



THE COUNTY LINE

ROADRUNNER



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Number 12

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Bill K2NJ



Evolution vs.. Revolution

I am just getting over the CQWW contest and I am reflecting back on how I began contesting... It's not that I think I can ever win – hell, I cant even crack the top ten in the second call area very often... Then why do I knock myself out for nothing? It's a two fold answer... I am a member of the Frankford Radio Club – a contesting club. My score is folded in with the score of all other members and the club competes (very favorable to say) with other clubs. But put aside the Rah Rah Rah and the Pom-Pom's – I do it because it is the fastest way to work the most stations – and thus fill my QSL file with tons of paper that I probably do not need... but it was the way to get my DLD award from Germany, the 5XWAS, 5XDXCC, DXCC (top honor roll)... etc. etc... You will work more stations in these weekends than you work in an average six months without contests... Many of these stations are on DX-peditions – putting out countries that normally would not be on the air...

When I started contesting – I used a pencil and paper to log... Duping (making sure you didn't work the same station twice on the same band) was done also with paper and pencil... it was tedious and was harder to do than actually working the station (thus lots of people ran without duping during the contest and did it afterwards – sorta like some of the guys who work me in Hunterdon county 27 times I guess – they work everyone everywhere and then check to see if they needed it)...

Then came elementary duping software... Long before the commodore C64 Back when people would build their 4K Computers - I used to run the contest – then take my logs over to Bernie's house (not a ham, but a computer geek)... and we drank coffee and I read the log – he typed... we waited for the computer to digest this one... then did the next one... Night after Night for a week or so... Then moved to the next band (it actually

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MINUTES

MARAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MEMBER MEETING

November 12, 2003

The Meeting of the MARAC Board of Directors was called to order at 08:02 PM EST (0102Z) by Bill (K2NJ).

The Officers present were:

President: Bill Inkrote – K2NJ

Secretary: Norm Ellison — W2LSH

Treasurer: Jim Grandinetti – KZ2P

Great Lakes Director : Randy Davis – N8ELQ

North Central Director: John Robson – WB9STT

Southeast Director: David Splitt – KE3VV

The Members present were:

Percy (KA1JPR), Hugh K8GPC, and Brian (NX0X)

Upon a motion by John (WB9STT) and seconded by Jim (KZ2P) the minutes of the October 8, 2003 meeting were approved. Roll call indicated 5 in favor, none opposed.

Upon a motion by Dave (KE3VV) and seconded by John (WB9STT) the Treasurer's report of October 31, 2003 was accepted. Roll call indicated 4 in favor, 1 abstention and none opposed.

OLD BUSINESS

A: None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

A: None at this time

OPEN MEETING

Nothing at this time.

With no further Business to come before the Board Dave (KE3VV) moved that we adjourn. Seconded by Norm W2LSH the motion Carried, 5 in favor, none opposed.

We adjourned at 8:09 EDT.

Respectfully Submitted,
Norm Ellison W2LSH
Secretary, MARAC

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took longer to do this than work the contest) then we would get a printout (on a strip of coated paper, electro printed – sorta like a cash register receipt)... I would tape this onto a normal size piece of paper and send it in with my logs... I was king of the hill... Way ahead of my time... I never had a single dupe caught by the log checkers...

The next step came along with specialized contesting software – you used it real time during the contest (this came about the same time as the IBM-PC came alive). You could type a call in and it would tell you if you need to work him or not... Hey, brainless contesting... As more computing power became available – the newest logging software was not far behind. Today on a CW/RTTY the software actually reads the signal from your receiver and displays it on the screen – color coded... Red=dupe Green=Needed and get this... YELLOW=New Multiplier... You sit back in your lounge chair with only the mouse – pointing and clicking... as you watch your score going up and up... Not only the stuff you are hearing is feeding the computer, but you're getting feeds on the 2 Meter Packet cluster – AND the internet... No longer are you sitting there all by yourself in your shack... you're linked to every other contester. You work something neat, you hit the F3 key and you automatically announce it to the world... who – where – and if he is split or whatever, all taken from the PC in your radio to your PC to the world... No thinking, just point and shoot.

The contest scores have gone up by ten fold since some innovative testers came up with their specialized logging software... Anyone can get in for an hour or a day or the entire contest and optimize their time and the ability of their station. It makes an average operator better than the super stars were back in the 60's.

But you say... What does this have to do with county hunting?

Well Grasshopper... (to steal a line) I was thinking wouldn't this be nice to automate the county hunting software like we have done with the contest stuff? Gene and his crew are working overtime now on the MARAC Kwiklog release – how nice it would be to have an internet link (like our chat room??? – hint.. hint) where we could announce who is where and when... and have the software pull this stuff, checkout if you need it – and make the bells and whistles go off in the shack when you need something?

But before we hop from leaf to leaf, we have to move up from the primordial slime... and crawl upon the earth...

Jim and I have used the chat-room from time to time when we are running the net... I understand the boys coordinated on the chat-room during the run to 3M who was doing what on 20/40 so they didn't miss anything... So I am proposing that during the day people log onto the web site... and when someone runs something they announce it on there. This could be the humble start we need...

During the highlights on Six meters there is a web site we all hang on... let the band bump a little and 200 people know it... we are chatting around the world there and busting each-other's things (no, I won't say it)... but let the band bounce a bit... someone clicks on the ANNOUNCE button (and fill in the line)... the type on the next line turns to **RED** and **DX 50.110 DX4YOU** shows up... instantly 200 people are swinging their antennas in the direction of DX4 land...

Now if we can move our clocks ahead 10 years... MARAC R76-version of the software would automatically monitor the internet... mute your receiver (no sense listening to the net any longer). Someone would be running Cook County Illinois... the NCS running you would fill in his log and hit the F3 key when he starts the mobile running... which would automatically announce the mobile to the world on the internet – everywhere people using this software (or another version of logging software) their receiver would unmute... bells would go off and a electric shock would wake them up from their lounge chair (where they fell asleep in front of the TV)... they would run to the bathroom (yes, we are getting older aren't we?)... then come down to the shack and work the station running... push the ALT-F27 key and it would automatically log the stuff... your receiver would mute again, you can go back up and watch where you paused the cable TV... Hell, you may never have to listen to the net again...

Just think of this... You could vacuum the house, wash dishes, cut the lawn... paint the garage, groom the dogs and NEVER miss another county – You would wake up in the middle of the night (electro shock could be installed in the bedroom besides your lounge chair)... Then even people traveling at night would have pileups...

Wait a minute... this is R7-version ... The newest release of the software... The human is no longer

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needed... you would have already recorded your voice prints into the computer. The software now gets a feed from your receiver and knows how strong the station is – software could automatically compare the signal to noise ratio and know if the signal is great enough to be a 5 or weak enough to be a Two – it would work the station for you ... (of course it would recognize your call – knowing if he came back to you or someone else)... and on CW this would be even easier – no hefty voice recognition software is needed... it would read what is being sent and adjust accordingly your sending speed.. work the guy and log it... Hold on again... Why only think of SSB and CW.. W0NAC is way out there already... he is working /M PSK31 – why not have our own PSK31 Frequency – no sense wasting bandwidth with SSB or even CW.

Just think, you could come home after a great day of golf and see what new stuff YOU worked... Look at the possibilities... you could look at your log and see what you need... then go out on vacation and put out these counties... your home station would work you and so on and so on... Even the mobile stations could have this ability... with their new Minternet connections (Mobile Internet)... with GPS – hell, they don't even have to watch the road any more... point and shoot...

You would never have to listen to the net... Nobody would ask the NCW who ran – where – when... No longer would you see the post's on Don's web wondering who you really worked... You would not have to ask to move the mobile to ask him where he is going next... or if he is gonna hit XYZ county... you could just type it and it would pop up on his screen, not taking valuable net time... The next version of the software would also automate the NCS job... of course with a New Jersey accent... How bout that?

But in the mean time, if people would start to use the technology available to them – populate the chat room... have fun.. who knows where the future would lead us? We would also have the benefit of having time to chit-chat there, getting to know each-other a little better than just exchanging 22's.....

While I am at it... I hope that everyone has a great holiday – lets hope that peace will finally come to us in every way we wish for it. Happy 2004, C U next year.
73'Bill K2NJ

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

Marac # Call Name Address Cnty E mail

R-3100 WY0A Rory D Porter 703 S. Jefferson
Wellington, KS 67152 Sumner
armandhammer@yahoo.com

R-3101 KC0QER Sharon E Matthew 13164
Peacock Drive Littleton, CO 80124-2622 Douglas
woskag@comcast.net

R-3102 AI4X Kevin C Wise 205 Rock Springs
Road Makanda, IL 62958 Jackson kcwise@siu.edu

R-3103 KC9DKQ Ronald G Underwood 4176
Hwy P Jackson, WI 53037 Jackson
runderwd@execpc.com

R-3104 KJ6C Carl L Seguin 7712 Joda Road
Shingletown, CA 96088 Shasta kj6c@arrl.net

R-3105 KD7KST Bill J Magruder PO Box 4339
West Richland, WA 99353 Benton kd7kst@arrl.net

R-3106 K0NR Robert Witte 21060 Capella Drive
Monument, CO 80132 El Paso k0nr@arrl.net



Season's
Greetings

23rd. SOUTHEAST MINI CONVENTION REPORT

The 23rd Southeast Mini is now a thing of the past, but not forgotten. Some of the highlights were On Thursday 17th the hospitality area opened at noon and the rest of the day was for registration, meeting new friends and greeting those we had met before. Several of the attendees came in on Wednesday and had a Wednesday night musical in one of their rooms. Joyce (WB9NUL) and Walt (K1DFO) picked up the snacks for me at the local Sams Club. My Old reliable Mitch (W4RKV) was there to help with registration. The other early arrivals help me get the Bathtub loaded with the beer and set the bar up. Friday 18th: Registration continued. At 11:15 Herb (W9GBH) got together with his Mary Bobo's group and convoyed to Lynchburg Tennessee for lunch and tour of Jack Daniel's distillery. Thanks Herb for your great effort. At 5pm the bus for the group going to Grand Ole Opry loaded up in front of motel, we left around 5:30 pm for Nashville and the opry. A good time was had by all. A large KUDO for Ralph (WB4FFV), For getting up the trip. This was his 2nd year in a row for this. Saturday 19th: The group held an unofficial meeting, chaired by Dave (KE3VV) There were several awards given out by Gene (KD9ZP). After this meeting there was a short meeting held by the CW operators, then Barry (W9UCW) put on another of his great antenna forums. Several of the attendees had never been to one of his forums, and commented that they learned something about antenna installation. Thanks to Eldon (N8STF) and Dave (KE3VV) for their effort in making the group picture. At 6:30 pm we gathered in the Cannonsburg and Tennessee rooms for our Buffet dinner. After dinner our MC Dave (KE3VV) called on Gene (KD9ZP) for more award presentation. There were several given out at this time. The so called UGLY AWARD, was presented by the previous winner (WG6X) to Frank (AA9JJ). Next year will be Frank's time to find someone for the UGLY AWARD. Also Ray (WG6X) presented the MANCHESTER TENNESSEE PERPETUAL MERIT AWARD, For Outstanding Contribution To The Operation Of The Emergency Mobile & County Hunters Net. This award has been given out annually since 1983, when the Mini was held in Manchester, TN. Therefore 3M, Manchester Mini At Murfreesboro. After the awards presentation, tickets

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were drawn for door prizes and thanks for the number of prize donations everyone received a gift of some sort. A special thanks to all who gave me help, it couldn't have been done without YOU. A very special thanks to the two guys who took it upon themselves to get up the Friday dinner at Mary Bobo's in Lynchburg, TN (W9GBH) and to Ralph (WB4FFV) for getting up the trip to the Grand Ole Opry on Friday Night.

3M ATTENDANCE 2003

KG0BB, WB0CQO, W0DFK & DELORES, N0DIA, W0DSY, KY0E & ELLEN, K0FG, K0GEN & GAYLE, W0JAR, K0LG, W0OWY, W0RRY & MARY, W0WYJ & JO, N0ZA N1BY & K4NSC, K1DFO, KA1JPR & KA1QBC, W1TEE N2CWG, AB2LS, W2LSH, KZ2P & N2FPM W3DYA, K3IMC & JEAN, N3ISH & NV4Z, KA3MMM, WA3QNT & JACKIE, KE3VV, AE3Z & MARILYN K4BZV, W4CCT & W5XFM, N4CD, N4EED & JANE, K4ELK & KD4NFE, WB4FFV & NGELA, KJ4FM, KM4FO & SUZETTE, WA4HXG & BEVERLY, KD4HXM & ROBBIE, WDX4KEF & EAN, W40WY & BARBARA, K4QFK, W4RKV, AA4S, KA4SAX, K4SSU, KA4TYG, AA4VN, KK4VN & FRAN, KM4W & JIMMIE, KB4XK, KN4Y KA5AGM & JANIE, KF5AT & CAROL, KR5C & JANET, KD5CXO & FAITH, KC5DSP & KC5KAN, K5GE & MARY IDA, KG5J & EVELYN, WB5LFO, W5RIT, W5UGD & KG4UPA, KG5UZ & KJ5PQ, W5VD & K0GO K6HZI, K6JN & W6XJN, W6TMD, KB6UF, WG6X WQ7A & BONI, W7GQK & EVELYN N8BGF & KC8WRP, N8CIJ & CAROL, K8GPC & PEARL, KD8HA & KD8HB, AA8HH, AB8JF & N8WTQ, NZ8K & JANIE, N8KIE & N8RLJ, K8OHC & PHYLLIS, AA8R & PATTIE, N8STF, KJ8V & KJ8W, WG9A & SANDY, W9GBH, W9GUY & SHARON, K9IA & W9XYL, KA9JAC & KB9YVT, AA9JJ & N9QPQ, WB9NUL & W9UCW, N9QEI, W9SUQ & KA9QKN, KM9X & KB9MGI, KD9ZP & K9FDL HB9RG & DORIS

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

DATELINE CW**By Ed, KN4Y****Holiday greeting to you' all county hunters
and a fabulous New Year - Ed****May your holiday spirits be fulfilling - Gator**

It is December already, where oh where has this year gone. So many counties so little time. Even the sun has been acting up. Here a flare there a flare everywhere a flare. But through it all the CW net pounds on (get the joke?). The prognosis is the sun is going to be active again in the near future. The CW net has been active with mobiles, but alas not many net control stations. When the band conditions are not the best, a net control station is a great help to the mobiles and for relays. You do not have to be net control all day. If you wake from a nap and hear a mobile QRV on the net grab the key and work the mobile. Then announce the call sign and location of the mobile. If you have to leave perhaps another station will assist with a relay. Not all mobiles do relays, so always ask QSP? If you get an affirmative reply do it. The important thing is to help out on the net whenever possible.

When conditions are great the mobile can operate without a net control. Maybe the problem is the title net control sounds like an all day job. Maybe we should have a net assistant or net helper, like hamburger helper. I take that back we get enough beefing on the net already. So make a new years resolution that when on the CW net you will introduce at least one mobile, and do at least one relay per session. You say your CW is shaky? This is a sure fire way to improve, practice and more practice. A good way to start is after a mobile has finished running announce the current location and the next location if known, or if in doubt use QNI. (Which means I dropped my list).

Speaking of signals I got a new GMC van and reception on my rig is noisy. Hearing is important in a two way contact. I found the van is well painted, even the boltholes. My problem was radiated noise, as the radio was quiet until I connected the antenna. I put a ground strap on the tailpipe and that helped I put ground straps around the bonnet hinges. That really helped. I wrapped the power line with braid and grounded it. That did not help. I took some body to frame bolts out, sanded the surfaces and reinstalled and repainted. That helped. Now my noise level is way down but still not gone. I will be giving it try soon on my way to Alabama.

I talked to a few GMC engineers and they gave me some ideas on grounding the body and frame. I ordered their pamphlet, Radio Telephone / Mobile Radio Installation Guidelines dated January 2002 from:

Department MR

Mail Code 483-340-111**General Motors Proving Ground****3300 General Motors Road****Milford, MI 48380-3726,**

The pamphlet contains some good ideas that I am trying. At least I seem to be going in the right direction. Suddenly the crisp fall air trembles, as Gator's barking four by four drops off the main road. I get up to check the cooler and pantry the two most important items in a county hunters radio shack. There is even a cooler for a county hunters mobile that plugs into the accessory plug. I hear Gator's truck stop at the recycled railroad tie. The shack door opens.

"Merry Christmas Dude, what you be doing?" "I pop two cool ones, "I was net control for a awhile. It was fun." "I thought you did not have time to be net control." "Actually I was a net assistant." "You were a net as.." "GATOR watch your mouth the walls have ears you know." Gator gives me the same look he had when he found out two thirds of the worlds eggplant is grown in New Jersey. " "What be your New Years resolution Dude?" I am going to do more net control action on the county hunters CW net and run more counties mobile." Gator pops the top on two more cool ones. He opens the pantry and gets the bag of trail mix, nuts and more nuts, an ideal county hunters snack. He rips the top off, "Have some nuts squirrely Dude. By the way what is QSP? I see it written on your desk pad,"

I grab a handful of nuts, "That is a Q signal that refers to giving a relay on the CW net. When you send QSP on the net you are asking if any marginal stations would like a relay to the mobile running." "Why can't the mobile work the station?" "Usually the band conditions are not good and the mobile can hear the station but not clear enough to copy the call sign. So the net control relays the call sign and an exchange of signal reports are made. Sometimes band conditions get worse and no exchange can be made. Sometimes the mobile gets to the top of a mountain and an exchange is easily made." Gator has lost interest in QSP and asks, "What you getting me for Christmas?" "Nothing." "Same thing I am getting you." We raise our cool ones to toast nothing.

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

Funds Balance 10/31/03 \$26,743.93

Adjustments:

MARAC 2003 Convention - advance return \$2,500.00

Income:

Awards \$1,165.00
Dues \$706.00
Interest \$5.26
\$1,876.26

Expenses:

Gene Olig – expenses \$456.88
Dennis Hall - web software \$29.95
MARAC 2003 Convention \$1,585.54
Fairmont Awards - awards \$270.75
Print-Right, Inc –
newsletter & envelopes \$488.47
\$2,831.59

(955.33)

Account Balances: \$28,288.60

Money Market Account \$24,781.54

Checking Account \$3,507.06
\$28,288.60

Note:

The following monies are not included in the above:

Awards Chairman's Funds \$1,200.00

2004 Convention Chairman's Funds \$2,500.00

Dateline (Continued)

Suddenly ConGator's pager goes off. Gotta go Dude, have Christmas spirit to deliver. Gator is out the door as his empty bottle hits the recycle bin.

Gator yells over the roar of his four by four, "Experience is great, it enables you to recognize a mistake when you do it again." I yell, "Once over the hill you pick up speed." But he is out of range. I shut the shack door. This month is the ARRL 160 and 10 meter CW contests. I wonder what Santa will bring the county hunters, maybe a new county. I wish all county hunters a safe and fun holiday season. May your football team win their bowl game. I look at the clock, I see by zulu time I almost missed my nap.

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

“Old Tyme Radio Quiz”

Produced by: Alan Young, K6KLL

Written by: Ross Game

1. “Jack Armstrong, The All-American Boy” had a faithful young radio audience in the late 1930’s and 1940’s. Do you remember the name of Jack’s best pal?
2. October 11, 1932 The Democratic National Committee made broadcasting history, How?
3. Jack, Doc and Reggie were central characters in what nightly radio series?
4. Ted Collins was Producer and on-air associate on a weekday morning show which starred?
5. October 7, 1960 million of Americans tuned in on radio and TV for a special Broadcast - What was it?
6. Do you remember the costars of Jimmy Durante’s radio show? Pick them from the following: Joan Davis, Francis Langford, Don Ameche, Garry Moore, Bud Abbott, Martha Raye.

Answers: 1. Billy Fairfield, 2. The Democratic National Committee sponsored a program on Radio and Experimental Television from a CBS studio in New York. 3. “I Love A Mystery” 4. Kate Smith 5. John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon held a debate in advance of the November Presidential Election. 6. Garry Moore, Don Ameche and Francis Langford

MARAC Board Meeting
Schedule for 2004

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

December Birthdays

K1DFO December 1	NJ2DX December 2
N3XX December 4	KU8G December 4
W9MDP December 6	KR4MN December 8
NV4Z December 9	WA6OCI December 9
NG9L December 11	NOZA December 11
KA9ZRW December 14	ACOB December 14
WU9F December 14	AD1C December 19
AB8JF December 21	CT1TZ December 28
K6HZI December 29	WD9EJK December 31



Major Awards Issued
For The Month Of November

KD9ZP - Awards Manager

Award	Number
LC-1	282
LC-2	7
LC-3	8
All Others	42

Call	Date	Award	Number
AB4YZ	11/5/03	BINGO	239
KC3X	11/1/03	USA-PA - K	4
KC3X	11/8/03	BINGO III	4
K5GE	11/9/03	Last County Count	175 94
WA3QNT	11/10/03	Last County Count	175 95
WDX4KEF	11/12/03	Cliff Corne Jr. (K9EAB) Memorial	1000 USA-CA Holders
KC3X	10/22/03	Last County Count	275 47
WA4WQG	11/17/03	Last County Count	225 62
KK4VN	11/18/03	USA-CW	68
WG6X	11/18/03	Last County Count	350 29
NF0N	11/29/03	Last County Count	75 201
W0GXQ	11/29/03	Last County Count	125 132
W0NAN	11/23/03	BINGO	240
K2NJ	11/25/03	BINGO	241
WA0YFQ	10/10/03	Last County Count	150 114

USA-CA Numbers
For November
K1BV – CQ Awards

To Call	Award Date	Certificate Number
F6CUK	11/18/03	1083
W3FEP	11/24/03	1084



WHAT IS COUNTY HUNTING AND HOW THE HECK DID I GET THERE?

County hunting is basically working all 3077 counties in the USA. When I first heard of the USA CA award, I thought this is impossible, too hard, just can't be done. So I didn't do it. I continued with my contesting and Dxing and working IOTA and US Islands and what not.

Well, CQ came up with their millennium award in 2001. By golly, it wasn't that hard to work 100 counties and 300 prefixes and I could get all 40 zones easily, but I made one big mistake. I decided I'd check out the county hunters net on 14.336 and try to get the 500 counties to get a clean sweep for the award. Needless to say, I never did get the other 2 zones I needed. I had the DXCC and WPX by Feb. and had started to get the 500 counties in January. Well, here it is almost 2 years later and I only need 230 more counties for the whole ball of wax. What happened?

I found that county hunting was fun. You got to know the mobiles and the fixed stations who work the mobiles. You got to know the Net Control and Assistant Net Controls. Next thing you know you are working counties left and right and adding up the totals and getting closer and closer to the award. Then you find yourself assisting Net Control, and even acting as Net Control when the regular one isn't around—that means you run the mobiles

The next step is getting a HF rig in the truck and a Hustler and now you are working mobile to mobile. Next step, being one of the mobiles putting out counties for the fixed as well as mobile stations who need those counties.

And it doesn't stop there. There are awards for working YL Mobiles, Big Rigs (mobiles in 18 wheelers), Bingo (working mobiles with a letter in their call corresponding to the county you work them in), working YL/OM teams, working mobiles who hold the Second Time Around award, working all states by working Mobiles, working all counties of a state with Mobiles, and on and on. It gets habit forming and just keeps getting better and better and more challenging.

Acting as Net Control/Assistant Net Control helps you in being able to "pass traffic" so if you had to volunteer for an emergency situation, you would have some basic skills in Net Control and handling traffic.

And who can forget the first time you go to a County Hunters' forum and meet all the mobiles you worked? What a blast!!!!!! And having the mobiles recognize you not by call, but by voice and call you by name on the air. County hunters are like having a second family. Everyone "knows" everyone else and it's hams helping hams.

If you think county hunting is too overwhelming and too complicated and takes too long to do, you just haven't tuned into 14.336 and met all of us.

We are more than happy to explain things to you and welcome you to our family. Joking MARAC is only a part of it. MARAC stands for Mobile Amateur Awards Club. You don't have to be a MARAC member to participate in the county hunters net—it's an independent low powered emergency and county hunting net and everyone is welcome. Why don't you just tune into 14.336 one day just for the heck of it. Listen to how it's run, and then jump in and try it for a couple of days. I bet you'll be counting how many you've worked and how many you need to go and what awards you already qualify for.

If you are a YL and you've been intimidated by other nets, contests, DX, etc., you will find yourself more than welcome on the net. And if you are mobile YL just working the mobiles, that will inspire you to put out counties as the guys all love to work the YL mobiles. If your OM is already working counties, get on as a team. You'll have a pile of fun. My OM has already stated when I'm ready to put out counties, he will be my partner so we can run as a YL/OM team and make it a family affair. Who knows, maybe he will enjoy it enough to be a county hunter. Oh, God, just thought of something, if that happens, I'll have to share 20 meters even of he's on his rig. Well, guess we will just have to see and then take it from there and work something out. But I get first dibbs so I can finish up first—after all, I started first, didn't I??

Well, I guess I'll tie the ribbons on this one for now. Later I'll try to come up with the "how to's" and other tips to working counties. And as I get better at working mobile to mobile and then putting out counties, I'll add that to the tips. Also, I may decide to give my view and tips on how to act as Net Control when the Net is in open session or how to assist the Net Control. There is so much to do in county hunting, I could probably write several more pages but I guess for the first time I am just rambling on too much.

I will close by thanking all the mobiles for going out of their way to put out all of those counties we need to get this award. I will also thank all of the Net Controls—one in particular who has taught me a lot and is a great guy to work with and learn from. Jim, KZ2P/K2JG—Thanks for being there Jim, and thanks for all the lessons you didn't realize you were teaching me and others. I appreciate it and it's always a pleasure to assist you. Guess it's time to shut up for now, so I will.

Happy County Hunting and Happy Hamming—and I'll catch you on 14.336 or 7.238, mobile or fixed.

De KC8HWV, Lori (my real name is Lorraine but I hate it so that's why I use Lori.) Catch you down the road in the next county!!!!!!!!!!!!

MOBILE AMATEUR RADIO AWARDS CLUB (MARAC)

2004 SOUTH CENTRAL MINI

WHEN: February 19, 20 & 21, 2004

WHERE: Drury Inn & Suites, 6711 N. IH 35, Austin, Texas

ROOM RATE: \$59.99/night plus tax. Includes free Quikstart Breakfast. Free local calls. Exercise facilities.

RESERVATIONS: Call 512-467-9500 and mention MARAC to get the special rate. Same rate applies if you come in early or stay late. Our block of rooms will be held at the \$59.99 rate until Feb. 5...they will be released after that date. Please reserve before then if possible.

Directions to Hotel: Hotel is on the east frontage road of IH-35 just north of US-290. Southbound on IH-35, take exit 238B-A, then A and then take the turnaround to the north frontage. Northbound on IH-35, take exit 239.

AREA ATTRACTIONS: State Capital, LBJ Museum, Texas State History Museum, Outlet Mall shopping, six restaurants within walking distance, shopping mall across highway, many more. If you are interested in golf, please email Bob in advance—kk5mi@juno.com.

CONVENTION ACTIVITIES: Hospitality room, Technical/antenna sessions, Thursday night dinner at the, Friday morning golf (weather permitting), Saturday night dinner and prize drawing.

PRIZES: Please consider donating a door prize.

CONVENTION FEES-REGISTRATION FORM

Registration-Includes name badge, group photo and prize drawing

Single.....\$9.00 = \$_____

OM/YL Couple.....\$14.00 = \$_____

Fajita Dinner at Tres Amigos (Thursday night).....\$15.00 pp = \$_____

Saturday Night Dinner..(Salt Lick BBQ-Casual).....\$15.00 pp = \$_____

Total.....\$_____

NAME_____ CALL_____ USACA#_____

NAME_____ CALL_____ USACA#_____ RELATION _____

E-mail address of primary registrant:_____

Send a check for the total of registration & dinner fees Payable to Bob Allen, KK5MI, to PO Box 1669, Dripping Springs, Tx. 78620. For more info, call or email Bob...512-894-3684 kk5mi@juno.com

The County Line Roadrunner
MARAC Secretary
117 Hayden Ave.
Pass Christian Ms. 39871

“A Road Runner Is A Very Fast Bird”

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