



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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From My Point of View

Joyce, WB9NUL

Spring has sprung here in Texas. The smell of orange and grapefruit blossoms is heavenly. My climbing rose bush is blooming with beautiful red flowers and the wandering jew is brilliant with purple blooms. Now if we could only get the propagation to start growing and give us some really great openings. Oh well!

WQ7A had surgery a few weeks ago and had hoped to be home but has had a major setback. Please send cards to Terry's home. Boni, his wife, either calls or e-mails me with his progress. His daughters will be visiting Terry at the hospital until Tuesday. Boni has asked that we all hold off on telephoning Terry.

Our sweet Alice, N4MYZ has been in the hospital a couple of times this last month. Please keep those cheery cards going her way. Her daughter, Jan has kept me up to date on Alice's progress.

Bob Dyson, K0AYO (Charter member #10) needs some help. Bob had a stroke some time ago. Though he has difficulty talking he would like to try his hand at CW. Is there someone in Johnson County who could help Bob with code practice and setting up his station to operate CW? Please call or e-mail me and I'll put you in touch with his wife, Laura.

I've got my airplane ticket and reservations for California in place and look forward to seeing all of you. Bob has promised a great time will be had by all. Barry and I are in the process of getting everything ready for the SouthCentral mini for next year. You'll hear more about that at a later time. The dates are Feb. 12, 13, and 14th, 2009.

That's all the news from here. Have a great April and Happy Baseball season! Go Cubs! Joyce, WB9NUL

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Dateline CW

Ed, KN4Y

One of the pleasantest things in the world is going a journey;
But I like to go as a CW county hunter.

One of the by-products of Gator's manufacturing process is a non-Newtonian fluid. This by-product is a fluid in which the viscosity changes with the applied strain rate. I was looking at the material when I dropped the container and the material went into a container of sildenafil citrate. A state QSO party is about to start so I set the jar with the mixture next to the antenna switch.

I am working the State QSO party when I notice the level of the mixture changes as I change frequency. A bell in my head rings, a light blub flashes, I may have discovered a liquid all band antenna. The next day I drive down to the local catch-all and get two ten lengths of glass tubing one inch in diameter. I stop at Gator's back forty and get a five gallon can of the by-product fluid. Next I stop at the pharmacy and get 500 grams of sildenafil citrate. I figure a 1 to 100 combination rate would be a good starting point. Gator follows me back to the shack.

We go into the radio shack and I explain my plan. Gator gives me the look of a deer's eyes in a headlight beam at sixty miles per hour, but nods in agreement. We need two corks to seal the bottom of the glass tubes. Gator goes out to his truck and brings in two jugs of Dago Red. He removes the corks with the skill of a master craftsman. I insert a short length of bare copper wire through each cork and seal the wire with crazy glue epoxy. The bare copper wire extends about one inch beyond the cork. I insert a cork into one end of the glass tubing and compress it as snug as possible. Gator goes to the cooler; all this physical work is making us thirsty.

Gator goes outside adjacent to the shack window and pounds into the ground two once upon a time wooden broom handles about one hoe handle apart. I bring the glass tubing outside and Gator attaches one to each wooden post in a vertical position using non-metallic duct tape. I stick a length of coax through the window and Gator attaches the center lead of the coax to the cork post of the left tube and the shield to the cork post on the right tube. I attached the other end of the coax to the radio antenna connection.

Next we add the sildenafil citrate to the five gallon can and roll it around to mix the contents. I pour the mixture to the one foot level in each glass tube. Gator sets the radio on ten meters and keys the radio, wow, the liquid rises in the glass tube and the SWR drops to zero. I go to the van and turn on the radio to the ten meter frequency. I motion to Gator to key the rig again. Wow again, full scale signal. Gator goes to fifteen meters and keys the rig and shuts down before the liquid goes out the top of the tubes. The liquid coefficient of expansion appears to be a linear variable in correlation with the applied frequency. I discuss this with Gator. We agree on a plan.

I check the internet and locate a rotameter manufacture that will make us a variable area tube that is ten feet in height. A couple of days later the glass tubes arrive and I call Gator. He arrives and we repeat the previous experiment this time using the variable area tubes. As we change bands the liquid rises vertically in direct response to the frequency. We make contacts on ten, fifteen, twenty all the way to 160 meters, getting reports of a tree top tall signal and we notice there is no SWR. Barry will be proud of us. We make several contacts getting more excited with each contact. Gator asks, "Are you going to patent this liquid antenna?" "Yes Gator, tomorrow is April First and I am going to call the patent office for an application. Do not mention this to a soul." "You got it Dude."

This is the month I go mobile in the Georgia QSO party and the Florida QSO party. Please work me in as many counties as possible and maybe even get a few new ones. I did last month getting eight new counties on CW working Pete, NN9k and Jeff, W9MSE in the Wisconsin QSO party. I got twenty-six new counties on CW working Don, K6AAR, Charles, NO5W and Norm, W3DYA in the Oklahoma QSO party. I was able to add to my top band 80-meter totals. Right now it looks like nap time.

New Members

Please Welcome Our New Members and Add them to Your Database

<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-4339	KE5RJT	Phillip Gerber	P. O. Box 413	Magnolia, MS	Pike	601-783-2328
		pgerber42@bellsouth.net				
R4341	KG5RJ	Gregory Hall	18011 Old Preston Ct	Dallas, TX	Collin	972-713-8539
		kg5rj@prodigy.net				
R4342	WA0ROH	Robert Kyvig	1866 73 rd St	Centerville, MN	Anoka	651-429-6156
		rkyvig@usfamily.net				

Election Announcement

I would like to introduce the candidates for the positions being voted on this election cycle. Voting will be taking place during the month of **May only**. Voting online is preferred at <http://www.marac.org/elections/default.asp>. The paper ballot will be enclosed in the May issue of the RoadRunner. The voting page at the MARAC web site will be available May 1st thru May 31st. The results of the election will be announced the first week of June.

President: Joyce Boothe – WB9NUL

Vice President: Chuck Secrest – AD8W

Secretary: Eric N. Ellison (Norm) – W2IBB

Treasurer: Terry Dummler – WQ7A

Great Lakes Director: Randy Hatt – AA8R

North Central Director: Cliff Bird – AC0B

Election Bio's**W2IBB**

My name is Eric N. Ellison (Norm) and I am 74 years young. I was first licensed when I was in High School as W2IBB. I held that call until just a couple of years ago when I opted to change it for W2LSH. I then changed it back because I preferred the rhythm (CW) of IBB

I served in the United States Naval Reserve from 1952 till 1960 and I can thank Uncle Sam for my technical education. During my tour of duty, I specialized in communications. I have enjoyed various jobs traveling around the country for companies that contracted technical services to the Armed Forces. I finally decided to get involved with early CCTV (still tubes) and security hardware. The last 35 years (before I retired) I worked for a company that specialized in all aspects of security and banking products.

Although I was always active in Amateur Radio, the time I had for it was always limited. When I retired, I made myself a promise that I was going to become a full-time Ham. I am a life member of the ARRL, a Volunteer Examiner and in the past have served as an Official Observer. I have found that County Hunting has fulfilled this promise. I started County Hunting in 1995 and have thoroughly enjoyed many of the activities associated with it. I have talked to and met some of the greatest people associated with this hobby.

I have served as your Secretary before for more than two terms. I had to resign a couple years ago because of health problems. I am doing better now and I have relocated to central Florida. I enjoy the mild weather here and the friendship of many County Hunters that live in the area.

I am very familiar with what it takes to do the job as Secretary of MARAC. I would appreciate your support and vote.

Thank you & 73,

Norm W2IBB

WQ7A

Having served as your Treasurer for two years now, I have a good understanding of the MARAC accounts. The actual keeping of the books is not a big part of the position however. It is also my privilege to serve on the Board of Directors. I have tried to vote in the best interest of the MARAC membership. It would be an honor to be re-elected to this position. I solicit your vote.

73

Terry, WQ7A

WB9NUL

Joyce Boothe, WB9NUL has been an active County Hunter and MARAC member for 35 years. Her on-the-air activity includes long stints as net control or assistant on 20, 40 and 75 meters as well as mobile operation from over half the counties in the continental U.S. She is particularly proud of her work as host or hospitality chair at "mini" and "maxi" conventions throughout the years. Besides an array of certificates and plaques for county hunting achievements, she has received dozens of merit awards and also holds "County Hunter of the Year" and a President's citation. Joyce was a member of the Awards committee for 12 years and served as South Central Director of MARAC from 1992 until she was elected to the office of Vice President. She has served as President for the last 4 years. Her goal is to work with the other board members to satisfy the interests of County Hunters through efficient operation of a viable organization.

AA8R

I was first licensed in 1973 and have had the following calls over the past 35 years: WN8NVD, WB8NVD, KN4RI & AA8R. I received my Extra class ticket in 1991. I've been involved with County Hunting since 1974 and my MARAC membership number is R-728. I had several interruptions in my quest for USACA #885 with family and career priorities. I semi-retired in Nov. 2007 and will be fully retired in June 2008 from a 30+ year career as a Programmer/Analyst consultant.

I have lived most of my life in Michigan except for serving in the Army from 1969-1971 and four years in Florida during the early 90's. From 1974 until 2004 I was 100% SSB and then after getting my second star in April of 2004 I decided to go after them all via CW. Now I am 50-50 CW/SSB.

- CQ all Great Lake District County Hunters. I am running for the MARAC Great Lake I have been managing the MARAC CW Contest since 2005.
- Enjoyed several Mini's and National conventions.
- Served as Vice President and President of the Florida West Coast DX Ring while living in Fla. in the early 1990's.
- MARAC Membership #: R-728
- USACA #: 885
- 2nd Star #: 332
- Bingo #: 287
- 10-X: 08004
- DXCC with 338 confirmed.

Why am I running for District Director? I have been involved with County Hunting for 35 years and would like to give a little more back to the hobby that I have enjoyed all these years.

Nominations for CW and SSB

County Hunter of the Year

Nominations are now in order for the 2008 CW and SSB County Hunter of the Year. Nominations must be received by your District Director not later than the end of March and should contain a brief list of reasons for the Nomination. Your District Director will select one nominee from those that are received for both CW and SSB and forward that selection with the reasons for the selection to the

Election Coordinator no later than April 15th. Prior winners are not eligible for this award. We have over 500 members in this club and I have been advised that in the past, receiving nominations was like pulling teeth. Please support the members that

Go out of their way to make this club thrive and advise your Director who you think they are.

MARAC Voting Information

Remember, if you are a new member or are REJOINING following a lapse in membership, you are NOT eligible to submit nominations or vote in an election until the first day of the month following receipt of initial payment of dues and valid membership application to the Secretary of MARAC.

Those individuals maintaining uninterrupted membership status are not restricted from nominating or voting in the current month.

MARAC 3rd Quarter Award Voting

January - March

Voting will be open from April 1st through April 30th for the best net control, mobile and team awards. The easiest way to place your vote is at the MARAC web site <http://www.marac.org/elections/default.asp> and all you will need to enter on the sign in page is your call sign and your MARAC key. If you have lost or do not know your key then enter your callsign and then click on the button below to request your key. The key will be emailed to your email address on record instantaneously. You may also send me your vote via regular mail. However I must receive the ballot by the closing date of the voting window to be counted. Please include your callsign, MARAC membership and key numbers along with your choices for each class to:

A vote for 1st choice is awarded 2 points and 2nd choice is awarded 1 point. **Please do not vote for the same call for both choices.** Of course any choices can be left blank.

Best Net Control SSB: 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

Best Net Control CW: 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

Best Mobile SSB: 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

Best Mobile CW: 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

Best Mobile Team: 1st Choice _____ / _____

2nd Choice _____ / _____

Your call sign: _____ MARAC # or Election Key _____

Lloyd S. Smith – NX4W
MARAC Elections Coordinator
4413 NW 36th Dr
Gainesville, Fl 32605-5424

Anatomy

MARAC Logger
 Part 8 - Generating a Log Printout
 Gene, KD9ZP

This month I will demonstrate how to generate the Log for most Books. To do this, I will use Microsoft Access to generate a picture of the Query and then convert the picture into a SQL (Structured Query Language) statement used in Logger.

As shown below, I start with the YL Book (table) and connect the County ID to the List of Counties (table) County ID.

I then create a connection between the YL- Book QSO ID and the QSO Master QSO ID.

Notice both connections (called Joins) have the arrow on the right. These are called Inner Joins and effectively means e.g.:

“Show all records in ‘Book – YL’ and those records in List of Counties where the Joined fields are equal”

Or to put it another way, “Don’t show any counties that not in the Book – YL”

In a similar fashion, only show QSO records in QSO – Master where the Joined fields are equal.

To complete the Log listing, I dragged onto the grid all fields of interest – i.e. State ID (E.g. ‘WI’), County (E.g. ‘Fond du Lac’) and all fields of interest from QSO – Master... (I limited the listed fields to 5 due to lack of paper width.)

Finally, I sorted the information, first by State ID, then by County.

Field:	State ID	County	Call	Date	Time
Table:	List of Counties	List of Counties	QSO - Master	QSO - Master	QSO - Master
Sort:	Ascending	Ascending			
Show:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Criteria:					

When I change to the View mode from the Design mode in Access, the resulting (partial) display is shown below:

Query2				
State ID	County	Call	Date	Time
AK	First J. D. S E	KB0MHH	7/22/2003	16:37
AK	Fourth J. D. C	KA9QKN	6/22/2004	2:49
AK	Second J. D. N W	KA9QKN	6/24/2004	23:07
AK	Third J. D. S C	N0LFV	6/21/2005	22:44
AL	Baldwin	KI0JD	10/19/2003	20:42
AL	Bibb	N9QPQ	3/2/2005	16:22
AL	Blount	WB9NUL	4/26/2007	21:24
AL	Butler	KB9YVT	3/19/2004	16:50
AL	Calhoun	KG4UPA	12/23/2004	15:18

The next step is to convert Access design into an SQL statement used by Logger.

```
SQL = "SELECT [List of Counties].[State ID], [List of Counties].[County], "
SQL = SQL & "[QSO - Master].[Call], [QSO - Master].[Date], [QSO - Master].[Time] "
```

```
SQL = SQL & "FROM ([Book - YL] "
SQL = SQL & "LEFT JOIN [QSO - Master] ON [Book - YL].[QSO ID] = [QSO - Master].[QSO ID]) "
SQL = SQL & "LEFT JOIN [List of Counties] ON [Book - YL].[County ID] = [List of Counties].[County ID] "
```

```
SQL = SQL & "ORDER BY [List of Counties].[State ID], [List of Counties].[County]"
```

Notice: I broke the SQL statements into three paragraphs (groups) for clarity. I also concatenated the next SQL statement into the previous by using:

```
'SQL = SQL & "'
```

Finally, all that is left for Logger to do is open the recordset and for printing as follows:

```
lngRecordCount = OpenRecordSet (rsTemp, SQL)
```

Where:

lngRecordCount is the number of records

rsTemp is the Recordset Object

Logs from almost all Books are generated in a similar fashion. Books like "YL/OM", "5 Band", and "5 Star" are a little more complicated, since these Books contain more than one "QSO - ID", but the concept is the same.

Save this Road Runner for comparison, and next month I will demonstrate how to generate your 'Needs' for the Book - YL.

The picture is somewhat different, but, the concept is the same.

.73's

KD9ZP

Birthdays and Awards

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Current Call	Birthday Date
KC8WRP	Apr - 02
KW4FM	Apr - 02
AA9JJ	Apr - 02
W6YR	Apr - 02
WI4K	Apr - 02
AA4QE	Apr - 02
N1LK	Apr - 03
N9WA	Apr - 03
K4YFH	Apr - 03
N3AHA	Apr - 03
K0DXX	Apr - 04
N9IWL	Apr - 05
K1BM	Apr - 05
W6HOR	Apr - 05
KA0BUM	Apr - 05
W9SUQ	Apr - 06
AL7R	Apr - 06
W9CSX	Apr - 06
KF5AT	Apr - 06
KD2SP	Apr - 06
W3MAX	Apr - 06
KS2S	Apr - 06
KB5VTB	Apr - 06
KQ0B	Apr - 06
AA8HH	Apr - 07
KA2CNG	Apr - 07
N2MED	Apr - 07
W7LQV	Apr - 07
W7PSK	Apr - 07
W5LJW	Apr - 07
WM8N	Apr - 08
KC2P	Apr - 08
KE7PB	Apr - 08
AA4KD	Apr - 09
AB5LY	Apr - 09
N70TR	Apr - 09
KM5W	Apr - 09
KO2Q	Apr - 10
W8JM	Apr - 10
K4HVB	Apr - 10

KD8SF	Apr - 10
W4RKV	Apr - 10
N7YG	Apr - 11
W7KQZ	Apr - 11
WB8RJW	Apr - 12
KI7ZV	Apr - 12
KW8T	Apr - 12
W2RSA	Apr - 12
K9BLX	Apr - 12
KB0FQC	Apr - 13
K4HBH	Apr - 13
K0PVV	Apr - 13
WD0EAM	Apr - 13
NA7W	Apr - 13
W6TKV	Apr - 13
W0GXQ	Apr - 14
N2ODU	Apr - 14
KA0DDJ	Apr - 14
K4RAS	Apr - 14
WA0LMK	Apr - 14
KA2MKQ	Apr - 14
NE8V	Apr - 15
W3TTY	Apr - 16
W9OP	Apr - 16
W9PCI	Apr - 17
W8WT	Apr - 17
N7DH	Apr - 18
WB9NUL	Apr - 18
N0DPX	Apr - 19
KD8GL	Apr - 19
K5JYD	Apr - 20
NS9Q	Apr - 20
W7LES	Apr - 20
W2ZI	Apr - 20
KD1ZL	Apr - 20
KT4U	Apr - 21
KJ5PQ	Apr - 21
W8UO	Apr - 22
KF5JC	Apr - 22
N7ETN	Apr - 22
K2SGA	Apr - 22
W8DCD	Apr - 23

W0NAN	Apr - 23
KA5VWD	Apr - 23
K0CN	Apr - 23
W3IJT	Apr - 24
K2HVN	Apr - 24
W0FS	Apr - 24
N7AXY	Apr - 24
W8ILC	Apr - 24
NN2Q	Apr - 25
W01B	Apr - 26
WA5WWW	Apr - 26
AJ4A	Apr - 26
N8TI	Apr - 26
K9CS	Apr - 26
WS3F	Apr - 27
KQ1Z	Apr - 27
W8SU	Apr - 27
KE5TC	Apr - 27
W4GFQ	Apr - 27
N5KGY	Apr - 27
KS4KM	Apr - 28
W9ZJX	Apr - 28
W6LMJ	Apr - 28
W5ST	Apr - 28
W0LFJ	Apr - 29
W0MYZ	Apr - 29
KA1HB	Apr - 29
W0ME	Apr - 30
K0PG	Apr - 30
KG0SV	Apr - 30
K8YJ	Apr - 30
W6TN	Apr - 30
AK8C	Apr - 30
AA2AV	Apr - 30
KA0SHC	Apr - 30

Roadrunner Issued Per Month			
Call	Date	Award	Number
N4CD	3/28/2008	Last County Count 1425	# 1
KB6TAL	3/28/2008	Last County Count 25	# 468
N8KIE	3/28/2008	Last County Count 450	# 30
AB4YZ	3/28/2008	Last County Count 350	# 41
KA0SHC	2/10/2008	BINGO II	# 46

Thoughts

A Few Thoughts on County Hunting

Dave, KE3VV

Either I am really the iconoclastic weirdo I always pretended to be or spending a year with the XYL fending off our respective tumors (successfully I might add) has given me some added perspective on what makes me feel good. I have a wall full of QSL cards and lots of plaques, including more than a dozen of those little wooden cars, which makes one of my walls look like it has its own traffic jam.

I have also had the privilege of serving as a director of MARAC and before that re-writing the bylaws and the award rules. I have been to several Nationals and lots of SE Minis going back to the 3M. Those are even nicer things because they include eyeballs and interaction with good folks at more than the 22-22-22 level, as well as Joyce Boothe's wonderful concoction of M&Ms and peanuts and raisins.

When my wife and I were sick, I was still able to sit at the radio and work counties. I finished 4th time between chemo and surgery while still wondering whether it would be my last time around or whether I would have to live alone with the dog. I managed to get my MARAC work done and even help test and comment on Logger. But I couldn't do what I enjoy the most...

Taking road trips and putting out counties...

And I thought a lot about that and about county hunting in general. When I go out mobile, I don't add up the gas bills and the wear and tear on the truck or calculate the cost per contact, etc. I don't keep the motel and Waffle House receipts in a special jar labeled "County Hunting." If I did accumulate all of that data, it would be more properly stored in a folder labeled "Cost of Having Fun."

This may sound a bit selfish, but I don't go mobile and put out counties to make other people happy. I do it to make ME happy. No one owes me for doing it. When I log a contact there is no check mark for payback or who gave me a county... no ledger of reciprocity. When I work a fixed station, I don't wonder whether they have or will ever put out a county. But I do hope they are doing what makes them happy.

I know it is true that it would not be possible to work all USA counties if there were no mobiles. But you can work a lot of fixed stations. If there aren't a lot of mobiles, it does take longer to accumulate contacts. But that should be OK. Maybe that is why it is called county "hunting," rather than "County Collecting" or "Award Hunting." When the hobby first got going, mobiles putting out counties were extremely rare. The equipment was often crude and bulky and expensive (or home brewed). We need to remember our history a bit more and be a little more patient and have fun doing what we do without worrying so much about what other folks do and making comparisons. It is not, after all, a race or a competition.

Thanks for reading all this way down to the bottom... One more thought. I am down to about 100 counties for 5th time and USA-CW, 15 counties for Master Gold, 2 counties for Bingo 2, and so on... I hope to finish them all some day and then maybe a few more.

And if it takes me the rest of my life to do it, I hope it takes a long, long time.

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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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