From My Point of View
Joyce, WB9NUL

I'm sorry to report that we have lost another County Hunter. Dave, KF4KW. Dave died due to a heart attack. I know I'll miss hearing his voice as he big rigged his way across our country. You can send cards to his wife Teri.

Another of our members has had an accident. Mark, W9OP was on a cruise and fell down a flight of stairs. He has had surgery and will be off his feet for awhile. Then he's going to be using crutches and then a cane and lots of rehab.

All the reports say that a good time was had by all at the South Eastern mini. I sure missed being there but I'm told that Karen Thorne filled in as hospitality hostess and did one great job.

Please take the time to check your calendar as the South Central mini is in February. Barry and I are hoping to make your visit to South Texas a special time. We'll just kick back and have a Texas party. The registration form is enclosed in this issue of the RoadRunner and is on the MARAC web site.

I want to thank Brian, NX0X for the fine job he has done as our election coordinator. Brian has resigned and I will be placing NX4W, Lloyd to replace Brian in this position. Lloyd thanks for accepting the job!

KC6AWX has some information about the National convention posted on the MARAC website. For those of you that don't have a computer you will find information in upcoming issues of the RoadRunner.

Our visitor season is starting the first week of November with a visit from Allan Keck, W9YYG and his wife Diane. There will be a picnic on Sunday, November 11th at our home. If any of you are around the area give us a call and come join the fun and meet some hams from our area.

Happy Haunting and Happy Gobble Gobble Day!

Joyce, WB9NUL

Interactive Contents

Dave's Call: No, your eyes are not fooling you. Part 3 of Gene's Anatomy of Logger is being repeated here. For unknown reasons a key photo got dropped out of the article in last months issue; hence the repeat. It even happened again this month but a work-around was developed.
Have a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving!
73, Dave, KU4YM

Dateline CW
Ed, KN4Y

No person ever became a CW county hunter all at once.

(Continued from a previous time continuum)

"I hear him Gator. Give Mark a call." Gator logs a 599 and with a Piscataquis county Maine contact on three bands I have firmly completed fourth time around all CW and now for the paper work. A job is not done until the paper work is completed.

Gator yawns, "Now what, Dude? Too early to celebrate." I grab the ten cup coffee pot and top off our half empty or half full mugs; one marked with my call sign and one with GATOR. I sit back to enjoy the moment. A person can only get fourth time around once. "Well Gator, it is time to get the paper work into MARAC." "That figures, more trees to be cut down." "No Gator, this is all done on the internet and the email system."

I take a long slow sip of Java. Addiction is underrated. I go to the computer, "Okay Gator here is what we do." Gator pulls up a chair to observe. Gator has already entered the last contact in the MARAC logger. I go to PRINT, click on BOOK, next click on fourth time and fill out the fields on the screen. Next, I tell the program to write my log to a file. The log is in text format and put into my Logger Data folder.

Next, I go to the MARAC web site and click on awards, next I click on Worked All Counties Application. I note the complimentary dart board. I fill out all the requested information, attach my fourth time log, and send the information to Janet Camron, KC5QCB, the MARAC Awards Manager and dart board entrepreneur. Gator is not impressed and heads out the door. "See you later I have an appointment in thirty minutes." He smokes some rubber and before you can recite the American's Creed he is on the by-way.

(A day or so passes)

I get a call from Janet, the MARAC awards manager, my application is approved and I have fourth time around number 132. I now go to the last stage of the paperwork. I return to the MARAC web site and this time click on Last County Application. I fill out the information and off it goes to Janet. Next I write a check and mail it to her and now the paper work is complete. I think Mark, KO1U, who gave me my last county did not want a plaque. I could not locate the e-mail and sent him a plaque in case I read the writing wrong.

I read on the forum Terry, WQ7A, has updated the MARAC database and I can start logging for fifth time around. Great, this is just in time for the Texas QSO Party. Gator and I work the contest, I work the stations and he keeps our body nutritional and electrolyte systems in balance. A county hunter, seasoned and new, should work as many state QSO parties as possible. This is a quick way to get a bunch of counties in a short time period especially if you work both CW and sideband. Take this Texas QSO party for example, I used only CW and worked 116 counties for fifth time around or 45 percent of Texas in 13 hours. Texas has plenty of CW mobile operators running in different counties and that helps. Norm, W3DYA, gave me 14 contacts and band conditions were not the best. Plus, in the evening there was a digital contest on 40-meters. Wonder what the totals could have been under the best of conditions.

The next chance to get counties is the California QSO Party. This is, next to Florida, one of the biggest radio active State weekends of the year. I was only able to operate 4.5 hours and still worked 45 counties, most on 15-meters CW. You can see the butt advantage of working a bunch of counties in a short time. If you work both CW and sideband there is a good chance you can work all the counties in the state during the designated time period.

(Return next month for more information for new (and seasoned) county hunters)

Until then work the CW Sweepstakes, then go global and work the CQ CW World-wide DX Contest. Are you interested in the MARAC Top Band award? Work the ARRL 160-meter contest, which requires some extra steps to be discussed later. The lone State activity is the KY QSO Party. Work the KY party and send me your total counties worked and how many were needed counties. Gator will post the results. Send to edkn4y@embarqmail.com.

(To be continued)

Anatomy of Logger

Through the years as a Ham Radio operator, many of us have changed our call for one reason or another. If you kept track of County Hunters thru the use of a spreadsheet, and you are like me, and a Novice to spreadsheets, the first thing you would do, would be to add a column called **Previous Call #1** to track a CH'er call change.

This is an easy way to track a call change till the CH'er makes another call change. Now you have to add another column called **Previous Call #2**. Sooner or later, you run out of room and the spreadsheet no longer fits on a piece of paper – even using landscape mode.

Here is where a database like **Access** is far superior to tracking CR'ers over a spreadsheet.

To track call changes in **Access**, simply create another table called **Calls - Previous**. It would have two fields:
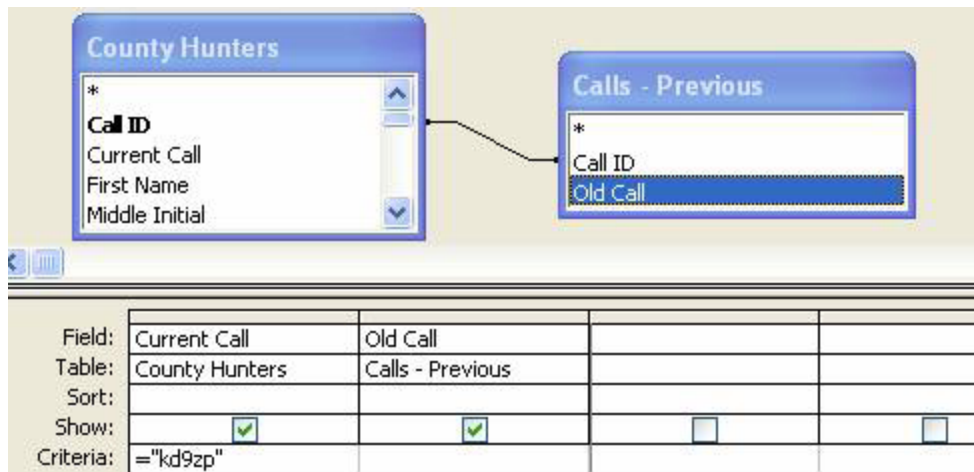
Call ID

Old Call

Here is what **my (KD9ZP)** old calls looks like:

Calls - Previous	
Call ID	**Old Call**
3473	K9BOE
3473	KN9BOE
3473	N9FUD

Now the trick is how to extract the list of my old calls given my **Current Call (KD9ZP)**.

To due this, we need to create a **Query**.

In **Access**, we simply select **Queries** and create a new **Query** as follows:

Notice I loaded the two tables:
County Hunters

Calls – Previous

The line between the two is called a **'join'** and it links the **Call ID** between the two. Notice also, that the **'Criteria'** is **="kd9zp"**, since I wanted to know **my** previous calls**.**

The picture above is the 'design mode' and when executed, you would get the following:

Query1	
Current Call	**Old Call**
KD9ZP	K9BOE
KD9ZP	KN9BOE
KD9ZP	N9FUD

Logger however, does not use **Access's** queries directly, but uses code to duplicate the **Access Query**. Here is what that code would look like:

SQL = "SELECT [County Hunters].[Current Call], [Calls - Previous].[Old Call] "

SQL = SQL & "FROM [County Hunters] "

SQL = SQL & "INNER JOIN [Calls - Previous] ON [County Hunters].[Call ID] = [Calls - Previous].[Call ID] "

SQL = SQL & "WHERE ((([County Hunters].[Current Call])='kd9zp'))"

lngRecordCount = OpenRecordset (rsPreviousCalls, SQL)

(Notice that I break the **SQL** statement into **4** lines to make more readable. Each line is '**concatenated'** with the previous line by using the '**&'**).

The '**OpenRecordset'** statement would return a **lngRecordCount** of <u>**3**</u> (for **KD9ZP**).

As you can see, the use of a <u>**table**</u> to track **Previous Calls** allows almost unlimited call changes.

In closing, I hope this gives you some insight into the power of databases.

Next month, with a **County Hunter** table of over <u>**6500**</u> calls, how does **Logger** (and **Access**) find the call so quickly??

<div align="center">

73's

KD9ZP

</div>

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-4324	N0HQG	Harry Bartel	P. O. Box 61	Hugoton, KS	Stevens	620-428-6221
hlbartel@pld.com						
R4325	KC6MJO	Loreen Kimble	3855 66th St East	Inver Grove Heights, MN	Dakota	651-450-1173
k0dbk@comcast.net						
R4326	W8DCD	Kirby Giampa	25700 N. Oak Ct	Barrington, IL	Cook	847-487-7065
w8dcd@yahoo.com						
R4327	N9UE	Jeanne Giampa	25700 N. Oak Ct	Barrington, IL	Cook	847-487-7065
w8dcd@yahoo.com						
R4328	KG8N	Jerry Nowicki	3502 Piper Rd	Alpena, MI	Alpena	000-000-0000
jturning@verizon.net						

SC Mini
2008 South Central Mini

WHEN: Arrive Feb. 21, Depart Feb. 24, 2008

WHERE: Best Western Palm Aire Hotel & Suites, 415 S. International Blvd. at Exp. 83, Weslaco, TX 78596

ROOM RATE: $64.00 a night plus tax. Includes free buffet breakfast. (For up to 2 persons)

RESERVATIONS: Call 1-800-248-6511 and mention MARAC to get the special rate. Same rate applies if you come in early or stay late. Our block of rooms will be held until Jan. 21. Please reserve before then if possible.

There will be an antenna forum and undetermined others.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Registration includes name badge, group photo and prize drawing

Single…………………………………………………..____X$10.00=_____

OM/L Couple………………………………………..……..____X$15.00=_____

Chuck Wagon Dinner (Thursday night)…………….…….._____X$19.00=_____

Saturday Night Dinner…………………………………._____X$19.00=_____

Chicken Fried Steak ____ Fried Catfish ____

Total (Includes taxes and gratuities)……………………………………._____

Name……………………………………..Call………….USACA#....................

Name……………………………………..Call………….USACA#....................

Email Address of primary registrant…………………………………………….

Send a check for the total registration and dinner fees payable to:…..

Joyce Boothe, WB9NUL   Phone 956-636-9161

21175 FM 2556   Email: joycenul@aol.com

Santa Rosa, TX 78593   Cell: 956-202-3373

Birthdays and Awards

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Current Call	**Birthday Date**
W2NWL	Nov - 01
VE9DH	Nov - 01
N5DWI	Nov - 03
W7TSM	Nov - 03
KA3MMM	Nov - 04
WA2AKB	Nov - 04
W0EAR	Nov - 04
KM1C	Nov - 05
WU4S	Nov - 06
N6VH	Nov - 06
N1API	Nov - 06
KW0U	Nov - 07
WO8L	Nov - 09
NX4W	Nov - 10
NT9V	Nov - 10
WG6X	Nov - 11
W3SQA	Nov - 11
W5UGD	Nov - 11
WB0AXN	Nov - 13
N4XML	Nov - 13
WB9STT	Nov - 13
N7PJP	Nov - 13
KC5DSP	Nov - 14
WA5AUR	Nov - 16
N8TW	Nov - 16
KA9FDV	Nov - 16
W4XT	Nov - 17
K7BOI	Nov - 17
WB9ZHS	Nov - 17
K0JN	Nov - 17
N7LYR	Nov - 17
WB2AXG	Nov - 17
NF0N	Nov - 18
WB5YDH	Nov - 20
W8TE	Nov - 21
W7WBZ	Nov - 22
W1TEE	Nov - 23
KK7X	Nov - 23
VE3HMK	Nov - 23
K0CIE	Nov - 23
W8DCH	Nov - 23
W5ETM	Nov - 23
KB9FBI	Nov - 24
VE1BES	Nov - 24
KC6AWX	Nov - 26
AK5PP	Nov - 27
N9HRX	Nov - 28
K0JIM	Nov - 28
N2CT	Nov - 29

Roadrunner Issued Per Month			
Call	**Date**	**Award**	**Number**
KL1V	10/30/2007	Last County Count 525	# 23
AB4YZ	10/28/2007	Last County Count 325	# 46
N8KIE	10/30/2007	Last County Count 375	# 34
NX4W	10/30/2007	Last County Count 100	# 207
AB7RW	10/30/2007	Last County Count 25	# 465
N5UZW	10/30/2007	Last County Count 50	# 311
AA9JJ	10/30/2007	Last County Count 625	# 15
N8STF	10/30/2007	Last County Count 700	# 9
N8KIE	10/30/2007	Last County Count 400	# 36
AC2J	10/30/2007	Last County Count 225	# 73
N2OCW	10/30/2007	Last County Count 125	# 156
N9STL	10/30/2007	Last County Count 50	# 312
N4AAT	10/30/2007	Last County Count 550	# 21
N9QPQ	10/30/2007	Last County Count 675	# 10
N4CD	10/30/2007	Last County Count	#
K8ZZ	10/30/2007	Last County Count 125	# 155
N4AAT	10/22/2007	USA-PA - K	# 14
AB4YZ	10/5/2007	Master's Gold	# 26
WQ7A	10/27/2007	Master's Gold	# 27
WD6CKT	8/20/2007	USA-CW	# 92
KO1U	10/1/2007	BINGO	# 297
WG6X	10/7/2007	Worked all Counties - 3rd Time	# 210
W7GQK	9/2/2007	Worked all Counties - 3rd Time	# 209
KN4Y	9/17/2007	Worked all Counties - 4th Time	# 132

Treasurer's Report
October 31, 2007

Funds Balance September 30, 2007			**$26,580.34**
Income:			
Awards Manager Income (Not reported)	$.00		
Dues	$486.00		
Money Market Interest	$20.70		
Logger Distribution	$200.00		
		$706.70	
Expenses:			
Awards Manager Expenses (Not reported)	$.00		
Stafford Engraving – plaques	$146.00		
Print-Right, Inc – Newsletter	$323.39		
Secretary Expenses	$173.90		
Kansas State Incorporation Yearly	$40.00		
ARRL Renewal via MARAC	$68.00		
Bank Fee	$3.50		
		$754.79	
			($ 48.09)
Account Balances			$26,532.25
Checking Account		$6,243.26	
Money Market Account		$20,288.99	
			$26,532.25

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"