



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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From My Point of View

Joyce, WB9NUL

I received the nicest letter last week from Willie, N4XE. For us old timers, Willie was WA4RDV and is Charter member #12 and USA-CA #37. I'd like to share part of his letter with you.

"My wife of 61 years, Onnie and myself are retired now and we like to set out and just ride around. We don't have internet but if we can be of any help putting out counties mobile we would like to hear from other members that need a contact from around here within say 150 miles or so. If interested they can let us know by mail and we will try to make a few runs a month. We can let them know of our intentions a few days in advance by telephone to see if it would be O.K.....I was net control for the county hunters on 3.943 MHz when we formed MARAC and I had already worked 2,000 counties on 75 meters. One of my regulars was Arnie K9DCJ. He would check in with me almost every night about midnight EST..."

If anyone would like to contact Willie, his address is: Willie Carr, 2739 Colonial Ave. SW, Roanoke, VA 24015-3835 and his phone is 1-540-343-5606. Thanks for the letter, Willie.

On a sad note, Ella Coons, W0AYL has passed away. Ella was Charter member #1 of MARAC and USA-CA #65. She was a lovely lady and loved county hunting. I will certainly miss her.

I hope you all are making plans for the Denver convention. Matt, Sharon and crew are hard at work putting the final touches to the tours and events. Barry and I are looking forward to a fun time.

For those of you who are going to the Dayton Hamvention check out the County Hunters Forum. K8JJ, Tim will be hosting the forum. There is a dinner planned at one of the restaurants. Contact Tim if you would like to join the meal as reservations need to be made. Thanks in advance for all your hard work.

Barry and I have agreed to host the 2008 South Central mini. The dates are Feb. 21 (arrival) thru Feb. 24 (departure). I'll have more info after the National Convention.

May you all have a Happy Easter and may the bird of propagation land on everyone's antenna.
73, Joyce, WB9NUL

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Dateline CW

Ed, KN4Y

A clear frequency, a sunny day and a spacious county line.

I am planning my route for the county hunters CW contest May 1 and 2 when I hear the sound of vehicle wheels crunching gravel. I look out the window and see Gator's truck come to a stop. I yell, "Come on in, the doors unlocked." Gator enters carrying a large piece of wood. I know better but still ask, "What you got?" "Well you was telling me about running county lines, well I ran this one, cut it off at ground level. What you working on?"

Sometimes it is best to flow with the inconsistency than try to understand liberal logic, "I am working on my route for the MARAC CW contest in May, and you can drive." "You got that right Dude, what's the plan?" "That weekend is also the Alabama QSO party. I plan to start running Alabama counties in the MARAC contest around 8:00pm EDST. You know what that is in UCT?" "Yes, that be 1200 Zulu." I give Gator thumbs up, the Alabama QSO Party starts at 1600 Zulu, and so at that time I will switch to running the Alabama QSO party." Gator gives a so what look and heads to the cooler.

I point to the MARAC county list which I downloaded from, http://www.cquest.com/cgi-bin/flynn/forum_sh.pl?+21391+. Gator looks at the list and I continue, "You notice for the MARAC contest the exchange is State (2 letters) and County (4 letters), when I switch to the QSO party I will just give the Alabama county using 3 letters." "Can the county hunters still work you?" "Yes, a two way exchange is just to have a valid contact in a county, what is exchanged is of no great importance, except for logging purposes." Gator shakes his head in agreement and hands me a cool one. He picks up a disk off the desk top. "What's this Dude?"

"I purchased a copy of the MARAC Logger, a logging program for county hunters. I just installed in on the computer." "How you like it?" "I have only logged a few contacts. I like the drop down state and county lists. But I have to get used to using the Tab to move between fields. I forget and hit enter and the logs is posted. I am in process of reading the 150 pages of instructions. When you work a big rig you have to click on yes." "How do you know you have worked a big rig?" "I have no idea, unless I ask." "Do you ever ask?" "No." Case closed, time for another cool one as Gator heads to the cooler. "What is with the 40-meter band?"

We pause for a quiet moment to enjoy Natures reward of fermentation. Gator turns the radio on to 7.0385 MHz. Gator exclaims, "That be N6HH running a county in Kentucky, he be a big rig, you need the county?" "Yes, give him a call." Gator puts out my call, Pete comes right back with a 599. Gator returns the 599 and logs the call. "You know the CW county hunters have been around 7.0385 MHz for many years, but there is talk of moving the frequency." "Why?" "Who knows, maybe some one has an antenna that would have to be returned. But no matter what 40-meter frequency is used there will be problems, so I say stay the course." "What does that mean?" "Do not know but sounds inspirational." Gator bites his tongue; the real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment. Suddenly CW is heard, it is Gator's cell phone, "Time to hit the road, I wanted to ask you about a team contact." Gator is out the door and headed for the main road. If only a pizza could be delivered that fast. I hear Pete calling again on 7.0385 MHz; today I may get a few more needed big rig contacts. I work Pete and doze off.

Had I remained alert I would have mentioned the Florida QSO Party at the end of this month. But a visit to, <http://www.floridaqsoparty.org/rules.html>, will get the information.

Election Annoouncement

I would like to introduce the candidates for the positions being voted on this election cycle.

Secretary: Jerry Mertz – WØGXQ

North Central Director: Cliff Bird – ACØB

Northeast Director: Carol Reitman – AB2LS

Pacific Director: Bob Devine – KC6AWX

Voting will be taking place during the month of May only. Voting online is preferred at www.marac.org however; I will also be accepting mailed ballots postmarked during the month of May. As you can see we have one candidate for each position and only the North Central Director has submitted a bio for publication. Cliff – ACØB's bio is on the following page.

The paper ballot will be enclosed in the May issue of the RoadRunner otherwise the voting page on MARAC's website will be available starting May 1st thru May 31st. I will announce the results of the election during the first week of June as my work schedule permits.

Thanks,
Brian Bird – NXØX
MARAC Election Coordinator

AC0B Bio

March 13, 2007

Hello all MARAC North Central District members. My name is Clifford Bird, AC0B, and I am a candidate for the position of director North Central District. I am currently serving in that capacity, having been appointed by the president to fill a vacancy pending the upcoming election. I have been a member of MARAC for six and one half years having been assigned membership number R-2910 in September 2000.

My wife Kathy and I have been married nearly forty two years and have three children and seven grandchildren.

I am a 1965 graduate of the University of Minnesota having earned a B.S. degree in math and physics. I was a junior/senior high school instructor for three years before commencing nearly thirty three years of employment with a regional ore hauling railroad, retiring in February 2001, as Manager – Operating Systems and Quality Control.

I have been an amateur radio operator since May 1976 and was originally licensed as WN0SXH and subsequently, WB0SXH, a call which I held for more than twenty five years. In August 2001 I applied for, and was granted, my present call AC0B.

I started my county hunting experience in April 2000 after being introduced to it by son Brian, NX0X. As many of you have learned, it can be quite addictive. In April 2001, Brian introduced me to “putting out” the counties also, as we made a short excursion around NE MN. Wasn’t sure how well I liked that. Didn’t take long to break a sweat attempting to sort out the call signs in the occasional pileups, a problem which I still have today. There’s something about that excitement that keeps me coming back for more.

It took just over four years to earn USA-CA #1099 on July 13, 2004. I have approximately 350 left for second time. Twenty six counties remain for the Bingo award, which I am avidly pursuing, so that I will be good for Masters Gold QSO’s. I have transmitted from over 1245 counties in 35 states, including Alaska.

I have attended many MARAC conventions (including mini’s) the past several years and, as of this writing, plan to attend the national in Denver in July 2007. What fun these conventions have been! What a great opportunity to meet the “big guns” on the other end of the microphone or paddle! County hunters are a fine group of people and represent the best in amateur radio. And one never fails to pick up some good technical information from the CHing guru’s.

Because of my nearly seven years in county hunting, and my experience both working the mobiles, and running as a “mobile”, I feel I know the issues well from all perspectives, and am well qualified for this position. I would be honored to serve MARAC an additional three years as the North Central District director.

If elected to continue as North Central Director, I will strive my best to achieve the goal of harmony and fairness for all. There is far too much unrest at present. I will vote the wishes of my district members on all matters coming before the board. With your help, we can make MARAC an even finer organization than it is today.

Please give me serious consideration in the May elections. Your vote will be appreciated!

Regardless of who you vote for, it is important that you vote! Please cast your ballot during the upcoming elections!

73, Cliff, AC0B

New Members

Please Welcome Our New Members and Add them to Your Data Base

<u>MARAC No.</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Full Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>City and State</u>	<u>Home Cty</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
R-4301	N0XYL	Sandra Tennyson	209 E. Lotte	Blue Grass, IA	Scott	563-381-3711
		Instennyson@att.net				
R-4302	W7GVE	Ed Becker	2225 S Dilkon Rd	Golden Valley, AZ	Mohave	928-565-5452
		graced@frontiernet.net				

Birthdays

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Current Call	Birthday Date
AA9JJ	Apr - 02
AA4QE	Apr - 02
N3AHA	Apr - 03
KB5VTB	Apr - 06
W9SUQ	Apr - 06
KF5AT	Apr - 06
KQ0B	Apr - 06
KA2CNG	Apr - 07
AA8HH	Apr - 07
W5LJW	Apr - 07
KE7PB	Apr - 08
KM5W	Apr - 09
W4RKV	Apr - 10
K4HVB	Apr - 10
W8JM	Apr - 10
W7KQZ	Apr - 11
KW8T	Apr - 12
WB8RJW	Apr - 12
KB0FQC	Apr - 13
NA7W	Apr - 13
W6TKV	Apr - 13
KA0DDJ	Apr - 14
WA0LMK	Apr - 14
W0GXQ	Apr - 14
KA2MKQ	Apr - 14
W9OP	Apr - 16
WB9NUL	Apr - 18
W7LES	Apr - 20
KJ5PQ	Apr - 21
W0NAN	Apr - 23
K2HVN	Apr - 24
W0FS	Apr - 24
aW3IJT	Apr - 24
W8ILC	Apr - 24
KQ1Z	Apr - 27
N5KGY	Apr - 27
W0LFJ	Apr - 29
KF4KW	Apr - 29
KA0SHC	Apr - 30
K8YJ	Apr - 30
W6TN	Apr - 30

Awards

Roadrunner Issued Per Month			
Call	Date	Award	Number
KR4ZH	3/30/2007	Last County Count 75	# 227
W0DFK	3/20/2007	Last County Count 200	# 91
N2MH	3/30/2007	Last County Count 25	# 455
KB9MGI	3/30/2007	Last County Count 50	# 307
ND9M	2/14/2007	Last County Count 125	# 149
N2OCW	3/30/2007	Last County Count 75	# 226
K1SO	3/30/2007	Last County Count 25	# 457
N0KV	3/30/2007	Last County Count 50	# 308
N8KIE	3/30/2007	Last County Count 325	# 44
K6TEX	3/30/2007	Last County Count 25	# 456
KC0OER	3/30/2007	Last County Count 75	# 228
N6MJ	3/30/2007	Last County Count 125	# 150
W6TMD	3/30/2007	Last County Count 375	# 33
KB6UF	3/30/2007	Last County Count 550	# 19
N7ID	3/30/2007	Last County Count 425	# 29
WQ7A	3/30/2007	Last County Count 225	# 71
WG6X	3/30/2007	Last County Count 625	# 11
K2HVN	3/30/2007	Last County Count 425	# 30
AB4YZ	3/30/2007	Last County Count 250	# 63
N9QPQ	3/30/2007	Last County Count 525	# 22
AF3X	2/12/2007	DX Mobile	# 76 Countries
N4UJK	2/14/2007	Master's Gold	# 24
N5UZW	3/7/2007	BINGO	# 289
N4UJK	2/14/2007	BINGO IV	# 3
K0ARS	2/16/2007	Worked all Counties - 2nd Time	# 369
W0NAC	3/23/2007	Worked all Counties - 3rd Time	# 204
KE3VV	3/25/2007	Worked all Counties - 4th Time	# 130
N4UJK	2/14/2007	Worked all Counties - 8th Time	# 5

Roadrunner USA-CA		
To Call	Award Date	Certificate Number
KM6HB	2/10/2007	1149
WY0A	3/9/2007	1150
N0KV	3/22/2007	1151

**Treasurer's Report
March 31, 2007**

Funds Balance February 28, 2007 **\$25,434.02**

Income:

Dues	\$506.00	
Awards Manager Income	\$.00	
Money Market Interest	\$19.18	
Logger Distribution	\$120.00	
		<u>\$645.18</u>

Expenses:

Awards Manager Expenses	\$.00	
Fairmont Awards – plaques	\$.00	
Stafford Engraving – plaques	\$.00	
Print-Right, Inc – newsletter	\$333.51	
Band Fee	\$3.50	
		<u>\$337.01</u>

\$308.17

Account Balances **\$25,742.19**

Money Market Account \$20,142.05

Checking Account \$5,600.14

\$25,742.19

Note:

The following monies are not included in the above:

Awards Chairman's Funds	\$1,200.00
Convention Chairman's Funds - 2007	\$2,500.00

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

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

“A Road Runner Is A Very Fast Bird”

Monthly Deadline for Articles is the 25th!

Board of Directors

President: Joyce Boothe, WB9NUL, 21175 FM2556, Santa Rosa, TX 78593 1-956-636-9161, joycenul@aol.com
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North Central Director: Cliff Bird, AC0B, 6140 Hwy 194, Saginaw, MN 55779, 218-343-7473, ac0b@arrl.net
Northeast Director: Donald L. Kimble, AE3Z, 242 Leisure Ln, Horseheads NY, 14845-4005 USA 1-607-795-4342, ae3z@marac.org
South Central Director: Ross Harrell, N0ZA, 2433 Bella Pago Dr, Grand Junction, CO, 81503, 970-216-6604, n0za@bresnan.net
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MARAC Webmaster: (See Information Coordinator)
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