



## The County Line

# ROADRUNNER

Published Monthly by the Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club, Inc.

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## Getting Close?

By: Ted, K1BV

*As the New Year begins, I asked Ted to outline some things that can make applying for USA-CA less of a hassle for both you and him. Ted was gracious enough to provide the following suggestions—ed.*

1. Please communicate ahead of time when ready to apply for the all county level. E-mail: [k1bv@monad.net](mailto:k1bv@monad.net). At that time, I will ask you to supply a small number of MRC/QSL of my choice along with the application. Don't throw away cards that were listed on earlier and lower level applications. The cards I request can come from any level.

2. Cost of USA-CA plaque is currently \$41. Been that way for couple years, and always subject to change. That's my cost from the engraver who is up in Michigan and drop ships per my instructions.

3. USA-CA fees are now \$5 for CQ subscribers and \$12 everyone else. Endorsements are still \$1.25 no matter how many you request in one letter.

4. Computer prepared lists of cards are OK. They should include all necessary information as listed in the official application. List contacts by state, by county in alphabetic order.

5. ECC (electronic confirmations) are not recognized yet by CQ awards programs.

6. USA-CA is a one-time award. MARAC offers you the opportunity for 2<sup>nd</sup> Time Around, etc.

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7. We now offer a special seal for ALL counties. If you have earned the all county level sometime in the past, and wish to get this new seal and ribbon, send me a SASE and indicate your USA-CA number.

8. CQ rules specify that a complete list of counties be submitted with each application, even if it's just an endorsement. Don't send just a list of the new counties you've worked.

9. I will accept text file applications - prefer them as part of an e-mail versus an attached file. The signed certification and witness sheet may be sent by regular mail.

10. A 500-700 word biographical sketch of your county hunting activities would be appreciated when you finish up. Your friends would like to read about you in my monthly CQ Magazine column. A photo is optional, but since CQ is now using a lot more color, a picture is even more appreciated.

11. You are strongly urged to apply for USA-CA just as soon as you get to the 500 level. You get a handsome certificate up front and also have the added fun of attaching seals to record your progress as you work your way to the top level.

12. USA-CA record books have not been reprinted recently and you might want to make note of a few changed items:

a. Colorado - add Broomfield County effective 11-15-2001.

b. Florida - Dade changed to Miami-Dade in 1999.

c. New York - Staten Island should read Richmond.

13. County line QSOs are accepted - use good common sense. i.e., A/M QSOs by an aircraft flying up a line and using GPS is stretching it a bit. Tri-county lines are VERY suspect. If a

county line is in the middle of a river, unless the mobile stops in the middle of a bridge (unsafe), we suggest one at a time.

14. The USA-CA award still depends on the honor of the applicant. There have been very few cheaters or liars.

15. Make application checks payable to "USA-CA Custodian". My bookkeeping is separate from that of CQ.

16. Yes, we know that Alaska has "counties". However, when the program was started, the originator chose to use the four Judicial Districts. This requirement continues. In a similar fashion, Louisiana recalls its French background by calling its counties "Parishes". The award might be called the "USA Counties, Parishes and Alaskan Judicial Districts Award". But we call it USA-CA, which is shorter.

17. Volunteering to act, as a Net Control, or just helping the NC is a great opportunity to get new counties quickly. Try to contribute to the program by assisting and keeping it running above board and honestly.

Ted Melinosky, K1BV, USA-CA Custodian

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## Publishing Policy

Opinions expressed in articles are those of the author and may not reflect those of the **Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club**. Articles appearing in the **Roadrunner** may be copied provided credit is given to the author and the **Roadrunner**. The **Roadrunner** is published monthly and articles from members are encouraged and welcomed. Articles from other sources are welcome also, provided the source allows re-publication and credit is given to the original author and the source. The Editor reserves the right to edit all articles for size and content. We will not publish any articles that are sexist, racial, or otherwise in poor taste. Direct submission of articles are encouraged by hard copy or diskette using MSWord to Dave Heyboer, KF4KW, 521 Pine Grove Church Road, Bowling Green, KY 42101 or via e-mail to kf8kw@MARAC.org. Deadline for submission of

articles and changes is the first of the month for publication in the next issue of the **Roadrunner**.

## From The MARAC Secretary

### Renewals

If your mailing label indicates 200201 or 200202, it is time to renew. Dues with a monthly printed newsletter are \$19.00 a year. Dues with the newsletter mailed via airmail to all continents other than North America are \$30.00 a year.

**Members may receive the newsletter electronically, without a printed copy, for \$14.00 a year.**

Multiple year renewals are welcome. Please make your money order or check payable to MARAC and mail to: MARAC Secretary, **W2LSH**, Norm Ellison, 21140 Golden Pond Road, Long Beach, MS 39560-9012.

### MARAC Information Packet

For new members or persons interested in county hunting, a County Hunting Information Packet is available. The packet contains information about MARAC, MRC/QSL'ing, net operations, county hunter supplies, and more. The packet can be obtained from the MARAC Secretary in one of two ways. You may send for the packet yourself or it may be requested for you by a third party. A mailing label or SASE is appreciated. Address all requests to W2LSH, Norm Ellison, MARAC Secretary, 21140 Golden Pond Road, Long Beach, MS 39560-9012. MARAC will pay the return postage. European amateurs may request the information packet from Eddie Scholes, G4KHG.

### ARRL Memberships

We wish to thank those MARAC members who have supported MARAC by submitting their ARRL applications through the MARAC Secretary. The applications for new or renewal memberships are processed on a monthly basis. Cutoff for each processing cycle is the last day of the previous month. For example, if your ARRL renewal notice requests a return by August 15, it should be received by the MARAC Secretary by July 30<sup>th</sup>. For each ARRL membership, MARAC receives a rebate of \$2.00 for a renewal and \$5.00 for a

new membership. To take advantage of this service, mail your ARRL membership application and a check made out to MARAC for the required dues to the MARAC Secretary, W2LSH, Norm Ellison, 21140 Golden Pond Road, Long Beach, MS 39560-9012.

### Changes?

*Please send all changes regarding your mailing address, phone number, call sign changes or other database information to the MARAC Secretary, W2LSH, Norm Ellison, 21140 Golden Pond Road, Long Beach, MS 39560-9012.. Alternate method of notification is via e-mail w2lsh@MARAC.org, or via telephone, 228-452-1807. This notification will include the mailing of the Roadrunner and the awards database. Posting the information on the WWW or sending to other sources does not guarantee that it is received at MARAC headquarters.*

### New Members

*On behalf of the Board of Directors and other members of MARAC, I welcome the following new members:*

KD4RKJ, David L Finchum, 4038 Payne Hollow Road, Walland, TN (Blount) 37886 R-2984

ND7X, Edward G. Lutz, 2650 Mt. Charleston Dr, Parump, NV 89048 R-2985

NW6S, Jim Kingsberry, 319 Mockingbird Dr, Hendersonville, NC (Henderson) 28702 R-2986

KI0AZ, Clifford Goldsberry, 2962 Schaeffer Dr SW, Cedar Rapids, IA (Linn) 52404-4518 R-2987

N9JZ, Jim Zacher, 39W 345 Central Dr, Elgin, IL (Kane) 60123-8947 R-2988

AA4HV, Daniel S. Columbus, 8565 Buckhurst Rd, Cordova, TN (Shelby) 38016-5170 R-2989

KC8MCX, Noel A. Tenney III, 127 First Avenue, Coldwater, OH (Mercer) 45828 R-2990

## MARAC

On behalf of the officers, directors and other members of MARAC, I salute the following county hunters for their accomplishments:

### Worked All USA-CA Counties 2nd Time

KF7SG #296 dtd 12-12-01

### Worked All USA-CA Counties 5<sup>th</sup> Time

N8ESR, # 53 dated 11-19-01

### Master County Hunter (Bingo)

N9STL #216 dated 12-2-01

*\*\*\*For those of you on the net on 12-2-01, you heard Joyce work her last one for this award and less than 20 minutes later, Gene announced her number. A record? Probably! Good job on both your parts for such a quick turnaround.*

## AWARDS REMINDER

When mailing applications for awards to the Awards Manager, please use the post office box address and not Gene's home address. The Assistant Awards Manager has access to the post office box and in Gene's absence, can pick up the applications and begin processing the awards. This will shorten any delay in issuance of awards. Another way to apply for awards is ON line via the Internet at the addresses listed below:

MARAC AWARDS

PO Box 2295

Fond du Lac, WI 54936-2295

**Or**

**Last County**

[www.marac.org/lastcounty](http://www.marac.org/lastcounty)

**Worked All Counties**

<http://marac.org/awards/onlineAppWorkedUSQ.htm>

### **On Line Data Base**

[www.marac.org/database](http://www.marac.org/database)

## BOD/Members Meeting

**None this month due to cancellation.**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

**November 30, 2001**

Fund Balance as of October 31, 2001-\$26,307.50

Income-\$2,784.16

Expenses-\$1,544.31

Account balance as of November 30, 2001-\$27,547.35

*A detailed report is available on the MARAC Web-Page*

## It's That Time Again

Its time to Vote Once again for the Deserving NC SSB and CW along with the most Deserving Mobile SSB and CW. You may also vote electronically via the MARAC web page at [www.marac.org/elections](http://www.marac.org/elections).

## On the Road With N4CD

Whew! Summer is over, and N4CD back in Texas after interesting time up 'north' escaping from the hot Texas sun. A few asked what happened to the September Column. Seems I sent a whole bunch of columns off to the editor last spring, and they finally ran out!

A few people have mentioned the 'comments' that seem to get made on the County Hunter net these days. I know one of the primary reasons that people get into County Hunting is that we operate a nice friendly net, try and make sure

everyone is treated with courtesy, and is a place you can tune into with your 10 or 14 year old nephew or niece listening in. N2TPH got hooked on the net after just a few hours of listening. She started on the Family hour DX net, which also is one of the smoothest run nets on the band. Liked the friendly people and friendly non-challenging attitude. She'd get herself going in the mornings (not always easy), and anxiously tune in to her 'friends' on the net. I'd come home from work, and she'd tell me who was where, doing what, etc.

I was always impressed with Gene's (N4ANV) comments at the conventions where he would talk about county hunters as 'family'. It sure is, and I know for Ida N2TPH, she got thousands of hours of friendship from her net time.

Every now and then, when she heard things that upset her, or seemed out of place for the county hunter net, she would comment "someone was taking 'grumpy' pills" that morning. That was her nice way to say they seemed to be out of line, or they were acting 'unfriendly'.

If a newcomer came on the net, used phonetics (which is standard practice everywhere else), or called in with 'last two letters', which is encouraged in some DX type operations, we'd simply and courteously let them know that they aren't necessary to use on the CH net, and that we'd prefer they don't use them. While most do this, every now and then it seems newcomers get rather brusquely dismissed. We all started out as newbies, and probably stumbled across a few nets before we eventually figured out the procedure on each one, and the idiosyncrasies on each one. Yes, people get irritated and annoyed, propagation is often challenging, the QRM is sometimes horrible, the QRN nasty, but to an outsider listening in, for any five minute period, he/she is going to get a lasting impression of our entire group and our operating practices from just one instance of a newbie

being 'blown' away for not knowing net procedure.

If you are running mobile, and someone calls in with phonetics, or says WG9Xray Xray X ray in boondock MT, you can easily work them, and within 15 seconds, the situation is handled courteously, and they go on their way happy with a contact. To take 30 seconds of net time telling them you won't work them unless they call without phonetics, or similar, just seems to me to be rude and time wasting. I suspect most on the net did use phonetics for years. I'd bet half of the big guns have DXXX, maybe on the DXCC honor roll, have WPX and lots of other awards where they made tens of thousands of contacts. Now it seems they have amnesia. I work 'em and move on. Why not?

If you listen on many of the 75 m nets, it is truly amazing at the behavior of some of the hams. I know the CB band is mostly a foul potty mouth band where people seem to go all out to use the trashiest language, and it seems some of the operating practices on 75m are getting pretty sad. There was a great humorous article in a ham magazine a while back that, tongue in check, listed the "net" frequencies - arthritis on .65, heart attack survivors on .68, cancer horror stories on .71, alcohol abusers on .82, weed smokers on .00, prostate problems on .74, people with split personalities on .33 and .89, etc. Seems there's a frequency for just about any ailment or group on 75m. (And any amount of filthy talk).

However, now a days, you tune in on the 20m CH net, especially in the breaks when things are slow, and you occasionally hear comments about 'Viagra' and people's need for it - comments about 'Jack Daniels' at 9:30 am in the morning, etc. Some ops make comments as though they are 90 years old and teetering on the brink day by day. Is this necessary? We, as county hunters, probably have many senior members. I'd bet most have one or two

ailments or problems that affect them. So what? I got a few aches and pains myself at 55. If you got a problem (physical or attitude), please find the correct net on 75M and take those comments there for the sake of the rest of us. Leave the grumpy pills in the bottle. .

I suppose the general level of one-line insults (a result of TV sitcoms) in society has gone up. Listen to rock music, and it seems to have descended to new lows. But that doesn't mean we need to pull the great operating of the county hunters down to the lowest common denominator. Everyone knows that out-of-place comments and rudeness don't give the net the 'tone' it used to have. I'd rather see this stuff delegated to 75m or the CB band. Leave your 'grumpy pills' in the bottle. If you don't have something nice to say, don't say it. Let's continue the nice traditions of a friendly net and the county hunting family.

## TOP TEN REASONS WHY IT'S GREAT TO BE A COUNTY HUNTER

10. While mobile, hearing your turn announced just as you approach a mountain pass.
9. Passing the last gas station for 100 miles while concentrating on logging a QSO.
8. While working on your 2nd star, your last MRC arrives the day it's decided to eliminate the MRC requirement (great, that only wasted \$300 in postage).
7. Checking your email only to find out your last county was run 2 hours ago.
6. Rearranging your schedule to work that elusive county and having an S9 noise level that day.

5. Turning your rig off as your last county comes on the net.

4. Turning your rig on just your last county finished the run.

3. Learning how to "forget" phonetics.

2. Imagining Bill (K2NJ) in a "Two-Two".

1. Being associated with the best hams in the world.

*Tnx to K6OHM*

## President's Corner

### Seasons Change

Well here I am writing this months installment of wisdom and whit from the feeble mind of K2NJ. It is a little over two weeks prior to Christmas and it rained last night for the first time in MONTHS. The weather has been unbelievable here in the North East with temperatures in the 70's (well, once it was) and mostly in the 60's and SUNNY... Sure makes me feel like going to the mall with half crazy women all around. Yea right!

So this year I was real good to Gail. I gave her \$10 and told her to buy herself something real nice. What a guy.

Seriously, by the time this is in print the temperatures should be down way below freezing and white stuff should be all over the roadways. Mobile stations will be mostly in the southern states and you can forget about getting your last county in Montana and North Dakota until spring (well, there are a few fools out there, so go looking for them).

So how do you go about finding counties when the net is slow and nobody is running anything you need? If it's a weekend, look for a state

QSO party to jump into. Read the contest column (gasp, I hear some people say. Contesters are evil I hear coming from the mouth of a certain W4) and see what activities are scheduled for the weekend and the suggested frequencies. This is also a great way to fill in your band counts on 15 and 10 meters (where there is no net and people can't confirm you had a good 22 contact).

You may even be able to fill in a few on another mode (Yes, there is more to life than SSB).

You may even try to point your antenna away from Kansas (sorry Larry) and work some DX. Try the WARC bands for a change. I have been there a bunch lately and I can tell you that it sure is a different world than the hustle and bustle of 20M SSB. People actually communicate there. They do something that has been missing on most of the other band. They talk. They experiment (which wire is louder this one? Or this one? Or maybe this one? (shoot, they are the same, all piss ant weak). I even ran across a ham in the Midwest USA getting a recipe from another ham (both guys, just to set the record straight) in Italy. It is a kinder and gentler world out there... AND the nicest thing about the WARC bands is that there are very few animals with KW and beams on the bands. Most of the guys I work are running 50W and a dipole/vertical or something else conservative. And unless there is a contest running on the "Main Stream" Bands, they are not crowded (this is another thing to consider during contest weekends. Go to the WARC bands. They are contest free.)

I had a real surprise two weeks ago. I was on Six meters and the band popped to the west coast (not something that happens often) and I was running a steady stream of W6 and W7 stations – getting Grid Squares (another thing to collect) and I was called by KK6MR. Now I knew that call sounded very familiar and my software popped up a USACA number under his call. So I stopped running the rare and elusive

W6/W7 stations and we chatted a bit. It started out with "Where the hell have you been hiding?" and went on from there. So far I have worked 5 different USACA holders on 6 meters. It seems there is a draw there for another challenge (collecting Grid Squares) when you have done everything else. And this one is not easy. You sit for days and weeks hearing nothing but hiss and an occasional local, then the band opens and there are hundreds of station all in panic mode to make contact before it dies again.

Gail suggested turning the radio off and doing some of the chores around the house that I have been promising for the past two years (since retiring, but now that I am no longer retired, they can be placed on the "when I retire" list again).

What do you do to pass the long winter months? Activity is always down on the tu-tu net and people go somewhere, I have always wondered what else do you do when you really cant go outside for long periods of time? When I was in Northern Michigan (Keweenaw County) we actually went ice fishing at -20F. Snow mobiling was fun up there also. Somehow Beer and Brandy always taste better then. And when I was in Harrison County Mississippi I went swimming on Christmas Day. None of these activities are done here in New Jersey. The ice hardly ever gets thick enough, and I have only snowmobiles that I have seen are on trailers heading north...

I have been told by some of the locals that this is the best time to do antenna work. If you put them up in the cold of winter, they stay up. Now I am not a believer of these tales. I would rather do my antenna work when I am wearing shorts, but to tell you the truth, I have done most of my antenna repairs in the winter. They last about as long as the ones I do in the summer, but I think I appreciate them more.

We were out blowing out the water lines in the RV two weeks ago (why rush?). I moved the TS50 into the house and toyed with the idea of putting it in my van. Then reality set in. It would last about two hours in shopping mall. So it now is setting on a shelf behind me riding out the winter just like we are. I now know why bears hibernate, not out of preservation, but out of boredom.

Lets hope it's a warm, short winter and Easter break is upon us soon. We are planning our first outing of the year, a trip to bring my Mom to her Sisters place in western Ohio for a week. Gail and I will spend a day there and then we plan on heading out passing out counties for a week while she visits with her three sisters and then pick her up and head back to NJ. I will not be active when she is in the car – She had a "Pacer" put in about ten years ago and the doctor told her to stay away from radio, microwaves, and things like that. So the only way to get her to take this trip is to not hook up the radio while she is in the RV with us. What a good son I R... hi. She is in her 80's and there is no reasoning with her. It's funny – I am not at all like her! (yea right)...

The RV can sit there 90% of the time without even a thought, now that I cant use it, I just can't wait to get going.

73' Hope you all had a Happy Christmas (Honokaa, Kwanzaa, fill in the blank)  
C U when it thaws...

Bill Inkrote, K2NJ  
MARAC President

## "HOLLINGSWORTH ERA" OF AMATEUR ENFORCEMENT ENTERS FOURTH YEAR

FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, this week praised the overall level of Amateur Radio compliance with FCC rules as "outstanding." His assessment came as the current era of Amateur Radio enforcement under his guidance and direction enters its fourth year.

"The vast majority of operators are proud of the service and want to contribute to it and want to pass on the great legacy that it has become," Hollingsworth said in a statement marking the occasion. "May it last a thousand years!"

An amateur for 41 years, Hollingsworth also declared his pride in the Amateur Service. "I saw the energy and compassion and excellent operating of amateurs at the Pentagon and World Trade Center after September 11," he said. "I've seen and heard it at the National Hurricane Center in Miami--home of W4EHW--and in countless meetings with individual amateurs and at amateur events all over the United States."

Hollingsworth said US hams "have a lot to be proud of," and he urged them to "participate in Amateur Radio with enthusiasm, celebrate it, enjoy it and share it, because you have made it an incredible national resource and the only truly fail-safe communication service on the planet Earth."

Hollingsworth again reminded amateurs to be acutely aware of the image they present to anyone who might be listening. "I hear far too many operators who don't realize what a bad reflection they are on American amateur operators," he said.

Now nationally recognized and respected within the amateur community, Hollingsworth was relatively unknown outside the FCC bureaucracy when he volunteered to take on the challenge of amateur enforcement in 1998. For



Several years prior, the FCC had all but abandoned amateur enforcement. Hollingsworth noted that it was not until another plea went out from the ARRL to the FCC in the summer of 1998 that the FCC responded. The agency Transferred Amateur Service enforcement from the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau to what was then called the Compliance and Information Bureau. The FCC subsequently created the Enforcement Bureau to handle agency-wide enforcement activities.

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, lauded Hollingsworth as "a great gift" to the amateur community and expressed appreciation on behalf of the League for what he's been able to accomplish during his tenure. "Over the past three years, Mr. Hollingsworth has breathed new validity and vitality into the enforcement of Amateur Radio," Haynie said. "His strong support for the amateur community as a whole and the ARRL's initiatives, has been unwavering."

Haynie said that Hollingsworth--guided by his passions for Amateur Radio and for the law--"has given hams across the nation reason to pause, think, promote and yes, even laugh about ourselves."

*Reprinted from the ARRL Weekly Newsletter*

### *On the Other Hand-*

November 9, 2001  
Mr. Michael W. Richards  
3013 Illinois Avenue  
Norfolk, VA 23513  
RE: Amateur license KI3S

Dear Mr. Richards:

We have received numerous complaints that you have interfered with and disrupted communications on 14.336 MHz. This has occurred as recently as November 2, 3 and 5,

and were from your mobile station. This is apparently occurring because you object to the manner in which certain communications are carried out by an Amateur group on 14.336 MHz.

Section 308(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, gives the Commission the authority to obtain information from licensees about the operation of their station. Accordingly you are requested to respond to this complaint within 20 days of the date of this letter. You are advised that any complaints you may have about operation on 14.336 MHz should be directed to this office. Retaliatory interference is prohibited by the Amateur Radio Service rules.

Address your response to 1270 Fairfield Road at the letterhead address. The information you submit will be used to determine what enforcement action to take in this matter.

Please be aware that Congress has made punishable a willfully false or misleading reply to a letter of this type.

## **It's Been a Busy Summer**

*By KD9ZP, Awards Manager*

It's been a busy and productive summer. First of all, the On-Line Applications quit working about May 15, 2001 on the then current MARAC server. Secondly, I attended both the National and 3M conventions.

The National is always a busy time for me, since, I need to order the plaques about June 15<sup>th</sup> to have them by the Convention. This year, Dottie and I decided to fly to Virginia since, the convention fell in the middle of our 2 week vacation at Ahles resort near Crivitz, WI. (Dottie and I have had these two weeks reserved for over 25 years and I have been going to the

same resort for over 50 years.) This meant that I had to UPS the awards to Virginia and allow at least a week to 10 days to have the plaques in time for the Convention.

I was temporarily pleased to hear that the resort owner was moving our two weeks back a week next year, only to find out that the National also was being moved. I guess I need to buy another plane ticket.

We always look forward to 3M and like to drive. (Dottie likes all of the Antique Shops.) I enjoy meeting fellow County Hunters and the trip down and back. This year October 30<sup>th</sup> was our 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, so, we had another car trip two weeks later.

### On Line Applications

K9IA came to my rescue and redesigned the **Last County** on-line application. We moved the URL to my server since it supported **ASP** (Active Server Pages). (Often times, when you visit a URL, you will see something like 'default.asp').

**ASP** allows the user (myself) to write code (usually Visual Basic Script) to enhance the web page. VB Script allows for much more control of the site. Things like 'Cookies' and site Email are now possible. **ASP** runs on the SERVER and thus is browser independent.

The new site was so successful, that in October, over **73%** of the Last County Awards came via email (this site). The URL also remembers much of the common information (from application to application) thus, reducing the amount of data entry. The site also uses 'cookies' to remember your **Call, Email Address and Phone Number** from one session to another. A 'cookie' is information stored on **YOUR** computer to be used by the URL the next time.

After submitting your application, a copy of your application will be emailed to you for your reference.

I gave the site a 'face lift' last month to reduce the vertical 'spread' of the page. So visit:

**[www.marac.org/lastcounty](http://www.marac.org/lastcounty)**

and give it a try. Remember, I will accept a check in advance and I will keep a running balance of your account, thus, reducing the amount of postage.

### On Line Database

Dennis (KK7X) decided to move the MARAC web site to a new server that had more room and supported **ASP**. This being done, I moved the **Last County Application** to the new site. With the added room and I decided to try my hand at an **On-Line** database.

As some of you may or may not know, I converted the MARAC database from a **DOS** based system used by my predecessors to one that uses **Microsoft Access**. **Access** is much more friendly, readable and runs under Windows. My (MARAC) database contains every County Hunter that ever received an MARAC award. Whereas, W2LSH's (Norm-MARAC Secretary) database (still in DOS) contains only those that have applied for MARAC membership. Our goal (Norm's and mine) is to 'fold' the two into one database – **On-Line**. The new site offered this opportunity. Thus:

**[www.marac.org/database](http://www.marac.org/database)** came into existence.

This is an **open** database and may be accessed by all. In addition **Call** information, you can look up: **birthdays, Home Counties (by State)** and all **major awards** including all **USA-CA** holders. If you send me your birthday, I will enter it into the database. Remember, only the

month and day are displayed, but, to be a proper entry in the database, I need the year also. This database is updated almost daily.

### On Line Elections

Randy (N8ELQ) and I had a lot of conversation on the On-Line election page. He is insistent that:

1. Only members vote
2. The ballot is protected using some sort of password system

With his help, we set up a **MARAC Key** password system. The **MARAC Key** is a **randomly** generated 4 digit number. Members may receive their **Key** by requesting the Key from the first screen of the Elections page. When you enter your call and request your key, the page will check your MARAC status and mail your **key** to your email address within minutes. These keys may be regenerated at any time to insure the confidentiality of the On-Line balloting system.

**All – I REPEAT – ALL Ballots are sent to Randy ONLY!!!!**

Take time to cast your ballot at:

[www.marac.org/elections](http://www.marac.org/elections)

for your favorite:

- Best Net Control
- Best Mobile
- on a quarterly basis. In the MARAC 4<sup>th</sup> quarter (April 1<sup>st</sup> thru June 30<sup>th</sup>), you will also see:
  - CHOTY
  - Officers up for Elections

**This is your chance to give your input in a COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL manner.**

*As you can see, I have been busy – and – hopefully productive.*

## MARAC Ballot

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter

### Jan 1<sup>st</sup> until March 31st

#### Best NC-SSB

1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

#### Best Mobile-SSB

1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

#### Best NC-CW

1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

#### Best Mobile-CW

1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Please Cut this ballot out and mail it to

**Randy Davis**  
**MARAC Elections Coordinator**  
**1894 Sheick Road**  
**Monroe, MI 48162**

**Board of Directors**

**President:** Bill Inkrote, K2NJ, 911 Route 579, Flemington, NJ 08822-5648 908-788-4827 [K2NJ@MARAC.org](mailto:K2NJ@MARAC.org)

**Vice-President:** Roger Purdy, W2NWL, 1-B Potomac Lane, Whiting, NJ 08759-1813 732-350-5758 [W2NWL@MARAC.org](mailto:W2NWL@MARAC.org)

**Secretary:** Norm Ellison, W2LSH, 732-920-4796 21140 Golden Pond Road, Long Beach, MS 39560-9012. 228-452-1807 [W2LSH@MARAC.org](mailto:W2LSH@MARAC.org)

**Treasurer:** James Grandinetti, KZ2P, PO Box 106, Lakewood, NJ 08701-0106 732-370-8055 [K2JG@MARAC.org](mailto:K2JG@MARAC.org)

**Great Lakes Director:** Dave E. Ertel, KJ8V, 605 Crestview Dr., Lebanon, OH 45036-1613 513-932-7468 [KJ8V@MARAC.org](mailto:KJ8V@MARAC.org)

**North Central Director:** John Robson, WB9STT, 150 W. Wise Rd, Schaumburg, IL 60193 [WB9STT@MARAC.org](mailto:WB9STT@MARAC.org)

**Northeast Director:** VE1BES, Stanley Heinsma,,RR2, Scotsburn NS, BOK 1R0, Canada 902-485-6055 [VE1BES@MARAC.org](mailto:VE1BES@MARAC.org)

**South Central Director:** Joyce Booth, WB9NUL, 27883 McLeiland Rd, Harlingen, TX 78552-2108 956-423-8660 [WB9NUL@MARAC.org](mailto:WB9NUL@MARAC.org)

**Pacific Director:** Robert T. Devine, 407 Alameda Del Prado, Novato, CA [KC6AWX@MARAC.org](mailto:KC6AWX@MARAC.org)

**Southeast Director:** Percy Ford, KAIJPR, PO Box 1450 Lady Lake, FL 32158-1450 352-750-0251 [KAIJPR@MARAC.org](mailto:KAIJPR@MARAC.org)

**The County Line Roadrunner  
MARAC Secretary  
21140 Golden Pond Road  
Long Beach, MS 38560-9012**

**Appointees**

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**MARAC General Counsel:** David Splitt, KE3VV, 6111 Utah Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20015-2461 [KE3VV@MARAC.org](mailto:KE3VV@MARAC.org) 202-362-3355

**MARAC Webmaster:** (See Information Coordinator)

Stamp

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RECIPIENT ADDRESS  
CITY, ST 01234-0000

***A Road Runner Is A Very Fast Bird***

