



THE COUNTY LINE

# ROADRUNNER

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



Volume XXXIV

September 2004

Number 9

## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Bill K2NJ



### “What a difference a YEAR makes”

First up, I want to thank Bob N4CD for jumping in and doing an article for last month while I was on the road... Nice Job... ..

This was a wonderful convention – it rates somewhere in the top three of EVER... Barry and Joyce went way out of the way to make **EVERYONE** comfortable – well except for the heat, but this is Texas in the summertime. But to be honest, this may have been what made the convention so wonderful – a bunch of us just stayed in the pool most of the day (I am peeling like crazy now to prove it).

The accommodations were nice, lots of room to move about – Food everywhere was superb (ask them about the Mexican place in Harlingen, to die for). The chuck wagon meal that Joyce and Barry hosted was unreal... lots of food, and great taste also. Even my picky son ate and went back for seconds... I understand the two trips went off without losing anyone in Mexico or to the deep blue sea...

I am losing words to describe how nice this convention was and trying my best not to compare it to problems in the past. I even had a surprise for everyone (well, 99% of ya) with my choice of outfit for the business meeting. Mel – VE9SX made this for me last year but with the tension at that convention I decided to not wear it there and this worked out very well for this year...

I had a unique opportunity to sit down with Gene KD9ZP and about 5 of the Awards Committee members one afternoon... Bob N4CD was discussing the 30 meter award that he wants to see enacted. Lots of discussion and I told him that many of the members are not active on CW.. and since this is a CW band only, it will be shot down. We kicked the ball around a bit and came up with the idea of mono-band awards for those that want to chase them... they can work all counties on 160, 30, hell even 60m... and a few wacko's like me chase them on six meters... This seems to please everyone and the AC is working on the wording as we read this... Start off like USACA at 500 and endorsements on up...

I also asked them to get some real meat on the awards names... Like what the heck does the category 1 or category 2 mean? Hell, sometimes complete different awards... so now I want them to come up with real names that describe what you did and how you got it... Everyone was in agreement on this and they actually have been working on this... I hope to see some progress by the next BOD meeting. All in all, it was a nice informal talk... back to the pool..

The trip home was nice, and since I have never been in AR, OK or KS before I decided to head that way home (OK, Gail decided – since she now has 41 states filled in on the side of the RV)... We detoured a little to meet with Larry KA0SHC... Nice guy, shorter than he sounds (and that is short)... But real cute – especially the glow off the top of his head.. We tried to outrun a monster thunderstorm across MO... got into central Illinois and camped for the night... it caught up, and

*(Continued on Page 2)*

**President** *(continued)*

now I know of a few more leaks in the roof (Scott just got down today and its all patched and refinished).. We left there and Gail and finished the last 11 counties in Indiana to put out – another state all done and one of these days I am gonna send for my Transmitted all counties in a bunch of states...

The next day was sad and nice – I lost my mom this summer and two of her older sisters live in western Ohio (ok, Williams and Defiance counties)... I know Mabel is in a nursing home – she had a series of strokes last month,... and I called Bunny and said we would be there tomorrow – she asked if we would come for lunch... sure, free food... why not? We got there and she had a full spread all out for us... pot-roast, potatoes, etc... and it was not Sunday... then went over to the nursing home to see Mabel... she did not know me, or Bunny... Reminded me of visiting my mom in the hospital her last week or so... anyway, back to Bunny's house and my cousin Linda (Mabel's daughter) came over and we chatted a while... then back on the road.. and home in two more days.

Got here and the grass was all mowed, but nothing trimmed, guess 5 weeks away and a 21 year old daughter taking care of the home – I really cant complain. The next morning Scott got the weed whacker out and in ten minutes was back in the house – the motor froze up on him... “Oh... I forgot” was the answer when I asked if he put oil in with the gas... so guess off to Home Depot... aaagh!

We were home all last week, and I got the logs all in the computer (we had them in all the way to Indiana, but someone spilled Coke into the keyboard... I wont say, but her call has an X in it)... and then had to go to Her family reunion this past weekend... and now I am finally all caught up on MRC's for me and NE9DH/VE9SX... This week is the Somerset County 4H fair... and Gail is the leader in Poultry so this will be a fun week... I am batching it... so what am I doing... sorting cards for the DX incoming bureau...

Then Saturday morning we are heading north (got the oil changed in RV)... gonna get some lobstah... prelim will meet with Jim and Mel, we hope to get together there... oh joy, more MRC's

Then off to school for Gail and Scott... I have the house all to myself and our 21 year old daughter... who is getting married in October. She is driving us nuts... every detail... but then, this is my third daughter getting married in two years... finally all gone... but did I tell you... after she marries this guy (he is in the Army, due to go to play in the sand in January)... She moves right back in the house...

So, if you have been saying ... you have not heard me on the radio much... its because I am hiding out on the lawn tractor – going in circles all day long... and never looking up at the house where she may be trying to get my attention... nope, bury your head in the sand until after the wedding... just like I learned from my father-in-law... and I learn good... by then the grass wont need cutting again, and I can find refuse in the radio room – yep the same room she has now claimed to put the information in MY computer on her wedding...

**“Thank God, Scott is still scared of girls”...**

**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

---

**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..... \_\_\_\_\_

---

## **More Thoughts on Being Mobile Or Murphy's Law for Hams**

**By Bill Herbert, WA2ZYM**

In a couple of previous articles for the Roadrunner I gave some thoughts about being a mobile station. One article told of installing rigs and antennas and the importance of proper grounds while a second article gave some hints on proper operating procedure. It seemed to be time to add some additional thoughts and also to offer my version of Murphy's Law for mobiles.

The most important lesson is one I learned the hard way. For those of you who may have wondered where I disappeared to after being a pretty regular check in – here's why. My rig blew up. The trusty old Alinco DX70 seemed all of a sudden to have lost its ability to hear anything. On investigation I discovered that the audio board had been fried. How? Well read on, OM, and see what happens when you just plain mess up.

I had trouble with the pickup suddenly deciding that it didn't want to run. Now, if this happens to you in New York you can probably tie a message to a rock and throw it to the nearest garage. Unfortunately this does not hold true in southern Utah. When I finally managed to get back to town from Zion National Park, 55 miles, the prudent thing to do was to take the truck to the nearest (read only) GM dealer. Little did I know what I was in for. They found the problem right away – a bad control module in the injector pump on the diesel. They even fixed it right away.

What they didn't do (apparently) was to disconnect all the battery cables before installing the new module. No big deal – it works – right?

Wrong. Somehow in some way the process of installing the new module sent a spurt of energy through all the lines. Result – one fried receiver on the HF rig and one shorted mike on the VHF rig. Both of these had fuses in both positive and negative lines but the fuses didn't blow. It sounds like I could file a claim with the dealer for repairs to the radios but I can't prove it so no claim.

The lesson to be learned from this is simple. Any time you take your vehicle in for repairs disconnect all radio leads (including the antenna) from the vehicle. Don't rely on the dealer or mechanic to do it himself or even if he does make the effort to do it correctly. It is simple to do, easy to reconnect and certainly safer. In fact, if you are like most hams you probably rushed the installation in the first place in order to get on the air and now have a chance to shorten wires, clean contacts, etc. Believe me; it is easier than repairing the rig(s). Mine has now been in the shop for eighteen weeks with no end in sight.

Here are some other observations made while operating mobile that I am sure most of us can relate to. These observations I call Murphy's laws for mobiles.

1. Your signal strength (or his) will drop to zero just about the time you make contact.
2. It will jump back up as soon as the mobile moves on to someone else.
3. You will pick up the wrong mike just when the 2nd District of Alaska comes on.
4. You will not know it is the wrong mike until the end of the run.
5. When you do get the right mike see #1.
6. Your XYL, navigator, whatever will start telling you about something on the side of the road right in the middle of a last county contact.
7. Her/his comment will be just loud enough that you miss the signal report.
8. When someone puts out a county you have been looking for for over a year – that is when you will be in the diner eating.
9. Your antenna will need adjusting only when it is pouring rain.
10. When you do adjust it you will do so in the wrong direction and have to get out in the rain and do it over.
11. You should not transmit while pumping gas. Unfortunately that is just when the one you need is running.
12. You can hear the net control, net control can hear the mobile, and the mobile can hear you. None of you can hear each other.

*(continued on page 5)*

**Thoughts** *(Continued)*

13. At the time you are in the middle of a contact you have a law officer leaning in and telling you that in ?? (read your state) it is illegal to use a cell phone while mobile. By the time you explain ham radio to him the contact has long gone.

14. When you are in the open and the band is good there will be nothing on that you need.

15. When a county you need desperately is being run you will be at the bottom of a canyon in a thunderstorm.

16. After you have managed to successfully cope with all of the above the band will die.

All of the above are corollaries to Murphy's Law. For those who might not be familiar with it here it is:  
Murphy's Law #1 – Whatever can go wrong will.

Murphy's Law #2 – Whatever has gone wrong will get worse.

Murphy's Law #3 – When it seems as though nothing is wrong for cripes sake PANIC!

Obviously some of the above is in jest. However, I hope you will take to heart what I said about vehicle repairs. The cost of repairs can often times rival the cost of the rig. It just isn't worth it. 73 and happy mobiling.

---

**More CW Tips**

*Raymond Petschonek WG6X*

Hey have you been watching those needed counties being posted on the MRIC on CW and thinking to yourself I'd sure like to work those counties. Well it's really not that hard. You already have a major part done by knowing the mobile's call and county/ies. With just a little work and little effort on your part you could be get them.

First, you will have to have something to send the code with like a straight key or iambic keyer. These are really not that expensive when bought at places like hamfest flea markets. In the past I have bought old useable straight keys for less than 5 bucks and Iambic key paddles with cable & plugs for \$ 25 - 30 bucks at hamfest. True, the old straight key wasn't much, but worked fine. I recently bought a like-new MFJ-564 Iambic key paddle (a MFJ copy of the Bencher Iambic key) with cable & plug for 30 bucks. I have even bought a couple older model Iambic key for 20 bucks with no name tag on them. I used one of them for well over a year while running mobile. I recently moved up to a Vibroplex Code Warrior Jr. You can get a basic Ameco model K-1 straight-key for about 10 bucks new and you can buy or make your own cable from the key or keyer to the radio.

Yes, you got to know how to send and receive some code like your call, reports like: 229 or 22N, 339 or 33N, 449 or 44N, 559 or 55N, 599 or 5NN, and a few things like QRZ (who is calling), QRV (waiting for a call), ( RST) signal report or when sent by a relay station with your call means send your signal report to the mobile), AGN (again), QRS ( send slower), ? (question), QSP ( relay), (who needs a relay), and ALSO ( often used in replying like {ALSO 5NN} to start with. You can use a program like CWGET to help with the receive, but its no where near 100 percent copy and you will need an audio cable between the remote speaker and the computer and normally requires some minor adjustment on the computer's sound card adjustments and the rig so as not to overload the computer's sound card. In a way CWGET is a nice way to watch and learn the CW net operating procedures. MJF makes a small code copy unit (MFJ-461 about \$80 bucks new) that doesn't require any connection to the radio, but like CWGET not a 100 percent copy. Both CWGET and the MFJ-461 will require some adjustment of the radio audio and of course they both do a fairly good job of copying decent sent CW. Remember the normal speed on the CW net is somewhere at or about 15 WPM, but mobile and net-controller will slow down their speed or spacing normally when sending your call and report (RST).

**Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club  
Treasurer's Report  
August 31, 2004**

Funds Balance 7/31/04		\$29,207.88
Income:		
Awards	\$1,188.00	
Dues	\$562.00	
Interest	<u>\$5.50</u>	
		\$1,755.50
Expenses:		
Gene Olig – expenses	\$302.50	
Wachovia Bank - deposit tickets	\$35.76	
William Bell 3M convention	\$300.00	
Staford Engraving-Awards	\$113.00	
Fairmont Awards - awards	\$805.00	
Print-Right, Inc – newsletter	<u>\$524.16</u>	
		\$2,080.42
		<u>(\$324.96)</u>
Account Balances:		\$28,882.96
Money Market Account	\$26,830.93	
Checking Account	<u>\$2,052.03</u>	
		\$28,882.96

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

***New members***

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

<i>Marac #</i>	<i>Call</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>
		<i>Cnty</i>	<i>E Mail</i>
R-3146	KI7WO	Alan R Homer	1407 SE 19th St Oak Grove, MO 64075
		Jackson	ki7wo@juno.com
R-3147	KA0DDJ	Birger C Olson	1853 Lakewood Ave Albert Lea, MN 56007
		Freeborn	ki0jd@clear.lakes.com
R-3148	N7WO	Jake Otten	10413 NE 91st Ave Vancouver, WA 98662-1412
		Clark	n7wo@arrl.net
R-3149	KE6RIN	Marilynn Jordan	P.O. Box 2237 Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352
		San Bernardino	ke6rin@aol.com
R-3150	N9DYE	Charlie D Sartore	3017 Tremont Rd. Evansville, IN 47710
		Vanderburg	mcsham@aol.com
R-3151	W8VPW	Tom A Borsos	10210 Mud Lake Road Interlochen, MI 49643
		Grand Traverse	tborsos@charter.net

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

**2004**

**Oct 13, Nov 10, Dec 8**

**2005**

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

**DEADLINE FOR  
THE OCTOBER  
ISSUE IS  
OCTOBER 25**

**MARAC 1st. Quarter Ballot  
 Votes accepted thru  
 September 30, 2004**

**You are voting for Net Controls who ran the net and Mobiles  
 that ran in the 1st Quarter Which are the months of  
 July, August and September  
 1 Vote per Quarter – PLEASE**

Call Sign\* \_\_\_\_\_ Election Key\* \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**Major Awards Issued For The Month Of  
*August***

**KD9ZP - Awards Manager**

**Award Number**

**LC-1      453**

**LC-2      15**

**LC-3      8**

**All Others    70**

Call	Date	Award	Number
N1BY	8/1/04	BINGO	250
NX4W	8/7/04	BINGO	252
N6HH	8/31/04	Last County Count 25	421
WA2AKB	8/10/04	Last County Count 325	36
N8MYC	8/10/04	Last County Count 50	283
WW0G	8/10/04	Last County Count 75	207
WB9STT	8/11/04	USA-PA - K	6
N3ISH	8/5/04	Worked all Counties - 2nd Time	334
N3RM	8/18/04	Worked all Counties - 2nd Time	335
WONAC	8/21/04	Worked all Counties - 2nd Time	336
AA0IP	8/30/04	Worked all Counties - 2nd Time	337
K5GE	8/31/04	Worked all Counties - 5th Time	70

SM6VR	8/4/04	BINGO	251
KW4V	8/19/04	BINGO	253
K3IMC	8/12/04	Last County Count 250	56
K2HVN	8/17/04	Last County Count 350	31
N8STF	8/25/04	Last County Count 650	7
K7DZE	8/10/04	Last County Count 75	208

**USA-CA Numbers For August**

**K1BV – CQ Awards**

K6KLL 8/4/04 1102

## My First Road Trip as a County Hunter

*Alan Homer KI7WO*

Let me start by saying it is all Bobs' (N4CD) fault. I was perfectly content working contests and picking up a few new DXCC countries from time to time. I even went on several Dxpeditions, V31, TI2, TI5 & TI9, so that I could have the opportunity to BE the "wanted DX" station rather than "just another K7 station" trying to break the pile up. It was easy to copy the report since everyone was a 59 or 599 no matter how many time they had to repeat their call sign.

I first met Bob during our trip to TI9M, Cocos Island. We had plenty of time on the boat going and returning to talk about other aspects of ham radio besides DXing. I had been warned prior to our departure that Bob was a "little bit different", he is "one of those County Hunters". I didn't know anything about County Hunting so I did not take the warning seriously, though perhaps I should have.

In mid April this year I was tuning around the band looking for new countries when I stumbled upon 14.336. Still had no clue what I was about to get myself into. I listened for several days never thinking that I would become addicted to County Hunting. After checking around the Internet for info on county hunting I finally worked up the courage to jump in with both feet. I pulled out all the QSL cards I had received over the past 10 years and started sorting out Counties.

I had not checked into a structured net since my MARS days. Had a couple of "bumps" right off the bat with one of the Net Controls (who shall remain nameless) but we quickly got those problems sorted out.

So I started logging Counties. Some days they came loud, many, and quickly & some days not so. When K8AO sent me my "first ever" 22 signal report I about died. No one had EVER given me a 22 signal report. I wasn't even mobile, I was at the house with my "monster" A3S beam 28 feet in the air. I soon learned that this is one of the few occasions where true & accurate reports are exchanged instead of the standard 599. I have received many 22's since. I just couldn't bring myself to give out any 22's though there were a bunch of 33's in the beginning until one day I worked a really truly 22. My apologies to Don K3IMC, he received the first 22 report that I ever sent.

The XYL and I had planned a trip from Kansas City, MO up to Minot, ND to visit our son and his wife & I got the hair brained idea that I could BE the wanted CH mobile. Not having done any mobile operating since my 27 Mhz days, I scrambled to find mobile HF antenna info. Found a "good deal" on a used Hustler mast & and some resonators, even had to borrow a mag mount to put them on, a big Thank You goes to Mac, W0ROO for the use of the mag mount.

I had been swapping E-Mails with Mr. "30 Meter" County Hunter, aka N4CD, he suggested I consider adding the 30M resonator to the 20 & 40 set up I was originally planning. I figured I would have my hands full with just 20 & 40 CW and SSB but did as he suggested. Better to have it & not need than wish that I had not left it at the house. After having received numerous helpful tips & hints from the guys in the chat room I began to believe that I could pull this off.

With road atlas in hand, I started making a list of which counties we would be passing through during our travels. Let's just say that the XYL was not excited the first time I tried to explain the CH mentality to her. Had the trip all planned out, had everything I thought I would need & started packing radio gear. My XYL commented that it looked like I was packing for another Dxpedition. We had learned from previous travels that if you didn't take it with you, you have to learn to "field improvise". Not quite so bad here stateside, there are actually Walmarts and Radio Shacks in nearly every city.

I started the day of our planned departure with several poor assumptions:

- 1) I assumed that the mini van would be available at the time requested, I had confirmed the day prior.
- 2) I assumed that the rental vehicle would be reasonably RF quiet, after all it was brand new.
- 3) I assumed that the 110V inverter I purchased would be RF quiet, I know better now.

Since the rental vehicle was not ready at the time requested the departure time was pushed several hours. When the XYL asked if I was ready, I said everything is in the van. She understood me to say I was ready to go, when what I meant was all the stuff was IN the van. She takes off down the road & I am scrambling around the back seat looking for cables, getting the radio, computer, tape recorder etc. hooked up and ready to run counties. I knew I had everything I needed IN the vehicle just a matter of finding it.



***My First Road Trip (continued)***

The first county line I knew was a “wet” line so I worked both sides of the line without bothering the driver to stop. Several county lines later I was starting to get the hang of this mobile operating & was ready to work some CW. I told my XYL what a fine job she was doing driving & that there was a county line coming up. What she didn’t understand (or I didn’t explain well the first time) was that I wanted her to STOP at the county line sign. When she stopped we were 20 feet past the sign, so she backed up carefully on the shoulder until the front & rear wheels were sitting in different counties. She was NOT excited about sitting on the side of the road, but dealt with it.

She was doing so well, that is until the flashing lights showed up in the rear view mirror. I told her to say to the officer “Ham Radio Operator and County Hunter”. The officer apparently was aware of the bizarre behavior of CH’ers. After the officer left I apologized to her for not telling her that this type of encounter could possibly happen, then she got really mad cause I KNEW about the possibility of an encounter with Law Enforcement and I didn’t tell her before hand, then off to the next county. She didn’t want to stop on the CL’s anymore after that. I assured her that it surely wouldn’t happen more than once in the same day. Could I be wrong again? YEP. The remainder of the trip was rather uneventful. Conditions on the way up were not great because of the recent Flare activity, but the trip back was much better.

**“Things I learned during this trip”**

Operating from the house, with my short beam & ground mounted Vertical is MUCH different than running mobile. Having an 8 foot table in the shack to spread out on is much different than setting up in the back seat of a moving vehicle. Sending CW with a keyer sitting on a table is just not the same as having the key sitting on my left leg, being held in place with my left elbow, a note book in my left hand, holding pen in right hand and sending CW & hoping that the clip-on lapel mic is picking up everything except road noise.

Traveling with a mobile antenna that stands 13 feet 4 inches (Mag mount on the roof with the 54" hustler mast with 20, 30, & 40M resonators makes for very interesting times deciding which drive-thru McDonalds you want to take a chance on. Having never before operated on 30 meters that was a new experience. There were times that 30 was the only band that I could round up any activity. I knew that just about every time I CQ’d on 30 meters, N4CD would be one of the first one or two that I would hear come back. Next time I will take my foot switch along so I can use the boom mike, instead of having one more thing in my hand to wrestle with. Finally, traveling with a “family purpose” is very different than traveling for the expressed purpose of running counties

I have a much greater appreciation now for those who operate mobile, now that I have had the opportunity to “walk a mile in their shoes”. Many thanks to all who encouraged me in this first endeavor & also thanks to those who didn’t mind my asking AGN AGN on CW. It is a totally different listening environment also. Lots of other noises that I had to learn to ignore. I made nearly as many contacts on 30 CW as I did on 20 CW. 30 SSB was very quiet & I wasn’t sure if it was supposed to be USB or LSB so I didn’t run any there.

Why the electric companies would choose to run their power distribution lines right along side a roadway is one of those great mysteries. Do they not understand that mobile operators will be driving along these same roads & do not necessarily need all the extra background noise, thank you very much. Some areas of rural Kansas the noise levels were EXTREME.

I would be remiss if I did not extend a special Thank You to Kathy for driving the entire 2106 miles up and back just so I could sit in the back and play radio. She is beginning to warm to the idea of me becoming a mobile County Hunter. I haven’t got her convinced to let me put an antenna on her car yet, but working on it. She said something about we looked like a bunch of hillbilly’s running around with a huge antenna on the roof. I explained that the other people were not staring at us, they were admiring the fine job I did of running the ropes in four directions to help keep the tall mast upright, besides traveling in other states we likely wouldn’t run into anyone we knew.

The question which begs to be answered - Would I EVER consider doing something like this again? Sure, I am just Krazy enough to think that I might enjoy another road trip, though I might decide to leave the family at home next time & take a ham buddy with me instead.

***JUST TO LET EVERYONE KNOW I'M STILL ALIVE AND KICKING—I THINK.***

Well, it's been awhile since I wrote something for the Roadrunner. Bet you all thought I'd gone away and it would be quiet for awhile—ha ha!

Been busy at work and practicing my CW and getting on the air and making county contacts as well as other CW contacts. Have to get my sloppy fist unsloppy and my speed up so I can get those last 9 counties I need seeing that phone has been crappy lately. Didn't think I'd ever get back into CW let alone enjoy it but it is fun.

Am using my 20M inverted V dipole and a pair of 40M hamsticks in dipole formation. Of course when I want the other bands, I have to vacate Fred, KE8TQ, from his station so I can use 30 and 15. I wonder if he'd be agreeable to use my antennas and let me use his B/W—nah, guess that might cause a little ruckus around the shack. Am going to get a pair of 30M hamsticks so I can get on 30 without having to chase him; away from his station. Also have to figure out how to tune the 20M Hustler so I can do CW mobile. Just haven't been able to get it to tune in the CW portion. Anyone have any ideas how I can do this?

Next year we are going to do the all volunteer Hamvention with our club members—Dayton Amateur Radio Ass'n. commonly called DARA. Somehow I got "voted" to chair the Special Event Committee to come up with a special event QSL card and certificate and assign members to operate at the clubhouse and at home for the month of Feb. in honor of the clubs' 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Can't figure out yet how that happened. Guess I was in the wrong place at the right/wrong time.

And if you enjoyed, or didn't enjoy my big mouth at the last forum, guess what? I will be doing a presentation at the one next year. So for those of you who didn't get the honor of suffering thru it, you will this time.

Am enclosing a pic of my station—I have added a IC 706 and a Bencher. Also you can see Fred's station and why I'd love to trade stations with him. And if there's room I enclosed a pic of my IC 706 mobile in the Big Red Ranger HF Mobile. Was going to use the bugcatcher for CW mobile but found a Bull Dog that will work much better in such a small space. But of course I will have to have Fred slow down at the bumps and all as it sure is heck trying to write going at a good pace over bumps, let alone trying to do CW. I sure don't know how Ray, WG6X does it all on the fly. Sure wish I could do it like that.

Anyway, I thought I'd just drop a line or two to let you know this old biddy is still around and hunting counties and will be around for awhile, God willing and the creek don't rise.

Until next time, or I hear you on the air, or see you at Hamvention, Happy Hamming, and I hope you all get those counties you need. CU on the flip side.

Lori, K8XTQ(K8XTQ)hey, I know the new call still confuses you all and some of you really don't like it as well as my old call, but then who ever said I did anything to not confuse and upset people. Love you all and God bless.



**Database Printouts Available****KD9ZP****Awards Manager**

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.

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**

**September Birthdays**

LA9SN	Sep - 01	WE8D	Sep - 01
K2NJ	Sep - 02	K4XI	Sep - 03
W9GUY	Sep - 04	WA3LVH	Sep - 05
KA0W	Sep - 05	WA2BEG	Sep - 07
K4SL	Sep - 09	KJ7PO	Sep - 09
KG7Q	Sep - 09	K9WA	Sep - 11
N8RYD	Sep - 13	WB3JDC	Sep - 20
NN6AA	Sep - 21	KA6RAT	Sep - 23
KR4ZH	Sep - 23	W3CR	Sep - 23
AD8W	Sep - 24	K3VQO	Sep - 25
W7FGD	Sep - 28	KD4RKJ	Sep - 29
WA2CNJ	Sep - 29	KC3X	Sep - 29
	W1IBS		Sep - 29

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)

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

R-3139 NM2L Greg R Potter 5390 Lexington View  
Place Sugar Hill, GA 30518 Gwinnett  
gregpotter@charter.net

R-3140 KC5KQM Al S Donker 805 Rodney Ave  
Copperas Cove, TX 76522 Coryell  
donkbuilt@hotmail.com

R-3141W8LVN William G Lederer 918 Burriss Lake  
Bluff, IL 60044 Lake wgl@ciexinc.com

R-2803 W4ZZA Wendell (Windy) Rushton 806 River  
Road Orange Park, FL 32073 Clay 4zza@bellsouth.net

R-3142 VE9SX Melanie Wade 625 Havelock Road  
Petitcodiac, NB E4Z4J4 ve9dh@nbnet.nb.ca

R-3143 NK7I Bob Herrell 1813 Silver Birch Lane Las  
Vegas, NV 89104-4216 Clark nk7i@cox.net

R-3144 K6TV Thomas E Van Buskirk 8230 Comolette  
Ave Downey, CA 90242 Los Angeles  
tomk6tv@cs.com

R-3145 KB9MGI Judy E Bultman 4082 W Milhousen  
Rd Osgood, IN 47037 Ripley ema605@hotmail.com

**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**

*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](mailto:K2NJ@MARAC.org)

**Vice-President:** Bob Voss, N4CD 3133 Charring Cross, Plano TX. 75025-5712, 972-618-5235 [N4CD@MARAC.org](mailto:N4CD@MARAC.org)

**Secretary:** Norm Ellison, W2LSH, 117 Hayden Ave. Pass Christian MS. 39571, 228-452-1807, [W2LSH@MARAC.org](mailto:W2LSH@MARAC.org)

**Treasurer:** James Grandinetti, KZ2P, P.O. Box 770777, Naples, FL 34107-0777 732-370-8055, [K2JG@MARAC.org](mailto:K2JG@MARAC.org)

**Great Lakes Director:** Randy Davis, N8ELO, 1894 Sheick Road Monroe, MI 48161-9468. 734-587-2454 [N8ELO@MARAC.org](mailto:N8ELO@MARAC.org)

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

**Northeast Director:** Donald L. Kimble, AE3Z, 242 Leisure LN Horseheads NY, 14845-4005 USA 902-485-6055 1-607-795-4342, [AE3Z@MARAC.org](mailto:AE3Z@MARAC.org)

**South Central Director:** Joyce Boothe, WB9NUL, 21175 FM2556, Santa Rosa, TX 78593 1-956-636-9161 [WB9NUL@MARAC.org](mailto:WB9NUL@MARAC.org)

**Pacific Director:** Robert T. Devine, KC6AWX, 407 Alameda Del Prado Novato, CA 94949-6302, 415-883-8980, [KC6AWX@MARAC.org](mailto:KC6AWX@MARAC.org)

**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)

---

## 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.