



THE COUNTY LINE

# ROADRUNNER

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



Volume XXXIV

July 2004

Number 7

## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Bill K2NJ



### Just when you think you have done it all....

Man, I want to say thank you to a bunch of guys who somehow stumbled on the obvious – 30 is half between 20 and 40... Everyone knows that... and that new band the FCC gave us a while back... yea, it was fun to get on ... work some stuff and then move off onto something higher (like 12 or 17 meters)... Like most DX-ers I got on 30 meters, worked my 100 countries and then it became slow – so I moved off to somewhere I can heat my shack while I work DX (only 100 watt limit on 30M, yawn)... I did a few hundred countries on 12 and 17 meters before the gods of propagation put them in the bag with 10 and now 15 meters... sure, 17 opens some... but – just no gumption to get on the band any more... maybe some PSK31

Well, last weekend I saw someone running on 30 meters – passing out counties... what blasphemy, county hunting somewhere other than 20 or 40... well, I have an 80 meter dipole at 70 feet... and a tuner... now dip this, raise this... dip, raise ah-ha... swr is 1:1 (my transmitter will be happy, but will it get out?) (afterall, I took down my 30 meter loop and converted its coax into something else... )... I called him – worked him... and even gave a QSP call for him...

Soon the word spread, and lots of people were on the band..... I started to put some RED marks in my logbook... (my old Dbase program puts new stuff in RED)... soon counties are logged and my band totals are going up... I am even working stuff new on CW there and new for my 4<sup>th</sup> time... three red marks on one QSO... man, I have not seen that in years... Gads, I can't leave the shack... Ray is running and burning up my speaker... man, soon I gotta get one of them code readers to keep up with him... I am working guys in Colorado and Utah... at high noon Eastern time... this band is cool... maybe not be able to work coast to coast – mobile to mobile but man its twice the distance than 40... I gotta get a new antenna up that is cut for the band... really, my 80 dipole is broad sided to 30\* so it cant be any worse oriented for west coast... but I am working them...

Quick call to my highschool buddy in AES Orlando (yea, he is still working... duhh)... and I have two 30 Meter Hustler resonators on the way up here (got them in two days)... I now have to remove 15m and put this one on it this weekend – I call Jim VE9DH to see how Melanie is doing (she had been hospitalized for a simple (yea, now that is a good medical term) procedure... she liked the food there and decided to stay for a week... Since it is the hospital she works at, I told her to put in for overtime... she said something about us Americans... then gave the phone to Jim... I told him about 30 meters... and now I have to order another 30m coil if I am gonna put one on my car... duhh.. lost another one to... no, that's another commercial.. anyway, they will stop here in NJ on the way to Texas... (And I thought I was nuts spending weeks in AL, MS, LA) Jim and Mel are going to Texas via the Dakota's... oh well, you know those Canadians don't know squat about the US geography...

OK, back to my main theme... We started out on 10113.0 – because... well, it rhymed with 14113.0 or something like that... ask Ray... Then after a week I have noticed about 5 PM eastern I get some noise... not too bad, s2 or so... so I ignored it... then I hear from others in the north east that they also have it... I check it out, and it is on 10.112 or so and 3 kHz wide... I then hear from Eddie... G4KHG (after translation from his English to American) he says it is in Europe — well, duhh? That is about the time the band opens to Europe... We all listen around and 10114.0 is wide open... so after lots of bantering on the chat room – we move to 114 (most of us do, some still call for CHN on 113, and I have finally opened up the filter in my 756, so I hear them (and hash also) and tell them to come up and join the rest of us)...

(continued on page 2)

*(President Continued from page 1)*

What I am saying is that there is some new territory out there to explore – where County Hunters have not gone before... Now, lets push our calendar ahead about 8 more years... soon 12 and 17 will come back (along with 10 and 15)... man – can you imagine this... run for ten minutes on 20 SSB, spend another 10 minutes on DX and Mobile relays..... QSY to 40 SSB, run 5 minutes... then off to 15, 17, 12, 10 (gads, may I say 6??)... then off to 20 CW... off to 30,40,17,15,12,10 and aaagh! Six cw... you can sit on this county (or county line ) for two or three hours... I guess I will have to allow six months to get to that convention... hi hi

BT (read last month if you forgot).

I am about to head off to the convention in Texas... I know Joyce and Barry have bustin butts to get it nice and fun... I am really looking forward to seeing some friendly faces.. bend a few elbows with some new friends... I hope that my expectations on the trip are not going to be let down... I plan on eating my way across the south... starting with Ribs and Bar B-Q sandwiches from VA, AL ( I understand they put a Mayo sauce on it there) and MS (well, catfish there anyway)... then to Elvis land... and the home of what I hear is the best BBQ in the world.. I will cross into AR (don't tell Al) just to click off another state... and then back South East across MS to hit Pensacola FL.. (nope, never passed out anything in FL)... then across us 90 to New Orleans... the Oyster and Shrimp industry stock should go up and up... I plan on spending a week in south LA.. .then to Houston (Johnson Space Center) and of the top rated BBQ places in Texas called Thelma's ( I watch Food TV)... then off to the convention to relax...and of course some TEX-MEX down that way - so if you need something along this route... ask... I am open to suggestions.. (well, some tell me where to go all the time). Next years convention will be in Roanoke VA.. hell, that is my backyard only a three week drive... I may go via Utah.... Hi...

BT

Speaking of UT... I got a nice note back from Opal thanking me for my card – along with Bill's obituary form the newspaper... Now there will be two Bills with their call engraved on their tombstones... a man after my own heart... You are missed my friend K7TED gone but not forgotten.

BT

That should do it for this month – I hope some of you will get this and be inspired to call Joyce and say... oh, I forgot.. is there room... but in reality, conventions that are held outside of the middle of the country are not attended well... This one is within walking distance of Mexico... cant get out of mainstream much more than that... Bob AWX was in a panic because he thought his attendance was down... so was the one in Niagara Falls (another walking distance to VE)... and same with Idaho... Next year in Roanoke should be heavily attended... and the year after that?? Who knows... who feels like having a great party in their backyard? What I am saying is less people vying for the door prizes, maybe this year I will win two radio's... and then only one next year when the attendance is up... 73' and I wont do 22's Bill K2NJ

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## ***New members***

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

R-3131 KA0W Ken W Kreis 658 12th Street NE Mason City, IA 50401 Cerro ka0w@msn.com Gordo

R-3132 N7MZI Robert (Bob) A Farrow 3824 Wanda Street Idaho Falls, ID 83406 Bonneville farrow3@earthlink.net

R-3133 N5EBD Kenneth W Franke 8611 Wynlea Street Houston, TX 77061 Harris babyelmo5@aol.com R-3134 KC8WRP Joan Sebastian 758 Southwind Dr Fairfield, OH 45014 Butler kandijoan@yahoo.com

R-3135 KC9AQD Phillip M Wiedenhoef N7618 Kettle Moraine Drive Whitewater, WI 53190-4226 Walworth swabman@powercom.net

R-3136 KC5QCB Janet A McKnight 10257 Cottontail Lane San Angelo, TX 76901 Tom Green kc5qcb@cox.net

R-3137 N3FC Rodney V Smith 803 Holly Court Middletown, DE 19709-9309 New Castle n3fc@arrl.net

R-3138 NS4C William J Nowicki 5145 Hurt Bridge Road Cumming, GA Forsyth ns4c@mindspring.com

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## **"OLDE TYME RADIO QUIZ"**

**Written by: Ross Game**

**Produced by: Alan Young, K6KLL**

1. The man named "Announcer of The Year" in both 1957 and 1958 was announcer for "You Bet Your Life," and "Dragnet," Do you know his name?
2. What did Clifton Fadiman, Hal March, Phil Baker and Bill Cullen have in common?
3. Select the odd man out in this following list: Ben Bernie, Ted Lewis, Xavier Cugat, Allen Funt, Harry James, Ted Weems, Fred Waring, Vincent Lopez, Count Basie, Rudy Vallee, Guy Lombardo.
4. What part did Ernie Kovacs, Ed Wynn, Morey Amsterdam, Jack Carson and Joe E. Brown play in the Golden Age of Radio?
5. Pat Boone's entertainment career was Launched by what famous broadcasting personalty?
6. A member of "The Rhythm Boys" was singled out by Paul Whiteman and introduced to radio audiences as a solo performer. Do you know his name? **(Answers Page 11)**

### On the Road with N4CD/W0RRY

It was getting tough to finish up all the counties on cw (USA-CW award), and I was getting closer to finishing up the Masters Gold(MG) award. . Some counties were close in, too close for 20m, and too few mobiles able to go to 40m cw. Finally, it was desperation time!

Charlie, W0RRY volunteered to help out, and he came down two days before the mini in Austin in Feb. We went out and ran counties for 2 days in East Texas, helping me close in on the last dozen or so on cw.. We used a 6m Mizuho SSB/CW handheld, and the Icom IC-706 in the car to make a cw contact from counties we needed. Charlie is a great logger and op, and with his “W” prefix, helps us give out counties for more awards. Most of the counties were done ‘on the run’ on all the trips so we could cover more ground. Just moving and moving and moving – putting out more counties.

Weeks later, we went to KS, and he gave me the last in KS on CW and MG on a two-day trip. We even got carried away and went back and ran more counties on the third day, getting 2 more needed counties in MO for MG. That left only 4 cw needs in KY, and with a little help from friends, that was soon done. KG4NNK made his first ever mobile CW contact to give me Fulton KY for the cw-WBOW. Now I get to start over.

Now it was time to work on MG. The counties for this award can be worked in two ways after you get your Bingo number. You must have your Bingo number before starting to work on this award. The first way is to work someone who has earned a Bingo number and who is in the county you need. The second way is to work someone FROM the county who has a Bingo number. The easiest way is to take someone who has a Bingo number with you to the county, and work them! Two meters, six meters, whatever! I’d already run all the counties, but did not work anyone from the counties I needed after I got my Bingo number, or who had a Bingo number. Darn – silly mistake.

The counties still needed were scattered all over, with some in SD, MT, NE, CO. Charlie needed a bunch for different awards (4th time, cw, 5-star, bingo-2, MG) as well. We plotted all the counties we needed on a map, and tried to get as many as possible. First priority to MG, then his 4<sup>th</sup> time, then cw needs and Bingo.

First, I headed up to Tulsa, and then the next day we took off for ‘the north country’ on a planned 5 day trip. More or less, You never know. We drove up through KS, getting a bunch of last counties for the folks, and quickly into NE. The weather was nice, and we hoped for good weather the whole time. It was a long first day.

The first day we did about 600 miles, stopping at in mid-NE at a Super 8 motel at sundown. . Next morning we were on the road at 7:30am local time. Other than DX and east coast, not much on 20m, but 40m worked well. Hmm..we want to get to that county....seems like we can take this road. Oh , it’s gravel. After a few miles, maybe something is wrong- we should be there...Charlie has his laptop with GPS program – we fire it up. Hmm..we have 10 miles to go. Map error?

Uh-oh! The car complains – it has a computer system, and ‘ding-ding’ – LOW TIRE PRESSURE pops up. That usually indicates a tire going flat. The Buick uses the anti-lock wheel sensors, and if they don’t turn at the same number of turns per mile, the alarm goes off. Not good. Miles from nowhere on gravel road. We stop, look at tires, and they seem OK. Got to the county line, finally, with signs, and run it. Tires still seem OK. Maybe it was doing 40mph on the gravel roads, with some wheel slippage? We reset the alarm, and it doesn’t go off again –Whew! - dodged the bullet on that one. Turns out we were one road south of where we first thought we were – otherwise, we would have had no problem, and only a mile instead of 10, and on a paved road, not gravel!

It was up to South Dakota and more needed counties – we headed to the very top of SD, to Campbell County, and stopped in Selby. There is a new Super 8 motel there – not much else other than a gas station. It was ‘gas station store cuisine’ for dinner – junk food. It was getting cold. Too cold. Brrr. The Texas guy had been wearing shorts for a month already. What’s with this 20 degree stuff?

The next day, the intrepid team headed west to MT to get Prairie and Carter. Counties out here get real big, and are very empty. Not much but lots of miles of driving! We saw at least 100 pheasants, lots of deer, a half dozen turkeys, and not often seen Elk along the way. That helps break the monotony of miles of road that looks the same. After running Prairie, we turned around and headed south, making it to Spearfish, SD Super 8 motel by sundown. Oh, good –we hit the corner of WY and got Crook WY – a tough one. We also had a decent dinner.

So far, no road detours, good highways and good weather! Things were about to change. We woke up to a half inch of ice on everything, and snow on top it, and then we spent 20 minutes scraping the windshield before starting

*(Continued on Page 6)*

**Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club  
Treasurer's Report  
June 30, 2004**

Funds Balance	5/31/04		\$28,466.72
Income:			
Awards		\$819.00	
Dues		528.00	
Interest		<u>5.13</u>	
			\$1,352.13
Expenses:			
Gene Olig – expenses		\$ 138.87	
Wachovia Bank - service charge		2.00	
Stafford Engraving - awards		39.00	
Fairmont Awards - awards		333.00	
Print-Right, Inc – newsletter		<u>505.01</u>	
			<u>1,017.88</u>
			<u>334.25</u>
Account Balances			\$28,800.97
Money Market Account		\$26,819.38	
Checking Account		<u>1,981.59</u>	
			\$28,800.97

**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

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**DEADLINE FOR  
THE AUGUST  
ISSUE IS  
AUGUST 25**

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**MARAC Board Meeting  
Schedule for 2004 - 2005**

**2004**

**Aug 11, Sep 8, Oct 13, Nov 10, Dec 8**

**2005**

**Jan 12, Feb 9, Mar 9, Apr 13, May 11,  
June 8, July At The Convention**

**MINUTES**  
**MARAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MEMBER MEETING**  
**Date: June 10, 2004**

Bill (K2NJ) called the Meeting of the MARAC Board of Directors to order at 0803pm EDT (0103Z).

The Officers present were:

President	Bill Inkrote – K2NJ
Vice President	Bob Voss – N4CD
Treasurer	Jim Grandinetti – KZ2P
Great Lakes Director	Randy Davis – N8ELQ
Northeast Director	Don Kimble – AE3Z
South Central Director	Joyce Boothe – WB9NUL
Pacific Director	Robert t. Devine – KC6AWX

Upon a motion by Bob (N4CD) and seconded by Bob (KC6AWX) the minutes of the May 12, 2004 meeting were approved. Roll call indicated 6 in favor, none opposed. Upon a motion by Bob (N4CD) and seconded by Bob (KC6AWX) the Treasurer's report of May 31, 2004 was accepted. Roll call indicated 5 in favor, 1 abstention and none opposed.

**OLD BUSINESS A:** Nothing at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS A:** Bill (K2NJ) informed the Board that he was sending a proposal to the Awards Committee asking them to formulate a new and separate award for contacts made on the 30 meter band.

**OPEN MEETING:** Nothing at this time.

With no further Business to come before the Board, Don (AE3Z) moved that we adjourn. Seconded by Joyce (WB9NUL) the motion Carried, six in favor, none opposed.

We adjourned at 0821pm EDT. (0123Z)

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Grandinetti KZ2P/Norm Ellison W2LSH

Secretary, MARAC

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### **MY RADIO ROOM, KZ2P**

My radio room is a 1,000 square foot separate self contained unit, this way I can "play radio" whenever I wish and not disturb the rest of the household. I have my own bathroom, refrigerator, microwave and coffee maker - what else can anyone ask for, except better propagation. There are two identical stations just in case I smoke something during the heat of battle. Each station consists of a Kenwood TS950SDX, Alpha 77Dx, Nye Viking MB-V-A and Heil Gold Line - although at least one of the Kenwoods is soon to make way for the ICOM 7800. I use the computers to maintain my logging program and stay in touch with the folks in the chat room.

One of the features that you cannot see in the photos is the 6-foot wide "closet" that runs behind my operating positions. This area allows me to work on all of the equipment from the rear - it sure makes repairs and modifications much easier.

The "antenna farm" consists of a Hy Gain Hy Tower with 3,000 feet of ground radials, an 8 element 15 meter mono band beam on a 60 foot boom (supported on a 72 foot tower), a 6 element 20 meter mono band beam on a 60 foot boom (supported on a 91 foot tower), a Mosley Pro 95 beam (supported on a 72 foot tower). All of the towers are remotely controlled crank up/down from the shack.



**On The Road** (continued from page 3)

out. Charlie paid rapt attention as we headed through 'gold country' – Deadwood and Lead, SD. . Lots of mines and history. Ask him about finding gold when you see him. No time for stops on this trip, though.

As we headed down through Wyoming, there were intermittent 'snow showers' in the morning, some snow on the sides of the road, but no problems driving. Later, we had some light rain, but nothing slowing us down. We made it down through WY( counties for AB2LS) into Nebraska. Oh, panic time. No county line sign. Into NE, but what county? Hmmm. Seems I'd had this problem before. Other mobiles have hit this 'snag' as well. The map sort of shows the road wiggling into Sioux, but is it really into Sioux? No county sign anywhere, other than 'entering NE'. Ran the CL of Sioux, NE, as I was 99% sure it was Sioux NE.

There is 200 feet of Sioux NE along the highway, and we stopped to run it – pretty rare one. When I got home, I checked in again on Street Atlas, which shows the CLs. Of course, we had the computer in the back seat, but not fired up, and it has GPS. We only used it one time to find another CL. Then it was into Colorado to get two counties there, and into Nebr again stopping at the Super 8 Motel in Imperial.

Well, there is only one restaurant in the town open on Sunday night, the Pizza Hut, so that was the choice for dinner. (Sunday night is Pizza Night for N4CD anyway!) I like to take a seat in a restaurant so I can watch the car and antenna. About one third of the way through dinner, I notice a car pull up outside with what looks like HF Hustler antennas on the back. Hmmm...another ham in this part of the world in small town in Chase County, NE? A lady is driving, and a couple comes into the pizza place.

Surprise: It turns out N8KIE and XYL decide that this would be a good place to eat dinner (the only one open) so we had a nice eyeball for an hour or two, before they headed off another 60 miles to their motel. And then the weather got worse. Real 'worse'.

We were sitting in the motel room and Charlie mentioned 'look out the window'.-at first he thought it was flying insects around the security light, but it turned out to be large snowflakes. Next morning, we woke up to 4 inches of snow, plus the roads and cars were coated with a good half inch of ice and the sound of snowplows a-plowing. Again, we spent 20 minutes scraping the windows, and carefully drove off down the road at 30-35mph instead of 70.

We were headed to KS and a bunch of last counties for the folks. It turns out N8KIE was running some of the same counties –which he needed and was getting by working the XYL on 2m. He was on a quest to get all the counties he needed to finish up USCA! So we crossed paths all morning as he seemed to run the counties just ahead of us. Now if we could get him on CW! He did finish up everything, too!

We got a call on the radio – N8KIE had found the main road 283 south was shut due to construction. He had to take a 50 mile detour. We looked at our map, and oops, we had planned to head south on 283 just 20 miles ahead. That took us on a detour – and being bold, we decided we would go on a gravel road about 10 miles and save 20 miles off the detour route. The detour nearly did us in, as the gravel road turned into mud road at the very end, and to get back onto the main road required going through a mud bog which we almost didn't make it through. Wheels a-spinning, sliding back and forth, barely inching ahead. Charlie turned white as the car slid around in the mud, almost getting stuck, slowly working it's way to the end. He was sure we were going to wind up in the ditch, stuck for hours waiting for a big big tow truck or two to try and get us out. Fortunately, we made it, but it was a close call.

After that little adventure of nearly getting the car stuck in mud up to the axles ,coating the car with lots of mud everywhere, leaving 300-400 feet of giant ruts in the mud road, we decided no more gravel roads in KS in the spring, unless having 4 wheel drive and good mud tires. The Buick LeSabre doesn't qualify for 'off road' status.

The folks got a 'bonus county' – one we hadn't planned on running since the detour took us into Sheridan KS. We got back on course, losing at least an hour, and eventually ran out of the bad weather and road conditions hours later, and headed back to Tulsa, arriving late at 10pm Usually I stick pretty much to the posted route, but sometimes can add in a county by a slight change, or if forced on a detour! This was a 'mission' and we had to keep moving. Next day we washed all the mud and salt and sand and crud off the car!

Charlie, W0RRY made 1500 QSOs, N4CD logged about 7500 QSOs in 2750 miles, and we went through a bunch of not-to-often run counties, so we hope that everyone got something they need. The rig was the IC-706, an LDG AT-11-MP antenna tuner which brings the 10:1 SWR on 40cw down, and the K8CW 6 foot mast with 20/40m resonators mounted horizontally, with a grounded mag mount on the trunk deck. 40m was good in the

mornings, and at evening time although it got real jammed up with activity then on SSB. That's when it helped if someone found a "relatively clear" frequency and passed it on via net control at the end of the run. Even during the day, often one could hear nets in various parts of the country, who obviously didn't hear each other, but being in the middle between them, we heard both! And could not use that freq. What might be clear at someone's house 400 miles away who needs the contact might be hard to find if there is 'background activity' where I am since I have no clue which direction the sigs are coming from. Not enough activity yet most days to justify a 40m net – no one station can do it for the whole country, let alone just the middle part of the country, yet. Give it another year.

After a few days rest and using the W0RRY station to run the cw net for a few days, I headed home via another 200 miles of extra miles from Tulsa to Collin county via the backroads of Okla. Charlie needed two counties – Adair OK and Polk, AR, so I went the 'county hunter way' back home through them! The N4CD mobile seems to have a hard time going 'the most direct route'. Now see those remaining further away MG counties? Help! If no one else goes there, I guess I'll just have to run some more counties! Dayton Hamvention is coming up, so we have the next trip planning to do. N4CD/W0RRY are headed there via the counties we need! So it turned out to be a real 'adventure'. Hope we gave you some needed counties.

73 de N4CD

**QST QST**

County Hunting has started on 30 meters. With the deterioration of conditions on 20 meters as we progress into the sunspot minimum, county hunters have set up another useful frequency, half way between 20 meters and 40 meters, in the WARC band 10.100-10.150 MHz.

This is an uncrowded band, with growing but still fairly low activity most of the time, especially during the daytime. It is very popular with DXers and DXpeditions, as it is a relatively 'new' band, and many countries have yet to be activated on this band. Also, contesting is not permitted on this band, so when other frequencies are inundated with "CQ contest" QRM, 30M is a nice place to operate.

Starting in late May, N9JF/m ran the first counties on the new frequency of 10.113 MHz, and in the first several weeks, over 150 counties have been activated on 30M, with at least a dozen mobiles now getting ready to run. Over 30 people are set up for this band now, with more joining the fun on this band.

Propagation is good. On a recent trips, mobiles in the middle of the country were consistently working Florida, Washington, New Jersey, Texas and Minnesota and everything in between. It adds another band to fill in between the 'long' skip on 20M and the short skip on 40m. It opens earlier than 20M, stays open longer than 20M, and has no broadcast interference. In addition, the FCC limits the power so you don't have kilowatts clobbering you with QRM as you work mobiles.

Nearly all rigs cover this band, and antennas are available from Alan, K8CW, and Hustler. If you have a 'screwdriver' antenna, you are set, too! Likely, you can take 10 and 15M off the mast, and put in 30M, which seems to work well with no interaction with the other bands. A simple dipole, or an 80M dipole, will work very well on 30M at home. The 80M antenna should load quite easily.

As we head into the sunspot minimum, and 20M gets worse, this will be a helpful addition to keep the excitement of county hunting going! On weekends, sometimes there are mobiles running on all three bands at the same time! Join the fun. Head to 30 meters! de N4CD (Editors Note: The net Frequency has changed to 10.114)

**30 Meter Logging Update**

**Willis, KJ4EJ, has announced update to logging programs to allow logging of 30M QSOs. There is now a lot of activity on the new county hunting frequency of 10.113 MHz with over 30 active county hunters running counties and working mobiles.**

**July Birthdays**

KA9QKN	Jul - 04	K5UH	Jul - 05
WB5LFO	Jul - 06	W5FHL	Jul - 07
N4ANV	Jul - 08	W8YL	Jul - 12
K5VYT	Jul - 20	KU4YM	Jul - 21
N4IXV	Jul - 26	KE2EA	Jul - 26
N8HAM	Jul - 27	W4YDY	Jul - 29
K0NII	Jul - 29	N7AKT	Jul - 29
W6XLR	Jul - 30		

If your birthday is not in the database at:  
[www.marac.org/database](http://www.marac.org/database)  
 Send it to: [kd9zp@marac.org](mailto:kd9zp@marac.org)

## Major Awards Issued For The Month Of May

*KD9ZP - Awards Manager*

<b>Award</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>LC-1</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>LC-2</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>LC-3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>All Others</b>	<b>17</b>

Call	Date	Award	Number	Call	Date	Award	Number
N5KGY	5/21/04	Big Rig	501 Counties	N8STF	5/23/04	BINGO III	5
NE9DH	5/21/04	Last County Count	150	K7TED	5/30/04	Last County Count	150
N9QPQ	5/21/04	Last County Count	275	N7ID	5/21/04	Last County Count	300
KL1V	5/21/04	Last County Count	300	WG6X	5/30/04	Last County Count	400
W5UGD	5/21/04	Last County Count	50	WB5LFO	5/21/04	Last County Count	50
KJ8F	5/21/04	Last County Count	50	KK7X	5/21/04	USA-CW	72
W2EZ	5/5/04	USA-CW II	10	KN4Y	5/10/04	USA-CW III	4
KN4Y	5/10/04	Worked all Counties - 3rd Time	178	W2EZ	5/5/04	Worked all Counties - 3rd Time	179
KE3VV	5/23/04	Worked all Counties - 3rd Time	180	KB9ER	5/18/04	Worked all Counties - 5th Time	67
KC3X	5/11/04	Worked all Counties - 6th Time	18	VE9DH	5/30/04	YL Mobile	2015 Counties
AC2J	5/21/04	YL Mobile	377 Counties				

### USA-CA Numbers For May

**K1BV – CQ Awards**

To Call	Award Date	Number
N8KIE	24/04093	1093

## Major Awards Issued For The Month Of June

*KD9ZP - Awards Manager*

<b>Award</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>LC-1</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>LC-2</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>LC-3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>CW Contest</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>All Others</b>	<b>43</b>		

Call	Date	Award	Number	Call	Date	Award	Number
KB0FQC	6/18/04	BINGO	246	AD8W	6/21/04	BINGO	247
N4CD	6/10/04	Last County Count	10253	N8CIJ	6/28/04	Last County Count	75
N5KUC	6/28/04	Last County Count	25	WY7LL	6/28/04	Last County Count	25419
K0GEN	6/28/04	Last County Count	275	KA3DRO	6/10/04	Last County Count	35030
AA9JJ	6/14/04	Last County Count	375	N8STF	6/14/04	Last County Count	60010
AI5P	6/14/04	Last County Count	625	N8STF	6/28/04	Last County Count	6259
N8CIJ	6/28/04	Last County Count	75	WQ7A	6/28/04	Last County Count	75205
NX4W	6/28/04	Worked all Counties - 2nd Time	333	W3QZ	6/18/04	Worked all Counties - 3rd Time	181
VE9DH	6/20/04	Worked all Counties - 3rd Time	182	WA4WQ	6/5/04	Worked all Counties - 5th Time	68
W0RRY	6/5/04	Worked all Counties - 4th Time	116	N4UJK	6/19/04	Worked all Counties - 7th Time	7
AI5P	6/18/04	Worked all Counties - 5th Time	69				

### USA-CA Numbers For June

**W4VQ 6/5/04 1094**

**N2KX 6/17/04 1095**



**2004 SOUTHEAST MINI CONVENTION**

**LOCATION:** Holiday Inn, 2227 Old Fort Parkway, Murfreesboro, TN 37129  
**DATES:** October, 14th, 15th and 16th. Hospitality Room opens Noon 14th  
**DIRECTIONS:** I-24 and Tennessee Hwy. #96. On I-24 Exit #78A from Chattanooga  
And #78 B from Nashville.  
**ROOM RATE:** All rooms \$69/night plus tax. A block of 100 rooms will be held until  
October 1st. After this, same rate applies if room available.  
**RESERVATIONS:** Tel. (615) 896-2420. Please mention (Ham Radio) for rates.  
**ACTIVITIES:** Golf Courses nearby. Shopping Centers and Fast Food Restaurants  
Nearby. Nashville TN is 30 miles north for more shopping and the  
Grand Old Opry, etc. Make your own reservations. The Friday trip to  
Mary Bobo's Restaurant in Lynchburg is on tap for this year. Contact  
W9GBH, Herb Morgan for reservations. It is limited to the first 65  
People that register with Herb.  
**PRIZES:** All Prize donations will be appreciated.  
**DINNER:** Saturday Night Dinner, Buffet style, \$20.00/per person, tax and tip  
Included. Buffet includes 2 meats, vegetables, salad, dessert and Drink.  
**REGISTRATION:** \$12.00 OM/YL or \$9.00 single. Registration includes Name Tag,  
Group Photo and Drawing for any prize.

**SEND REGISTRATION FEE AND COST OF DINNER TO:**

William E. Bell (KM4W)  
738 Doak Road  
Manchester, TN 37355  
Tel. (931) 728-7379

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**2004 SOUTHEAST MINI CONVENTION FORM**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CALL \_\_\_\_\_ USA-CA \_\_\_\_\_  
SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_ CALL \_\_\_\_\_ USA-CA \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
REGISTRATION FEE..... \_\_\_\_\_  
BANQUET.....# AT \$20.00/PERSON..... \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL ENCLOSED..... \_\_\_\_\_

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## DATELINE CW

By Ed, KN4Y

USA-CA is not reached at a single bound; But, from active mobiles the totals rise. The CW net operating never dies, We mount to the summit with a dit dah sound.

The last few months have been CW radioactive. Norm, W3DYA drove up from Texas to show the red tire boys how to run counties on CW during the Georgia QSO Party. Next came the Florida QSO party to be followed by the MARAC county hunters CW contest. Check the contest calendar, there is usually a state QSO party where you can work that needed county.

Speaking of the MARAC CW county hunters contest Larry, W0QE, is undertaking the formidable project to determine an abbreviation for each county and State to be used in the MARAC CW contest exchange. The contest exchange could be a five or six character group for each county in each state. For example, Wakulla county Florida could be WAKFL, WAKUFL or putting the State first, FLWAKU or FLWAK. But, in Georgia there is a Clay County and a Clayton county, what combination should be used to differentiate each county. The purpose of this project is to have a list that participants can use during the MARAC CW contest and maybe it could also be used on the CW net. If you have a suggestion you can post on the CW forum at: [www.countyhunter.com](http://www.countyhunter.com). All comments are welcomed. Stay tuned for further developments.

I have the rig tuned to the CW county hunters net at 14.056.5 KHz. I am working the mobiles headed to the MARAC county hunters convention in Texas. This is a great way to get counties and especially the Texas counties you need. This is also a good way to get Net Control experience. When the band conditions are not great having a Net Control helps the mobile and also fixed stations. Listen to other Net Control Stations and study their routine, then jump in. Although not proven to be fact it is rumored acting as Net Control on the CW net reduces the chance of getting Alzheimer's. Keep track of your hours as Net Control and apply for the MARAC Karl Adkins award.

I hear the roar of Gators four-by-four and out of habit check the cooler. I look at the outside thermometer and dang it is hot. The water is so hot in the bird bath a squirrel is boiling his nuts. Gator stops at the recycled railroad tie and comes inside. "Hey Dude the outside it be like a Finnish steam bath." "Come in Gator and have a cool one. What brings you here?" "You know that CB hand held I use to talk to ratchet jaw Southern Chicken" "You mean buzzard lust kidding. Yes I seem to remember." "Well Dude I laid it on a stump while I was unloading sacks of sugar from the pick-em-up. I happened to glance at the log and saw a large rattlesnake had swallowed my rig and slithered off into the deep grass. "

I try to control myself but I burst out laughing, the tears are running down my cheeks. "I bet his handle is snake eyes." I run to the bathroom, but it is too late. I wipe my eyes with ice water and return. "I am sorry Gator but your story struck my funny bone." Gator gets a couple of cool ones and is not appreciative of my sarcasm. We sit chug-a-lugging as I try to control myself. The thought of another snake with a CB rig is hilarious; finally I am in control again. Gator is very serious and asks, "What can I do Dude?"

"Do you know if the radio is transmitting?" "It is Dude, I heard it on my mobile rig. I wish Al was here, he is an expert rattlesnake man." "How do you know that?" "He be from Arkansas." I try not to figure out Gator's logic, "How long will the batteries last." "About five hours, I had it on low power." "What we will do is have a Fox hunt." "It is a rattlesnake Dude."

I explain to Gator that radio direction finding is almost as old as radio itself. Amateur radio operators all over the world try to find a hidden radio transmitter using various direction-finding systems. The sport is called Fox hunting or I guess in your case snake hunting. "You got this direction stuff Dude?" "In the back storage shed there should be a 28 MHz loop that should work." We find the loop and we go out to Gators truck and I show him how to hook it up and how to use it. "You think you got it." "Yep, sure do Dude and thanks." Gator gets in his truck; "You know how to handle a rattlesnake when you find it?" "No problem, remember I was champion at last years rattlesnake roundup and chili cook-off." He is gone in a cloud of dust.

I again start working the mobiles on their way to Texas. I just finished third time all CW and need all the counties.. Sure wish I were also on the road, but someone has to be a fixed station. Damn, now I am starting to talk like Gator. I need to get out more and mingle with live people. What is that, Bob, N4CD, just said QSY to 30 meters. I better call Jerry and see what is going on. Where is that list of mobiles that I worked on the CW net during the first half of 2004? I find the list and look at the list and see N8STF listed. I remember he was on the CW net mobile from Alaska. That blond down the street said I could have a date when hell froze over. I may give her a call, but first a nap is in order.

**MARAC 1st Quarter Ballot**  
**Votes accepted thru**  
**September 30th.**

**You are voting for Net Controls who ran the net and Mobiles**  
**that ran in the 1St Quarter Which are the months of**  
**June, July and August**  
**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**

**MARAC**  
**Is Sadden To Report**  
**The Passing of**  
**KE2FZ**

**June 2, 2004**

**Mr. GENE HARRINGTON**  
**429 MAPLE HILL DR**  
**HACKENSACK, NJ 07601**

**USA - CA 5/22/1995 869**  
**2nd Time 5/22/1997 210**  
**3rd Time 7/22/1999 127**  
**4th Time 5/7/2002 100**

**It's Mary BOBO Time**  
**October 14, 2004**

All county hunters who plan to attend the Murfreesboro, TN Convention this October 14, 15, and 16 should definitely make plans to attend the annual Ms. Mary Bo-Bo's Boarding House dinner on Friday, October 15, 2004 at Lynchburg.

We meet in the lobby at 11:00 a.m., drive in caravan style, and arrive at about 12:45 p.m. Everyone will be promptly seated at 1:00 p.m.

This year the cost of the meal is the same as last year (\$14.00 per person GRATUITY EXTRA). If you want to reserve one or more of the 50 seats available, you must send a CHECK or MONEY ORDER before September 27, 2004. If the reservation is not paid for by that date, I will release it to someone else.

Should you be interested, please contact W9GBH by e-mail or by letter to 5489 W. Warren St., Silver Lake, IN 46982 or call 574/566-2739. **AGAIN, the cost is \$14.00 per person and payable by check or money order to HERB MORGAN. Hope to see you at the MINI and at MS. MARY BO-BO'S**

**73, Herb Morgan (Whiskey 9 Great Big Herb**

(Radio Quiz Answers)

1. George Fenneman 2. All hosted radio quiz shows.
3. Allen Funt ("Candid Microphone"). All others were band/orchestra leaders often featured on Radio. 4. All were stars of their own radio comedy shows. 5. Arthur Godfrey 6. Bing Crosby

*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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## Board of Directors

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**Southeast Director:** David Splitt, KE3VV, 6111 Utah Ave, N.W. Washington, DC 20015-2005, 202-362-3355 [KE3VV@MARAC.org](mailto:KE3VV@MARAC.org)

## Appointees

**Awards Manager:** Gene A. Olig Sr., KD9ZP, PO Box 2295 Fond du Lac, WI 54936-2295, 920-923-0130, [KD9ZP@MARAC.org](mailto:KD9ZP@MARAC.org)

**Newsletter Editor** Roger Purdy, W2NWL, 1-B Potomac Lane Whiting, NJ 08759-1813, 732-350-5758, [W2NWL@MARAC.org](mailto:W2NWL@MARAC.org)

**Sunshine Coordinator:** Nancy Nosker, W0NAN, PO Box 98, 14 W. 4th Ave. Grand Marais, MN 55604-0098, 218-387-1546 [W0NAN@MARAC.org](mailto:W0NAN@MARAC.org)

**Information Coordinator:** Dennis Hall, KK7X, 4518 W. Haney Road, Rathdrum, ID 83858, [KK7X@MARAC.org](mailto:KK7X@MARAC.org)

**Custodian, Club Call WB0DPD:** Bob Dyson, K0AYO, 8943 Overhill Circle, Desoto, KS 66018-9173, 913-583-3212 [K0AYO@MARAC.org](mailto:K0AYO@MARAC.org)

**Election Coordinator:** Chuck Theisen, K9IA, N 5563 County Road K, Fond Du Luc, WI 54935 920-927-1605 [K9IA@MARAC.org](mailto:K9IA@MARAC.org)

**MARAC General Counsel:** David Splitt, KE3VV, 6111 Utah Avenue NW Washington, D.C. 20015-2461, 202-362-3355 [KE3VV@MARAC.org](mailto:KE3VV@MARAC.org)

**MARAC Historian:** Eldon “Sonny” Sanders, W5D VW 4161 Old Barker Ranch Rd. College Station, Tx 77845 [W5VDW@MARAC.org](mailto:W5VDW@MARAC.org)

**MARAC Webmaster:** (See Information Coordinator)

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## 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.