

R S R

Volume XXXVI July 2006 Number 7

From My Point of View (I)

Joyce, WB9NUL

A year has flown past so quickly. I have enjoyed this last year as being your President. Barry and I are looking forward to the Wisconsin Convention. We'll look forward to seeing you and renewing friendships and making some new ones.

Though the results of the election are not known as I write this, the MARAC Board will have at least one new face. Let me be the first to welcome Chuck, AD8W as our new Vice-President.

MARAC is still looking for an Awards Manager. I realize that Gene has done a wonderful job, but he would like to retire. Gene will work with and help in any way he can with the transition. If you have questions about the position, please contact me either by e-mail or phone (<u>JoyceNUL@aol.com</u> or 956-202-3373.) If you have ever wondered...what can I do for MARAC? Here's your chance to help.

I want to thank all of the members for their support, questions and interest in this hobby of county hunting and the MARAC organization. County hunting is my first love in radio, but it is really the friendships that I've made over the years that I cherish the most. CU in Wisconsin. 73's

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Dave's Call: Well, the election's over. Now we all await the results announcement at the National Convention in Appleton, WI. Will you be there?

Just another reminder, the Table of Contents is fully interactive for those of you who get the RR via email.

BTW — I continue to welcome your articles. We've had some great ones. Where's yours? How about one from you? — and just because you published elsewhere, doesn't mean you can't publish it here also. Remember, half our readership doesn't have access to the internet; they depend on our printed version of the RR. Why not share with them? Hope to see you in Wisconsin!

73, Dave, KU4YM

PS — Next deadline is July 26th.

Dateline CW

Ed, KN4Y

Running a county line on CW will make us powerful; butter will only make us fat.

The 30-meter CW net is humming with activity as mobiles head for the MARAC convention. I am slowly increasing the number of worked counties for fourth time around. The band conditions are good and all the mobiles have a good signal. I am also checking my 6-meter CW contacts from the ARRL VHF QSO Party. There were more CW operators than usual in this years VHF party; I guess more hams are realizing the fun and challenge of a CW contact.

I heard Gator's four-by-four barking as he down shifts coming off the main road. The birds take flight until the noise is recognized. I check the cooler and the pantry. All is well for a short visit. I unlock the shack's deadbolt. Gator comes in carrying a food market plastic bag. "What you got Gator?" "The Grab and Run food store just got in some fresh limburger cheese." "How do you know it is fresh?" "Smell it." Like a dummy I take a whiff, "Yes, it is something." "I also got us some real rye bread and solar salt."

Gator snaps to attention, "What is that I hear on the CW net?" I listen, "It is a big rig mobile running a Texas county." "No, Dude, listen carefully, the mobile operator is not using the 'IN' word when announcing the county. Does he not know the protocol?" Gator heads towards the cooler shaking his head in disbelief. "Well, Gator, some operators do not use the IN word thinking it saves time in announcing the county." "But Dude, it make is so much easier to copy for a learner like me." Gator is correct, using the IN words prepares the mind for a county name. Going from the call sign to the county name just requires repeats. "Thank goodness Al and Jerry still know better." "Yes, Al still remembers his early days, but Jerry has forgotten."

Gator shakes his head in disbelief, how much time is really saved not using the IN word, or are CW operators just getting lazy, he mutters. I open the loaf of rye bread and the package of Limburger cheese. Why not pasteurized I think. "Let's have a limburger cheese on rye and an 807." Gator shakes his head in agreement. I have always said if it smells do not stir it, but with Limburger cheese I make an exception. Gator generously coats a slice of rye bread with the cheese and lightly sprinkles it with solar salt, "I guess they are doing what is called the Da Vinci Code." I shake my head no, and remain quiet; the enjoyment of Limburger cheese takes precedent. I am glad I do not have a meeting to attend.

Gator gets two more 807's, "Do you suppose this lack of the IN word will be discussed at the convention?" "It might be discussed." "That is all a person can ask." We sit listening to the 30-meter CW net and enjoy nature's smelly treat. Gator holds a slice of bread up, "I wonder if this bread would fall cheese side up like a buttered slice." Sometimes it is best to ignore Gator.

Gator picks up a paper off my desk, "What is this note last county mean?" I motion towards the cooler, "Well the MARAC has a Last County in a State Award. This is a way of thanking a mobile operator for giving a county hunter the last county in that State.' "How about the mobiles that gives all but the last county." "Well Gator, the theory is if you run enough counties eventually you will run someone's last county. Here is a good example, Jim, ND4M, was running counties in the Southeast and he gave me my last county for fourth time around, Bingo, and the N prefix." "All in the same county." "No Gator, it was the last county in three different States." "How can you have a last county for fourth time around, it seems you can only work the last county in a state one time." I again motion to the cooler; this is going to take some time to explain. A bugle sounding charge is heard above the roar of the 30-meter net, it is Gators cell phone.

"Darn, just when I had you on the ropes I got to remove myself from here and place myself elsewhere. Remember Dude by the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he is to old to go anywhere." Gator is out the door and the barking engine foretells his departure. I yell, "of course I'm against sin; I am against anything I'm too old to enjoy." Gator gives me the high sign and like a thought is gone.

I sure wish I could have gone to the MARAC convention. I will have to get with Norm and hear how much fun it was and then get depressed. I can pre-drown my sorrow in the IARU HF World Championship working the 65 teams going head to head from Brazil. I guess I could put away the stuff used at field day. But first a nap.

2006 SE Mini

Location: Springmaid Resort; Myrtle Beach, SC

October 18-21, 2006 Dates:

Directions: US 17 to southern end of Ocean Boulevard. Take Ocean Blvd.

> ½ mile to Spring Maid Blvd on right. 2/10 mile to reservation building on **right**. More details at http://semini.superhosts.net/

\$69/night plus tax. (\$77.85 total) Call the hotel directly for Room Rate:

> reservations and mention MARAC. The phone number is (843) 315-7100. The rate is valid only through September 3. Make your

reservations early!

Hotel Notes: There is a 2-night minimum stay, and a one night deposit is

> required. Cancellations must be done 2 weeks in advance, and all but \$25 of your deposit will be refunded. Cancellations within 2

weeks will be charged for 2 nights.

Parking: Ample FREE parking, both covered and open!

Activities: No group activities are planned, but area attractions include lots of

golfing and great shows.

Dinner: Buffet Style Dinner- \$23/person Tax/Tip included

Registration Website:

\$20 for first person, \$5 each additional person. More information, including online registration and fee payment is

available at:

http://semini.superhosts.net/

Send registration and fees to:

Jeffrey Napier, AF3X 2804 Sue Ellen Drive Knoxville, TN 37921-3754

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2006 SE Mini Registration

Call Sign:			
Name (to be put on badge):			
Address:			
USA-CA#:			
Additional Names/Calls/USA	-CA Numbers:		
Basic Registration:		20.00	
Additional Registrations	x 5.00		
Banquet Tickets	x 23.00		
Total			

Immediate Past

Minutes MARAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Date: May 10, 2006

The meeting of the MARAC Board of Directors was called to order at 8:00 PM EDST by Joyce (WB9NUL)

The Officers present were:

President Joyce Boothe – WB9NUL
Vice President Mark Michel – W9OP
Treasurer Jim Grandinetti – KZ2P
Great Lakes Director Bob Woody – N8KIE
Northeast Director Donald Kimble – AE3Z
Pacific Director Robert Devine – KC6AWX

President Bill Inkrote – K2NJ

The first order of business was to replace W2IBB as Secretary. Joyce recommended Jerry (W0GXQ) for the position. A motion was made by Don (AE3Z) and seconded by Bill (K2NJ). Roll call indicated 5 in favor, none opposed.

The next order of business was to replace WB9STT as the North Central District Director. Joyce recommended Cliff (AC0B) for the position. A motion was made by Bill (K2NJ) and seconded by Don (AE3Z). Roll call indicated 6 in favor, none opposed.

With the above replacements, the Board of Directors is back to full strength with W0GXQ and AC0B in attendance.

Upon a motion by Don (AE3Z) and seconded by Bob (KC6AWX) the minutes of the January 10, 2006 meeting were approved. Roll call indicated 6 in favor, none opposed.

Upon a motion by Bill (K2NJ) and seconded by Bob (N8KIE) the Treasurer's reports for January, February, March, and April, 2006 were accepted. Roll call indicated 6 in favor, 1 abstained and none opposed.

OLD BUSINESS

A: A motion to approve the Awards Committee recommendation of the MARAC Combo Award was made by Don (AE3Z) and seconded by Bob (KC6AWX). Roll call indicated 7 in favor, 1 abstained, none opposed.

NEW BUSINESS

- A: Joyce recommended K9IA, W2IBB, KK7X, WB9STT, and KZ2P receive Outstanding Service Awards. A motion was made by Bill (K2NJ) to approve and issue the awards. Seconded by Bob (N8KIE) and approved. Roll call indicated 8 in favor, none opposed.
- B: Joyce recommended that she present a special award at the Annual Convention. A motion was made by Bill (K2NJ) and seconded by Jim (KZ2P) to issue the award. Roll call indicated 8 in favor, none opposed.
- C: Joyce recommended that the NCS Award be sent back to the Awards Committee for clarification. The entire Board agreed. Don (AE3Z) was asked to have the Awards Committee respond by the July meeting.
- D: Bill (K2NJ) formally apologized to Bob (KC6AWX) for his "uncalled for" Email Message, sent to the entire Board of Directors.
- E: Jim (KZ2P) announced he will be unable to attend the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors. Since he is not seeking reelection, he would like to have the books audited. Joyce asked that Jim mail the books to her, and she would have an outside auditor go over them and report to the Board. This action was acceptable by all present.
- F: Jim (KZ2P) made a motion that MARAC no longer require that an individual or entity to submit any logs, spread sheets and/or data of any nature when applying for any current or future MARAC award. The motion was seconded by Bob (N8KIE) and passed. Roll call indicated 5 in favor, 3 abstained, none opposed.
- G: Joyce made a recommendation to replace the Election Coordinator with Brian Bird (NX0X). A motion was made by Bob (N8KIE), seconded by Jim (KZ2P) and passed. Roll call indicated 9 in

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favor, none opposed.

OPEN MEETING

A: No business for the Board at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Bill (K2NJ) and seconded by Bob (N8KIE), the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM EDST. Roll call indicated all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully Submitted, William W. Inkrote, K2NJ Immediate Past President MARAC Charter Member C-98

Treasurer's Report

	June 30, 2006	
Funds Balance 05/31/06		\$27,629.89
Income:		
Awards	\$1,163.00	
Dues	897,00	
Interest	5.64	
	\$2,065.64	
Expenses:		
Gene Olig - expenses	\$ 317.19	
Fairmont Awards - awards	957.75	
Joyce Boothe - expenses	268.65	
Wachovia Bank - service charge	5.00	
Print-Right, Inc – newsletter	355.00	
	\$1,903.59	
		162.05
Account Balances		\$27,791.94
Account Bulances		Ψ27,791.91
Money Market Account	\$24,946.24	
Checking Account	<u>2,845.70</u>	
		\$27,791.94

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

Awards and Birthdays

June

KD9ZP - Awards Manager

Award	Number
LC-1	231
LC-2	10
Roadrunner(LC-3)	11
Ran All State	7
All Others	11

Other Awards

Roadrunner Issued Per Month			
Call	Date	Award	Number
N4CD	6/29/2006	Last County Count 1250	# 2
K0ARS	6/29/2006	Last County Count 125	# 145
G4KHG	6/29/2006	Last County Count 125	# 146
NA7W	6/29/2006	Last County Count 125 Last County Count 400	# 33
KQ0B	6/29/2006	Last County Count 50	# 301
KB6UF	6/29/2006	Last County Count 50 Last County Count 500	# 22
W6TMD	6/29/2006	Last County Count 300	# 47
N8KIE	6/29/2006	Last County Count 250	# 61
ND9M	6/29/2006	Last County Count 100	# 201
ND9M	6/29/2006	Last County Count 75 USA-PA - K	# 221
VE9DH	6/1/2006	USA-PA - K	# 10
WG6X	6/29/2006	Bia Ria	# 1490 Counties
N7AKT	6/11/2006	Măster's Gold	# 17
KD8HB	2/8/2003	USA-CW IV	# 4
W4YDY	6/1/2006	USA - Single Band	# 5 - 20M - 3077 Counties
KA9JAC	6/13/2006	Worked all Counties - 2nd Time	# 361
N0ZA	6/26/2006	Worked all Counties - 4th Time	# 127
W0RRY	6/15/2006	Worked all Counties - 5th Time	# 79
K5VYT		Worked all Counties - 5th Time	# 80
WA4WQG		Worked all Counties - 6thTime	# 27
KD8HB	6/7/2006	Worked all Counties - 7th Time	# 8

USA-CA Issued By K1BV

Roadrunner USA-CA			
To Call	Award Date	Certificate	Number
N9JF	6/26/2006		1136
RK2FWA	6/27/2006		1137
KI 7D	6/29/2006		1138

From My Point of View (II)

(Written in late June, before the end of the elections)

Over the last few months I have received a number of letters and calls expressing anger, disgust, outrage and pain concerning all sorts of MARAC related issues. Many of the writers' points were similar to postings I have seen over and over on the K3IMC forum and repeated ad infinitum in N4CD's monthly newsletter, with all sorts of embellishments. Although I tried to answer direct inquiries in a timely manner, I think it's time I should respond generally to the points brought up by all. I wanted to wait until the election had wound down before addressing these issues.

Thanks to all those who wrote to me for being so direct and straight forward. I'm going to be <u>just</u> as direct. As one long time acquaintance said, "I hope this message will be accepted in the spirit of friendship that it is sent".

Well, they all were, and I hope you accept my frankness in the same spirit, because I don't agree with much of what was said. I'll use excerpts from a few letters that represent the bulk of concerns conveyed to me one way or another. I will respond one item at a time.

Excerpt: "If we could meet face-to-face I would tell you that my support of Risto for President over you is NOT a personal matter and under normal conditions, would have no problem supporting you as an able person capable of running this club.

My concern is that you are too associated with Jim and his buddies and therefore would like to see a total "divorce" from that association. Risto has come out with a comprehensive package of very positive goals that this club needs in a desperate way".

"Normal Conditions"? That's what people say about the bands....it's never "normal conditions", which means, this is normal.

Of course, the further reference is, as usual, about Jim, KZ2P. Yes, I'm associated with Jim, just as I'm associated with all MARAC officers and BOD members as well as hundreds of members and many hundreds or thousands of other people. I imagine, like everyone else, I form impressions of everyone I know based on what they do or say, and how they treat others. Certainly, the range of like or dislike runs from extremely desirable to most repulsive. The vast majority of people fall somewhere in the middle.

Personally, I find Jim to be gracious, caring, generous to a fault, fun to be around, extremely smart, meticulous and approachable. On the other hand, he is unbending, unforgiving, and unapologetic, damned ornery at times, often untactful and seems unaware of people's pain and anger when they lose face. He is, like you, like me and everyone else, an enigma until you get to know him.

I'm not sure who "his buddies" are, but if they are county hunters and/or MARAC members or BOD members then I am "associated" with them. It's my nature to try to maintain a communicative relationship with all persons, no matter on which end of my "like-dislike" scale they fall. It's also the nature of the job of an elected officer. Like many writers, this letter seems to insinuate that there is a conspiratorial cabal running MARAC. If you were to analyze all of the debate and voting record of the BOD, you would find <u>no</u> pattern of a "mutual admiration society", save one or two persons over the last couple years. With eleven on the Board, that's not much of a voting bloc.

As for a "total divorce", well, regardless of the outcome of the election, a maximum of 6 of the 11 may change. And, as for me, if I lose, I will, as Past President, gain a vote, which I do not have now. As for Risto, I commend his goals and hope some of them will be considered by the BOD, win or lose.

Excerpt: "Perhaps you and I do not see this as being so serious but I can assure you that the last administration (not yours) has left this group limping and in a serious "down" posture as far as self esteem goes. There are too many who are just not proud of admitting they are County

Hunters and I believe that this is a shame."

I see <u>all</u> things that are done concerning MARAC as being serious...and I think you folks do, too. Otherwise, we would not have stayed the course. It's because we enjoyed the fellowship and don't want it to stop. On the other hand, I think that only a noisy minority is in a "down" posture, but, understandably so. The silent majority would like to stay proud and see the problems go away.

As for the "last administration", I'd like for you to remember these points. First, the last administration was the first to hold open Board meetings, both on-line and at the National Convention. Before that time, all business of the club was held behind closed doors. Secondly, most folks involved with the "last administration" were responsible for making sweeping improvements to the Constitution and Bylaws, including the provision that the BOD be made up of people from all over instead of from one "neighborhood". That broke up the potential "local gang of friends" running MARAC. It was not always a problem, but at least even the <u>perception</u> was removed.

I have worked with the last five administrations and can say that they have all had their problems and worked painfully hard to remedy them. Many of these BOD members and chairmen have walked away disillusioned and burnt out from the experience. It need not be that way, but one must remember the basis of this organization is <u>Awards</u>. It should be obvious that the members will be competitive, and have strong egos. It follows that the elected and appointed folks will experience a constant tug of war.

Excerpt: "There are many "old timers" out there, and I consider you and me both Old Timers (affectionately) who are disturbed and apathetic at the same time. These people have been our base and the people who have taught "newbies" the proper and respectful way to participate in this hobby.....and they are departing at far too fast a clip......and not even looking back because of what we both know has been the acts of basically one person...KZ2P"

Yes, like it of not, I'm certainly an old timer. I have been active in County hunting for 32 years. I am certainly <u>not</u> apathetic and it doesn't seem that you folks are either. Disturbed? Well, in my case, I would say "determined". I'm determined to work toward a stable, healthy organization that serves its members and supports fellowship. That being said, keep one thing in mind. No one can wave a magic wand and make all troubles go away or make everyone in the club be happy with how everything is done. It takes working with lots of diverse views and trying to get a consensus, one issue at a time. Am I seeing a pattern here? All perceived problems are funneled down to one person lately....well, not all.

Excerpt: "Joyce, it is way past time for you and the board to take some action to stop the goings-on on the K3IMC forum. Don has displayed many times that he has not the courage to stop things like those going on now. The board should take some action to get Don to put a stop, and now, to what is happening. This whole thing STINKS!!!!"

This, from another non-apathetic old timer, is a voice from another side of the argument. I reminded him that freedom of speech and press are still essential, protected rights in America. I don't like <u>a lot</u> of what I see printed on the forum and elsewhere, as far as that goes. But, of course, the writers aren't seeking my approval. After all, many of them see me as part of the problem because I haven't fixed <u>their</u> problem.

Besides that, it's not Don's doing. He is just providing a roomy street corner on which anyone can set up their soapbox and orate to their hearts content. We have the privilege of deciding to stop and listen or not, and whether to take it seriously.

Excerpt: "Perhaps it has been that you wanted to stay friends with everyone....including Jim.....or that you really believed in his policies and supported them....but by permitting him to essentially take over the frequency as well as the people and the finances, the club was held for ransom in my eyes. I believe that some others in a position of leadership should have had the backbone to stand up and advise against such actions...but there was nothing that I could observe

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coming from any officers including you. It is arguable that when this did happen, the offender was "slapped down" quickly and threatened...when innocent newcomers tried to act in a courteous and respectful way, they were "advised" of Jim's desires quickly and many left not even wanting to take part in such activity. This has been so wrong!"

First off, I <u>do</u> want to stay friends with everyone, don't you? If not, you're part of the problem. Secondly, no one has "taken over" anything that has not been abandoned by everyone else.

Certainly the club finances have not been abandoned. They are controlled by an 11 member BOD, and ultimately by the membership. The Treasurer is at their beck and call. The books are audited annually by members at large. By the way, it would seem to me that it's wise to have an affluent person with a long history of success in the financial world as Treasurer, no matter what anyone thinks about his net controlling. Don't confuse the issues.

As for "the people", I cannot speak for you, but I am not controlled by anyone. Rather, my opinions and decisions and actions are <u>influenced</u> by everyone with whom I come in contact, as well as the rules/laws/regulations and etiquette of the situation at hand. It's called politics, and so far as I can tell, I've been as successful as anyone at getting things done my way...and that's about half the time. Have I made mistakes? You bet! But I don't blame anyone else and I try to get them fixed quickly. I insinuated earlier that I like Jim. In fact, I consider him to be a personal friend. Do I agree with him on most things? No, I don't. I have butted heads with Jim on MARAC issues as much as or more than anyone. Sometimes it goes his way and sometimes it goes my way and sometimes it goes the way of other BOD members. And that's the way it <u>should</u> work. It has nothing to do with my regard for him. The "ransom" remark is way off base. This writer and a number of the "disenfranchised" have been a bit anxious to expand their real problem into all sorts of imagined wrongs.

Let's get down to brass tacks. That's the "take over the frequency" part of this statement. Let's not kid each other. That's what this is all about. I want to say a number of things about this situation. First of all, if Jim has "taken over the frequency", of course referring to 14.336, and I assume that is a bad thing in your eyes, then the blame goes to you, your buddies, and anyone else who has done nothing about it but complain. And the complaining is always accompanied by an expectation the someone else should fix it for you. It's like the kid's voices from the back seat, "Make him stop it!!" That's quite unrealistic. No one has the power, sanction, or influence to "make" a person operate the way you want it to be. That's true whether it's a member of MARAC, an officer or whatever. The only possibility of a major change is if enough people make convincing arguments presented as constructive confrontations, rather than face offs. Another possibility is a consistent demonstration of the way it should be that will appeal to the majority and perhaps convince them to abandon the undesirable operations in favor of the better ones.

This last method seems far-fetched considering the dearth of NCS's who take over the SSB net when your nemesis is absent. Apparently as horrible as the situation is by your reckoning, it's not important enough for anyone to do anything about it but bitch. For my part, I have, and my OM has had long conversations with Jim about the consequences of his rigidity, on many individuals. He responded with due consideration. Nevertheless, I personally try to follow Jim's rules when he is NCS. As I look back on over 3 decades of operating on the net, I cannot think of a single net control that did everything the way I think it should have been done.... except maybe WA6MAR. But, when a person is running a net, they're in charge, like it or not. On the other hand, as you have seen, I will not honor anyone's arbitrary station filters. I have received Jim's wrath for not following his prejudices. But, I will not join in that kind of activity. That's his problem, not mine. A long time friend of ours, Francisco, HK0BKX used to always say "Don't make your problems my problems, and don't make my problems your problems".

Excerpt: "Anyway...I feel that your close association with him is a deterrent to raising the level of this club back to where it once was. I imagine that if you had stood up to him, as many of us have, that you might be looking at all this from our perspective as one of "the banned"....but that never happened."

On the contrary, I have "stood up" to Jim, as well as to others, but I have tried to do it in a manner that would allow us to still have adult conversations tomorrow.

I think a number of people referred to as "the banned" may have lost their cool while "standing up" and burned their bridges in the process. Strong willed people often have that happen, and Jim is also one of them. Another long time friend of ours, Arch, K8CFU/W7ACD recently advised Barry about confronting a detractor of his. Arch's advice was short and a bit rustic, but oh, so true. He said, "Never get into a pissing contest with a skunk".

Excerpt: "Joyce, I like you as a person, but cannot support you as a leader. I hope there are no personal problems that develop from this election...and I wish you well in the race."

I'm glad to have friends who care about me and I'm sorry you can't support me as a leader. Personally, if I lose the election I will support Risto, the newly elected BOD, appointees, and the interests of MARAC. If I win, I will do the same thing and hope you will join me in that support. As for "personal problems", I can foresee none. As I have said, for me relationships are independent from the politics of organizations. And, Barry says that he will stay with me....even if I stay on as President. 73 and 88,

Joyce, WB9NUL

The County Line Roadrunner MARAC Secretary PO Box 758 Park Rapids, MN 56470

"A Road Runner Is A Very Fast Bird"

PRESORTED STANDARD U.S. POSTAGE PAID FOND DU LAC, WI PERMIT NO. 433

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