



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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From My Point of View

Joyce, WB9NUL

The summer is coming to an end and in our household we are getting ready for the 160 season. That means that antennas are looked at, the radios are checked and sleeping schedules begin to change. The truth is, Barry gets more active with the radio. For me, it means that we share the radio a little more than before (summer).

I've heard from some old time county hunters. They are sending me info about MARAC history. So starting next month I'll be passing on some of their info. Many of the newer county hunters have asked me about the early county hunting days. So I have a request to the members....how about writing an article of what you remember of the "old days" and sending it to Dave, our editor or to me? Even just a paragraph would be more than appreciated.

I'm finally down to 8 for Bingo. This is the longest I have worked for an award. I keep watching K3IMC's forum but luck has not been with me in propagation nor band conditions.

What do you think about this idea? If you are down to 5 counties or less they get published in the RR along with contact information, time or bands. Once upon a time this was done. Now understand I haven't talked to Dave (editor) about this idea...so send your response to me.

I would like to welcome N2MH, Mark to the awards committee. Welcome and thanks for representing the North Eastern area for the MARAC Awards committee

Please take care and enjoy the upcoming fall colors. Mobile safely.

73, Joyce, WB9NUL

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Dave's Call: Just a short note to thank everyone for their contributions to the RoadRunner. Especially so to those of you who issue reports month after month.

Dateline CW

Ed, KN4Y

County 3077 is a matter of time, but it is sometimes also a matter of opportunity.

Gator is assisting me in entering my logs into the MARAC Logger. If it were not for him, I would die from dehydration. However, it is becoming evident that two heads are not better than one when logging. Gator points to a log entry, "What is this 18.0915 megahurts?" "That is the CW county hunter's newest operating frequency, it is the 17-Meter band. You notice Phil, AB7RW. is my first contact on the band." "Are you going to put the resonator for this new band on the mobile antenna?" "Been there, done it, and worked Bob, N4CD, and got a favorable signal report." Gator laughs and says, "I bet it be tree top tall and burning leaves?" I give Gator the digital CQ and motion towards the cooler. Logging is dehydrating.

"By the way, Gator, did you notice the frequency on 30-Meters is 10.1225 MHz." Gator ignores me; he is doing the snap and pop-the-top jig. He hands me a cool one to ward off the evils of dehydration. Gator asks, "Have you heard anything thing about the CW meeting at the convention?" "I e-mailed Norm, W3DYA, and I asked for a full report so we could be up-to date," "That be the Texas recliner Dude." "Yes, and he said the CW meeting had no assigned moderator and no agenda." "When has that stopped a CW meeting? Al would have presided over the meeting and run over the allotted time, he be from Arkansas you know." "No Gator, Larry, W0QE, got things rolling." I motion toward the pantry, I need some salt.

"Reading this e-mail it seems the CW guys discussed what is discussed at every CW meeting. Net activity, propagation, and stuff like that." "With all the bands on CW did they decide on a band sequence when running a county?" "There is no mention of a plan for a band plan. I would suggest starting on 20 meters and go from there. This will eliminate the need to monitor several bands. It would be like a calling frequency." Gator shakes his head in agreement, "Why don't you suggest that at the next CW meeting." "That is a good idea; the next CW meeting will be at the 2007 SE Mini at the Springmaid Beach Resort in Myrtle Beach, SC." "You going?" "No."

Gator gets two more cool ones and asks the question, "Is a county hunter an individual or a call sign?" I think it is time to lock the cooler, "Well Gator, county hunters come and go, the call sign is here forever. Did that answer your question?" "No." About that time I hear CW. It is Gator's cell phone. "Sorry Dude, they have a reflux problem on the third unit, have to go." He is out the door and down the road like tobacco juice off waxed porcelain.

I hear, not very often, a county hunter get on net frequency and ask QRL? Please ask QNF or CHN. When QRL is asked the county hunters monitoring the frequency do not know if the station is a mobile county hunter or a station looking for a spot to CQ. The monitoring station may say yes and the mobile may move to another frequency. In many cases the monitoring station will say QNF or ask if any mobiles are QRV. The mobile then has the option to check in to run the county.

Remember from county hunting 101, QRL means are you busy? Another interruption asks, is this frequency in use? QNF means the net is free there is no net control. CHN means county hunters net. Boy, it is hot outside, ninety-five degrees and rising. I check my Ohio QSO Party logs, not bad for a few hours. I worked Jeff, W9MSE/M, guess he was lost. This month is the ARRL VHF QSO Party for the six-meter county hunters. Also, State QSO Parties in Arkansas. Tennessee, South Carolina, and the Washington Salmon Run. How better to finish the month than operating in Norm's Texas QSO Party.

MARAC Logger Part 2

Database Structure - Tables

Gene, KD9ZP

Last month we looked at Logger from a ‘birds-eye view’ at 1000 feet. This month we will start to look directly into the database structures.

Included in Databases are:

Tables

Queries

Reports

Logger databases really only use **Tables**. **Queries** and **Reports** are used by the Logger **Visual Basic** code. For those of you that are familiar with a spreadsheet, a database table looks somewhat the same.

Where a spreadsheet contains:

Columns Rows and Cells

A database table contains: **Fields** and **Records**.

Cells in a table do not exist. For instance in a spreadsheet, a cell can be the sum of all the cells above it, this is not possible in a table.

But like a spreadsheet, a field in a database can be a: **Date, Text, Number** or **Yes/No**

Date fields can consist of a date, time, or both. In programming Logger, I chose to split the date and time into 2 fields. One thing to remember about a date field, it must be a valid date. Dates like June 31 or February 29, 2007 CANNOT be stored without reporting an error. Logger will check both dates and time for validity before storing.

Text fields are self explanatory and can be any length up to 255 characters.

Number fields in Logger are ‘Long Integer’ and can be any number from 2,147,483,648 to -2,147,483,647 (without fractions)

Yes/No fields are equivalent to **True/False**.

Let’s take a look at some of the tables in the User call sign database:

Notice the **arrows** on several of the tables. This indicates that the table does not exist in the **Call Sign** database (**County Hunter – KD9ZP**), but is ‘linked’ from the **Common (County Hunters – Common)** database.

Before I close, let’s look at a snippet of the Table: **County Hunters**

Query1						
Call ID	Current Call	First Name	Last Name	Address	City	
3473	KD9ZP	Gene	Olig Sr.	W 4325 4th St. Rd.	Fond du Lac	WI

(There many more fields to the right, however, I had to limit the display to fit on this page.)

You can view many of the other fields at:

www.marac.org/database

In closing, ask yourself, ‘why does Logger use’: ‘**Call ID**’ and ‘**Current Call**’

SE Mini

Location: **Springmaid Resort; Myrtle Beach, SC**
Dates: **October 18-20, 2007**
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/>
Room Rate: \$69/night plus tax. Call the hotel directly for reservations and
mention MARAC. The phone number is (843)315-7100. The rate
is valid only through September 1- 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 shows.
Dinner: Buffet Style Dinner- \$25/person Tax/Tip included.
Registration \$15 for first person, \$5 each additional person.
Website: More information, including online registration is available at:
<http://semini.superhosts.net/>

Send registration and fees to:

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

2007 SE Mini Registration

Callsign: _____

Name (to be put on badge):

Address:

USA-CA#: _____

Additional Names/Calls/USA-CA Numbers:

Basic Registration: 15.00

Additional Registrations _____ x 5.00 _____

Banquet Tickets _____ x 25.00 _____

Total _____

**Special Vote
on a By-Laws Change**

This is for a vote of the general membership that was approved by the MARAC BOD at the Denver meeting. This voting period will be open for the month of September. To place your vote please visit www.marac.org and vote under the elections tab during the month of September only. If you wish to mail your ballot to me please send this page (or photocopy) to me filled out with your Callsign and Key number along with circling either FOR or AGAINST. This ballot must only be post marked during the month of September to be valid and mailed to:

Brian Bird – NXØX
MARAC Election Coordinator
4567 Caribou Lake Road
Duluth, MN. 55811-9607

Callsign _____

Key Number _____

For or Against _____

Voting **FOR** or **AGAINST** this proposal:

To change the current by-laws, Article 3, 3.1, paragraph B to read as follows:

At least sixty (60) days before the closing date for nominations, the Election Coordinator shall publish a list of positions that will be filled in the annual election and solicit nominations for candidates for each position.

***The change we are voting on above is ONLY to change the time frame from the current 90 day window to a 60 day window to better streamline the voting process and time line.**

73, Brian Bird - NXØX
MARAC Election Coordinator

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-4321	KC2RNA	Arthur Mills IV	874A Pulaski Hwy	Goshen, NY	Orange	845-313-3432

kc2rna@kc2rna.net

Frequencies
County Hunter Net Frequencies
Jerry, W0GXQ

For those of you who do not have access to the internet and/or have difficulty in keeping up with all of the net frequencies, the following list may help you find the mobiles. Please note that the CW net frequencies on 12m and 17m are only suggested frequencies at this time. The same holds true for the SSB net frequencies on 17m and 75m.

17m SSB	18.135
20m SSB	14.336
40m SSB	7.185
75m SSB	3.900
10m CW	28.0565
12m CW	24.9155
15m CW	21.0565
17m CW	18.0915
20m CW	14.0565
30m CW	10.1225
40m CW	7.0565
80m CW	3.5565

Birthdays and Awards

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Current Call	Birthday Date
WE8D	Sep - 01
LA9SN	Sep - 01
WA6GQY	Sep - 03
K4XI	Sep - 03
W9GUY	Sep - 04
NN9K	Sep - 04
W6RK	Sep - 04
N3RM	Sep - 04
KA0W	Sep - 05
WA3LVH	Sep - 05
WD9HAW	Sep - 05
KN4S	Sep - 06
WA2BEG	Sep - 07
N8STF	Sep - 09
K4SL	Sep - 09
KN5H	Sep - 09
KG7Q	Sep - 09
KJ7PO	Sep - 09
K8XF	Sep - 10
K9WA	Sep - 11
N9STL	Sep - 12
N8RYD	Sep - 13
WA5OPO	Sep - 14
WA9QNI	Sep - 14
K4NK	Sep - 14
KG5IZ	Sep - 15
W9CTA	Sep - 16
WJ9S	Sep - 17
WB3JDC	Sep - 20
NN6AA	Sep - 21
K1CGI	Sep - 22
KR4ZH	Sep - 23
W3CR	Sep - 23
KA6RAT	Sep - 23
AD8W	Sep - 24
K3VQO	Sep - 25
K1LH	Sep - 27
WM3T	Sep - 27
W7FGD	Sep - 28
KC3X	Sep - 29
W1IBS	Sep - 29
WA2CNJ	Sep - 29
KD4RKJ	Sep - 29

Roadrunner Issued Per Month			
Call	Date	Award	Number
AI5P	8/30/2007	Last County Count 725	# 6
KA9PZS	8/30/2007	Last County Count 625	# 14
N4CD	8/31/2007	Last County Count 1350	# 2
KE4UP	8/30/2007	Last County Count 225	# 72
KL1V	8/30/2007	Last County Count 500	# 25
KK0JX	8/30/2007	Last County Count 50	# 310
NE9DH	8/30/2007	Last County Count 300	# 53
G4KHG	8/30/2007	Last County Count 150	# 135
W6TMD	8/30/2007	Last County Count 400	# 35
N7PIB	8/31/2007	Last County Count 175	# 110
NO2W	8/31/2007	Last County Count 25	# 464
KM9X	8/31/2007	Last County Count 200	# 94
WD5JGS	8/31/2007	Last County Count 100	# 206
KA1JPR	8/3/2007	YL Mobile	# 3077 Counties
N9OPO	7/30/2007	5 Star	# 29
W8DCH	7/19/2007	USA-CW	# 90
W8DCH	7/19/2007	USA-CW	# 90
WD6CKT	8/20/2007	USA-CW	# 92
KC0JG	8/5/2007	USA-CW	# 91
W8DCH	7/19/2007	USA-CW	# 94
W8DCH	7/19/2007	USA-CW	# 92
W8QOI	8/30/2007	BINGO	# 296
N4AKP	7/31/2007	BINGO	# 295
N4MYZ	8/17/2007	Worked all Counties - 4th Time	# 131
KC6AWX	8/12/2007	Worked all Counties - 5th Time	# 85

Roadrunner USA-CA		
To Call	Award Date	Certificate Number
KB0BA	8/2/2007	1154
WB4KZW	8/6/2007	1155
NS4C	8/22/2007	1156

NØKV

Barry L. Mitchell, NØKV
USA-CA All Counties #1151, March 22, 2007

I was first licensed as K3WKV in 1963 when I was 16 years old. During high school, I was primarily interested in traffic handling on 75 meters. After graduating from college in 1979, I joined the USAF and had many varied assignments. During one of my tours, I was introduced to weak-signal VHF/UHF and contesting and that interest continues to today. During my 20-year military career, I was also an active member of USAF MARS.

In 1979 I took the Extra Class exam and got my current call, NØKV. In 1989 I retired from the Air Force and moved to my present QTH in Parker, Colorado. I've been an active DXer on 10–160 meters since then, working on the DX Challenge Award (1975 countries) and attaining the DXCC Honor Roll in 2006. I've also been on several DXpeditions, most recently to Cocos Keeling (VK9CGG, October/November 2006), am active in both local and state search-and-rescue efforts, and serve as a Comm Unit Leader in the Douglas County Incident Management Team (IMT).

I became interested in county hunting in 2003, primarily because DX was at a low ebb due to the sunspot cycle. I went through all the weak-signal VHF and DX QSLs I'd collected over the years and discovered that I already had nearly half of the counties already confirmed! I became active on the SSB and CW County Hunter nets on 20, 30, and 40 meters to augment the confirmed totals. Soon I got interested in putting out counties, too. At some point, I convinced my wife (Pat, NØLFV) to try husband/wife team ops on the County Hunter SSB nets, and I soon discovered that if I tried to run a county alone, someone would politely suggest

that I wait and run it when Pat was available. On one of our outings, we found ourselves (truck and Airstream trailer) on a nine-car ferry crossing the Ohio River to get from Kentucky to Hardin County, Illinois!

Attending the MARAC 2005 southeastern mini-conference and the 2006 MARAC national Convention in Wisconsin allowed Pat and I to get to know many of the other county hunters, making QSOs that were much more enjoyable. Also, over the past several months Pat and I have been assisting on the planning committee for the 2007 MARAC National Convention, July 12–14 in Denver, Colorado.

In compiling the confirmations, I tried to use a variety of different QSOs from both domestic and overseas operations and from as many bands and modes as possible. QSOs were included from all HF bands (160–10) as well as 6 and 2 meters and 432 MHz, and modes included CW, SSB, RTTY, and FM. A variety of different VHF/UHF propagation methods were also represented, including one- and two-hop sporadic-E on 6 and 2 meters, as well as 6- and 2-meter aurora and meteor scatter.

When my wife asked me if I was going to start over and go for it again, I just smiled and she rolled her eyes! And yes, I'm working on the second time, and she has over 1200 counties worked.

Finally, I'd like to say that we couldn't have done it without the great help of the net controls and other hams/operators running counties. Also, a special thanks to CQ for its sponsorship of the USA-CA Award. See ya on the road again soon.

—73, Barry, NØKV

Names

What's in a Name?

Terry, WQ7A

Is your first name Abacrombie? Ulyssis? Or maybe Valdean? Well, we here at MARAC are not limited by how your Amateur License is issued. We have the ability, nay the duty, to place into the membership database any first name you like to use.

The MARAC database is used for issuing awards, plaques, for display in the MARAC Logger program and viewable when you access it directly using the MARAC web pages.

If you would like to be known as Bill, Joe, PJ or Doc, be sure and send an email to me. Personally I never liked Terrence, so call me Terry. Wq7a@comcast.net

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

Funds Balance July 31, 2007 **\$26,631.74***

- A bank error was corrected from the June 2007 Statement. Added \$22.00

Income:

Dues	\$510.00	
Awards Manager Income	\$884.00	
Money Market Interest	\$21.29	
Logger Distribution	\$240.0	
Return of funds from 2007 Convention	\$2500.00	
		<u>\$4,155.29</u>

Expenses:

Awards Manager Expenses	\$382.15	
Fairmont Awards – plaques	\$331.50	
Stafford Engraving – plaques	\$185.00	
Print-Right, Inc – Newsletter	\$431.28	
Bank Fee	\$3.50	
		<u>\$1,333.43</u>

\$ 2,821.86

Account Balances \$29,453.60

Money Market Account \$20,246.93

Checking Account \$5,206.67

\$25,453.60

Note:

The following monies are not included in the above:

Awards Chairman's Funds \$1,200.00

Convention Chairman's Funds - 2008 \$2,500.00

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



“A Road Runner Is A Very Fast Bird”

Monthly Deadline for Articles is the 25th!

Board of Directors

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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.