



THE COUNTY LINE

ROADRUNNER



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

Volume XXXIII

October 2003

Number 10

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT



Bill K2NJ

Volunteers and other bad guys

Something has been eating at me for a long – very long time and I think it is time to get this out in the open, so all can imagine how I (and the other volunteers in this and other clubs) feel. I am gonna come right out with it – I am sick of being made as the bad guy by a handful of people who have never done a damn thing for anyone else in their lives without wondering “what’s in it for me”. Every decision I have made since taking the helm of MARAC – I have made with only one thought in mind... “Is this the best thing for MARAC”. What I can get out of it never crosses my mind.

I have worked for my entire life to get ahead in business and to support my family. Now that I have retired – I have had a complete change in priorities... I want to do what is fun and what benefits others – Time to put back into the hobby that has meant so much to me.

That is why I ran for this office in the first place, that is why I hold two volunteer jobs in the W2 QSL bureau (by the way, if you are active on HF.. and work some DX... for Gods sake, subscribe to your QSL bureau and not make them go hunting for you... enuf there)... I must spend 10 hours a month or so doing MARAC functions (more some and less others) and I spend anywhere from 40-80 hours a month doing QSL bureau chores (you know when I am working on bureau stuff and helping Jim at the net... and forget who is running what when it comes time to look for relays... I seem disconnected because I am doing something else)... I have in the past taught over 20 Novice / Tech courses and have been instrumental in over 200 people getting their license. And on and on... I love this hobby and have even given up one wife because of it (well, that and other things)....

Yes, we do make some mistakes – hell, who doesn’t? This thing with Willis and the start dates to our awards

MARAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

September 10, 2003

The Meeting of the MARAC Board of Directors was called to order at 8:00 P.M. EDT (0000Z) by Bill (K2NJ).

The Officers and Directors present were:

President	-	Bill Inkrote (K2NJ)
Vice President	-	Bob Voss (N4CD)
Treasurer	-	Jim Grandinetti (KZ2P)
Great Lakes Director	-	Randy Davis (N8ELQ)
North Central Director	-	John Robison(WB9STT)
South Central Director	-	JoyceBoothe (WB9NUL)
Southeast Director	-	Dave Splitt (KE3VV)
Pacific Director	-	BobDevine (KC6AWX)
Northeast Director	-	Stan Heinsma (VE1BES)

Upon a motion by Joyce (WB9NUL) and seconded by Bob (KC6AWX) the minutes of the August 13, 2003 meeting were accepted as read. Roll call indicated all in favor and none opposed. Joyce (WB9NUL) made a motion to publish the August 13th minutes in the next issue of the Road Runner; Stan (VE1BES) seconded the motion. Roll call indicated all in favor and none opposed.

Upon a motion by John (WB9STT) and seconded by Bob (KC6AWX), the Treasurer’s report of August 31, 2003 was accepted. Roll call indicated 7 in favor, one abstention and none opposed.

Old Business: There was no old business to bring before the Board.

New Business: Joyce (WB9NUL) made a motion to send Bob Allen (KK5MI) \$300.00 for refreshments for the Southeast Mini. Bob (KC6AWX) seconded the motion. Roll call indicated all in favor and none opposed.

There being no further business to discuss, Dave (KE3VV) made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 P.M. EDT (0011Z). Jim (KZ2P) seconded the motion. Roll call indicated all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,
Norman Ellison, Secretary.

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(President Continued from page 1)

(look at the word... OUR) has gotten so much out of hand – like many other things on that Flippin’ web site. It started out as a simple request from our Awards Manager, Gene – KD9ZP to make administration easier for him (along with coding of the new MARAC version of KWIKLOG). It was a no brainer to me... shoot who cares about starting dates that are old to begin with... most people will not go back and look for stuff... All of a sudden I am being called every name in the book. My Email inbox runnith over with mail (some agree, some saying I am the devil)... Some downright nasty. Since then, Gene and I have talked and we will withdraw his request – just to keep harmony. I don’t care either way on this subject...

I am sick and tired of seeing the club volunteers (that includes every officer, every director – the Awards Manager, the Awards Committee members and so on) bad-mouthed by some of these misfits on K3IMC’s web site. It is not right to lambaste those who are trying their best – to be ridiculed in a public forum. If you disagree with something I say – then write to me and we can start some two-way dialog. Pick up your phone and call me (908) – 788 4827 (before 9PM Eastern please). Maybe I did not think of both sides of the coin on an idea or a decision I made... I can be wrong... but if the first sign of any disagreement is on K3IMC and you start off by calling me names or something... well how do you think I am going to react?

What ever happened to the phrase “treat others as you would like to be treated”?.. I am really sick and tired of all the discontent from a small group of people. Yes, I know.. Jim treats you like dog-doo... well, I have heard both sides of this – and to tell you the truth – in most cases (probably all cases) he has a real reason to ignore you. If some of you have done to me what you did to him, I don’t know if I would be as civil as he has been. Jim is one hell of a volunteer.. He is a club officer and he has done a wonderful job as treasurer of MARAC. He also gets on the net for umpteen hours a day and puts up with all kinds of BS. Yes, he is cranky sometimes – we have had times when he jumps on me (like when I hear someone running and not say who or where they are and I say something quip to the mobile). I get home and there is a note from Jim waiting in my Email saying that XXX just identified three times before I jumped on him.. ooops..

I never heard it.. but it is kept in a private manner and there is never any hard feelings being criticized that way... He has to put up with all kinds of stuff that the average user on the net can ignore... he does it the best he can and if after 10 or more hours he gets a bit testy... well – like he says... “I am at the bottom of a logpage, does someone want to pick up the list?” Tell him to take a break and pick it up from him...

I do not agree with some things that Jim does... he knows that... but when he is running the net – he does it his way... and it is not my call to beat him on this. He is the best net control we have ever had and probably will ever have on the Independent County Hunters Net. And most members agree, he has a warehouse full of best NCS plaques to prove it (yea, like he has to). Thanks again for all the time and trouble you go through - you make it easy for mobiles to be efficient and make it fun for all of us... even the 22’ boyz.

When is the last time you hear our Awards Manager on the air and stop to say thanks to him... He has taken this club into the next century with his software development and his dedication. Now people finish the xxxth time around or bingo or whatever and email him the logs... ten minutes later, he has your number assigned and your about to get congratulated on the net and web sites... Does this guy ever sleep? Gene, thanks – man you are a find and a half for us...

When have you thanked Ted K1BV for all the work he has done for the USACA program at CQ magazine? He sure has done a great job for county hunters hasn’t he? I hope in the next month or so to check out his work when Gail finally gets to send for her number... as of now she is 9 away, and who knows.. maybe in the next year or two she will finish... hi..

How about your ARRL officials? They are out there day and night working for us – I know my SM personally (hell, he is an ex-VP of MARAC) and my Division Director is also a member of the NJDXA (QSL bureau fame) club... very active in all aspects of ham radio... Thanks guys..

Thanks to the Other officers of MARAC. Norm has been there time after time with his keyboard on fire.. (well, not really – but it makes for better reading)... You have been there for me from the beginning and I really do appreciate your work – even if I don’t say so enough. You are a good guy...

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(President Continued)

I also want to thank Roger, and now Bob for their support as VP.

We may not always be in step, but I am confident that if I miss a meeting you could step up to the plate... Also while I am thanking people, I want to thank Nancy for sending cards to those of us who are under the weather etc... another thankless job... And to our club Attorney – who always pulls my fat from the fire... Yes, I know I wear my heart on my sleeve and that is why sometimes I go off the deep end... you are there with a phone call or email telling me to pull my head out of the dark place I put it, and to rethink what I did... 99% of the time I agree once I cool down... but I like to go off that one time (sorta like now)... Not to forget our NL editor... he has to come up with enough stuff to fill xxx pages a month... and with no input, he asks me to lengthen my column... I know you don't want that do you???

And to the District Directors. These are the guys and gal who really run the club – they are the guys and gal in the trenches with the troops (so to speak). If you don't like something that MARAC is doing... these are the guys and gal you should call or write. After all – the way the C&BL's are written – they have the power – not me... All I do is run meetings and write a column (and that is not covered, just something I do).

Now look again at what I have written... Nowhere does it say employee or even implies that we work for MARAC or you... we are all volunteers – giving of our time and energy to the benefit of the club, receiving nothing in return except some heartburn – is this how you would treat your minister? Your kids football coach? - hell you would not treat people that were being paid, like the cop that stopped you for not wearing a seatbelt, or were drifting between lanes (running a county on the move??)... Then what gives you the license to lambaste us on K3IMC's web site? It says up front that it is for the betterment of all- I see nowhere that it is posted that target practice is allowed...

You must understand that this web site is open to the world. People read on it were there is discontent among us and then either join in the flames or just go on to collecting ten-X numbers (sorry Chuck) or something else... They don't understand that 99% of us are like a family.. sure there are a few blacksheep in the family, what family doesn't have them? But all in all – we really do care about eachother. If this is true, then how can we say such horrible things in a public forum like Don's web and not think about their ramifications ?

I have been told by a Past Director that he has to post stuff there because he has nowhere else to present his side of the argument...

This is BS because I told him to send me his side and I will see to it that it gets published here in the RR (unless, there are personal attacks or untruths). I have yet to see this article.

To quote Rodney King “Why can't we all just get along” – well, because some people just don't want to... that is why... but for the majority of us, I want to – I hate to write a column like this. My stomach is churning as I am typing and I know that a lot of you are tired of seeing this waste of space in the RR... but it has to come out. What I can't understand is that if you are not happy county hunting any longer, why are you here doing it? This is a big hobby... find something else to do – I just made about 10 QSO's this morning on PSK on ten meters (yea, its open to Europe and I am sitting here typing this??) Or just collect the counties and keep your politics to yourself. If your really that upset... the election is coming up next year for all the officers... run against me or any of the others.

I am tired of being the bad guy...

73'

Bill K2NJ

On a personal note - The school doctor has de-certified me as a bus driver until after I complete Cardio-Pulmonary Rehab – and can pass my physical – so I am out of work until then... so I can sleep in on the mornings (only bad thing about driving the bus is the 4:30 wakeup). Have Rehab on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays... and will see in another month or so if it is helping me.

It's Mary Bo-Bo Time

All County Hunters who plan to attend the Murfreesboro, TN convention this October 17 should definitely make plans to attend the annual Ms. Mary Bo-BO's Boarding House dinned on Friday, October 17, 200s at Lynchburg.

This year the cost is the same a last year, (\$14.00 per person GRAUITY EXTRA).

If you want to reserve one or more of the 64 seats available, please send an E:MAIL or call 574-566-2739. Herb Morgan, W9GBH 5489 W. Warren St. Silver Lake, IN 46982 or your reservation will be released to someone else.

We Miss You Mr. County Hunter

A Tribute to Arnie Bachmann, K9DCJ

The memorial prayer card said, "Arnold C. Bachmann, passed away from cancer on March 21, 2003 at the The Don and Marilyn Anderson Hospice Care Center. Born on October 14, 1914, he married Lorraine Lehman on April 16, 1960. Arnie was a member of the armed forces during World War II. He was an avid Ham radio operator, K9DCJ. He was employed at Gisholt Machine Company, Madison, and he retired from Satterfield Electronics in Madison."

It was a sad day when County Hunters heard of the death of Arnie. It also came during a short time span when we heard about the passing of Kenny Carpenter, KC4UG, and the passing of an Australian county hunter, Jim Cunningham, VK4BS. We miss all of these fine county hunters.

I have been writing this column since 1991 and talked to Arnie every few years to request information so I could write a story about him. He certainly deserved to have an article written about him, but each time Arnie turned me down. Arnie was a quiet gentleman, always offering to help others, but not wanting to call attention to himself.

I first contacted Arnie on August 20, 1978 when I was 16. Arnie sent me a QSL card and said, "Welcome to the net and county hunting" and told me he operated mobile from his 1976 Pacer. Arnie took the time to welcome all new county hunters and to make them feel part of his extended county hunter family. It was Arnie who gave me my last county in Wisconsin several years later and sent me a picture of his car next to the county sign.

As you'll see in many of the county hunter memories below, Arnie made a special effort to remember the names of fellow county hunters. When Arnie first started county hunting, no one called anyone by their name, but one day when he was running a county, someone called him Arnie and he was overwhelmed. From that day on, Arnie always called everyone by name. His wife Lorraine doesn't remember Arnie ever studying the names, but he must have. Lorraine said that once at a convention, a county hunter asked Arnie how he was able to remember all the names and Arnie told him, he "had all the names written on a roll of toilet paper and all he had to do was unroll the toilet paper ... hopefully they didn't believe him!

Arnie was a big part of the history of county hunting and didn't want others to lose that history. He published the "USA-CA Award:

The Story of County Hunting in a three part series in the August-October 1991 issues of CQ Magazine. He also helped write county hunting history for the MARAC conventions, helping to publish the 7th Edition in June 1994 for the Springfield, MO convention.

Before the days of Rand McNally road atlases, Arnie helped his fellow county hunters by collecting state maps with counties, then offered a map service to others to provide them maps for states they would be traveling through. Lorraine says Arnie collected maps, maps, and more maps. He put notes in the newsletter, but didn't have a very big response for people wanting maps.

Arnie's Life

Arnie graduated from high school and taught himself electronics and built radios as a kid. He was in the Army for three years doing radar work stateside from 1942-1945. He worked for Northern States Power in Lacrosse, WI, starting out as a meter reader and eventually as a supervisor of accounting officers. Later he worked for Satterfield Electronics in Madison, WI, selling amateur and commercial equipment for 8 years. He worked for Gisholt Machine Company in Madison, WI for a few years before returning to Satterfield in 1970 and eventually retiring from there in 1976.

He did his own antenna work, even climbing his 40 foot tower six months before he passed away, at the age of 88. He was an avid collector, collecting every issue of CQ back to 1945, QST from 1920, all issues of Ham Radio, Ham Radio Horizons, and 73 Magazine. He also collected 31 boxes of football magazines and books. He amassed a collection of 27 boxes of QSL cards.

Lorraine's fond memories of mobile trips with Arnie include eating at an empty restaurant and waiting for the chef to finish watching his TV program before cooking their meal or the time Arnie and Lorraine went to a motel they stayed at a lot, but with no vacancies, they slept on the floor of the motel office for \$5. Lorraine remembers the time net control WA2SJQ promised to page Arnie over the PA system at the Green Bay Packers game if one of the counties Arnie needed was on the air. She also remembers the many times deer hunters stopped where Arnie was running a county thinking that Arnie was a ranger wanting to register their deer.

But more than anything Lorraine and Arnie enjoyed the County Hunter conventions. They attended every MARAC National Convention from 1970 until 1995. In total, they attended 59 conventions including mini-conventions and the four or five mini conventions they coordinated in Wisconsin.

Arnie's Awards

Although this tribute was meant as an opportunity for Arnie's county hunter friends to personally remember him,

a tribute wouldn't be complete without mentioning Arnie's numerous county hunting awards. He first contacted all counties and received CQ Magazine's USA-CA on November 1, 1972. He was only the 86th amateur to contact all counties. He later received a 2nd Time Award #5 in 1978, 3rd Time Award #3 in 1984, 4th Time Award #12 in 1991, 5th Time Award #10 in 1993, 6th Time Award #4 in 1995, and 7th Time Award #4 in 2000.

He was the 1st County Hunter to contact all counties with a K prefix callsign in 2000 and with a W prefix in 2001, 1st to contact all counties receiving a 59 report in 1995, and 1st to contact all counties with amateurs outside their callsign call area also in 1995.

He was voted as the County Hunter of the Year in 1981. He received the Master County Hunter Award (Bingo) #6 in 1986, Bingo II #15 in 2001, 5 Star Award #6 in 2000 and Masters Gold #6 in 2002. Arnie received 548 last county awards for giving another county hunter their last county to finish up a state and 14 last county awards for the last for all USA counties. He gave a Wisconsin county for the last county to many stations and attempted to give a last county to a county hunter from all 50 states. Hawaii was the only state he missed. He gave each of the 72 Wisconsin counties as a last county, contacted almost every holder of the USA-CA award, and contacted all 3,076 counties with 15 different amateurs.

When Lorraine found Arnie's award "bible" (his tracker), she found Arnie was trying to contact all possible county lines and also possible county state lines as well as trying to contact all the counties mobile to mobile. In a 1988 article in CQ Magazine article about Arnie, he said, "There seems to be no limit to the ways of working counties."

Lorraine drove the car when Arnie operated mobile and was an SWL operator and shared Arnie's love of county hunting. She received county hunter awards also for having heard the counties 6 times, received the Bingo Award, and also the 1st 5 Star Award. Arnie's son, Terry, WU9F, also is a county hunter and has contacted all the counties.

County Hunter Personal Memories

Herb Morgan, W9GBH, wrote, "We have lost a personal friend and I will never forget his honesty and friendliness." Earlier in the year, Herb had personally invited Arnie to attend the 2003 MARAC National Convention in South Bend, IN in July and he received an email from Arnie saying, "I would give my last breath to be able to attend your convention, Herb." Plans were in place for Bill Grew, WG9A, and his wife, Sandy, to pick up Arnie and Lorraine at their house and drive them to the convention. Bill and Sandy are still picking up Lorraine and taking her to the convention at her request.

Fred Roberts, W6TKV, wrote, "Arnie always seemed to remember everyone's name. Not sometimes, but all of the time and every time. Like many other County Hunters, he relentlessly and enthusiastically pursued "Worked All Counties" as if it was a brand new award he had just discovered. He was a real gentleman and will be missed by everyone."

Mike Anderson, K8IW, remembered how helpful Arnie was to him when he was beginning county hunting. After Mike received his USA-CA, Arnie "surprised him by calling on the air to contact Mike because he had received his number." Mike was "very flattered that Arnie took the time to do this and followed up with his QSL card and an SASE so he'd have Mike's QSL card."

John Thompson, K6OHM, remembered the phone call he received on the day he was awarded his USA-CA number. Arnie was calling because he wanted to contact John just after receiving his USA-CA. Arnie was "always very helpful acting as a relay for us here on the west coast when our signals were not heard that well by the mobiles running. A great ham, county hunter and helpful person...a true loss to all of us."

Ron Rosenwald, KA3DRO, wrote, Arnie was the "epitome of courtesy and respect and always had the time to help you, talk with you, listen to you, and assist." When Ron was "getting down to the last several counties needed, Arnie got into his little car and ran into Iowa to finish that state for Ron...and had a photo taken for me as well! What a gentleman! How he and his example will be missed."

Larry Courtney, NA7W, wrote, "Arnie was a person that helped all county hunters and he was a wealth of information for the newcomer. He was a man of integrity and willing to help anyone." Larry remembers he and another county hunter kidding Arnie about county lines. Since Arnie ran a lot of county lines, they had him imagine 98 degree temperatures and humidity about the same. They told Arnie there is a tree 10 yards away from the county line and asked him, "Since you don't have air conditioning in your vehicle, would you run the county line from the shade of the tree?" Arnie's response was, "I'd park under the tree and enjoy the shade until my turn to run. Then I would move the vehicle back on the county line." Larry said, "That was Arnie and he instilled that integrity in other people."

Ray Skrabut, WA2CNJ, added, "Arnie was the ONLY county hunter who never failed to greet the mobile by name during the signal report exchange. Arnie went out of his way to shake Ray's had at the national convention. Whatta guy!"

Van "Pete" Peterson, K4QFK, remembered Arnie as "humble" and that he "tried to help others all the time. Arnie was keeping lists of needs for county hunters long before the internet county needs lists. He was a gentleman, true scholar of amateur radio and county hunting, always researching anything to do with county hunting such as where the county lines were, how many were wet, how many counties actually had hams living in them." Pete remembered "one year when Arnie announced that all but 54 counties had hams living in them, all this without a computer which he only began using in his later years, and even then he had manual records on 3x5 cards and could find out what he had worked and had not worked faster than a computer. In the early 80s he won a trophy for his achievement and contributions to county hunting (Merit award category 4) and someone had the nerve to write him and tell him he did not deserve this trophy. Arnie was so sensitive that he never displayed this well deserved award in his home, keeping it hidden in his shed." Pete tried to talk him into getting it out, but Arnie quietly said no! "Arnie once had a bicycle mobile set up with a small beam mounted on the bike which he made contacts using an old Atlas rig.

He was truly one of a kind, a gentleman, and loved county hunting and I miss him so much."

Bill Jansen, K2HVN, remembered how his first contact on the county hunters net was with K9DCJ on September 11, 1980. He remembered Arnie running counties bicycle mobile and how Arnie even organized a net for USA-CA holders so county hunters could contact holders of the USA-CA award. "Arnie is a wonderful gentleman, always willing to help out and explain things. What impressed me the most was when he ran counties he would always give your name. What a memory."

Ed Dranchak, NT9V, said Arnie helped him not only with his first time around, but throughout all 9 times he worked the counties. To return the favor, Ed sent jokes by email to Arnie for the last two years of Arnie's life and Arnie told Ed the jokes made his day. After Arnie passed away, Lorraine asked Ed to continue sending the jokes.

Al Kaiser, N1API, said, "without Arnie's help, he would still be looking for contacts for his first time award. Arnie made one ringers and phone calls to me when I was getting close as counties I needed were being run. He also knew where to find the rare ones when there were no mobiles to work. I'm sure that I was not the only one that he did this for. Always a great friend and gentleman."

Al Garrett, KG5J, remembered his friend by saying he has been a county hunter for 21 years and had known Arnie from the very beginning. "Arnie was well

known for his extremely well documented records and adherence to rules of the game concerning county lines and all aspects of making legitimate contacts. He was always very polite never getting excited or argumentative or rude in the least. When I think of my fellow hunters and the highlights of my associations with the members, Arnie, K9DCJ, will always be remembered as the perfect gentleman and the most outstanding of them all! Arnie you were the greatest!"

Arnie was also remembered by the Four Lakes Amateur Radio Club of Madison, WI, in the Wisconsin Section News section of their June 2003 newsletter; *The Feedline*. They remembered Arnie as an avid county hunter who managed the amateur department at Madison's Satterfield Electronics in the 1960s.

Arnie's memorial prayer card also said, "It broke our hearts to lose you, but you did not go alone. For part of us went with you on the day God called you home."

God Bless Arnie and Lorraine.

We miss you Mr. County Hunter.73 Ace N3 aha!



K9DCJ, Tries Mobile County Hunting From His Bicycle



Arnie and Lorraine "having some fun"!



Arnie's pride and joy; the Bachmann country home. The one room schoolhouse was built in 1864.

September Birthday's

WE8D	Sep - 01	K2NJ	Sep - 02
K4XI	Sep - 03	W9GUY	Sep - 04
WA2BEG	Sep - 07	K4SL	Sep - 09
KG7Q	Sep - 09	KJ7PO	Sep - 09
W5ILR	Sep - 20	W3CR	Sep - 23
KA6RAT	Sep - 23	KR4ZH	Sep - 23
AD8W	Sep - 24	K3VQO	Sep - 25
W1IBS	Sep - 29	KD4RKJ	Sep - 29
KC3X	Sep - 29		

October Birthday's

K7DM	October 2	W5EG	October 4
W1ENE	October 6	WB4FFV	October 8
WA2NEW	October 9	W0NAC	October 9
N8WTQ	October 10	K6OHM	October 12
N9JLT	October 16	WB0CQO	October 19
W7GQK	October 20	A15P	October 21
AF3X	October 22	KW4CZ	October 23
K6TEX	October 24	K4ELK	October 24
W8OP	October 25	DL5MC	October 26
W3DYA	October 29	N4EWK	October 30
K8WXJ	October 31		

If you birthday is not in then database at:

www.marac.org/database

Send it to:

Kd9zp@marac.org

Note: Be sure to include the year you were born for a proper Date field in the database!

TO ALL MARAC MEMBERS

My sincerest and heartfelt thanks to all of you who so thoughtfully provided for my antenna. Some of you deserve additional thanks for going the extra mile. I really appreciate your efforts that enabled me to get back on the air. About August 18 th. we got the antenna up thanks to a couple of our neighbors, who so graciously gave of their time and talents to erect my antenna.

It sure feels good to be out of the nursing home after 13 long years. My MARAC comrades helped me accomplish that. Gloria and I want to thank you for your wedding wishes. Thank you very much,
73, Larry Hickman, KA9ZRW

New members

Marac #	Call Cnty	Name	Address E Mail
R-3096	K5NV	Jim O'Brien	P.O. Box 403 Harvey, LA 70059-0403 Jefferson k5nv@msn.com

Please welcome this months new member and add him to your database

Major Awards Issued For The Month Of August

KD9ZP - Awards Manager

Award	Number
LC-1	401
LC-2	11
LC-3	17
All Others	12

Call	Date	Award	Number
VE9DH	8/28/03	Big Rig	1000 Counties
VE4AGT	8/4/03	BINGO	234
W4XT	8/8/03	BINGO	235
WA2AKB	8/4/03	BINGO II	27
WDX4KEF	8/16/03	BINGO II	28
VE9DH	8/28/03	Cliff Corne Jr. (K9EAB) Memorial 551 USA-CA Holders	
VE9DH	8/28/03	Jack Scroggins (W0SJE) 170 2nd Time Holders	
AB2LS	8/17/03	Last County Count	100 181
N8BNI	8/28/03	Last County Count	100 182
WD9EJK	7/25/03	Last County Count	125 129
KD4HXM	8/9/03	Last County Count	125 130
K9IA	8/9/03	Last County Count	25 406
W9XYL	8/9/03	Last County Count	25 407
KL1V	7/31/03	Last County Count	250 54
KB6UF	7/25/03	Last County Count	275 45
WG6X	7/22/03	Last County Count	300 38
KD8HA	8/9/03	Last County Count	300 40
WG6X	8/26/03	Last County Count	325 33
K2HVN	8/28/03	Last County Count	325 34
K2NJ	8/28/03	Last County Count	375 24
KI0JD	8/9/03	Last County Count	550 13
KC1NA	8/17/03	Last County Count	550 14
WA7JHQ	8/17/03	Last County Count	75 198
AB4YZ	8/31/03	Last County Count	75 199
K3IMC	8/16/03	Worked all Counties - 2nd Time	322
KC1NA	8/16/03	Worked all Counties - 4th Time	108
K4UNF	8/16/03	Worked all Counties - 4th Time	109
W5VD	8/2/03	Worked all Counties - 5th Time	65
VE9DH	8/28/03	YL Mobile	177 Counties

**There is no
ROAD R NNER
Without "U"
"Your input is Needed"**

FOR THE BEGINNER CW CH - NET HINTS AND TIPS

I'll make an attempt to list the critical information and 'Q' signals for the CW net operation. First the 'Q' signals that are used most often. Some newcomers hesitate to jump on the net for various reasons such as the speed of some of the ops and unfamiliarity with some of the 'Q' sigs used on the net, etc. Hope this helps.

QNC - Message for all net stations (Used to give information about upcoming scheduled runs or for next counties of active mobiles or other general announcements.)

QNE - Entire net standby. (Usually used to have the net wait while a mobile is pulling over or changing a tape, or other type of temporary delay)

QNF - Net is free and not controlled. (Same as open session on SSB with no NCS)

QNG - Take over as net control.

QNH - Your frequency is high.

QNI - Net stations report in or I am reporting in.

QNL - Your frequency is low.

QNO - Station is leaving the net. (Sometimes the station will also say, "for lunch", "for a short time", etc.

QNP - Unable to copy

QNT - Leaving the net. (Closing down, end of trip, etc. Like QRT)

QNZ - Zero beat your signal with mine.

The above are used only on net operations. Some of the other signals also used are the regular ones plus some with a slight variation. They are:

QSX - Standby. (Same as QRX)

QRV - I am ready. (Are you ready - May or may not be followed by a "?".

QSY - Change frequency. (Sometimes followed with "?", or with phrase "Down (dwn) 2 (or 4), etc.)

QRS - Send slower

QSP - Relay (Net control gives call sign and then "RST" for the other station to send the report.)

QRL - Busy (Sometimes with a "?" asking if the frequency is in use.)

QTA - Cancel message (or stop relay, scratch, etc.)

QRZ - Call now. (With a "?" it means who is calling me)

QSL - I copied (confirmed)

Some prosigns and abbreviations used are:

BK - Break or Break-in

BT - Break between thoughts. (Kinda like a new paragraph)

N - Negative - Incorrect

C - Yes - Correct

TU - Thank you

C/L - County Line (Often they leave out the '/'.)

AS - Wait - Standby (Sent as one character)

CFM - Confirm

NIL - Nothing, no copy, negative.

The net often operates without a net control. When ready to run a county and you hear no one on the net frequency for a minute or so just start running yourself by sending, "CHN DE KA3MMM (with your call, of course) TIOGA PA QRZ". If you don't want to wait and hear no one, send "CHN QRL?" and usually someone will send QNF or GA (go ahead) and then announce your county and send QRZ.

If there is a net control send "CHN (or the NCS call sign) DE KA3MMM (again, using your call) QNI. The net control will reply and mention NR 1, etc. and give you a signal report. Respond by repeating the RST received and give your county and RST. The net control will confirm the RST, announce the call and county to the net and send you a "K" or "GA". If there are other mobiles ahead of you he will ask if you wish to QSX / QSY. If you want to move off frequency just send "QSY DWN 2 K." The net control may relay other mobile(s) for RST before he tells you to QSY DWN 2. If you wish to wait for your tune send NCS a QSX. We don't move up in frequency because the FISTS group who are always causing QRM for us) operates on 14058.

You can send QRZ or K after each contact or just hesitate and other stations will throw in their call. If there is a pile up just pick out one if you can or send another QRZ. Pretty soon they will spread them out. Same with having them slow down. Ignore them or send QRS and if they want the county bad enough they will slow down. You can also take a list if you wish and work them from that list. Try it, you will like it. 73, KA3MMM

**YOUR
FOR SALE ITEM
COULD HAVE BEEN HERE**

DATELINE CW

By Ed, KN4Y

The sense of greatness keeps a CW operator great.

The OM-YL team is parked on a county line waiting to run the line on the CW net. The YL spied a berry bush and left to gather some berries. The OM half of the OM-YL team looked out the window and wondered why the YL was designed so beautiful, slim and dainty. He heard a voice say, 'So you would want her as a team mate to run counties on CW.' He looked at the radio dial, it was still tuned to the CW net. Why does she have long beautiful blond hair, he thought. Again he heard a voice, "so you would want her as a team mate to run counties on CW." He glanced around but was still alone. He leaned back and he muttered, but why is the YL so dumb? Again he heard a voice, "So SHE would have you as a team mate to run counties on CW."

It is time to clean the radio shack. I get the shop vacuum and clean the floor. I put on the brush nozzle and go over all the equipment. That should do it until next year. I hear the barking of an internal combustion engine Gator is on the way. I check the cooler and it is empty. The pantry has a bag of popcorn. Going to be a long day. I hear Gator's truck slide to a stop at the recycled railroad tie. The ninety-six inch whip is slicing pecans thrown into the air by the squirrels.

I yell, "Come in Gator, but I have bad news." "Don't sweat it Dude, I got a case of Mike's Hard lemonade." Lemonade in a county hunters shack, I wait for the flash of light and total annihilation. Gator pops the top on a couple bottles and we take a swig. I look at he bottle and now know why we are still here. Gator gets the bag of popcorn from the pantry and asks, "You going to the county hunters Tennessee hoe down?"

"If you mean the Southeast Mini Convention in Murfreesboro the answer is yes." "You all cannot have any fun, I saw sign on the side of the bus that this is the year of the blues." I wash down a handful of popcorn with the lemonade, "Gator, that mean blues as in songs and music. You have heard of the blues." "Not really Dude but I have heard it associated with balls, must be a baseball term." I change the subject, "That Bill, KM4W, Bell sure knows how to do a mini." "DING-A-LING." "What Gator?" "That is what a bell does." I give Gator that CW stare,

"This Bell has a convention and a hospitality room that is first class." "Is he gonna have real beer this year?" "What you mean?" "Like Icehouse or Coors, the real stuff none of that light crap." "He will have both Gator, not all the attendees work CW." Gator gets two more lemonades.

I look at the calendar; the mini is only a few weeks away. Gator hands me a cool one, "You going to the Grand Ole Opry and BooHoo's?" "Not this year, the Opry is a once a decade event and I went last year. Gator gives me the same look of disbelief he had when he was told an ostrich's eye is bigger than it's brain. "The OPRY is a weekly event." "Calm down Gator and that restaurant is called Mary Bobo's. I do not plan to attend that either, the food is so good I eat too much. Instead I plan to discuss important things with the CW operators that also want to stay slim." "You mean get stoned." I give Gator a dirty look, "No I do not mean that." "Is Al going to be there?" Gator eyes roll back in genuine affection because Al is his CW idol. "I am sure he will be there, we always drink a toast to you." Gator leans back and raises his bottle, "To Al." There is a long buzz from Gator's belt area; thank goodness it is his pager. "Customers are calling, I have to go. Be sure to tell Al I know my code almost well enough to copy him. I will keep trying."

Gator is out the door and into the four-by-four. As he leaves the driveway I hear, "CW forever, talk is cheap because supply exceeds demand. " I yell, "If you have to vacuum the bed, it is time to change the sheets." Darn he is out of earshot. I also forgot to tell Gator I heard John, KE5C, a new mobile on the CW net. I will make a note. Speaking of notes I pick one up off the floor. Remind CW operators when a mobile calls QRZ to give your call once. Some mobiles take several calls at a time and to keep sending your call is not necessary and causes QRM. I make a note on the note to note this at the CW meeting at the mini convention. Hope Bill continues to forget to get hard lemonade for the tub. Amor vincit omnia.

***YOUR OTHER
FOR SALE ITEM
COULD HAVE BEEN HERE***

Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club

Treasurer's Report September 30, 2003

Funds Balance 8/31/03 \$25,784.87

Income:

Awards \$925.00
Dues \$623.00
Interest \$ 5.13

\$1,553.13

Expenses:

Gene Olig – expenses \$158.72
Robert Allen - SW Mini Convention \$300.00
Stafford Engraving - awards \$ 39.00
Print-Right, Inc newsletter & envelopes \$634.89

\$1,132.61
\$420.52

Account Balances: \$26,205.39

Money Market Account: \$24,770.85

Checking Account: \$1,434.54

\$26,205.39

Note:

The following monies are not included in the above:

Awards Chairman's Funds \$1,200.00
2003 Convention Chairman's Funds \$2,500.00
2004 Convention Chairman's Funds \$2,500.00

Hundreds Comment on Morse Petitions

(Oct 1, 2003) — Although the bell has sounded ending Round 1 of the comment period on the initial seven Morse code-related petitions for rulemaking, members of the Amateur Radio community continue to post their opinions. Some of the petitions called for altogether eliminating Element 1, the 5 WPM Morse test, from the Amateur Service rules (Part 97). At the conclusion of the official 30-day comment period, the FCC had recorded a total of nearly 2300 comments on the seven petitions. The number of commenters is likely much smaller, however, since many commented on each individual petition. While some were content to express a brief comment pro or con, a few put forth recommendations of their own that were nearly petitions in themselves. The tenor of the comments reflects the fact that Morse code remains an emotional issue for many

Major Awards Issued For The Month Of September

KD9ZP - Awards Manager

Award	Number
LC-1	283
LC-2	12
LC-3	8
All Others	17

Call	Date	Award	Number
WDX4KEF	9/21/03	5 Star	17
KD9ZP	9/2/03	BINGO	236
W7KQZ	9/26/03	BINGO	237
N6MJ	9/29/03	Last County Count	100 183
K0EVE	9/30/03	Last County Count	125 131
KE3VV	9/14/03	Last County Count	150 113
N9QPQ	9/14/03	Last County Count	200 78
KM9X	9/14/03	Last County Count	25 408
N7ID	9/14/03	Last County Count	275 46
W7GQK	9/30/03	Last County Count	50 265
N4CD	9/14/03	Last County Count	950 3
WD3P	9/6/03	USA-CW II	8
VE4AGT	9/3/03	Worked all Counties - 2nd Time	323
K0GO	9/4/03	Worked all Counties - 2nd Time	324
WD3P	9/6/03	Worked all Counties - 2nd Time	325
K0PFV	9/21/03	Worked all Counties - 2nd Time	326
N2NB	9/22/03	Worked all Counties - 2nd Time	327
KB7QP	7/25/88	Ran All USA - Trophy	1
W1TEE	6/29/91	Ran All USA - Trophy	2
WA0SBR	11/22/98	Ran All USA - Trophy	3
N4CD	7/20/02	Ran All USA - Trophy	4
K0GOP	10/15/02	Ran All USA - Trophy	5

Amateur Radio licensees

“The CW issue, as expected, is a very gut-wrenching issue for many hams,” ARRL Great Lakes Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, observed recently in response to concerns expressed by some members in his division. “Sometimes we mortals let issues to which we have emotional ties get out of perspective.”

(Reprinted in part from the ARRL WEB)

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 38560-9012

“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.