



# ***THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER***

*Published Monthly by the Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club, Inc.*



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**Volume XXXVIII**

**July 2008**

**Number 7**

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## **From My Point of View**

Joyce, WB9NUL

In less than two weeks I'll be in California enjoying another convention. I look forward to seeing those of you who will be attending. Bob, KC6AWX has planned a great time for us. The MARAC Board appreciates all the work that you did, Bob.

We do have some bad news to report. Janet, the Awards Chairman has had a computer crash. We are hoping for a disk recovery. Not all the information has been lost and Gene, KD9ZP will be working with Janet to get everything up to speed. In the meantime, please be patient if things don't get done with the speed we are used to having from Janet. Gene is on his way to California and so there is a delay in what can be done.

Weather here in Texas has been divine and we even got some needed rain. Look for Barry and I to run mobile the end of July and the beginning of August. A trip up to Illinois is planned to join in the celebration of Barry's graduation of 50 years ago. Along the way we will be visiting family and friends.

Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July! 73, Joyce WB9NUL

## **Contents**

AA8HH	11
Annual Meeting Notice	11
CW Winners	6
Dateline CW	2
Election Results	5
From My Point of View	1
GPS Strikes Again	6
SE Mini	3
Treasurer's Report	10

**Dateline CW**

Ed, KN4Y

CW County Hunting as we understand it is no more natural to us than a cage is natural to a cockatoo.

I am telling Gator why I am so excited; I had given Madison county Florida to Jerry, W0GXQ, for the WBOW third time around. Gator is impressed and gets two cool ones to celebrate this once in a life time event. He turns the rig on to the county hunters CW net. I want to work the mobiles going to the 2008 MARAC National Convention in Visalia, California. The bands are not in great shape, but the signals are readable. I work a few with a 559 signal report both ways. The next station gives me a 569.

Gator starts laughing, "Does that Dude really have the equipment to read a 569 signal?" I return a 559 signal report, "No, Gator, he just like to send a 6, it has a nice rhythm. It is not necessary to log the signal." "Why is that?" "The MARAC awards requires a good contact between the two stations to get credit for working the county. The signal report is a way to verify a two way contact." "You mean there is no worked all counties 599 award?" Gator heads to the cooler grinning like a dog caught with a paw in the cookie jar.

Gator notices my West Virginia QSO party log. "I see you only got 25 contacts, you napped a lot?" I throw a bottle cap at Gator, "That was a full time period project. I did only CW." "What else is there?" "Quit interrupting. There was not much CW activity that I heard. I only worked two mobiles and the few fixed stations on other bands. That was enough contacts to get a West Virginia Tee shirt." "You get me one?" "Yes, Gator, I did." "Alright Dude, you de man. You figure out why the CW activity was slow?" "Yes, all the old West Virginia CW operators have retired and moved to Florida." I put my finger to my lips, the international signal to hush your mouth. There is a station on 40-meters, I need the county and I work the station 589, 599. Gator starts laughing again..

Gator is looking at my Alabama QSO party mobile log, "Sure would have liked to been with you. Did you take the Psych path?" "No, you just said you were not along." Gator gives me the Superman salute. It is my turn to laugh. "Let's get serious. How did you do in the QSO party." I had planned on running ten counties, but the pile-ups were great and I spent more time in a county than I had planned, so I just worked eight counties. I covered 509 miles and made 367 QSO's. By the way, how about checking that stack of QSL's." Gator opens the envelopes and starts verifying the contacts. I continue with my story, "After dark I put on the 40 & 80-meter antenna. There were plenty of stations to work right up to the last minute."

Gator hands me the checked QSL's and I sign them and insert them in the accompanying envelope to go out in tomorrows mail. I hear CW, it is Gator's cell phone, "Got to go Dude." He is gone like gas in a wind gust. I still have my Field Day logs to put into the computer. I look at the contest calendar. There is IARU HF world championship and my eyes close for nap time.

**SE Mini**

Location: Quality Inn & Suites; Mount Pleasant, SC  
Dates: October 23-25, 2008  
Directions: Follow I-26 East until it ends and take exit 220. Follow signs to Mt. Pleasant/Hwy 17 North. Cross Cooper River Bridge and take Coleman Blvd./Hwy 703 exit. On Coleman Blvd/Hwy 703 turn right at first traffic light. Hotel is on the right.  
More details will be posted at <http://semini.superhosts.net/>  
Room Rate: \$89.99 Thurs, \$127.99 Fri/Sat night plus tax. Call the hotel directly for reservations and mention "amateur radio". The phone number is 800-704-4480. The rate is valid only through September 16- 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, with no overhangs to eat antennas!  
Activities: No group activities are planned, but area attractions include Historic Charleston tours, shopping, dining, golfing, plantations, Patriot's Point, The Hunley & Fort Sumter.  
Dinner: Buffet Style Dinner- 20\$/person.  
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:

John M. Hoyt – W5UGD  
118 Halifax Rd  
Easley, SC 29642

## 2008 SE Mini Registration

Callsign: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (to be put on badge):

\_\_\_\_\_

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

USA-CA#: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Names/Calls/USA-CA Numbers:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Basic Registration:		15.00
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Additional Registrations	_____ x 5.00	_____
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Banquet Tickets	_____ x 20.00	_____
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<b>Total</b>		_____
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**Election Results**

The following directors have been elected to 2 year terms expiring July 2010:

President: Joyce Boothe, WB9NUL  
Vice-President: Chuck Secrest, AD8W  
Secretary: Norm Ellison, W2IBB  
Treasurer: Terry Dummler, WQ7A

The following directors have been elected to 3 year terms expiring July 2011:

Great Lakes Director: Randy Hatt, AA8R  
North Central Director: Cliff Bird, AC0B

Congratulations to all of you for offering your time and services to MARAC

**2008 Awards**

County Hunter of the Year SSB & CW, Net Control SSB, Net Control CW, Best Mobile SSB, Best Mobile CW and the Best Team awards will be announced at the banquet on Saturday July 12<sup>th</sup> at the MARAC convention.

**Correction June RR:** June's edition of the RoadRunner listed AC0B as nominating N9QS as CW CHOTY. Credit should go to Jerry, W0GXQ.

Lloyd S. Smith – NX4W  
MARAC Election Coordinator  
4413 NW 36<sup>th</sup> Dr  
Gainesville, Fl, 32605-5424

**CW Winners**

Mobile: 1st Place:	W9MSE	2nd Place:	W0GXQ
Fixed: 1st Place:	N8II	2nd Place:	W4HSA
Mixed: 1st Place:	K4EXT	2nd Place:	none
DX: 1st Place:	DL5DWI		

Randy, AA8R

**GPS Strikes Again**

Or How I Dislocated My Hip  
Sharon Matthew, N0LXJ

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, Matt and I left to go to Las Cruces, NM for our granddaughter Sharon Rhea's high school graduation. Early Monday morning (May 19<sup>th</sup>), we started out for home. We never travel with a paper map but rather depend on the GPS unit in the truck to plan our route. Matt really enjoys driving on secondary and even dirt roads - - hates interstates. We decided to go pretty much north up the western side of New Mexico and then across into Colorado. As usual Matt told the GPS to plan the "no interstate" route not fully appreciating that this would take us over 150 miles of wilderness on mostly very rugged forest roads.

After we left Las Cruces we proceeded to Mimbres (near Silver City) with no problems. We took state route 35 out of Mimbres (paved) and then turned right onto N Star Road starting north into the Gila National Forest. N Star Road was a dirt road that got more winding and narrower the farther we went. Pretty soon it was a single lane road that forded dry stream beds every little bit - - the beds were full of large "river rocks" but our 4-wheel drive truck just bounced and jounced over them and we kept going. The GPS map indicated we would cross US 60 about 80 miles to the north and then had another 65 miles of back roads to navigate before reaching I-40 west of Albuquerque.

I can't tell you how far we had gone (Matt estimates ~ 15 miles), but we were nearly 8,000 feet up and had just negotiated a series of tight switchbacks climbing up out of a dry stream bed. We hadn't seen a single other car since we'd gone into the forest. It was about 11:30 or so in the morning and "nature" was calling so Matt pulled the truck over and headed off in one direction and I walked around behind the truck to take care of my business.

As some of you might recall, I had total hip replacement surgery Memorial Day weekend in 2001. Two of the forever restrictions/precautions so as to not dislocate the artificial hip are not to bend more than 90 degrees and never turn or rotate that leg toward the inside. Obviously I broke both those rules and was instantly rewarded with *exquisite agony*.

Matt was already back in the truck and there I was behind it with my left leg totally just dangling. I couldn't move it or use it to stand back up and my right leg was threatening to drop me as well. Matt couldn't hear me calling so I banged on the back of the truck as hard as I could to get his attention. I thought he was going to have a heart attack when I managed to tell him what I'd done. I told him if he didn't get me upright I was going to collapse and he'd never be able to get me back up. I have always had a very high tolerance for pain but I have NEVER encountered that kind of pain in my whole life. When he began pulling me up I was literally screaming! I think I must have been going into shock too because I was hyperventilating and on the verge of blacking out. Matt just held me until I could get control of myself and then we had to decide what could be done.

There was no way I could walk and he definitely couldn't carry me but I remembered we had a short step ladder in the back of the truck. Matt brought the ladder to me and it was just the right height that I could sit on my right side and keep weight off the bad hip. Then he backed the truck up to where I was and opened the passenger door so I had something to lean on.

We didn't have cell phone coverage but thank heaven we had the ham radio. We'd been making county hunter contacts all morning so Matt sent out a distress call on 14336 and Jim (KZ2P/K2JG) in South Carolina came back to us. Jim contacted the New Mexico State Highway Patrol who in turn initiated a rescue operation. Thanks to the GPS we had our exact coordinates which were relayed to the authorities. Several other hams had also pin pointed our location and were standing by to relay information if necessary.

Jim kept the frequency free of "traffic" and kept us updated as to what was happening out there. Others moved the county hunter activity off frequency to keep the ball rolling. Jim told us that the Highway Patrol would reach us before the ambulance and EMT's would. We kept hearing that they couldn't find us even though they had the coordinates. Finally the patrolman told Jim to have us honk our horn because he was sure he was near us. We honked and honked but he couldn't hear us. He was blowing the siren on his cruiser too but we couldn't hear him either. Apparently all the sound was going down the canyon.

Fortunately we had an umbrella in the truck and I held that over myself to keep from getting sunburned sitting out there on the ladder. Finally around 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon I saw the black & white round a curve below us. When he got to us the patrolman took one look and said there was no way he could get me in his car so he was going back down about two miles and see if they could send a suburban up to get me. He also told us that they had had to send for a second ambulance because the first one had tried to come across one of the stream beds below and had gotten stuck. They had to send for a tow truck to get him out of the way. The officer told us he had never been that high up on that road and neither had the EMTs!

Finally a white pick-up truck with a driver and two EMTs arrived and assessed the situation. Between the three of them they got me off the ladder (with a few shrieks on my part) and onto a back board. Then they put an inflatable splint around me and carried me over to the open bed of the pick-up. There were several bags of horse feed in there so they used those to pad the back board a little and then drove me down over the rocky stream beds to where the two ambulances were waiting. The EMTs were in radio contact with the hospital emergency room in Silver City and got permission to start an IV with saline and also to give me a little bit of morphine. Then four guys pulled the board I was on out of the pick-up and carried me across the rocks where the one ambulance was stuck sideways (he'd tried to turn around and just got wedged), loaded me in the second one and started out for the hospital. Matt couldn't follow until the tow truck got there and moved the stranded ambulance. It was probably 15 miles back over the one lane road before they got to a fairly smooth dirt road that led to the highway and then another 45 minutes to the hospital.

It was 7:00 o'clock that evening by the time we made it to the hospital. The emergency room people were wonderful - - and the radiology people as well when they took me in for x-rays. Jim had also managed to have the highway patrol contact my orthopedic surgeon here to ask if she had any special instructions for the EMTs. The concern was that possibly I hadn't just dislocated my hip but that it might actually be broken. The x-rays showed it was totally dislocated but thank heaven, nothing worse so surgery wasn't necessary.

Matt finally arrived about 8:00 p.m. in time to meet the orthopedic surgeon and hear what he had to say. There was concern because I am on blood thinners which meant an added risk factor if surgery was necessary. Dr. Carreone said that when you dislocate there is soft tissue damage done and so there

would be bleeding there anyway but that the body would eventually absorb that. He decided to take me into the operating room and get an anesthetist to put me under to put the hip back in place. He said I'd had enough pain and trauma and I was VERY grateful!

Matt was able to find a motel about 11:00 that night and get some much needed sleep. Our little Maltese (Sugar) was with us on the trip so we were concerned about her too but she did fine. It got to be a problem for her on Tuesday though. I wasn't released from the hospital until 2:00 o'clock and of course, Matt had to vacate the motel before noon. It was 90 degrees in Silver City and she had to stay out in the truck! I had a private room and Sugar had her own little cage so we asked if she couldn't come in but they said only certified therapy dogs were allowed.

Our son Eric (some of you met him at the SW Mini a couple of years ago) and our granddaughter Sharon Rhea drove over from Las Cruces Tuesday morning and stayed with us until I was discharged. Matt had left the truck running with the air conditioner on for Sugar so Eric and Sharon took turns going out to check on her and walk her and give her water.

I left the hospital with a big metal brace around my waist and thigh and a walker for stability. By putting the passenger seat of the truck all the way back and reclining it just a little I was actually able to get in and be fairly comfortable. We even managed to put out a few counties that afternoon. We only made it as far as Albuquerque Tuesday night. We were both exhausted.. After we got home it took us a week or more to begin to shake off the after effects from both the emotional and physical trauma but it didn't keep us from going out to do a little mobile county hunting though. Hi hi!

Oh yes, I forgot to say that the emergency room doctor asked me what in the world we were doing on that road anyway. I explained about the GPS and after hearing what our plan had been he suggested that we not put too much trust in it after that. He told me that if we had continued the way we were going it would have taken another full day and a half to reach the road we were looking for. He was quite sure that that road had not been updated in the system for a very long time.

Matt vowed to swear off dirt roads from now on but when we told that to my surgeon here she said, "Don't give up something that gives you so much pleasure all together - - maybe just modify it a little." - - - - Her particular hobby is - - - - *parasailing*!

There's something else in all of this that I'd like to share - - like Paul Harvey, "here's the rest of the story."

The two EMTs were named Bruce and Carlos. Carlos had spent 6 years in the Marines - - part of which was in Somalia. He had the Marine Corp emblem tattooed on one side of his neck. On the right side at the corner of his eye was another tattoo I couldn't quite make out but tattooed at the corner of his left eye were several teardrops which I later learned indicated sorrow for fallen comrades or the number of men he had lost. Everything he did for me was done with caring and compassion. He tried to give me a drink from a bottle of water in the ambulance but the road was so bumpy it spilled on me when I tried to drink. When he realized I couldn't drink he told me he wouldn't have any water himself until I had had some. Bruce in the meantime was giving my vitals to the emergency room doctor at the hospital.

Carlos began to tell me about his fiancée' named Christina Maria whose name was the same as his late sister's. He said they were going to be married soon. I told him that Matt and I would celebrate our 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary in June and he said he hoped their marriage would last that long. I told him, "There's something you don't know about me -- I'm a pastor and I think I can give you a few pointers that will help make that happen." So, trussed up in a splint, lying on my back on a backboard on a gurney in an ambulance with an IV bag swaying from a pole - - I was able to share the importance of keeping



God in the center of your marriage and those nine all important words, “I was wrong, I am sorry, please forgive me.” We talked about the fact that tough times do come along in marriage and how it’s all too easy to walk away instead of making the effort to work through problems - - that even though you may not *feel* like it, you need to decide every morning that you *want* to be married.

About that time Bruce came back and sat down next to me and told me that when his wife died he realized he needed to be closer to God and began reading his Bible. He said it was hard for him to understand so he bought a set of audio tapes of the Bible to listen to. I asked him what version he had and he said it was the King James and that it was still confusing to him. For the next few minutes I had the opportunity to suggest a couple of modern translations that he might find helpful.

After we arrived at the hospital, the staff began attending to me and Carlos and Bruce went to finish up their reports and then they came into my room to say goodbye. As Carlos turned to go I said, “God bless you, and I wish you many many years of happy marriage.” He turned back and said, “I’m sure of it now that I’ve met you.” And I was humbled at what God had done. You never know when or under what circumstances God is going to give you an opportunity to share your faith or to be an encourager to someone - - to make lemonade out of the lemons the day might have handed you.

Thanks again to everyone who helped out in our emergency and for the cards and letters I have received and for the prayers that were offered for us that day. You’re a terrific bunch of people!

73s, *Sharon*

**Treasurer's Report  
June 30, 2008**

Funds Balance May 31, 2008 **\$27,939.34**

Income:

Dues	\$374.00	
Money Market Interest	\$17.22	
Logger Distribution	\$140.00	
		<u>\$531.22</u>

Expenses:

Election Coordinator Expenses	\$32.12	
Bank Fee	\$3.50	
ARRL Membership	\$34.00	
Print Right – Road Runner	\$763.60	
National Convention	\$2,701.53	
		<u>\$3,534.75</u>

(\$3,003.53)

Account Balances \$24,935.81

Checking Account \$4,498.77

Money Market Account \$20,437.04

**\$24,935.81**

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

## AA8HH

Courtesy of CQ Amateur Radio Magazine

**Stephen W. Morton, AA8HH**  
**USA-CA All Counties #1161, October 4, 2007**

I was originally licensed as WN8PME (and WA8PME) in 1964 and started county hunting shortly thereafter. Back then, there was an organization operated by Cliff Evans, K8BX, called the Certificate Hunters Club, and it sponsored a Counties Worked Award. I worked around 400 counties towards the award, and then lost interest about the same time I started to develop an interest in girls. My license eventually lapsed, and I didn't get back into ham radio until my son convinced me that it would be a fun thing for us to do together.

Fast forward about 35 years. While traveling in the South, I started listening to the county hunters group on 14.336 MHz and it sounded like fun. So for a couple of years or so I handed out contacts in counties I traveled through, but didn't bother to keep track of the counties I had worked.

Around 1999, I decided to actively start collecting counties. Since I had lost all of my old QSL cards, I had to start from scratch. To compound the difficulty, I didn't have a "home station," so all of my contacts were made from the mobile station. I really didn't expect to ever work all of the counties, but I figured that I could certainly work enough of them to earn the basic award. I kept putting off applying for each level of the award as I earned it, and eventually I realized that I could actually work all of the counties.

Currently, I enjoy chasing DX, working CW, and operating in events such as the Ohio QSO Party, Sweepstakes, and Field Day.

I live in a planned unit community, but have managed to assemble a home station that performs adequately. The station is comprised of an ICOM 756PROII and Ameritron ALS-600 amplifier feeding a "flagpole" that has a Hy-Gain 14AVQ vertical hidden inside with lots of radials. My mobile station includes an ICOM 708MKIIG with an ICOM AH4 tuner and a homebrew stainless-steel antenna using Hustler resonators.

As I started getting close to working all of the counties, several of my county hunter friends made it a point to operate from counties I needed to help me get finished. Everyone told me that the last ten counties would go quickly, and they were right! The last ten only took a couple of months. Finally, Larry, N2OCW, drove to Martin County, Kentucky to give me the last county for the "whole ball of wax." At the last minute, I decided to hop in my car and meet him there.

We made the last contact for my USA-CA All Counties in the parking lot of the Martin County Courthouse . . . Larry in his truck and me in my car. Thank you to all of those great folks who helped me finish up USA-CA!



*Stephen Morton, AA8HH, USA-CA All Counties #1161.*

**MARAC Board of Directors****Annual Meeting Notice**

The Annual Meeting of the MARAC Board of Directors will be held on July 12, 2008 at 9:00 AM PDT (1600z)

Visalia-Hotel & Conference Center  
Visalia, California

The meeting will also 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 May 6, 2008
- . Accept Treasurers Reports for May and June 2008
- . Awards Committee Report
- . Request support in the amount of \$300 for the 2008 Southeast Mini

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



*“A Road Runner Is A Very Fast Bird”*

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**Monthly Deadline for Articles is the 25<sup>th</sup>!**

**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

**Secretary:** Jerry Mertz, W0GXQ, PO Box 758, Park Rapids, MN 56470, 218-252-6848, w0gxq@unitelc.com

**Treasurer:** Terry Dummler, WQ7A, PO Box 500, Yelm, WA 98597, 253-370-3377, wq7a@comcast.net

**Great Lakes Director:** Robert N Woody, N8KIE, 7661 Allen, Clarkson, MI 48348, 248-652-1872, n8kie@aol.com

**North Central Director:** Cliff Bird, AC0B, 6140 Hwy 194, Saginaw, MN 55779, 218-343-7473, ac0b@arrl.net

**Northeast Director:** Carol-Ann Reitman, AB2LS, 100 Woodbury Rd, Highland Mills, NY 10930, 845-928-6238, ab2ls@optonline.net

**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 McKnight, KC5QCB, MARAC Awards, 7641 Gladiola, San Angelo, TX 76901, 325-812-3234, kc5qcb@suddenlink.net

**Newsletter Editor:** Dave Hyatt, KU4YM, 116 Old Course Rd., Summerville, SC 29485, dhhyatt@ieee.org

**Sunshine Coordinator:** Nancy Nosker, W0NAN, PO Box 98, 14 W. 4th Ave. Grand Marais, MN 55604-0098, 1-218-387-1546, w0nan@marac.org

**Webmaster:** Mike Fatchett, W0MU, PO Box 3500, Parker, CO 80134, 303-548-7222, w0mu@w0mu.com

**Custodian, Club Call, K9DCJ:** Joyce Boothe, WB9NUL, 21175 FM2556, Santa Rosa, TX 78593 1-956-636-9161 joycenul@aol.com

**Election Coordinator:** Lloyd Smith, NX4W, 4413 NW 36th Dr, Gainesville, FL 32605, 352-339-6457, nx4w@arrl.net

**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.