



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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From My Point of View

Joyce, WB9NUL

Happy New Year!

What a wonderful November and December were had at the Boothe household. We had Norm, W3DYA and his wife Karen stop by to visit. It's great fun to reminisce about conventions and trips and family. Then daughter Jennifer and grandson Cody came for the Thanksgiving holiday. They were a great help in decorating the house for the Christmas holiday. I had a Christmas Party for my stitching group here and the Mimosas were a big hit! Then there was the annual Christmas Open House Bash on the 22nd of December! Oh my, the party started at 2PM and went on till 11 PM. We had over 65 people grace our door... ham friends, neighbors, stitching friends and just plain friends. After cleaning up the house it was pack up and head to Georgetown, TX to spend the holiday with Jennifer and Cody. We had a wonderful time. It was fun to see the holiday thru a grandchild's eyes.

For those of you who kept us company on the ride up....thank you. If you are still waiting for our return trip.....oops! It seems I came down with food poisoning and was in no shape to work the radio on the way home. Fortunately (?), Barry didn't get it 'til we got home. I'm just now beginning to feel human.

Bill Blake, KOERE who has been in charge of the SSB contest for MARAC has to retire from this duty. He has done a wonderful job and I thank you, Bill. Now I need a volunteer to take on the job. If you are interested, please contact me. If you have any questions, I'm sure Bill would be more than happy to give you the answers.

On a more serious note, we have a county hunting family that could use all our prayers. Mac, WA0RKQ and his wife, Kathy could use our support. Kathy has been quite ill. Hospice has come in to help and a granddaughter has moved in to help Mac. Please put these special people into your prayers.

We have received reservations for the South Central Mini already. Attending as of Dec. 31 are: W3DYA & Karen, K1DFO, AB2LS, AA9JJ & N9QPQ, N5KUC, KI0JD & KA0DDJ, KB0BA & N0XYL, K9GTQ & N9MBL, and NX4W. We look forward to seeing all of you in February.

Again, Happy New Year,
Joyce, WB9NUL



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A quick reminder for the upcoming 43rd MARAC CW contest that will start 0000z May 2rd and run until 2400z May 3rd. Contest rules, past contest results and contest comments, all time contest records and State records can be found at WWW.AA8R.NET.

Email any questions to AA8R@AOL.COM.

Dateline CW

Ed, KN4Y

Same old rig,
Same old key,
Same old glimpse of...
County hunting.
Happy New Year!

I am telling Gator about my attempt to participate in the ARRL 160-Meter contest while mobile in Alabama. I found that even with the tuner my useable bandwidth was narrow. I had full power out put at 1.850 MHz and felt I would be alone that high up. I called a few times started working stations, after the third contact a .high energy station started calling on top of me. I called unsuccessfully for four hours when I decided to try again later around 3:00am. Well you know what happened to that noble idea. Gator asks, "What was that antenna called?" "It is a VALOR 160M." "Are you going to try that band again?" "Yep, plan on running 160-meters during the Georgia QSO party. It should not be wall-to-wall stations running at maximum plus Wattage."

Gator brings up the MARAC logger program and runs the print option for December, "Looks like slim mobile activity last month." "Who are the mobiles?" "There is AA9KH, AF3X, K0ARS, K0PY, K2HVN, K4XI, K8ZZ, KB4XK, KC3X, KE3VV, KN4Y, KO1U, N4AAT, N4AKP, N4CD, N8II, N9JF, NF0N, NN9K, N0KV, W0NAC, W3ZUH, W4HSA, WA7JHQ, and a fixed station KL7HBK." December is not good travel month weather wise, more so if up north." Gator opens the cooler and gets a couple of 807's, to prevent dehydration.

Gator is moving some paper, "I see you wrote a check to MARAC Awards, what that be for?" "Well Gator the MARAC web site has a program for last county awards. You read the instructions then fill in the information, hit GIT, and the next day send a check." You send it to the awards broad." "Gator!, she is the awards lady." Gator is laughing hilariously, "What is a last county award for?" Gator puts a bag of popcorn into the microwave, and starts the popping process.

I explain to Gator there is a last county in a state award. This is to recognize the station operator who transmits a valid contact for the last county in a State that is needed by a county hunter. This can be the last county in the State for USA-CA, BINGO, and STARS to mention a few awards. This last county award is dedicated to the memory of Ken Carpenter (KC4UG).

Gator hands me another 807, I must look dehydrated, and I continue. There is also the last county in the USA Award. This award is to recognize the station operator who gives a valid contact for the last county needed by a county hunter to finish working All USA Counties. Gator is no longer paying attention and takes the bag of popped corn out of the microwave. I get a container of Jalapeno pimento cheese spread to dip the popped corn kernels into. I feel sad for the county hunters who have never washed down a cheese soaked freshly popped corn with a cold 807. There is the sound of CW; it is Gator's cell phone and he is off to the back forty. I think I hear him yell. "Silver melts at 1,763 °F"

I looked at my ARRL ten meter logs and feeling frisky I decided to generate some contest related statistics. First the state and number of QSO's worked. AL-1, AR-2, AZ-1, CT-5, DE-1, FL-3, GA-3, IL-2, IN-1, KS-2, LA-1, MA-9, MD-10, MI-9, MN-5, MO-2, NC-10, NH-2, NJ-3, NY-9, OH-6, VE-14, PA-8, RI-2, SC-1, TX-46, VA-5, WI-1, WV-1 and 1 DX station. This is too much like work. I look at the calendar and see there is the ARRL Straight Key Night, North American CW QSO Party, CQ WW CW 160-meter Contest. Soon it will tax time, but first nap time.



MARAC 2009 ELECTIONS ANNOUNCEMENT

Nominations are currently open for the positions of South Central Director and Southeast Director, (both 3 year terms). Nominations will be open for 60 days. They are open from January 5th through March 10th. Any current member of MARAC is eligible to run for office. For the District Director positions you must live within the district which is listed on the MARAC website.

If you are willing to serve MARAC in an elected position, please send your nomination to nx4w@cox.net or via regular mail, which must be received on my end by March 10th.

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.

MARAC 2nd QUARTER AWARD VOTING

October – December

Voting will be open from January 1st through January 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> 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.

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 _____

Thank you,
Lloyd S. Smith – NX4W
MARAC Election Coordinator
4413 NW 36th Drive
Gainesville, FL 32605-5424



New Members

Marac No. State	Call Home County	Full Name Phone Number	Address E Mail Address	City and
R-4362	W5GXV Gene R Von Dohlen	816 Shady Cove Lane	Spring Branch, TX 78070	Comal
1-000-000-0000	gene@vondohlen.net			
R-4363	VK4AAR Alan Roocroft	376 Old Toowoomba Road	Placid Hills, QLD 4343,	
1-000-000-0000	ttwatr@gmail.com			



Awards

USA-CA

To Call	Award Date	Certificate Number
AA9ZZ	12/6/2008	1175
W4QNW	12/12/2008	1176
NM2L	12/16/2008	1177
KB9MGI	12/16/2008	1178

Call	Date	Award	Number
N1BY	12/17/2008	Worked all Counties - 3rd Time	# 218



Current Call	Birthday Date	Current Call	Birthday Date	Current Call	Birthday Date
W5RJ	Jan - 01	KK5OX	Jan - 11	W1KI	Jan - 21
WJ8Y	Jan - 01	W6FG	Jan - 11	NB9P	Jan - 21
WA2ZYM	Jan - 01	WM0N	Jan - 12	AB4KL	Jan - 21
KX1A	Jan - 01	AA7CP	Jan - 12	N4JRY	Jan - 22
KN6ZB	Jan - 02	KE5TT	Jan - 12	KF5DE	Jan - 22
N8LG	Jan - 03	WO0U	Jan - 12	KG5VA	Jan - 22
N4IWY	Jan - 03	W1EQ	Jan - 12	AL7HS	Jan - 22
KQ8D	Jan - 03	N8OR	Jan - 12	N8ZP	Jan - 22
NX9H	Jan - 03	WD3P	Jan - 13	N6OL	Jan - 22
W2UJ	Jan - 03	W0QE	Jan - 13	W5THA	Jan - 22
K2PF	Jan - 03	KD9OT	Jan - 13	KC5UO	Jan - 23
WB5NFS	Jan - 03	WA9PZV	Jan - 13	KB0MHH	Jan - 23
KE4TTS	Jan - 04	NS4C	Jan - 14	W9XYL	Jan - 24
WS7R	Jan - 04	KQ4V	Jan - 14	KD4ON	Jan - 24
KB1TH	Jan - 04	KE5AY	Jan - 14	KB7QO	Jan - 24
WA7HYD	Jan - 04	W0QDL	Jan - 14	W7ABC	Jan - 24
N4PJX	Jan - 05	AA8NS	Jan - 14	WD3K	Jan - 24
W2UDT	Jan - 05	W4CCT	Jan - 15	N7PIB	Jan - 25
KG7UU	Jan - 05	N9NI	Jan - 15	W0RRY	Jan - 25
W6IUA	Jan - 05	K4YC	Jan - 15	W8DH	Jan - 25
W4QNW	Jan - 05	K8PP	Jan - 15	N3CRH	Jan - 25
AJ1M	Jan - 05	KO7X	Jan - 15	KG3P	Jan - 25
KC0YQ	Jan - 05	AB4QD	Jan - 15	WB8ROC	Jan - 26
NG3F	Jan - 06	W7MMQ	Jan - 15	N0RX	Jan - 26
N2OCW	Jan - 06	KK7GN	Jan - 16	K5IS	Jan - 26
KE1HZ	Jan - 06	K4YL	Jan - 16	WG9K	Jan - 26
KY0E	Jan - 06	W2BED	Jan - 17	K0GEN	Jan - 26
AA5AH	Jan - 06	N7JV	Jan - 17	K1ER	Jan - 26
KL7IAA	Jan - 07	K4RK	Jan - 17	KC9A	Jan - 27
K9FZ	Jan - 07	KG5J	Jan - 18	WA7NB	Jan - 28
N0DIA	Jan - 07	WA3EOL	Jan - 18	NG9V	Jan - 28
KE0AY	Jan - 08	W9QR	Jan - 18	KF7SG	Jan - 28
KB8HW	Jan - 08	WN8M	Jan - 18	W5VPV	Jan - 28
N0OSW	Jan - 08	K3JI	Jan - 19	KF9YL	Jan - 29
KK6MR	Jan - 09	W5NMX	Jan - 19	KU7F	Jan - 29
KG5U	Jan - 09	WA4STO	Jan - 19	K6PDQ	Jan - 30
KK0L	Jan - 09	NO0U	Jan - 19	N4JRG	Jan - 30
AI1Q	Jan - 09	KA0CYB	Jan - 19	AA7GS	Jan - 30
W3DQT	Jan - 09	K9QM	Jan - 19	W0RAA	Jan - 30
NT1V	Jan - 09	KN4Y	Jan - 20	K6EW	Jan - 30
N5EW	Jan - 09	K1BV	Jan - 20	KX2W	Jan - 31
AB5ZS	Jan - 10	KF2O	Jan - 20	N0WA	Jan - 31
W0BM	Jan - 11	WO7HI	Jan - 20	W3TOM	Jan - 31
K4QFK	Jan - 11	AA6MR	Jan - 21	W8CFF	Jan - 31
				KM4QM	Jan - 31
				KF7ZN	Jan - 31

Birthdays

Treasurer's Report
December 31, 2008

Funds Balance November 30, 2008 **\$27,833.78**

Income:

Dues	\$740.00	
Money Market Interest	\$14.56	
Logger Distribution	\$60.00	
Awards Manager Income (Not Reported)	\$.00	
		<u>\$814.56</u>

Expenses:

Bank Fee	\$3.50	
Print Right – Road Runner	\$376.92	
Awards Manager Expenses (Not Reported)	\$.00	
Logger Support software	\$290.04	
Secretary Expenses	\$220.15	
Fairmont Awards – Plaques	\$206.50	
		<u>\$1,097.11</u>

(\$282.55)

Account Balances **\$27,551.23**

Checking Account \$7,014.31

Money Market Account \$20,536.92

\$27,551.23

Note:

The following monies are not included in the above:

Awards Chairman's Funds \$1,200.00



SC Mini

2009 SOUTH CENTRAL MINI

WHEN: Arrive Feb. 12, Depart Feb. 15, 2009

WHERE: Best Western Palm Aire Hotel & Suites,
415 S. International Blvd. at Exp. 83, Weslaco, TX 78596
The hotel is located on Expressway 83 & FM 1015

ROOM RATE: \$64.00 A Night plus tax. Includes free buffet breakfast. (For up to 2 persons)

RESERVATIONS: Call 1-800-248-6511 and mention MARAC to get the special rate. Same rate applies if you come in early or stay late. Our block of rooms will be held til Jan. 31. Please reserve before then if possible.

FORUMS: There will be an antenna forum and undetermined others. Contact Barry, W9UCW to schedule yours.

MEETINGS: General Session, CW Ops, Others

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Registration includes name badge, group photo and prize drawing

Single.....# _____ X \$10.00=\$ _____

OM/YL Couple.....# _____ X \$15.00=\$ _____

Chuck Wagon Dinner (Thursday night).....# _____ X \$20.00=\$ _____

Big Ranch Style Buffet

Saturday Night Dinner.....# _____ X \$20.00=\$ _____

Santa Fe Chicken (Grilled Breast)# _____ Honey Glazed Ham# _____

Meals include salad, vegetable, potato, dessert, and beverage

Total.....(Includes Taxes & Gratuities).....\$ _____

Name _____ Call _____ USACA# _____

Name _____ Call _____ USACA# _____

E-mail address of primary registrant:- _____

Send a check for the total registration & dinner fees payable to:

Joyce Boothe, WB9NUL

Phone: 956-636-9161

21175 FM 2556

E-mail: Joycenul@aol.com

Santa Rosa, TX 78593

Cell: 956-202-3373

Creeps & Weirdos

January 1, 2009 Barry, W9UCW

Yesterday morning I told Joyce that before I got busy and wrote the first article of a series that I had promised Dave, the RR editor about a year ago, I was going to take an hour and learn to use more of the features on the Icom-7000. She won it at the convention last July. All free time needed to learn about the rig went away for many moons due to a hurricane that same month.

After 4 hours with the manual and the radio, and lots more menus to cover, I began thinking about the job of keeping up with technology and the constant barrage of new gadgets to digest. For instance, the feeling of avoidance one gets when confronted with the programming of a new cell phone or home phone system comes to mind. I got thinking about how fast the commercial entities come at us with claims and hype about the new stuff, and how quickly our old stuff is deemed obsolete. This brought me to some new conclusions about my promised series of articles... but more about that later.

When I sat down at the computer to get to it, I decided to check my e-mail first, just in case there was something important. Procrastination, you say?? Well, OK, maybe. Anyway, as I looked through my mailbox, I found an interesting piece concerning things disappearing from our world. It was from Arlo, W0LBK in Cedar Rapids. I forwarded it to a big batch of people in my address book. Here is a condensed version of Arlo's attachment.

24 Things About To Become Extinct In America

24. Yellow Pages: This year will be pivotal for the Yellow Pages industry. Much like newspapers, they will continue to bleed dollars to their various digital counterparts, from Internet Yellow Pages (IYPs), to local search engines and combination search/listing services. The falloff in usage of newspapers and print Yellow Pages could even reach 10% this year – much higher than the 2%-3% fade rate seen in the past.

23. Classified Ads: The Internet has made many things obsolete. Newspaper classified ads might sound like just another trivial item on a long list. But this one of those harbingers of the future that could signal the end of civilization as we know it. The argument is that if newspaper classifieds are replaced by free online listings at sites like Craigslist.org and Google Base, then newspapers are not far behind them.

22. Movie Rental Stores: While Netflix is looking up at the moment, Blockbuster keeps closing store locations by the hundreds. Movie Gallery, which owned the Hollywood Video brand, is gone. Countless small video chains and mom-and-pop stores have given up the ghost already.

21. Dial-up Internet Access: Dial-up connections have fallen from 40% in 2001 to 10% in 2008. The combination of an infrastructure to accommodate affordable high speed Internet connections and the disappearing home phone have all but pounded the final nail in the coffin of dial-up Internet access.

20. Phone Landlines: According to a survey from the National Center for Health Statistics, at the end of 2007, nearly one in six homes was cell-only and, of those homes that had landlines, one in eight only received calls on their cells.

19. Chesapeake Bay Blue Crabs: Maryland's icon, the blue crab, has been fading away in Chesapeake Bay. Last year Maryland saw the lowest harvest (22 million pounds) since 1945. Just four decades ago the bay produced 96 million pounds. The population is down 70% since 1990. There are only about 120 million crabs in the bay and they need 200 million for a sustainable population.,

18. VCRs: For three decades the VCR was a best-seller. First decimated by the DVD, and now by the Digital Video Recorder (DVR), the only remnants of the VHS age at your local Wal-Mart or Radio Shack are blank VHS tapes these days.

- 17. Ash Trees:** In the late 1990's the emerald ash borer hitched a ride to North America with ash wood products imported from eastern Asia. They've killed more than 30 million ash trees in southeastern Michigan alone, with tens of millions more lost in Ohio and Indiana and they continue to spread.
- 16. Ham Radio:** Amateur Radio operators enjoy worldwide wireless communications with each other and are able to support their communities with emergency and disaster communications if necessary, while increasing their personal knowledge of electronics and radio theory. In the past five years alone, the number of people holding active ham radio licenses has dropped by 50,000, even though code proficiency is no longer a requirement.
- 15. The Swimming Hole:** Swimming holes are becoming a thing of the past. Swimming hole owners, like Robert Every in High Falls, N.Y., are shutting them down out of worry that if someone gets hurt, they'll sue. And that's exactly what happened in Seattle. The city of Bellingham was sued by Katie Hofstetter who was paralyzed in a fall at a popular swimming hole in Whatcom Falls Park.
- 14. Answering Machines:** This is directly tied to the decline of landlines. The number of homes that only use cell phones jumped 159% between 2004 and 2007. In New York; since 2000, landline usage has dropped 55%. As cell phones usage goes up, the number of answering machines goes down.
- 13. Cameras That Use Film:** In 2006, Nikon announced that it would stop making film cameras, pointing to the shrinking market – only 3% of its sales in 2005, compared to 75% of sales from digital cameras and equipment. That's one example of many others doing the same thing.
- 12. Incandescent Bulbs:** With the green movement and all-things-sustainable-energy crowd, the Compact Fluorescent Lightbulb (CFL) is replacing the incandescent bulb. 2007 sales for Energy Star CFLs doubled from 2006, and made up 20 percent of the U.S. light bulb market. And a new energy bill plans to phase out incandescent bulbs in the next four to 12 years.
- 11. Stand-Alone Bowling Alleys:** 60 million Americans still bowl at least once a year, but few are bowling in stand-alone bowling alleys. Most new bowling alleys are part of facilities for multiple types of recreation. Lanes are also being added to adult communities, hotels, resorts, and gambling casinos.
- 10. The Milkman:** In 1950, over half of the milk delivered was to the home in glass quart bottles, by 1963, it was about a third and by 2001, it represented only 0.4%. Although some milkmen still make the rounds in small pockets of the U.S., they are certainly a dying breed.
- 9. Hand-Written Letters:** In 2006, worldwide, 183 billion e-mails were sent each day, two million each second. By November of 2007, an estimated 3.3 billion Earthlings owned cell phones, and 80% of the world's population had access to cell phone coverage. In 2004, half-a-trillion text messages were sent, and the number has increased exponentially since then. The art of hand written letters is fading fast.
- 8. Wild Horses:** 100 years ago, as many as two million horses were roaming free within the United States. In 2001, the wild horse population had decreased to about 50,000 head. Currently, there are 32,000 free roaming horses in ten states, with half of them residing in Nevada.
- 7. Personal Checks:** According to an American Bankers Assoc. report, a net 23% of consumers plan to decrease their use of checks over the next two years, while a net 14% plan to increase their use of PIN debit. On a bill-by-bill basis, checks account for only 49% of consumers' recurring bill payments (down from 72% in 2001 and 60% in 2003).
- 6. Drive-in Theaters:** During the peak in 1958, there were more than 4,000 drive-in theaters in this country, but in 2007 only 405 drive-ins were still operating. No new drive-ins have been built since 2005.

5. Mumps & Measles: In 1964, 212,000 cases of mumps were reported in the U.S. By 1983, this figure had dropped to 3,000. Prior to the measles vaccine, approximately half a million cases of measles were reported in the U.S. annually. In 2005, only 66 cases were recorded.

4. Honey Bees: Nothing on our list of disappearing America is so dire and so necessary to the survival of our food supply as the honey bee. ‘Colony Collapse Disorder,’ or CCD, has spread throughout the U.S. and Europe over the past few years, wiping out 50% to 90% of the colonies of many beekeepers.

3. News Magazines and TV News: In 1984, the audience for all three network programs combined had declined to only 40.9 million viewers. Fast forward to 2008, and what they have today is half that.

2. Analog TV: 85% of homes in the U.S. get their television programming through cable or satellite providers. The remaining 15%, 13 million individuals, who are using rabbit ears or a large outdoor antenna to get their local analog stations need to get a new TV or a converter box in order to get the new stations which will only be broadcast in digital 6 weeks from now.

1. The Family Farm: Since the 1930’s the number of family farms has been declining rapidly. 5.3 million farms dotted the nation in 1950, but this number had declined to 2.1 million by the 2003 farm census, and have continued to decline. Ninety-one percent of farms are small family farms.

Well, that surely related to my mindset about changes. Maybe I was ready to write that first article. Oh, gee, it’s supertime on New Years Eve... guess I’ll do it first thing in the morning.

When I sat down at the mighty Toshiba with my coffee this morning, the first thing that came up was my mailbox and I noticed that there were a few return comments about the “24 Things.” One was from my ex-wife, Johanna, who was on the list of addressees. I had to read that one and I knew what to expect. You see, about 40 years ago, upon observing the goings-on at a big rainy Midwest hamfest, she coined a couple irreverent terms for hams.

This came after watching guys slipping and sliding around in the mud carrying boat anchors, meanwhile wearing metal helmets with several vhf-uhf antennas mounted on top and having 5 to 10 HTs clipped to their belts... all on and all blaring. The terms she used became well known among my friends and the local gang... and lots of times we couldn’t disagree. Referring to item 16 above, she commented as follows.

“How could it be that Ham Radio is declining. Aren’t there enough Creeps and Wierdos any more?”

Believe me, in her own way, that’s an endearing comment. I wrote back.

Good morning Jo,

When I was addressing that piece and clicked your name it struck me that I KNEW what was coming. Actually, I often think that creeps and weirdos are in the majority these days but their new pastime is Rap music(?)... no, it’s texting... no, maybe it’s the internet. Maybe “I resemble that remark,” as the old quip goes. But wait a minute!

I remember that for a long time in my life I wondered why so many older folks were grumpy, cynical and the corners of their mouths turned down to form an almost constant frown. Eventually it occurred to me that each day we wake up to a world that is just a bit foreign to us, compared to yesterday... and those bits pile up.

For some people, the accumulation of all those bits can be overwhelming as time passes. One day they wake up to a world that seems to be a completely different place than what they grew up to know and expect. For some, that feeling is debilitating... and at a surprisingly early age. For others, it occurs later, or, for a few, never.

A long time ago I set my sights on being in that last group of “a few.” I figured that I should expect that things will change, everyday. Therefore I must keep abreast of what’s happening, analyze what it will take to cope in that environment and prepare for it by moving ahead and learning what I need to get the job done. Why let the inevitable destroy me? I’ll jump on and ride it out... if I can.

I’m not sure how long my mind and body will be capable of what’s necessary, but it makes sense for me to try. Meanwhile, I’m working on trying to smile as much as I can to keep those corners of my mouth from sagging.... and not letting myself get bogged down in the past, even if I can’t quite keep up at times.

All this thinking came to mind again as I read this list of 24 things about to become extinct. Even though I was aware of the trends in most of the 24, and many more, it was enlightening to see the details in numbers and to get a reaffirmation from another source.

I gotta admit, I didn’t know anything about the Blue Crabs. What are they so blue about? I have no clue how to adjust my life around their disappearance.

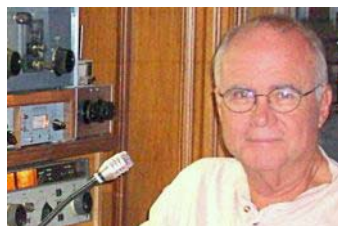
I was also reminded that the same thinking about change applies to businesses. I mean, so many try to stay in a dying field when they should be transitioning (“morphing” in the modern vernacular) to the new, replacement technology... or shifting to fill a new need for today’s new world.

I remember that 30 years ago when I was at Caterpillar I suggested that some small amount of research time should be dedicated to the possible development of one of those machines that Scotty used to “beam up” Captain Kirk on Star Trek. After all, if someone came up with a big one, a lot of earthmoving equipment could go extinct in a flash. Better be on top of that one. That was another time when I was labeled a wierdo. (By the way, what did they call that thing... a transporter?)

How did I get into all this philosophizing, Jo? Must be this dark roast coffee I’ve been drinking since 4:00 AM when I awoke with a start. It was either a nightmare or the bursitis in my shoulder that caused it. Anyway, Happy New Year to you and Laverne.

Keep in touch, Barry

Now, I have to say that there are plenty of challenges to those of us creeps and wierdos who want to keep up with the changes. Maybe that’s what my series of articles should be based on. I’d like to hear from you concerning your need for info and perhaps evaluation of products, published works, particular needs, problems, things you’d like to do or see in terms of radio set-ups, antennas, mobile operation or??? My web address is W9UCW@aol.com and my cell number is 956-202-3105. Let’s talk about it. Happy New Year, 73, Barry



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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