making Master Platinum contacts in **All USA Counties** and making multiple contacts while transmitting in a **Mobile Operation** from at least 500 different counties on at least two **Bands** as a Master Platinum holder.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application and logs. There are no fees for MARAC members for this award. Standard fees apply to non-members.

Mobile of the Year Award – SSB

- OBJECTIVE:** To recognize members of MARAC who have made a significant contribution to county hunting by making contacts from multiple counties while in a **Mobile Operation** using the **SSB Mode**.
- SPECIAL RULES:** The recipient of each award is determined by a quarterly ballot of the MARAC membership. The annual recipient is the MARAC member who receives the highest total of votes from all quarterly ballots each year. The same person may receive this award more than once.
- Each voter and recipient must be a member of MARAC in good standing, as evidenced by current payment of dues.
- AWARD LEVELS:** A MARAC special plaque is presented to each recipient at the MARAC annual convention. Certificates are presented in each category to MARAC members who receive the second and third largest total of votes each year.
- APPLICATION AND FEES:** There are no fees this award.

Mobile of the Year Award – CW

- IN MEMORIAM:** The Mobile of the Year Award - CW is in honor of Mike Mutnick (KV0E, SK). Mike, a two-time winner of the Mobile of the Year Award - CW, was tragically murdered by hitchhikers while on a mobile trip in New Mexico in 1984.
- OBJECTIVE:** To recognize members of MARAC who have made a significant contribution to county hunting by making contacts from multiple counties while in a **Mobile Operation** using the **CW Mode**.
- SPECIAL RULES:** The recipient of each award is determined by a quarterly ballot of the MARAC membership. The annual recipient is the MARAC member who receives the highest total of votes from all quarterly ballots each year. The same person may receive this award more than once.
- Each voter and recipient must be a member of MARAC in good standing, as evidenced by current payment of dues.
- AWARD LEVELS:** A MARAC special plaque is presented to each recipient at the MARAC annual convention. Certificates are presented in each category to MARAC members who receive the second and third largest total of votes each year.
- APPLICATION AND FEES:** There are no fees this award.

Mobile Team of the Year

- OBJECTIVE:** To recognize two members of MARAC who have made a significant contribution to county hunting by making **Team Contacts** from multiple counties while in a **Mobile Operation**.
- SPECIAL RULES:** The recipients of this award are determined by a quarterly ballot of the MARAC membership. The annual recipients are the MARAC **Team** members that receive the highest total of votes from all quarterly ballots each year. The same person may receive this award more than once as part of the same **Team** or a different **Team**. Each voter and both **Team** members must be members of MARAC in good standing, as evidenced by current payment of dues.
- AWARD LEVELS:** A MARAC special plaque is presented to each **Team** member at the MARAC annual convention. Certificates are presented to MARAC **Team** members who receive the second and third largest total of votes each year.
- APPLICATION AND FEES:** There are no fees this award.

Mobile to Mobile Award

- OBJECTIVE:** To make contacts with mobile amateur radio operators in all USA counties from mobile.
- SPECIAL RULES:** Any **Valid Contacts** submitted for other MARAC awards may also be used for this award.
- AWARD LEVELS:** The Mobile to Mobile Award will be awarded for making contacts in all **USA Counties** while both parties to the contact are in a **Mobile Operation**.
- APPLICATION AND FEES:** Standard application, logs, and fees.

Native American Counties Award

- OBJECTIVE:** To make contacts with amateur radio operators in **USA Counties** that have names derived from Native American languages.
- SPECIAL RULES:** Any **Valid Contacts** submitted for other MARAC awards may also be used for this award. The list of required counties is available from the Awards Manager or on the MARAC web site.
- AWARD LEVELS:** This award requires making **Valid Contacts** with all of the counties on the Native American counties list.
- APPLICATION AND FEES:** Standard application, logs, and fees.

Net Control Award

- IN MEMORIAM:** The Net Control Award is in honor of Karl Adkins, WA6MAR, in recognition of his contributions to the county hunter nets and many hours spent as net control.
- OBJECTIVE:** To recognize amateur radio operators for serving as Net Control Station (“NCS”) or Assistant Net Control Station (“ANCS”) for any MARAC-sponsored county hunter net.
- SPECIAL RULES:** Hours served as either NCS or ANCS of any net operating for the primary purpose of assisting county hunters to make contacts with USA Counties may be counted for this award.
- AWARD LEVELS:** Basic Certificate for 50 hours
New Certificates for 100 hours, 250 hours, and 500 hours
Mobile Plaque for 750 hours
Special Plaque for 1,000 or more hours
Bars will be awarded for the Special Plaque in increments of 2000, 3000, and each additional 1,000 hours of service as NCS or ANCS.
- APPLICATION AND FEES:** Standard application with logs of dates and hours of operation as NCS or ANCS. There are no fees for this award.

Net Control of the Year Award - SSB

Net Control of the Year Award - CW

- IN MEMORIAM:** The Net Control of the Year Award - CW is in honor of Paul Edmonds (W8RYP, SK). Paul was an active Net Control on the early CW county hunting nets, especially 40 meters.
- OBJECTIVE:** To recognize members of MARAC who have made a significant contribution to county hunting by operating as net control operator for a MARAC-sponsored net.
- SPECIAL RULES:** The recipient of each award is determined by a quarterly ballot of the MARAC membership.
- The annual recipient in each category (SSB/CW) is the MARAC member who receives the highest total of votes from all quarterly ballots each year. The same person may receive this award more than once.
- Each voter and recipient must be a member of MARAC in good standing, as evidenced by current payment of dues.
- AWARD LEVELS:** A MARAC special plaque is presented to each recipient at the MARAC annual convention. Certificates are presented in each category to MARAC members who receive the second and third largest total of votes each year.
- APPLICATION AND FEES:** There are no fees this award.

Polaris Award

- IN MEMORIAM:** The Polaris Award is in honor of Cliff Corne, Jr. (K9EAB, SK), who was the first amateur radio operator to confirm contacts with all USA counties and earn the first USA-CA Award. Cliff's achievement was even more remarkable because he completed the award while confined to an iron lung with polio.
- OBJECTIVE:** To make contacts with amateur radio operators who have received the USACA Award (one **Star**).
- SPECIAL RULES:** Only one **Valid Contact** with each **Star** holder may be used for this award. The contact must be made on or after the date that the USA-CA Award was issued to that **Star** holder.
- AWARD LEVELS:** Basic Certificate for contacts with 100 different **Star** holders.
New Certificates for contacts with 250, 500, 750, and 1,000 **Star** holders.
MARAC Special Plaque for contacts with 1000 or more different **Star** holders.
- APPLICATION AND FEES:** Standard application and logs. . Standard fees apply to the certificate and plaque. The standard certificate fees apply to each level. List the call sign of each **Star** holder in numerical order of the USA-CA number, starting with the lowest number. Logs for higher levels should list all contacts cumulatively.

President's Award

- OBJECTIVE:** To recognize members of MARAC who are supportive of the goals, objectives, and needs of the MARAC and county hunting.
- SPECIAL RULES:** Each year the President of MARAC may select one or more members of MARAC who are deserving of special recognition. The criteria for this award are solely within the discretion of the President, but recommendations may be obtained from any county hunter. The President's Award plaque is usually presented at the MARAC annual convention.
- APPLICATION AND FEES:** No application is required. There are no fees for this award.

Ran All (State) Counties Award

- OBJECTIVE:** To make contacts with amateur radio operators while transmitting from every county in a State.
- SPECIAL RULES:** The applicant must make **Valid Contacts** while transmitting from every county in a State while the applicant is in a **Mobile Operation** or **Portable Operation**.
- AWARD LEVELS:** A separate award is available for each State. All counties in a State must be completed for the award for that State.
- Each State award may be earned multiple times up to a maximum of ten (10) times, but only the first time is a numbered award. An applicant must complete transmitting from all counties in a State before starting over.
- APPLICATION AND FEES:** Standard application. Logs must indicate the State and county transmitted, the station worked, the date of each contact, and the date of the last contact. **Band** or **Mode** is required for endorsements.
- There is no fee for award certificates for MARAC members. For non-members, there is no fee for the first award certificate for each State. The fee for each additional award certificate for a State is \$3 for non-members. The fee for the optional mobile plaque for each State is \$20. A trophy will be awarded for completing all States. There is no fee for the trophy.
- APPLICATION AND FEES:** Standard application, logs (indicating the county transmitted), and fees.

Roadrunner Award

- OBJECTIVE:** To recognize county hunters who transmit **Valid Contacts** from multiple **Last Counties**.
- SPECIAL RULES:** The Roadrunner Award is presented by MARAC to county hunters in recognition of transmitting from multiple **Last Counties**.
- AWARD LEVELS:** A MARAC mobile plaque is presented for transmitting **25 Last Counties**. Additional mobiles plaques are issued for transmitting 50 and 75 counties.

A special MARAC plaque is presented for transmitting 100 Last Counties, and engraved plates that can be attached to the plaque are issued for transmitting each additional 25 **Last Counties** from 125 through 375 **Last Counties**.

When the level of 400 **Last Counties** is reached, a second special plaque is presented, and appropriate engraved plates are issued for higher levels in increments of 25 **Last Counties** from 425 through 675 **Last Counties**.

When the level of 700 **Last Counties** is reached, a third special plaque is presented, and appropriate engraved plates are issued for higher levels in increments of 25 **Last Counties** from 725 through 975 **Last Counties**.

A special MARAC Trophy is presented to a county hunter who transmits from 1000 **Last Counties**. This award is presented at the MARAC National Convention.

APPLICATION AND FEES: No application or fee is required for this award. The MARAC **Awards Manager** issues the award when each level is achieved.

Star XX Award

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts in all **USA Counties** with USA-CA holders and MARAC multiple-time Worked All USA Counties Award holders totaling twenty (20 or XX) **Stars** in each county.

SPECIAL RULES: You must have completed the MARAC **5 Star Award** before you start counting contacts for this Award.

Each contact with a **Star** counts toward the twenty **Stars** total needed for each county. If you have **Valid Contacts** with 20 different USA-CA holders in the same county, you have collected 20 **Stars** and have completed all the needed **Stars** for that county.

Contacts with amateur operators who have earned more than one **Star** count for the number of stars earned. If you have a **Valid Contact** with someone who holds the MARAC Worked All USA Counties Fifth Time Award, that contact is worth five **Stars**. If you have a **Valid Contact** with someone who holds the MARAC Worked All Counties Tenth Time Award, that contact is worth 10 stars.

You can only count a contact with each **Star** one time per county. In other words, if you work a two-**Star** holder twice in the same county, you have only accumulated two **Stars** for that county. However, if you have another **Valid Contact** with an operator who has earned one or more additional **Stars** after the date of your original contact, you can add the additional **Star(s)** to your Star XX log.

In no case, however, can you claim more **Star** credits for a call sign in your log than the total number of **Stars** actually held by the operator at the time of your last claimed contact in that county. Also, you cannot claim credit for **Stars** earned by an operator after the date of your last contact unless you make an additional **Valid Contact** with that call sign in the county for which the additional **Stars** are claimed.

AWARD LEVELS: Certificate and plaque for contacts with 20 **Stars** in all **USA Counties**.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees.

NOTE: The Start Date for the Star XX Award is July 9, 2011.

USA - Call Sign Combo Award

- OBJECTIVE:** To make contacts with amateur radio operators in **All USA Counties** by call sign prefix and suffix combination.
- SPECIAL RULES:** Only U.S. amateur call signs may be used for this award.
Each separate combination of call sign prefix and suffix letters (1x2, 2x1, 1x3, 2x2, and 2x3) is a separate category.
- AWARD LEVELS:** A separate award is issued for each call sign combination category.
Basic Certificate for 1000 counties in each category
New Certificates for 2000 and 3,000 counties in each category
New Certificate for **All USA Counties** in each category
Optional Plaque for **All USA Counties** in each category
Optional Plaque for **All USA Counties** in each category and for All USA Counties in all five call sign combination categories.
Each level is sequentially numbered with a unique series of numbers. When an upgrade level is achieved, the **Awards Manager** will issue a new certificate with appropriate seals and a history of the previous levels.
- APPLICATION AND FEES:** Standard application, logs, and fees.

USA-CW Award

- OBJECTIVE:** To make contacts with amateur radio operators in **All USA Counties** using CW **Mode**.
- SPECIAL RULES:** Any **Valid Contacts** using CW submitted for other MARAC awards may also be used for this award.
- AWARD LEVELS:** USA-CW is awarded for working **All USA Counties**
After completing USA-CW, each sequential award (USA-CW II, USA-CW III, etc.) can be worked by **Starting Over** and working **All USA Counties** for the sequential award.
- APPLICATION AND FEES:** Standard application, logs, and fees.

USA - Digital Award

- OBJECTIVE:** To make contacts with amateur radio operators in **All USA Counties** using any digital **Mode** except CW.
- SPECIAL RULES:** Any **Valid Contacts** using a digital mode other than CW submitted for other MARAC awards may also be used for this award.
- AWARD LEVELS:** Basic Certificate for 1000 counties
New Certificates for 2000 and 3,000 counties
New Certificate for **All USA Counties**
Optional Plaque for **All USA Counties**
Each level is sequentially numbered with a unique series of numbers. When an upgrade level is achieved, the **Awards Manager** will issue a new certificate with appropriate seals and a history of the previous levels.
- APPLICATION AND FEES:** Standard application, logs, and fees.

USA-No Stars Award

- OBJECTIVE:** To make contacts with amateur radio operators who have not received the USA-CA Award and to encourage new county hunters to transmit counties while mobile.
- SPECIAL RULES:** A **Star** is defined in General Rules and Definitions for MARAC Awards. Only **Valid Contacts** with operators in **Mobile** or **Portable Operation** who have no **Stars** may be used for this award. If an operator has one or more **Stars**, only contacts made with that operator before the date that the USA-CA Award was issued to that operator may be counted for this award.
- All contacts must be made on or after January 1, 2010.
- AWARD LEVELS:** No intermediate levels. USA-No Stars is awarded for working **All USA Counties**. After completing USA-No Stars, each sequential award (USA-No Stars II, USA-No Stars III, etc.) can be worked by **Starting Over** and working **All USA Counties** again for the sequential award.
- APPLICATION AND FEES:** Standard application, logs, and fees.

USA Prefix Award (USA-PA)

- OBJECTIVE:** To make contacts with amateur radio operators who have as the first letter of their call sign one of four letters assigned to USA stations.
- SPECIAL RULES:** Each prefix has a separate award and there is an additional award for working all prefixes.
- K Prefix Award** – Make **Valid Contacts** with operators that have the letter "K" as the first letter of their call signs.
- W Prefix Award** – Make **Valid Contacts** with operators that have the letter "W" as the first letter of their call signs.
- N Prefix Award** – Make **Valid Contacts** with operators that have the letter "N" as the first letter of their call signs.
- A Prefix Award** – Make **Valid Contacts** with operators that have the letter "A" as the first letter of their call signs. The following "wild cards" may be substituted for "A" call sign contacts: (a) the call sign of a DX station and (b) the call sign of any station that contains the letter "X". **Note:** A wildcard can be used only once in a county. For example: W3XE can be used either as an A or a W, but not both A and W in the same county.
- All Prefix Award** – Make **Valid Contacts** with all four prefixes in **All USA Counties**.
- AWARD LEVELS:** A separate certificate and optional plaque is awarded for working each prefix in **All USA Counties**.
- A MARAC Special Plaque will be awarded for completing all four prefixes in **All USA Counties**.
- APPLICATION AND FEES:** Standard application and logs. Standard fees for each of the individual prefix awards. There is no fee for the All Prefix Award certificate and special plaque.

USA - QRP Award

- OBJECTIVE:** To make contacts with amateur radio operators in **All USA Counties** using QRP power of five (5) watts or less (output power) in any mode.
- SPECIAL RULES:** Any **Valid Contacts** using QRP submitted for other MARAC awards may also be used for this award.
County hunters who worked **All USA Counties** using QRP and whose QRP endorsement was recorded by WD3P and maintained by WD3P were issued the first series of numbers and may apply for the award by submitting an application and appropriate fee to the **MARAC Awards Manager**.
- AWARD LEVELS:** Basic Certificate for 1000 counties
New Certificates for 2000 and 3,000 counties
New Certificate for **All USA Counties**
Optional Plaque for **All USA Counties**
Each level is sequentially numbered with a unique series of numbers. When an upgrade level is achieved, the **Awards Manager** will issue a new certificate with appropriate seals and a history of the previous levels.
- APPLICATION AND FEES:** Standard application, logs, and fees.

USA - Single Band Award

- OBJECTIVE:** To make contacts with amateur radio operators in **All USA Counties** using a single operating amateur band.
- SPECIAL RULES:** Any **Valid Contacts** on the same band submitted for other MARAC awards may also be used for this award. Any combination of modes may be used on each band.
In order to be eligible to apply for the **All USA Counties** level of this award, the applicant must have already received the USA-CA Award from *CQ Magazine*.
- AWARD LEVELS:** A separate award is issued for each band.
Basic Certificate for 1000 counties on each band
New Certificates for 2000 AMD 3,000 counties on each band
New Certificate for **All USA Counties** on each band
Optional Plaque for **All USA Counties** on each band
Each level is sequentially numbered with a unique series of numbers. When an upgrade level is achieved, the **Awards Manager** will issue a new certificate with appropriate seals and a history of the previous levels.
- APPLICATION AND FEES:** Standard application, logs, and fees.

USA-SSB Award

- OBJECTIVE:** To make contacts with amateur radio operators in **All USA Counties** using SSB Mode.
- SPECIAL RULES:** Any **Valid Contacts** using SSB submitted for other MARAC awards may also be used for this award.
- AWARD LEVELS:** No intermediate levels. **USA-SSB** is awarded for working **All USA Counties**. After completing USA-SSB, each sequential award (USA-SSB II, etc.) can be worked by **Starting Over** and working **All USA Counties** for the sequential award.
- APPLICATION AND FEES:** Standard application, logs, and fees.
- NOTE:** The Start Date for the USA-SSB Award is February 5, 2015

U.S. Presidents Award

- OBJECTIVE:** To make contacts with amateur radio operators in USA Counties that are named after Presidents of the United States.
- SPECIAL RULES:** Any Valid Contacts submitted for other MARAC awards may also be used for this award. The list of required counties is available from the Awards Manager or on the MARAC web site.
- AWARD LEVELS:** This award requires making Valid Contacts with all of the counties on the US Presidents counties list.
- APPLICATION AND FEES:** Standard application, logs, and fees.

Worked All USA Counties Award

- OBJECTIVE:** To make contacts with **All USA Counties** for the second, third, fourth, fifth, or higher multiple times.
- SPECIAL RULES:** Operators may begin to count **Valid Contacts** for the MARAC Worked All USA Counties Second Time Award as soon as the USA-CA Award for working **All USA Counties** is issued by *CQ Magazine*.
- Operators may begin to count **Valid Contacts** for the MARAC Worked All USA Counties Third Time Award (or higher level awards) as soon as the previous award is issued by MARAC.
- AWARD LEVELS:** Certificate and optional plaque from MARAC for completing **All USA Counties** for the second time and higher.
- When the first time award is issued by *CQ Magazine*, the MARAC **Awards Manager** sends a complimentary MARAC certificate and congratulatory letter to the recipient.
- APPLICATION AND FEES:** Standard application, logs, and fees.

YL Mobile Award

- OBJECTIVE:** To make contacts with mobile female amateur radio operators.
- SPECIAL RULES:** The contact must be made while the female operator is in a **Mobile Operation**.
- AWARD LEVELS:** Basic Certificate for 100 counties
New Certificates for 200, 500, and 1000 counties
Mobile Plaque for 2000 and 3000 counties
Special Plaque for **All USA Counties**
- APPLICATION AND FEES:** Standard application, logs, and fees.

YL-OM Team Award

- OBJECTIVE:** To make contacts with the members of mobile **YL-OM Teams**.
- SPECIAL RULES:** A **Valid Contact** must be made with each member of the YL-OM Team in each county.
- Each contact must be made while the **YL-OM Team** is operating together in the same vehicle in a **Mobile Operation**.
- YL-OM Team** is defined in *General Rules and Definitions for MARAC Awards*.
- AWARD LEVELS:** Basic Certificate for 250 counties
New Certificates for 500, 750, and 1000 counties
Mobile Plaque for 2000 and 3000 counties
Special Plaque for **All USA Counties**
- APPLICATION AND FEES:** Standard application, logs, and fees.