



THE COUNTY LINE

ROADRUNNER

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FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Bill K2NJ

Common Sense

May you rest in peace

I was just on 40 Meters talking to Hollis – and we both agreed that common sense seems to be totally lacking – especially on Ham Radio and the Tutu Net...

As Hollis said “I just cant understand when mobiles are out on Saturdays running back woods counties, why would someone be running interstate counties for the fourth time that week want to be on the list along with 35 other mobiles”

I couldn't agree more, especially when I am one of those weekend mobiles who is out there for the express purpose of putting out counties... You have people mobile in either their home county or then one south of it... north of it... and then on their way home from the grocery store, pool parlor or whatever. They check in... go shopping and get put on the side... then come out and run (for the full ten minutes) and work what – 5 stations (and I bet none of them checked to see if they need it)...

Now I am not saying you should not check in from interstate counties or home counties – but listen to what is going down before you get on the list... if there are only a few mobiles, then by all means please do... but if there are already 33 mobiles on the list... well, Cook County Illinois can be run on Tuesday – why make those 4 or 5 mobile stations that are out on special trips – or taking back roads wait to run?

While I am at it, why on earth would you work me in XXX county seven times or more? I have not added stars, and you have not finished up and start over again. This drives me nuts when some of our Usual's do that... I could run Hunterdon County NJ on Tuesday... XXXX would work me... later that day Jim is looking for fills... I run Hunterdon again on my way to the Hardware store or whatever and sure enough XXXX would work me,



MINUTES MARAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MEMBER MEETING May 14, 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
Secretary	Norm Ellison — W2LSH
Great Lakes Director	Randy Davis – N8ELQ
North Central Director	John Robson – WB9STT
Southeast Director	Percy Ford – KA1JPR
South Central Director	Joyce Boothe – WB9NUL
Pacific Director	Robert t. Devine – KC6AWX
The Members present were:	Hugh K8GPC
	John N8BGF

Upon a motion by Percy (KA1JPR) and seconded by Joyce (WB9NUL) the minutes of the February 12, 2003 meeting were approved. Roll call indicated 6 in favor, none opposed.

Upon a motion by Percy (KA1JPR) and seconded by Norm (W2LSH) the Treasurer's report of February 28, 2003, March 31, 2003 and April 30, 2003 were accepted. Roll call indicated 6 in favor, none opposed.

OLD BUSINESS

A: Bill Inkrote proposed the following: I would like to propose we rename the Masters Gold Award to honor the grand master of all county hunting – Arnie Bachmann (K9DCJ). A motion to accept the proposal was made by Bill (K2NJ) and seconded by Bob (KC6AWX). Roll call indicated 6 infavor, none opposed. The motion passed. Bill would contact the MARAC Awards Manager.

I would also like to rename the Last County Category one for Ken Carpenter, KC4UG because he has submitted 568 LC-1's. A motion to accept the proposal was made by Bill (K2NJ) and seconded by Bob (KC6AWX). Roll call indicated 6 in favor, none opposed.

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and this time on a triple relay... Come out of the beauty parlor and net is open – I call someone and then am asked to run (to keep the frequency busy)... sure enough there is good ole XXXX – gee three times a day... not too bad. There is a Zero who is now a SK... I checked my PC log for the heck of it, he worked me 27 times in one year in my home county... I bet I didn't initiate a single one of them.

Before I call anyone on the net... I first look at my hit-list (printed and hanging on the wall next to the rig)... do I need the county for my 3rd time? Does Gail need it? (if yes, then I best get running her down before I call him) if not, then I look to see if I need the Prefix, the stars – and if not... THEN I DON'T CALL HIM... He doesn't need to log me again... the net doesn't need to have the time wasted (and three mobiles waiting on county lines to be moved or whatever)... And I don't need to impress people that I was able to beat out a bunch of mobile stations with my beam and KW...

This is all common sense... but happens daily on the net. Along with the never-Identifying mobile stations that I have been beating to death for the past few months.

Change Subject... Great County Hunters Contests... I did get in and play a bunch on the CW contest... worked about 200+ new ones on CW along with a few for the third time and one BINGO county... not bad... There was a bunch of activity with the three contests all going at once (IN and New England)... sure made for lots of fun... Wish I had a chance to go out mobile... I missed the SSB contest due to other commitments – seems that is the problem of having kids...

Looking forward to getting school done for the year... we plan on leaving here the day school is out and heading to VE9DH's house and then a few days in Maine... before heading home to change my underwear for a Tutu and head to South Bend. I may even have time to shave my legs. If you have not registered to go to the conventions, you should do so now. I hope to be able to get some out of the way counties on the way there and maybe even some on the way home, but Gail is running a summer camp the next week... so it won't be a lingering trip.

C U there... type to you next month..

73'

Bill Inkrote, K2NJ
MARAC President

Minutes (continued from page 1)

The motion passed. Bill would contact the MARAC Awards Manager.

Bob (KC6AWX) suggested that Arnie's widow and Ken's daughters be notified of the Board's action. Bill (K2NJ) said would take care of that item.

Bill (K2NJ) moved that he be able to present a Merit II award. The details of which were sent to the BOD prior to this meeting. The motion was seconded by Norm (W2LSH). Roll indicated 6 infavor, none opposed. The motion passes. Bill would contact the MARAC Awards Manager.

NEW BUSINESS

A: Randy (N8ELQ) Tendered his resignation as MARAC Election Coordinator.

Bill (K2NJ) said that he reluctantly accepted the resignation and asked that we postpone replacement till we can have a face to face meeting. He stated that we have no pressing need for an EC until after the convention. Randy will serve through with this election before he retires. Randy (N8ELQ) stated that we would really need to find someone as he may not be able to make the National. A roll call indicated that we respect Randy's wishes. Bill (K2NJ) said he would look for a replacement and Norm (W2LSH) said that he would take the job back temporarily. He asked for Board approval. Roll call indicated 6 approved none opposed.

B: Norm requested all reports to be included with the Annual Report sent to him no later than mid June, 2003.

OPEN MEETING

Nothing at this time.

With no further Business to come before the Board, Norm (W2LSH) moved that we adjourn. Seconded by Bob (KC6AWX). The motion Carried, 6 in favor, none opposed. We adjourned at 08:39 EDT.

Respectfully Submitted,

Norm Ellison W2LSH

Secretary, MARAC

GOOD NEWS!

**Cheryl, KJ5PQ and Mike KG5UZ
Were Married on May 27th. 2003
Congratulations and Best Wishes**

When you ask for help, it comes at you with the speed of light.

I was doing some work on the MARAC database along with several other projects.. I finished most of the first three call areas and was really running into time constraints and asked for a little help... Larry and Harry both volunteered to help and it soon became apparent that I was no longer needed... I passed the baton to Larry... Sort of like white washing a fence... Now, if you want you can help me clean out my garage... I'm sure there is a box of money hidden in there somewhere... honest....

**Thanks again
Bill K2NJ**

**UPDATING THE MARAC
MEMBERSHIP DATABASE**

Yes, Willie NJ sure did reel me in on this one. Will have to discuss this with him over some soda pop he promised me in South Bend.

Just a few comments on what I observed doing this little task. First off this is the mode that I worked in. I'd make a copy of the membership database for a state and copy it into Excel. The grid lines work fantastic keeping one on the row they should be in.

Look the call up in QRZ to see if it matched database. Different address checks date of expiration on MARAC Number. If changed before renewal I went ahead and made the changes.

Change in call sign usually showed up in QRZ. If no data I then checked Buck Master. Incidentally there were some people that had changed their call sign six times. If Buck Master showed no data I'd then do a search via name. I picked up a few call sign changes this way.

One of the biggest problems that I ran into was people moving without notifying the FCC. Yes, people it's the law that we keep the FCC notified of our current mailing address at all times. It's not that difficult to do and most of you can do it online even.

I just hope that I didn't make to many mistakes and want to thank Harry W6TPC for all of his help; also I want to thank Gene KD9ZP for his help. I called Gene one day about the Silent Keys and he modified the database so they would come up if entered in a certain

way. This way we were able to leave their address in there so people could contact their spouse. In my own biased opinion Gene has done a great job of making it easier and user friendly for all of us. If we keep him informed of call changes and address changes our database will be a great resource. I don't know if people realize it or not, but the database doesn't just contain data for MARAC members. As near as I could tell it had data for everyone that had ever received a last county award.

I must not leave out K2NJ as he sent good instructions for this Pacific Northwest Hillbilly.
Thanks for all the help and now lets keep Gene informed.
73 Larry NA7W

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

Marac # Call Name Address Cnty E mail

R-3084 K0QD Hugh J Matheson
4081 S Aspen Lane Evergreen, CO 80439
Jefferson hughm@earthlink.net

R-3085 KT6LA Edward F Belluso
1575 Wisconsin Ave Redding, CA 96001
Shasta edbelluso@sbcglobal.net

K9DCJ ARTICLE

I am collecting stories about Arnie, K9DCJ's county hunting career and how much he meant to county hunters. If you would like to help me remember Arnie for this article in Worldradio, please submit your story to me by June 30th so I can include it in the September issue of Worldradio. I'm sure Worldradio would allow me to also send the article to the Roadrunner for publication consideration. Please send your stories to Ace Jansen at jansens@tidalwave.net or 105 Balch Springs Circle, Leesburg, VA 20175. If you would rather talk on the phone, please contact Ace at 703-737-6162.

MARAC 2003 Experiences

by Jim Reisert AD1C (R-2929)

This is the third year that I have actively participated in the MARAC CW contest. I became interested in county hunting in October 2000 when I was stuck at home with back pain for a few days. This March, I finally passed 3000 counties worked (mixed band, mixed mode, most confirmed) with my CW total rapidly climbing (over 2200 worked). What follows are my experiences in the 2003 running of the MARAC CW contest.

My friend Stu KC1F (not a county hunter) had a good term for this weekend: trifecta. The MARAC CW, Indiana and New England QSO parties were all on the same weekend! I needed over a dozen IN counties on CW, as well as a handful in New England, so this would be a good opportunity to pick up a few new ones. In addition, Jack K0CO, Jim K0ZT, Ed KN4Y and Larry NA7W would be driving through counties that I need for my USA-CA award.

Almost any endeavor begins with preparation and this contest was no exception. First, I had to clear the weekend with the wife. Carol scheduled a friend from Arapahoe, CO to visit from Thursday through Sunday, so I was off the hook! Next, I scoured the CH Contest, Indiana QSO Party and New England QSO Party reflectors and web sites, as well as the K3IMC web site for mobiles that would be active in the three contests. I printed out a seven page list to keep next to my keyer.

I decided to alter my strategy a little from last year:

- Work the IN and NE QSO parties harder. Take advantage of the fact that I was a desired QSO in the NE QSO party and call CQ a bit more. This meant having to “extract” the county from stations outside W1, which turned out to be not much of a problem (except for one station).
- Actively use the packet/DX clusters for spotting mobiles and using mobile spots. Afterwards, some of the mobiles thanked me for the spots, appreciating the mini-pileups after their call/county went out on packet. The Europeans also found the spots helpful, as they could track mobiles they might not be able to hear yet. As you’ll read later, some “packet cops” didn’t appreciate the spots. I put out a total of 277 spots in the contest.
- Run high power when necessary. I worked most

of the stations running 100 watts, but if they didn’t come back, I’d “kick it up a notch” with 500W to add another S-unit, which usually did the trick.

My station is nothing to brag about: ICOM 756pro, Ameritron AL-1200, G5RV dipole about 35 feet (10 meters) high, Hy-Gain AV-640 vertical and a 15 meter delta loop about 10 feet (3 meters) high. This probably explains why Jim has trouble hearing me on the SSB net. I used DX4WIN to log the contest.

The contest started at 8 p.m. local time. After having dinner with Carol and Nancy, it was off to the races. I started on 20 meters, and the first QSO at 0008z was with KE0G/P in Dodge, MN (yes, he was supposed to be active, according to my notes). My first mobile came a minute later, working W0ETT/M in Bailey, TX. I worked Jeff W9MSE/M on 40 meters at 0014z in Putnam, IL. Jeff was heading out towards Indiana for that state’s QSO party. This would be the first of **many** QSOs with him.

I spent the rest of the night bouncing between 20 and 40 meters. It seems to me that it’s easier for a mobile to stay on the same frequency and “run” guys, rather than trying to drive and tune around at the same time, so I mostly tuned around looking for guys, rather than calling CQ myself. I also worked a number of Europeans and one station in South America who were active in the contest: DL6KVA, LY3BA, LU7EE, PA3ARM, RK2FWA and RZ3BY/0 among them. At 0256z I worked N9AG on 40 meters and quickly QSYed to 80 meters where we worked easily. He was only one of about a dozen QSOs I would make on that band (about half were moved there). By the time I quit shortly before midnight, I had 119 QSOs in the log, including a lot of familiar calls: W0RRY (who was starting his 4th time), W3DYA/M, W6TMD, W7KQZ, KS5A/M, K4MUT/M, WA7JHQ, W0QE, W9MYY and NW6S.

I started the next morning working by KD5JWC/M in Dallas, TX on 20 meters at 1218z. At 1300z the floodgates opened as the IN QSO party started, and my first QSO was at 1305z with WT9U/M on the Elkhart/St. Joseph county line. An interesting feature of the IN QSO Party is that they allow 3-way and 4-way county lines, which makes it problematic for counting in the MARAC QSO party. Norm W3DYA (the CW contest chairman) and I have corresponded on this topic, and we agree if I diligently showed that one or two of

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(Experiences Continued)

these counties were worked with another fixed or mobile station, I could count them all.

Saturday morning, the packet cops woke up. I began to see spots like the following: "Please DX...!!" (1409z) and "AD1C - We DON'T need this nonsense" (1420z). I also received some E-mail. My favorite was the following: "Where in the past it has taken the efforts of many, you have singly rendered the 20M "DX" cluster useless for those trying to chase DX this weekend. Hope you have a great weekend sending posts. We will have to find something else to do besides radio 73 KI6HT." Wow, I didn't realize that you couldn't work DX without using packet. Who knew?

At 1504z I worked a very loud RK2FWA on 15 meters. He was loud for hours and hours on that band, calling CQ. I also worked SP4JWR and LY3BA there. They were working mobiles that I could not even hear. Except for the west coast and FL, I worked very few stateside stations on 15 meters, unlike last year.

As the day wore on, I began to think about the mobiles that were going into counties I needed. I had worked Jack KOCO/M in Rio Grand, CO at 1413z. He was supposed to overnight Saturday in Hinsdale, one of my last two in the state. At 1825z he was already in Gunnison, and I had missed Hinsdale! He had driven an extra two hours Friday night because he couldn't find lodging, then made better time than expected on Saturday and finished his two-day trip in one day – darn! Jim KOZT/M was another one. I needed Philips, KS but he drove right through it and I missed him. I also heard NG0T/M give out Hamilton, KS to someone but I could not get his attention. I finally worked Ed KN4Y in Carroll, TN for my first new one at 1815z. When I worked him again later, I asked about Weakley, another one I needed, and at 2238z I worked him there for a new one. But it was disappointing to have missed three new ones.

The New England QSO party started at 2000z (4 p.m. local time) and gave another much-needed influx of activity. My first QSO was at 2003z with W1EQ in Windham, CT. The mobiles started on 15m and 20m and it was very tough to work them without running the amplifier. It helped that Doug K1DG/M is a well-known contester (he won WRTC 1990 in Seattle with his brother-in-law John K1AR), and Tom K1KI/M is the New England Division director, and both know me and recognized my call. I called CQ a bit, and some stations which had worked me in MARAC earlier worked me

again for NEQP credit. Dupes! I spend the remainder of the day working MARAC CW, IN and NE QSO parties simultaneously. This kept things really hopping. I packed it in at 0230z (10:30 p.m. local time) with 543 QSOs in the log.

Sunday started with KN4Y/M in Montgomery, TN (his overnight stop) on 40 meters at 1222z. I asked him about his next county, he said either Houston or Stewart. I requested Houston, my next-to-last in TN, and he was there at 1306z. Thanks, Ed for three of my last four in TN! It was nice to get called by Alan VK4AAR on 20 meters at 1230z. There were good signals on 20 meters, but no one new to work, so I spent more time on 40 meters. It took almost an hour for 20 meters to get "busy", maybe because the NE QSO party didn't start again until 1300z and the other mobiles were still asleep.

Sunday was much like Saturday, except with slightly better conditions, including the fact that Jeff W9MSE/M was still putting out IN counties! The Europeans showed up on 15 meters again, and were spotting mobiles that I could not even hear. I kept chasing KN4Y/M, W3DYA/M, W9MSE/M, W9HB/M and NN9K/M around as they changed counties. Jerry W0GXQ/M finally got into the game, working him in Becker, MN at 1434z. I worked him in Pembina, ND at 2058z for my 48th state of the weekend, missing only HI and MT. At 1802z I worked Larry NA7W/M in Latah, ID. I had already worked him in that county the previous evening, so was kicking myself (again) that I had missed two counties I needed in ID. However, luck would be with me this time, as I worked him in Lewis at 1937z and Idaho at 2002z, two more new ones for a total of five during the weekend. Thanks, Larry! The fun ended for me at 2358z when I worked AE1T in Grafton, NH for my last QSO in both MARAC and NEQP.

In the end, I had worked 831 QSOs in 546 counties, with 499 of them mobile, 284 fixed and 48 DX. Imagine, qualifying for USA-CA in a single weekend! Top mobiles were W9MSE/M with 65 QSOs, KN4Y with 54 QSOs and W3DYA/M with 44 QSOs. The most popular county I worked was Middlesex, MA (my home county) with 12 QSOs. I worked 84 counties in IN (only missed 8 in the whole state!), 66 counties in TX and 41 counties in TN.

In conclusion, I'd like to thank Norm W3DYA, chairman of this event, and especially all the mobiles who give of their time and effort to make this a great contest.

"See you next year"!

The Road (Make that the Ferry) to Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard

When I was thinking about visiting my daughter in Connecticut, naturally I began to think about some side trips. Looking at the map of New England, Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard suddenly jumped out at me. I had always been fascinated by the chance of visiting these islands – and here was a golden opportunity.

Some basic research led to some clear facts. These islands depend on tourist dollars during the summer months and it's an expensive place to live. There seemed to be two basic seasons: Summer (Memorial Day to Labor Day) or the "In Season" and everytime else or "Off Season." Prices are appropriate to the season – either expensive or very expensive!

There seemed to be three chances to work these counties:

1. Be lucky enough to work a resident amateur (K1VSI, for example).
2. Work one of the IOTA (Islands of the Air) DXpedition stations that operate from one of the islands – usually during the IOTA Contest in July.
3. Catch one of the county hunters making a special trip.

After some debating with my travel plans and budget, I decided to take the opportunity to travel to these unusual counties. After a few phone calls, dates were established, ferry reservations made, and places to stay were arranged.

Some might ask why the April dates were picked – one of the reasons was that the "High Season" for 2003 began on April 24. Rates for travel and accommodations would increase – in some cases double. The weather at this time of year would not be the best – but it turned out that I did have some nice sunny days along with the rain. The temperature was still pretty cold and the wind chill with the Atlantic breezes kept me bundled up most of the time (I'm cold if it's below 60 !).

Martha's Vineyard

Native Americans already lived here when the English charted the island in 1602. It was probably named by the ship's captain, Bartholomew Gosnold, after his daughter Martha and because the island was covered by wild grapes. The English began to settle on the island in 1642. The island is roughly 25 miles long and only seven miles wide at its widest point. Farming and fishing were the staple livelihoods until whaling began in earnest

around 1800. By 1840, both the Vineyard and Nantucket were known around the world for their whaling ships. However, by 1870 the whaling industry had collapsed due to the availability of petroleum products. Whale oil for lamps was no longer needed. The island fell back into a slow pace. Religious revivals created opportunities for visitors in Victorian times and a "resort" image began to be associated with the island. After World War II, and to this day, the island began to get more residents and summertime visitors. In summertime, the population swells to 100,000 residents (normally around 15,000) with more that 25,000 additional visitors coming and going each day. Dukes County was established in 1695 and named for the Duke of York. The county seat is Edgartown.

On April 15, I drove to the ferry terminal at Woods Hole for the 45 minute ferry ride to Vineyard Haven. It was a beautiful day with smooth seas. The cost for the round trip voyage for the car was \$ 68 with an additional \$ 11 for myself (driver). The "In Season" rate would have been \$ 110 plus the \$ 11.

There are six "towns" and I had arranged to stay in a motel in the town of Oak Bluffs.

This town is renown for the beautiful Victorian "cottages" built during the revival period in the late 1800's. These cottages are uniquely decorated in various colorful paint schemes in the "gingerbread" style so popular at the time. Many of these cottages have remained in family hands and are used by the families during the summer or rented out to tourists. The motel was quite normal with the usual amenities at a cost of \$ 65 per night. The "In Season" rate would have been \$ 125 per night.

Wanting to get on the air as soon as possible, I began driving around the island looking for good places to transmit. Since it was a beautiful day, I also wanted to take as many pictures as possible because I knew the weather could change without much notice. This, in fact, happened on both islands. Wind and rain intermixed with some sunshine.

The temperature with the wind chill factor on April 17th was 22 degrees. I soon discovered that there are not many places to park on this large island. The roads had no shoulders and most places have "private property" signs everywhere. I suspect tourists are welcome on the public beaches and bike paths but not out wandering around on private property.

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DATELINE CW By Ed, KN4Y

May is the anticipated month for the CW county hunters. It is time for the MARAC CW contest. Mobiles are running around the countryside putting out rare counties. The cry of CQ CH is heard on the bands. This is now June and the MARAC CW contest is over. The contest participants are putting their logs together to be sent to the contest guru Norm, W3DYA. Soon the high drivers (a play on high rollers) will be announced. I hear the barking of Gator's straight pipe four by four. I check the cooler and pantry. A fed gator is a safer gator. I hear the swishing of the ninety-six inch whip skewering mosquito hawks, as he stops against the recycled railroad tie.

I yell, "Come in Gator the door is unlocked.." Gator wipes his shoes on the welcome mat and comes into the shack and places two six packs on the table. "Thought your whistle might be dry. Got some MGD it sez here it be genuine draft. What is our final score on the Florida QSO party?" "I did not do as good as last year. Made 1072 contacts and ran 29 Florida counties." Gator pops the top on two brews and hands me one. "You could have gotten more if you could pass a rest area." I take a sip. Not a bad cure for a dry whistle. "Someday Gator you will understand." It is an unknown fact the interstate highways are designed by elderly engineers who understand the need for rest areas.

How about the Georgia QSO party. What you got for snacks?" I point to the pantry. Gator gets a bag of scoop size corn chips. He opens the cooler and gets a container of pimento cheese spread laced with jalapeno peppers. Some people die to go to heaven, we go to the pantry. "Well last year the Georgia contest was in July. Then out of the blue it is announced the Georgia QSO party would be in April. Operating mobile three times in a month is too much. So I just worked from the Shack" "I could have done it." "Drop dead." "How did we do in the MARAC CW contest?" Gator changes the subject and our cans of brew.

"Boy that was some storm in Haralson county Georgia we got into. That hail was large enough to gag a maggot.." Gator says. "Good thing we got out of Tennessee Sunday night, the weather got bad and did damage on Monday." I shake my head in agreement, "County hunters have to be weather wise." "What was the final score Dude?" "I ran 19 counties in Georgia and 40 in Tennessee. "How many new counties were run?"

"Twenty-Two in Tennessee." "Score?" I made 1221 contacts with 280 multipliers for 1,364,440 points. "That be a winner?" "No." "Because you cannot pass a rest area." I throw a corn chip at Gator, he laughs and heads for the cooler. I look at the cheese dip and wonder if when cheese get it's picture taken what does it say?

I think to myself. Self, the MARAC CW contest was great. The DX was plentiful and band conditions fair. Could not hear the mobile running in the fart northwest but there were plenty of fixed stations to keep things active. I should not have stopped Saturday night in Montgomery county Tennessee. The troops at the nearby military base were returning from active duty. I started talking to the patriotic welcoming ladies in the lounge and forgot about the county hunters contest. It is like when told by someone that there are a billion stars in the universe you believe them. But if they tell you the wall has fresh paint you have to touch it to be sure. I hear Gator's pager go off. "Hold that story. Got customers in waiting." Gator yells as he mounts his four by four and heads out to the main road leaving behind a pile of mosquito hawk carcasses. While waiting for my drink to be consumed I counted the mobiles entered in my log since the first of the year.

W0GXQ, W0OR, N0IM, K0NDX, K0ARS, WB0M, W0QE, NF0N, N0SM, N0XB, KC0JG, K0ZT, N0VPP, K0EUN, W0ETT, NG0T, W0CH, WB0M, AA0IP, K0CO, K0LG, W0RRY, W1TEE, W1NN, N1QY, K2HVN, W3DYA, KA3MMM, N3HOO, N3HCN, WU3H, KE3VV, AE3Z, W3ZUH, WD4OIN, WA4PGM, KB4YK, K4PI, N4CD, K4OK, WB4FFV, NY4N, AB4YZ, K4QFK, N4RS, K4UK, K4MUT, N4BP, K4VM, K4OGG, NF4A, K4PL, KG5J, K5AAR, K5GO, KS5A, KD5JMC, KR5C, WG6X, KG6ECI, AD6Z, W6TMD, N6MJ, NA7W, NI7P, NI7DE, WA7JHQ, NS7B, K7DM, W8JJ, AA8R, K8RYU, W8QOI, K8PP, W8UE, K8MW, W8TZA, KM8U, W9HB, W9MSE, KF9D, W9GBH, AA9KH, W9OP, W9UCW, K9CS, NN9K, KJ9C, K9WA, N9JF, W9LDX, W9NXC.

I have not been on the air much and my list probably represents only half of the mobiles that checked in to the CW net. Got to remember June 28-29 is field day. If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked. Then electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, tree surgeons debarked. CW operators digitized and county hunters institutionalized. Naptime.

The Road *(continued)*

The towns were typical noise traps. Many of the stores were not open yet as they were awaiting the “tourist” season. I suspect the owners were basking away in Florida! Filling up with gas at \$ 1.92 per gallon (the cheapest rate) also caught my attention!

I managed to spot two very nice locations in my travels – one on the western tip of the island in the public parking spots for visitors to the famous Gay Head Lighthouse and Aquinnah Cliffs. The other spot was on the Beach Road between Edgartown and Oak Bluffs overlooking Nantucket Sound. Most of the contacts were made in these two locations. I didn’t take the short ferry ride between Edgartown and Chappaquiddick Island – there might be some nice radio spots over there but I suspect the “Private Property” signs are very much on display.

The radio used was the Icom IC-706 MKII with Hustler mobile resonators. The first contact was with W5UGD/mobile on April 15 at 1653Z. A total of 302 QSO’s (SSB – 261 and CW – 41) were made under less than great conditions with county and island hunters between April 15-18. The last contact was with K7DZE/mobile at 1437Z on April 18. A number of contacts were made with Europeans chasing IOTA NA-046 (North America – Massachusetts State South Group).

Several trips were made around the island. Points of interest included the historic Gay Head lighthouse, the Aquinnah cliffs, the Vineyard Museum, historic homes in Edgartown, the beaches and lighthouses, and my favorite – the Victorian churches and cottages in Oak Bluffs. Unfortunately, the famous Flying Horses Carousel in Oak Bluffs was under restoration.

I departed the island on April 18. For those that might wonder, I decided many years ago that if I’m going to spend the money to go somewhere to operate, I take the time to program time to visit the area, see the sights and meet the locals. I don’t spend the money just to go somewhere and sit behind a radio all the time.

Nantucket

The island name comes from a Native American word meaning “faraway land” or “land far out to sea.” Nantucket is an island, a county, and a town (also the county seat). It is the only place in America with the same name for all three. It is 30 miles from the mainland. Smaller than Martha’s Vineyard, it measures 14 miles east to west and about 3.5 miles north to south.

Native Americans were also already here when the island was charted by the English ship captain Gosnold during his 1602 voyage to America. English settlement began in 1659 and during the heyday of its whaling days (around 1840), Nantucket was the third largest city in Massachusetts with a population of 10,000. The whaling industry brought great wealth to the island and many beautiful homes were built. There are over 800 houses still standing that were built before the Civil War. Today the population is approximately 12,000 year-round and around 55,000 during the summer season. There are over 82 miles of beaches open to the public. Tourism is now the economic base for the island.

Departing on the ferry from Hyannis on April 21st, I was happy to again find a sunny day and calm seas for the two hour and fifteen minute voyage. The trip to Nantucket is significantly more expensive for a vehicle – the round trip is \$ 210 for the vehicle and \$ 26 for the driver. In a few more weeks, this would be \$ 330 for the vehicle plus the \$ 26 for the driver. I’ve flown for a lot less to some places!

As we departed Hyannis, the high-speed passenger-only ferry passed us like we were standing still. This ship gets to Nantucket in only one hour. Some county hunters like Bob, N4CD, used this transport and then rented a car for a one day stay on the island.

This ferry is not cheap, either - \$ 52 for a round trip but it will certainly get you there much faster!

Arriving on Nantucket, I quickly found the Bed and Breakfast where I was to stay. The first thing I noticed was the streets seemed to be narrower and everywhere were signs: No Parking, 30 Minute Parking, 1 Hour Parking, or 2 Hour Parking. Asking where to park, I was told to read the sign more closely for the 1 Hour or 2 Hour signs – on the bottom it said “From June 1 to September 30.” If I parked anywhere where it said 1 Hour or 2 Hour, I would be OK. Anywhere else... a ticket! I have no idea where people park during the summer because there certainly didn’t appear to be any spots in the town that would allow long term parking. My room in the B&B was on the top floor... the room was quaintly called “Grandma’s Attic.” It was about 8 feet deep and 12 feet long with a roof beam slicing through the entire length of the room. Watch your head especially at night! It was quite adequate for my needs comfortable with a TV and mini-fridge. The shower was down one floor and the toilet *(Continued on page9)*

The Road *(continued)*

down the stairs in a different direction also on the second floor. This is quite common in Europe so it was not a problem for me. The off season cost was \$ 35 a night which would rise to \$ 65 during the summer.

Again, since the first day was so beautiful (but cold!), I decided to explore the island looking for good transmitting spots. The first surprise I got was that many of the streets are one-way and that Main Street is actually cobblestone. Then it seemed that the streets were undergoing some major repair work. I managed to located two good radio sites - the public parking lot near Surfside Beach on the south coast and near the Sankaty Lighthouse on the eastern coast. I tried a couple of other spots but the noise was too high. As with Martha's Vineyard, the roads have no shoulders to park on and "Private Property" and "No Parking" signs are everywhere.

The first contact was with AA4UT on April 21 at 1927Z. A total of 350 QSO's (SSB - 289 and CW - 61) were made. Many of these contacts were with the IOTA island chasers as it also counts for IOTA NA-056. Conditions, again, were frustrating but some interesting DX contacts were made: 9K2ZZ, V51KC, and 5B4AFB. I also talked to Howie, K1VJSJ, over on Martha's Vineyard - A Duker to Nantucket County contact! The last contact was with K0MOB at 1432Z on April 25.

Here I was again bitten by the "Memorial Day" opening scenario. There were several small museums on the island but all were closed. I had expected to see the Nantucket Whaling Museum (the only one which was a "must" for me) for the information I had was that it was open April through October. True... but in April only on the weekends! Rats! After the first couple of days I remembered I hadn't seen any gas stations or grocery stores. I finally spotted a couple of gas stations on the same street in town. All full service with the gas prices starting at \$ 2.09 a gallon. And I thought it was high on Martha's Vineyard! I finally had to ask where a grocery store was and was directed to the local A&P which was in a nondescript building near the waterfront. Another unusual sight I noticed was that many of the cars had a round sticker with the letters ACK. This type of sticker is quite common (and required) for traveling in Europe, e.g. GB for Great Britain or D for Deutschland (Germany). On Martha's Vineyard, I had

seen a number of cars with a sticker with either MV or MVY. Makes sense. But why ACK on Nantucket?

Finally I asked a local resident and got the answer. ACK is the airport code for the Nantucket Memorial Airport (remember the TV show Wings?). NAN, the one they wanted, is assigned to the airport in Nadi, Fiji. The ACK assignment to their airport still "sticks in the craw" of many Nantucket residents! But travels around the island found some beautiful beaches, wonderful pre-Civil War homes, modern multi-million dollar properties, cranberry bogs, the busy harbor, the Brant Point Lighthouse (second oldest in America), Sankaty Lighthouse, and lots of nice restaurants and stores vying for your tourist dollar!

I departed Nantucket on the morning of April 25th. The two hour and 15 minute voyage back to Hyannis gave me ample opportunity to reflect on my visit to these two unique islands. Even with the not so favorable weather and radio conditions, it was certainly worth the visit!

Author's note - Thanks to the Web sites of the Nantucket Island Chamber of Commerce and the Martha's Vineyard Gazette for historical and tourist information about their islands. **73's Rick AI5P**



Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club

**Treasurer's Report
May 31, 2003**

Funds Balance 4/30/03 \$28,792.11

Income:

Awards	\$1,016.85
Dues	\$838.00
Interest	\$5.29
	<u>1,860.14</u>

Expenses:

Gene Olig – expenses	\$35.33
Norm Ellison - expenses	\$552.45
Fairmont Awards - awards	\$307.50
Stafford Engraving - awards	\$143.50
Cottrell Graphics - seals	\$445.00
Print Rite, Inc newsletter & LCs	\$1,010.42
	<u>\$2,494.20</u>
	\$ (634.06)

Account Balances: \$28,158.05

Money Market Account \$27,248.74

Checking Account \$909.31
\$28,158.05

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 Board Meeting

Schedule for 2003-04

June 11, July Saturday Morning at convention. Aug 13, Sept 10, Oct 8, Nov 12, Dec 10

2004

Jan 14, Feb 11, Mar 10, Apr 14, May 12, June 9, July Saturday morning at convention.

News & Views

Dennis KK7X

Would you like to become more active in your organization? One way to be more involved is to attend the MARAC Board meeting held the 2nd Wednesday of each month. You will be able to see your Board Members in action interacting between each other, voting on proposals and planning events. You may attend the meeting on-line by browsing to <http://marac.org/chat>. It is recommended that you download mIRC prior to your visit for a better Chat experience. A web based chat link is also provided.

Listings of new awards: are always available on-line at several locations. First on the MARAC home page (<http://marac.org>) you will find the latest numbers for the last month. You can query the MARAC Database (<http://marac.org/database>) by selecting the award for which you want the numbers from the Award Lookup field. A listing of the last 10 numbers can be found on the CountyHunter Dot Com site (<http://countyhunter.com/news/numbers.htm>).

The Countyhunter listserv from CountyHunter Dot Com has been reactivated by popular request. You may subscribe to the list on the World Wide Web at http://countyhunter.com/mailman/listinfo/countyhunters_countyhunter.com or you may send an email message to Countyhunters-request@countyhunter.com and entering "subscribe" in the Subject field.

As we rapidly approach Summer thoughts turn to the premier event for County Hunters, the MARAC National Convention. The National Convention, hosted by W9GBH, is being held in South Bend, Indiana July 16th through the 19th. More information and registration can be found at <http://www.countyhunter.com/marac2003/>

"I am only one, but I am one.
I cannot do everything, but I can do something.
And because I cannot do everything,
I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.
What I can do, I should do. And what I should do, by the grace of God, I will do."
Edward Everett Hale-

WOW – What A Month

By KD9ZP – Awards Manager

In my 3½ years as Awards Manager, **May, 2003** was my biggest month, I had a record **716** last counties sent in. The previous record was **509** in **June 2000**

As you may or not know, The **MARAC BOD** voted in the **May** meeting to name the **MARAC Last County Category 1** as **Memorial to KC4UG. Kenny** had sent in **538** last county applications in his career as a county hunter.

Do you suppose he had a hand in this record??

It all started off with **W9OP** finishing up his **3rd time - #170. Mark** drove **40** miles to show me his log and get his number. He came with **checkbook in hand**. (I love people who drive **40** miles just to give me a check!) After I checked his log and gave him his number, he gave me a sheet with **50** last counties for me to enter.

Then there was **K9IA** who also came with **checkbook in hand** (he only drove **5** miles). He wanted to know how much for his and **W9XYL** last counties. I told him and he wrote me a check. He went home and sent **95+** last counties via the web site.

Then of coarse **AB2LS** sent in **50** via the on-line system as part of her **2nd time - #317**.

N8STF cleaned out his closet and sent in **48** for his **5th Time - #63**

Now on the '**flip side**', **KL1V** made a wrong turn in **Alaska** after talking to **N4UJK** and wondered around the **northeastern states** for several days. In his wonderings, he picked up **58 LC's** on that trip including **2 LC-2s: AA9JJ – 3rd Time N9QPQ – 2nd Time**

Not to be out done, **WG6X** also gave me a lot of work picked up **33 LC's** including **4 LC-2's:**

W4YDY – USA-CA

KB2ZL – 2nd Time KZ2P – 8th Time

K0EH – USA-CA

And I haven't received the **contest** results yet!!

Roger (W2NWL) never told me about months like this.

Major Awards Issued For The Month Of *May*

KD9ZP - Awards Manager

Award	Number
LC-1	689
LC-2	27
LC-3	22
All Others	16

Call	Date	Award	Number
W0RRY	5/8/03	Last County Count 100	179
W0NAC	5/26/03	Last County Count 100	180
N0ZA	5/20/03	Last County Count 150	111
KL1V	5/20/03	Last County Count 175	90
K5XY	5/27/03	Last County Count 175	91
KL1V	5/20/03	Last County Count 200	76
KL1V	5/30/03	Last County Count 225	60
W6XJN	5/20/03	Last County Count 25	399
N9WLJ	5/27/03	Last County Count 25	400
N4RS	5/10/03	Last County Count 25	398
NA7W	5/8/03	Last County Count 275	42
WG6X	5/10/03	Last County Count 275	43
KC0JG	5/20/03	Last County Count 375	23
AI5P	5/31/03	Last County Count 550	12
N4CD	5/20/03	Last County Count 925	3
KS4Q	5/10/03	Worked all Counties - 2nd Time	318
N9QPQ	5/20/03	Worked all Counties - 2nd Time	319
AB2LS	5/8/03	Worked all Counties - 2nd Time	317
N0ZA	5/19/03	Worked all Counties - 3rd Time	171
AA9JJ	5/20/03	Worked all Counties - 3rd Time	172
W9OP	5/7/03	Worked all Counties - 3rd Time	170

Wanted Worldradio County Hunter Columnist

After 12 years of writing a County Hunter column for Worldradio, I am ready to pass on the opportunity to someone else. It is a bi-monthly column that is due on the 1st of the month two months prior to publication. Worldradio does pay a small amount for the columns...however, you wouldn't be doing this for the money! If you have writing experience and are willing to take over the column, I'd like to hear from you before the end of August. My September submission for the November column will be my last column and I would like to introduce the new columnist. Please contact Ace Jansen at jansens@tidalwave.net or 105 Balch Springs Circle, Leesburg, VA 20175. If you would rather talk on the phone, please contact me at 703-737-6162.

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

“A Road Runner Is A Very Fast Bird”

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

MARAC Webmaster: (See Information Coordinator)

Membership

Dues with a printed copy of the Newsletter are \$19.00 per year. Dues with an Electronic copy are \$14.00 per year. Dues with the Newsletter mailed to all continents other than North America 30.00 a year.