



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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



Volume XXXVIII

August 2008

Number 8

From My Point of View

Joyce, WB9NUL

The California MARAC convention is now a pleasant memory. Bob, KC6AWX did a great job. I so enjoyed having a chance to talk to everyone. Those that went on the tours had a great time and came back with glowing reports. As for the banquet and prizes...well, since I won a radio I think it was grand. I can't wait till it is delivered! Of course, since Barry didn't get to go to the convention, I'm going to let him have the radio....well, maybe share the radio!

By now most of you know that the Rio Grande Valley had an unwanted visitor named Dolly. Dolly broke all the rules for a hurricane. When she came across the Yucatan she was a tropical storm that might make a category 1 hurricane by the time she got to south Texas. Seems she had other ideas. About 40 miles away from the mouth of the Rio Grande she stopped, built up steam and churned for half a day until she became a mid cat 2 storm and decided to move north northwest and came inland at Port Mansfield. Dolly decided to take her sweet time as she crossed Willacy County at 4 miles per hour. Most hurricanes have the major damage in what is known as the northwest quadrant. Not our Dolly! She decided that the southwest quadrant should be the area that gets all the wind and the rain. Barry and I sat watching this storm with winds over 100 miles per hour hitting us for 6 plus hours. We had 18 inches of rain in 14 hours. Some parts of Cameron County received 20 to 25 inches of rain! We were without power for two and a half days. There are some people who still don't have power as I write this and are still many other people in shelters.

The good news is that everyone here is OK. I talked with Carol, KI0JD and she and Berger had little damage. N5AWE, Earl had the roof over his RV fall on the RV. WA9QNI, Jack had no damage at all. As for Barry and I, the roof is badly damaged and our beautiful trees have lots of damage. We lost 6 trees altogether... including the roots! The rental property next door has major roof damage and a fallen tree took out 40 feet of fencing. The storage shed looks awful but is still standing. Our loop antenna is damaged and will be weeks before we can get into the field to fix it. Cheryl, KJ5PQ and Mike, KG5UZ arrived here yesterday and are helping with the clean-up. Then we're off to their grove to see what kind of damage they have.

Barry and I want to thank all of you who called or e-mailed us. Once again, my second family was there to cheer us. Please know that you all have a very special spot in my heart.

With much love and hugs,

Joyce Boothe, WB9NUL

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Dateline CW

Ed, KN4Y

I look upon every day to be lost, in which I have not worked a county hunter on CW.

I am getting my Field day CW logs in order to submit with the club's ARRL package when I hear Gator's four by four bark to a stop. Gator enters the radio shack grinning from ear to ear like he had just won the lottery. "You look like a clan with a plan." Gator gets two cool ones from the cooler labeled hospitality room and hands me one. "You are looking at an environmental green vendor." "Did you eat some bad road kill?" "I'll have you know I am now a member of The American Coalition for Ethanol, Just call me ACE."

I'd better change the subject. "Gator, here are my hand written logs from my last mobile run. How about entering the data into the MARAC Logger." Gator takes the logs and goes to the computer. I turn on the radio to the county hunters CW frequency. "Hey Dude, I got the contacts made on 20-meters entered. How do I change the frequency to enter the contacts on 30-meters?" "The logger is set up for one county one band run. Log the contacts, change the frequency and log the 30-meter contacts." "But Dude, you ran the same county on four bands." "No matter. Just log each band as a county run."

The radio comes to life; a mobile station is getting ready to run a county. I note the county and work the mobile. A few minutes later I yell, "That was like the old times." Gator does a 180 in the swivel chair, "Why so excited Dude?" I can hardly contain my excitement, "I worked Norm, W3DYA, mobile in Texas on 10, 15, 17 and 40-meters. I have not done that in years, and to boot I needed the county for fifth time around." "Great, you got a fiver, what county did you need in Texas?" "It was Zavala County."

I explain to Gator that Texas county hunters eat alphabet soup prior to planning a county run. They take a spoon full of letters and go from there. There are not many Z's in alphabet soup, so the county is not run often. Gator gives me the look of a cat caught with a bird's head in its mouth. "You doubt me? Check after the Texas QSO Party in September and see if Zavala County is run."

"By the way I got note from Jerry, W0GXQ, regarding the CW meeting that was held at the MARAC convention. That gets Gator's attention, "I bet Al was in charge." "Nope." Gator looks sad; his hero has let him down again, "What if anything was discussed at the CW meeting."

I gave Gator a brief summary of the CW meeting.

The first item on the agenda discussed that often during poor band conditions, two mobiles end up running on the same county hunters CW frequency at the same time. The group agreed that any station that hears both mobiles try to straighten out the mess. One method was simply to send the wait sign (Pro sign AS) until one of the mobiles was contacted. Once the attention of one or both mobiles is obtained, ask one of the mobiles to QSY D2 (down 2).

The second item was when if you hear a new call on the county hunter's CW frequencies send them an email welcoming them to CW county hunting and offer to answer any questions they might have. Give them the MARAC web address for more detailed information.

The third item was when a station works a mobile and enters the spot on the spotting network, the group suggested to let the mobile know that they have been/will be spotted. It was suggested to work the mobile and give RST es spot. The mobile can reply RST TU SPOT.

Gator hands me cool one, and says, "That is a dog gone good idea He is laughing hilariously. Get it? Spot, dog. I motion to Gator to be quiet and I continue.

The last item was when a mobile is ready to run on the county hunters CW frequency and hears another QSO in progress. It was suggested the mobile work the operating station and then announce, QSY DOWN 2. The mobile should not just disappear.

Gator nods his head, he has lost grasp of the conversation and picks up a note off the desk, "What is this?" "I made that note to remind me to tell you I finally made a CW contact with a mobile on 12-meters." "With who?" "It was Jeff, W9MSE and Jim, N9JF." I also worked both mobiles on 10-meters but only Jim has a ten-ten number. I also worked Kent, KL1V, on 17-meter CW in Third district of Alaska. The band-Gods have been good, at times.

I hear an off pitch CW tone; it is Gator's cell phone. "Got to go Dude. That was The American Coalition for Ethanol representative wanting to check my ethanol inventories. "You do not have any inventories." "Should not take long." Gator is killing love bugs as he boogies down the road. Wow, maybe Gator was serious; I will check with him later, it is easier to fight for one's principles than live up to them.

I check the calendar and the Southeast Mini on October 23-25 at Mount Pleasant, South Carolina is fast approaching. The hospitality room will be at the Quality Inn & Suites and the room rate deadline is September 16. I look at the August contest calendar and there is the North American CW QSO party, the WAE CW DX Contest and the New Jersey, Hawaii and Ohio State QSO parties. Too hot to work outside, time to shack-up and work some HF. It has been so hot lately that my radio signals are taking the long path. Bye-Bye, almost missed nap time.

MINUTES

MARAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING

Date: May 7, 2008

Meeting Location

Internet Teleconference at <http://marac.org>

mIRC #MARACBOARD

The meeting of the MARAC Board of Directors was called to order at 0015 UTC by the Vice President, Chuck (AD8W).

Board Members Present:

Vice President	Chuck Secrest – AD8W
Secretary	Jerry Mertz – W0GXQ
North Central Director	Cliff Bird – AC0B
Northeast Director	Carol Ann Reitman – AB2LS
Pacific Director	Bob Devine – KC6AWX
President (via telephone w/Secy)	Joyce Boothe – WB9NUL

Other members present in the Board Room were: W2IBB, N4XML, and AF3X.

The chair (AD8W) recognized a quorum with six (6) board members in attendance.

A motion was made by Bob (KC6AWX) and seconded by Cliff (AC0B), to accept the minutes of the December 4, 2007 meeting. The minutes were accepted by a vote of 4 in favor and none opposed. Jerry (W0GXQ) abstained.

A motion by Jerry (W0GXQ) and seconded by Cliff (AC0B), to accept the Treasurer's reports for December 2007; and January, February, March, and April 2008 was approved by a vote of 5 in favor and none opposed.

OLD BUSINESS

A. NONE

NEW BUSINESS

- A. The chair (AD8W) requested approval for funds to purchase a radio to be given as a pre-registration prize at the 2008 National Convention. A motion by Bob (KC6AWX) that funds be approved for the purchase of a radio (IC-7000), was seconded by Cliff (AC0B), and approved with a vote of 5 in favor, none opposed.

- B. Bob (KC6AWX) reported on the current status of the 2008 National Convention and presented a breakdown of expenditures as compared to data from the 2002 convention. At this time there is a shortfall of \$2,684 to projected expenses. Bob suggested the \$2,500 advanced by MARAC for national convention “up front” monies be increased to \$4,000 to cover the increased costs in all expense categories over the past twenty years of hosting national conventions.

A motion by Bob (KC6AWX) to increase the \$2,500 up front money for the National Convention to \$4,000 starting in 2009, was seconded by Jerry (W0GXQ), and approved by a vote of 5 in favor, none opposed.

- C. Bob (KC6AWX) requested that MARAC provide the 2008 National Convention with funds to purchase a second radio to be awarded as a prize. A motion by Bob (KC6AWX) for approval of funds to purchase a second radio with an approximate value of \$1,300, and reimbursed as registration monies arrive, was seconded by Jerry (W0GXQ) and approved with a vote of 5 in favor, none opposed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Jerry (W0GXQ) and seconded by Cliff (AC0B), to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved and the chair adjourned the meeting at 0057 UTC.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Mertz W0GXQ
Secretary, MARAC

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-4353	W9NGA	Don Bergmark	3939 W Calle Siete	Green Valley, AZ	Pima	520-399-3611
		w9nga@w9nga.com				
R-4354	W9DP	David Pruitt	6432 E Overhead Rd	Vincennes, IN	Knox	812-726-5298
		dpruitt@vinu.edu				

Part 2

From My Point of View

Joyce, WB9NUL

Many County Hunters have expressed their concern about recent profane name calling and repugnant behavior, on the air, on often used net frequencies. Members of the BOD chimed in. I want all of the members of MARAC to read what I sent to the MARAC Board just before the convention. Here is the e-mail to the BOD, sent July 6, 2008:

This is in regard to the “requested action/motion at Board Meeting” e-mail sent to the entire Board by Bob Voss, N4CD on July 5, 2008. Thanks to those of you who have responded so far. I would like to ask the rest of you for your position and that you forward your comments to the entire Board. As of this writing, I have heard from AD8W-Chuck, W0GXQ-Jerry, KC6AWX-Bob and AC0B-Cliff. We have also received comments from members at large.

I would like to make a few comments myself. This “requested action” has to do with boorish behavior and nasty language used by Percy, KA1JPR against Joyce, N9STL. This occurrence was witnessed by a number of operators on one of the frequencies that is most often used by County Hunters during a time when running of mobiles had been happening. Both parties are members of MARAC.

First of all, in terms of first reactions, the phrase being thrown around was “MARAC image has been tarnished...again”. And I say ‘wait a minute’, if that’s true, the tarnisher is N4CD...again. He is the one that puts every less-than-perfect occurrence at the feet of MARAC and the BOD. It’s a wonder we’re not blamed for the price of oil.

I want in no way to dismiss the actions and language unbecoming a gentleman used by KA1JPR. But, I think it should be dealt with objectively, as well as within the boundaries of our constitution and bylaws, of course. It would seem to me that Percy’s actions have tarnished his image...again.

The question is whether an organization of which he is a member deems it prudent to respond to such behavior in some punishing way...and whether that organization clearly has the sanctions in place to do so.

I agree that MARAC and the BOD in particular needs to do something...even if it is just speaking up on the record. You may want to do more than that. Perhaps you think we need to consider changing the Bylaws to better handle some of these situations. That might be a stronger move than just a censure, especially if we do a WHEREAS and include Percy’s behavior as one of the reasons for the action.

The bylaws do not provide for suspension of MARAC membership. The conduct portion is basically a restatement of the DXCC rules. Section 8 is poorly worded and offers the potential for interminable reinterpretation.

- (8) Conduct: Evidence of disruptive operating practices or inappropriate conduct in any aspect of MARAC participation may lead to disqualification from all participation in the program. Actions that may lead to disqualification include, but are not limited to:
 - (a) The submission of forged or altered confirmations or applications.
 - (b) Transmitting from a location other than the one specified during the operation.
 - (c) Participating in activities that create an unfavorable impression of amateur radio, such activities include malicious attempts to cause disruption or discreditation of an operation.
 - (d) Blatant inequities in confirmation (QSL/MRC) procedures and continued refusal to issue QSL/MR

This action would also provide an opportunity for the membership to vote on the BOD decision. Remember, the current bylaws provide for an appeal to the membership of a decision under this part.

- (9) The Board of Directors shall determine if an individual shall be disqualified from participating in the MARAC awards program. Creditable evidence must be presented to the Board of Directors by the individual(s) requesting the disqualification. Disqualification shall begin on the date the

infraction occurred and the Board of Directors shall determine the length of the disqualification. There will be no retroactive disqualification. Either party may appeal the Board of Director's decision, within 30 days from the date thereof, to the entire Membership. In the event of an appeal, the Membership shall receive all documentation relevant to the Board's decision in the next issue of the newsletter. The same issue of the newsletter will contain a ballot concerning the Board's decision. A majority vote of the Membership shall determine the final decision and shall be binding on all parties.

Do we REALLY want to do that? Would it be better to agree ahead of time to amend the bylaws to change (8) and (9) and give the BOD more latitude and allow the BOD to suspend a member or deny membership? If you think this is the way to go, please send me and the rest of the BOD ideas for a motion and new bylaws for the BOD meeting next Saturday.

I can say that writing statements defining elements of behavior provide a never ending opportunity for argument. I've seen that slippery slope in several organizations over the years.

Believe me when I say that I can relate to the present situation. About ten years ago I was called a f**king bitch on the same frequency about the same time of day. It was witnessed by a large group of Ch'ers. The perpetrator was a District Director, now deceased who didn't like the fact that I was polling the membership concerning current events at that time. There were Ch'ers who were ready to beat this person to an inch of his life. In fact, they said they would stand in line to take their turns. My reaction to this was he was a sicko! Leave him alone and the CH world would forget. I even continued to work him when he contacted me in a county I was running. Did I ever call him again? NO! I defused the situation by dealing with it quietly.

Bob, N4CD will continue to fuss at MARAC. Non-members will also do the same. The whiners want us to fix their problems rather than do something POSITIVE for themselves.

Let's turn this situation into a positive. I wait for your replies. As you consider your final position on this matter, I ask that you isolate your thinking to the actions of Percy, KA1JPR on July 1, 2008 and not include all the perceived wrongs of him and others then and at other times, as always elaborated upon in any N4CD rantings. Also, if you are rankled by his exact word(s), please consider the consequence of trying to decide what words can be used and what words cannot, both now and in the future.

73, Joyce, WB9NUL
President of MARAC

P.S. I have received the first suggested resolution and amendment to the bylaws. It is attached. Joyce

This next is not in the letter to the Board but I feel it needs to be said. I still say you **cannot** legislate ethics or morals, and if you try to it will open an ugly can of worms. The resolution mentioned can be found in the minutes from the Convention meeting. After reading all of this I suggest that you get in touch with your district director and tell them what you want done. Think long and hard. The saying that comes to mind...be careful what you wish for, be very, very careful.

Awards**MARAC 2008 Member Awards**

County Hunter of the Year SSB: WQ7A County Hunter of the Year CW: KL1V

Best Net Control SSB: N5UZW Best Net Control CW: W0GXQ

Best Mobile SSB: KL1V Best Mobile CW: N4CD

Best Mobile Team: AA9JJ and N9QPQ

Please take time to congratulate these members for a job well done in furthering the advancement of our great hobby of County Hunting.

Ballot Recognition

I would like to congratulate the following stations for receiving recognition from their peer's with at least 3 points or better in vote totals. (No particular order)

BEST NET CONTROL SSB: N5UZW, KZ2P, KM9X, KA0SHC, WQ7A, K0IYA, N4AAT

BEST NET CONTROL CW: NM2L, W0GXQ, N4CD, W0QE, K4AMC, AA0IP, K8ZZ, W4HSA

BEST MOBILE SSB: KL1V, AC0B, K0RCJ, W6TMD, N4CD, N4AAT, AB4YZ, KA9JAC, AA9JJ, WG6X, K8ZZ, NX4W, N8KIE

BEST MOBILE CW: W6TMD, K8ZZ, N4CD, AB4YZ, N9JF, WG6X, AB4YZ, W9MSE, KL1V

BEST TEAM: N0KV/N0LFV, AA9JJ/N9QPQ, NX0X/KB0MHH, KB0BA/N0XYL, KA9JAC/KB9YVT, W0NAC/NOLXJ, WY7LL/WY7ML, KM9X/KB9MGI

Lloyd S. Smith – NX4W
MARAC Election Coordinator

Unofficial Minutes
MARAC ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Date: July 12, 2008

Meeting Location
Holiday Inn, 9000 W. Airport Dr, Visalia, CA

The meeting of the MARAC Board of Directors was called to order at 9:00 AM PDT by Joyce (WB9NUL).

Board Members Present:

President	Joyce Boothe – WB9NUL	
Vice President	Chuck Secrest – AD8W	
Secretary	Jerry Mertz – W0GXQ	
Great Lakes Director	Bob Woody – N8KIE	
North Central Director	Cliff Bird – AC0B	
Northeast Director	Carol-Ann Reitman – AB2LS	
South Central Director	Ross Harrell – N0ZA	(Internet)
Southeast Director	Dave Splitt – KE3VV	(Internet)
Pacific Director	Robert Devine – KC6AWX	

Members physically present were: AC0B, N0CWX, KA0DDJ, KY0E, W0GXQ, WB0HLW, KI0JD, K1DFO, K1SO, W2IBB, AB2LS, KZ2P, AF3X, W3ZUH, WD4OIN, W4OWY, AB4YZ, K5GE, KC6AWX, K6JN, WA6OCV, N6PDB, W6TKV, W6TMD, W6TPC, W6XJN, W6XLR, AB7RW, AC7UH, N8KIE, N8RLJ, AD8W, WG9A, K9FDL, AA9JJ, WB9NUL, W9OP, W9PIP, N9QPQ, KD9ZP, and WB9ZNA.

The members present on the MARAC Internet Board Room were: KQ0B, W0MU, N0ZA, N1BY, KA1JPR, KA1NX, WA1UDI, N2OCW, KE3VV, K4EXT, W4GNS, WB4KZW, N4SMH, NX4W, N4XML, KU4YM, NV4Z, N5MLP, KC5QCB, KA5TQF, KD5YUK, N8BGF, KJ8F, AA8R, KA9JAC, N9STL, KM9X, and KB9YVT.

The chair (WB9NUL) asked for roll call by call sign and recognized a quorum with seven (7) at the convention site and two (2) at the internet site.

A motion was made by Bob (N8KIE) and seconded by Bob (KC6AWX), to accept the minutes of the May 6, 2008 meeting. The minutes were accepted by a vote of 7 in favor and none opposed. Jerry (W0GXQ) abstained.

A motion by Chuck (AD8W) and seconded by Jerry (W0GXQ), to accept the May and June 2008 Treasurer's reports was approved by a vote of 8 in favor and none opposed.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Awards Committee report on the definition of "Valid Contact".

Background Information:

At the Board of Directors meeting in July 2007, the committee recommended that the general rule for a Valid Contact be amended to disallow remote controlled contacts (including use of the Internet or other indirect operation).

A motion was made to adopt the committee's recommendation with an exception that would allow remote control of the operator's own station. Discussion centered on the need to define "own station" and whether the rule should include a distance limitation. The Board referred the recommendation back to the Awards Committee for additional consideration of the technical issues involved in defining the "one's own station" exception and the need for additional technical language.

After further study, discussion, and consideration, the Awards committee now recommends that the Board amend the Valid Contact rule to allow limited remote control of one's own station and define "distant station" to limit the distance between the control operator and the remotely controlled station.

Valid Contact

MARAC Awards require valid two-way radio contacts with other licensed amateur radio stations. A Valid Contact must be made in accordance with all applicable rules of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) relating to amateur radio (such as Mode, licensing, operating procedures). A Valid Contact requires an exchange of information between two amateurs. Contacts made through "repeater" devices, remote control of a "distant station" (including use of the internet or other indirect operation), or any other power relay methods (other than satellites) are not valid for MARAC Awards.

For purposes of this rule and specifically to allow locally remote controlled or wireless operation of the station receiving and transmitting equipment, a "distant station" is one that is located more than fifty (50) miles from the location of the person using remote control to operate that station.

A motion by Chuck (AD8W) and seconded by Bob (N8KIE) to accept the Awards Committee recommendation, was approved by a vote of 7 in favor, none opposed, and 1 abstention (W0GXQ).

NEW BUSINESS

A. The Awards Committee recommends that the Board amend the MARAC County Challenge Award to dedicate the award to Bill Inkrote, K2NJ-SK by adding the following language: IN MEMORIAM: The County Challenge Award is dedicated to Bill Inkrote (K2NJ-SK). In addition to his years of service to MARAC and leadership as MARAC President, Bill was an active DXCC Honor Roll member, contesteer, DXpeditioner, and a dedicated county hunter who led the way in working counties on all bands and modes.

A motion was made by Bob (KC6AWX) and seconded by Carol (AB2LS) to accept the recommendation of the Awards Committee to dedicate the County Challenge Award to Bill K2NJ. The motion was approved by a vote of 8 in favor, none opposed.

B. The Awards Committee recommends that the Board amend the Bingo-Master County Hunter Award to add an endorsement for "Natural Bingo." Add the following language: SPECIAL ENDORSEMENT – Natural Bingo: A county hunter who works All USA Counties using only valid contacts with stations that match the first letter of the county in which they are operating with one of the letters in the suffix of the station's amateur call sign. The special rules for short call signs, repeated letters in call signs, stars, and wild cards do not apply to Natural Bingo. The rules for counties with two or more words in the name, remain unchanged.

A motion was made by Bob (KC6AWX) and seconded by Chuck (AD8W) to send the recommendation back to the Awards Committee to address those call signs containing "X's" ONLY in the suffix. The motion was approved by a vote of 6 in favor, 2 opposed (KE3VV and N0ZA).

C. The chair (WB9NUL) requested approval for monetary assistance in the amount of \$300 to support the 2008 Southeast Mini convention. A motion by Bob (N8KIE) and seconded by Carol (AB2LS) to provide the requested funds was approved by a vote of 8 in favor, none opposed.

D. The chair (WB9NUL) requested approval for monetary assistance in the amount of \$300 to support the 2009 Michigan Mini convention. A motion by Bob (N8KIE) and seconded by Bob (KC6AWX) to provide the requested funds was approved by a vote of 8 in favor, none opposed.

E. The chair (WB9NUL) requested approval for "up-front monies" for the 2009 National Convention to be held in Petoskey Michigan. Funding for National Conventions was increased from \$2,500 to \$4,000 at the 7 May 2008 Board

of Directors meeting.

A motion by Bob (N8KIE) and seconded by Bob (KC6AWX) to advance the seed money was approved by a vote of 8 in favor, none opposed.

F. The chair (WB9NUL) informed board members that the Hard Drive for the Awards Program had crashed. According to MARAC Data Manager Gene (KD9ZP), we are looking to recover two major files which are the Awards Database and Inbox. A company in Houston Texas has given an estimate of \$1,750 to recover the data. If the company is unable to recover the required data, there is no charge.

A motion by Chuck (AD8W) and seconded by Dave (KE3VV) to authorize the estimated \$1,750 fee was approved by a vote of 8 in favor, none opposed.

The need for improved database back-up procedures was discussed. Mentioned were external hard drives, multiple types and frequency of back-ups, and different locations for back-up storage. The Data Manager will report back to the Board.

G. As President of MARAC, Joyce (WB9NUL) sent a letter to Board members concerning inappropriate behavior on the part of a MARAC member participating in a County Hunting Net. Although not a MARAC sponsored activity, the incidents reflect poorly on MARAC and county hunters in general. Because Board members are concerned, the following Draft Resolution and proposed amendment to the MARAC Bylaws was submitted by Southeast Director Dave (KE3VV):

(Draft) RESOLUTION AND PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MARAC BYLAWS

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors takes notice of escalating incidents of harassment, name-calling, and other behavior that bring discredit to amateur radio and MARAC and discourage participation in county hunting and the MARAC awards program; and

WHEREAS, a recent incident where Percy (KA1JPR) cursed Joyce (N9STL) on the air on a frequency that is used daily by the Mobile Emergency and County Hunters Net has led many members of MARAC to request that the Board of Directors take some action in response to this and other malicious, inappropriate, and negative behavior; and

WHEREAS, the charter of MARAC states that the purposes of MARAC are:

To promote amateur radio;

To promote efficiency and expertise in mobile and portable operation for emergency and general communications;

To recognize and award outstanding accomplishments in amateur radio, with emphasis on mobile operation; and

To promote goodwill and fraternalism among amateurs,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of MARAC that

The Board of MARAC condemns the behavior of KA1JPR and others who disrupt county hunting activities and bring discredit upon counting hunting and amateur radio, whether or not those activities are sponsored by MARAC; and

The Board of MARAC requests that KA1JPR apologize to N9STL in writing and provide a copy of the apology to the Board of Directors; and

The Board of Directors adopts the following amendment to Section 5.1 (d) of the Bylaws of MARAC and directs the Newsletter Editor to publish the proposed amendment in the next issue of the County Line Roadrunner and directs the Elections Manager to prepare a ballot and conduct a referendum in accordance with the Bylaws:

1.1 AWARDS

(d) CRITERIA & QUALIFICATIONS

- (1) All MARAC awards are available to any licensed amateur radio operator anywhere in the world. Where applicable, the MARAC awards are available for Short Wave Listeners (SWL's) on a heard basis.
- (2) Valid contacts with mobile, portable, and fixed stations shall qualify for MARAC awards except where a specific award requires a single type of operation. The MARAC Board of Directors shall determine contact criteria for all MARAC awards.
- (3) The official list of counties (including parishes and other entities) to be used in certifying all applications will be the actual counties in existence on the date the award application is received by MARAC. The MARAC Board of Directors shall determine the official list of counties for all awards.
- (4) The Awards Manager shall determine the media to be used when submitting applications and records for the awards.
- (5) All contacts must be made using the call sign issued to the licensee. Contacts with a licensed operator other than the station licensee must be made using the call sign issued to the licensee. Contacts with a licensed operator other than the station licensee must be in accordance with the regulations governing the licenses.
- (6) By applying for or submitting an application for a MARAC award, an applicant stipulates that he or she has observed all applicable MARAC and FCC rules. In addition each applicant agrees to being bound by the MARAC awards rules and the decisions of the Board of Directors and Awards Committee.
- (7) MARAC encourages and promotes the use of proper operating practices, respect for all county hunters, and goodwill and fraternalism among amateurs.
- (8) The Board of Directors may take appropriate action to discourage deceptive or unlawful county hunting operations (including transmitting from a location other than the one specified during an operation), including but not limited to reprimand and censure, invalidating contacts with a violator for MARAC awards, and suspending or revoking MARAC membership.
- (9) The Board of Directors may take appropriate action to discourage cheating on awards (including the submission of forged or altered confirmations, submitting invalid contacts for credit on award applications, or other violations of specific award rules), including but not limited to reprimand and censure, invalidating an application for a MARAC award in whole or in part, and suspending or revoking MARAC membership.
- (10) The Board of Directors may take appropriate action to discourage disruptive behavior or inappropriate conduct by MARAC award holders and applicants for MARAC awards including but not limited to requests to discontinue improper conduct, public censure, and suspending or revoking MARAC membership.
- (11) A person whose membership is suspended or revoked shall forfeit paid dues for the period of suspension or revocation. A member that is suspended shall continue to receive the MARAC newsletter.

Lengthy discussion among Board members following the reading of the draft Proposal and suggested changes to the Bylaws, indicated more time was needed to discuss the issue prior to action by the Board. The chair (WB9NUL) suggested a meeting in one month and encourages members to contact their Directors voicing their position.

H. The chair (WB9NUL) informed the Board that the MARAC Financial Books were audited by Jim (KZ2P) and Jerry (K1SO) and were found to be error free.

I. The chair (WB9NUL) announced that Terry (WQ7A) was back in the hospital and on dialysis. Nell (K0GO) had fractured an L5 and was in a brace. Ray (K5RPC) has had a recurrence of mouth and throat cancer and is under hospice care. Please keep these folks in your thoughts.

J. Chuck (AD8W) invites everyone to Petoskey Michigan for the 2009 National Convention.

K. The chair (WB9NUL) introduced new and reelected members of the board. Norm (W2IBB) was elected to the office of Secretary, and Joyce (WB9NUL), Chuck (AD8W), Terry (WQ7A) were reelected to the office of President, Vice President, and Treasurer respectively; and North Central Director, Cliff (AC0B) (incumbent), and Great Lakes Director, Randy (AA8R) (elected).

L. On behalf of the entire Board, the chair (WB9NUL) welcomed Norm (W2IBB) as the new Secretary and Randy (AA8R) as the new Great lakes Director; and thanks to outgoing Secretary Jerry (W0GXQ) and outgoing Great Lakes Director Bob (N8KIE) for their service to MARAC.

A motion by Dave (KE3VV) and seconded by Chuck (AD8W) that the Board approve Service Awards for retiring Board members, passed by a vote of 6 in favor, none opposed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Chuck (AD8W) and seconded by Bob (KC6AWX), to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved and the chair adjourned the meeting at 10:10 AM PDT.

The annual membership meeting followed.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Mertz W0GXQ
Secretary, MARAC

MARAC Facts

Dave, KE3VV

1. What was the active membership of MARAC in 1992... 16 years ago? **895 on March 31, 1992, the last day of the MARAC fiscal year.**

2. The MARAC Bylaws used to require that all members of the Executive Board of MARAC (mostly the officers) live within a 50-mile radius. Where was the Executive Board of MARAC located in 1992?

In Minnesota – within about 50 miles of Minneapolis. Don Strom (WA0LKL was MARAC President). In 1993, the Executive Board moved to Texas (within about 50 miles of Dallas). The new MARAC President in 1993 was Joe Parson - W5UJO.

3. What year did the Executive Board of MARAC change from the Texas group to the (St. Louis) Missouri group? **1998**

4. What was the active membership of MARAC the year the MARAC leadership moved from Texas to Missouri? **599**
Interesting Bonus Factoid – The peak of Solar Cycle 22 was 1989 - 1992 and the cycle declined until it bottomed out in 1995 - 1996.

5. How many years did the MARAC Executive Board remain in Missouri before moving to New Jersey under President Bill Inkrote (K2NJ-SK)? What year did the Executive Board of MARAC change to New Jersey? (you get one right, the other is easy) **One year - from July 1998 to July 1999. The NJ BOD took office in July 1999.**

6. What was the active membership of MARAC when the Executive Board moved to New Jersey and K2NJ became President? **484**

7. What was the active membership of MARAC after one year of K2NJ as President and the New Jersey Executive Board running MARAC?

634

8. What was the total increase or decrease in MARAC membership from 1992 until the Executive Board moved from Texas to Missouri? What was the percentage of increase or decrease in MARAC membership during those years?

A decline of 296 members, from 895 in July 1992 to 599 in July 1998. The 296 drop in membership over 6 years was a decline of 33%. A loss of one third of the active MARAC members in just 6 years amounted to an average decline of 49 members a year.

9. What was the total increase or decrease in MARAC membership during the period the Executive leadership of MARAC was based in St. Louis, Missouri? What was the percentage increase or decrease in membership during that period?

During the one year that MARAC leadership was based in St. Louis, membership continued to decline. By July 1999, membership had dropped another 115 members to 484. In just that one year, membership in MARAC declined by another 23.8%. The six-year decline in membership from 1992 to 1999 totaled 411 active members, or 45.9%.

10. What was the total increase or decrease in MARAC membership during the first year that the MARAC leadership moved to New Jersey under K2NJ? What was the percentage increase or decrease in membership during that first year?

Membership in MARAC increased by 150 members from 484 in July 1999 to 634 in July 2000. MARAC membership rose by 31% during that year.

INTERESTING BONUS FACTOID – The peak of Solar Cycle 23 was 1999 - 2002 and the cycle declined until it bottomed out in 2007 - 2008 (we hope).

11. From 1992-2008, in which two years was the largest decline in MARAC membership?

1992-93 (-111) and 1998-99 (-115).

12. From 1992-2008, in what period was the largest increase in MARAC membership?

1999-2000 (+150) and the two following years 2000-2003 (+128), for a total 3-year increase of 278 or a 57% increase.

13. From July 1999 to the present, when MARAC leadership moved from Missouri to New Jersey and then (after a change in the bylaws) became “national” in scope with no requirement for the Executive Board to live within a 50-mile radius, what was the total increase or decrease in MARAC membership? What was the total percentage increase or decrease?

Active membership in MARAC rose from 484 to 555 during that period, which amounts to an overall increase of 71 members or an increase of 14.6%.

14. Everyone knows that MARAC membership has declined in the last 16 years. Did MARAC membership decline more between 1992 and the leadership move to New Jersey or from the move to New Jersey to the present?

During the seven years from 1992 to 1999, active MARAC membership declined by 411 members to 484. MARAC membership increased by 278 from 1999 to 2002 and then declined from 2003 to the present. 2002-2003 (-26 or 3.5%), 2003-2004 (-88 or 13.6%), 2004-2005 (-42 or 6.9%), 2005-2006 (-35 or 6.1%), 2006-2007 (-16 or 2.9%), and 2007-2008 (no change). MARAC now has 555 active members.

And now for something completely different.

BONUS QUESTION: According to the MARAC history published by the B&B Shop in 1994 (and written by WA0WOB, one of the founders of MARAC), in addition to the stated purposes in the MARAC Charter, there were four basic operating principles for MARAC. (1) MARAC would never be run “for profit”. (2) MARAC would be fiscally conservative and always have money in the bank. and (3) Income would not be received and disbursed by the same person. The 4th principle was not financial in nature. What was it?

According to Skip Skaptason (WA0WOB), the MARAC Historian in 1994 and one of the founders of MARAC, the 4th Principle on which MARAC was founded: “Never operate the ICHN nets, but be a forum for discussion on improvements.”

Dave, KE3VV

**Treasurer's Report
July 31, 2008**

Funds Balance June 30, 2008 **\$24,935.81**

Income:

Dues	\$512.00	
Money Market Interest	\$16.68	
Logger Distribution	\$60.00	
Awards Manager Income	\$1,590.00	
		<u>\$2,178.68</u>

Expenses:

Postage	\$42.00	
Bank Fee	\$3.50	
Fairmont Awards – Plaques	\$489.42	
Print Right – Road Runner	\$389.70	
Awards Manager Expenses	\$360.47	
		<u>\$1,285.09</u>

\$893.59

Account Balances \$25,829.40

Checking Account \$5,375.68

Money Market Account \$20,453.72

\$25,829.40

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
111 Lakeview Dr
Leesburg, FL 34788



“A Road Runner Is A Very Fast Bird”

Monthly Deadline for Articles is the 25th!

Board of Directors

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Secretary: Norm Ellison, 111 Lakeview Dr, Leesburg, FL 34788, w2ibb1@embarqmail.com

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

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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.