



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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From My Point of View

Joyce, WB9NUL

I'll not be talking to you as President of MARAC but as the host of the South Central Mini. What a wonderful convention! We had 94 register...one couple had to cancel. This gave us 92 at the convention and we had 91 people at the banquet on Saturday night.

Thursday evening was our Chuck Wagon Buffet and it was a delicious feast. In fact, several suggested that that be the banquet meal if we host the convention again.

On Friday there were several exciting things happening. Scottie, N7AKT, ran his 3077th county! It was exciting for me because I was the one he contacted! Thanks a lot. Scottie received #6 for transmitting all counties. What was even nicer was of the six who hold that award three were at the convention. They were N4CD, #4, K0GO, #5, and Scottie. Also, on Friday a group of 30 people went to Mexico. Thanks, Cheryl, KJ5PQ, and Mike, KG5UZ, for hosting that tour. I understand that the lunch at Arturo's was fun.

We also held a licensing session. I know that that has been done at a National convention but I don't believe it had been done at a mini. I want to thank NA7W and N4CD plus two local hams for helping in that effort. Though the person taking the test didn't pass he only missed by a couple so he is going to try again.

A general meeting (gab session) was held Saturday morning. It was nice to have N8KIE, Bob there. Bob is our newest district director representing the Great Lakes Region. Janet, KC5QCB made a presentation to hold the next SC mini in San Angelo, TX. It was well received and she is going to see what she can put together. The dates will be earlier next year so mark your calendars. Feb 8, 9 & 10, 2007 are the planned dates.

The CW group got together that morning also and they had a great crowd. Thanks to Norm, W3DYA, and Guff, KS5A, for hosting that meeting. Tim, KD5CXO, and Terry, WQ7A, told the group about what is happening with the Logging Program. I made sure Barry, W9UCW didn't present the antenna program till after lunch—that way the gals could have lunch with their guys! Thanks, Barry!

I need to thank Bob, KK5MI, and his wife Sandy for taking the group photo. I can't wait to see the photo as they always do a great job. Also, a grateful thanks to all who helped in the hospitality room....Walt, K1DFO, Bob, W4OWY, Evelyn, KI4BZS, Beverly, Boni and some whom I know I am forgetting. To those of you who donated prizes and cash I owe a great big thank you.

All in all, a great time was had by all! Thanks for making it so special, 73, Joyce, WB9NU.

Contents

Corrections	4
Dateline CW	2
Election Notice	3
Election Notice	4
For Sale	4
From My Point of View	1
How to Log at 60+mph	5
Major Awards	6
New Members	3
Treasurer's Report	7

Editor's Notes

Wow! It's hard to believe this is my seventh issue! Thanks for hanging in here with me.

Just a reminder – the Table of Contents is completely interactive (email subscribers only). See the November issue if you need a refresher on making it work to the max.

For you authors wondering where your articles are; first class postage expenses limit us to eight pages except in extraordinary circumstances. As soon as we get our bulk mail permit, we will be able to expand our issues a bit and get your articles in here. Thanks for your patience.

NEXT DEADLINE = MARCH 27th

Dateline CW

March 2006

Ed, KN4Y

Time is the rider that breaks young county hunters.

Since retirement I find time confusing for an old county hunter like me. While preparing my last months article for the newsletter I thought the next month last month was this month. I am probably sorry for any confusion this may have caused. To keep me straight I am adding the month of the article under the title. I was going to blame Jerry but I was afraid he would push arctic air this way. I dismissed it as PSM (prolonged senior moment). March is that time of the year when county hunters have discarded their Christmas trees, emerge from winter hibernation and become radio-active.

Speaking of radio-active check out the county hunters CW net on 3556.5 KHz. The net is currently being run on Tuesday nights. This may change depending on the results of a survey taken on the county hunters forum. There have been many reported pile-ups, a delight to hear. Make a note and join the fun. The number of mobiles running on 80-meters is also increasing during some State QSO parties. Get an 80-meter resonator and join the fun.

Speaking of fun with a challenge start now planning for the MARAC CW contest on May 6 and 7. The contest coordinator is Randy, AA8R who has done a great job of putting the contest together. The details are available from the MARAC web site at, http://marac.org/MARAC_CW_Contest_2005.htm.

I hear Gator down shifting as he comes off the main road. I check the pantry and cooler, and all is in order. I hear the familiar, rat-a-tat-tat and yell, "Come in Gator, what brings you this way?" "I was wondering how you did in the ARRL DX CW contest." "I did great, I actually made several DX contacts on all the bands." Gator, as usual is not paying attention, he is looking at the computer screen. "I see you are planning for the MARAC CW contest" Gator is reading the contest rules, "Where be that new Mixed award category you mentioned?" "It is a brand new award and the rules will probably be updated on the web site before the contest." "What be Mixed, Brokeback contacts?" Sometimes it is best to ignore Gator. I point to the cooler.

Gator opens the cooler and hands me a cool one, "I see something else that Randy may want to change." "What is that Gator?" "The 80-meter frequency for the contest is listed as 3575 KHz. The CW county hunters are using 3556.5 KHz for that new CW net." "You are correct Gator." I hate to admit Gator has a good point, but even a stopped clock is correct twice a day. "Randy will probably change the frequency to 3550 KHz to be consistent with the other up 50 from the band edge: Randy is a great believer in KISS." "WHAT?" "I though you knew that means Keep it Simple Stupid."

Gator shakes his head and gets a bag of onion flavored pork skins and two more cool ones. He opens the bag and we crunch a few skins. Gator asks, "What is this Mixed award?" "That is a new award and is for the county hunter that operates in the contest as a mobile and as a fixed station." "At the same time, do they sign /MF?" I give Gator the evil eye and get a few more onion flavored pork skins. Gator is laughing, "Just funning you Dude, how do a county hunter get the Mixed, whatever." "There are two basic awards in the contest, Mobile and Fixed. Now suppose a county hunter goes out mobile on Saturday and runs a bunch of counties. During the night hours his vehicle is hit by a deer running though the yard and the windshield is busted." "You got to be kidding Dude." "Gator I am trying to explain the award, now hush-yo-mouth. The next day the county hunter decides to continue participating in the contest and work the contest as a Fixed station. Now the chances are the county hunter will not get enough points to be a leader in Mobile or Fixed award category. The county hunter can now enter his score as Mixed and have a shot at being the top gun, I mean keyer."

Gator hands me a few more skins, "How is the claimed score calculated?" "I am not sure Gator, I would guess the Mobile and Fixed score are calculated and added together. We will have to wait until Randy updates the contest rules on the website." "You going mobile, I can drive?" "Sounds like a winner." Gator looks at his pager, "Got'ta hop away Dude, the hops are in." Gator is out the door and in his four-by-four and as he pulls off yells, "Did you know a dragonfly has a life span of 24 hours." I yell, "You better hurry." He hits his horn and I hear, a shave and a haircut.

Speaking of contests, this month there are the Idaho, Oklahoma, Wisconsin and Virginia State QSO parties. There is also the ten-ten mobile QSO party, but CW operation is not the mode used by most ten-ten members. Last year I called CQ on ten meters during a drive across the panhandle to a bowling tournament and did not make one contact. But soon the sunspots will increase and conditions will get better on all bands. While waiting I will take a nap.

Election Notice

In the January RR we announced that nominations were open for the 2006 MARAC election. According to the bylaws the opportunity to nominate will end on April 1st 2006. After that date, nominations will close and your opportunity will have passed.

This year we will elect a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, South Central District Director and a Southeast District Director. The terms for the offices of President, VP, Treasurer and SEC) are for two years. These terms will run from July 2006 to July 2008. The directors are elected for three year terms, which will run from July 2006 until July 2009.

In addition, we will need a candidate to complete the term of the Great Lakes Director due to the death of our good friend Hugh (K8GPC), who began serving in that capacity in July of 2005. The new Great Lakes Director will serve until July 2008.

Any MARAC member may nominate them self, or any other MARAC member. The nominee must be a member in good standing. In addition, nominees for district positions must reside in the district that they will represent. The Awards Chairman database is the tool used to determine residency. Only nominate with the approval of the prospective nominee.

The candidates on the ballot for the 2006 election will be announced in the May issue of the Roadrunner and on the MARAC web site. Ballots will be printed in the May and June issues of the Roadrunner and will be available on the MARAC web site. The deadline for receipt of ballots on-line or by mail is midnight on July 1, 2006.

To nominate or for further information contact the Elections Coordinator at k9ia@arrl.net phone (352) 430- 1040, or mail to:

Charles Theisen K9IA
Elections Coordinator
8075 SE 174th Belhaven Loop
The Villages, FL 32162

New Members

Please Welcome Our New Members And Add Them To Your Data Base.

Marac No.	Call	Full Name	Address	City and State	Home Cty	Phone Number
R-3193	KD5TGQ	Michael P Delgado	989 Parker Dr	Coppell, TX 75019	Dallas	1-972-304-0318 mdel_law@yahoo.com
R-3194	K0ERE	Bill G Blake	214 S First	Clearwater, KS 67026	Sedgwick	1-620-584-4488 k0ere@sktc.net
R-3195	KWIDX	David A Pyle	26 Van Dyke Rd	Hollis, NH 03049	Hillsborough	1-603-465-6901 kw1dx@arrl.net
R-3196	VA7MJR	Richard Mann	500 Daniel Way	Gabriola Island, BC V0R1X3	--	1-250-247-8101 clokmann@island.net
R-3197	KY4J	Thomas A Coulson	PO Box 30	Leitchfield, KY 42755	Grayson	1-270-879-4237 ky4j@kynet.net
R-3198	WB9VE	William J Davis	15454 Forest Ln	Petersburg, IL 62675	Menard	1-217-632-2329 jerryd31@netzero.com

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Corrections

Last month an error crept into the records of two members. Those corrected records appear this month in the list of new members. Please be sure to correct your data base.

For Sale

ICOM IC746PRO (new)
Purchased 12/1/05 for \$1650; Sell for \$1320
Wb9yco@milwpc.com 1-920-766-0354

How to Log at 60+mph

Ron, AA4S

Vehicle: 1993 four-wheel drive Chevy S-10 Blazer

Equipment:

1. ICOM IC-706MKIIG on homemade mount in front of center console
2. Vibroplex key paddle mounted on top of the IC-706 within easy arms reach
(I taught myself to key right-handed even though I write left-handed)
3. Alpha-Delta 4-position antenna switch mounted on a board which is supported on, and well-secured between, the top of the passenger door armrest and on top of the center console.
4. Olympus VN-1000 Digital Voice Recorder (Radio Shack #141143) also secured the aforementioned board within easy reach.
 - a. A remote microphone is mounted on top of, and secured to, the IC-706 just above its internal speaker and is connected to the Digital Voice Recorder.
 - b. Depending on your situation, it may be necessary to use snap-on type rf chokes such as the Archer # 273-104 sold at Radio Shack on the remote microphone cord.
5. *Heil HS-706 boom mic/headset which is factory wired in such a way that it does not deactivate the IC-706 internal speaker when plugged into the mic jack. This allows me to record both sides of the QSO. The PTT button has a clip which I attaché to my seat belt.

IC-706 internal speaker when plugged into the mic jack. This allows me to record both sides of the QSO. The PTT button has a clip which I attaché to my seat belt.

*Bob Heil told me I am the only one in the entire world who appreciated the way this unit was wired. Everyone else complained about it, hi! In my case I don't have any passengers to disturb. His newer "Traveler" does quiet the internal speaker on the IC-706 but I believe it can be modified to work the way the HS-706 does by cutting one of the leads.

My system is fairly elaborate and is dedicated to running QSO parties in North Carolina and West Virginia while running as many as 15 counties making 600-700 QSOs in 10 hours, ~80% on CW. For more casual operation, just the recorder placed in a convenient location with the microphone set-up should be sufficient.

An alternate system would be to use a recorder such as a Radio Shack #CTR-100 AC/Battery cassette tape recorder with remote microphone. I have used this system in the past with the disadvantages that tapes have to be changed frequently and you have to be careful to use them in the proper order. In addition, I had to say the time and Band into the recorder periodically when on CW in order to be able to submit an acceptable log.

In any case I don't recommend logging by writing or typing while driving; this endeavor is dangerous enough as is! Another thing is that I usually either have a detailed planned route with me or run the route ahead of time (with a GPS) to minimize the chance of making a wrong turn.

Antennas:

- 40m Hamstick on front license plate mount
- 20m SSB/CW Hamstick on 3-magnet roof-mount
- 15m or 80m Hamstick on 3-magnet roof mount
- 10m magmount on roof
- 40m SSB Hamstick on rear license plate mount
- All Hamsticks have tuning coils

Other stuff:

Spare car battery, EverStart Marine battery (for running a second IC-706), battery charger, 100 foot-long extension cord, air pump, jumper cables, a gallon of water, snacks, pillow, blanket, and an empty water bottle (I'll let you imagine what that is for!)

Major Awards

November

KD9ZP - Awards Manager

Award	Number
LC-1	235
LC-2	3
Roadrunner(LC-3)	8
Ran All State	3
All Others	10

Other Awards

Roadrunner Issued Per Month			
Call	Date	Award	Number
NN9K	1/26/2006	USA-CW	# 81
AB7RW	1/26/2006	USA-CW	# 82
KB6UF	2/9/2006	Last County Count 450	# 26
K6JN	2/9/2006	Last County Count 75	# 218
K5VYT	2/10/2006	YL Mobile	# 2000 Counties
WDX4KEF	2/10/2006	Worked all Counties - 9th Time	# 3
N8KIE	2/18/2006	Worked all Counties - 2nd Time	# 359
N8BGF	2/22/2006	Last County Count 125	# 144
AC0B	2/22/2006	Last County Count 75	# 219
N7ID	2/22/2006	Last County Count 375	# 31
KC1NA	2/28/2006	Last County Count 750	# 5
KC6AWX	2/28/2006	Last County Count 50	# 298
K3IMC	2/28/2006	Last County Count 275	# 52
N7AKT	2/24/2006	Ran All USA	# 6

USA-CA

Issued By K1BV

Roadrunner USA-CA			
To Call	Award Date	Certificate	Number
W0JAR	2/1/2006		1133
K8ZZ	2/27/2006		1134

Roadrunner - Birthdays

Current Call	Birthday Date
N5MIV	Mar - 01
W3ZUH	Mar - 02
KL7D	Mar - 03
N4RS	Mar - 03
K9FDL	Mar - 10
KS8W	Mar - 10
AA4VN	Mar - 14
N7ID	Mar - 17
K7VAY	Mar - 17
KN4XP	Mar - 19
K8OOK	Mar - 19
KM4W	Mar - 22
N3TA	Mar - 22
K0QD	Mar - 24
WA2DWP	Mar - 24
WA0QFY	Mar - 26
WA4RNN	Mar - 27
K9EDE	Mar - 27
NR2H	Mar - 30
WA7SLD	Mar - 31

**Treasurer's Report
February 28, 2006**

Funds Balance 01/31/06 \$26,033.56

Income:

Awards	\$ 941.00	
Dues	739.00	
Interest	<u>5.41</u>	
		\$1,685.41

Expenses:

Gene Olig - expenses	\$ 104.00	
Stafford Engraving - awards	41.50	
Fairmont Awards - awards	168.45	
Wachovia Bank - service charge	5.00	
Dave Hyatt - Road Runner supplies	117.34	
Print-Right, Inc – newsletter	<u>400.80</u>	
		<u>837.09</u>

848.32

Account Balances \$26,881.88

Money Market Account \$24,925.75

Checking Account 1,956.13

\$26,881.88

Note:

The following monies are not included in the above:

Awards Chairman's Funds \$1,200.00

Convention Chairman's Funds - 2006 \$2,500.00

The County Line Roadrunner

MARAC Secretary

111 Lakeview Dr.

Leesburg, FL 34788

“A Road Runner Is A Very Fast Bird”

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Fond du Lac, WI
PERMIT NO. (TBD)

Board of Directors

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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 \$20.00 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.