



THE COUNTY LINE

ROADRUNNER

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FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Bill K2NJ



I just received the following information in an Email from a buddy of mine. This is very disturbing and exciting at the same time... Think about it, but first here is the first paragraph of a 3 page Email.

Beginning in 2004, the U.S. auto industry will begin its move from the 12-volt battery (14 volts at the generator/alternator) electrical systems toward a 42-volt standard, with 25 to 50 percent of new vehicles incorporating 42V electrical architectures by 2010, and all new cars by 2020. A 42-volt system will slash weight, improve fuel economy, permit the replacement of many mechanical parts with electrical ones, power all sorts of new gizmos like seat heaters, video, etc, and, of most concern to us, improve efficiency for all automotive electrical devices, opening the door to higher audio amplifier power with far less complexity than the current crop of 12-volt, high-power amplifiers.

Think about it, how simple it will now be to run a KW from the car (since there are more 48 Volt high power devices than stuff working on 12 V)... that is the plus side of this... you can plug your PC into a voltage regulator (they I find out run on 15-18v and not a simple cigarette lighter adaptor) now... and the list goes on and on...

But there is a down side to this news (if it really is true)... All of your 12 volt radio's that you now have are obsolete... almost (you probably will be able to purchase a 12V regulator system, but at 20 Amps...)... but you probably will buy a new radio cheaper.

OH well, more to come as I get more information... anyone else hear anything on this??

It is the End of June when I am writing this... I am done driving the school bus tomorrow and it is both a happy day and a very sad one. Kids I have become close with will go off and I may never see again, (some I don't want to EVER see again without a rock in my hand). You get to chat with them on a daily basis and become close..

but then they are off from middle school to High School next year... I may see them on campus (about 4500 kids) but mostly they will drift away... that is the sad part... the happy part is that Gail is done next Tuesday from school (they had two more snow days than we did) and I will be in front of her school at 1:01PM (she gets done at 1) with the RV... all packed and radio ready to head to Maine and VE9 land... You probably will have worked me in many counties before you read this... Then home for a weekend (commitments) and on the next Monday head west for South Bend and MARAC National convention.

Looks like a good crew out there, we have been working hard on providing transportation for some that can't make their own way... twisting a few arms to try to get some people to go to the convention... I have been nudging the person I have selected for this years President's award – but never hear back from him... So I may just announce it and mail it to him... Things look same for a few other major awards planned...

I understand that the big Bozo himself is our speaker at the big shindig on Saturday... This has to be good. Lots of good trips planned and FOOD (my main thought)... So I hope that many can make this great time and if not – start to plan on next years party down Texas way...

Anyway, not much more for this month... I am getting lots of positive Email and letters from members about last months topic (and the month before) so I will be a little easier this month and not complain about anything...

Like I heard once said ... You have to know everything about your mate to make a go at a happy marriage EVERYTHING... Even her favorite flower... I lean over and said to Gail "Pillsbury, all purpose right?" things have not been right since... hi

C U in South Bend
73'

Bill Inkrote, K2NJ
MARAC President

Major Awards Issued For The Month Of
June

KD9ZP - Awards Manager

Award	Number
LC-1	218
LC-2	5
LC-3	7
All Others	6

Call	Date	Award Number	
KC3X	6/9/03	5 Star	15
N9QPQ	6/3/03	BINGO	233
W6TMD	6/30/03	Last County Count	125 127
W0DFK	6/30/03	Last County Count	175 93
N9QPQ	6/11/03	Last County Count	175 92
ND3T	6/11/03	Last County Count	200 77
KS5A	6/30/03	Last County Count	25 401
KD8HB	6/30/03	Last County Count	250 53
W3CR	6/11/03	Last County Count	275 44
W6TMD	6/14/03	USA-CW	67
K5XY	6/9/03	Worked all Counties - 2nd Time	320
WD9EJK	6/14/03	Worked all Counties - 5th Time	64
WDX4KEF	5/22/03	Worked all Counties - 8th Time	3

MARAC Board Meeting
Schedule for 2003-04

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.

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

Marac # Call Name Address Cnty E mail

R-3086 W6RLL Joseph W Young 6807 N. Rockhouse Road McNeal, AZ 85617-9504 Cochise
jwyoung@cybertrails.com

R-3087 K4SSU David J Johnson 2675 Echols Rd. Cumming, GA 30041 Forsyth
jdavid1@mindspring.com

R-3088 AA4QE Merle L Olmsted 11013 Paddock Dr Walton, KY 41094 Boone
mlolmsted@insightbb.com

**Mobile Amateur Radio Awards
Club
Treasurer's Report
June 30, 2003**

Funds Balance 5/31/03 \$28,158.05

Income:
Awards \$1,599.00
Dues \$642.00
Interest \$5.40
\$2,246.40

Expenses:
Gene Olig - expenses \$298.68
Fairmont Awards - awards \$965.00
Wachovia Bank - service fee \$8.00
Kansas Secretary of State - filing fee \$40.00
Print Rite, Inc - newsletter \$543.18
\$1,854.86
\$391.54

Account Balances: \$28,549.59

Money Market Account \$27,254.14
Checking Account \$1,295.45

\$28,549.59

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

You can't appreciate home till you've left it, money till it's spent, your wife till she became a CW county hunter, nor a hospitality room till it's closed.

The Thirty-Fifth MARAC convention is this month in South Bend, Indiana. The top gun Herb, W9GBH has scheduled excitement, trips and a hospitality room to unwind and rest the weary traveler. I had a date conflict and will not attend. I plan to work the mobiles going to and from the convention.

I hope the interrupted QSP will be discussed at the CW meeting. This is when the mobile asks for a QSP. The NCS calls for QSP. A station answers and the NCS did not get the call and asks for a repeat. The mobile, however, heard the station and gives the stations call sign and signal report. The station that requests the QSP is confused and you get a question mark. Perhaps a recommended procedure would be that a mobile stifle the urge to respond to a station answering the QSP and let the NCS proceed with the QSP?

Another item that should be discussed at the CW meeting is the use of RST on the CW net. I wonder how many mobiles or fixed station have the necessary calibration to determine a signal is 549 and not 559. Giving a 589 instead of a 599. A mobile operator should not be looking at the meter if driving. It seems using 599, 559, 339 and 229 should be sufficient in all cases. Keep in mind when working the MARAC President you can use a tu tu but not a two two.

I hear the barking of eight cylinders of an internal combustion engine exhausting directly to the atmosphere. Gator believes there is strength in power and believes noise is power. This means Gator is on his way. I better check the pantry and cooler, the heart and soul of a county hunter. Both contain eatable items and that is good. Gator stops at the recycled railroad tie the ninety-six inch steel antenna slashing a Z in the humid air. I yell, "Come in Gator." Gator wipes his feet and comes into the shack.

I pop the top on two cool ones and ask, "What you been Gator?" "I just got back from Columbia with a load of grass." "Dang it Gator, I do not believe I heard what I heard you say. Al will be devastated." "What you yelling about Dude, I got some of that on-sale centipede grass from Sam Sod over in Columbia county.

Boy this brew is cold I wish Al were here." "Oh grass, I though you said something else. Boy the CW net has been slow."

A county hunter knows when to change the subject. Gator looks at me like a county hunter who took a wrong turn, "You being a wise man or a wise guy? I go to the pantry and get some white pretzels. I think to myself, is this white chocolate or mold. I point to the easy chair. We both sit down to enjoy the moment.

"What you been doing Dude?" Gator points to my log. "I was looking at all the great YL contacts I got from Joyce, KD8HB, for the YL mobile award." Gator goes to the cooler and gets two more Becks, "What's a YL?" "That means Young Lady on CW." "I though you said radio guys were called OM or old man on CW. How did you know it was a YL and why not OL?" "I take a long sip of Becks, "Gator, I am going to tell you something that will prolong your life." "What be that Dude?" "Never call a lady OLD. That is suicide. I knew it was a YL by the call sign." I point to the computer screen and type in KD8HB. "See there where it has YL, it has Y for Yes." "That is neat Dude, that Willis sure knows his YL's. What is a XYL?" "That is a CW term that means wife of the OM." "Can a XYL contacts be used for the YL award?" "Yes Gator, a XYL is considered a YL good towards the award." Gator goes to get two more Becks, I think I will work sideband. I will know it is a YL without looking up the call sign." Gator hands me a Beck. "Only kidding Dude." "There is not many YL's on CW. The mobile YL award endorsed CW may take decades to finish." We clink our drinks, a toast to the future CW mobile YL's.

Gator asks, "What are some other abbreviations I should know on CW?" "Some of the more common abbreviation are: NIL for no copy, GG for going, CL for county line. NXT for next, CTY for county, and..." Gators pager sounds off like a bullhorn in New Jersey. "Darn, it always happens. I got customers waiting and have to skedaddle." Gator puts the empty drink container in the recycle box, grabs a handful of pretzels and is out the door. As Gator leaves the driveway he yells, "If it weren't for stress I'd have no energy at all. See you later Dude" I yell back, "Whatever hits the fan will not be evenly distributed." He gives me the New York taxi driver salute.

I sit back, increase the volume on the rig and finish my cool one. I search my log for YL's run. In addition to Joyce there is Martha K4VM, Esther KA4IFF, Mary NA8V and Carole KI0JD. Yes the MARAC mobile YL award endorsed CW is going to take a long time. Got to figure out a way to get more YL's on CW. I got to be careful. If I am too open minded, my brains will fall out. I wonder if a 559 is a 599 when the hearing aid is turned off. I hear a mobile on the CW net QRV, was that a YL?

Five Days on the Road

By

Skip Walter ADOH

The summer wedding invitations started arriving in April: here's one for a Friday night in Laramie, Wyoming, on May 23. My thinking gradually shifted from, "I'm not driving 700 miles for a one-hour wedding and unspiked ice-cream punch," to: "This would be an ideal time for a road trip. The semester is over, the weather isn't yet too hot, and it's only two states west of Iowa, and not very far into Wyoming, at that." Besides, the couple was more mature than the usual bride and groom and probably planning on a small gathering; my absence might be noticed. Even better, I might be able to finish putting out all the Nebraska counties, with my first having been in 1965, when I made contacts in Omaha (a.k.a. Douglas County) with a 6 meter Heathkit "lunchbox" and a Squalo antenna on my 1962 Dodge Dart.

Over the years I had made mobile contacts from many Nebraska counties, 66 out of 93 to be exact, but there were still 27 remaining. While I harbor no thoughts of putting out all 3077, I have done all of Iowa's 99 counties and another 300 or so from other states, as well. Why do we pick these curious objectives? Because we can—and that is reason enough. So it looked like I could knock off a majority of the missing Nebraska counties by picking a northern routing in one direction and a southern route for the other, and, by driving a few extra miles off the direct routes, could finish the balance remaining in the state.

First was a trip to the mechanic, for new struts on the 92 Plymouth Voyager, and a report that the oil drip would be solved by new head gaskets, "but you can go ahead and drive it." I did. A stop at Tires Plus for 4 new ones completed the pre-trip credit card damage. Then I loaded the IC-706II and tape recorder for logging, white shirt and dark blue suit and other clothes, cooler of Cokes and peanut butter, and, just before pushing off, the Hustler antenna with 15 and 20 meter resonators attached at the top.

The first day was fairly easy, just a Wednesday afternoon drive to Lincoln to stay with friends and have prime rib at a Nebraska football-theme restaurant. I missed by 15 minutes the 4 pm closing time at the new Union Pacific museum in Council Bluffs, and was 15 seconds behind a two-car accident on Interstate 80 in Omaha that spread car parts over four lanes but caused

no apparent injuries. The heavy county operating started Thursday, as I drove north to pick up the new counties of Butler, Polk, York, Hamilton, and Howard (and to re-work the connecting counties) in the south east quadrant of Nebraska, then on to Dawson, Gosper, Frontier, Lincoln, Hayes, Chase and Perkins in the southwest, plus three counties (Sedgwick, Phillips and Logan) in the corner of Colorado. I traded the 15 meter resonator for 40 after a request for Frontier, Nebraska on 7238. The 40 meter resonator stayed the rest of the trip; I never heard much on 15 anyway.

Thursday afternoon, KC5DSP asked if I were going to Garden, his last county in Nebraska. It wasn't on my list for this trip, I reported, but it turned out to be just north of my overnight stop. So on a foggy Friday morning, I detoured to Garden County and worked 31 stations, one of my longest runs of the trip; sorry, I forgot to go to 40 afterwards.

That was when I thought the car was not holding a steady speed, possibly due to the road, the wind, the speed control, or the transmission. I pulled over to check the transmission fluid level, following the owner's manual procedure of putting the car in park, and shifting through all gears before looking at the dipstick. The latter is conveniently located near the front of the engine and transaxle (first time I have ever written that word), but right next to the exhaust manifold. Well, you're supposed to check the fluid when the engine is hot and now I have a scar on the back of my hand to prove it. The level was fine, the fluid appeared clear, and who knows what the problem was; maybe it will reappear someday. The only other mishap of the trip was a missing wheel cover, which I discovered after I arrived home on Sunday. I'll get around to buying a replacement someday.

After Garden came a few more unworked Nebraska counties before the state line: Deuel, Cheyenne, and Kimball. The return trip started Saturday afternoon, with only one new Wyoming county, Goshen, and several more new counties in Nebraska (Banner, Scotts Bluff, and Sioux) and lots of re-worked counties going east. To fill the hours and miles, I tried some CW, passing out 30 contacts in the CQ WW WPX contest. I set my paddle on a wood board on the passenger seat and used a clipboard of lined paper to keep a running tally of contacts (the exchange is signal report, which means 599 whether or not you can copy the other station, and contact number). I usually worked 4 or 5 contacts in a

Five Days (continued)

row, and then retreated to the net on 14.336 for a breather. I know, “If he can work CW for a contest, why the heck doesn’t he put out those counties on 14.056.5?” Contests are just easier: they have a simpler format, there is only one station at a time, they don’t have a bunch of unfamiliar Q signals, and (scary thought) I’m driving. If I could do this everyday, maybe I’d get better at it; I know my copying speed would improve. But I still need to write everything down, and the steering wheel gets in the way of my clipboard.

Sunday morning began the final leg, with nine counties still to go on my Nebraska list: Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Boone, Boyd, Knox, Wayne, finishing with the Stanton and Madison county line. Afterward, I stayed on the net frequency and worked another 46 QSOs in the four hours back to the home QTH, a pretty slow rate compared to the rest of the trip.

In the 5 days, I made 1,263 contacts from 67 counties. Twenty meters accounted for 1,186 QSOs on SSB. The average county run on 20 meters yielded 17 QSOs; five counties had very busy runs with 30 or more contacts. The total on 40 SSB was 46 contacts from 17 counties, an average of not quite 3 each. In Cheyenne County, Nebraska, WDOBPC recognized my ham license plate at a gas station and told me where their local repeater was located. He and I then had my one and only 2 meter contact. I “ker-chunked” several Wyoming repeaters listed in the ARRL directory but got no human response.

What did I learn?

1. There is no such thing as driving “a few miles” for an extra county in Nebraska. My trip odometer said 070 when I returned. It would have said 422 (twice 711 miles point-to-point, and dropping the first digit). That’s right, I stretched a 1,400 mile trip into 2,070.
2. I also learned again that there are few decent motels off the beaten track. While headed west late the second day, I actually got back on Interstate 80 and drove east to get to the nearest intersection, finding a motel-restaurant-truck stop combination at Big Springs, Nebraska. The next night, a sleepy trucker drove into the nearby median, hit an overpass support that collapsed the bridge onto his truck and the interstate, killing the driver and closing a main east-west U.S. arterial for many hours. I’m glad I missed that excitement.
3. The net operators—all of them: net control, mobiles,

fixed stations—were most helpful and patient with me. I know my signal wasn’t all that strong at times, and I messed up many calls repeatedly, but contacts were made. And I made a point of identifying my call and county more often during a run; see, I do read the Roadrunner.

4. For those of us who can get on the net only occasionally, phonetics do help (i.e., I don’t remember calls or voices very well). Yes, I can see that more syllables require more time, but I wasted even more time requesting repeats and phonetics. Besides, most of the runs were 5 to 7 minutes, well within the 10 minute maximum.

5. I ran over the 10 minute limit a few times, but usually with a county-line or by driving into a new county so far away from an interstate highway that few hams had visited it. Most county hunters did not work counties they already had confirmed (a complaint voiced in a recent Roadrunner column), but I am more than happy to log anyone, any time, just the same. In other words, the 10 minute limit may be extraneous, but may have caused a few stations with weaker signals to miss a county line that they needed.

6. We all need to be more welcoming to the “passers-by” who dial across the net frequency and just want to make a contact. Spending a few extra seconds while someone tells us his name is Jack and he lives in Cleveland, Ohio isn’t going to ruin our day, even if he doesn’t know our standard format. If I had been more on the ball, I would have invited Jack to check out the MARAC website where he would have found information that might actually entice him to return to 14.336 someday and become a county hunter—if we don’t chase him away first.

7. I confirmed that CW—both sending and receiving—while driving is hard.

8. The right-hand side of my butt cramps up before the left-hand side. Solution: shift around in the seat and stop for gas, drinks, snacks, pictures more often.

Oh yes, the wedding went off fine, the couple seemed to know everyone in town, and the church was packed. I wouldn’t have been missed at all—but I’m glad I went

NO MORSE CODE CONTROVERSY AT WRC-03

Whatever else happens at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03), there's no mystery about the delegates' direction regarding the Morse code requirement. Morse code proficiency will disappear as a treaty obligation for high-frequency access when the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)-sponsored gathering under way in Geneva concludes July 4. "One matter on which there appears to be no disagreement is the Morse requirement," said International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Secretary (and ARRL CEO) David Sumner, K1ZZ, in a report <<http://www.iaru.org/rei030623.html>> on the second week of activity at WRC-03. "It is clear that the outcome will be to leave it to administrations' discretion whether or not to have a Morse receiving and sending requirement." He said no administration participating in the sub-working group spoke in favor of retaining the Morse code treaty requirement.

The modification of Article 25.5 of the international Radio Regulations cleared Working Group 4C on June 24. Working Group 4C is dealing with this and other proposals relating to Article 25. The modified text says,

"Administrations shall determine whether or not a person seeking a license to operate an amateur station shall prove the ability to send and receive texts in Morse code signals." It's possible but unlikely that the text would be tinkered with further at the committee level or even in the Plenary, which considers items for adoption.

Sumner said delegates continue to wrangle over other aspects of Article 25, which defines Amateur Radio operation. Adoption of the Article 25.5 modification would not mean the immediate disappearance of the Morse requirement to operate on the amateur bands below 30 MHz. Each administration, including the FCC, would then decide whether or not to drop the requirement from its domestic regulations. Some countries have indicated a desire to retain a Morse code requirement. Sub-working groups this week funneled their reports to larger working groups assigned to tackle various pieces of the huge WRC-03 agenda. More than 2600 delegates and other participants are attending the four-week conference. For WRC-03, the IARU has fielded its largest team of observers at an ITU conference in more than a decade.

There's less consensus on efforts to secure a "harmonized" 300-kHz-wide amateur allocation at 7 MHz. Sumner said initial discussions in Sub-Working Group 4C1 "were spirited and reflected sharp differences of opinion" between those advocating realignment and those favoring no change out of deference to the disruption that any realignment would cause broadcasting services now occupying 7.1 to 7.3 MHz in Regions 1 and 3, and the fixed services above 7.3 MHz that would be affected by any upward shift in broadcasting. Amateurs in the US and the rest of Region 2 enjoy a 300-kHz allocation from 7.0 to 7.3 MHz, but hams in the rest of the world, Regions 1 and 3, have only 7.0 to 7.1 MHz. Three alternative proposals have been passed on to Working Group 4C. "The largest group favored realignment in two stages," Sumner explained. That group included the US, CEPT, CITEL and the African Telecommunications Union. The two steps would expand the band in Regions 1 and 3 by 100 kHz in 2007 and add the remaining 100 kHz in 2015. Other plans put forth contained longer time lines. By week's end, Sumner said, the issue could be passed on to Committee 4.

"Reprinted from The ARRL Letter"

Are you considering APRS?

by Dennis KK7X

Do you use GPS and/or APRS when you are running counties? Are you considering APRS? Don't have a clue what APRS is? I would like to hear from you if you can answer "Yes" to any of this questions. KK7X@countyhunter.com

I myself am new to APRS and am setting up a tracking device in my "Big Rig" If you would like to see where I am at any given time go to <http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/find.cgi?call=kk7x-2> This will give you a rough idea of where my last reported position was. If you are interested in APRS a great source of information can be found at <http://web.usna.navy.mil/~bruninga/aprs.html>.

There are many sources for software to track APRS stations. One great piece of software is UI-View. Available in both a 16 bit version and a 32 bit version it can be found at <http://www.ui-view.com/>.

If you don't have a TNC you can download Packet Engine Pro which will allow you to use your computer sound card to send and receive packet as well as monitor APRS activity.

This information only scratches the surface of APRS. If there is enough interest and stations I will consider adding a page to <http://countyhunter.com> that will allow you to select a mobiles call and see where he is in relation to that county your looking for.

2003 SOUTHEAST MINI CONVENTION

LOCATION: Holiday Inn, 2227 Old Fort Parkway, Murfreesboro, TN 37129

DATES: October 16th, 17th and 18th. Hospitality Room opens Noon 16th

DIRECTIONS: I-24 and Tennessee Hwy. #96. On I-24 Exit #78A from Chattanooga, and #78B from Nashville.

ROOM RATE: All Rooms \$63/night plus tax. A block of rooms will be held until October 10th. After this the same rate applies if room available.

RESERVATIONS: Tel. (615) 896-2420. Please mention (Ham Radio) for rates.

ACTIVITIES: Golf Courses nearby. Shopping Centers and Fast Food Restaurants nearby. Nashville, TN is 30 miles north for more shopping and the Grand Ole Opry, etc. Make your own reservations. The Friday trip to Mary Bobo's Restaurant in Lynchburg is on tap for this year. Contact W9GBH, Herb Morgan for reservations. It is limited to the first 65 people that register with Herb.

PRIZES: All Prize donations will be appreciated.

DINNER: Saturday Night Dinner, Buffet style, \$18.50/person, tax and tip included. Buffet includes 2 meats, vegetables, salad, dessert and drink.

REGISTRATIONS: \$12.00 OM/YL or \$9.00 single. Registration includes Name Tag, Group Photo and Drawing for any Prize. **SEND REGISTRATION FEE AND COST OF DINNER TO:**

William E. Bell (KM4W)
738 Doak Road
Manchester, TN 37355

SOUTHEAST MINI CONVENTION FORM

NAME _____ CALL _____ USA-CA _____

SPOUSE _____ CALL _____ USA-CA _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

REGISTRATION FEE.....\$ _____

BANQUET.....@\$18.50/PERSON.....\$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED.....\$ _____

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 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.