



THE COUNTY LINE ***ROADRUNNER***

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From My Point of View **WB9NUL, Joyce**

The country is trying to recover from hurricane Katrina and is bracing for hurricane Rita as I write this. Katrina did affect several of our members. Norm, W2IBB, who is our secretary for MARAC lost everything. Fortunately, he did take the computer with our information with him.

At our last board meeting the officers and directors agreed to extend the membership of those whose dues are due in September and October. The reason for this is that we know that there are checks that are somewhere in the Gulf of Mexico. **If you sent your dues anytime from the 20th of August until Hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana, please mail them again. If Norm does receive double checks he will return them. Please, send your dues to the following address: P.O. Box 770777 Naples, FL 34107-0777**

I know that gas prices are skyrocketing across the country. Perhaps now is the time we should look at working for those other awards MARAC offers. When there isn't a mobile running why not try working USA-CA second time holders and apply for the Gemini Award.

It looks like we'll have a nice group in Tennessee. I'm sure a good time will be had by all. Till next month, travel safe and enjoy. 73's Joyce, WB9NUL

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DATELINE CW

KN4Y, Ed

A little time for laughter,
A little time to sing,
A little time to kiss and cling,
And then it's time to go county hunting.

Gator is in the shack listening to the thirty-meter county hunters CW net and reading the Roadrunner on the computer. We were discussing the high price of gasoline. He told me about Joshua who went to the sperm bank and got one of his vials. Joshua drove to the Petrol-R-Us station and swapped his first born for a tank full of gasoline, middle grade. I try not to laugh but the devil made me. Gator is grinning from ear to ear and gets two 807's and hands me one.

"Dude, I read where a girl is now president of the county hunters." "That is Joyce, WB9NUL and she has forgotten more facts about county hunting than you will ever know. Do not worry Joyce can do CW, has fists of steel and Mark, W9OP as vice-president." "You mean the great Bozo?" I am beginning to regret Gator can copy code. "Who else in on the pot?" Gator is laughing hilariously.

I list the other club officers. The secretary is Norm, W2IBB. The treasurer is Jim, KZ2P. The Great Lakes Director is Hugh, K8GPC. The North Central Director is John, WB9STT. The North East Director is Don, AF3Z. The Pacific Director is Bob, KC6AWX. The South Central Director is Mike, W0MU. The South East Director is Dave, KE3VV. The immediate past president is your buddy Bill, K2NJ.

"Thanks Dude for the list of sidebanders, what would be a non-immediate past president?" "Gator, It means the same as a past president, don't get bent out of shape. That, which you call a list of sidebanders, is the Board of Directors. "Bored..." "Gator!" Gator is laughing as he goes to get two more 807's. I raise my voice, "Also Mark, W9OP, the vice-president is a great CW county hunter." Gator yells back "I know, I worked Mark using your call and he did not know it was me and no need to shout I ain't as deaf as you, yet.

Gator hands me a cool one, "Did you know one person can make a change." Gator's mind wanders and he tends to segue without reason. "What are you talking about now?" Gator tells me the story.

Leroy Leatherwatts was pushing eighty years of age and lived in a senior subdivision named Alcatraz. (The developer's name) His CB handle is DOUBLE L. The subdivision was a magnet for squirrels whose numbers seemed to increase exponentially every year. The road kill by the golf carts and three wheelers did not diminish the squirrel population.

The squirrels caused much damage. They got into attics and chewed on the electric wires causing fires, chewed the cover off the television and coax cable, chewed the lead roof vent covers, and raised havoc in the gardens, to mention a few antics. They also brought fleas to the domestic animals. The women of the subdivision thought the squirrels were cute rodents and fed them sunflower seeds. Is there a solution to this squirrel (tree rat) problem?

Along came Leroy.

Leroy went to the local non-profit Humane Society and borrowed a humane trap. He placed it in his garden. Leroy would take the trapped squirrels ten miles to the Tall Pines game reserve and release them. The reason it is called a humane trap is that the squirrels enjoy the pinecones, and the homeless living in the forest enjoy the squirrels.

Each day Leroy would catch two or three squirrels, then later one at a time. After six months the squirrel population had been reduced to an occasionally visitor from the subdivision down the road. It would be a short visit. The women of the subdivision are told that feral cats were killing the squirrels. The damage attributed to the squirrels ceased.

One person, regardless of age, can make a difference.

Leroy is known as the squirrel man of Alcatraz.

I finish my cool one and ask, "What does that have to do with county hunting, pray tell." "Well many of the seniors in the subdivision are county hunters using attic dipoles and the squirrels ate the coax. My pager just went off, I better move on. See you tomorrow." Gator is out the door, into his four-by-four and roars off disappearing down the canopy road. I notice there are no squirrels in the yard, I wonder, naw, it is just a happenstance.

I go back into the shack. Better check my candy stock, it will soon be Halloween. This month is a good time to work those needed California counties in the CQP, the Pennsylvania counties in the PQP and the Illinois counties in the IQP. The ten-ten members have a Sprint and a CW QSO party. The FISTS members have a Sprint and a Coast to Coast contest. Just what the doctor ordered for these cool weekends.

MARAC Logger Update KD9ZP, Gene

Over the past several months I have received many questions about the status of MARAC Logger. Hopefully, this article will answer many of these questions.

I have been working on MARAC Logger for almost three years. K7DM, KD5CXO, WQ7A, and several other county hunters have also been actively involved in developing and testing the program. When I volunteered to take on the project, it was my goal to integrate it with the MARAC database already on-line at www.marac.org/database. This meant that MARAC Logger would have to use Microsoft Access 2000 as its database, which in turn meant that the program would have to have the capability of converting Kwiklog data to Access 2000. The data conversion has proven to be much more involved than I expected. There are four versions of Kwiklog:

- Kwiklog Lite
- Kwiklog Plus
- Kwiklog Plus 2000
- Kwiklog Classic

We discovered that the record lengths for data are different for each version of Kwiklog, which made the data conversion routines significantly more difficult. We also discovered that there are a number of bugs in Kwiklog that also complicated the conversion.

All the versions of Kwiklog have two sets of data, the so-called “dot qso” files (files with a “.qso” extension) and the 50 two-letter state files (AK, AL, AR, etc.). The dot qso files contain data pertaining to each QSO, such as date, time, call, state, county, band and frequency, mode, and the exchanged RSTs. The two-letter state files contain some of this data, but also have data pertaining to the various awards (also referred to as “books”).

The MARAC Logger Access 2000 database contains many sets of data called “tables.” For example, there is a table for QSOs, a table for each of the various books or awards, a table for individual county hunter information, etc. The QSO table is very similar to the Kwiklog dot qso files. The book format MARAC Logger uses is considerably different than Kwiklog. MARAC Logger has an Access 2000 table for each book, i.e. there is a CW table, a USA-CA table, etc. Each book table has two fields, County ID and QSO ID. One advantage of using Access 2000 is that it references data by an ID number. Every county hunter has an ID number, every QSO has an ID number, and every county has an ID number. This scheme provides rapid access to an individual record and takes less disc space.

The Kwiklog data conversion continues to be a problem. We have found many errors in the Kwiklog files, the most common of which is a Kwiklog book file with an entry that does not correspond to an entry in any dot qso file. In this case, MARAC Logger creates a QSO entry for the book entry. WQ7A, K7DM, and KD5CXO have found that it is often easier to fix a bad entry in either the Kwiklog dot qso file or the two-letter state file and then rerun the conversion. WQ7A has developed an Excel spreadsheet with Visual Basic macros that identify and locate book errors so they can be corrected in Kwiklog *before* the conversion. It’s called KwikLog File Viewer and is available at no cost at: <http://superhosts.net/~wq7a/>. It requires MS Excel version 2000 or later. You can download it and check your data to find possible errors.

I met with several members of the MARAC Board Of Directors at the national convention last July and we decided the fee for the program should be \$20 for members and \$40 for non-members. All program proceeds go directly to MARAC. We decided to limit the number of users for the initial release to five in order to limit the number of questions and potential data conversion problems. The target date for this release is January 1, 2006. If you have any questions about the program, please direct them to K7DM or WQ7A.

**Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club
Treasurer's Report
September 30, 2005**

Funds Balance	8/31/05		\$25,759.50
Income:			
Awards		\$1,207.00	
Interest		<u>5.40</u>	
			\$1,212.40
Expenses:			
Gene Olig – expenses		\$ 166.03	
Fairmont Awards Mfg. - awards		1,364.20	
Wachovia Bank - service charge		5.00	
Dave Hyatt - newsletter software		356.98	
Norm Ellison - printer		318.67	
John Hoyt - SE Mini		300.00	
Print-Right, Inc – newsletter		<u>526.13</u>	
			<u>3,037.01</u>
			(1,824.61)
Account Balances			\$23,934.89
Money Market Account		\$22,901.22	
Checking Account		<u>1,033.67</u>	
			\$23,934.89

Note:

The following monies are not included in the above:

Awards Chairman's Funds	\$1,200.00
Convention Chairman's Funds - 2005	\$2,500.00
Convention Chairman's Funds - 2006	\$2,500.00

MARAC Board of Directors Meeting

September 8, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Joyce (WB9NUL) at 8:02 PM EDT. The following Officers/Directors were present:

President	Joyce Booth	WB9NUL
Secretary	Norm Ellison	W2IBB
Treasurer	Jim Grandinetti	KZ2P
Past President	Bill Inkrote	K2NJ
Northeast Director	Don Kimble	AE3Z
North Central Director	John Robson	WB9STT
Great Lakes Director	Hugh Clark	K8GPC
Pacific Director	Bob Devine	KC6AWX
South Central Director	Mike Fatchett	W0MU
Members:	N4XMY, KU4YM	

Bill (K2NJ) made a motion to accept the minutes of the Roanoke, VA Annual Meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim (KZ2P). Roll call indicated 5 in favor none opposed. The motion passed.

Bill (K2NJ) made a motion to accept the July 2005 and the August 2005 Treasurer's reports. The motion was seconded by Don (AE3Z). Roll call indicated 5 in favor, 1 abstention and none opposed. The motion passed.

New Business

On a motion made by Jim (KZ2P) and seconded by Bill (K2NJ) the annual report was accepted. Roll call indicated 6 in favor and none opposed. The motion passed.

Bill (K2NJ) made a motion, seconded by Jim (KZ2P), to accept all of the modifications to the MARAC awards that were presented to the Board and Members at the Annual Meeting by Dave (KE3VV). Roll call indicated that 7 were in favor and none opposed. The motion passed.

Norm (W2IBB) reported that hurricane Katrina completely demolished his house. He was able to save the MARAC records that were stored on his computer, but all other paper records, checks for dues renewals/new memberships along with all other historical paper documents were lost. His membership data base is current to August 25, 2005. The Pass Christian Post Office was also completely demolished and there is a very good possibility that some checks for the renewal of dues and new memberships were lost. The Board of Directors agreed to extend the membership expiration date of all those members whose membership are/were due for renewal in August and September until these members are notified of the situation. If checks are not received within a reasonable time, Norm will inform the members of the problem and ask them to forward replacement checks. The Board agreed to give Norm some latitude in this matter. Joyce agreed to publish a notice in the next Road Runner.

Changes to the By-laws

Bill (K2NJ) made a motion, seconded by Jim (KZ2P), to clarify that Article 1.2(a), (b), and (c) apply only to District Directors and to clarify that a person may not hold more than one seat one the Board at the same time. Article 2.1 is also amended to clarify that no one may hold more than one officer position concurrently. These changes will allow the footnotes to the current version to be deleted. Roll call indicated 7 in favor none opposed. The motion passed.

Jim (KZ2P) made a motion, seconded by Don (AE3Z), to amend Article 1, Section 1.3(e) to allow all meetings of the Board of Directors, including the annual meeting, to be held by radio, Internet, or conference call. Currently, only special meetings of the Board can be held via the Internet or other alternative means. Roll call indicated 7 in favor none opposed. The motion passed.

Mike (W0MU) made a motion, seconded by Don (AE3Z) that the provisions of Article 3, Section 3.3 are amended to allow more flexibility in the voting process, including the use of electronic ballots and the MARAC web, and to require the Election Coordinator to maintain voter identity separate from tabulated votes. Roll call indicated 7 in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

Norm (W2IBB) made a motion, seconded by Mike (W0MU) that the provisions of Article 8, Section 8.2 are amended to avoid a conflict between the ratification process for amendments to the MARAC Bylaws and the revised elections process. This will allow the use of electronic ballots and the MARAC web site. Roll call indicated 7 in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

There was no other business to discuss. Bob (KC6AWX) made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM. The motion was seconded by Bill (K2NJ). Roll call indicated all in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Norm Ellison, (W2IBB) [Ed. Note - A mail-in ballot on these amendments is expected next month.]
Secretary

MARAC 1st. Quarter Ballot

Votes Accepted through

October 31, 2005

You are voting for Net Controls who ran the net and mobiles that ran in the 1st Quarter which were the months of July, August and September
1 vote per Quarter --- Please

Please enter below:

Call Sign* _____ or Election Key* _____

Annual Award for:	1st choice	2nd choice
Best Net Control – SSB:	_____	_____
Best Net Control - CW:	_____	_____
Best Mobile – SSB	_____	_____
Best Mobile – CW	_____	_____
Best Team (Enter both calls):	_____ / _____	_____ / _____

Mail to: Chuck Theisen, Elections Coordinator
8075 174th Belhaven Loop
The Villages, FL 32162

Deadline for the next issue of Roadrunner is October 25.

Awards and Birthdays for This Month

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Current Call	Birthday Date
WD8LQB	Oct - 01
K7DM	Oct - 02
W5EG	Oct - 04
HK3JJH	Oct - 05
W1ENE	Oct - 06
W5DU	Oct - 06
W9JL	Oct - 08
WB4FFV	Oct - 08
WA2NEW	Oct - 09
W0NAC	Oct - 09
N8WTQ	Oct - 10
K0EH	Oct - 10
K6OHM	Oct - 12
KC0QER	Oct - 14
KCA6RC	Oct - 16
N9JLT	Oct - 16
W7GHT	Oct - 17
KC0JG	Oct - 19
WB0CQO	Oct - 19
W7GQK	Oct - 20
AI5P	Oct - 21
WD8ELH	Oct - 21
NK7I	Oct - 21
AF3X	Oct - 22
KW4CZ	Oct - 23
K4ELK	Oct - 24
K6TEX	Oct - 24
WA4HXG	Oct - 24
W8OP	Oct - 25
K8XTQ	Oct - 25
DL5MC	Oct - 26
KG4UPA	Oct - 28
W3DYA	Oct - 29
KF8K	Oct - 30
N4EWK	Oct - 30
WA0YFQ	Oct - 31
K8WXJ	Oct - 31

Major Awards Issued For The Month Of
September

KD9ZP - Awards Manager

Award	Number
LC-1	163
LC-2	4
Roadrunner(LC-3)	4
Ran All State	10
All Others	19

Other Awards

Roadrunner Issued Per Month			
Call	Date	Award	Number
AC2J	9/28/2005	Big Rig	1120 Counties
K5XY	8/31/2005	BINGO	275
KW5USA	9/11/2005	BINGO	276
AC2J	9/28/2005	Cliff Corne Jr. (K9EAB) Memorial	250 USA-CA Holders
NF0N	9/27/2005	Last County Count 125	143
K4SSU	9/27/2005	Last County Count 25	442
AA9KH	9/27/2005	Last County Count 25	443
NE9DH	9/27/2005	Last County Count 250	58
K9DCJ	9/27/2005	USA-CW	83
K9DCJ	9/27/2005	Worked all Counties - 3rd Time	190

USA-CA
Issued By K1BV

None

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: Joyce Booth, WB9NUL, 21175 FM2556, Santa Rosa, TX 78593 1-956-636-9161, wb9nul@marac.org

Vice-President: Mark Michel, W9OP, 1615 Oakridge Rd., Neenah, WI 54956, 1-920-722-4034, w9op@marac.org

Secretary: Norm Ellison, W2IBB, 117 Hayden Ave. Pass Christian MS. 39571, 1-228-452-1807, w2lsh@marac.org

Treasurer: James Grandinetti, KZ2P, P.O. Box 770777, Naples, FL 34107-0777, 1-239-514-0861,

k2jg@marac.org

Great Lakes Director: Hugh Clark, K8GPC, 26252 Schreiner St., New Boston, MI 48164, 1-734-654-8290, k8gpc@chartermi.net

North Central Director: John Robson, WB9STT, 150 W. Wise Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60193, 1-847-891-3906, robsonjohna@aol.com

Northeast Director: Donald L. Kimble, AE3Z, 242 Leisure Ln., Horseheads NY, 14845-4005 USA 1-607-795-4342, ae3z@marac.org

South Central Director: Mike Fatchett, W0MU, PO Box 3500, Parker, Co. 08134 1-303-790-4611, w0mu@marac.org

Pacific Director: Robert T. Devine, KC6AWX, 407 Alameda Del Prado, Novato, CA 94949-6302, 1-415-883-8980, kc6awx@marac.org

Southeast Director: David Splitt, KE3VV, 6111 Utah Ave. N.W., Washington, DC 20015-2005, 1-202-362-3355 ke3vv@marac.org

Appointees

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MARAC Historian: Eldon “Sonny” Sanders, W5DVW 4161 Old Barker Ranch Rd. College Station, Tx 77845, w5dvw@marac.org

MARAC Webmaster: (See Information Coordinator)
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.