



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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From My Point of View

Joyce, WB9NUL

Where has the year gone? I hope that all of you had a great Thanksgiving. The CD player is playing Christmas tunes, the decorations are in place and the tree is trimmed. This is my favorite time of year. One of songs I like has lyrics that I wish everyone would follow. "Why can't everyday be like Christmas?" Can you imagine everyone smiling and wishing each other love and peace 24/7? Think I'll make that my New Year's resolution.

I'm happy to report that reservations are already coming in for the February South Central mini. So far, WQ7A, Boni, AB2LS, K1DFO, W0GO, W5VD and N4CD are coming.

The 20 meter band has been down right ugly. 40 meters has been active for some areas. With some down time when mobiles aren't running why not work for some of the other awards that MARAC offers? Let's face it; we are an organization that chases awards.

We lost another of our members. KD9Q, Doug died October 7. Besides DXing and county hunting he was an avid sky diver. Doug was 73.

Doug was one of the few that ran counties on 160.

From our house to each and every one of you, Barry and I wish you a Joyous Christmas. Till next year, God bless us everyone!

73, Joyce, WB9NUL

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Dave's Call: Last month a gremlin got in; in the New Members list the call for Jeanne Giampa, #R4327, should have been listed as N9MUE.

Beyond that --

Have a Happy Holiday, Y'all!!

Dave, KU4YM

Dateline CW

Ed, KN4Y

Drink to me only with thine eyes means you are not in a county hunter's hospitality room.

I have been explaining to Gator the importance of working State and Regional QSO CW Parties during the bottom of the sun spot cycle. Also during this part of the sunspot cycle the chance of working a mobile on a county hunter's CW net frequency can be iffy. When there is a QSO party there are many stations operating on various frequencies and this increases the chance of making contacts. Locating and working the mobiles as they run various counties can quickly add to your county totals. The more mobiles operating in the QSO party equates to more counties obtainable providing a more bountiful county hunt. The same is true for a contest, almost. .

The county name is part of the exchange in a State QSO party. In a contest, with the exception of the MARAC contest, the county name is not a part of the exchange. This requires some detective work to determine in what county the station was located. The location and address of the operator worked can be obtained from a call sign server such as: <http://www.qrz.com/> or <http://hamcall.net/call>. Let's assume the call check indicates the station is located in a state and county on your needed list.

You now have a state and county name, but alas, in a contest the operator may have operated at a station located in another county. The detective work begins. If you are working towards the first time USA CA award a QSL card is sent to the station to verify the county. It is recommended you include a SASE to increase the possibility of a return QSL card. If not the first time award, sometimes an e-mail sent through ARRL is successful. Both procedures will come in handy when working the 10-meter, 80-meter, and the 160-Meter contests to obtain new counties for the MARAC new top band award.

I suddenly remember I was going to put up the Christmas lights today. I am just about finished stringing the lights when I hear the barking of an eight cylinder internal combustion engine roaring down the driveway. It is Gator's four-by-four and he stops against the recycled railroad track tie and kills the engine.

Gator gets out of the cab, "Hi holiday Dude, how do the truck sound?" "Sounds great, what did you do?" "No noise is deafening so I stopped at Bubba's truck custom shop and they installed twin pipes with Flowtech purple hornie glass pack mufflers. The gas prices made me do it." I have learned not to argue with Gator logic."Brown down, green up, brown down, green up." I shake my head, now what are you talking about?" "I am learning how to install centipede with a dash of clover sod. I am going to be an earthen technician." I roll my eyes and finish hanging the last row of lights and turn on the switch. "Hey Dude they all light up and look great, let's go inside. My nose is cold." I admire my Christmas light project for a second and follow Gator into the shack.

Gator gets on the computer and is checking the mail, "Did you get any Kentucky QSO party logs?" "No." "Did you work the Kentucky QSO party?" "Just long enough to work the mobiles K4Y and K8IJ, only two stations I heard. Then I had to leave the radio." Gator had hoped a few county hunters would have worked the Kentucky QSO Party. I hear the sound of CW; it is Gator's cell phone. He gives me a thumb -up and is out the door like a county hunter going to a picture taking session. I turn on the rig as I need all the counties and listen for a mobile.

Later in the evening, after dark, I heard a station say, QSY to 80-meters. I connect my 80-meter antenna to the radio and tuned in the CW county hunter net at 3.5565 MHz and listen. The noise level on the band was down and I heard Mike, KQ0B call QRZ. I sent my call. He came back to me. This was exciting. I heard Larry W0QE call QRZ and we exchanged a contact. This continued for about three

counties. I am making plans to stay in the shack after dark again. Try the 80-meter CW net; you will enjoy the high-band excitement.

This month is the ARRL 160-Meter and 10-Meter contests and a good chance to get counties for the MARAC top band award. Ten meters is unpredictable at the bottom of the sunspot cycle, so get on and hope for the best. At the end of the month you get another chance on 160-Meters in the Stew Perry top band distance challenge. To all county hunters you' all have a very Merry Christmas, a new rig, and the return of gas wars. Gator and I say:

HAPPY AND JOYOUS HOLIDAYS TO ALL

BOD Meeting Notice

A special meeting of the MARAC Board of Directors will be held on December 4, 2007 at 8:00 pm AEST (or 0100z December 5)

The meeting will be accessible on the internet at mIRC #MARACBOARD. Members can access mIRC direct or via the MARAC web site at <http://marac.org> or <http://www.superhosts.net/maracboard.html>.

Agenda Items

Accept Minutes of July 14, 2007

Accept Treasurers Reports for July through November 2007

Ratify Lloyd Smith, NX4W as the new appointed Election Coordinator

Funding support for the 2008 South Central Mini

Awards Committee recommendation for definition of "Valid Contact"

Member proposal forwarded by South Central Director

Anatomy of Logger

Part 4 – Call Lookup Gene, KD9ZP

Last month I left you with a question on how **Logger (Access)** can locate a call so fast when there are over **6500** calls in the database. To start, let's assume that there 8 calls randomly entered into the database as follows:

Record #	Call
1	WQ7A
2	KD5CXO
3	AA9JJ
4	N9QPQ
5	KC6AWX
6	W2IBB
7	K9IA
8	KD9ZP

If the you (as a computer) wanted to lookup **KD9ZP**, you would have to start at the first record and work your way down to record **8** before you located **KD9ZP** – requiring **8 lookups**.

Access, however, allows **indexing** a field and effectively creates another table with the **calls** sorted as follows:

Record #	Call
3	AA9JJ
7	K9IA
5	KC6AWX
2	KD5CXO
8	KD9ZP
4	N9QPQ
6	W2IBB
1	WQ7A

Now, since you are a computer, and you know that the calls are sorted, you decide to start at *approximately* the middle of the table instead the first record. Let's start with **KD5CXO**.

Comparing **KD5CXO** with **KD9ZP**, there are 3 possibilities:

1. **KD9ZP = KD5CXO**
2. **KD9ZP < KD5CXO**
3. **KD9ZP > KD5CXO**

It is obvious that **KD9ZP > KD5CXO** (alphabetically) and therefore **KD9ZP** must be in the records from **KD9ZP** to **WQ7A**.

Again start in *approximately* the middle of the remaining records – let's say **W2IBB**.

Comparing **W2IBB** with **KD9ZP**, there are 3 possibilities:

4. **KD9ZP = W2IBB**
5. **KD9ZP < W2IBB**
6. **KD9ZP > W2IBB**

It is obvious that **KD9ZP < W2IBB** (alphabetically) and therefore **KD9ZP** must be in the records from **KD9ZP** to **N9QPQ**.

Again start in *approximately* the middle of the remaining records – let's say **N9QPQ**.

Comparing **N9QPQ** with **KD9ZP**, there are 3 possibilities:

7. **KD9ZP = N9QPQ**
8. **KD9ZP < N9QPQ**
9. **KD9ZP > N9QPQ**

It is obvious that **KD9ZP < N9QPQ** (alphabetically) and therefore **KD9ZP** must be in the records from **KD9ZP** to **KD9ZP**.

Using one more compare, you (as a computer) find the **KD9ZP = KD9ZP** and **KD9ZP is in record # 8.**
If not equal, the call is new.

Counting all of the above compares, you (the computer) had to do **4** lookups! This compares to **8** w/o having the Call field indexed.

It turns out the 8 records is a power of 2 – i.e. 2^3 .

Mathematically then, the number of compares was **3 +1**.

If you take a piece of paper and try different numbers of records, you will find that the following is true:

Record Count from	Record Count to (Power of 2)	Number of Compares (Worst Case)
0	1 (2^0)	1
1	2 (2^1)	2
3	4 (2^2)	3
5	8 (2^3)	4
9	16 (2^4)	5
17	32 (2^5)	6
33	64 (2^6)	7
65	128 (2^7)	8
129	256 (2^8)	9
257	512 (2^9)	10
513	1,024 (2^{10})	11
1,025	2,048 (2^{11})	12
2,049	4,096 (2^{12})	13
4,097	8,192 (2^{13})	14
8,193	16,384 (2^{14})	15

And I could go on and on. **As you can see, 16,384 records would require a maximum of 15 lookups !**

Next month, I will start describing some of the tables.

73's
KD9ZP

Birthdays and Awards

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Current Call	Birthday Date
KD2O	Dec - 01
K1DFO	Dec - 01
NJ2DX	Dec - 02
N7JB	Dec - 03
N3XX	Dec - 04
KU8G	Dec - 04
K1VSJ	Dec - 04
WA7YUL	Dec - 04
K6JN	Dec - 06
W9MDP	Dec - 06
K4ZT	Dec - 08
N1WA	Dec - 08
NV4Z	Dec - 09
NG9L	Dec - 11
W8JJ	Dec - 11
N8KIE	Dec - 11
KB9BL	Dec - 11
N0ZA	Dec - 11
WB8JZN	Dec - 13
N9JF	Dec - 13
WA7ETH	Dec - 14
WU9F	Dec - 14
N8CBW	Dec - 14
N4RXF	Dec - 14
AC0B	Dec - 14
KA9ZRW	Dec - 14
KA5WGL	Dec - 16
KZ2P	Dec - 17
AD1OS	Dec - 17
AD1C	Dec - 19
AB8JF	Dec - 21
W9UCW	Dec - 22
WB5TWK	Dec - 23
K3IMC	Dec - 25
KH6G	Dec - 26
CT1TZ	Dec - 28
N2OO	Dec - 28
W9WIC	Dec - 29
WA3ZTY	Dec - 31
WD9EJK	Dec - 31

Roadrunner Issued Per Month			
Call	Date	Award	Number
AD8W	11/29/2007	Last County Count 25	# 466
W9MSE	11/29/2007	Last County Count 200	# 95
KB6UF	11/29/2007	Last County Count 600	# 18
KO0B	11/29/2007	Last County Count 75	# 232
W0QE	11/29/2007	Last County Count 75	# 233
K2HVN	11/29/2007	Last County Count 450	# 29
N8KIE	11/29/2007	Last County Count 425	# 31
N6HH	11/29/2007	Last County Count 75	# 234
KO1U	11/29/2007	Last County Count 150	# 136
WV2B	11/29/2007	Last County Count 75	# 231
WG6X	11/10/2007	5 Star	# 30
N9STL	11/18/2007	USA-PA - K	# 15
W7KOZ	11/26/2007	BINGO III	# 10
KR4ZH	11/9/2007	Worked all Counties - 2nd Time	# 374
N2OCW	11/3/2007	Worked all Counties - 4th Time	# 133
W0EAR	11/4/2007	Worked all Counties - 5th Time	# 86

Roadrunner USA-CA		
To Call	Award Date	Certificate Number
KA2NDX	11/23/2007	1163

Scholarships

ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc. has scholarships available to licensed radio operators. They range from \$500 to \$3000. Information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to March 30, 2008 from:

FAR Scholarships

P.O. Box 831

Riverdale, MD 20738

Information and applications are also available for download from the foundation's web <http://www.amateurradio-far.org/>.

WY0A

Rory Porter, WY0A
USA-CA All Counties #1150, March 9, 2007

My earliest recollection of ham radio is around 1960 at about the age of five in mid-western Kansas. I remember my father sitting by the radio he assembled himself and calling into the night "CQ CQ CQ . . . this is W0EVF, W Zero Easy Victor Fox." Most of the time it seemed like he was just listening to static, but every now and then, like magic, someone would answer his call and the conversation would begin. I also recall him taking me to a ham radio gathering, most likely a Field Day, at a lake nearby. At the time he had a '57 Ford station wagon and a trailer that had a tower on it that he would raise to the vertical position and then crank up to its full height, which came in handy at the lake.

When not in use, my dad kept his trailer/tower in a lot next to our house. In the plains area of Kansas, we usually consider it a calm day when the wind is only blowing 30 to 40 mph. However, one one particularly windy night the mobile tower blew over onto its side, leaving one of the wheels in a horizontal position about six feet above the ground. My younger brother, who holds the call N0UTK, and I found this exposed wheel made a quite fine carousel, as we would take turns climbing up on it and spinning ourselves around and around. It didn't take very long for my brother to lose his grip and fall off, which necessitated a quick visit to a local hospital and several stitches in his lip. Amazingly, the next day the tower/trailer disappeared and was never seen again.

In 1973, shortly after I graduated from high school and not having a strong desire to attend college at the time, I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. After going through a battery of tests in boot camp, it was determined that I had a propensity for recognizing patterns of dots and dashes when listening to them. Upon completion of boot camp, it was off to Pensacola, Florida to a Naval Communications School, where I was taught Morse code and radio theory. After graduation, I spent the next three years of my enlistment in places such as Adak, Alaska and Misawa, Japan, where I applied my skills as a radio direction finding operator.

When my enlistment ended, I returned to Kansas and never gave Morse code or radios much of a thought until March 1989. At the time, I was working for Boeing as a programmer, a job I continue to do today, only now for Sprint AeroSystems, Inc. I ventured out to the shop to check on one of my programs that was running on a machine, and I noticed the operator was reading a study manual to pass a test so he could get an amateur radio Technician license. Bob, who eventually obtained the call N0KEU, convinced me I should study as well and take the test with him. Since I already knew CW, I just had to do a little book studying and I was ready to go.

When the big day came for the test, I passed a couple of written tests and the 13-wpm code test to obtain the callsign

KB0DZJ. Bob already had an antenna made and a small radio, a Uniden HR-2510 which would allow him to listen to the 10-meter band. When our licenses arrived in the mail, he invited me out to his place one morning (we both were working the second shift at the time) to see what we could hear. It wasn't long before the band came up and it seemed like the whole world was coming in. I made my first contact with a station on the Ivory Coast of Africa. I was officially "hooked," and off I went to purchase an HR-2510, construct my own cubical quad, and mount it on top of a telephone pole I erected in the back yard using an old TV rotator to turn it.

It didn't take long for me to do a little studying to pass the test for the General license which would allow me to talk on the other bands. I went to a hamfest in a town close by and bought a Drake TR-4 that a fellow was selling out of the trunk of his car. I hurried home and constructed several dipoles that would resonate on the various bands and I was up and running.

Since I worked the second shift, I did lots of late-night listening on 40 meters and soon discovered the HHH net operating on 7.235 MHz with Jim, WB6FNI (now W7FIT), acting as net control. After a few months of checking in nightly, I managed to work all the states on the net and received WAS certificate #371, a certificate that holds a place of honor on my wall now, as it was my first amateur radio achievement. It was at this time when several pieces of radio gear started showing up at my door, such as a receiver so I could work "split" via the postal system from my dad, now W9LXI, the callsign he still holds. Dad, if you're reading this, I love you and thanks for everything you've done for me.

One day while tuning through the 20-meter band, I happened onto those crazy guys who didn't use phonetics on 14.336 MHz making contacts with mobiles in various counties as they went about their travels. I thought to myself, this is kind of cool, and made about 200 contacts, which I logged, also thinking it's probably darn near impossible to talk to somebody in every county.

Since I was mostly into chasing DX at the time, it didn't take long before I forgot all about county hunting. This was the latter part of 1989. In December of the same year, and after brushing up on CW, I took the Advanced and Extra Class written tests and the 20-wpm code proficiency test and passed. In January 1990 I was granted the call WY0A.

Fast forward to September 2004. While I was at home recuperating from an automobile accident, I decided to see what I could hear on 20 meters. I stumbled across 14.336 MHz, and lo and behold, there were those crazy county hunters still doing what they love so much—chasing counties. Jim, KZ2P, acting as net control, was beckoning



Rory Porter, WY0A, USA-CA All Counties #1150.

any mobiles that might be within hearing range, which was basically the whole country it seemed, to put out their counties. It wasn't long before a mobile came back to his call and the signal reports started.

Before the day was over, I had logged over 50 counties and was enjoying myself to no end. This prompted me to get out the old log books and search for the mobiles I had made contact with back in 1989. I did manage to get several of those counties confirmed, but sadly enough, several of those mobile operators had become Silent Keys. One of the operators, KB7QO, who had given me reports from several counties in Montana, wrote me a letter stating that he was in his 80s now and having some health issues that prevented him from mobiling anymore. He said my MRCs were the first he had seen in several years and he also expected they would be the last.

I officially now consider myself a county hunter, and with help of a good friend of mine, Dick, K0OY, we installed an ICOM 706MKIIG in my commute vehicle, a 1994 Ford Aspire, which I use daily to commute 30 miles to and from work. Along with the radio, we attached a High Sierra 1800 Pro screwdriver antenna to the rear of it.

My first contact as a mobile was with Larry, N2OCW, while he was putting out counties in West Virginia. The counties continued to pile up, and on May 7, 2006, at 1619 UTC with the help of Dan, KM9X, acting as net control on 7.238 MHz, Larry W0QE, took the time away from the county hunter CW contest that was going on to come to SSB and give me a contact from the county line of Cloud and Mitchell in Kansas for what is known by county hunters as "the whole ball of wax."

It didn't take long before I had all the MRCs in hand, but it seemed a little anticlimactic to send my contact sheet and the required cards that the USA-CA Custodian had requested, so I decided to hang on to them for a while until a nice round number came up. On March 9, 2007 I was awarded USA-CA All Counties #1150.

73, Rory, WY0A

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
21175 FM 2556
Santa Rosa, TX 78593

Phone 956-636-9161
Email: joycenul@aol.com
Cell: 956-202-3373

Bylaws

Members Vote to change to the MARAC Bylaws

At the 2007 MARAC Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors approved the following amendment to Article III, paragraph 3.1(b) of the MARAC Bylaws:

To change “At least **ninety (90)** 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”.

To read “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 results of membership voting for ratification during the month of September 2007 were twenty nine (29) FOR and zero (0) AGAINST. The Election Coordinator has a list of voting participants.

Jerry Mertz W0GXQ
Secretary

1st Quarter Ballot

Votes Accepted through
December 31, 2007

You are voting for Net Controls who ran the net and mobiles
that ran in the 1st Quarter which were the months of
July, Aug, and Sept of 2007
1 vote per Quarter --- Please

Please enter below:

Call Sign* _____ or Election Key* _____

Table with 3 columns: Annual Award for:, 1st choice, 2nd choice. Rows include Best Net Control - SSB, Best Net Control - CW, Best Mobile - SSB, Best Mobile - CW, and Best Team (Enter both calls).

Mail to: MARAC AWARDS
PO BOX 188
CARLSBAD, TX 76934

Clip or copy and mail this ballot or use the handy electronic voting system at http://marac.org/elections

New Members

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

Table with 7 columns: MARAC.No., Call, Full Name, Address, City and State, Home Cty, Phone Number. Lists new members including Jeff Newsome Jr., Brenda Sidney, Hank Kiernan, and Tom Kaitchuck.

**Treasurer's Report
November 30, 2007**

Funds Balance October 31, 2007 **\$26,532.25**

Income:

Awards Manager Income	\$1,018.00	
Dues	\$1,192.00	
Money Market Interest	\$19.76	
Logger Distribution	\$180.00	
		<u>\$2,409.76</u>

Expenses:

Awards Manager Expenses	\$305.27	
Print-Right, Inc – Newsletter	\$323.39	
Seabury & Smith Liability Ins	\$862.00	
Bank Fee	\$3.50	
		<u>\$1,494.16</u>

\$ 915.60

Account Balances **\$27,447.85**

Checking Account \$7,139.10

Money Market Account \$20,308.75

\$27,447.85

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

President: Joyce Boothe, WB9NUL, 21175 FM2556, Santa Rosa, TX 78593 1-956-636-9161, joycenul@aol.com
Vice-President: Chuck Secrest, AD8W, 105 E Bluff Rd, Harbor Springs, MI 49740, 231-526-7592, ad8w@charter.net
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Treasurer: Terry Dummler, WQ7A, PO Box 500, Yelm, WA 98597, 253-370-3377, wq7a@comcast.net
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South Central Director: Ross Harrell, N0ZA, 2433 Bella Pago Dr, Grand Junction, CO, 81503, 970-216-6604, n0za@bresnan.net
Pacific Director: Robert T. Devine, KC6AWX, 407 Alameda Del Prado, Novato, CA 94949-6302, 1-415-883-8980, kc6awx@marac.org
Southeast Director: David Splitt, KE3VV, 6111 Utah Ave. N.W., Washington, DC 20015-2005, 1-202-362-3355 ke3vv@marac.org

Appointees

Awards Manager: Janet Camron, KC5QCB, MARAC Awards, PO Box 188, Carlsbad, TX 76934, 325-659-2802, awardslady@suddenlink.net
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Sunshine Coordinator: Nancy Nosker, W0NAN, PO Box 98, 14 W. 4th Ave. Grand Marais, MN 55604-0098, 1-218-387-1546 w0nan@marac.org
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Election Coordinator: VACANT --Please contact Joyce, WB9NUL if interested
MARAC General Counsel: David Splitt, KE3VV, 6111 Utah Avenue NW Washington, D.C. 20015-2461, 1-202-362-3355, ke3vv@marac.org
Computer Data Manager: Gene A Olig Sr, KD9ZP, W 4325 4th St Rd, Fond du Lac, WI 54936, 920-923-0130, gaolig@pitnet.net
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.