



The County Line

ROADRUNNER

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The Perils of GPS

By: Tim, KD5CXO

The trip to Harlingen in February was designed to add significantly to my list of transmitted counties in Oklahoma and Texas. The plan was to put out 55 counties on the way to south Texas and 44 counties on the way back. Using the Street Atlas program the first check was the distance from Mountain Home to Harlingen through Oklahoma City. The distance was 1082 miles. Then I started to add the “via’s” (or waypoints) to force the route through the counties that I needed to put out. Great care was taken to find the “shortest” route, I don’t mind using the back roads as long as they are paved, so we traveled mainly on State and County roads and occasionally a Farm to Market road. I pared the zigs and zags down to 1332 miles for the trip down. Not bad, 55 new counties transmitted for 250 extra miles.

One of the problems driving a motor home pulling a Jeep is that you can’t park on county lines, so we didn’t plan on putting out county lines. Stopping at Wal-Marts to let Faith go shopping while I worked the radio was the general rule. Other stops to walk the dog worked the same. We can never plan on where

we are going to stop for the night, some days we travel 150 miles, other times 250. Then there’s the exception: traveling southwest out of Oklahoma City in the late afternoon we decide to try to find a campground around Lawton OK. There was none, so in a last ditch effort we resigned ourselves to a stay in Wal-Mart’s parking lot. Getting there after dark we found Wal-Mart was “downtown” with a tiny parking lot full of soldiers hanging out from the nearby fort. Back on the road Kent KL1V kept us company for many hours into the night. He was often the only contact for a transmitted county - not exactly what I had planned. Southeast of Wichita Falls, TX now some 350 miles later, we finally found a campground. We pulled in as quietly as possible and paid the owner the next morning.

The first seven or eight counties went as planned the next day – and then – and then as we clipped the corner of a county, put it out, and took a short cut to the next, the pavement suddenly ended and an open gate crossed the road, a sign pronounced “end of state maintenance” and another said “no trespassing.”

I looked at the GPS display; clearly the road went through and connected to a state highway just a few miles ahead. Well, in Arkansas the law says you cannot prevent someone from using a road to cross your property. But in Texas trespassing is a serious offense that can get you shot. We had no choice but to turn around. The road was narrow, so I had to get out and disconnect the Jeep, wiggle the motor home around and reconnect the Jeep. The backtrack lost us about 50 miles, so much for that short cut.

The next two days were as planned, the GPS tracked us through some of the most forsaken land I've ever seen, West Texas desert shrub and a few goats. Then on the third day about mid afternoon, we found ourselves in Hondo, TX. It was time to look for a campground somewhere down the road. Much to our dismay there was none between here and the Rio Grande, 175 miles distant. Hondo had two so we decided to go no farther today. However, we found that one "campground" was a field with broken down trailers and the other was a "fishing camp" that wasn't as good – it was decision time. To heck with the GPS and the planned route – let's take off east back to civilization where we knew there were campgrounds. Choke Canyon State Park welcomed us about 7 PM. Next day on to Harlingen, no new counties to transmit.

We had a great time at the mini, but that's another story. The return trip was again planned with the GPS to go through some counties in east Texas where there were holes in my transmitted county map. One place I had figured by using back roads I could put out five counties in 20 miles. Under my breath I was daring net control to ask if I had a magic carpet, but he

didn't. Then the rains came, for three days it rained with no let up in sight. The trip through the Sam Houston National Forest was the next challenge. They didn't tell me that "road work for the next 8 miles" meant that they had removed the entire pavement for the next 8 miles. No room to turn around and in fact I'd better not stop, the mud was 4 to 8 inches deep. I would never get out of here if I lost my momentum. Fishtailing and spinning tires finally got us through. The Jeep had changed colors from dark maroon to bright orange. The motor home was no longer white and blue but now matched the Jeep.

Now GPS, where is the nearest town we can find a car wash? A 40-mile detour off the planned route and there I was – washing the vehicles in the rain; funny, I was the only one in the car wash!

The weather report the next morning was not good, an ice storm had hit Dallas and the Interstate was closed, one person killed. Well, our planned trip would take us close to Dallas, so another change of plan was in order. Forget the two remaining counties I needed transmit, let's turn northeast toward home. And then there's the story of someone needing Yell County for the last in the state. The short cut across the Ouachita Mountains to Yell was shorter but took us three hours longer to get home. In the mountains and as we neared home we noticed that the rain which they had was the white kind.

So, there it is – a fine adventure - don't you think you'd like to use a GPS – it's fun!

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**.

On the Road with N4CD

“You never know where N4CD will pop up” often sums up the N4CD travel philosophy! Sometimes I don’t even know myself until I get somewhere. There are many things in life I’m interested in, and county hunting is just one of them. As part of my trip planning, often I will try and combine more than one activity. That keeps things interesting, and some days the propagation is “just plain rotten”, or it’s time to take a break. Also, having a goal other than ‘burning gas’ while driving a thousand miles or more sure makes sense to me. Killing three or five birds with one stone is a nice goal. Some days, I don’t have enough time to run all the counties on CW and SSB if it’s a weekend and 100 county hunters are trying to work me! Other times, no one seems to need your county. You never know. So most of my trips these days are multi-purpose.

You will often hear mobiles on the net on a trip – visiting friends, children/parents, headed off to a convention/meeting, or on ‘vacation’. Some days you will hear KI0JD, WA4UNS, N9STL, AC4XL, or other mobiles go out to run part or

all of a state, but that seems to happen less and less often these days. I’ve done that before – run 150 counties in 7 days of driving! That’s helped me put out lots of counties for the folks on the net. Also puts lots of miles on the car, as WB9OOG, KI0JD, WA0SBR, N4UJK, and KC4UG can tell you (all members of the 150,000 plus miles of county hunting group!)

During the past year, I’ve had some great fun – lots of ham meetings and conventions to go to – Harlingen, Dayton Hamvention, the Bell County Hamfest (twice a year!), the annual northern trek in the summer, and, my main hobby – telecom/telegraph history. Several other county hunters are train buffs and head out each summer to visit/ride some of the historic railroads around the country. Some go ‘treasure hunting’. The Durango/Silverton narrow gauge RR is a fun ride, in rare San Juan County, CO!

In 2001, I accidentally discovered the Mariner’s Museum in the Hampton Roads area while at the National Convention. If you watch the ‘History Channel’, you will recall they are involved in the preservation project of the ironclad Monitor. Now they have the propeller/shaft, a hundred or more ‘artifacts’, plus will soon have the then state-of-the-art steam engine. While there, I found they have one of the world’s best maritime libraries (catalog on line, too) including some very rare volumes on submarine telegraphy! Of course, running counties to/from the convention results in lots of net congestion, but I still transmitted from nearly all along the way, some with 1 contact, some with 50. Everyone else had the same idea.

Last summer it was off to New England, at the old N2TPH QTH, where I made many small trips around, and one big plane trip to Newfoundland, Canada. The I.E.E.E. sponsored a History of Telecommunications 3 day seminar, and it was held in St. John, where Marconi received the first wireless signals

across the Atlantic 100 years ago. A special museum contained the original receivers, original kites used to hold up the 'long wire' antenna, and other significant items. I got the radio-operating bug, but only had a 2m handheld with me – hard to work "DX" with that. However, a commemorative station, VO1AA, operates from Signal Hill. You could be a 'guest' operator there! That solves the 'withdrawal symptoms' from not being near an HF radio.

Later in 2001, one of the guest ops worked N4CD/m on the CH net! (Fortunately didn't get yelled at for using phonetics!). Now I have that special QSL card to add to the collection.

One of the best radio museums in the world is the Antique Wireless Association museum in western NY. Try and visit during the national convention in September. They have thousands of working old radios, from spark gap to gold plated (literally) showpieces in two large buildings.

Recently, I went to the Smithsonian in Washington DC, to see the new "Undersea Web" exhibit (submarine telegraph/telephone history/technology). Everything from Morse's original telegraph equipment up to state of the art fiber systems. Of course, the Smithsonian has thousands of exhibits on just about any subject area, so something will appeal to everyone. When you are there, visit NN3SI, and perhaps be a 'guest operator'. NN3SI showed up on the County Hunter Net and made a few HF contacts while I was there! (See a trend here? Guest op at interesting stations!)... I've done visiting operator that at a few of the 'big' county hunting stations, and it is a lot different having big beam/big amp compared to county hunting with a barefoot rig and a little vertical/dipole!

In county hunting, since counties count from anywhere you are, even a Dx-pedition trip let

you work counties. Andy, VE2EM, visited Costa Rica and ran in the CQ WW CW contest making thousands of contacts. NV4Z and N3ISH went off to the Caribbean and worked thousands! You can work mobiles on the net. SSB/CW/RTTY/PSK31, whatever your preferred mode. All the contacts count. The 20,000 CW contacts made by N4CD in 2001 while off on overseas trips, all got checked for their counties, and added to the totals for CW and SSB awards! Someday I'll finish off USCA, all CW.

We are now into 2002 – another year to plan dual-purpose activities, and work toward the county hunting goals I've set for myself. How about you? Going to do that activity you've been putting off? Any places you want to visit or see? From Pearl Harbor to Duck Harbor to Bar Harbor, I've got lots of places to go, counties to run, and museums to visit. You never know where N4CD will pop up!

Nostalgia





Anyone care to guess who these gentlemen are?

From The MARAC Secretary

Renewals

If your mailing label indicates 200204 or 200205, 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 a third party may request it for you. 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.

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:

Jeff Reinhardt AA6JR has submitted a valid application for USA-CA 3077 and is hereby awarded #1039 dated March 4th, 2002. Endorsed for ALL PHONE.

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 5th Time

KC3X #55 Dated: 3/6/02

Master County Hunter (Bingo)

N1HHW #217 Dated: 3/6/02

President's Corner

I have had a week now to mull this over in my mind sitting in the hospital again – I am running out of things to write about... I can go back and write about how we (MARAC) do not run nets and all that, but I have not gotten one letter in weeks until today about bad ole Jim... And the one today was not only about bad ole Jim but calling for my resignation as well as our NL editor because he called WR a “Rag”... Gee, and I thought the term rag was slang for newspaper. Guess he took it wrong... I will not go into detail of how disappointed I am in Ace and his article in WR. As an editor (or in my case an Officer) you must take the middle road – you really can't count what he wrote as neutral, and that is all I will say on that subject – other than real disappointment, I thought he was above taking pot shots.

Anyway, No I have no plans on resigning from office. On the contrary I plan on seeking another term (hey, I just jumped out of the closet).

This week I had another visit to the hospital, where I thought I was not going to come out standing up. I became real short of breath in the past week and finally Gail got me to see our

family doctor – who sent me directly to a cardiac specialist in Morristown (Morris county). He did a cardiac cauterization on me (where they go into the vein in your groin and take pictures of the heart looking for blockages). Good news was that my heart is “pristine” no blockages found: bad news, I still had trouble breathing. He sent me home even though my blood-oxygen was at 72 (normally 95+).

That night I was unable to sleep because when I started to sleep my breathing became shallow and my O2 level fell... I would wake up gasping... not fun, so Gail took me to the local ER where they admitted me. After a week of tests, including a Bronchial biopsy (where they go through your nose and snip chunks of your lungs out for study) they finally put a name to what is ailing me – Sarcoidosis – where my lung tissue is swollen and traps mucus and wont allow oxygen and Co2 to exchange. The doctor put me on antibiotics and things seem to be getting back to normal. This is something I will have to live with, and wont get much better – I have to be aware when I get short of breath and go see him right away (not wait weeks for it to progress like I did). Treatment normally would include steroids, but at my size he doesn't want to do that.

Gee, I must be getting old – writing about ailments and all... but this gave me time to reflect on what is going on around us and how insignificant the ongoing saga on 14.336 is compared to the world in whole. After all only six months ago our whole world was turned over by some crazy people by flying into buildings. We are now sending our youth into harms way to get rid of them (from there, then where next?)... But life must go on. Six meters is closed now until summer and hopefully E's season will bring some activity, but nothing like last fall. I have lost interest in listening to the TU-TU net, but have been actively chasing some counties and DX on the WARC bands. Contest season is mostly over (I missed ARRL

SSB in the hospital) and time for state QSO parties. I see that there is activity again in the AC (Awards Committee) trying to define what a contact really is (I am enthusiastic that this time they will get it right). Please let your directors know your feelings on this... Otherwise don't complain when they vote without your input...

Gail and I have set our plans for Easter Week to travel out to Western Ohio to drop my Mother and her sister off at their two other sisters place for a week. Once we are free of them (Mom is afraid of my radio and her Pace Maker) I can turn the radio on and we will be passing out counties again, for the first time since the fall. We do miss this but with everything going on in our lives, it has taken a back burner. Once this trip is over with we will be QRT again until school season is over. Our oldest daughter is getting married in May and that has been all time consuming (as well as expensive).

I want to congratulate Dave KF4KW on the wonderful job he has done with the Newsletter and also to Gene KD9ZP on their new choice of printers. The new paper edition is super and easier on our budget.

Remember, it is election time – All the officer's slots are up along with two directors (Great Lakes and Mid Western). At this time the only one I am sure is not running for office again is Dave KJ8V. The others have not announced commitment (other than what I just did). They have a few weeks to reflect and make up their minds. I understand from the grapevine that there will be challenges and this is good – it gives people who are dissatisfied in our performance a chance to vote us out and get some fresh blood in there. This is the democratic way, and I look forward to it.

Our national convention seems to be falling into place. Bob, KC6AWX, is grasping the bull by the horns and sure looks like one heck of a party. Make your reservations now to guarantee

a room. Joyce just finished up her mini and I hear good things about it as usual.

Let me know what you would like me to address – write an article or two for the RR and get them to Dave – otherwise I will have to include pictures of me lying naked in the hospital....

73'

Bill Inkrote, K2NJ
MARAC President

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

On Line Elections

www.marac.org/elections

BOD/Members Meeting

MINUTES

MARAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Date: February 13, 2002

The Meeting of the MARAC Board of Directors was called to order at 0800 PM EST (0100Z) by President Bill Inkrote (K2NJ).

The Officers present were:

President Bill Inkrote – K2NJ
Vice President Roger Purdy – W2NWL
Secretary Norm Ellison -- W2LSH
Treasurer Jim Grandinetti – KZ2P
Great Lakes Director Dave Ertel – KJ8V
Northeast Director Stanley Heinsma VE1BES
North Central Director John Robson WB9STT
Southeast Director Percy Ford KA1JPR
South Central Director Joyce Boothe WB9NUL
Pacific Director Robert Devine KC6AWX

The Members present were:

Hugh K8GPC
Sonny W5VDW
Dave KE3VV
Charles W3CR

Upon a motion by Percy (KA1JPR) and seconded by Joyce (WB9NUL) the minutes of the January 9, 2002 meeting were approved. Roll call indicated 7 in favor, none opposed.

Upon a motion by Norm (W2LSH) and seconded by Percy (KA1JPR) the Treasurer's report of January 31, 2002 was accepted. Roll call indicated 6 in favor, 1 abstention and none opposed.

OLD BUSINESS

A: MARAC Big Rig Award

After a brief discussion Norm (W2LSH) moved that we accept the recommendations from Gene (KD9ZP), MARAC Awards Manager, and the Awards Committee for the Big Rig Award. Joyce (WB9NUL) seconded the motion. A Roll call indicated 8 in favor, none opposed. The motion carried. The Board expressed their appreciation to the Committee for a great job.

NEW BUSINESS**A: ARRL rebate to affiliated clubs.**

Jim (KZ2P) mentioned that the ARRL is no longer giving rebates to affiliated clubs, including MARAC, for collecting and remitting one-year League membership renewals. He suggested that we publish this in the RoadRunner and advise our members to send their League dues directly to the ARRL. Norm (W2LSH) said that he would take care of it. No action was needed from the Board.

B. Resignation of Randy (N8ELQ).

Bill (K2NJ) announced that he accepted the resignation of Randy (N8ELQ) as MARAC Election Coordinator, effective March 28, 2002. Randy wishes to run for the office of Director of the Great Lakes District and is not eligible to act as Election Coordinator. Bill (K2NJ) asked Stan (VE1BES) to take over as Election Coordinator of MARAC as of March 29, 2002 Stan agreed to do so. The BOD confirmed the appointment as required by the By Laws. Roll indicated that 7 voted in favor, none opposed.

C: Awards Committee

Joyce (WB9NUL) announced that she was in need of a replacement for K5CWR on the Awards Committee and asked the Board for any

suggestions. Bill (K2NJ) suggested that she bring it up at the South Central Mini and there would a good chance that she could find some one qualified and willing to serve.

There being no further business before the Board Bill (K2NJ) entertained a motion to adjourn. Joyce (WB9NUL) made a motion, second by Norm (W2LSH), to adjourn the meeting. Role call indicated 8 voted in favor and none opposed. The meeting was declared closed at 8:32 PM EST (0132Z)

Respectfully Submitted,
Norm Ellison W2LSH
Secretary, MARAC

MINUTES
MARAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AND MEMBER MEETING
Date March 13, 2002

The Meeting of the MARAC Board of Directors was called to order at 0805 PM EST (0105Z) by Bill (K2NJ).

The Officers present were:

President	Bill Inkrote	K2NJ
Vice President	Roger Purdy	W2NWL
Secretary	Norm Ellison	- W2LSH
Treasurer	Jim Grandinetti	KZ2P
Great Lakes Director	Dave Ertel	KJ8V
Southeast Director	Percy Ford	KA1JPR
North Central Director	John Robson	WB9STT
South Central Director	Joyce Boothe	WB9NUL
Pacific Director	Robert Devine	KC6AWX

The Members present were:

Randy - N8ELQ
Hugh - K8GPC
Sonny - W5VDW
Charles - W3CR

Upon a motion by Roger (W2NWL) and seconded by Joyce (WB9NUL) the minutes of the February 13, 2002 meeting were approved. Roll call indicated 8 in favor, none opposed.

Upon a motion by Percy (KA1JPR) and seconded by Bob (KC6AWX) the Treasurer's report of February 28, 2002 was accepted. Roll call indicated 7 in favor, 1 abstention and none opposed.

OLD BUSINESS

A: No old business tonight

NEW BUSINESS

A: Awards rule changes.

The Board Approved the following rules changes as submitted by Gene (KD9ZP) and the Awards Committee.

Replace (In the Award Rules):

Awards to hams are made for valid two-way radio contacts with other amateurs. Only direct signal report exchanges constitute valid contacts. Reports using other than numerical signal reports (such as "bang, bang rifle shot") are not considered valid contacts.

With: MARAC awards require direct two-way radio contacts between licensed amateurs. Valid contacts must include an exchange of signal reports or other information between the two stations.

Replace (In the Award Rules): BEST NET CONTROL and BEST MOBILE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

A MARAC Special Plaque is issued each year to the "Best Net Control" and "Best Mobile" in each of two categories: SSB and CW.

Selection will be by quarterly mail ballot of current MARAC members. Winner announcements will be at the annual convention. The same amateur may win either award more than once. There is no fee for this award.

With: BEST NET CONTROL, BEST MOBILE, and BEST MOBILE TEAM OF THE YEAR AWARDS

A MARAC Special Plaque is issued each year to the MARAC members who are voted "Best Net Control" and "Best Mobile" in each of two categories: SSB and CW. MARAC Special Plaques are also issued each year to the two MARAC members who are voted "Best Mobile Team" (SSB only).

A mobile team may consist of any two MARAC members who operate mobile and give out counties together (including teams not eligible for the OM-YL team contacts). Selection will be by quarterly mail ballot of MARAC members.

All recipients and voters must be MARAC members in good standing.

Winners are announced at the MARAC annual convention. Amateurs may win these awards more than once. There is no fee for any of these awards.

The rest remains then same:

The annual Best Net Control - CW award will be known as the Paul Edmonds W8RYP Memorial Award. Paul was an active Net Control on the early CW county hunting nets, especially on 40 meters.

The annual Best Mobile - CW award will be known as the Mike Mutnick KVOE Memorial Award. Mike was a two-time winner of the CW Mobile of the Year Award and was tragically murdered by hitchhikers while on a mobile trip in New Mexico in 1984.

Second and Third place winners will receive an appropriate certificate.

B: Ballots The subject of the ballots not being included in the March RoadRunner was discussed, Dave (KF4KW) explained that they were inadvertently left out of this last issue. Ballots will be with the next RoadRunner.

C: South Central Mini Joyce (WB9NUL) reported that the SC Mini went off very well and all those that attended had a great time.

D: Future National Joyce (WB9NUL) polled the board as to there feelings about holding a future National down in South Texas. All present were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Norm Ellison W2LSH
Secretary, MARAC

TREASURER'S REPORT

February 28, 2002

Fund Balance 1-31-02 \$26,364.77

Income \$1,660.25

Expenses \$2390.35

Account Balance \$25,634.67

A more detailed report is available on the MARAC Web Page.

MARAC 4th Quarter Ballot

Votes accepted from March 1st through May 31st

You are voting for Net Controls who ran the net and

Mobiles that ran in the 4th Quarter

Which are the months of December, January and February

1 Vote per Quarter – PLEASE

Call Sign*	Election Key Code*	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Annual Award For	1st Choice	2nd Choice
Best Net Control - SSB:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Best Net Control - CW:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Best Mobile - SSB:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Best Mobile - CW:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Mail To:

STAN HEINSMA
R R # 2
SCOTSBURN, NOVA SCOTIA
CANADA B0K 1R0

Or visit the MARAC web page at
www.marac.org/elections

Silent Keys

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

N5BLK-Gene Willbanks

KD4ZJ-Howard Byers

Candidates Biographical Information

KA3DRO-Ron Rosenwald

I was licensed in the late 70's as KA3DRO and worked my way up to Advanced ticket. Found County Hunters in early 80's when I heard WA3TUC running counties on his way to Idaho Convention and after a few days, I was "hooked". I had a radio in the pickup within a few months and enjoy giving counties even more than collecting them!

My wife of 39 yrs, Chari, and I retired to Florida from Maryland in 1994 when I was just 55 and we travel, golf, craft, and work in my woodshop, along with watching our 3 children and 4 grandsons grow from here! I have a Bachelors degree from U. of Delaware and a Masters degree from Arizona State Univ. and have spent almost all my life in business, either retail or real estate related.

I earned USA-CA #713 in 1991 and along the way have given out about 1,800 counties from 49 States; have given out well over 350 last counties along with about 13 for the "Whole Ball of Wax". I have also attended many MMM conventions including the last from Manchester, been to 5 national conventions including Idaho & Seattle as well as been an officer of 2 national conventions. Once back on the net, I will again be active giving out counties while traveling in our new Allegro Bay RV as we look forward to putting out all the counties we have so far missed. My goal as Treasurer of MARAC is to maintain a professional approach to responsible money management and additionally to create a renewed atmosphere of mutual respect and civility by example all County Hunters, members of MARAC or not, on the air and off. Your vote will be appreciated.

KZ2P -JAMES GRANDINETTI

As you are all aware, I have been your (MARAC) Treasurer for the past 3 years. I am now seeking re-election to the Office of TREASURER. Over the past 3 years I have demonstrated my ability to perform all of the duties required by this office.

- 1) During the past 3 years I have accurately prepared the necessary financial statements and all tax returns.
- 2) I have both a Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Economics with a minor in accounting.
- 3) I was President & Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Peoples National Bank in Lakewood before retiring in 1983.

I have been actively involved in county hunting since 1978, as well as an active member of MARAC. I have completed USA-CA 7 times as well as Five Star, Master's Gold and Master County Hunter awards.

My service to the county hunting community includes:

Serving as MARAC Treasurer for the past 3 years.

Serving as Treasurer for the New York National Convention.

I was instrumental in drafting the current MARAC Constitution and Bylaws, which returned control of our organization to the membership.

I have transmitted from 2000+ counties.

I have acted as either net control or assistant net control and have accumulated 13500+ hours of service.

I have been selected SSB Net Control in 1994, 1995, 1998, 1999, 2000 & 2001.

I received the MARAC Custodian's Award for continuing service to MARAC.

I was selected County Hunter of the Year in 1998.

I am eminently qualified and have proven my ability and desire to serve as MARAC's Treasurer and I look forward to your continued support and friendship.

KE3VV-David Splitt

David Splitt, KE3VV, was first licensed as a novice ham radio operator in 1959, and now holds an Extra Class license. He joined the ranks of county hunters in the mid-90's after a challenge from WA3ZMY (Bill, now an SK) to work all counties with 100 watts and a wire. Sixteen months later, Dave earned USA-CA #950 and has become a full-blown CH'er. He now holds 2 stars and Bingo and is well known on the road when he runs mobile in the "Big Green Dragon". Dave has been active in MARAC, putting in many hours on the revision of the constitution and bylaws and awards committee. He has also served as MARAC general counsel. Dave wants to continue to serve MARAC members and is running for Secretary to assist the Board with timely agendas and notices, as well as minutes and information for the membership.

N4CD-Bob Voss

N4CD -I've been involved with county hunting for 10 years, getting started as the last sunspot cycle peak ended. During those 10 years, I've 'transmitted' from over 3000 US Counties, and my goal is to finish all 3077. Each year, I host the County Hunter Forum at the Dayton Hamvention, and have contributed many articles to the Road Runner. I've accumulated over 500 hours as net control over the years.

My local activities include serving as President of the Richardson club, and previously as vice-president of the Plano club. I regularly attend the county hunter conventions around the country, and enjoy meeting others there and on the road. Several times a year, I give local talks on "County Hunting" to interest new people in our exciting niche of ham radio.

To keep things in balance, I occasionally head out on mini-DXpeditions, but I always come back to the friendly county hunter net - both CW and SSB. Now working on 5th time mixed, and first time CW, M.A.R.A.C. provides an excellent set of awards, which are challenging and interesting for all to work on.

W2LSH-Norm Ellison

My name is Eric N. Ellison (Norm) and I am 67 years young. I was first licensed when I was in High School as W2IBB. I held that call until just a couple of years ago when I opted to change it for W2LSH.

I served in the United States Naval Reserve from 1952 till 1960 and I can thank Uncle Sam for my technical education. During my tour of duty, I specialized in communications. I have enjoyed various jobs traveling around the country for companies that contracted technical services to the Armed Forces. I finally decided to get involved with early CCTV (still tubes) and security hardware. The last 35 years (before I retired) I worked for a company that specialized in all aspects of security and banking products.

Although I was always active in Amateur Radio, the time I had for it was always limited. When I retired, I made myself a promise that I was going to become a full-time Ham. I am a life member of the ARRL, a Volunteer Examiner and in the past have served as an Official Observer. I have found that County Hunting has fulfilled this promise. I started County Hunting in 1995 and have thoroughly enjoyed many of the activities associated with it. I have talked to and met some of the greatest people associated with this hobby.

I am currently the Secretary of our local radio control modelers club (MCRCC). I have served as your Secretary from July 1999 to the present. Since I was elected as MARAC's Secretary, I have prepared and filed all of the required reports. I have made a special effort to be sure that the Board of Directors' meeting minutes are completed and submitted for the members' review within days of the meeting. I have worked closely with our Awards Manager, Gene, KD9ZP to consolidate all the MARAC information into one common database. Getting the Road Runner to be delivered via the Internet has been a major project for me this past year. I feel that I can do a good job for all the members of MARAC.

I would appreciate your support and vote for me for Secretary of MARAC.

W2NWL-Roger Purdy

Although I was first licensed in 1960, I came late to County Hunting. I worked my first county in December of 1995 and received USA-CA # 924 on May 11, 1997 and Master County Hunter # 166 on June 25, 1999.

I had the honor to serve as your Awards Custodian from June of 1997 until January of 2000. During my tenure as your Awards Custodian I introduced several procedures and modernized the program. I streamlined the application/awards process and virtually eliminated any delay between submitting an application and the receipt of the award.

I also served as a member of MARAC's Executive Committee from June of 1997 until its demise after the ratification of our new Constitution and Bylaws. I actively participated with K2NJ, W2LSH, KZ2P and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee in formulating these new C & Lbs. We worked diligently to make sure that the C & BLs were distributed to the membership almost immediately after we took office last July. Although the "Headquarters' Directors" were eliminated with the ratification of the new C & BLs, I have continued to work very closely with our Current Officers. We have developed open Board of Director's meetings and made Our Club more receptive to desires of the Members.

I am seeking election as your Vice-President and ask for your vote. I also ask for your vote for K2NJ for President, KZ2P for Treasurer and W2LSH for Secretary. We have worked hard to bring necessary changes to MARAC and I look forward to continuing for the next 2 years.

County Hunter of the Year Biographical Information

2001 CHOTY – CW Nomination

KC4UG – Ken Carpenter

Statistics:

First Licensed - 1962 (WA5HEC)
MARAC Member Number 2747
USA-CA - #937 (Five Stars)
LC-1 (Last County in a State) - 472
LC-2 (Last For The WBOW) - 26
LC-3 (Multiples of 25 Last Counties) - 18
LC in 2001 - 37 (Since 6/30/01)

CHOTY – SSB - 1999
5 Star - #8
USA-PA – K - #2
Master’s Gold - #4
BINGO - #152
BINGO II - #1
BINGO III - #1
Best Mobile – SSB – 2000 and 2001

Ken retired in the summer of 1996. He had traveled a lot and was a 500,000 mile member of Delta airline and had another half million miles on the other airlines. When he retired, he did not want to fly but liked to travel around the country in his car on the back roads. He had known about the county hunters but had never took part in that aspect of Ham Radio. Instead, he spent the first 35 years of ham radio chasing DX on CW and eventually got tired of that!

A week after he quit working he left on a trip to Alaska! He was on the road and when KZ2P asked for check-in's. Ken keyed the rig and said "this is kilowatt charlie four uniform golf"! Well, Jim explained very clearly that phonetics were NOT used on this net!

He drove to Alaska via VE5, 6 and 7, the Yukon and on to Valdez. Later he went on to Anchorage and Fairbanks and back to the lower 48 through Montana and Southeast back to Alabama. He stayed home a week and then left on a round trip to Reno, NV on the mountain roads. By the time he arrived back home he was hooked!

On his next trips, he ran the counties on SSB and CW. He had lots of logging but lots of fun. During his first 3 years he put out counties in 32 states. He has averaged over 50,000 miles per year for the past 6 years. He has given out 26 last for the WBOW from Colorado to upper WV and VA. He has lucky enough to give at least one for the WBOW on CW, KN4Y, when he was in Georgia. He was not aware that is it was the last until he was at 3M and Ed called him up front and presented him the plaque! He really enjoyed that moment. He stumbled across 3 LC for the whole ball for KZ2P and K2JG. Jim never tells what he needs so it was just dumb luck. One was in AR and two were in North Georgia.

He enjoys running counties, helping with the net and meeting other county hunters.

Respectively Submitted By: Percy Ford – KA1JPR, USA-CA 2320

2001 CHOTY – CW Nomination

WB4FFV – Ralph Wiley

Statistics:

First Licensed - 1975
MARAC Member Number 1758
LC-1 (Last County in a State) - 328
LC-2 (Last For The WBOW) - 6
LC-3 (Multiples of 25 Last Counties) - 10
LC in 2001 – 14 (Since 6/30/01)

First Licensed as an Amateur radio operator in December 1975, Ralph has been a very active county hunter since 1979 and has transmitted counties from every state in the U.S. except; AK, CT, DE, HI, NH, NJ, RI, and VT.

Ralph operates both at home and mobile from the "large car" running both SSB and CW "Big Rig". He is currently working on the USA-CA "Mobile to Mobile", all twenty meters, NO relays. Ralph needs 216 more counties to finish his USA-CA.

Ralph is one of the few that will take over as net control "from the mobile" when no one else will pick up the net. You can hear Ralph almost every evening on 14.336 either running the net from the mobile or assisting who ever is running the net at the time. Ralph is always ready and willing to assist the NC with relays when many others just sit there and wait "for someone else to do it".

Ralph loves to experiment with antennas on the mobile and has operated with just about every make and model of mobile antenna made until he started making his own. He has found without exception, that a "long mast" works best under all conditions. He presently uses a seven foot, 3/4" stainless steel mast with a screwdriver antenna for all bands. The "spare" antenna for the big rig is a 12 foot, 5/8" aluminum mast with E-field coils for each band up to 160 meters.

Ralph is a very congenial gentleman and always willing to help out whenever the need arises and is very deserving of this prestigious award because Ralph is a true example of COUNTY HUNTER OF THE YEAR.

Respectively Submitted by: Don Kimble, USA-CA 1009

2001 CHOTY – SSB Nomination **K4QFK – Pete Peterson**

Statistics:

First Licensed - 1956
MARAC Member Number 1189
USA-CA - #377 (2 Stars)
LC-1 (Last County in a State) - 526
LC-2 (Last For The WBOW) - 20
LC-3 (Multiples of 25 Last Counties) - 17
LC in 2001 – 45 (Since 6/30/01)

Pete has transmitted from approximately 2800 counties, including Hawaii and Alaska twice. He hopes to finish most of the rest this year. He has been county hunting over 22 years a MARAC member since 1980. He has approx. 700 hours of net control time; most were in the early 80s. During the 80's, he served on the Awards committee under two awards managers and attended most of the National conventions and many of the 'minis' across the country. He was also was a speaker at several of the forums at Dayton talking about MARAC and the awards programs. He was treasurer for two national conventions, 1992 and 2001. From November 1992 till November 1996, he served as Awards Manager. He trained and assisted both Vern WB3IET and Roger W2NWL when the program was turned over to them. He is an Extra Class Amateur and operates on both SSB and CW. He has run almost every county on both SSB and CW. During the last year alone, he has traveled over 50,000 miles, running counties on every trip. Pete is an active with his local radio club, Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society, as a Volunteer Examiner (ARRL VEC), also participate in other public service activities with the club and Field Day

needing counties, attempts to find and work those who have requested counties, and willingness to stay on frequency, and off frequency until the last station is worked is without peer comparison.

Carol carefully plans her trips. She seeks out those needing counties in the area she normally runs, or on a trip she is about to take. In 2001, Carol transmitted from 421 counties. Carol consistently puts out the counties in Iowa and Minnesota on a regular basis, and runs nearly all of the counties in Iowa at least twice a year

Over the past 30 years, she has precipitated in all facets of ham radio, from being the Emergency Coordinator in the Imperial Valley, to giving ham radio examinations for her local club and emergency operation during disasters. This all provides excellent background, and is obviously reflected in her continuing mobile operation in 2001.

Recently, a two-page article appeared in a the national magazine, World Radio. This publication is read by tens of thousands of people interested in ham radio. It provided an excellent description of this dedicated county hunter, who over the past 30 years, has tens of thousands of hours of mobile and net control time, and who is a great spokesperson for county hunting. After reading the article, one must conclude that this is one very special county hunter.

The publicity for MARAC and county hunting is valuable giving a 'positive view' of county hunting, county hunting activities, the county hunting awards program, and the 'positive' personalities on the net.

As the article concludes (for the readers of World Radio Magazine) "I also hope you get the opportunity to meet her in person someday... we could use a little of Carol's contagious positive attitude."

Respectively Submitted By: Bob Voss – N4CD, USA-CA 883

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

Stamp

A Road Runner Is A Very Fast Bird

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