Volume XXXIV May 2004 Number 5

# FROM THE DESKOF THE PRESIDENT Bill K2NJ



## Ok, This is why I get the big bux... (yea right)

I will take 100% of the blame for this mess up – and only thing I can promise is that it wont happen until at least next year... Let me try to explain what I am talking about.

According to our C&BL we must have 90 days between the call for nominations for offices – and the date the candidates are published for election (the ballot is released). OK, Follow me so far? Well I messed up – I forgot that Randy quit as Election Coordinator and by the time I remembered and asked Chuck K9IA to take this job, the time line was progressing and I failed to tell him that we have a deadline to meet. By the time it was pointed out to me the date has already slipped. Remember when we all voted on the Constitution and By Laws the use of the internet was not as interlocked with all aspects of ham radio as it is today, and we were bound by snail mail deadlines.

My first thought was to post on both web sites that nominations are open (this started the 90 day clock)... then I contacted a few members of the BOD and we tried to figure how to get around not knowing at the convention who was elected to what... (If we let the date slip to the April issue to post the candidates...)... A simple solution was to post now... (Already did) and let the May RR slip... now this was simple and nobody objected... and that is what we did.

So – now you all know the story. If we published in May, as we always do, then put the ballot in June, and wait and wait for them to come in... we would not have the conclusion until August... - note the convention is in July... but by delaying the RR for two weeks, we make all deadlines and Chuck can count on the way down... In this issue you should find your ballots (I still don't know who is running) and can vote for whom you want (I kinda like the fat guy running for President) and as we say in New Jersey... vote EARLY and vote OFTEN (or was that Chicago??) Anyway, you all have what you need to cast your votes. Nuff said...

#### Dah dididi dah

We had a rude wakeup call this morning (SUNDAY – remember this) at 6 AM. Seems the primary contact was not home and the POST OFFICE (remember its Sunday) is calling to tell us that our chick order is in and we should come to pick them up... (Yes folks, the Post Office does work on Sunday, and they have fun calling people out of a dead sleep)... Not only are we the secondary contact... but the primary contact lives in Somerville (like in Somerset county)... so now Gail and Scott are driving to pick up the little box of cheep... Gail is a co-leader of the Somerset 4H Poultry club... Scott is President of the club... that is why I stay home and catch up on some paper work.

### Change subject again.

I would like to thank all of you who sent Emails, cards and letters expressing your condolences on the passing of my mother. It is nice to know that I have so many friends in time of sorrow. My brother, sister and I thank every one of you. To ease things, it was not unexpected. She has been very ill for many years and in the end it was a blessing. Now comes the hard part, going through the house – it sure opened my eyes up and I have actually started to throw out stuff here at home. Seems mom had kept EVERYTHING – and I mean EVERYTHING... like the receipt for \$1.19 for an inner tube for bicycle tire in 1976... and they were all filed along with real papers we needed to go through.

(Continued on Page 2)

### (President Continued from page 1)

Do you know that when you take a roll of 20 pictures and only two of them turn out... you should throw the other 18 away (blurry, cant recognize anyone etc)... nope, ya keep all 20 of em... Just to dwell on pictures for a second... you have pictures of people from the 1800's and I have no older living relatives to tell me who these people are... so take some time – go through your old photographs and make notes on the back (or on post-it notes) and put names to these people... Like one I have of my Great-Great Grandpa... between two women... which one was my Great-Great Grandma? And who was the other one? So save your kids some headscratchin' label things... AND Ketchup should be thrown out after 10 years... I have two bottles of vintage 60's Heinz stuff, you know those cute little one serving bottles given out on airlines... ... all black... (Or shall I say we HAD)...Yup, she had them in with all kinds of stuff that is now unrecognizable in the 21st century...

#### Dit dah dit dah...

Spring is here; I have cut my lawn for the first time... I took down my beverage antennas and have plans for next year... another list of things that wont be done... hi

Hope to see you all in Texas – Joyce sure has a nice party planned... We have our RV out getting serviced and should put another 5 states on our operated from list... this will bring us over 40... and still have not done Florida (looks like an empty spot on my map on the side of the RV that everyone fills first... hi)

#### 73' Bill K2NJ

Award

# Major Awards Issued For The Month Of *April*

### **KD9ZP - Awards Manager**

Number

iivaia		Tullio	CI
LC-1		311	
LC-2		3	
LC-3		10	
All Oth	ers	18	
Call	Date	Award	Number
VE9DH	4/30/04	Big Rig 1540 Counties	
AB2LS	4/22/04	BINGO II	30
AC2J	4/30/04	Cliff Corne Jr. (K9EAB) Mem	orial
		178 USA-CA	Holders
K4BIO	4/9/04	DX Mobile 25 Countries	
AC2J	4/30/04	DX Mobile 39 Countries	
AC2J	4/30/04	Jack Scroggins (W0SJE)	
		105 2nd Time	Holders
N4CD	4/16/04	Last County Count 1000	3
W9MSE	4/16/04	Last County Count 125	134
NE9DH	4/16/04	Last County Count 125	135
AB2LS	4/30/04	Last County Count 125	136
AE3Z	4/23/04	Last County Count 150	117
AC0B	4/20/04	Last County Count 25	417
KL1V	4/30/04	Last County Count 275	49
KB6UF	4/30/04	Last County Count 325	35
KD9ZP	4/23/04	Last County Count 50	276
WA4PGM	4/23/04	Last County Count 50	277
AA8R 4/4	/04 Wor	ked all Counties - 2nd Time	332

# USA-CA Numbers For April K1BV – CQ Awards WC5D 4/19/04 1092

## 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

#### ROADRUNNER

#### FROM THE DESK OF THE SECRETARY

By Norm Ellison, W2LSH

Spring has arrived in southern Mississippi. It has been a very pleasant winter but now we are rapidly approaching our "hot and muggy" season. If it wasn't for air conditioning this area along the Gulf Coast would still be all farms.

The responses from all of you concerning the changes that we have made to the publication of the RoadRunner and my Secretarial duties have been very encouraging. There are just a couple of things items I would like to mention that would help me perform my job more efficiently.

First I would like to ask you to keep your Email addresses current in our data base. There are over four hundred of you that have chosen to receive the Road Runner by Email. The program that Gene (KD9ZP) developed makes it possible for me to Email your copy of the RoadRunner. There is a problem, however, when I receive some forty to fifty error messages indicating that the message I sent has been returned because there is no such account with the ISP or there is no such ISP or domain name. Another problem that is beginning to surface is that some of your ISPs reject the RoadRunner attachment because it is viewed as a virus or just plain junk mail. This is especially prevalent with those of you who use the ARRL reflector. I have attempted to keep track of all this and as you will see this month that I have changed many of you back to receiving your RoadRunner by snail mail. I do the best I can with the Virus situation, I use the current Norton Anti Virus definitions and I scan my computer every day. I can't do anything about your ISP's parameters. You must reset both your ISP's and Anti Virus' parameters to accept the RoadRunner attachment – PLEASE!!! I thought that by using a PDF format that the ISP would accept the attachment, but I am still encountering too many returns.

I wrote this note to let all you know that if any of you are not receiving your RoadRunner via Email, as you as you requested, these are some of the reasons. If some of you are still not receiving the RoadRunner in any form - please let me know. Our Newsletter Editor, Roger (W2NWL), does a "bang-up" job and he has the current issue ready for delivery the first week of the month. By the way, Roger is always looking for interesting articles so please keep sending them to him.

One other minor request - any correspondence that you send to me, either Email or snail mail, please include your CALL SIGN. Your call sign is the primary key that I use when I do searches for renewals, updates and changes.

I enjoy being your Secretary. Working with Jim, Bill, Bob, Gene, Roger and the rest of the Board of Directors is a real kick. I appreciate the notes and comments that you send me and enjoy talking to you on the air or on the telephone. If there is anything I can do to help, please contact me.

I hope I will see you all at the 2004 MARAC National in Weslaco, TX this July. It sure looks like the Committee is working to make it a memorable event.



*"CONVENTION FUN"*Registration Form on Page 7



Best Western Palm Aire Hotel & Suites

Page Four ROADRUNNER

## Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club Treasurer's Report April 30, 2004

Funds Balance 3/31/04 \$27,917.31

Income:

 Awards
 \$1.095.00

 Dues
 640.00

 Interest
 6.04

\$1,741.04

Expenses:

Gene Olig – expenses \$ 37.30 Stafford Engraving - awards 39.00 Fairmont Awards - awards 179.00 Dennis Hall - Web Hosting Fee 99.00 Print-Right, Inc – newsletter & envelopes 559.26

913.56

<u>827.48</u>

Account Balances \$28,744.79

Money Market Account \$26,808.76 Checking Account \$1,936.03

\$28,744.79

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

# DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE ISSUE IS MAY 25th.

## MARAC Board Meeting Schedule for 2004

June 9,
July Saturday Morning
at the Convention.

## **MINUTES**

# MARAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MEMBER MEETING Date: April 14, 2004

The Meeting of the MARAC Board of Directors was called to order at 08:07 PM EST (0107Z) by Bill (K2NJ).

The Officers present were:

President Bill Inkrote – K2NJ

Secretary
Norm Ellison — W2LSH
Treasurer
Jim Grandinetti – KZ2P
North Central Director
John Robson – WB9STT
Southeast Director
David Splitt – KE3VV

The Members present were W5UGD, W6FAH, N1BY, KA9JAC, NJ2DX, K7REL, W2NWL and KA1JPR

Upon a motion by Norm (W2LSH) and seconded by Dave (KE3VV) the minutes of the March 10, 2004 meeting were approved. Roll call indicated 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Upon a motion by Norm (W2LSH) and seconded by Dave (KE3VV) the Treasurer's report of March 31, 2004 was accepted. Roll call indicated 3 in favor, 1 abstention and none opposed.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**A:** None at this time.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**A:** Bill (K2NJ) announced the following concerning "The **Ran All County Awards"** - this award is to be presented, with no fee attached, to any mobile operator who runs all the counties in a particular State. There was some confusion in implementation of the award and a fee was assessed. This oversight has been rectified and all those who paid for the award have been reimbursed

B: Bill (K2NJ) appointment of Sonny (W5VDW) as MARAC Club Historian. Roll call indicated all in favor, none opposed. W5VDW was appointed the MARAC Historian.

### **OPEN MEETING**

Nothing at this time.

With no further Business to discuss, Dave (KE3VV) made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Norm (W2LSH). The motion passed - 4 in favor and none opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 08:13 EDT.

Respectfully Submitted,

Norm Ellison W2LSH

Secretary, MARAC

## 36th Annual MARAC National Convention 14 July - 17 July 2004 WESLACO, TX

**Convention Site: Best Western Palm Aire Hotel** 

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Enter Number of Pe lednesday July 14									
huck Wagon Buffet Diner hursday July 15	# Adults	x \$16.00	+	# Children	_ x		\$ 16.00	= \$	_
land Dolphin Watch Tour riday July 16	# Adults	x \$ 28.00	+	# Children	_ x		\$ 28.00	= \$	_
lexico Trip	# Adults	x \$14.00	+	# Children	_ x		\$ 14.00	= \$	_
aturday July 1 anquet — Beef Stroganoff	# Adults	x \$18.00	+	# Children	_ x		\$ 18.00	= \$	_
anquet — Chicken Dijon	# Adults	x \$ 18.00	+	# Children	_ x		\$ 18.00	= \$	_
PRIZE TICKETS		MERCHANDISE							
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lam (12 tickets)	x \$ 10.00 =	\$	_	YL Photo		x	\$6.00= \$_		
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## DATELINE CW By Ed, KN4Y

If a county hunter does not make new acquaintances as he advances through life, he will soon find himself left alone. A county hunter, sir, should keep his county run totals ever increasing.

The day is overcast and Gator and I are sitting in the Shack. I am getting my State QSO party logs together to send in.. This is the North Carolina QSO party log. Not much activity on CW but was able to make 67 contacts in 34 counties. This is the Wisconsin QSO party. I only got to operate one hour but made 32 contacts and 24 counties. The Michigan QSO party had more CW activity. I made 101 contacts and worked 62 counties. Gator points to a log, "I see you work a lot on eighty meters." "Yes Gator. MARAC has a five band award and this is the only way I am going to get counties on eighty meters." Gator moves some papers on the desk and a big brown envelope falls on the floor.

"What be this Dude?" "That is my Ten-Ten County Hunters basic award." Gator opens the envelope and takes out the certificates. "WOW Dude that is neat, you be number 502, how do you get it?" "I got it from the Ten-Ten International Net, I worked Ten-Ten members in 100 counties all CW." "What be this colorful 500 stamp on the certificate?" "I sent in 500 counties worked. You send in increments of 100 new counties worked. I got 200 county award number 314, my 300 county award number 210, my 400 county award number 155 and the 500 county award number 131. See how that works."

"How do this tie in with the county hunters CW net?" "The CW net played an important part in this endeavor I worked W3DYA, N4CD, KB4XK, W6IYS, NA7W, K8CW AND AA0IP in counties on ten meters and they all have a ten-ten number" "How about all the ten meter contacts with W9MSE, W0GXQ and KS5A?" "Those contacts are good for the MARAC awards, but sadly they had no ten-ten number.

Gator looks sad then goes to the cooler and gets two cool ones. "Got a glass Dude?" "Since when do you use a glass," I laughed. "Since you got Samuel Adams beer." "Pour the motel pens out of that Pennsylvania QSO party mug and use it." Gator goes out to his truck and gets his CW FOREVER mug. "I know what was in this mug last. What is that laying on your desk?" "That is a notice for the number 36 annual MARAC convention. This year it is in Weslaco Texas. They are going to have a chuck wagon buffet, a tour to south Padre Island and dolphin watch. Then later it is shopping and lunch in a Mexican border town. Going to be a great four day county hunter extravaganza." "Is the water safe to drink? "Gator, when was the last time you drank water?" Gator ignores me and gets a couple more cool ones hands me one and asks, "What be the dates Dude?" "The dates are July14 - 17, 2004." "You be going Dude?" "No, I do not plan on going at this time"

Gator looks in the pantry and gets a jar of pickled pig knuckles. He opens the jar and hands me one. "Bet you can't get these at the Texas convention." "Nope, but they will have Texas pickled county hunters." We raise our pig knuckles in a toast to Texas pickled county hunters. We are both laughing the tears running down our cheeks. Suddenly, Gator looks at his pager, "Got to go Dude, have customers waiting." Gator is out the door and in his truck before the empty bottle hits the recycle bin. I yell, "Gator, learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them yourself." But he is out of audio range. I sit down and turn up the volume on the CW net. I hear a mobile call QRZ. OH NO a station replied repeating their call sign twice. That will be a good topic at the Texas convention CW meeting. It needs to be made common practices that when answering a mobile QRZ give your call once. Look at the zulu time almost missed my nap...

## Old Tyme Radio Quiz Written by: Ross Game Produced by: Alan Young, K6KLL

- 1. February 12, 1940 the Mutual Network introduced a new radio series which immediately proved to be a hit with young listeners it was:
- 2. On June 6, 1944 at 3 A.M. (Eastern War Time) what radio network first broke the news on the D-Day Invasion?
- 3. Lady Esther was sponsor of what program Monday nights immediately following "The Lux Radio Theater" from 1942 to 1947?
- 4. "It's Maxwell House Coffee Time" introduced what radio comedy series for many years?
- 5. What radio comedian was a vaudeville headliner then later was star of his own show on WLW in Cincinnati, was voted outstanding new radio personality of 1942, got his own network show the same year and moved to Television in 1950 to begin a 20 year run?

#### **Answers:**

1. 'The Adventures of Superman" with Bud Collyer as the man of steel 2. CBS Radio ... Bob Trout reporting from New York. 3. 'The Screen Guild Players' 4. George Burns and Gracie Allen 5. Red Skelton.

Μv	Last	County	,
iviy	Last	COGITTY	

By W7FGD - David Waterman

My last county sat and wait, a hundred miles from the interstate.

The mobiles on the road each day, never ever went that way.

I watched the net with mounting fright, from early morning to late at night.

As all the mobiles would check in, they'd be loud and I would grin.

"Any chance for my last", I would ask, "Sorry old man, I just went past".

As all the months past on their way, I was slowly turning grey.

"Your next to my last county", I would cheer;

"Sorry old man - Can't get there from here!"

I watched the mobiles drive right on past, a county away from my very last.

But then last week, on a red letter day, I heard a mobile on his way.

"Hey there Dave, don't you fret it - "I'm on my way for you to get it!"

He parked right on the county line, and I worked him with a 5/9.

After all those months and years I'd waited, I read today my county consolidated.!

AE3Z	May - 01	UVW8W	May - 01
VO1SF	May - 03	KA1JPR	May - 04
VE3KZE	May - 04	NX0X	May - 12
KI0AZ	May - 13	KM9X	May - 15
WA0RVG	May - 16	N8BGF	May - 16
N3AO	May - 17	W5VD	May - 17
N9QPQ	May - 17	WB9UKS	May - 19
AB2LS	May - 22	NA4FM	May - 22
W4RSD	May - 23	WA8OWR	May - 25
NU9M	May - 26	K7TED	May - 27
N8CIJ	May - 28	NL7KM	May - 28
KA4NZG	May - 28	K2MF	May - 30
W9GBH	May - 31		

If your birthday is not in the database at:

www.marac.org/database
Send it to:

kd9zp@marac.org

HAVE AN ITEM
"FOR SALE"
YOU COULD HAVE
SOLD IT HERE

## "A Little About Me"

I decided to write a little about me for those folks on the net that haven't met me at Hamvention or won't be there this year. I am going to include some pics also.

I got my first ticket in '97 as a Technician and in Oct. of that year passed the 5wpm and became Tech Plus. Then I got my General ticket and passed the 13wpm in Feb of '98.

Well, I got hooked on chasing DX, IOTA, US Islands, and contesting. I was lucky in the fact that I had a built in Elmer seeing that the OM has been a Ham for over 30 years. Can't get away with any mischief on the air either—he's an OO.

Now that I've gotten hooked on county hunting—only 90 more to go for the whole ball of wax, and I'm helping out on the net and running mobile to mobile and writing a few articles for the Roadrunner, I thought it might be nice if everyone saw what this old biddy looked like and some of my rigs, etc. Oh, yeah, even included a pic of the OM. Still am trying to get him to go OM/YL mobile with me and he's starting to get more interested. I won't tell you how old this old biddy is but I graduated High School in 60 so that should give you an idea.

I work at Hospice of Dayton as the Purchasing Supply DME (Durable Medical Equipment) Coordinator and have been here for 14 years. Fred, KE8TQ, also works here in Maintenance and has been here 5 years.

Okay, enough of that. Here is a pictuer of the OM—oh, yeah, don't get scared, I included a pic of me.

See you all at Hamvention. As usual, happy hamming, get on the air and work those counties. Hope to hear/cu soon.

73 es 88s, Lori, K8XTQ

## **K8XTQ ex KC8HWV**

## KE8TQ



### V.P. Candidate Information

### **Bob Voss, N4CD**

Hi, I'm N4CD, I'm currently Vice President of MARAC and running for re-election. I'm one a few board member active on CW, and who runs more than a few counties a year on the net, as well as put in a few hours as NCS on the CW net. I also operate on SSB, and try to put out many counties each year. For over 10 years, I've been county hunting, and for the past five years have been the forum coordinator at the Dayton county hunter session. Currently, I'm working on 6<sup>th</sup> time around, second time CW, and closing in on the MG award, and who knows, maybe get to give out all 3077 counties again? I can bring a wide perspective on member issues and operating to the Board of Directors. I seek your vote in the upcoming elections.

### Tony Mazzocco, WA9DLB

Name: Tony Mazzocco

Age: 68

Married to Helen Haller Mazzocco and blessed with 3 sons and one daughter.

Education: Associate degree in B.A

Reside: Barrington, Illinois

Employement. Retired after 40 plus years in materials management.

Hobbies: County hunting, reading, fishing and photography.

Civic activities: Treasure of a national non profit organization, Board member of local church, Youth soccer coach for the last 20 years. And active in local politics.

Please consider me a candidate for Marac V.P position for the upcoming elections.

### John M. Hoyt, W5UGD

I, John/W5UGD would like to be your next Vice-President!

If elected, my goal would not be to make changes to the way the club is run, but instead to do everything in my power to insure that MARAC continues to operate in the beautifully smooth manner in which it does now! My major accomplishments have been running counties as time/money allow, helping others when the need arises and creating an online chat forum for sharing ideas, conversation and "spots" in real-time. I served as the 2003 vice-president for Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Society, Inc. in South Carolina.

I believe that if you love something as I do MARAC, you should contribute to it. This is my offering to the club and to you. Thank you for your consideration, 73,

## **ALASKA TRIP**

Rose (KA9QKN) and I (W9SUQ) will be running all 4 Alaska districts this summer.

We are leaving home about may 25 and will be in AK somewhere around June 7.

We will be in district 2 about 23 of June or soon thereafter.

At this time we plan to spend two days in district 2. We will have 15, 20 and 40 Meters with us. I have 2 stars and we are good for team.

We hope to run several times while in the 2nd district.

Larry W9SUQ

## It's Election Time Again

This year it's time again to vote for District Directors, County Hunter Of The Year both CW and SSB, Marac Officers, President, Vice President Secretary and Treasurer. Don't forget the Fourth Quarter Ballot for the Annual Awards

Mark you ballot on page 11 and mail it to K9IA, his address is on the bottom of the ballot...

If you wish you may vote electronically WITH THE

## "MARAC ON LINE BALLOT"

Which ever way you vote the important thing is to **VOTE**. If an office is not contested, show your support by voting for the candidate that has shown a willingness to "WORK FOR MARAC" and cast a vote of support. "VOTE Because You Can"

## **2004 National Election Ballot**

# DISTRICT DIRECTORS ELECTION Please Vote for ONLY ONE From YOUR DISTRICT

Multi Selections or Selection of nominee out of your district will not be counted

	J			
Northeast Direc Southeast Direc			ble, AE3Z itt, KE3VV	
South Central Dir	rector	Joyce Boo	oth, WB9NUL	-
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Jerold Metz	, WOGXQ	☐ Gene Olig	g, KD9ZP 🔲	ı
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	Vice	President:		
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Bob Voss, N4CD Tor Se	-	Norm Ellison,		WSOGD
	•	Jim Grandinett		
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	Mobile - CW			
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On line E-Ballot: http://www.marac.org/elections

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

"A Road Runner Is A Very Fast Bird"

## **Board of Directors**

**President:** Bill Inkrote, K2NJ, 911 Route 579 Flemington, NJ 08822-5648 908-788-4827 K2NJ@MARAC.org

Vice-President: Bob Voss, N4CD 3133 Charring Cross, Plano TX. 75025-5712, 972-618-5235 N4CD@MARAC.org Secretary: Norm Ellison, W2LSH, 117 Hayden Ave. Pass Christian MS. 39871, 228-452-1807, W2LSH@MARAC.org

Treasurer: James Grandinetti, KZ2P, P.O. Box 770777,

Naples, FL 34107-0777

732-370-8055, K2JG@MARAC.org

**Great Lakes Director:** Randy Davis, N8ELQ, 1894 Sheick Road Monroe, MI 48161-9468. 734-587-2454 N8ELQ@MARAC.org

**North Central Director:** John Robson, WB9STT, 150 W. Wise Rd Schaumburg, IL 60193, 847-891-3906, WB9STT@MARAC.org

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Membership

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