



The County Line

ROADRUNNER

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For Shame

By: KF4KW

One of the commitments I made when I accepted the job as editor of the Roadrunner over a year ago was that I would not be politically aligned with anyone on or off the nets, in or outside of MARAC. During the past several months I have read and heard many comments that have almost led me to do a couple of things. The first being is resigning from this position as editor of the Roadrunner. I am offering to pass the torch. Anyone want to pick it? As usual, I thought not. Sound familiar? Hmmmm, seems I hear that frequently on 14.336. In the past year, I have had some e-mail with suggestions to do this or do that. Most were of the complimentary nature and a few were unprintable but also were taken as constructive criticism. From those, some new ideas have taken birth and eventually found there way into the newsletter.

But the coupe de grace was when I arrived home yesterday and found my March issue of World Radio in the mail. After exercising my daily routine of patting the dog on the head, greeting my over-active children and providing guidance

concerning their wayward ways, seeing what bills came in and feeding the woodburner, I sat down and something on the cover caught my eye, the word Mullah. Quickly turning to the indicated pages, I read and the re-read the article written by someone I had really respected as a county hunter and also as a writer. After digesting what I had read twice, and later venting my feelings to my wife, I went to bed and as is my practice, arose early enough to be the one to wake the rooster so he can announce the beginning of the day to begin writing this article. Unlike the electronic age we live in and when you hit the send button, I can re-read this and make corrections to my written words before placing them into print.

In This Issue

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First off to Ace, shame on you. By your own admission an article in a magazine that is read worldwide is not the place to air dirty laundry. You have defined what you perceive as a problem but as a manager in a law firm I have learned when a problem is identified, possible solutions should also be rendered to repair or circumvent that problem from occurring again. Where are your suggestions to fix this problem? Anyone who reads this article with the intention of joining us in running counties may have second thoughts after reading the article. I left another organization a few years ago because of all the in fighting that was taking place and airing of the views in just such a manner.

Secondly, it was apparent in the first few paragraphs what alignment and with what faction was taken. Staying neutral is not always easy as a writer or editor and I respect your First Amendment rights to free speech but also have to ask, what did this article do for the masses that read it? My answer; it tarnished County Hunters in general and did not advance the art or county hunting one iota. If you want to air a problem, do it here rather than in a rag that is read worldwide. This is an internal problem, not one that needs airing to the general masses.

As for the way the net is run, I can say that I do not always agree with the way Jim runs the net. But one thing is perfectly clear. This is NOT a MARAC net. His position as an officer has nothing to do with the way he runs the net. Jim's intent is to see that the maximum amounts of contacts are handled in the minimum amount of time allotted. Yes, phonetics are not tolerated and why? Take a stopwatch and time saying your call with and without the phonetics. What took longer? Of course, the phonetic way did. Divide the time it too to say the call phonetically into 600 and then divide it by the time it took to say it without phonetics. (10 minute runs x 60 seconds=600 seconds per run) Compare the difference and it would not be surprised that the products are three to four times greater. More runs for the time

allotted. Often, on counties that are infrequently run, Jim has allowed that mobile to run over the allotted ten-minute time to finish the run or tries to find someone to move the mobile. About a 50 per cent success rate in getting another station to move them. Shame on all of us not helping out at times. The mobiles went out there to help us, and when on the base station we cannot take the time move a mobile off so others can also get a crack at them. Lately, when Jim has asked for help looking for relays from another direction, who has come to his aid to do just that? Not many except for a very select few. Now that makes them one of his cronies? I guess I am guilty and consider my self one of his cronies now when I assist him when I can.

Another example I can think of is I frequently am required to travel to surrounding states to meet clients, investigate a case, or even network with other attorneys. On one such trip to eastern Tennessee, I was on the net frequency early and a VK was running the net as an informal net control. Lots of contacts in every county I came too. Then Jim came on and took control of the net and again many contacts in every county were logged. The next day, I decided on taking a different route home to go through counties that I had not run before and a few that were listed as needed counties on the web page. For what ever reason, Jim was not on frequency that day and the net was basically in open session and I was only able to run less than 10 stations in first 5 counties I traversed, All 59 plus signals. After a frustrating hour and a half of struggling to give out counties, I gave up, turned the 706 off, and turned on the CD player along with my tape recorder and dictated letters to my secretary to type (she loved the back ground music). An old saying goes something like 10 percent do 90 percent of the work. In this organization, it appears that 1 percent does 99 percent of the work. Where were all these 59 plus stations when others and I were trying to run? One glaring point that keeps running through my head. If you don't like they way the net is run, do something other than complaining, writing "nasty"

e-mails, and fanning the smoke to try and get a fire started. When the net is in open session, take it over and run it. When Jim asks if anyone would like to pick up the net, jump in there and take the net. All those call signs that have initiated that have been “stirring the pot” have *never* been heard running the net, assisting with relays, or on the ballots for an office on the MARAC board. Why? How do you expect to change things you don’t like without rolling up your sleeves and participating in the organization? Oh, I forgot, it’s easier to sit back and bitch, complain, moan, with your juvenile ways.

This is not to say that Jim is not without his faults. But, looked in the mirror lately. Only one man has walked this earth without sin and faults. After spending nearly 27 years in law enforcement, I have seen situations like these before and have been called to mediate them. All I can liken them is to a bunch of 2 year olds in a sand box fighting over the same toy. I recognize we are all different and we will not always agree on things. That is why there are lawyers and even they don’t agree. That is why they build courthouses where a judge makes a decision. Even they are subject to disagreement as their decisions are subject to review and being overturned by courts of appeal, supreme courts and so on.

Let’s not lose sight of the fact that ham radio and county hunting is a hobby, not an employment option. If this situation continues, the death bell of county hunting will toll. Remember, we cannot live in the past. We live in the present, look to the future, and learn from the past. To all involved, stop living in the past. It is time to mend fences and get on with the *hobby* of ham radio, county hunting and enjoying the diversity of the people on the net.

Let me lay the gauntlet down here. Change what you can by working towards a common goal, accept what you cannot change, and enjoy what is there for us all. If you cannot accept this challenge, find another area in ham radio, find another hobby,

and/or take another look at yourself. If you want to take sides Ace, your rights to free speech would have been better served in limited publication such as this

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**.

Meet The Members

It’s in my Blood – John M. Hoyt / W5UGD

I started County Hunting even before I had a license. You could say it’s in my blood. I remember taking trips with mom & dad (Violet/W5UGD & Dick/W5RIT Hoyt) where they would stop at every county line they would come across, and even go out of their way to run counties for people who needed them.

As I grew up, and moved away to California with my new wife, Deborah, ham radio became something I listened to on the scanner, but never got involved with. After moving back to Arkansas to help my father take care of my mother and grandmother, whom he had been taking care of

mostly by himself, I finally got a Technician license.

My mother became a silent key the same year I got my license, and dad and I decided I should take advantage of the FCC's new Vanity Licensing System and apply to get W5UGD, as a tribute to Mom's memory.

I was the classic "two meter technician". Using only VHF/UHF until 2001, when I decided that I wasn't paying much of a tribute to my Mom by using her call and still retaining a lower class license. I wanted more, and I knew how to get it. Study the Gordon West material, and learn CW. Simple, no? No.

The theory was easy, but the CW kicked my butt. I tried everything; nothing seemed to help, until I told

Dad I was having problems, and he loaned me his TS-430S Kenwood and told me to listen to QSOs.

I found the ARRL slow code sessions on 20 meters and boy did that help. At the same time, I also knew where to go for the County Hunter's net, and I monitored that a good bit. Then, in November of 2001, I learned my Dad would be going in for surgery to have one of his knees replaced. That really lit a fire under me, knowing that at 90 years of age the chances of him having complications were high.

I took the General test, just a couple weeks before his surgery was scheduled, and I actually passed!

On the weekend before Dad went in for his surgery, he was in Branson, MO, marching in the Veteran's Day Parade (on his bad knee), so I knew a QSO with him was not going to take place until he got home.

I turned on the radio on the 12th of November to 14.336, and there was my Dad, running Benton, AR on his way home from Branson (about 1000 miles from here)! What a stroke of luck! I had already received the CH info packet, and had a good idea of what I was supposed to do, but was VERY nervous. I grabbed the borrowed TS-

430S's mike, and I threw out my call, but his time was up for that run. I heard him say he would run Washington, AR, his home county as soon as he crossed the line.

A few minutes later (it was an eternity, really) he ran Washington, AR. I prayed God would allow me to contact my father... I threw out my call. It didn't work. He didn't hear me. I threw out my call, a little louder (he's 90 after all and hard of hearing, yelling into the mike surely would do it!). He didn't hear me.

I spoke slower, I spoke deeper. I tried about 10 times to get him. I had no idea what I was sounding like; this was all very new to me. I quickly checked out the rig, made sure the power level was up, the mike gain was up, then checked over my antenna, a tiny B&W whip which was sticking out the window at a 45-degree angle facing East towards the coast, not towards Arkansas. Everything looked okay

I again said, "Please God, this could literally be the last chance I have to talk with my Father on ham radio..." (The first, AND last chance)... At that moment, as if on cue, K2JG said the time was up and then said he had a relay dad... He told him he had W5UGD, and told him to listen for me... I read the instructions for doing a relay (Had never done that before either, and it sounded complicated) as K2JG said this... I then said "the mobile is 2-2, 2-2, twenty-two, twenty-two, OVER" in a shaky voice. And I heard Dad repeat my report (I don't remember if I jumped the gun and gave the report before K2JG said "Over", but either way, I didn't get told "We'll scratch that one", and I remember Jim saying, "That was a good one"). I was shaking, and almost in tears.

I can't remember too many things in my life as exciting as that moment. There was a short discussion about what transpired, and a few people welcomed me to County Hunting at that point, but I was literally JUMPING UP AND DOWN, so I only said a quick "thank you" I think. I couldn't believe the things working against me at that

point... The little 6ft antenna, with a wire counterpoise hanging out the window, leaning towards the east, not west, without a tuner, and guessing at the match... Not to mention, using the borrowed HF rig from my father, which I had no idea how to use.

Dad later said, "it was odd, a familiar call, with an unfamiliar voice".

I bragged to everyone I know. Whether or not they had a clue what I was talking about, or even cared, I told them anyway. I even used the experience in one of my devotions for a mentor group (www.567club.org) I'm a member of to explain to the young men that "all things you ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive". (Matt 21:22)

I would like to thank all the wonderful people who have taken the time to welcome me to County Hunting, either on the air, in emails, or phone calls. You are truly the friendliest people I've met!

Update: In February of 2002 I upgraded to an Extra class license and now Dad says he will upgrade from Advanced as soon as he can get a bigger antenna up to take advantage of the DX in the Extra slices of the spectrum.

I'll be listening for you on the 'net!

John M. Hoyt / W5UGD – w5ugd@amicon.net

From The MARAC Secretary

Renewals

If your mailing label indicates 200203 or 200204, 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/QLS'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 Membership Dues

Recently, the ARRL changed their policy concerning ARRL renewals being paid through MARAC. The ARRL no longer reimburses MARAC for renewals. It is suggested that you now renew your ARRL membership directly to the ARRL.

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.

CQ Magazine

I am very pleased to announce that:

Richard Bailey K3AQH has submitted a valid application for USA-CA 3077 and is hereby awarded #1037 dated February 16, 2002. Mixed band and modes

Richard Weil KW0U, has submitted a valid application for USA-CA 3077 and is hereby awarded #1038 dated February 25, 2002. Endorsed for all 20 meters SSB. His e-mail address is: Lindsay.B.Nauen-1@tc.umn.edu

Congratulations to all of you:

Ted Melinovsky, K1BV

USA-CA Custodian

MARAC

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

Worked All USA Counties 2nd Time

K1DFO #297 dtd 2-4-02

N7PIB #298 dtd 2-4-02

AE3Z #299 dtd 3-1-02

Worked All USA Counties 3rd Time

KK7LX #156 dtd 1-28-02

W9VPE #157 dtd 2-23-02

Worked All USA Counties 4th Time

KD4NFE #98 dtd 2-23-02

Worked All USA Counties 5th Time

K4ELK #54 dtd 2-23-02

Master Gold

K9DCJ #6 dtd 1-31-0

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

Worked All Counties

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

On Line Data Base

www.marac.org/database

TREASURER'S REPORT

January 31, 2002

Fund Balance as December 31, 2002-
\$27,849.47

Income-\$1,460.23
Expenses-\$2,584.93

Account Balance-\$26,364.77

February 28, 1992

Fund Balance as of January 31, 2002-
\$26,364.77

Income-\$1,660.25
Expenses-#2,389.35

Account Balance-\$24,634.67

Thanks for the Support

I am at home recuperating from the lung surgery. The upper lobe of the left lung was removed to take care of a calcified lymph node. Details of the surgery are unimportant, but what is important was the support I received from my friends, the County Hunters. When things were looking real down, Rose would show up with a stack of cards and messages from the CH's. I thank all of you for your thoughts, prayers, and good wishes during this tough time. We couldn't have done it without you.

73's Larry and Rose
W9SUQ & KA9QKN

Another Ford "Fix"

My motor home has a Ford 460 engine and since new I have suffered with severe ignition interference. With clues provided by articles in the Roadrunner I was able to obtain a copy of the Ford Technical Bulletin covering this interference.

My local Ford Truck Repair Center was willing to undertake the task and ordered the part outlined in the bulletin. As I had "winterized" the motor home, the gas tank was full, 70 gallons, and that presented a problem, but it was handled; the gas tank must be removed as the part attaches to the fuel pump, which is inside the tank.

About \$50.00 for the parts and \$300.00 for labor, I think my problem is solved! I'll find out for sure

when I make my first long trip March 1st when I go to the West Coast.

73, Dick, W5RIT.

Silent Keys

It is with deep regret we report the passing of the following members:

W5ILR
W3EYF

So You Want To Be A "HAM"

Midland County 4-H Project

Amateur Radio Operator Training Classes and
License Examination

"So You Want To Be A Ham" is the theme for a new 4-H project that has been initiated in Midland county Michigan. It is being implemented for the expressed purpose of generating interest in amateur radio among the 1300 4-H members, leaders and families in Midland County. The potential for assisting 4-H youth from 9 years through high school graduation into amateur radio has been virtually untouched.

A ten-week session, one evening per week, leading to the Technician Class Amateur Radio license began January 30th with Eldon, N8STF, as facilitator. Following the text "*NOW YOU'RE TALKING*", theory, rules and regulations, and interactive discussion and demonstrations are led by members of the Midland Amateur Radio Club and will prepare 4-H members, family, and/or leaders for the examination to qualify as licensed Technician class amateur radio operators. Raleigh, W8QOI, also a county hunter, is a member of the

Midland club and, along with other hams from the area, assists in the training. Study from the text is required between meetings and though Morse code is not required for this license, four of the ten students are pursuing learning the code. Local Volunteer Examiners are planning the test session for the last evening of class.

Once licensed as “hams”, they know they will be permitted two-way radio communication with other hams, within the amateur radio frequencies. They are realizing that being a “ham” is a great way to make new friends, but more importantly, preparing themselves for community service during the time of special events that require instant, reliable communications; serve as early warning weather spotters during inclement weather conditions; and provide emergency communications in cooperation with local, state, national officials or health and welfare organizations at the time of any disaster. With a major three county simulated emergency test being scheduled by ARES on the day immediately following their last class, it is expected several of this group will participate, partnering with an “Elmer”, as they won’t yet have their own license.

Additionally, in mid March there is an annual county 4-H Leader training program. As part of publicity for Amateur Radio within 4-H, a “hands on” demonstration will be directed to introduce leaders to many facets of the hobby, with the intent of increasing interest at the club level. This, with the highly enthusiastic ten students presently taking training, there is tremendous potential for several additional Technician and higher classes to be held.

As an incentive to promote the newly found hobby, the Midland Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring an appropriate award for the Midland County 4-H Fair project that represents or displays amateur radio and is judged to be “Best of Show”. This award will be presented at the annual fall banquet attended by 4-H award recipients, leaders and parents.

Maybe you’d like to be a sponsor in your local 4-H program.

Questions or comments can be directed to:
Eldon M. Hall, N8STF, (989) 643-5101 or
n8stf@arrl.net

Disappointed

Was hoping to place some pictures in this month’s issue. As of this printing, I have not received any from the members. Hate to have to share my family pictures with you all, so send them in.-ed.

MARAC Big Rig Award
By KD9ZP - Awards Manager

On February 14, 2002, the MARAC BOD voted to accept the MARAC Big Award as proposed by the Awards Committee.

The following is the description of this new award.

MARAC Big Rig Award

(Added 2/14/02)

The **MARAC Big Rig Award** is issued for making contacts with mobile amateur radio operators who are operating or riding in big rigs in multiple USA Counties.

For purposes of this award, a Big Rig (sometimes referred to as a “Semi” or “18-wheeler”) is 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). To qualify as a Big Rig, the tractor must have at least 10 wheels with tires touching the ground. If a trailer is attached, the trailer may be either loaded or unloaded. The definition of Big Rig does not include RV’s, dump trucks, 5th-wheels, buses, or panel/delivery trucks. The award is issued for multiple levels:

LEVEL 1	500 Counties	<i>Certificate</i>
LEVEL 2	1000 Counties	Red Seal
LEVEL 3	1500 Counties	Blue Seal
LEVEL 4	2000 Counties	Gold Seal
LEVEL 5	2500 Counties	Plaque
LEVEL 6	2600 Counties	Endorsement Plate
LEVEL 7	2700 Counties	Endorsement Plate
LEVEL 8	2800 Counties	Endorsement Plate
LEVEL 9	2900 Counties	Endorsement Plate
LEVEL 10	3000 Counties	Endorsement Plate
LEVEL 11	3065+ Counties	Endorsement Plate

Qualifying contacts submitted for other MARAC awards may also be used for this award.

Each application must contain a listing of contacts showing dates and the calls worked. Each award may be endorsed for single band or single mode (or both) if the listing includes the band or mode (or both) for each logged contact.

Contacts used for this award may be confirmed or non-confirmed.

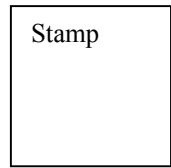
Fees:	<i>Member</i>	<i>Non-Member</i>
Certificate and Seals for LEVELS 1 - 4	\$2	\$7
LEVEL 5 Plaque (Includes Certificate and Seals)	\$40	\$55
LEVEL 6-11 (Each Endorsement Plate)	\$5	\$7

Application Procedure

The official MARAC Big Rig application form may be obtained from the MARAC Awards Manager. Fill in all requested information and submit the application with the logs (contact listing) and the appropriate fee.



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



A Road Runner Is A Very Fast Bird

RECIPIENT NAME
RECIPIENT ADDRESS
CITY, ST 01234-0000

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<p>Southeast Director: Percy Ford, KAIJPR, PO Box 1450 Lady Lake, FL 32158-1450 352-750-0251 KAIJPR@MARAC.org</p>	