



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT



Bill K2NJ

Winter is just around the corner

Looking out across the back yard, the leaves are starting to change colors – Every morning now there is either frost or dew on the grass. Time to get on the tractor and give the lawn a short cutting in preparation for the leaves come flying down.

OK, he lost it... next is poetry... NOT! Time for antenna work... I am still waiting for the guy to come in and fix my septic system...He scheduled it for this spring, but it has been so dang wet here this year that he just could not get his heavy equipment into the yard and ... well, getting in is easy... out would be another story... I have to wait for him to come and go before I can put my beverages back up, since they are about 8 feet above the ground and cross the yard ... otherwise he will just go through them...

SO... I have my 80m Quarter wave vertical to put up... I plan on putting about a dozen quarter wave radials under it, along with 30 or so short ones (various lengths). That is why I want to cut the grass short... hell with the leaves... I want to be able to take a carpet knife and slit the ground (actually, Scott will do that) leading from the base of the vertical out – then lay the radials into these trenches... Now is the best time to put them down... it gives the grass (OK, weeds for those that have been here) all winter to recover from the slits and to grow over the radials... And it gives you the winter season with a good radial system... because inevitably you will have some loops hanging up (over rocks, etc) and the first mowing of the lawn... snip... more short radials.

I have heard many talks on how to put down raised radials... and how superior they are to radials on the ground or under it... but then, they are up in the air along with the beverages (and don't tell me they wont interact). You also have to duck under them and that is something Gail goes ballistic about...

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MINUTES

MARAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MEMBER MEETING

Date: October 8, 2003

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

The Officers present were:

- President Bill Inkrote K2NJ
Vice President Bob Voss N4CD
Secretary Norm Ellison W2LSH
Treasurer Jim Grandinetti KZ2P
Great Lakes Director Randy Davis N8ELQ
North Central Director John Robson WB9STT
Southeast Director Dave Splitt KE3VV
South Central Director Joyce Boothe WB9NUL
Pacific Director Robert t. Devine KC6AWX

The Members present were:

Hugh (K8GPC), Roger (W2NWL), Brian (NX0X)

Upon a motion by Joyce (WB9NUL) and seconded by Dave (KE3VV) the minutes of the Sept 10, 2003 meeting were approved. Roll call indicated 6 in favor, none opposed.

Upon a motion by Dave (KE3VV) and seconded by Joyce (WB9NUL) the Treasurer's report of September 30, 2003 was accepted. Roll call indicated 5 in favor, 1 abstention and none opposed.

OLD BUSINESS A: None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS A: Norm (W2LSH) moved to deny a request by a member of MARAC to be allowed to pay half of the Membership dues amount and half of the charges on his Award applications. Second by Dave (KE3VV). Roll call indicated 7 in favor to deny the request, none opposed.

B. Acceptance of the Native American Award from Duane (WV2B). Dave (KE3VV) moved that MARAC accept the offer of the Native American Counties Award from WV2B, and refer the award to the Awards Committee for a recommendation on incorporating it into the MARAC awards. The seven recipients of the WV2B award will be grand fathered in (Continued on page 3)

(President Continued from page 1)

Fall season shows the bands improve here in the Northern Hemisphere – for DX-ing that is... It will also stabilize for domestic contacts (yea, like there wont be any fallouts like this week... 40 went entirely). Atmospheric noise should subsidize in the next month or so as the Thunder Storms go away in most of the continent. This is the season for Radio... Time to get out while the weather is still nice and do all those repairs and improvements on your antennas that you have been putting off all summer... No time like the present, because soon it will be just too cold or snowy to do it...

When you think antennas for domestic work, you must first forget everything you have been told about antennas – remember, most hams put up antennas to work DX. Higher the better... *If it lasts the winter, it was not big enough... yada yada...* When thinking domestic, think diversity and LOW

I have been toying with the idea of putting up a very LOW loop for 20 Meters. Put it about 14 foot above the ground (Point 2 wavelengths). I want to also bury directly under this loop another loop, about 7% longer (This will act like a reflector – again put it in the ground again). The reason for this strange antenna is simple... I want to squirt my signal straight up in the air... **AND straight back down**... This configuration should give very low noise (quad loops are notorious for very low noise) and using the loop also gives modest 2.4 dB gain over a dipole. Great to work in close stuff I cant hear with the beam.

As a youth I put antennas up like this for 40 and 80 Meters (didn't bury the reflector, just laid it on the ground for the weekends and kept the dogs in the house) for Sweepstakes Contest weekends. This produced in close contacts (in the North East, that is your bread and butter in this heavy population density) with a monster signal. Every other antenna out there is designed to give you a very low angle of radiation – to work DX... but in the SS you want close stuff. So taking this from my memory, I decided to do something like this for a secondary antenna for County Hunting. It will also give me a jump start on the dozen or so counties I still need on 20M and they are all in close.

Now I don't have a lot of property to put these antennas up on ... I have a 2 Acre lot, and many years ago I planted trees in strategic places around the lot. These trees (along with the tower) give me plenty of

places to attach wire/rope etc... With Gail's one rule that any wires not be low enough to choke you...

The point I am trying to make here is that you don't have to invest a ton of money to purchase antennas (especially for county hunting). If you have some room – put up a vertical – if you have more room and something tall – put up a dipole or inverted Vee (assuming you don't have the desire or permission to put up a tower and beam) If you have a few trees... try a horizontal loop...

I was out with Roger (W2NWL) a few weeks ago (he lives near my Mom, and when I visit her, I get in touch with Roger and Rose to join us for Chinese) and in that retirement community they don't allow antennas. I asked him why he doesn't put up a bird feeder.. (I know they allow them, my Dad had one (with his CB antenna inside))... Just put up a vertical antenna (hustler, K8CW, whatever) and cover it with PVC pipe. Put a cross arm at the top (or middle) and fasten eye bolts and loop some rope through them and drop a birdfeeder or two from it. Slit the ground and put some radials under it... and bury your coax into the house (remember a cute trick, make a loop in the coax before it comes into the house – that keeps water from running down it)... Other than the cost of a mobile antenna (better even if you get a quarter wave high, that is 16 foot on 20M – big bird feeder) it only cost you a few dollars extra to hide it in PVC – and it gives you the extra joy of watching those birds all winter long (and they appreciate the food).

Antennas don't have to cost a bunch... 32 foot of wire gets you a dipole on 20M... that and a few dollars worth of coax (I use RG8/x mini RG8) and you have a descent antenna. 16 foot of aluminum tubing (two ten foot lengths, with 4 feet nested inside the bigger one) and you have a dynamite vertical antenna... and if you can mount that on top of a garage, house, tree, pole whatever... it works even better (don't use Orange Radial wire on a white roof as I did... no matter how good it works, XYL's don't appreciate it).

If you have a tree out back and can get a fishing line over it... hang 16 foot of wire from that fishing line vertically – attach the coax at the bottom of it and put XX radials under it. If it is 10 or so foot off the ground, then 4 radials will do (fan out horizontally from the feed point, and use a string to tie the feed towards ground). If you put it up with the feed point on the ground, then

(President Continued on page 3)

(President continued from page 2)

the more radials the better (and don't forget the ground rod)..

If you are lucky to have a vertical, a high dipole and a low dipole then you have all three possibilities covered and you will have much better luck working everything from DX to your neighbors. And this antenna system will probably be a weekend project and cost you under a hundred dollars (coax will be your main cost). If you have room put up dipoles for various directions... all these antennas brought into the shack into a good coaxial switch and you're in seventh heaven...

Remember one of our old stalwarts Ella, W0AYL. She used to run the net all the time and she had nothing but wire antennas and a hundred watts (or so I have been told).

I hope to be out mobile a bunch more in the next few weeks. I have the 2 bands now working on the car (40/20) pretty good – still have not been able to get low SWR on both ends of the band, so I will be running QRP down on the CW net till I get it licked (Gail, For Christmas an new antenna tuner would be nice... Or make that the door prize down your way Joyce... hi hi)...

I want to thank those that phoned me, or wrote to me, or E-mailed me about last month's column. You're encouragement means a lot.

73'

Bill K2NJ

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

Marac # Call Name Address Cnty E mail

R-3097 K6CA Tim Hoy PO Box 3734 La Mesa, CA
91944-3734 San Diego K6ca@arrl.net

R-3098 K2RP Ron Pollack 659 Shanas Encinitas,
CA 92024 San Diego K2rp@arrl.net

R-3099 NN9K Peter E Beedlow 741 Greenway Ave.
Colona, IL 61241-9337 Henry nn9k@arrl.net

Minutes (continued)

as the first 7 recipients of the MARAC award. Second by Joyce (WB9NUL). Roll call indicated 8 in favor, none opposed.

C. Norm (W2LSH) moved that MARAC purchase a new color printer to be used by the MARAC Awards Manager. The cost to be approximately \$250.00. Second by Bob (KC6AWX). Roll call indicated 7 in favor, none opposed.

OPEN MEETING Nothing at this time.

With no further Business to come before the Board, Dave (KE3VV) moved that we adjourn. Seconded by Bob (N4CD), the motion Carried, 5 in favor, none opposed. We adjourned at 08:15pm EDT.

Respectfully Submitted,

Norm Ellison W2LSH

Secretary, MARAC

“The Old. Tyme Radio Quiz”

Written by: Ross Gam

Produced by: Alan Young K6KLL

1. Basil Rathbone portrayed what fictional detective on radio (and in 17 movies)?
2. One actor played the role of Chester during the eight years “Gunsmoke” aired on CBS Radio. His Name?
3. What popular radio comedian provided the voices of Willie Lump Lump, Cauliflower McPhee and Junior on his weekly show?
4. Gale Gordon Delighted millions of listeners for his roles in three radio series. What were they?
5. Danish-born actor Jean Hersholt was best known to radio audiences by the name of the character he portrayed on CBS radio for almost 17 Years. That was:
6. What broadcast personality was: The Happy Postman on “Burns and Allen” Professor LeBlanc on “The Jack Benny Show “ The barber on “The Great Gildersleeve”

(Answers on page9)

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

DATELINE CW**By Ed, KN4Y****“A CW county hunter is always better than a book.”**

The twenty-third running of the Southeast Mini convention is in the history books. I plan to stop at the shack and drop off the logs generated on this trip. I turn off the main road and notice Gator's four-by-four in the driveway. I honk the horn and it sounds like I stepped on the tail of a cat. What ever happened to the horn having that take notice sound? Reckon it is the offshoot result of affirmative action. I stop at the recycled railroad tie and open the van door as Gator opens the shack door. He gives me a high five.

Welcome back home county hunter Dude, I have got everything ready. The rig is on 14.056.5 KHZ; the cooler is full and iced down, and a fresh pot of boiled goobers. I want to hear all about the convention.” I go into the shack, pop a couple cool ones, give one to Gator. “What do you want to know?” “Everything, did Al ask about me? Did you have a CW meeting? Did...” “Calm down Gator, sit down and I will tell you about the mini convention. Gator takes the stainless steel pot strainer and dips out some peanuts from the boiling salt mixture. A boiled peanut must cool for a minute otherwise the lips blister. Gator sits down and makes the universal zipped lip gesture. I take another cooling sip and begin my discourse.

“I got there on Thursday afternoon, checked in and took my suitcase to my room. I freshened up and went to the hospitality room. It was obvious I was not the first to arrive and soon I too was trying to top the previous story. CH and BS are synonymous. Not all the news was good. Bob, K9DAF, became a silent key.” We bow our heads and say rest in peace my friend.

“Did you see AL?” “Yes Gator, Al and I downed a few beers in you honor.” Gators eyes glaze over with admiration. Al, Clinton and Gator are from Arkansas, the butterball trio. I point to the cooler and continue, “There were 148 county hunters registered and 137 planning to go to the banquet.” I open and eat a handful of boiled peanuts as Gator pops the top on the barley of life. “Did you have a CW meeting and did AL run it?”

“Yes Gator we had a CW meeting and No Gator Al did not run it. Bob N4CD was the moderator.

*(continued on page 6)***“My First State QSO Party - Mobile”***Phil Yasson AB7RW*

About ten days before the Washington Salmon Run, I told my wife Barbara AC7UH that we were going mobile on 20/21 September during the WSR Contest. She immediately said, “OK.”

The planning began. I laid out a route to cover the western part of the state, where the scenery is excellent, there are lots of people, gas stations and restaurants. I sent my county list to the contest planner, Ward Silver NOAX. He replied that two other mobiles had already stated they would cover the west end and suggested that I should consider the southern and eastern part of the state. After couple of hours of mulling over the maps, the route was born. Barbara and I went over it a couple of more times. I decided to begin the contest on the east end of Skamania County, go a short distance to Klickitat, then head east and north.

We left the house later than planned, a sign that the rest of the day would be off track. I decided to get on the County Hunter frequency of 14056 kHz and give out counties enroute to Skamania. I started with Clark as soon as we got on I205 heading to Portland. Before I knew it, Barbara yelled “Multnomah, OR” at mid span of the Glenn Jackson Bridge. We turned east on I84 into the beautiful Columbia Gorge. This route was selected because US14 on the Washington side also follows the Columbia River; it is one lane each way, with lots of hills, sharp curves, very slow driving, and very dangerous. We traveled I84 to the Hood River Bridge where we crossed the Columbia River again and into Skamania County. We finally found a decent, safe place to park, and I immediately started tapping out a CQ. After about ten minutes it was obvious that I had not received any responses, so we went up the mountain to about 2,500 feet. Still nothing, even the Douglas firs were quiet. So I gave up on Skamania and we drove about two miles into Klickitat County, then half way up the hill to White Salmon at about 1,500 feet altitude. We parked in an abandoned gas station lot. The responses to my CQ were immediate with a pileup which gave me a comfortable feeling that the equipment was operating as it should. I was using an Icom 706 MKGII2 into a High Sierra antenna. When contacts ceased, we left under the watchful eyes of someone who appeared to be wondering what we had up our sleeves.

(continued on page 5)

My First (continued)

We crossed the Columbia River, picked up I84 and headed east. I got back on the County Hunter freq giving out the next six Oregon counties in our trek to Benton, County, WA and back to the SR Contest.

After we passed Pasco, WA and into Walla Walla County, it was all back roads, one lane in each direction, no towns, no people, just golden dry wheat or straw fields. A few trees were visible, especially where the area was irrigated. Southeastern Washington is quite desolate with some very striking scenery.

Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon were reformed about 14,000 years ago when an ice dam in the Missoula area burst, unleashing a flood that was 400 miles long, 2,000 feet deep having more water than Lake Erie and Lake Ontario combined. It unleashed 520 cubic miles of water. Water was 500 feet deep in some areas. Portland, Oregon was under 400 feet of water. The flood made the Palouse, Columbia Basin, and Willamette Valley very fertile lands that produce the fruit, vegetables, and grain that have made Washington and Oregon famous.

We continued through Columbia County, then Garfield. Garfield was quite a county, after ten minutes of no response, I finally searched for any station, came across K7TQ who was also in Garfield. The county has 2-3,000 foot hills, called coulees, on both sides of the road making communications very challenging. The interesting item in Whitman County occurred as we were heading north to Dusty, WA, where we would turn left and begin to head west. The only part of Dusty we saw was a grain storage facility and two small buildings along the side of the road. Upon investigation we found two well-maintained outhouses. About fifty miles to the west, was another pair of outhouses.

We motored along to Connell, WA, where we spent the night at one of the two motels in town. The price was right and there were very good restaurants within walking distance.

We were on the road at 9 AM Sunday. The trip through the Columbia Plateau, with SR activity in areas where communications were not blocked by mountains was very uneventful. West of Yakima along the Tieton River, there were hundreds of people rafting. While it was definitely white water rafting, it didn't look very rough. There were buses and automobiles parked all along the road for the next three or more miles.

We stopped at White Pass, elevation 4,500 feet, to eat the lunch we purchased in a Yakima grocery. White Pass is a ski resort on the Pacific Crest Trail located on the boundary between the William O Douglas and Goat Rocks Wilderness areas. The lunch was excellent, the air was nice and fresh, and it did not take the yellow jackets long to find us. I shared part of my sandwich with them so we became friends. The temperature was 58 degrees.

We were soon in Lewis County, still surrounded by high mountains when a beautiful view of Mount Rainier appeared right in front of us. Because of our location and the angle, it seemed like we were on top of it instead of some sixty miles away. Mt Rainer was all decked out in her year-round blanket of snow glistening in the bright sunlight. We continued through Lewis County, about 110 miles of it from east to west. We picked up I5 south and headed for home where we arrived twenty minutes before the contest ended. I was happy that we had been on the air for most of the contest. Barbara was happy, because we were able to make it to the symphony in Portland that evening.

Altogether we covered 735 miles, transmitted CW in fourteen Washington counties for 226 QSO's and 7 Oregon counties for another 55 contacts. I learned that it is near to impossible to use a hand key for CW on washboard roads and going over expansion joints on the bridges where the roadway is lower than the bridge. We both enjoyed the trip. Perhaps next year, Barbara will do SSB in the SR and I'll pinpoint the county lines as I drive along. 73's AB7RW/AC7UH

November Birthdays

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| W2NWL November 1 | VE9DH November 1 |
| N5DWI November 3 | W7TSM November 3 |
| WA2AKB November 4 | KA3MMM November 4 |
| N1API November 6 | WU4S November 6 |
| KW0U November 7 | NT9V November 10 |
| NX4W November 10 | W5UGD November 11 |
| WB9STT November 13 | N4XML November 13 |
| WB0AXN November 13 | K8GPC November 13 |
| WA5AUR November 16 | KA9FDV November 16 |
| N7LYR November 17 | W4XT November 17 |
| WB2AXG November 17 | WB9ZHS November 17 |
| NF0N November 18 | W7LQT November 20 |
| W7WBZ November 22 | W5ETM November 23 |
| KK7X November 23 | VE1BES November 24 |

(CW continued)

The CW meeting turned into a sideband meeting.” Gator, looks like a county hunter who just realized Maine is the only state whose name is just one syllable. He runs out the door, this news is too much even for Gator’s cast iron stomach. Gator returns and sits in the recliner; a few boiled peanuts should settle him down. “The meeting did not last long, Barry said it was time for his meeting. “Barry who?” “Was your Mother a owl? I said jokingly. “You remember I told you about Barry, W9UCW, and his antenna forum.” “I remember now he is the Dude that does not believe the signal comes off the end of the antenna. But we know better.” I ignore Gator and continue.

“There was also a bus load of county hunters who went to the Grand Ole Opry.” At the mention of the Grand Ole Opry.” Gator comes alive. “Did you go” “No” Gator stares at me in disbelief. “I went last year Gator, changes are made at the Opry once a decade.” Gator watches Opry on TV every week, He cannot accept the fact a person would not go to the Grand Ole Opry.” “I would have gone,” Gator grunts as he gets two more cool ones. He yells, “Did that Ralph, WB4FFV, Dude set the trip up?” “Yes, or his XYL, but in either case it was a event well planned.” “How about the Boo Boo mobile ride.” “It is a great meal at the Mary Bobo’s restaurant and yes Herb, W9GBH, again took a bunch to lunch.” “You be a poet and don’t know it.”

“How about ding-ding?” I pop Gator on the head, “Bill Bell, KM4W, is going to ring your chimes if you show up at next years convention scheduled for October 14,15,16, 2004.” “I will be there if I get my license.” Bill is safe I mutter under my breath. “I have some good news and some bad news. The good new is Bill Nash owner and operator of the B&B Shop attended the convention. The bad news is the B&B Shop is closing down. The shop was very active when I became a county hunter. Good luck in your next adventure Bill.” Gator looks at me, “Bill is not here.” “I know Gator, it a spiritual expression of good fortune.”

Gator’s pager rumbles. “I have customers and addiction waits for no man. (Gator makes, refines, and sells moonshine for those who just tuned in), Gator is out the door and soon the quiet stillness of a October evening is shattered as Gator’s four-by-four springs to life. Gators yells, “Did you know bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of checks?”

I yell back, “In Arkansas the movie houses have a sign that reads, do not talk to the characters on the screen. Tests have shown they can’t hear you.” He gives me the New York cabbie salute. Finally got the last jab in. I go back into the shack. I shut off the burner before the peanuts get mushy.

It is sad but Gator is right, addiction is a harsh taskmaster. Bob, K9DAF, was a smoker and it resulted in his demise. Damn! I have had too many cool ones; I am beginning to sound like a preacher. Joyce, WB9NUL, announced the MARAC convention is July 2004 at Weslaco, Texas. But who cares, right now I need a nap.

Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club Treasurer’s Report October 31, 2003

Funds Balance 9/30/03 \$26,205.39

Income:

Awards \$1,274.00
Dues \$ 960.00
Interest \$5.43
\$2,239.43

Expenses:

Gene Olig – expenses \$474.05
Roger Purdy - printer toner \$104.93
Fairmont Awards - awards \$546.50
Stafford Engraving - awards \$39.00
Print-Right, Inc – newsletter & envelopes \$536.41
\$1,700.89
\$538.54

Account Balances \$26,743.93

Money Market Account \$24,776.28
Checking Account \$1,967.65
\$26,743.93

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

Your Help Is Needed

I'm looking to compile an accurate current list of Big Rigs, YLs and Teams. I am not looking for any historical data but instead am looking to compile a current list as of today. Rather than start from scratch I've compiled the following lists from my own logbook which I'd appreciate your assistance in updating. I am sure there are mistakes!

Please note that although the MARAC Team award is for OM/YL Teams only. I'd like to collect data on any 2 station teams. However I would classify a team as two stations that operate more then 50% of their mobile contacts together. Also note that the order of the callsigns on each row of the team list is not significant in any way.

Here are the lists I've compiled so far. Please send any additions, deletions and corrections to me at nj2dx@yahoo.com. Thanks and 73, Tom NJ2DX

| YL List | | Team List: | |
|---------|---------------------|------------|--------|
| AB2LS | W5MAR | AA9JJ | N9QPQ |
| WB5TWK | W6XJN | AE5EA | WB5MEU |
| WB5YAI | W7AXY | AF8CS | WB8FBG |
| WB8FBG | W9XYL | K3MT | KF4LGR |
| AD5JS | WB2AXG | K4ELK | KD4NFE |
| K0GO | WB3JDC | K5WTA | WB5TWK |
| K5BKT | WB5TWK | K6JN | W6XJN |
| K9FDL | WB5YAI | K9IA | W9XYL |
| KA1QBC | WB8FBG | KA1JPR | KA1QBC |
| KA4TYG | WB9NUL | KB6HW | W6YLJ |
| KA9QKN | WD9HAM | KB9ER | WD9HAM |
| KB0MHH | | KD8HA | KD8HB |
| KB6HW | | KD9ZP | K9FDL |
| KB9MGI | Big Rig List | KG0BB | W0DSY |
| KC0FXL | AG4IF | KJ5PQ | KG5UZ |
| KC0QER | K6TEX | KJ8V | KJ8W |
| KC5UO | KC1NA | KM9X | KB9MGI |
| KC8HWV | KC8MCX | KZ2P | N2FPM |
| KD4NFE | KK7X | N0DIA | KC0JG |
| KD8HB | N8MYC | N1BY | KQ9X |
| KF4LGR | N9VIB | N7ID | W7AXY |
| KI0JD | N9WLJ | N8IPG | K8OOK |
| KJ5PQ | VE3ACV | N9HRX | NT9V |
| KJ8F | WB4FFV | NV4Z | N3ISH |
| KJ8W | WC0PD | NV6I | NV6L |
| N1FJR | WH6A | NW6S | K4YL |
| N2FPM | | NX0X | KB0MHH |
| N4ODI | | W0DFK | WW0G |
| N4TPH | | W0NAC | KC0QER |
| N6GLI | | W5UJO | KC5UO |
| N7VZE | | W5VD | K0GO |
| N8IPG | | W7LQT | W7WBZ |
| N9HRX | | W9SUQ | KA9QKN |
| N9QPQ | | WA0JCE | KC0FXL |
| N9STL | | WA2AKB | AB2LS |
| NV4Z | | WA3ZTY | WB3JDC |
| NV6L | | WB2AXG | K2NJ |
| W0NAN | | WB9NUL | W9UCW |

Database Printouts Available

KD9ZP

Awards Manager

I am now in a position to provide a up-to-date printout of the MARAC database as used on the MARAC website.

The printout consists of:

- **Award Rules**
- **MARAC Members** – Past and Present listed by Call Area. This printout has Names, Addresses, Email Address, and number of stars including BINGO
- **Stars** – List of all Calls having at least one Star with their number. List sorted by Call.
- **List of Stars by Number** – Complete list of all Stars in numerical order.

The printout is printed on two sides (Duplexed) using 3 hole punch paper suitable for inserting in a 3 hole binder supplied by the user.

Cost:

\$5 for MARAC Members – This includes \$3.85 for Priority Mail shipping
\$10 for non Members

Make check out to MARAC Awards and mail to :

MARAC Awards
P.O Box 2295
Fond du Lac, WI
54936-2295

MARAC Board Meeting Schedule for 2003-04

Nov 12, Dec 10

2004

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

KC3X presents County Hunting Program To Amateur Radio club.

Dave, W4YDY

Hollis Thigpen, KC3X, presented a program about county hunting to the Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club (BARC) in Greenville, NC (Pitt County) at their October 14th meeting. He had a computer slide show and demonstrated the KWIKLOG county hunting program. He has presented the program to over 20 Amateur Radio clubs.

Hollis first gave a brief history of county hunting and answered eight questions. His first question asked "What is County Hunting?" He explained the CQ Magazine awards program and how it worked. He talked about the many awards offered by the Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club (MARAC). He had many of his awards on display in the meeting room so they could be viewed after the presentation. Second he explained where to find the county hunters, the frequencies, bands, etc. He also covered the operation of the nets. Third, he discussed the fact that fixed stations do not check into the net. The only stations required to check in are the mobiles that are going to put out counties. After the mobiles start running a county, how to make a contact and required information to complete the contact was the fourth question covered. He explained that a valid signal report between the two stations were required to be acknowledged for a valid contact on the county hunter nets.

CQ Magazine requires confirmed contacts so confirming 3077 counties can get expensive. Hollis passed out a sample Mobile Reply Card (MRC) and discussed how they were filled out. He also said that a lot of postage could be saved by using MRC's. That answered the fifth question. Sixth, "Is there a QSL bureau for County Hunting?" He talked about the operations of two county hunting QSL bureaus, CHARS in Virginia and MRCS in California and how they could save more postage. For the seventh question, he covered information for obtaining MRC's and other supplies. Last, Hollis talked about where to find more information about county hunting. He explained the web sites that are available with information, forums, trip information and counties needed by others. The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club web site has links to the county hunter sites at <http://www.qsl.net/w4amc/hamlinks.html#Operating>.

Hollis also had slides of his mobile installation showing the Kenwood TS-50 transceiver and his tri-band (40-20-15) antenna system on his truck. He can change bands without retuning so when Hollis changes bands, he is usually waiting for you! He explained the extensive antenna grounding system he uses on his antenna and had pictures of how he bonded the truck body with extensive ground straps. The final picture was of Hollis sitting tall on his Harley-Davidson!

After taking several more questions from the audience, he demonstrated the KWIKLOG program by Willis, KJ4EJ. He explained the many awards that the program tracked and various other functions of the program. After the meeting adjourned, many of the BARC members viewed Hollis's awards that were displayed on several tables. There were about a dozen plaques and several certificates. Hollis lost about half of his awards he had stored in this area during the Hurricane Floyd flood that hit us in 1999.

Hollis presented an excellent program about county hunting and his audience was very interested and attentive to his presentation. Several commented after the program how much they enjoyed it and how they had learned that county hunting can be very involved with the many types of awards offered by MARAC. Also, the next day, others commented to me that they enjoyed the program and didn't realize there were so many facets to county hunting.



MARAC 2nd Quarter Ballot
Votes accepted thru
December 31st.

You are voting for Net Controls who ran the net and Mobiles
that ran in the 2nd Quarter Which are the months of
Sept, Oct and November
1 Vote per Quarter – PLEASE

Call Sign* _____ Election Key* _____

Please put **EITHER** your call sign or Election Key Code above.

Annual Award For: 1st Choice 2nd Choice
 Best Net Control - SSB: _____
 Best Net Control - CW: _____
 Best Mobile - SSB: _____
 Best Mobile - CW: _____
 Best Team(Enter Call1/Call2): _____

Mail To: Chuck Theisen, K9IA, Elections Coordinator
N5563 County Road K.
Fond Du lac Mi, 54935

Major Awards Issued For
The Month Of October
KD9ZP - Awards Manager

| Award | Number |
|------------|--------|
| LC-1 | 365 |
| LC-2 | 11 |
| LC-3 | 21 |
| All Others | 13 |

| Call | Date | Award | Number |
|--------|----------|-----------------------|---------------|
| WB2ABD | 10/8/03 | Last County Count 75 | 200 |
| NE9DH | 10/8/03 | Last County Count 100 | 184 |
| N8KIE | 10/10/03 | Last County Count 25 | 409 |
| KJ5PQ | 10/10/03 | Last County Count 625 | 7 |
| AI5P | 10/10/03 | Last County Count 575 | 11 |
| WA0YFQ | 10/10/03 | Last County Count 150 | 114 |
| WB9STT | 10/10/03 | YL Mobile | 2832 Counties |
| KN6ZB | 10/10/03 | BINGO | 238 |

| | | | |
|--------|----------|--------------------------------|-----|
| N4UJK | 10/13/03 | BINGO III | 3 |
| VE4AGT | 10/14/03 | Last County Count 25 | 410 |
| K5GE | 10/14/03 | Last County Count 150 | 115 |
| N3HOO | 10/14/03 | Last County Count 25 | 411 |
| KS5A | 10/14/03 | Last County Count 50 | 266 |
| AA9JJ | 10/14/03 | Last County Count 350 | 28 |
| NV4Z | 10/14/03 | Last County Count 50 | 267 |
| KB0FQC | 10/14/03 | Last County Count 100 | 185 |
| KC3X | 10/22/03 | Last County Count 275 | 47 |
| W3ZUH | 10/22/03 | Last County Count 50 | 268 |
| K5TVC | 10/22/03 | Last County Count 50 | 269 |
| KC0JG | 10/22/03 | Last County Count 400 | 25 |
| N4UJK | 10/22/03 | 5 Star | 18 |
| NX4W | 10/24/03 | Last County Count 50 | 270 |
| AE3Z | 10/25/03 | Worked all Counties - 3rd Time | 173 |
| N9QPQ | 10/30/03 | Last County Count 225 | 61 |
| N8OYY | 10/30/03 | Last County Count 100 | 186 |
| N1OMS | 10/31/03 | Last County Count 25 | 412 |

USA-CA Numbers For October

KIBV - CQ Awards

| Call | Award Date | Certificate Number |
|--------|------------|--------------------|
| W8OP | 10/2/03 | 1077 |
| VK3CB | 10/2/03 | 1078 |
| N1BY | 10/9/03 | 1080 |
| DJ4GJ | 10/15/03 | 1081 |
| WB2AXG | 10/31/03 | 1082 |

Answers: Quiz on page 3

1. Sherlock Holmes 2.Parley Baer 3. Red Skelton
- 4."Our Miss Brooks" as Osgood Conklin "My Favorite Husband" as Rudolph Aterbury "Gregory Hood" in the title role 5. Dr. Christian 6. Mel Blanc

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.