



THE COUNTY LINE

ROADRUNNER

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DATELINE CW

By Ed, KN4Y

Though a little one, the master-word (mobile) looms large in meaning. It is the open sesame to every county, the great equalizer in the county hunting world, the true philosopher's stone that transmits all counties into gold.

Gator is waiting by the shack as I return from the Southeast Mini convention held at Murfreesboro, Tennessee. I park the vehicle and get out. Gator hears my bones cracking and shouts, "Need any help old man?" Gator has learned ham radio operators are called OM (old man), as least I hope that is what he meant. "Yes, you can help collect and discard the empty fast food and bottle water containers." "What is this large container sweet stripes mint candy." That was a prize donated by the XYL of N8STF,

"You won a half full container of candy?" "No dummy, it was full when I left this morning, it is a long trip.

"Dang, no wonder you are so fat." I give Gator the evil eye just as a gnat flew in my eye; I grab a half full bottle of water and rinse out my eye. "A tit for a tat and a gnat for an evil eye." Gator is laughing hilariously.

Gator goes to his truck and gets a twelve pack and some nachos and dip. "Sit down and relax Dude and tell me about the convention." "What a great idea Gator, I take a cool one and sit back in my recliner. I arrived around four our time, checked in and headed for the hospitality room." "I bet Al was there, did he ask about me." "YES gator, Al was there and he asked how you were doing and when would get your ham license." "Did you tell him I was studying to take the exam?" "Yes, and we drank a beer in your honor." Al is Gators county hunting Guru. "I bet he be the most handsome county hunter there."

I get two more cool ones and Gator opens the nachos and dip. "I talked to many county hunters that I hear on the CW net and Norm said to say hello." "You mean that Texas Dude with a three call." "Yes, now be quiet. We all sat around and told wild stories, drank and ate munchies, and told wild stories. After that long drive I crashed about midnight. The next morning I arose to a cold brisk October day. I had breakfast and got ready for the meetings."

"Did you have a CW meeting?"

"Do not interrupt me, first we had a general meeting and Gene, the award manager gave out award certificates. It was announced the MARAC convention will be July 13-16, 2005 at Hampton Virginia." "Hope you bring back some virgin hams." I give Gator a mean look and he gives me the universal zipped month gesture. Bill, KM4W, the convention instigator said there are 148 county hunters reservations, 145 have shown up and there will be 140 for the banquet.

"How about the CW meeting?" Gator is getting impatient. "The CW meeting was at nine in the morning." "Can Al get up that early?" Gator is concerned. "Yes Al was there. The commentator was Bob, N4CD, who handed out 30 METER PIONEER certificates for all county hunters who have checked into the 30 meter county hunters CW net." "Pioneer award?" "Bob lives in Texas, remember the Alamo?" "Okay, what else happened?"

"Ed, KN4Y, passed out a copy of the State-County abbreviations that Larry, W0QE, compiled. It was decided to include the list in the rules for the 2005 MARAC CW contest. The exchange will be county-state. We then discussed CW net procedures." "Same old bull?" "Yes."

Gator gets two more cool ones and opens the nachos and dip, All this discussion is making us dry and hungry. CW operators need to be fed on a regular basis. Gator grabs his pager. "Got customers Dude, got to go." He is out the door and as he backs out of the driveway he yells, "I love cooking with wine. Sometimes I even put it in the food." I counter, "All Gators have a photographic memory, some just have no film." Gator is out of earshot.

Gator left before I could tell him about the fun banquet, the unveiling of the proposed MARAC logging program and the antenna forum by Barry. I better write next years 3M mini date in my 2005 calendar. I make a note on October 13-16. Bill, KM4W, announced he would continue to coordinate this great mini convention. I wonder if maybe Bill is getting senile, NAW, who else could do such a great job. Got to remember the CW sweepstakes and CQ WW DX contests this month. **But first a nap is in order.**

Major Awards Issued For The Month Of *October*

KD9ZP - Awards Manager

Award	Number
LC-1 337	LC-2 11
LC-3 32	All Others 13

Other Awards

Call	Date	Award	Number
AC2J	10/25/2004	Big Rig	591 Counties
NV4Z	10/10/2004	BINGO	258
W1TEE	10/25/2004	DX Mobile	30 Countries
W0GXQ	10/25/2004	DX Mobile	50 Countries
AC2J	8/17/2004	Last County Count 100	190
NF0N	10/19/2004	Last County Count 100	191
WQ7A	10/31/2004	Last County Count 100	192
N4CD	10/31/2004	Last County Count 1050	2
HB9RG	10/29/2004	Last County Count 175	96
K5GE	10/19/2004	Last County Count 200	80
KE4UP	8/17/2004	Last County Count 200	81
AF3X	8/17/2004	Last County Count 25	422
KC0QER	8/17/2004	Last County Count 25	423
KO1U	8/17/2004	Last County Count 25	424
KB9MGI	9/14/2004	Last County Count 25	425
N0DIA	9/30/2004	Last County Count 25	426
K0LG	10/19/2004	Last County Count 25	427
W1IBS	10/19/2004	Last County Count 25	428
N6PDB	10/31/2004	Last County Count 25	429
W3CR	8/17/2004	Last County Count 300	44
N9QPQ	8/24/2004	Last County Count 300	45
KA3MMM	9/14/2004	Last County Count 325	37
KL1V	9/30/2004	Last County Count 325	38
N9QPQ	10/29/2004	Last County Count 325	39
KB6UF	10/19/2004	Last County Count 350	32
KL1V	10/19/2004	Last County Count 350	33
KA1JPR	10/12/2004	Last County Count 450	23
KC0JG	10/31/2004	Last County Count 475	21
N3HOO	8/17/2004	Last County Count 50	284
KA9JAC	8/31/2004	Last County Count 50	285
K0ZT	9/14/2004	Last County Count 50	286
N8KIE	8/14/2004	Last County Count 50	287
W8OP	10/19/2004	Last County Count 50	288
N9WLJ	10/25/2004	Last County Count 50	289
KC1NA	9/14/2004	Last County Count 650	8
KM9X	9/24/2004	Last County Count 75	209

ND3T 9/2/2004 Master's Gold 10

KC3X 10/5/2004 USA-CW 73

ND3T 10/11/2004 USA-PA - K 7

KB0FQC 10/18/2004 Worked all Counties - 2nd Time 341

W4YDY 10/23/2004 Worked all Counties - 2nd Time 342

WB9YCO 10/18/2004 Worked all Counties - 4th Time 117

KC6AWX 10/20/2004 Worked all Counties - 4th Time 118

KA1JPR 10/23/2004 Worked all Counties - 8th Time 4

AC2J 10/25/2004 YL Mobile 1256 Counties

Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club (MARAC)

2005 SOUTH CENTRAL MINI

WHEN: February 24, 25 & 26, 2005

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

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

RESERVATIONS: Call 512-467-9500 and mention MARAC to get the special rate. Same rate applies if you come in early or stay late. Our block of rooms will be held at the \$59.99 rate until Feb. 10...they will be released after that date. Please reserve before then if possible.

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

AUSTIN HIGHLIGHTS TOUR: Bus will pick us up at the hotel at 9:00 am and return us at 1:00 PM. Tour will go to the LBJ Presidential Library, the Texas Capital and other interesting Austin attractions. See the Texas Legislature in session.

CONVENTION ACTIVITIES: Hospitality room, Friday morning golf (weather permitting), Friday Morning Tour, Saturday morning meetings, Saturday night dinner and prize drawing. If you are interested in golf, please email Bob in advance—kk5mi@juno.com.

PRIZES: Please consider donating a door prize.

CONVENTION FEES-REGISTRATION FORM

Registration-Includes name badge, group photo and prize drawing

Single.....\$9.00 = \$ _____
OM/YL Couple.....\$14.00 = \$ _____
Friday Morning Austin Tour.....\$ 18.00 pp= \$ _____
Saturday Night Dinner..(Salt Lick BBQ-Casual).....\$18.00 pp = \$ _____
Total.....\$ _____

NAME _____ CALL _____ USACA# _____ # of STARS _____

NAME _____ CALL _____ USACA# _____ # of STARS _____

RELATION _____

E-mail address of primary registrant: _____

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

Joyce Judy, KD8HB, is 2004 Ohio Ham of the Year

Joyce Judy, KD8HB, is the 2004 Ohio Ham of the Year and, as such, the 11th winner of the Allan Severson, AB8P, Memorial Award. Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE, presented the award (photo) to Judy, a former Ohio Section Traffic Manager, who's well known for her work in CW and Ohio traffic handling.

The Ohio Ham of the Year award is named for former ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Al Severson, AB8P, who died in 1997. "It is not a resume for which Joyce qualifies for this honor but her daily spirit and manner she takes in traffic handling," said Phillips. "It is a spirit that causes everyone to do more and do better for ham radio—the same special spirit that Al Severson demonstrated daily."

Judy, a traffic-handling specialist on both on phone and CW, was net manager of the Ohio Sunrise Slow Net, later becoming manager of the Buckeye Net—Late. She served as STM from 1992 until 1997. Judy, who lives in Mechanicsburg, remains active as net control and liaison on the Ohio Section and Eighth Region CW nets, is a two-time recipient of the Ohio Single Sideband Net (OSSBN) Merit Award and recently earned membership in the ARRL A-1 Operator Club.

Phillips says "Judy also is an enthusiastic participant in the USA Counties Award ([USA-CA](#)) program sponsored by CQ, and she and her husband travel frequently to "run" counties for other USA-CA fans. In addition, she takes part in many state QSO parties and county hunter CW events".

November Birthdays

W2NWL	November 1	VE9DH	November 1
W7TSM	November 3	N5DWI	November 3
KA3MMM	November 4	WA2AKB	November 4
N1API	November 6	WU4S	November 6
KW0U	November 7	N4AHZ	November 8
NT9V	November 10	NX4W	November 10
W5UGD	November 11	W5UGD*	November 11
WG6X	November 11	K8GPC	November 13
N4XML	November 13	WB9STT	November 13
WBOAXN	November 13	KC5DSP	November 14
WA5AUR	November 16	KA9FDV	November 16
N7LYR	November 17	W4XT	November 17
WB2AXG	November 17	WB9ZHS	November 17
K7BOI	November 17	NF0N	November 18
KK7X	November 23	W5ETM	November 23
VE1BES	November 24	KG4UPA	November 28

If your birthday is not in the database at:

www.marac.org/database

Send it to: kd9zp@marac.org

New members

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

Marac No.	Call	Full Name	Address	City	State
	Home County	Phone Number	E Mail		
R-3153	W6RK	Risto O Kotalampi	25881 Meadowmist Drive Hayward, CA 94544	Alameda	
	1-000-000-000	risto@kotalampi.com			
R-3154	WM3T	Glen A Brooks	891 Webster Rd. Glade Hill, VA 24092	Franklin	1-540-493-423
		wm3t@wm3t.com			
R-3155	KJ6DB	Marion J Ross	24991 West Posey Drive Hemet, CA 92544-2730	Riverside	
	1-951-927-765	kj6db@verizon.net			
R-3156	W0MD	William T Brey	6177 W. 84th Ave Arvada, CO 8003	Jefferson	1-303-424-532
		bbrey@ix.netcom.com			

The Good Ol' Days

By Bill Herbert WA2ZYM

The holiday season is on us once again. Most of us, at this time of year, look back over the years at past holiday seasons. We think of them as the good old days, the days when we were younger and things were simpler and easier – or so we think now.

All of us who were hams back in the 40's, 50's and 60's have some really fond memories of operating in those days. I once saw a quiz that determined if you could consider yourself a "geezer". There was a series of questions to determine if you were truly a geezer or just thought you were.

Well, here is some food for thought for hams. If the majority of your responses are in the affirmative – Hooray! You have qualified as a real old, old timer. You will be pleased to know that if you qualify, and have a dollar in your pocket, you will be able to get a cup of coffee at Mickey D's.

Here goes –

1. Did you ever have a razor blade receiver?
2. Do you remember Cortland St. in New York City?
3. Did you ever visit Cortland St.?
4. Remember that state of the art Atlas 210 that was your first mobile rig?
5. Do you know what a 6L6 and a 6146B are used for?
6. Did you ever have one of those brand new, all the bells and whistles, Hammerlund 110's as a receiver?
7. A true old, old timer used a four foot high, two feet wide Philco all band radio to listen to the short wave bands and stumbled across ham radio. Did You?
8. Was your first station CW only and completely home brew?
9. If you are just a semi old, old timer do you remember the neighbor's complaints about TVI?
10. Remember how amazed you were the first time you met a ham who not only had a "bug" but knew how to use it?
11. How about that new fangled mode called single sideband?
12. Can you remember names like Drake, Hammerlund, National, Gonset and Henry and Lafayette?
13. How about that nervous trek down to the area FCC office to take the exam?
14. Ever own a Viking Ranger or Valiant?
15. Remember 6 volt mobile rigs and tuner coupled CB whips?
16. Did your shop include a vacuum tube volt meter?
17. Was your junk box full of 803's, big coils and monstrous variable capacitors?
18. Remember when we could tell where a ham lived by his/her call?
19. How many copies of the Callbook did you own at one time?
20. Can you remember the times when people had no idea what you meant when you told them you were a Ham?

These are only a few of the things that we can associate with the good old days. If you remember them you certainly qualify as an old, old timer – or perhaps as a well read new timer!

For the younger hams among us please keep in mind that when we old fogies talk about the good old days that it is just a figure of speech. Those of us who were hams prior to the 1950's can look back on those days fondly but we wouldn't go back. Don't forget, in those days, we didn't have cell phones, TV, VCR's, solid state, frequency synthesizers, handhelds, all band mobile rigs the size of a box of candy, computers, the internet, DSP and that most dreadful invention - the answering machine among many other things to numerous to mention. This ham can even remember when there weren't any such things as shopping malls!

I wouldn't want to go back to those days but I will tell you that they were a lot of fun and gave me a lot of fond memories. I hope that those of you just getting started in ham radio will, 50 years from now, be able to say the same thing.

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

Funds Balance 9/30/04		\$31,658.66
Adjustments:		
Income:		
Awards	\$970.00	
Dues	\$1,062.00	
Interest	<u>\$5.56</u>	
		\$2037.56
Expenses:		
Gene Olig – expenses	\$591.46	
Gene Olig - Computer	\$2,930.55	
Joyce Booth - Marac Club Call Change	\$45.99	
Stafford Engraving - Awards	\$144.00	
Fairmont Awards - Awards	\$235.50	
Print-Right, Inc – newsletter	<u>\$538.66</u>	
		\$4,486.19
		(<u>\$2448.63</u>)
Account Balances:		\$29,210.03
Money Market Account	\$27,842.35	
Checking Account	<u>\$1,367.68</u>	
		\$29,210.03

Note:

The following monies are not included in the above:

Awards Chairman's Funds \$1,200.00

Frank Russo WA2JTY

USA-CA #452

Frank has been under the weather for the last few months.

In speaking with his XYL Frank started to have some speech problems which lead to the discovery of a tumor that is operable in his brain.

During the operation it became obvious that Frank was having a heart problem and the operation was halted.

He was sent to another hospital where they performed a live bypass and Frank is now in a rehab center walking with the aid of a walker.

As soon as possible he will again return for the surgery that is necessary to correct his speech.

Cards and letters of encouragement would be just the thing to help get Frank motivated.

**His Address is: Frank Russo, WA2JTY
2337 Agincourt Road Toms River, N.J. 08755**

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

2004

Nov 10, Dec 8

2005

Jan 12, Feb 9, Mar 9, Apr 13,

May 11, June 8,

July At The Convention

**DEADLINE FOR
THE DECEMBER
ISSUE IS
NOVEMBER 25TH**

FCC BPL REPORT AND ORDER STRESSES INTERFERENCE AVOIDANCE, RESOLUTION

The FCC this week released the full BPL Report and Order (R&O) in ET Docket 04-37 that it adopted just two weeks ago. While extolling the purported benefits of broadband over power line technology, the 81-page document also declares the FCC's intention to protect licensed services from harmful interference.

"We recognize that some radio operations in the bands being used for Access BPL, such as those of Amateur Radio licensees, may occur at distances sufficiently close to power lines as to make harmful interference a possibility," the FCC conceded in its R&O. "We believe that those situations can be addressed through interference avoidance techniques by the Access BPL provider such as frequency band selection, notching, or judicious device placement."

Notches would have to be at least 20 dB below applicable Part 15 limits on HF, 10 dB below on VHF. The FCC called the ability to alter a system's operation to notch out transmissions on specific frequencies where interference is occurring "a necessary feature for resolving interference without disrupting service to BPL subscribers."

In line with remarks made at the October 14 open meeting where the FCC adopted the R&O—then still in draft form—the FCC declined to reduce the Part 15 radiated emission limit for BPL systems. It maintained that emissions from BPL systems are very localized and at low enough levels to generally preclude harmful interference.

The FCC said it had no evidence before it that BPL operation would significantly contribute to generally raising background noise levels. At the same time, it seemed to put some of the onus on Amateur Radio licensees to take steps to avoid power-line interference—and, by inference, BPL interference—in advance.

"In addition, because power lines inherently can radiate significant noise emissions as noted by NTIA and ARRL, good engineering practice is to locate sensitive receiver antennas as far as practicable from power lines," the FCC said.

In a footnote, the FCC took pains to advise ARRL that in cases where its members experience RF noise, "such noise can often be avoided by carefully locating their antennas; in many instances an antenna relocation of only a relatively short distance can resolve noise interference."

BPL operators would be required to avoid certain bands, such as those used for life and safety communications by aeronautical mobile or US Coast Guard stations. The FCC R&O makes clear, however, that similar rules will not apply to the Amateur Service.

"We similarly do not find that Amateur Radio frequencies warrant the special protection afforded frequencies reserved for international aeronautical and maritime safety operations," the Commission said. "While we recognize that amateurs may on occasion assist in providing emergency communications," the FCC added. It described typical amateur operations as "routine communications and hobby activities."

Although some cases of harmful interference may be possible from BPL emissions at levels up to Part 15 limits, the FCC said, "we agree with NTIA [National Telecommunications and Information Administration] that the benefits of Access BPL service warrant acceptance of a small and manageable degree of interference risk." The Commission reiterated in the R&O its belief that BPL's public benefits "are sufficiently important and significant so as to outweigh the limited potential for increased harmful interference that may arise."

Among other specific provisions, the FCC's new rules mandate certification of BPL equipment instead of the less-stringent verification, a public BPL database—something the BPL industry did not want—and mechanisms to deal swiftly with interference complaints. BPL systems will have to incorporate the ability to modify operation and performance "to mitigate or avoid potential harmful interference" and to deactivate problematic units, the R&O says.

Further, the new rules spell out the locations of "small geographic exclusion zones" as well as excluded bands or frequencies—concessions made primarily at the insistence of the NTIA, which administers radio spectrum for federal government users—and "coordination areas" where BPL operators must "precoordinate" spectrum use. The rules also detail techniques to measure BPL emissions from system equipment and power lines.

The FCC said it expects "good faith" on both sides in the event of interference complaints. While the Commission said it expects BPL operators to take every interference complaint seriously and to diagnose the possible cause of interference quickly, it also suggested that complainants have responsibilities.

"At the same time, we expect the complainant to have first taken reasonable steps to confirm that interference, rather than a receiver system malfunction, is occurring and, to the extent practicable, to determine that the interference source is located outside the complainant's premises," the Commission said.

Shutting down a BPL system in response to a valid interference complaint "would be a last resort when all other efforts to satisfactorily reduce interference have failed," the FCC said.

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

“A Road Runner Is A Very Fast Bird”

Board of Directors

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MARAC Webmaster: (See Information Coordinator)

Membership

Dues with a printed copy of the Newsletter are \$19.00 per year. Dues with an Electronic copy are \$14.00 per year. Dues with the Newsletter mailed to all continents other than North America 30.00 a year.