



THE COUNTY LINE

ROADRUNNER

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



Volume XXXIII

December 2002

Number 12

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Bill K2NJ



Before I start my column this month, Gail and I want to wish each and every one of you the best of the holiday season. May your every wish be fulfilled.

I sometimes get philosophical when sitting in the school bus waiting for the kids to come out and play... I get thinking of what is happening now and what is going to be.

Who would have thought back in the early 60's of what a world we would be living in now. Back then we knew our enemies, and our friends. Fathers worked, mothers stayed home with the kids. Every family had at least one car, more likely two. Most of us had rather modest radio stations at the time... most of us were crystal controlled (do some of you know what a crystal is?) and the word super-regen was the cats' meow when it came to receivers. Antennas were made from wire salvaged from old TV transformers. Your Key came from Lafayette Radio... The ARRL logbook cost 50cents... and pencils were a nickel... That was our database of the day.

Everyone had the coveted RCC award hanging on their shack wall – this was probably the first award anyone ever got... (Cant get that by saying 22 over and over) – WAS took most of the year and DXCC was something only old timers had... Chasing counties was something I did, but never even dreamed about getting them all.. I was hoping to finish some of the easy states... NJ, CT, DE... but how on earth could ya finish stuff like NY or even Ohio... Everyone QSLed then... no SASE stuff, it was just the right thing to do.

Flash... we are now approaching the end of 2002. Everyone has computer logging (well, except Arne') and you don't have to remember the name of the people we work daily... it pops up straight in front of you each time you enter his call. It tells you when you worked him, What he is good for (***), where he was yada yada... You go off on a county trip, you hop into your car – the radio is usually already there

(Continued on Page 2)

MINUTES

MARAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Date November 13, 2002

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

The Officers present were:

President Bill Inkrote – K2NJ

Secretary Norm Ellison — W2LSH

Treasurer Jim Grandinetti – KZ2P

Great Lakes Director Randy Davis – N8ELQ

Southeast Director Percy Ford – KA1JPR

South Central Director Joyce Boothe – WB9NUL

Pacific Director Robert t. Devine – KC6AWX

The Members present were:

Roger (W2NWL)

Hugh (K8GPC)

John (W5UGD)

On a motion by Jim (KZ2P) and seconded by Percy (KA1JPR) the minutes of the October 9, 2002 meeting be approved.

Roll call indicated 6 in favor, none opposed.

On a motion by Randy (N8ELQ) and seconded by Percy (KA1JPR) the Treasurer's report of October 31, 2002 was accepted. Roll call indicated 5 in favor, 1 abstention and none opposed.

OLD BUSINESS

A: Recommendations from the Awards Manager and the Awards Committee.

1. The MARAC USA- Counties award to be eliminated on January 1, 2003

On a motion by Joyce (WB9NUL) and seconded by Jim (KZ2P) the BOD accepted the recommendations of the Awards Committee on Item 1.

2. Masters Platinum Award (New)

3. MARAC Senior County Hunter Award (New)

No action was taken on Items 2 and 3 because the Awards Committee did not forward it recommendations to the BOD.

NEW BUSINESS

A: Willis' (KJ4EJ) offer:

"I propose to transfer all rights of ownership of the KWIKLOG PLUS 2000 county hunting program and the COMAP County map program to MARAC without remuneration of any kind, subject only to the following items:

1- Name of the program to remain as KWIKLOG PLUS and that I remain listed as the developer of the program along with the name of a new program administrator to be appointed by yourself and the board who will work with me in the transfer and rewrite of the program to a better up-to-date format

(Continued on Page 3)

(President Continued from page 1)

(its small enough to leave there even when the wife drives it to go to work like most other wives now days). You tape the log and enter it into your computer when you get back... So what if your RV/SUV gets 8 miles to the gallon... It only cost ya a buck and a half – cheap – the scare of years back don't mean nothing now...

Flash again (I run out of superlatives). We are in the year 2050. Aaron and Carol are running the county line of Queens and New York now that the landfill is complete and the county line is dry. KZ2P-2 is net control... Actually Jim is finally out on the golf course with Pat, but the clone-PC generated NCS of the century program is running the net (no, I didn't say clown)... Combined they are good for 245 stars, three comets and a magnitude of other solar objects that I don't want to get into now. Waiting to run is Sliver – still logging by hand, but he has a new pen...

Seriously... what does the future have in store for not only our hobby, but our little niche called County Hunting. Is gasoline going to be readily available to us so we can use it so frivolously passing out counties for the Nth time? Are the cars of the future going to be electric powered like we have been promised for so long... and if they are, is there going to be enough power around to run a radio? If they are electric powered, is there going to be so dang much noise you would actually have to stop to operate... Are we going to have an HT and a poly-Z-Glop antenna on top of it that gives 9dBd gain and it only 30 inches high on 20Meters. Hell, will there be a 20 Meters?

I look around at my fellow amateurs at the NJDXA meeting last Friday night and I am one of the young guys there (I am 55). Yes my son KC2JPM was there and he is 15, but he is the ONLY kid there – the rest of us are all old coots. Hell, there were guys there in their 80's and still very active not only on the air, but in life. BUT where are our replacements??? That is the big question that comes up every time we talk about the future of our hobby... because if there is no interest – or population to occupy these bands, they will be taken from us. If there is going to be a future for ham radio there has to be ham radio operators in the future...

When is the last time your local radio club ran a licensing class? You don't know? Your not a member of a local club... (neither am I – yet)... then my friend you are part of the problem, not part of the solution.

Go out and investigate a local – general purpose – club in your area (well, maybe not in Florida – nothing but old coots there)... and once your there ask if they are going to run a class. Ask if you can help run it. I know that anyone can teach a novice (ok tech) course... I have done it several times, and if I can do it – anyone can. You will find that you get as much out of it as any of the students.

Advertise it in the local high school newspaper. Kids are still interested in the magic of radio... but you have to hit them over the head to get their attention. They are too busy killing the galaxy bandits or something...

Without replacements, we know K9EAB was the first to work all counties ... We know who was first to put out all the counties, but the question to be answered is who will be the last?

By the way... I stumbled on a real neat website. It shows the ham population on a map separated by counties... go visit it... Here is the URL for it:

<http://www.buck.com/images/ushams.jpg>

Really shows there are a few left with no hams in it... but remember some of these are probably tech licensee – so don't get your hopes up of hearing from them.

Please Welcome Our New Members And Add Them To Your Database.

Marac # Call Name Address Cnty E Mail

R-3057 N1BY James R Catlin 932 Hatton St Collierville, TN 38017 Shelby ch@n1by.com

R-3058 N8KIE Robert N Woody 7661 Allen Clarkston, MI 48348 Oakland n8kie@arrl.net

R-3059 WA4QPD Bobby J Harris 2003 Mitchell, Humboldt, TN 38343 Gibson wa4qpd@clicki.net

R-3060 W0FP Larry (Frosty) S Phillips 9822 Clarksboro Dr East Liberty, MO 64068 Clay frostyp@mindspring.com

R-3061 K0SSE Oscar W Hall 4655 Fraser Way Denver, CO 80239-5122 Denver oscarh1934@aol.com

R-3062 K9FDL Dottie A Olig 4325 4th St Rd Fond du Lac, WI 54935 Fond du dottie@oligs.org

R-3063 W5XFM Faith H Marshall 22944 Armadillo Road Garfield, AR 72732 Benton faithm@mc2.com

R-3064 N9J Jim Zacher 39W 345 Central Dr. Elgin, IL 60123 Kane jimz@popmail.com

(Minutes Continued)

2 - That the retail price of the program remain of such an amount required to support the program by the administrator you appoint. I feel that this is necessary to insure the availability of a qualified administrator. It requires a lot of work. To start things off, I would suggest that the price remain set at \$65.00 perhaps \$75.00 in two years time. With the proceeds distributed as MARAC sees fit. Hoping that they will bear in mind the work involved and making sure that the new Administrator is reimbursed fairly in that regard and the surplus being placed in the MARAC general treasury or in a MARAC special account to ensure perpetuity of the program.

3 - That MARAC take steps to copyright the program and the name KWIKLOG PLUS after acceptance of this offer.

4 - The KWIKLOG WEB site at <http://kwiklog.com> - is paid in full with no monthly fees — but it does have an annual \$60.00 annual domain fee which is paid annually to the Internet web provider. This Web site could be transferred FREE to MARAC and is included in this offer should you desire to take advantage of the site. You may decide to expand your own site. If the site is transferred - the annual fee is to be paid by the Administrator or MARAC as you all decide. (I am not connected with the web provider other than as a user with a protected domain name)

5 - The transfer of all rights in the program to be made on acceptance of this offer and effective January 1, 2005 - this time delay will allow the new administrator and myself a total of two years to redevelop the program so as to take advantage of the MARAC call database and other files that would enhance the program, and provide time to convert the program from a 16 bit program to a modern 32 bit program to keep up with the times. During the time period between your acceptance of this offer and Jan 1, 2005 , I will work with your coordinator in the development of the new program and prepare the existing program for conversion to the new MARAC format. Believe me Bill - it will take two years to do that - its a lot of work. I will retain all rights to the program until Jan 1, 2005 unless I or my spouse elect to transfer the rights earlier in the case of my being unable to perform the work required.

6. That any new program developed by MARAC be a "stand alone" program in order that our many users can use the program without having to purchase other programs (such as any database programs) to use the program. This I strongly insist on being a requirement of the future programmers in developing a new design. I want to ensure that the program NOT become a WINDOWS nightmare for our general membership who have little computer expertise.

7 - On acceptance of this offer that a Logging Program Administrator, be appointed as soon as possible from qualified programmers capable of working with BOTH VISUAL BASIC 4.5 AND VISUAL BASIC 6.0. PS: As a potential Administrator, I would nominate and suggest consideration of our own Gene Olig

8 - That an official and binding agreement be approved by

both MARAC and myself on acceptance.

I hope that the Board will accept this offer at this early date so that steps can be taken to ensure continuity of the program that is so vital to our county hunter membership. You can rest assured that I will continue to support the program as long as I have the capacity to do so. I consider KWIKLOG PLUS as my legacy to county hunting. "

Clarence Willis "Willis" KJ4EJ 11-04-02

On a motion by Joyce (WB9NUL) and seconded by Randy (N8ELQ), Willis' offer was accepted by the BOD. Roll call indicated all in favor, none opposed. The entire BOD thanked Willis for his generosity and continued support of MARAC and county hunting. Bill (K2NJ) will contact Gene (KD9ZP) concerning the offer.

B: Category Two Merit Award.

On a motion by Percy (KA1JPR) and seconded by Jim (KZ2P) a MARAC Category Two Merit Award was awarded to Ralph Wiley (WB4FFV) and his XYL Angela for the work they did in arranging the trip and transportation to the Grand Old Opry while at the 3M. The BOD approved, by a unanimous vote, with thanks to Ralph and Angela.

OPEN MEETING

Nothing at this time.

With no further Business to come before the Board, on a motion by Norm (W2LSH) and seconded by Jim (KZ2P), the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM EDT. Roll call indicated all in favor, none opposed.

Respectfully Submitted: Norm Ellison W2LSH Secretary

Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club

Treasurer's Report November 3, 2002

Funds Balance 10/31/02 \$27,551.20

Income:

Awards	\$1,273.85
Dues	\$1,002.00
Interest	<u>\$20.02</u>
	\$2,295.87

Expenses:

Gene Olig – expenses	\$163.64
Marsh-Seabury & Smith - liability ins.	\$868.00
Dennis Hall - domain name registration	\$20.00
Stafford Engraving - awards	\$73.00
Print Rite, Inc – newsletter	<u>\$480.83</u>
	\$1,605.47

\$690.40

Account Balances: \$28,241.60

Money Market Account: \$26,196.80

Checking Account: \$ 2,044.80

\$28,241.60

Note:

The following monies are not included in the above:

Awards Chairman's Funds	\$1,200.00
Convention Chairman's Funds	\$2,500.00

DATELINE CW**By Ed, KN4Y**

Divine Love always has met and always will meet every county hunter's need.

Finally got the CW sweepstakes log e-mailed to the ARRL. The electric cooler has cooled down so I better open it. I cannot remember if I removed the shrimp before I pulled the plug and left for the 3M Mini. I hold my breath and open the lid. Thank goodness, it is empty; and now I can restock the cooler. The radio is on 14.056.5 KHz but is quiet except for a few FISTS trying to find their net frequency. I hear the roar of Gators four by four engine exhaust as he turns off the main road into the driveway. He stops short of the crosstie and the leaves fly from the Oak tree lacerated by the oscillating ninety-six inch whip. The squirrels run from the trees. I hear the truck door slam and I yell, "Come in gator, the doors unlocked." "Hi Dude, I got us some Foster beer, it be the choice in Arkansas" "That is Australia," "Whatever," Also got some chocolate covered potato chips." I point to the cooler, "Put then in there." Suddenly from the rig is heard CHN QRL? and a reply, CHN QNF GA "Who be running?" asks Gator.

"That is Sliver, KC0JG, I have been getting new counties from him on fifteen meters." Gator brings up the county on the KWIN2000 logging program and enters KC0JG. "Hey Dude it say here he be called Roy." "Yes, he goes by either moniker." "Why?" "I do not know. Maybe because he has the same name as Roy Rogers who rode a horse named Sliver. How the heck would I know? "That was the Lone Ranger "A horse is a horse, GATOR, hand me a Foster." Gator pops the top on two cool ones and opens the box of chocolate potato chips. We enjoy the cool gulps and the muffled crack of the chips.

We listen to the activity on the CW net, then Gator speaks, "How many mobile county hunters also run the county on fifteen meters?" "Not sure, but you have to take off your shoes to count them." This is a way to get Gator to be quiet, "Gator, get my log and start from January and write down all the mobiles I worked on fifteen meters." Gator sits down and starts listing the mobiles. This gives me a chance to work the mobile running on the CW net upon QSY to 21056.5 KHz. I finished my brew as Gator hands me the list.

(Continued In Jan RR)

Using 10 Meters Instead of 2**Don AE3Z**

I read with some interest in the last RR about the proposal to eliminate 2M contacts between person's riding in the same vehicle. I for one, am not able to do this because Marilyn is licensed as a Novice only so the 2M thing is out for us. But, we have a system whereby we can do the same thing only using 10 meters which she is authorized to operate SSB on. Two years ago, at the Dayton hamfest, I purchased a Radio Shack 10 meter rig to put in her car so that I could talk to her while she was out running around and to and from her work. I got the wild idea that we could use that 10 meter rig the same way that other team's were using 2M.

I had an old briefcase that I had used when I was working that was now devoid of any usage so, I scrounged up some two inch thick foam padding, made it to fit the briefcase and cutouts for the radio. I made another trip to Radio Shack to find the shortest (CB) 10 meter antenna that would serve the purpose and purchased one that was exactly the same length as the inside of the briefcase. I mounted a piece of 16 gauge sheet steel inside the cover of the briefcase which held the mag-mount antenna very nicely. Now, all we needed was power.. It had to be small and portable... What to do...???

I went to the local hardware and purchased two, six volt lantern batteries (for 12 volts) which proved worthless because they couldn't deliver enough current to drive the 10 meter rig even at low power. (Anybody need two good lantern batteries??) I had used a garden tractor battery at one time to power a 2M rig in the house and decided to try this approach. Kaymart proved to be the "cheapest" way out at \$19.95. Then, it came down to something to carry it in. Walking around the houseware's section of the store, I came upon a small "beer cooler" type or lunch box which appeared to be just about the right size so, we bought that for about five bucks.

When I got home, I made a power cable for the 10 meter rig with alligator clips to connect to the battery, set the whole thing up out on the back porch with my new 18 inch 10 meter antenna and I started down the road.. I have no idea just how far I could have gone and still talked to Marilyn on the hookup but, after three miles, I turned around and came home. It works just great. If we need to pick up a county that I need, all we have to do is pull off on an exit or side road, pull the briefcase out of the trunk, hook up the power cable to the battery and make the contact. We've gotten some "weird" looks but, we get "weird looks" at our antenna systems all the time anyway so, no big deal.

Don AE3Z

REMEMBERING 50 YEARS OF HAM RADIO

By Bill Herbert, WA2ZYM

Continued from November

At one time we had a very good NCS who was blind and operated with a Braille typewriter. Lynn, WA1KKP, took a lot of ribbing about how good she was and how we expected to see her get confused some night. "Never", she said. To ZMY and me that was a red flag. After a couple of phone conversations to work out the details (we didn't want any listeners to spill the beans) Bill and I sent letters to every ham in the country that had the letters Z, M and Y in his or her call. We asked them all to check into the net on a night when Lynn was going to run the net. The idea of course was that she would never get all the ZMY, YZM, ZYM, MYZ, etc. calls straight.

As luck would have it, Lynn was ill that night. NCS was taken over by Ray, WA4SGP, who heard WA2ZYM, WA2ZMY, W2YZM and WB2MZY check in and decided that "I have been sandbagged!" There were 24 check ins with some version of the letters "ZMY" in their calls and a lot of fun was had by all.

Bill and I also went to an Eyeball in Bowling Green, KY one time. The net was run from the eyeball and as my turn came up I took the mike from NCS, called

Bill and gave him a 59 report. I handed him the mike, whereupon he gave me a 22 and asked for a repeat of his report THREE TIMES, interspersing his requests with comments on the lousy propagation in KY. Everyone in the room was in stitches and those not at the eyeball had no idea that the NCS, Bill and I were all standing within a foot of each other and all using the same mike..

Once in a while, I would get on the county hunters net. I gave out a few (very few) and made some contacts but I was not at all serious about it. Next to my Century Club operating I was most active in the local RACES group. I eventually became Chief Radio Officer and for about a year served as ENY Section Emergency Coordinator for ARRL. I can remember working with the local authorities during the annual spring floods on the Hudson. Probably our hardest emergency was in October of 1980. We had 29 inches of snow on Halloween. Power lines were down, a lot of communications were out and RACES was the backbone of the job of keeping things in the right priority with local police, fire and utility companies.

We received commendations from several communities and some very nice write ups in the local media because of our work.

Shortly after this storm we submitted a \$10000 dollar (that's right – thousand) budget to the director of emergency services. Even after our work during the blizzard he adamantly refused the budget saying that we didn't need all that stuff. Looking back on it I think he was afraid we were after his job – the furthest thing from our minds. I told him that we were going to go over his head and take it to the county legislature. When we got a hearing with the public safety committee, he was very smug about us not getting our way. That lasted until he found out the committee chairman was a college classmate and teammate of mine and the chairman of the county legislature (who stuck his head in the door and said, "Give these guys what they want – we need them") was my next door neighbor. Ah, politics!

About this time (1981) I got interested in mobile work. I installed a rig that had been loaned to me in my van and operated all over the country. By the mid 80's I had operated from over 45 states and several of the provinces of Canada. I still stuck mostly to 75 and 40 meters along with an occasional side trip to the YL system on 20. I can remember working Perth, Australia on 20 at 9am one morning from Myrtle Beach, SC. I don't think that the Aussie I was talking to believed I was mobile until I told him my van was parked with the back bumper (consequently the antenna) sticking out over the Atlantic. One heck of a ground plane. My mobile rig then was an Alda 103, if anybody remembers them, which I obtained from a friend in S. Carolina.

Once in a while, I would get on the county hunters net but, as I said before, I wasn't serious about it at all. It was just something to do for a change of pace.

I retired in 1989 and we started traveling even more than before. The rig was in the van and I operated more and more often as a mobile. There were long lapses but in 1998 I started to get serious again. At the Orlando Hamfest in 1999 I traded in the 101 for an Alinco DX-70 and my general ticket for the advanced one. The amplifier, tuner, antennas, etc. were long gone since we had started full time RVing in 1992.

My first contact with the new rig was a local ham. Then I tuned around and found the county hunters on 14.336. I remembered what Bill, now a SK, had told me so often about the fun of county hunting.

(Continued on page 6)

50 Years of Ham Radio (Continued)

I tried it for about three weeks and was hooked. Since then I have operated almost entirely on 14.336. I have given out counties as often as possible and, hopefully, have been able to help some hams get needed counties.

A few days before writing this, I realized that I had spent 50 years in ham radio. I went from CW and AM to SSB, packet and computers, from 6146s and 6L6s to Pentium 4 and digital synthesizers and from novice to extra. My first computer in the shack had less computing power than my current Casio watch! I often wonder what some of the real old timers who are silent keys and who started in the early 30's would think if they saw today's equipment. My original goal was to someday have a Hammerlund rig. I upgraded that dream to a Drake transceiver and now I have an Icom handheld that is no bigger than the microphone on my HE-45. With respect to the availability of equipment and the plethora of technical information available, I am glad the "Good Old Days" have got up and went.

There are many things I have missed over the years – SSTV, satellite work and contesting. I did enter some contests from time to time but never seriously. But, all in all, I am satisfied. I have worked all bands from 160 up to 440 and enjoyed it thoroughly.

I have operated on land and water, from mountains and canyons and in the process of putting this article together (in early September) ran a county while parked in the middle of a buffalo herd. I don't know what the RF did to the bison but I don't mind admitting that the bison made me a little nervous. When several animals the size of your truck are all around you, you become very cautious.

I am still operating, now mostly HF and all mobile, and still getting a big kick out of hearing my call on the air. Many hobbies have organizations and get together but Ham radio is the only one where you talk to others in the hobby on a day to day basis. The friends and acquaintances that I have made could never be duplicated in any other hobby. Many of them I have been fortunate to know on a face to face basis as well as over the air. Some of them are now silent keys but I hope they see this and realize how much they meant to me over the years.

I have no idea how long I will be around but I know I will be county hunting as long as I can talk and key a mike.

Since I now operate entirely mobile I don't think I will do much CW but who knows? I am even kicking around the idea of satellite mobile work that I have seen written up lately.

We still travel all over and we are headed for Florida for the winter (from Wyoming) so if you need some special county e-mail me (wa2zym@yahoo.com) and, if I can, I will try to get it for you. 73 and may you all have as many years and as much enjoyment out of ham radio as I have had.

Major Awards Issued For The Month Of November

KD9ZP - Awards Manager

Award		Number	
LC-1		437	
LC-2		9	
LC-3		14	
All Others		19	
Call	Date	Award	Number
VE1BES	11/11/02	5 Star	14
W6XLR	11/5/02	Big Rig	1000 Counties
VE9DH	11/5/02	BINGO	224
WA9DLB	11/20/02	BINGO	225
KD5CXO	11/24/02	BINGO	226
WU3H	11/24/02	BINGO	227
VE1BES	11/11/02	BINGO II	22
W7TSM	11/12/02	Last County Count	100 175
KE3VV	11/30/02	Last County Count	125 125
N9QPQ	11/30/02	Last County Count	150 109
KB6UF	11/12/02	Last County Count	225 58
KJ8F	11/12/02	Last County Count	25 390
NA7W	11/12/02	Last County Count	250 48
KK0L	11/30/02	Last County Count	475 20
KC1NA	11/12/02	Last County Count	500 16
KI0JD	11/30/02	Last County Count	525 14
K4QFK	11/12/02	Last County Count	575 9
K1BYE	11/6/02	Last County Count	700 5
W0RRY	11/6/02	Last County Count	75 190
WB7VIZ	11/6/02	Last County Count	75 191
NE9DH	11/6/02	Last County Count	75 192
N1HHW	11/14/02	Worked all Counties -	
		2 nd Time	307
KD5CXO	11/24/02	Worked all Counties -	
		2nd Time	308
K0GO	11/30/02	Mobile Cat 3 -	
		Transmitted From	3077 Counties
K4UNF	11/6/02	USA-PA - Prefix W	2
K4UNF	11/06/02	FBCA – 20 Meters - #37	3077 Counties
K4UNF	11/06/02	FBCA – 40 Meters - #5	1583 Counties
K4UNF	11/06/02	FBCA – 75 Meters- #10	1745 Counties

2003 SOUTH CENTRAL MINI

WHEN: February 20, 21 & 22, 2003

WHERE: Drury Inn & Suites, 6711 N. IH 35, Austin, Texas

ROOM RATE: \$59.99/night plus tax. Includes free Quikstart Breakfast. Free local calls. Exercise facilities.

RESERVATIONS: Call 512-467-9500 and mention MARAC to get the special rate. Same rate applies if you come in early or stay late. Our block of rooms will be held at the \$59.99 rate until Feb. 6...they will be released after that date. Please reserve before then if possible.

Directions to Hotel: Hotel is on the east frontage road of IH-35 just north of US-290. Southbound on IH-35, take exit 238B-A, then A and then take the turnaround to the north frontage. Northbound on IH-35, take exit 238A, stay on frontage through the light at US-290.

AREA ATTRACTIONS: State Capital, LBJ Museum, Texas State History Museum, Outlet Mall shopping, six restaurants within walking distance, shopping mall across highway, many more. If you are interested in golf, please email Bob in advance—kk5mi@juno.com.

CONVENTION ACTIVITIES: Hospitality room, Technical/antenna sessions, Thursday night BBQ dinner at the Salt Lick, Friday morning golf (weather permitting), Saturday night dinner and prize drawing.

PRIZES: Please consider donating a door prize.

CONVENTION FEES-REGISTRATION FORM

Registration-Includes name badge, group photo and prize drawing

Single.....\$9.00 = \$_____

OM/YL Couple.....\$14.00 = \$_____

Bar-B-Que Dinner at the Salt Lick (Thursday night).....\$15.00 pp = \$_____

Saturday Night Dinner...(Country-Style Casual).....\$15.00 pp = \$_____

Total.....\$_____

NAME_____ CALL_____ USACA#_____

NAME_____ CALL_____ USACA#_____ RELATION _____

E-mail address of primary registrant:_____

Send a check for the total of registration & dinner fees Payable to Bob Allen, KK5MI, to PO Box 1669, Dripping Springs, Tx. 78620. For more info, call or email Bob...512-894-3684 kk5mi@juno.com

Living The legends

35th Annual MARAC Convention

16 July – 19 July 2003

South Bend, Indiana

Holiday Inn University – 1/574-272-6600

Indiana and South Bend are ready to welcome one and all county hunters to the annual convention. Much has been planned for early arrivals and those who just come for the Saturday events.

Area visits not planned but available are: Studebaker National Museum, Chicago sites via the South Shore RR, South Bend Regional Museum of Art, and even Amish country.

The Holiday Inn University is located ½ mile north of I-80/90 EXIT 77, just one mile from the University

Of Notre Dame, three miles north of the College Football Hall of Fame and seven miles from the South Bend Regional Airport.

SPECIAL AMENITIES include 10% discount on meals in the Gipper's Café and Lounge, Indoors and Outdoors pool, game and exercise rooms, free parking and 24-hour airport shuttle service.

ROOM RESERVATIONS 1-574-272-6600

All reservations, as usual, must be guaranteed with a credit card number. If you must cancel, please do so 72 hours before the convention start date.

REGISTRATION IN THE HOTEL LOBBY

Planned Activities

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16. A delicious Polish Buffet will be offered for early arrivals. The South Bend area is noted for their ethnic food and Polish cuisine is one of the most famous and delicious.

We will gather at 5:30 p.m. in the Holidome Reception Area to enjoy the bountiful banquet-style meal consisting of Polish sausage, Baked Chicken, Sweet & Sour Cabbage, Kluski Noodles, Mashed Potatoes, Chef's Vegetable, Tossed Salad w/ Dressings, Rolls, Freshly brewed Coffee & Teas.

The meal will be served at 6:00 p.m. and should you choose to enjoy your meal in the PICNIC AREA outside, please do so at your leisure.

THURSDAY, JULY 17. This will certainly be a day to remember!! It all starts with a tour of the campus of Notre Dame that will be hosted by members of a volunteer group who will show you the best of the best. Of course, for many, "a must see" is the famous Notre Dame Stadium, home of the legendary Fighting Irish football teams and legendary coach Knute Rockne. Other notable sites are the Main Building topped by the "Golden Dome", the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, the Father Hesburgh Library, Joyce Center, and what many affectionately call the "Touchdown Jesus" mural.

After the tour we will travel, by cars, to the College Football Hall of Fame in downtown South Bend. Here, every day is Saturday with action-packed

interactive displays and exhibits. Get into the game in the Practice Field or experience the state-of-the-art 360 degree Stadium Theater. You will discover highlights from each decade with photographs, artifacts, and video kiosks that show how college football has changed. **THIS IS TRULY A HANDS-ON** tour for football fans or even those who are not quite interested.

Don't miss this outing because after touring the Hall of Fame we will have a dandy **TAILGATE PARTY** on the "outdoor football field". A great menu is planned, so bring your taste buds along and enjoy.

After the tailgate party you can wander through the Hall of Fame again because our group has sole possession of the building for the evening.

Golf Tournament: Gather to hit the little white ball at a local course.

FRIDAY, JULY 18. First, for those early risers, plan to be educated on KJ4EJ'S Computer Logging Program at 10:00 a.m.

Then, those attendees, who are tired of looking at antennas in the parking lot or chatting in the Holidome Reception Area and would like to watch 250 young people, ages 7 to 21, perform death-defying feats as part of the widely acclaimed **CIRUS CITY FESTIVAL**, can join us on a trip to Peru, Indiana, former circus winter headquarters. These young people are truly amazing and you will enjoy the Balancing Bike, Teeterboard, Roman Rings, Single, Double, Multiple, and Flying Trapeze acts. Hold your breath as you watch the High Wire, Tight Wire and "Wallendas" High Wire performances. Our day will be busy from 3 p.m. until about midnight. The performance is about 3 hrs in length, so bring your seat cushions!! "Supper" is available in downtown Peru at the Festival Booths.

SATURDAY, JULY 19. As the convention begins to wind down, don't forget the **MARAC NATIONAL MEETING**, the CW Meeting and W9UCW's Antenna Seminar. At approximately 4:00 p.m. Gene (N4ANV) will want to see your smiling faces for the annual **PHOTO SESSION**. Don't miss your opportunity for posterity.

To top off the day there will be a cash bar at 6:00 p.m. followed by the **BANQUET** in the Studebaker Ballroom at 7:00 p.m. You will have chosen either the Chicken Parmesan or Prime Rib to whet your appetite.

Our Master of Ceremonies will be the Great Orange Pumpkin (Mark).

Prizes are not firm, but we will have plenty of radios and especially YL prizes. We can't forget those non-ham partners.

PRIZES

The convention committee will have plenty of radios and YL prizes for attendees. We will be happy to receive as many additional prizes as you are able to donate. Hopefully everyone will be able to take home at least one prize.

DON'T FORGET EARLY REGISTRATION MUST BE POSTMARKED BY APRIL 15, 2003.

COMMITTEE:

Convener- W9GBH-Herb

Treasurer- W9GUY-Don

Asst. Convener- Joan, XYL of W9GBH

Hospitality- WB9NUL-Joyce

E-Mail joycenul@aol.com

Badges- N8BGF-John

E-Mail n8bgf@yahoo.com

E-Mail w9gbh@kconline.com

E-Mail w9guy@netusa1.net

Awards Chairman- N8LXQ-Jim

E-Mail jdooley@qtm.net

Website- N9VRZ-Dean

E-Mail n9vrz@hotmail.com

35th Annual MARAC Convention

16 July – 19 July, 2003

South Bend, Indiana

Holiday Inn University – 1/574-272-6600

NAME (First, MI, Last) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ST/PROV _____ POSTAL CODE _____

NAME ON

BADGE _____ CALL _____ USACA# _____

REGISTRATION FEE: \$25.00

ADDITIONAL BADGES NEEDED TOTAL # OF ADDITIONAL BADGES _____ @ \$5.00 each = \$ _____

Name _____ Call _____ USACA# _____ Relation _____

Name _____ Call _____ USACA# _____ Relation _____

ENTER NUMBER OF PERSONS ATTENDING EVENT _____ TOTAL# _____

Wednesday July 16

POLISH BUFFET _____ #Adults _____ x \$20.00 = \$ _____

Thursday July 17

NOTRE DAME CAMPUS TOUR _____ #Adults _____ x \$ 4.00 = \$ _____

COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME TAILGATE PARTY _____ #Adults _____ x \$25.00 = \$ _____

Friday July 18

CIRCUS CITY FESTIVAL (2 ½ hr. performance) _____ #Adults _____ x \$12.00 = \$ _____

Peru, Indiana **SUPPER AVAILABLE AT FESTIVAL BOOTHS**

Saturday July 19

BANQUET—CHICKEN PARMESAN _____ #Adults _____ x \$18.00 = \$ _____

BANQUET—PRIME RIB _____ #Adults _____ x \$20.00 = \$ _____

PRIZE TICKETS

MERCHANDISE

Ham Dozen # _____ x \$10.00 = \$ _____

YL Dozen # _____ x \$10.00 = \$ _____

Extra Group Photo # _____ x \$ 5.00 = \$ _____

YL Photo # _____ x \$ 6.00 = \$ _____

USACA Photo # _____ x \$ 6.00 = \$ _____

CW Photo # _____ x \$ 6.00 = \$ _____

Total for Tickets = \$ _____

Total for Merchandise \$ _____

FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS: CALL DIRECT AT: 1/574-272-6600

(Room Cost: \$74.95 plus Tax-MENTION MOBILE AMATEUR RADIO)

Mail Registration Forms and Check To:

2003 MARAC CONVENTION

Don Guy

8677 E State Road 218

Walton, IN 46994-9502

1/574-626-2256

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Please Make Checks Payable To: 2003 MARAC Convention

Anticipated Date of Arrival at the Convention: ____/____/2003

Mail early for the PRE-REGISTRATION PRIZE:

PRE-REGISTRATION CUT-OFF DATE: 04/15/2003

Texas Road Trip K5WO & N4CD GO MOBILE

Bob K5WO and Bob N4CD decided to go mobile in the Texas QSO Party held the last weekend in September. We departed from Plano at 7am on Saturday morning, heading to west Texas to run some of the less run counties. Each year, the TQP tries to get as many counties activated for the contest. Our rig consisted of an ICOM IC706, LDG Electronics Antenna Tuner, and K8CW antenna system for 15/20/40m mounted on the 2001 Buick LeSabre trunk deck. The weather was great – sun and not too hot.

A lot of things were ‘new’ for this trip. First time for the LDG tuner. First time the K5WO computer had been tied to the N4CD mobile rig. The good news – the computer keyed the radio with no problems on 20 and 40m, which would be our main bands. The bad news – Murphy is always around, and 15m r.f. locked up the computer, preventing computer operation on 15m cw. Some r.f. chokes would have helped. More bad news – the inverter for the PC produced S9 hash on the radio. Fortunately, the PC could run 2 or more hours on the battery, and had a quick charger, so we could occasionally charge it to keep the battery up after we worked everyone in a county. Battery management became a concern. Good news – so much activity on 20m we never ran out of people calling!

The contest started at 9am, but we wanted to be west of the Metroplex and all the traffic before that time. K5WO used a PC for CW logging and operating. Typical cw speeds for the contest are about 27wpm. We headed west through Denton, Wise, and into Jack before the contest started, but gave out the counties to the county hunters on 14.336 and 14.0565 nets before contest start time.

We started to contest in Jack county – and people came out of the woodwork! Dozens and dozens of CW contacts on 14.041-.043. Next into Archer and Baylor and a whole list of Texas Counties. K5WO was busy operating CW as we were running down the road at up to 75mph. The rig is quiet enough that you can easily operate CW while moving in most places (noisy power line areas excepted). For SSB, it is easier to catch calls when you are stopped, but we sometimes ran counties ‘on the run’ on SSB as well.

We tried to hit as many counties as possible within the time allocated and ways to get there. In west Texas,

there are lots of counties with only a few roads, and it is hard to get through many of them quickly. If you can find a place where you can get to 4 counties at one area, then you can quickly run those 4 counties, and move to next ones. In this contest, you cannot run a ‘county line’, but only one county at a time, which slowed us down compared to normal county hunting, where you can run county lines – taking half the time to make the same number of contacts. The ideal situation is to zig and zag into counties, be in each for 20 minutes to run SSB and CW, then wind up in another county for 20 minutes on a road that then goes to yet another county. Unfortunately, road planners didn’t usually follow this formula!

Before long, it was getting dark, and we had wound our way through more than a dozen counties. Around 8:45pm, we started looking for a motel in Lubbock – hard to find one! The contest ran till 9pm, but we were too far from another county to keep going. A Motel 6 appeared, and we headed in. Dinner at 9:30, then to sleep. K5WO had gone 500 miles in Texas, and he had barely had time to look out the windshield while logging away hour after hour! N4CD was doing the driving. If you use a PC to log, just imagine doing it while moving down some twisting roads, with the sun shining brightly making reading the screen a real challenge! Not all fun. At night, the opposite problem – easy to read the screen, but you can’t see the keys!

Next morning at 7am, we were on the road winding our way back home via the pairs of counties along the I20 corridor. You can easily go a few miles off the interstate and get the rarer counties not often run. The contests ends at 3pm local time, so there was a desire to get close to home around that time, but not too close since operating in the metroplex traffic and ambient noise is difficult. We ended about 100 miles west of home, then cruised in arriving in Plano around 5:30pm.

We logged over 800 CW contacts and 700 SSB contacts, with 48 states, 7 provinces, and a dozen DX countries. We took a few wrong turns, forgot to take a turn or two missing a county, but had a fun time and gave out lots of rare TX counties to many.

De Bob N4CD

For Sale

ICOM-730 Good Mobile HF Unit

From non smoking envirement. \$350.00 o.b.o.
Dale Mitchler WB9YCO wb9yco@milwpc.com

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

“A Road Runner Is A Very Fast Bird”

MARAC 3rd Quarter Ballot

Votes accepted from

December 1 - February 28th

You are voting for Mobiles that ran in the 3rd Quarter

Which are the months of

September, October and November

1 Vote per Quarter – PLEASE

Call Sign _____ OR Election Key Code _____

Annual Award For	1st Choice	2nd Choice
Best Net Control - SSB:	_____	_____
Best Net Control - CW:	_____	_____
Best Mobile - SSB:	_____	_____
Best Mobile - CW:	_____	_____
Best Team Enter Call 1	_____	Call 2 _____

On line E-Ballot: [http:// www.marac.org/elections](http://www.marac.org/elections)

Mail To:

Randy Davis
N8ELQ, Elections Coordinator
1894 Sheick Road
Monroe, MI 48162