



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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Number 10

From My Point of View

Joyce, WB9NUL

Here is the update on the Boothe household. The car was finally returned to us after nine weeks of trying to get it repaired. It stayed with us three days and was returned as it still is not running right. The roofs are still tarped and we are on a list to get them repaired. Just a mile away from us, FM 506 is still flooded and it keeps raining! The weathermen say we shouldn't get any more rain for a week.

Janet, our Awards Chairman, has got the data all put into the awards program, with the exception of the last county awards. Please take the time to read her article and help her restore the last county awards. I really appreciate the patience that the members have given us while the rebuilding was being done. A big THANK YOU goes to Gene, KD9ZP and Terry, WQ7A for their help working with Janet in the restoring of the Awards program.

Norm, W2IBB, our secretary is going to be at the SE mini. If your membership is about to expire it would be a perfect time to pay them and save a stamp. Unfortunately, Barry and I won't be able to make it. Have fun and enjoy the fellowship in South Carolina and their wonderful weather.

Have a Happy Halloween!

Joyce, WB9NUL



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Dateline CW

Ed, KN4Y

The sublimest song to heard on radio is CW from a county hunter on a rare county line.

The big event this month is the Southeast mini convention at Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. I have not been able to attend conventions lately, but I plan to attend this one and be part of thirty-two plus already signed up. Hope to see you there. Check the MARAC website for the Mini details.

I stopped at the Piscatorial Fry-a-Torium on Bay Street and purchased some crispy fried Mullet back-bones and fresh Tartar sauce. I have QSO party logs to compile so I might as well enjoy the process. I open the cooler and get a frosty lager; now where is the sea salt? I will be glad when Gator gets back from his ACE meeting.

Last month there were three State QSO parties on one weekend all on the same center frequency. That made it easy for the VFO tuning impaired. The South Carolina QSO party was a bust for me. I heard and worked only one CW station. I was able to hear both the Colorado and Washington State QSO parties on CW on 20-meters. I got three new counties in Colorado and eight in Washington. I heard no Colorado or Washington stations on 80-meters.

I also picked up a few new ones in the Tennessee QSO party, but not even close to Jerry, W0GXQ, who got 22 new ones on 80-meters,. I was hoping to work Norm, W3DYA, in the Arkansas QSO party, but he cancelled the trip due to inclement weather scheduled for the area. Norm operated in the Texas QSO party and what a blast, I need to get started on those logs. A county hunter never rests.

This month the county hunting fun continues starting with the California QSO party, the granddaddy of QSO parties second only to Florida. Look for California stations on 10 and 15-meters, as the bands open for this contest, and a chance to increase your county challenge top list totals. I have worked all the California counties on 10, 15, and 20-meters most obtained from working this QSO party. I need only Calaveras and Tulare to complete 40-meters. I will be there.

October 10 is the ten-ten international net Sprint. I will be doing CW around 28.038 MHz. Hope to hear you. You will hear county hunters mobile in the Illinois and Pennsylvania QSO parties. At the end of the month on the way home from the Mini convention I will be running on 10-meters in the ten-ten CW QSO party. So come up and listen every once in a while around 28.038 MHz. We are getting into the amateur radio contest season, are you ready? I finish off the last Mullet back-bone, Give it a lager wash, and now for a short nap before I go trick or treating.



Awards Database

The database has been restored except for the last county applications and certificates for any awards issued since June will be printed out at the end of the month and the order for any plaques requested will be going out too. Doing the last county applications is going to be a little bit more difficult and we need everyone's help on this.

1st - If you submitted an LC application on-line from May 31st - June 14th please resubmit those applications as those emails were lost in the computer crash.

2nd. - We need everyone who received an LC certificate and/or seal since January 1, 2008, to please send us your packing slips (the sheet of paper that has the information about who gave you the LC) as soon as possible. If you do not have those packing slips please email us the information on your certificates though we would prefer the packing slips. **THEY WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU.** This is necessary so that we can rebuild the last county portion of the database and start getting these awards sent out.

Please mail these to:

MARAC AWARDS

7641 Gladiola

San Angelo, TX 76901

awardslady@suddenlink.net

or

ARS WQ7A

Terry Dummler

PO Box 500

Yelm, WA 98597-0500

wq7a@comcast.net

Janet McKnight

KC5QCB

Awards Manager

Voting

MARAC 1st QUARTER AWARD VOTING

July, August & September 2008

Voting will be open from October 1st through October 31st for the best net control, mobile and team award. The easiest way to place your vote is at the MARAC web site http://marac.org/elections/ 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, 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 my address listed below.

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

MARAC Election Coordinator

4413 NW 36th Dr

Gainesville, FL 32605-5424



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.

If you are unsure of your membership status, please go to the MARAC web site at http://marac.org click on Member Database and enter your call in Call Lookup to determine your MARAC Expiration Date.

New Members

Aug/Sep

Marac No.	Call Phone Number	Full Name	Address	City and State	Home County	
R-4355	KS4BO	David L Kinsey	2530 Coachman Circle	Roanoke, VA 24012	Roanoke	1-540-977-5500
ks4bo@cox.net						
R-4356	KD6HG	Robert S Reiner	16931 Adlon Road	Encino, CA 91436	Los Angeles	1-818-990-4440
lovedoxies@aol.com						
R-4357	K4AMC	Jim Emery	817 Neelys Bend Road	Madison, TN 37115	Davidson	1-615-865-7422
k4amc@bellsouth.net						
R-4358	OH3JF	Heikki Tamminen	Eprantie 4M FIN-11710	Riihimaki,		
R-4359	N3EA	Alan M Maslin	8181 Azure Coast Blvd	Lake Worth, FL 33467	Palm Beach	1-561-968-9447
amaslin@msn.com						
R-4360	K9AAA	David L Burk	8394 Cory Dr	Delton, MI 49046	Barry	1-269-664-4305
k9aaa@mei.net						



Norm, W2IBB

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

Funds Balance August 31, 2008 **\$25,918.14**

Income:

Dues	\$414.00
Money Market Interest	\$17.31
Logger Distribution	\$60.00
Awards Manager Income (July)	\$936.00
Return of Funds 2008 Convention	\$1,630.55

\$3,057.86



Expenses:

Bank Fee	\$3.50
Fairmont Awards – Plaques	\$169.50
Print Right – Road Runner	\$299.90
Awards Manager Expenses (July)	\$58.94
Road Runner Publication Software	\$327.15
Logger Publication Software	\$121.94
Convention Donation	\$300.00
Awards Manager Computer Repair	\$250.00

\$1,530.93

\$1,526.93

Account Balances **\$27,445.07**

Checking Account \$6,956.80

Money Market Account \$20,488.27

\$27,445.07

Note:

The following monies are not included in the above:

Awards Chairman's Funds	\$1,200.00
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Your Article

Yep, your article could be right here. Send it to me. Share your knowledge, excitement, whatever with your fellow County Hunters! Give it to me as a Word document, in Times New Roman if you can. Include a head shot (separate from your article) so we can all see your smiling face.

Thanks, and 73

Dave, KU4YM



Sharon Matthew, NØLXJ
USA-CA All Counties #1165, December 8, 2007

Hooray! I did it . . . I finally finished working all 3077 counties in the good old U.S. of A. It took me four years to do it thanks to the declining sunspot cycle and the fact that I'm still working. However, with the help of all the good folks out there and the encouragement of my husband Matt, WØNAC, I now have my USA-CA All Counties award framed and hanging on the wall next to his.

Neither of us had ever heard of county hunting back in 1960 when at matt's urging I got my Novice ticket (KN8WHW) in Dayton, Ohio. He's a hard task master as an Elmer. He insisted I not just memorize answers to exam questions, but that I actually learn and understand radio theory, etc. By the time I got my code speed up to the required 5 wpm and passed my test I was able to design and build my own transmitter, even down to fabricating the chassis!

I had a couple of memorable experiences during that year, both having to do with CW contacts. One evening I answered a CQ and in the course of our "Chat," the ham on the other end told me his roommate was from the same hometown as mine and he turned the key over to him. Imagine my surprise (and shock) to discover that his roommate was an old boyfriend from several years earlier! On another occasion I was awarded a Rag Chewer's Certificate for a CW contact that lasted an hour or more.

About the time I needed to be studying to upgrade my license, the Air Force put Matt back in the cockpit and he was gone most of the time. I had two babies in diapers then, and I didn't have the time nor the energy left to pursue radio, so my Novice license expired and life went on.

After matt retired from the Air Force, we moved home to Colorado. Around 1999 he discovered county hunting and set up a mobile rig, as well as the base station at home, and I became the official logger on the road. It didn't take long before he began nudging (nagging) me to get my license so we could work as a team. I'm the minister to the senior adults at South Suburban Christian Church in Littleton, and I kept telling him I didn't have the time to devote to studying for the exams. Remember the



Sharon Matthew, NØLXJ, USA-CA #1165.

old saying "If you can't fight 'em, join 'em"?

Well, the same rule applied as before—learn it, don't memorize. I received my Technician license in June of 2003 and a month later passed the General exam, and KCØQER took to the airwaves as a full-fledged county hunter and member of an OM/YL team. My current call is NØLXJ.

I'm still the official on-the-road logger. That's quite a feat with a little dog on my lap, a three-ring notebook and microphone in my left hand, and writing furiously with my right hand, especially if we're putting out a county on the fly.

What a great hobby this is. I wouldn't take a million for the fun and unusual and sometimes alarming experiences we've had over the miles we've traveled. In August 2007 Matt and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in Hawaii putting out five counties while enjoying gorgeous scenery.

Many, many thanks to the fine folks out there who have become good friends!

73, Sharon, NØLXJ

NØLXJ

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

President: Joyce Boothe, WB9NUL, 21175 FM2556, Santa Rosa, TX 78593 1-956-636-9161, joycenul@aol.com

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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.