



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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From My Point of View

Joyce, WB9NUL

I keep hoping that radio conditions on 20 meters will improve but the gods of propagation just won't cooperate. Even with the poor conditions I see that Janet is still issuing awards and that our members are still active. I was pleased to find that MARAC, even with the poor conditions, welcomed three new members to the fold. That brought our membership to 549.

The plans for the National Convention are in place and I thank the committee for the work they have done so far. Be sure and take a look at the information found in this issue of the Road Runner and be sure and send your reservations in early for a chance at the radio being offered as a prize.

The South Central Mini is almost here. Here's a list of those registered so far. W3DYA & Karen, WB9NUL & W9UCW, K1DFO, AB2LS, AA9JJ & N9QPQ, N5KUC, KI0JD & KA0DDJ, KB0BA & N0XYL, K9GTQ & N9MBL, NX4W, ND3T, N0ZA, W0NAC & N0LXJ, N8BGF & KC8WRP, N4CD, KG5UZ & KJ5PQ, W7GQK & KI4BZS, N5AWE & Jean, K5OH & Evelyn, N4AAT, WG9A & Sandy, N8KIE & N8RLJ, KD4NFE, KA4TYG, K6JN & W6XJN, N5OHQ, N5MLP & Evelyn, KY0E & Ellen, WA3ZTY & WB3JDC, W40WY & Barbara, KC5QCB & AJ5ZX, K5GE & Mary Ida, KK5MI, WA5OPO. I know there are still some reservations to come in and Barry and I are excited to see all our friends again.

By the way, we must improve our SC Convention registration form. The part about "single" and "om/yl couple" is confusing. Let me say that a single registrant pays \$10 and an om/yl couple pays \$15.

Once again I have some sad news for our members. Mac, WA0RKQ wrote to let me know that his wife Kathy passed away. I also, heard from a grandson of W5MW. Bill (W5MW) passed away in early January. He was a past Board member when MARAC was located in the Dallas area.

Till next month, 73

Joyce Boothe, WB9NUL



On The Roof, SA

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Dateline CW
Ed, KN4Y

Not county hunting and not working State QSO Parties are the best things in the world to ruin the foolish.

I was discussing the Things About To Become Extinct In America article in last month's Roadrunner. "That was an interesting article, had no redeeming value, but was fun to read. "Gator what do think is about to become extinct?" "Well Dude, I think the moonshine business is going kicking and screaming. Too many liquor outlets, low price for a bottle of rot gut, cost of raw materials and regulations makes it difficult to produce a good inexpensive product. Did you know the bottles cannot be reused? I am thinking of early retirement." I look at Gator, "I do not think the word good and the word inexpensive should be used in the same sentence."

Gator gives me the New York Taxi cab driver salute and gets two 807's. "This is a good example, available at any convenience store and..." There is a blast of CW from the radio, a county hunter is on the CW call frequency. The activity on CW has been good working the mobiles attending the South Central Mini in Weslaco, Texas. Gator takes a swig, "Do you think CW operators are destined to be on the about to become extinct list?" "No Gator, the lure of CW will always be there, and there will always be those who will do what others cannot." The future is up to the county hunter CW operators and the CW contesters to fuel the need to learn the code."

Gator puts a bag of popcorn in the microwave oven. Gator blurts out, "Why are there handicap parking spaces in front of a skating rink?" Gator gets the popped popcorn and sits down. Gator eats a handful. "Gosh, hot salted popcorn will never become extinct." I nod in agreement as my mouth is too full to talk. Hot buttered popcorn is another reason CW will be around for awhile, just don't switch hands. Most CW county hunters know the three food groups are popcorn, pork rinds and a six pack.

I get my North American QSO party log and hand it to Gator. "How about seeing what you can find for the statistic junkies. "You got it Dude." Gator gets on the computer and starts looking up counties. I monitor the radio hoping for a new county for fifth time around on CW. A few 807's and another bag of popped popcorn later Gator has the data.

Gator reads his findings. "You worked 355 QSO's on five bands. You have 8 new call combos, one new county on 15-meters, two new counties on 40-meters, 36 new counties on 80-meters and 7 new counties on 160-meters. You got 7 new counties for fifth time around and one 'N' prefix." "Thanks Gator, that is not bad for ten hours. "

Gator starts checking my log. "Not may mobiles out in the New Year." I point to the computer and Gator starts listing the mobiles on CW. AB4YZ, K0ARS, K0PY, K0UU, K8ZZ, KD5JWC, KO1U, KW4V, N4AAT, N4CD, N9JF, N9QS, NM2L, NX4W, W0GXQ, W0NAC, W3DQT, W4GNS, W4HSA, W7VR. Gator looks as his cell phone, "Darn Dude. Got problem with the boiler, see you later." Like a busted boil Gator is gone, I think I heard him yell, "Do not lay rubber while traveling in a funeral procession."

This is the year of the State QSO Party, get ready to rumble by working Vermont, Minnesota, Delaware, Louisiana, New Hampshire, North Carolina (Roads in the rare counties are being paved), and Mississippi. But first a nap.



Nominations for CW and SSB

County Hunter of the Year

Nominations are now in order for the 2009 CW and SSB County Hunter Of The Year. Nominations must be received by your District Director not later than the end of March and should contain a brief list of reasons for the Nomination. Your District Director will select one nominee from those that are received for both CW and SSB and forward that selection with the reasons for the selection to the

Election Coordinator no later than April 15th. Prior winners are not eligible for this award. We have over 500 members in this club and I have been advised that in the past, receiving nominations was like pulling teeth. Please support the members that go out of their way to make this club thrive and advise your Director who you think they are.

MARAC 2009 ELECTIONS ANNOUNCEMENT

Second Request

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.

Lloyd S. Smith
MARAC Election Coordinator
4413 NW 36th Dr
Gainesville, FL 32605-5424



PSK31

As I am sure that most of you are aware of, I am running PSK31 on all of my trips. This article is mainly aimed at new users. On my last two trips in Georgia, 20 meters was dead most of the time and amateurs who had PSK31 for the most part had no trouble working me. I made over 200 county contacts. Now is the time for you to decide to get in to digital communications while the sunspot cycle is so bad. All you need is a sound card interface and a computer program. I use MixW2 which cost \$50, but there are plenty of programs out there that cost nothing. So all it cost you is the price of the sound card interface to your radio and some of those are very cheap.

I will be on a trip to the convention in Weslaco, TX and will be running PSK31 from Feb 7-11 and returning from Feb 15-19. I am looking forward to seeing some new call signs on my computer screen. And now for a few lessons: Please put your call sign in 3 times and do not send my call as I already know what that is. If just as you press the send button you hear someone else that is already sending, please cancel your transmission. I might still get more than one call at a time, but the less there is the easier it is to pull out one and in the long run you will make contact quicker and I will not have to waste time saying agn? agn?. Eventually when there are lots of users we may have to work split to speed things up. Some amateurs that are just getting in to PSK31 do not realize that the power output does not have as much effect on the cleanliness of your signal as the audio output has. If you have an ALC meter on your radio you need to adjust your output from the sound card so that there is almost NO ALC. And also make sure that your mic compression is off.

I would also like to appeal to users to request from the awards committee that they add an endorsement for the digital award. Mobiles should get credit for putting out as well as working a mobile in another county. We need the incentive to attract other mobiles to purchase the equipment to get involved in putting out counties using PSK31. I feel that this is going to be a very popular mode in the future and we need to do something to get more people involved now. 73' Lloyd, NX4W



New Members

Marac No. State	Call Home County	Full Name	Address	City and	
Phone Number	E Mail Address				
R-4364	NI7F	Richard W Harris	2082 Mountain Vista Lane	Provo, UT 84606-6204	Utah
1-801-375-1192	richard harris@byu.edu				
R-4365	K9KDS	Kevin D Sweet	4552 Fountain Brook Drive	Waterloo, IL 62298	Monroe
1-618-939-3331	kdsi@htc.net				
R-4366	W7LLT	Linda L Taylor	1817 West Navarro Ave	Mesa, AZ 85202-7443	Maricopa
1-000-000-0000	w7llt@cox.net				



Status
OF COUNTIES WORKED ON CW AS OF THE END OF EACH YEAR

CALL	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
KR1B						2499	2421
VE1BES					1930	1796	1342
AD1C	3045	3044	3026	2954	2857	2609	2087
KM1C	2070						
KA1Q				1350 #2	1320 #2	1235 #2	1161 #2
VO1SF	3042				2929	2987	
W1TEE						2583 #2	2282 #2
K1TKL	1820	851					
KO1U			2418 #2	3033	2881	2122	1378
KL1V	1808	1730	1595	1441	1269	612	506
WV2B		505					
WA2AKB		1621	1621	1621	1614	1579	1400
N2CQ						1489	1385
NM2L	35 #2	2952	2677	2213	1695	764	
AB2LS		1600	1250	449			
N2MH		944		634	46		
N2OCW	3000	2992	2687				
K2RP			2275	1730	1410	1000	
NO2W		1589	1589	1589	1589	1566	
N3AHA		2971	2830	2309			2222
DL3DD					3059	3056	3051
W3DYA	474 #3	3072 #2	3057 #2	3056 #2	3051 #2	3046 #2	3036 #2
WA3GNW				1737	1604	1511	
WU3H	785 #4	3073 #3	3057 #3	2946 #3	2445 #3	163 #3	3005 #2
N3HOO					1821	1500	
OH3JF				2973	2922	2903	2869
VE3KZE				3046	3035	3031	3016
KA3MMM	2412 #6	2125 #6	1044 #6	3048 #5	2643 #5	3075 #4	2959 #4
VA3NN	2939	2901	2849	2714	2063	1462	993
WD3P				712 #3	678 #3	297 #3	3075 #2
WA3QNT		2641	2638	2634		2573	2563
KE3VV	3052	2983	2779	2535	2134	1365	
KC3X	1492 #2		222 #2	170 #2	30 #2	2695	1693
N3XX			11 #2	3067	3061	3054	3027
AE3Z	1806	1942	1630	1593	1395	1297	1187
W3ZUH					1645	800	1631
VK4AAR						1058	
N4AAT		2					
N4AKP	2918 #2	2411 #2	869 #2	1489 #2		1264 #2	3072
N4CD	3064 #3	2903 #3	2759 #3	3065 #2	2715 #2	3056	3013
K4EXT	1431	727					
DJ4GJ							2389
W4GNS		1882	1010				
AA4GT	1992						
G4KHG		1436	1434	1374	1182		1033
W4NBS						665	
KR4OE	1614	1555	1461	1313	1216	1177	1135
WD4OIN	2902		2674	2539	2138	1369	660
W4RKV	2793 #2	2775 #2	2761 #2	2788	2682 #2	2588 #2	2482 #2
KA4RRU		658					
N4RS		3035 #3	191 #3	2225 #3	3075 #2	2973 #2	2645 #2
WD4SIG					3030	3030	3030

ROADRUNNER

K4UNF	1278	1835	1556		820		
KW4V	2231 #2			3073			
WB4VFN	3067	3015	2899	2667	2301	500	
AA4VN					1619	1364	1078
W4VQ				947	471 #2	3058	3035
K4XI	1387 #2	3071	3064	3050	3011	2956	2844
KB4XK				2443	2261	2147	1892
KN4XP		2125	1638	1155	108		
W4XT				2184	2167	1931	138
KN4Y	2610 #5		2954 #4	2634 #4	1760 #4	3070 #3	2988 #3
W4YDY	2967	2936	2789	2462	2175	1513	786
K4YFH		3075		2819	2577	1575	
K4YT		1233	1871				
AB4YZ				2685	2214	1900 #2	1380 #2
KS5A				2983	2883	2427	2038
K5AAR	3073 #2	3055 #2	2926 #2	2362 #2	493 #2	3055	2899
W5AL				2805			2174
DL5AWI		2541	2457	2317	2140	2006	
KR5C	326 #2	69 #2	397 #2	3071	3034	2940	2701
WC5D			1904 #2	1456 #2	834 #2	500 #2	3077
N5EBD				1833	1248		
K5OT		3075	3026	2902	2669	1801	
WB5P							1125
N5PR	2882	2634	2412	910			
N5XD	726						
N5XG		3072	3071	3066	3052	3004	3004
K5XY	131	131			343	211	48
KC6AWX				1202	1025	871	881
WD6CKT	250 #2	3077	3071	3063	3035	2871	3003
NA6E						2523	
KM6HB	1049						
NV6I				721	430	2010	LOST
W6IYS							1113 #2
DL6KVA	2439	2398	2267	2140	1937	1525	
W6OUL				1680	1606	1265	
W6RK			2142	1856	993		
NW6S	3004		2870		2556	2278	1235
W6TMD	3056 #2	3002 #2	2949 #2	2742 #2	2286 #2	876 #2	3062
W6TPC	234						
KB6UF		2336	2122	1531		500	
KE6US					1125		
SM6VR	2914	2860	2808	2665	2419	1853	
WG6X	2714	2491					
AD6Z				3030	2890	2777	2484
AA7CP		1246 #2	1034 #2				
K7DM				2777	2622	2312	2028
K7DZE						1727	2514
KL7GN				2607	2543	2521	2483
K7INA	2972			2764	2705	2500	2120
WA7JHQ	2784 #2	2569 #2	2178 #2	1065 #2	3059	2922	2740
W7KQZ	2569						
KG7Q					2887		1897
K7REL	2347 #3	41 #3	2946 #2	1865 #2	2915	1458	

AB7RW	3010 #2	2886 #2	2430 #2	3076	3062	2943	2776
WA7SLD				1660			
W7TSM				2247	2290	1934	1697
K7VAY		QRT	3077	3042	3002	2963	2853
NA7W	2036	2029	1932	1258	660	660	249
KI7WO	2929	2631	1635	1030	802		
N7WO	997	1994	1854	1599	1198		
KK7X	1772				1760	1637	1632
AK8A	3056	2995	2850	2649	2385	2172	0 - fire
N8CBW		1					
W8CE	3075 #2	3060 #2	3022 #2	3003 #2	2951 #2	2845 #2	2611 #2
K8CW	2885 #3		2397 #3	3074 #2			2927 #2
K8GSA						515	12
KD8HB	630 #5			3064 #4	2983 #4	2589 #4	3066 #3
K8IW	2982	2952	2933	2838	2724	2495	1934
W8JJ	1103	940	779	510	391		
W8LSV				2100			
W8MP		327					
K8MW						3006	2969
K8OHC	1842	1814	1812	1797	1756	20/m 1687	20/m 1590
WD8OIN		2795					
KB8OMG		1683 #2	3072	3027	2862	1659	
W8OP				1017	836	788	397
K8OOK	1720						
WD8OWA			3006				
W8PN				2886 #2	2869 #2	2863 #2	2855 #2
W8QOI		2462 #3	2343	2147	1748	1006	
K8QWY		3057					
AA8R	3059	2921	2717	2464	2307	1848	427
KM8U	2885 #2	2885 #2	2885 #2	2870	2825	2796	2739
AD8W	2889	2699	2373	1950	1677	684	
W8WVU				3056		3050	3047
W8YL				3040		3040	3038
K8ZZ	3072	2952	2737	2319	1478		
NF9A				2863	2848		2719
N9AG				2545	2506	2460	
WD9BCG				3003 #2	3003 #2	3001 #2	2974 #2
VE9DH				2425	1954		
AB9E					1947	1564	
W9GBH	2547	2431	2404	2332	2300	2045	1907
W9HR							2932
N9ID	2296	2121	1711	924			
KA9JAC	2950	2819	2511	1747	1158		412
N9JF	2779	2637	2415	1657			<1000
NN9K	865 #3	3064 #2	2625 #2	3072	2748	2101	1368
AA9KH	3064 #2	3069 #2	3053 #2	2631 #2	1731 #2	547 #2	6 #2
ND9M		3066	3064	3044	2923		2811
W9MSE	3061 #4	2955 #4	2052 #4	3041 #3	2913 #3	2277 #3	3074 #2
W9MYY						2834 #2	2831 #2
N9QS	2562 #2	1364 #2	3053	2947	2725	2472	2156
N9STL		2940	2499	1666	49		

W9UX		2883					
K9WA	3057 #2	3025 #2	2988 #2	2815 #2	2525 #2	1390 #2	3069
DL9YC						424	407
AA9ZZ	25 #2			1925			
AC0B	985	897	689				
KY0E	2885	2617	2298	1789	680		
W0EAR			2457 #5				
W0GXQ	502 #4	3049 #3	2648 #3		3077 #2	2726 #2	1201 #2
AA0IP		3060 #3	2980 #3	2720 #3	942 #3	3062 #2	3007 #2
K0LG					1186	888	789
NF0N	2773	2548	2252	1862	1403	820	
K0PY				1079	1190	1042	1008
NU0Q	3061	2976	2718	1440	321		
W0QE	3073 #3	2819 #3	3076 #2	2723 #2	3073	2787	2110
W0RRY				2952	2782	2242	1916
NX0X	1966	1888	1737	1608	1233	488	
NOZA				3068	3069	3039	2950
K0ZT				3062	3055	3001	2773
Updated	1-20- 09	KA3MMM					

SSB Contest

I'm trying to reconstruct the MARAC SSB Contest history so that I can produce a "State Champ" web page and a "Pass Winners" web page at my web site. Nothing fancy. Just something for the SSB Contesters to use to help them determine what state to go mobile in or to see what score they need to achieve to become a state champ. Unfortunately I have very little data to work with. What I am looking for is information for both pages:

- 1) Contest winners. Need the year, score, what state(s), fixed or mobile and your call.
- 2) State Champs: Need the year, score, what state, fixed or mobile and your call.

You can get an idea of what I am trying to do by going to my web site at: WWW.AA8R.NET. There you'll find the CW Contest history and what I have started for the SSB Contest.

If you have any information that you would like to share please send it to AA8R@AOL.COM.

National Convention

8 July – 11 July 2009 Petoskey, Michigan
(Deadline for Early Registration Prize Drawing is May 1st, 2009)

NAME: (First, Last) _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ST/PROV: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____

Convention registration fee - Includes 1 prize ticket & 1 group photo. \$ 35.00

NAME ON BADGE _____ CALLSIGN _____ USACA# _____

Additional Name Badges (list information below) Total # _____ @ \$5.00 each = \$ _____

Name _____ Callsign _____ USACA# _____ Relation _____

Name _____ Callsign _____ USACA# _____ Relation _____

Name _____ Callsign _____ USACA# _____ Relation _____

Relation: W-Wife, H-Husband, D-Daughter, S-Son, M-Mother, F-Father, X-Friend, GD-Grand Daughter, GS-Grand Son, for any additional badges please attach list or enter on back of form.

Enter number of persons that will attend events

Wednesday 8 July – Check-In /Do It Yourself Activities

Thursday 9 July

Tour of Ice Breaker/Colonial Michilimackinac #Attending _____ X \$40.00 = \$ _____
Young Americans Dinner Theatre Beef Entrée #Attending _____ X \$55.00 = \$ _____
“ “ “ “ Chicken Entrée #Attending _____ X \$55.00 = \$ _____
“ “ “ “ Fish Entrée #Attending _____ X \$55.00 = \$ _____

Friday 10 July

Tour to Mackinac Island #Attending _____ X \$45.00 = \$ _____

Saturday 11 July

Banquet Beef Entrée #Attending _____ X \$28.00 = \$ _____
“ Fish Entrée #Attending _____ X \$26.00 = \$ _____
“ Vegetarian Entrée #Attending _____ X \$24.00 = \$ _____

Prize Tickets

Prize (single tickets) _____ X \$ 1.00 = \$ _____
Prize (Book of 12 tickets) _____ X \$10.00 = \$ _____
Cash (single tickets) _____ X \$ 1.00 = \$ _____
Cash (Book of 12 tickets) _____ X \$ 10.00 = \$ _____

Photographs

Extra: _____ X \$ 10.00 = \$ _____
YL: _____ X \$ 10.00 = \$ _____
USA-CA: _____ X \$ 10.00 = \$ _____
CW: _____ X \$ 10.00 = \$ _____

Mail Registration Form and Check to:
MARAC 2009 Annual Convention
Attn: Chuck Secrest – AD8W
4033 N West Bay Shore Dr
Suttons Bay, MI 49682

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please make checks payable to
Chuck Secrest AD8W

Hotel Reservations – Call direct to ODAWA Casino Resort – 877-442-6464
Mention “MARAC” to get convention Room Rate of \$99.00 + tax.

MARAC National Convention 2009
Petoskey, Michigan

WHEN: July 8 thru July 11, 2009

WHERE: ODAWA Casino Resort
1444 US 131 South
Petoskey, Michigan 49770

RESERVATIONS: Reservations Phone: 877-442-6464
Mention: "MARAC" to get convention rate of \$99.00 plus tax.

HOTEL INFO: Check in time is 4:00 PM, Check out 11:00 AM.
Early check in may be requested, however they are not guaranteed.
Free Open parking available at Hotel.
Complimentary continental breakfast included. 7:00 – 10:30 AM
Use of indoor pool, hot tub and fitness room.
24-7 on demand shuttle service for all guest. (5 mile limit)
Guest 21 and older receive complimentary casino package for each night of their
Stay. Package includes \$5 in slot play, two \$5 buffet coupons and one \$5 match
Play for black jack.
NOTE: Hotel does NOT allow pets. If you will be traveling with pets, contact
Chuck AD8W and he will provide some alternate locations.

DIRECTIONS: South of Petoskey on US 131 - NOTE: The Hotel is not located at the Casino.

AIR ARRIVALS: Pellston Regional Airport (PLN) is the nearest commercial airport.
PLN is served by Northwest AirlinK out of Detroit.
Several shuttle and taxi companies can provide transportation to hotel.
Traverse City Cherry Capital Airport (TVC) is more distant but is served by
several airlines.
Harbor Springs Airport – Located between Petoskey and Harbor Springs is
available for those flying their own planes.

RVers: Odawa Casino – Overnight camping (No Hookups) at no charge is permitted
at the casino in the designated RV parking area. Overnight camping in the
Odawa Hotel parking lot is not allowed. A free shuttle bus is available between
the hotel and casino.
For those requiring hookups there are several campgrounds in the area.
Contact them directly for availability and reservations.
Petoskey State Park located between Petoskey and Harbor Springs on M-119
231-347-2311
Petoskey KOA RV & Cabin Resort north of Petoskey on US 31
231-347-0005
Magnus Park Campground located in Petoskey 231-347-1027
There is also a new Outdoor Resorts Park located west of town in the
Bay Harbor area.

**TOURS AND
ACTIVITIES:**

Wednesday – Hotel check-in - Hospitality room opens

Thursday - Bus will leave hotel at 9 AM and return at 5 PM
9:45 – 11:30 AM – Tour Icebreaker Mackinaw
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM – Self paid Lunch in Mackinaw City
12:30 – 4:00 PM – Tour Colonial Michilimackinac
Optional Tour of Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse
4:00 – 5:00 PM – Bus returns to Hotel
6:00 – 6:30 PM – Bus to Young Americans Dinner Theater
6:30 – 10:30 PM - Young Americans Dinner Theater
10:30 – 11:00 PM – Bus returns to Hotel
Hospitality room will be open for those not going on tour.

Friday - Bus will leave hotel at 9 AM and return at 5:30 PM
9:00 – 10:00 AM – Bus to Mackinac City
10:00 – 10:30 AM – Boat to Mackinac Island
10:30 AM – 4:00 PM – Mackinac Island
4:00 – 4:30 PM – Return boat to mainland
4:30 – 5:30 PM – Bus returns to Hotel
Hospitality room will be open for those not going on tour.

Saturday – Hospitality room open.
Annual MARAC Business Meeting
Forums
Annual Banquet Dinner

REGISTRATION:

To assist us in planning the convention, your early registration would be greatly appreciated. This will also insure that we have room for all that wish to take the tours and attend the dinner show.
Remember the deadline for the early registration prize drawing is May 1st.

PRIZES:

Early Registration – ICOM 7000
Grand Prize – ICOM 7000
Additional prizes to be added depending on ticket sales.
Cash Prizes
Ticket sales are available to all. With the exception of the early registration prize, you do not need to attend the convention to participate in the drawings.

Also as at past conventions, everyone is encouraged to bring something for the prize table. The item does not need to ham radio related. Handmade items, wines, gift cards, golf balls, mobile antennas, books, coax and tools are just a few of the items that have been given out.

QUESTIONS: Call or email Chuck AD8W

231-271-7907

Email chuck@ad8w.com

If you email, please include a phone number and a good time to call.

MARAC National Convention 2009 - Tours

Icebreaker Mackinaw – Maritime Museum:

The United States Coast Guard Cutter Mackinaw WAGB-83 was commissioned by congress to be built in the very early years of World War II. She was built by the American Shipbuilding Co. in Toledo Ohio at a cost of ten million dollars and launched in 1944. War materials were needed in winter as well as summer and she was built specifically to break ice.

Her mission was to facilitate the shipment of iron ore from the northern Great Lakes to the steel mills in southern Michigan.

The Mackinaw is 290 feet long with a 75 foot beam and a draft of 19 feet. She is powered by six Fairbanks Morse diesel engines that deliver 10,000 horsepower to her prop shafts bringing her top speed to 16 knots. Her displacement is 5252 tons. When launched the Mackinaw was the largest icebreaker in the world and her service in the Great Lakes spanned 62 years.

The Mackinaw was decommissioned on June 12, 2006 and made her final voyage on June 21, 2006 to her new berth in her namesake port of Mackinaw City.

Visitors can see how the men of the Mackinaw lived and worked as everything the ship needed to operate as an icebreaker is still aboard and in place. The tour promises to be a trip through history offering education and enjoyment for people of all ages. Make sure you check out the telephone booth in the engine room.

NOTE: The ship contains confined spaces, open steel decking, steep ladders and strong magnets. Safe shoes are required and the ship is NOT handicapped accessible. Those wishing to take the Thursday tour but not able to navigate the ship will be able to sight see and shop in Mackinaw City while the others tour the ship.

Colonial Michilimackinac:

In 1715 French soldiers constructed Fort St. Philippe de Michilimackinac. This fortified community, commonly called Michilimackinac, became the great fur trade center of the Northwest. In 1761 the British took control of the fort following their conquest of French Canada.

See their story, feel their story, experience it. And then make it your own.

Run your hand over the wooden palisade walls of Colonial Michilimackinac and imagine that in 1781 it was burned to the ground, the ashes left to smolder on beach sand. But all was not lost. Under the ashes lay artifacts and these treasures from the sand tell a fascinating story about this frontier fur trading village and military outpost. This 1770's-era fort and village has been reconstructed in its exact historical location. But there's more to this village and fort than its 13 authentically reconstructed buildings and 1 million treasured artifacts. Colonial Michilimackinac teems with life! Feel the music of a wedding dance guide your feet, play a baggatiway (lacrosse) game, savor bread baked in an outdoor bread oven, and smell black powder from a cannon blast. Talk with professional archaeologists who continue to excavate treasures as you watch. Ask them your questions. After all, this is your time, and at Colonial Michilimackinac, living history is as easy as stepping through the gate.

Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse:

(Optional tour you may wish to take before or after Colonial Michilimackinac)

Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse was established in 1889. The fog signal went into operation in 1890 and the dwelling and tower were completed in 1892. For over 60 years, four generations of lighthouse keepers and their families lived at this station. Their devotion to duty helped ensure the safety of vessels in the Straits of Mackinac. The lights on the newly completed Mackinac Bridge made the lighthouse unnecessary, and it was closed in 1957. The Mackinac Island State Park Commission purchased the property in 1960 and incorporated it into surrounding Michilimackinac State Park. Restoration of the property to its 1910 appearance has been underway since 2000. Cost of this tour is \$6.00 and would be paid at the lighthouse.

Mackinac Island:

According to Anishinaabe-Ojibwe tradition, Mackinac Island is a sacred place populated by the first people and was home to the Great Spirit Gitche Manitou. Native Americans traveling the Straits region likened the shape of the island to that of a turtle's back and named it Michilimackinac, Land of the Great Turtle. Once the Europeans came, these early visitors believed Gitche Manitou fled the Island to dwell in the Northern Lights. Mackinac's location and rich fish population also drew French traders and Jesuit missionaries. In the 1670's, the first Europeans visited Mackinac.

Mackinac Island National Park became Michigan's first state park in 1895 when the park was transferred from the U.S. Government to the State of Michigan. Local carriage drivers were hired to take visitors on sightseeing excursions, entertaining them with stories about Indian legends and local history. Growing concerns for public health and safety in the 1920s led to regulatory systems which remain in effect today to restrict motor vehicles, excluding emergency vehicles in both the State Park and the City of Mackinac Island.

Fort Mackinac, built in the late 1700's stands proudly on the bluff overlooking Haldimand Bay where daily reenactments celebrate the late 1880's of Victorian Era Mackinac, a quiet time in her history. Games, strolling musicians, rifle and canon demonstrations delight the senses and the sense of America's creation are felt to everyone who passes through the block house.

You are invited to stroll the streets and be entertained by the man-made and natural attractions. Visit the shops, take a carriage tour, rent a bicycle, tour the Fort and have lunch in one of the many restaurants.

You may want to visit the Island's website to preplan your visit. www.mackinacisland.org

The Young Americans – Boyne Highlands Dinner Theatre:

The Young Americans have entertained audiences throughout the world. Their International Music Outreach Tour encourages music and performance in the schools of our nation and countries abroad. Boyne provides The Young Americans a summer home where America's top music students are given an opportunity to perform. An entirely new show is produced annually. These 15 to 24 year old entertainers come together from across the USA to inspire and engage their audience. Each brings a special talent to the company including vocal talents, dance talents, instrumentalists and comedians. The common denominator is their love of performance and a willingness to share their joy of life with their audiences. This unique group of entertainers come from every walk of life. Each honors the differences in those around them and work together as a team. This will be the 32nd year for the Dinner Theatre.

The Young Americans audition over 1,000 young people across the United States each year. One hundred are offered an opportunity to join the organization. Only 26 are selected each year to perform at the Boyne Highlands Dinner Theatre.

6:30 to 7:30 - Hors d'oeuvres with a cash bar and some light entertainment.

7:30 to 10:30 – Dinner with a cash bar served by The Young Americans followed by the show.

Here is the menu from last summer. This summers menu will be very similar, possibly the same.

Assorted Hors d'oeuvres
Tossed Salad served with Garlic Rolls
All entrée's served with Green Bean Sunshine Blend &
Roasted Redskin Potatoes
Choice Of:
Herb Roasted Prime Rib
Enhanced with Rosemary Jus
Or
Sautéed Chicken Breast
Served with Apple & Cranberry Chutney
Or
Broiled Great Lakes Whitefish
Topped with Michigan Asparagus Provencal
Dessert
Triple Chocolate Torte
Layers of dark chocolate cake with a rich
Chocolate truffle filling.
Topped with chocolate ganache

Sandy and I had the Whitefish and it was excellent. Others at our table had the Prime Rib or the Chicken and all comments matched ours. The entertainment was also exceptional. A Very professional performance by entire group. Simon Cowell would have given anyone of them a free pass to the final 10 on American Idol. We highly recommend this dinner show, you will not be disappointed.

Treasurer's Report
January 31, 2009Funds Balance December 31, 2008 **\$27,551.23**

Income:

Dues	\$1094.00	
Money Market Interest	\$10.49	
Logger Distribution	\$120.00	
Awards Manager Income	\$234.00	
		<u>\$1458.49</u>

Expenses:

Bank Fee	\$3.50	
Print Right – Road Runner	\$376.62	
Awards Manager Expenses	\$273.87	
Treasurer Expenses	\$84.00	
S.C. Mini Convention	\$300.00	
National Convention Chairman Fund	\$4000.00	
		<u>\$5,037.99</u>

(\$3,579.50)

Account Balances		\$23,971.73
Checking Account	\$3,424.32	
Money Market Account	<u>\$20,547.41</u>	
		\$23,971.73

Note:

The following monies are not included in the above:

Awards Chairman's Funds	\$1,200.00
Convention Chairman's Funds - 2009	\$4,000.00



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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