FROM THE CHAIR OF THE PRESIDENT
Bill K2NJ

Why Identify?

Jumped in on a thread on K3IMC's web site and was surprised by some of the response both on the web and in Email to me. There were a few saying it was basically a waste of net time to ID so often, but the large majority of those responding agreed that you MUST identify often (who and where).

Let me try to explain a scenario I heard today. I will semi protect those involved (yea, right).

N3 someone was running Cooper County Mo this morning. He ID'd and started to run with about 10 or so calling – he knocked most of them off at a good clip. He kept saying "Who can I help" or "QRZed" and on and on (you get the picture). After a minute or two of this (again, not Identifying himself) the pileup started to build. There was a KC3/Mobile – a KJ8, two N8's and it kept growing… Finally he ID-ed and **None – Repeat NONE** of these guys called any longer.

They were calling because they thought they may need something… but once they knew who and where they were trying to work they quit calling.

Now if N3somone kept going QRZed and not ID-ing his location etc… he would have worked all of them guys, and wasted not only net time… but time Transcripting his logs from tape (something we all love to do). Think about that point alone, if you must type ten extra calls because you didn't ID… this alone would convince me..

Yesterday (Saturday, January 4th) I heard a mobile say (when asked where he was cuz he didn't ID the entire run) "Jim will announce where I am at the end of the run" – Well dummy, I bet everyone you worked was ticked off cuz they worked you in a green stamp county…. And maybe – just maybe you missed working the ONE guy that needed you in that county because you didn't ID.

I also chased WD9EJK on 15 and 10 meters this morning, something I have not done much in the past. But looking at the counties I have on 15, it is something that I should be aware of in the future.

MINUTES
MARAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS
And Members Meeting
Date: January 8, 2003

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
Vice President Bob Voss – N4CD
Secretary Norm Ellison — W2LSH
Great Lakes Director Randy Davis – N8ELQ
North Central Director John Robson – WB9STT
Northeast Director Stanley Heinsma – VE1BES
South Central Director Joyce Boothe – WB9NUL
Pacific Director Robert t. Devine – KC6AWX

The Members present were:
Roger (W2NWL) Chuck (W3CR) Hugh (K8GPC)

Upon a motion by Bob (KC6AWX) and seconded by Randy (N8ELQ) the minutes of the December 11, 2002 meeting were approved. Roll call indicated 7 in favor, none opposed.

Upon a motion by Norm (W2LSH) and seconded by Bob (N4CD) the Treasurer's report of December 31, 2002 was accepted. Roll call indicated 7 in favor and none opposed.

OLD BUSINESS
A: Master Platinum award Revised Returned to the Awards Committee

NEW BUSINESS **A:** Nothing at this time

OPEN MEETING **A:** Nothing at this time.

With no further Business to come before the Board, Norm (W2LSH) moved that we adjourn. Seconded by Joyce (WB9NUL) the motion Carried, 7 in favor, none opposed.
We adjourned at 1908 EDT.

Respectfully Submitted,
Norm Ellison W2LSH
Secretary, MARAC

(President Continued from page 1)

I will mount 15 on the motor home (ten is already there) and will be going there after 20 in the future as I now do with 40 automatically… it only took him a few moments to go to 15 and then to 10 and made a few of us happy there..

A turkey kept whistling while a mobile was running and the mobile made a BIG mistake. He called the whistler a name and then quit running the county "Because he cant hear through this idiot"… Man, that is the prescription to disaster – This heckler will now follow that mobile (and lucky this time, not the entire net) from here on. Rule number one when you have an idiot bugging you, is to totally disregard him… best is to pretend he is not bothering you at all and hopefully he will get bored and go step on little kittens or something else. If you acknowledge him, he now has you and he wins. If he is 20/9 and you cant copy through him… say a Cop is walking up and you must abort or that you spilled your beer and gotta clean it up or some other reason to abort. Nuf Sed?

While I am pointing out tips this month, let me say again… when you check on the CW net to see if it is open or if someone is running you cant hear… do it with the QNF? NOT QRL?. QRL could be used by someone just checking to see if this frequency is busy (as you should do) just prior to calling a 20 minute CQ… I heard this twice today and once it was a /Mobile checking the net… Once an OK station. QRL means (my interpretation)… "Is this frequency in use" or "Freq is in use" QNF asks if the net is free or states it is free… Makes sense to me.

This weekend has been a very humbling experience for me. I could not load my beam at all. We had an ice storm Friday night and the SWR on it is about 4:1 – and my amp makes a bad snap when I transmit.. My ICOM doesn't like it either, and only gives me a few watts so I have been using my 40 meter dipole through an antenna tuner. I can use the amp there, but wow the feedback I get in the shack (dipole is over the house) and my speakers on the PC – telephone and TV all protest me using power… So instead of getting in and out of the pileups, its call and call and call.. Gee, I might as well be mobile in Maine. Come on Summer… hi

Hope you all have had a save New Years – I hope you all get the counties you want and that your noise level is non existent. 73' Bill K2NJ

Election Notice

Begining Feb 1st, in accordance with the MARAC By-Laws and the MARAC Elections Guidelines, nominations will be open for South Central Director, now held by WB9NUL, Joyce Booth and for Southeast Director, now held by KA1JPR, Percy Ford. The Term is for 3 years and will expire at the end of the Officers meeting at the National Convention in 2007. Nominations will be accepted from Feb 1, 2003 until March 31st, 2003. Ballots from the general membership will be accepted from April 1st until June 8th of each year, at which time the voting will close. The MARAC member submitting a ballot must submit their call sign or MARAC Membership number to the EC on or with the ballot for verification. The EC will not divulge to anyone, including Officers of MARAC, who voted for what nominee in this or any other official MARAC ballot.

All MARAC members wishing to nominate themself or MARAC members wishing to nominate ANOTHER MARAC member may do so in accordance to MARAC BY-LAWS. In General, to nominate yourself or someone else, Nominees must be a MARAC member IN GOOD STANDING, they must reside in the district they are running for. Residencecy is considered as where you have your Road Runner mailed to. Those of you who get an Electronic Road Runner, it would be the address the Awards Chairman has in his records to send you awards. If you are nominating a MARAC MEMBER other than yourself, you must first have his APPROVAL for nomination before it will be accepted. If Elected you must not allow your MARAC membership to expire.

All Nominations MUST be sent to the Election Coordinator who's address is located on the back of this Road Runner. Nominees Should also send a Bio of themself to the Election Coordinator so he may submitt it into the RR with the ballots. Nominations must be in written form and can be sent via the US Mail, in person or E-Mail.
If you have any questions: E-MAIL
Randy Davis, N8ELQ
Elections Coordinator

n8elq@chartermi.net

GOODBYE OLD PAINT
k0CO

After 186,000 quality miles, that '92 GMC pickup truck is just getting tired. So it is time to "help the economy" and buy a new vehicle. Thing is, I really like that old truck and have put off replacing it for too long now. Yep, I've been meaning to replace it since last fall, but just couldn't bring myself to getting a "round tuit".

K0CO /m

So as incentive, I pulled the rig out. Being rigless, I reasoned, would be ample reason to get the new wheels purchased and ready for rig re-installation.

So out came:

- All those bonding wires to the exhaust, hood, frame and battery neg. terminal to clear up the noise…..must've been about 5 lbs. of wire and braid in there.
- That 6-foot angle aluminum channel that was bolted across the truck bed, and that served as the mounting base for about 4-dozen hamsticks and hustler coils and bugcatchers over the years; most now laying as clipped remains beside various state roads waiting for future civilizations' archeology teams to discover and fathom their purpose: *"Nice people, but they buried 2-foot metal sticks along the roadsides – must have been a religious ceremonial thing…."*
- The 2-pos. antenna selector switch installed so one could work 40M during morning commute and 20M at night commute in spring and fall.
- The trusty IC706, Mark-"zero" that cost close to $1500 when they first came out.
- That RShack CB with terrible sensitivity, but was tie-wrapped in for common connectivity with local sheriff department's vehicles.
- The co-linear 146/440 mag-mount that has served so well for 8 years now, and will find a home on the new set of wheels.

- The "6AWG red and black power wiring that was strung in to support the 300W homebrew amp used for one running of the Texas QSO party – *gotta be loud in the Lone Star state!*
- Those special 50 Amp fuses under the hood to protect that #6AWG wire from itself.
- The CW Paddles by KENT that I learned mobile CW on without killing or maiming anyone, and that fell to the floor almost monthly with every hard breaking effort, yet never needed adjustment after 6 or 7 years of that abuse.

Yep, it all came out and is now sitting in a box in the basement waiting for time to find a new home in the 2-day old SUV with 32 miles on it. I'm wondering if this 2003 Trailblazer will ever be as good a Counterpoise as was that old '92GMC, and where will I ever find room to mount those 3 radios, and just how much wire and braid will be needed to silence the ignition squaks and pops of this new buggy….. Here's hoping it all works out and I'll be QRV soon from a new and improved /M. Two days of listening to only commercial radio while driving is about all a guy needs.

Jack k0co

Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club
Treasurer's Report
January 31, 2003

Funds Balance 12/31/03 $29,131.53

Income:	Awards	$ 751.00
	Dues	$ 885.00
	Interest	$ 11.49
		$1,647.49

Expenses:
Gene Olig – expenses	$185.38
Fairmont Awards - awards	$ 987.50
Stafford Engraving - awards	$39.00
Print Rite, Inc – newsletter	$495.21
	$1,707.09
	($59.60)

Account Balances	$29,071.93
Money Market Account	$27,723.58
Checking Account	$1,348.35
	$29,071.93

Note:
The following monies are not included in the above:
Awards Chairman's Funds	$1,200.00
Convention Chairman's Funds	$2,500.00

MARAC VOTES TO ACCEPT OWNERSHIP OF KWIKLOG PLUS

<small>BY</small> KJ4EJ, WILLIS

A ten year project is finally coming to an end and the start of another project will commence immediately. I am talking about KWIKLOG PLUS 2000.

Now before you get your "dander up" about commercializing a product in our newsletter read on.

Early in 1990, I developed a small computer program for the purpose of tracking the, new at the time, 5-Star Award because the computer program I was using at that time did not track that award. I used the log file created in that program as the source file for my new 5-Stars program. I had no thought of ever creating a full featured county hunter logging program such as KWIKLOG PLUS 2000. Several friends that saw this small program wanted a copy of it to track their 5-Stars which I gave to them. Word spread very rapidly that I had a program that would track the new 5-Star program and it wasn't long before I started receiving requests to add other awards not tracked by other logging programs most of which I kept adding to the program.

In 1992 my program was still using another computer program to "log" all our QSO's and I soon discovered that my program had become larger then the remote logging program we were all using . I was convinced that it was time to add a "logging" function making the program completely self contained and not dependent on any other source of files for data. KWIKLOG was then born and after large personal investments were made for equipment, (Gosh my first CD burner was over $400) supplies, and language programs ($700) etc. to support the now independent program KWIKLOG was ready for release to anyone. A manual was written with the assistance of W4RKV and K7DM who continually argued with me and kept me on the right path, There were also many active county hunters that helped in debugging the new program, guys like WA2AKB, K4DOM, KE3VV, and countless others who made suggestions , reported bugs, etc. The finished product was truly a "county hunters program" . Over the past 10 years, KWIKLOG has steadily been upgraded to accommodate more and more awards, more and more features have been added, and I have tried to develop a program that met as many of our users requests that were of interest to the majority of our county hunters. Today KWIKLOG PLUS 2000 has accomplished that goal and is now finalized.

The year 2001 and early 2002 were not "good years" for me. During that period I have broken a hip and an ankle, and in addition to having had additional heart surgery, I suffered a mini stroke that is presently giving me some stamina problems but I am happy to report that at this time I feel great and a recent complete medical checkup indicates that all is well again. I am feeling great. Just can't walk as well as I could before and my stamina is lessened.

But during this period of serious medical problems, it came to my mind that I should immediately take steps to make sure that KWIKLOG PLUS would continue to be available to county hunters and that it would continue to be supported in the event that I could no longer support the program. Gosh guys, I am now 74 years old and it is time that I start facing the truth. I'm getting old. The person that came up with the term "golden years" must have been a young man.

I am well aware that the program has become a vital part of county hunting today and that most of us have come to depend on it to do all our record keeping and it gives us the tool to play all things a county hunter does. I decided that I should take steps to make sure that the program would continue to be available to my fellow county hunters in the future. After 10 years, KWIKLOG has finally started to "turn a profit" and the equipment required to develop the program has been fully depreciated. At the present rate of profit, I should be able to take Sue out for dinner once every other month and perhaps even go to see a show at the local dinner theater periodically, so I decided that perhaps now was a good time to find a new owner for the program..

After all the years of work that I have put into the program (I have enjoyed every minute of it) I blame sure have no intention of letting the program die or in transferring the rights to the program to anyone that would not assure me that it would not be supported as I have tried to do over the years. I have had several inquiries over the years about buying or taking over the program should I decide to give it up, but I came to the conclusion that the best step to take to have the program protected was to give the program to MARAC out right as MARAC has a lot at stake in having a logging program available to take the work out of their many awards because so many of their awards now depend on computerized tracking. So, with this in mind, I contacted our President, Bill, K2NJ and made an offer to transfer all rights to the KWIKLOG program and the County   Map program, as well as my Web site to MARAC. This transfer of ownership was without any type of financial consideration (yep you read it correctly FREE) to MARAC and its members. The transfer is conditioned only by a few items that I deem necessary to ensure that KWIKLOG will not "die", such as appointment of an administrator of the program to handle shipment, maintenance, and support, of the

Kwiklog *(Continued from page 4)*

program., and that all proceeds from the program be deposited in the MARAC general treasury to make that possible. Believe me when I say it costs money to keep KWIKLOG going..

I have also promised that over the next two years I will assist the new administrator in the development and support of a new and better program that will convert the present program into a full 32 bit program, with many added functions that have been impossible using the existing language program. I look forward to helping with that development and I will most surely make sure that all users of KWIKLOG PLUS 2000 will have their programs updated and converted, if they so desire, to the new developed program when we release it in January of 2005. Which by the way, will continue to carry the name of KWIKLOG PLUS. Name recognition is important. Having access to the MARAC database will also offer all kinds of benefits.

I told Bill that it would take at least two years to finalize this new program, after all we do not have Bill Gates staff of thousands to do the coding, de-bugging, etc. and all of our labor is free labor at that.

We will still have to support the existing KWIKLOG PLUS 2000 and prepare a conversion program to make the total switch over. Therefore the official transfer of all program rights to MARAC will be officially completed on January 1, 2005 but the development of the new program will commence immediately with a goal of completion before that date. By the way, we have started with the County Map program conversion and I am pleased to announce that we are well on the way in completing the conversion of that program to the new 32 bit Visual Basic 6 format that we will use in the 2005 version.

I will continue the shipment and total support of KWIKLOG PLUS 2000 for the next two years but there will be no additional changes made to KWIKLOG PLUS 2000 during this two year period as we will be developing the new program KWIKLOG PLUS 2005 .(repair of Bugs excepted) All suggestions for consideration of what should and should not be in the new program should be sent to the new MARAC Program Coordinator KD9ZP@marac.org or to me at kj4ej@aol.com.

Gosh, I have just taken about 50 pounds of weight off my back. I feel better already. Thanks for listening KJ4EJ Willis.

Major Awards Issued For The Month Of
January

KD9ZP - Awards Manager

Award	Number
LC-1	**331**
LC-2	**7**
LC-3	**6**
All Others	**10**

Call	Date	Award	Number
KS4Q	1/18/03	BINGO	228
N8LXQ	1/5/03	BINGO II	23
NG9L	1/24/03	BINGO II	24
W9MSE	1/16/03	Last County Count 100	176
AA1NZ	1/20/03	Last County Count 25	393
WA2AKB	1/20/03	Last County Count 300	37
AA9JJ	1/31/03	Last County Count 325	32
W9GUY	1/27/03	Last County Count 75	195
N4CD	1/7/03	Last County Count 900	3
W9MSE	1/29/03	USA-CW II	7
KW8T	1/9/03	Worked all Counties - 2nd Time	310
W4XT	1/12/03	Worked all Counties - 2nd Time	311
W7GQK	1/15/03	Worked all Counties - 2nd Time	312
W9MSE	1/29/03	Worked all Counties - 2nd Time	313
K4XI	1/10/03	Worked all Counties - 3rd Time	167
N4UJK	1/2/03	Worked all Counties - 6thTime	16

Update on Ken, KB7QO.

I received a nice note from Ken when I was researching those who had transmitted from all U.S. counties. For those that may not know, Ken was the first amateur to transmit from all counties with # 3076 being Polk, Iowa, on July 25, 1988. I was lucky enough to be listening that day and work him. Ken noted that both he and Norma are not in the best of health and the home station has been taken down. I don't think he is Mobile often either. I'm sure he would appreciate hearing from old friends and prehaps we could encourage him to get on from the driveway at least once in awhile. His address is: Colonel (Ret) Ken Wosika, 3413 Mary Ann Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89101.   73, Rick AI5P

USA-CW Award

With the announcement of the receipt of the USA-CW Award # 63 dated 13 December 2002, I was thrilled to complete the chase for 3,077counties on 2XCW. I have to rate this accomplishment right up there with my USA-CA # 387 back in 1982, if not more.

Like many amateurs, I did not find CW easy to master. After my Novice days back in the 1960's, I swore off CW for a long time. Those crystal controlled 75 watt rigs didn't rate up there with me having a great time on the bands. Move forward a few years. I started working CW again in the mid 1980's and worked enough on the bands to get CW DXCC from both The Netherlands (As AI5P/PA 1986-88) and Belgium (As ON8DX 1991-92).

I worked my first station as AI5P/mobile on CW in August, 1990, from Washington County, MD. For the next few years I gave out a lot of counties on CW but didn't actually collect them.

Finally in 1998 I decided to get serious about collecting counties on CW and went back and checked my logs and QSL cards. When I retired from the Army in 1992, I had to throw away thousands of cards because I had no place to store them. So I certainly missed many counties already confirmed but no card. But I still had a few I managed to find and my coloring book shows my first county confirmed in the chase for USA-CW as KA1EJ in Knox County, Maine, in 1984.

By the summer of 2002, I was down to 50 to complete the task. Many of the regular county hunters made special trips or modified their travel plans to get a new one for me. I also managed to get three new ones by sending e-mails to amateurs in counties I needed and arranging a sked.

I want to thank all the net controls and mobiles over the past few years that have helped me reach this incredible award. A special thanks to the stations that gave me the last 50: W1TEE (1), KB2RSK (1), WB4FFV (1), AC4PY (2), AB4YZ (1), KS5A (1), KG5J (3), NW6S (2), WG6X (3), AK8A (10), KD8HB (8), AA8HH (2), W9GBH (2), AA9KH (3), W0GXQ (2), AA0IP (2), K0EVE (1), KC0JG (1), WB0OAO (1),
AA0RI (1), W0RRY (1), and N0ZA (1).
And a very special thanks to Steve, AK8A, who drove many miles in my worst state (Michigan) to give me 10 new ones in one weekend and to Joyce, KD8HB, who modified her travel plans and ended up with giving me 8 new ones in Indiana and Kentucky.

On Dec 10, 2002, my good friend Al, KG5J, drove down to Southeastern Arkansas to give me the last three. If you look on a map at Highway 165 near the small town of Montrose, you can see that it's possible to get Ashley, Drew, and Chicot Counties in about a 10 mile stretch. As you can see from the photo, I didn't intend for bad band conditions to complicate making contact. I didn't have any trouble hearing Al nor did he hearing me! Thanks for a great experience in county hunting! 73, Rick AI5P

Al, KG5J/m, on the left in Ashley County Arkanses giving Rick, AI5P/m, on the right in Drew County, Arkansas, #3077 for USA-CW. "This is the way to guarantee the mobile can hear you!"

CONVENTION INFORMATION
2003 National
"Camping Information"
SPAULDING LAKE CAMPGROUND

Total Number Of Sites: 120 Sites Total Number Available: 105 Available Total Sites with Hookups: 119 w/sewer. Phone: 616-684-1393

http://www.michcampgrounds.com/zones/slc.html

2003 MICHIGAN MINI

The Michigan Mini will still take place even though our house burned, but this year it will be held in South Haven, not Holland.

The dates are April 10, 11, & 12th. The Hotel is the Lighthouse Inn and reservations maybe made by calling 269-639-9900 and mentioning ham radio or county hunters. Rates are $55.00 a night.

Registrations will be $9.00 for single and $12.00 per couple. Banquet is $19.00 per person.

The registrations can be mailed to Paula Batema, 1567 66th Street, Fennville, Michigan 49408 Our Phone number for now is 269-561-2129. Our e-mail address is steve-ak8a@btc-bci.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 = $_____   Extra Group Photo #_____ x $ 5.00= $_____
YL Dozen   #_____ x $10.00 = $_____   YL Photo   #_____ x $ 6.00= $_____
                                                        USACA Photo   #_____ x $ 6.00= $_____
            Total for Tickets = $_____   CW Photo   #_____ x $ 6.00= $_____
                                                        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   **TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: $————————**
        Don Guy
    8677 E State Road 218   **Please Make Checks Payable To: 2003 MARAC Convention**
    Walton, IN 46994-9502
        1-574-626-2256
 Anticipated Date of Arrival at the Convention: _____/_____/2003

 Mail early for the PRE-REGISTRATION PRIZE: **PRE-REGISTRATION CUT-OFF DATE: 04/15/2003**

The County Line Roadrunner
MARAC Secretary
21140 Golden Pond Road
Long Beach, MS 39560-9012

"A Road Runner Is A Very Fast Bird"