

Volume XXXIX June 2009 Number 6

From My Point of View

Joyce, WB9NUL

ARAC will be having a Board meeting on June 2 to approve the appointment of Randy, AA8R as our new Awards Chairman. He is in the process of learning the program that is used for our awards and will be issuing awards in the near future. For those of you who applied for awards after April 1 please check with Randy to make sure that he received your application(s).

Barry and I have everything ready for our flight to Michigan in July. We both are looking forward to seeing our old friends and meeting new ones. Barry just got back from a two week trip to Illinois where he helped his mother with some tasks. I got to stay home and keep the cats company.

I keep hoping that the bands will improve. We have had some six meter openings here in Texas. There was even an opening to Japan one day. I guess all we can do is keep checking the bands.

Our sympathies go out to W2IBB, Norm whose Mother passed away.

This has been a quiet month here. We finally got some much needed rain. Now I can get busy with the gardening. My rose bushes are blooming and the flowers need weeding so that will keep me busy. See you in Michigan,

Joyce, WB9NUL

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Dateline CW Ed, KN4Y

That happy age when a county hunter can run CW during sun spots.

Latte from the Bad Ass Coffee shop and was turning on the computer when I heard Gator's four-by-four slide to a stop against the recycled railroad tie. He comes in with two cappuccinos. Now I will be to ready to function at top speed. Gator points at the door. "Why the 807 wreath on the front door?" "I just got the word that county hunter, Walt, W9MYY, is a silent key. When I first started county hunting he was one of my guiding lights. We had a great time at the Hamburg convention and on the trip to Niagara Falls." "You two got married?" I throw a floppy disk at Gator. He is laughing hilariously. I ignore him and sip my Latte cappuccino mix and enjoy the rapid response to my caffeine addiction.

Gator looks at my Florida QSO party notes. "I see we did great running around Florida." "We?" "You did not walk the counties." Gator has a point, I show him the results. WE traveled 792 miles and ran 27 counties making 1483 QSO's. The bands were good and we had 372 QSO's on 40-meters and 1111 QSOs on 20-meters. Gator points to the log. "Do you suppose 80-meters will be added next year?" "I have been pushing for 80-meters. We will have to wait and see. Gator picks up a sheet of paper, "What is this log, Dude?

"As you know we ran the MARAC county hunters CW contest on Saturday. Sunday I sat in the shack and for seven hours I worked the International 10-10 CW QSO party and that is my log." "Your whole log is on one sheet?" "I was on 10-meters, and it was open or I would have been skunked, like last time." Gator shakes his head in agreement and checks out the log. I finish my coffee and get a couple bottles of chilled spring water and some chips made for dipping. I unscrew the top and give Gator a bottle. He is not sure what to do with it, "Thanks, Dude, and you did not do too bad in the 10-meter contest. You got two new counties on 10-meters, two counties for fifth time around, two for your call combo book. Wow, you even got a natural bingo." I give Gator a stern look, "Never judge a log by its size."

Gator brings up the MARAC CW log. "Dude what is the difference between roast beef and pea soup." "What a dumb question." "Anyone can roast beef." Gator is banging his head on the ACER screen and laughing hilariously. I look to the sky and wonder what I have done to deserve this. Gator looks at the water and takes a swig. "We did great in the MARAC contest: 11 new counties on 80-meters, 10 new call combo, 13 for fifth time around, 1 W and 2 N prefix and I new county on 40-meters, and last but not least 2 natural bingo. Not bad for a one day jaunt around Alabama." I motion for Gator to hand me the log. I look at the log. "If it were not for the mobiles working me the score would have been dismal and I thank them.

Gator hands me a list of mobiles heard on the county hunter frequencies in May. AA8R, AA9ZZ, AC8W, AD1C, AE3Z, AF3X, AI5P/6Y5, K0ARS, K0RU, K1BV, K2HVN, K7FF, K8CW, K8MSQ, K8ZZ, KA3QLF, KA4RRU, KB6TAL, KB6UF, KD0S, KE3VV, KG4VBK, KL7HBK, KN4Y, K01U, KS5A, N0KV, N0ZA, N2OO, N3KN, N3AAT, N4CD, N4PJ(new), N6HH, N7CW, N8II, N8KIE, N9JF, N9QS, NA7W, NM2L, NN9K, NX4W, W0CML, W0QE, W3DYA, W4HSA, W7GQK, W7RN, W8LVN, W9MSE, WB2ABD, WB4KZW, WC5D, WE7G, WG6X, WT9U.

Gator gives me the got to run sign and is out the door like a bad golfer that goes, Whack, Dang! or the bad skydiver that goes Dang! Whack. I see this month is the Alabama and West Virginia state QSP parties. The big event is the ARRL field day and that reminds me, I need to put the CW station together. But first it is time for a nap. Priorities are important to a county hunter.

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National

8 July – 11 July 2009 Petoskey, Michigan

(Deadline for Early Registration Prize Drawing is May 1st, 2009)

NAME: (First, Last)					
ADDRESS: CITY:		ST/PROV:			
Convention registration				JL	- \$ 35.00
NAME ON BADGE		•			3 33.00
Additional Name Badge				•	
Name	-				
Name					
Name	Callsign _	USACA#	Relation _		
Relation: W-Wife, H	-Husband, D-Dau	ghter, S-Son, M-Mother, F-Fa	ather, X-Friend, GD-Gra	ind Daughter,	
GS-Grand Son, for a	any additional bad	ges please attach list or ente	er on back of form.		
	<u>Enter</u>	number of persons tha	<u>ıt will attend event</u>	<u>ts</u>	
NA / o duo o o dou o O Judo o Cho	and to /Dailt Va	alf Aativitiaa			
<u>Wednesday 8 July – Che</u> <u>Thursday 9 July</u>	eck-in / Do it Yo	ourseit Activities			
Tour of Ice Breaker/Colc	onial Michilima	ckinac	#Attending	X \$40.00 =	\$
Young Americans Dinne		Beef Entrée	#Attending		
u u u	u	Chicken Entrée			
u u u	u	Fish Entrée	#Attending		\$
Friday 10 July			1. V d a =		
Tour to Mackinac Island		#Atte	endingX \$45	5.00 = \$	
<u>Saturday 11 July</u> Banquet		Beef Entrée	#Attending	v \$28 nn -	¢
"		Fish Entrée			\$
u		Vegetarian Entrée			\$ \$
Prize Tickets			<u> </u>		'
Prize (single tickets)				X \$ 1.00 =	\$
Prize (Book of 12 tickets	:)			X \$10.00 =	\$
Cash (single tickets)	·)			X \$ 1.00 =	š
Cash (Book of 12 tickets	5)			X \$ 10.00 =	\$
•	•			<u> </u>	
<u>Photographs</u>			Extra:	X \$ 10.00 =	\$
			YL:	X \$ 10.00 =	\$ \$ \$ \$
				X \$ 10.00 =	\$
			CW:	X \$ 10.00 =	\$
Mail Registration Form a	and Check to:	Tota	l Amount Enclosed	ı \$	

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

Please make checks payable to Chuck Secrest AD8W

ROADRUNNER

Nominations

County Hunter of the Year – SSB

This year there were 6 nominations for SSB and only 2 for CW. The awards committee decided that one nomination would be moved from SSB to CW and that would be NF0N. The final nominations for SSB are N4AAT, KM9X and N7ID. Honorable mention go to N4UJK and W5UGD. For CW they are NF0N, N9QS and K8ZZ.

As you will notice, the first nomination for SSB and CW were submitted by AA8R and I included the breakdown of Criteria that might help some of you in the future to make a nomination. This is the excellent way that Randy submitted it and I commend him for that.

KM9X Nominated by: Randy -- AA8R

Dan, KM9X has been one of the more active County Hunters over recent years. Dan started his County Hunting career in 2002 and has accomplished the following criteria for the SSB County Hunter Of the Year award (CHOY):

<u>Criteria #1</u> Quality and quantity of operating to provide Valid Contacts from multiple counties while in Mobile operation or while assisting mobile county hunters as net Control Station (NCS) or assistant NCS.

USACA: 3/2005
 BINGO: 4/2006
 2ND Star: 6/2007
 Master Gold: 1/2009

- Put out over 1200 unique counties from more than 35 states
- Dan was instrumental in getting the 40 meter net started a few years ago and has help countless number of mobiles by either running them, doing relays or emergencies. Through his tireless efforts and devotion to the 40 meter net, this has become one of the two main net frequencies, if not the main net for County Hunters.

Criteria #2 Participation in MARAC activities and service to MARAC and the members of MARAC.

Dan will regularly compile a list of the "Most Wanted Counties" and post the findings. This has been a tremendous help to the mobiles in planning their routes.

Criteria #3 Other activities in support of county hunting.

You'll find Dan at many of the different Mini's across the US and occasionally at the MARAC National conventions.

<u>Criteria #4</u> Technical proficiency in design or usage or implementation of enhancements to mobile operation or county hunting net operations. Overall amateur radio general support in a manner consistent with good operation and advancement of the hobby.

Dan has always been willing to share his technical expertise. He is always willing to help other County Hunters with their mobile setup, operating procedures, road conditions, etc.

N7ID Nominated by: Janet -- KC5QCB

I would like to nominate N7ID/Jack Brower as SSB County Hunter of the Year. Here are a few reasons why:

1. He has been a county hunter since 1978 and put out his first last county in Feb. 1979. Since then he has given out 450+ last counties.

- 2. He holds Ran All USA Counties #7, which also includes #3 for Transmitted All US States.
- 3. He has traveled over 1 million miles to give out last counties and as he told me "it is as much of a thrill to give it to someone as it was when I got my last one".

N4AAT Nominated by: Carol-Ann -- AB2LS

Scottie began county hunting in 1977 in Alaska, purely by chance. He was 'hooked'. He began running the net with WA6MAR and once he learned net control operations, he began to run the net while mobile. To quote Scottie "I got really good at running the net with one hand on the mike, one hand writing down calls and one knee steering the car!" His call changed from WD9GPC to N7AKT when he moved to Las Vegas. He spent a whole lot of his time running counties and as net control. Attending conventions he made lots of friends through the years and continues to do so. After a move to South Carolina he changed his call to N4AAT. Since becoming a county hunter Scottie has transmitted from all 3077 counties, finishing that feat in 20006. Among Scottie's other achievements:

USA-CA - 1982 (1st star) - 2006 (6th star)

Bingo 1 & 2 in 1988 and 2007

Master Gold in 2006

5 Star in 2007

All prefix award in 2007

Finally, God willing, Scottie intends to try to transmit for all 3077 counties a second time.

A TRUE COUNTY HUNTER and well deserving of the award.

Nominations for

County Hunter of the Year – CW

K8ZZ Nominated by: Randy -- AA8R

Ed, K8ZZ has been one of the more active County Hunters over recent years. Ed started his County Hunting career in 2004 and has accomplished the following criteria for the CW County Hunter Of the Year award (CHOY):

<u>Criteria #1</u> Quality and quantity of operating to provide Valid Contacts from multiple counties while in Mobile operation or while assisting mobile county hunters as net Control Station (NCS) or assistant NCS.

USACA: 2/2006
 BINGO: 5/2007
 USACA-CW: 3/2009

• Put out close to 1,000 unique counties.

Criteria #2 Participation in MARAC activities and service to MARAC and the members of MARAC.

- Ed has been the Host at the Michigan Mini for two years.
- Ed is one of the regular CW operator who will run, spot and is always willing to do relays for the mobiles.

Criteria #3 Other activities in support of county hunting.

You'll find Ed at many of the different Mini's across the US and occasionally and at the MARAC National conventions.

ROADRUNNER

<u>Criteria #4</u> Technical proficiency in design or usage or implementation of enhancements to mobile operation or county hunting net operations. Overall amateur radio general support in a manner consistent with good operation and advancement of the hobby.

- Ed has always been willing to share his technical expertise by willing to help other County Hunters with their mobile setup, operating procedures, road conditions, etc.
- Ed has also been part of the effort in putting on the County Hunter forum at the Dayton Hamvention the last few years.

N9QS Nominated by: Cliff -- ACOB

Roy was first licensed in 1958 as KN0OQI and enjoyed his first year as a novice making many CW contacts. He eventually changed his call to KC0JG, and most recently, to N9QS when he upgraded to Extra Class in November 2007. His interest in County Hunting started late in 1979 and he quickly became addicted to chasing those elusive counties. At a convention in Hampton, VA, several County Hunters urged Roy to try CW, which he did, and it remains his mode of choice today. Roy's many accomplishments as a County Hunter include the following awards:

USA-CA#439	1983	Masters Gold # 12	2005
USA-CA 2 nd Time # 71	1988	USA-CA 6 th Time # 23	2005
Bingo # 27	1990	Bingo III # 8	2006
USA-CA 3 rd Time # 48	1992	USA-PA-K # 12	2006
USA-CA 4th Time # 54	1997	Five Star # 25	2006
Bingo II # 10	2000	USA-CW #91	2007
USA-CA 5 th Time # 49	2001	USA-CA 7th Time # 13	2009

It is quite evident from this impressive list of awards, that Roy has committed many hours to this great hobby of ours and he remains active to this date. He served as Treasurer of MARAC and frequently attends conventions.

Roy knows if you're going to earn awards by working the many mobiles, one must give unselfishly of himself by "putting out counties". He has transmitted from 2,670 counties in all 48 contiguous states, including giving out 650 last counties.

When home, he has helped with relays and acted as Net Control for many hours both on 20 and 40 meters and SSB and CW.

If you've had the opportunity to meet Roy at one of the MARAC sponsored events, or perhaps in Dayton, you know that he is a fine gentleman with a great sense of humor.

His technical abilities regarding mobile installations are evident by his strong signal and he shares his vast expertise of the hobby with others. Roy is continually encouraging others to get into CW.

I ask that you give Roy Glasscock, N9QS, serious consideration as CW CHOTY. He is most worthy of your vote. Regardless of your choice, it is important that you vote in the June elections!

NF0N Nominated by: Cliff -- AC0B And the Awards Committee

Mike was originally nominated for SSB award, but was moved by the awards committee to CW because there were too many SSB nominations and not enough CW. The rules allow 3 maximum nominations for each award. Apparently Cliff requested that Mike himself write down his own

accomplishments and history as a county hunter.

I was first licensed as WN0KGD in 1964 and passed my General in 1965 as WA0KGD. My first foray into County Hunting actually was due to the Nebraska Centennial in 1966. Ham's were given special QSL cards to send to their contacts for the Centennial and I quickly found that I could make many contacts with this QSL and was awarded Centennial Certificate #1 for making the most contacts.

I was working for the State of Nebraska and my travels took me to Bellevue, Nebraska where my County Hunting mentor, Vic Clarence, W0GYM, let me listen and learn all about County Hunting from his nice shack. Vic was USA-CA #6 and travelled many miles between Nebraska and Florida.

Once I had the County Hunting bug, I quickly found I had 500 counties from my contesting and other QSO's and was awarded USA-CA #580 in 1966. I remember working many counties on 40 and 80 SSB, many were also made on 20 on the old CHC/FHC net and later on the Independent County Hunters net which I helped start along with several others.

After many County Hunting trips with others and by myself, I was able to work my last county in 1971, Owen, Indiana from Max, W9SOM, who travelled several hundred miles to get for me. I was able to attend the first three County Hunter Conventions in 1969, 1970 and 1971 and at the 1971 Convention I presented Max with a fine bottle of Scotch for his efforts. It tasted real good that evening. I am an original member of the 303 award which came out of the first Convention in 1969. Some say that the roots of MARAC began in room 303. This was not an alcohol-free room so there were some free floating ideas you might say.

After working all 3079 Counties for USA-CA #53, I felt I had achieved my goal and at the age of 29 sort of retired from Ham Radio. However County Hunting was always my favorite activity and even when I was out of Ham Radio, it still interested me.

In 1981 we moved from Orange County New York, where I was working with IBM to South Sioux City, NE, still with IBM. I had a rather large home and thought it might be interesting to see if my Ham Radio interest was still there. I started with a used Heathkit SB-102 and today, my whole basement is full of Ham gear, computers and stuff.

I still had my interest in County Hunting and on January 1, 2001 I made the decision I was going to work them again but was going to do it multiple ways to keep my interest going. Since that time I have worked them a second time, close on the third, close on CW and working them about 20 different ways. As recently as February 2009 I completed Bingo. It will take me another 20 years to work them all the different ways so my interest is continuing. You will have to accept me a long time as long as my health is good and the Lord keeps me on this planet.

I have found over the years that County Hunters are some of the best friends I have and I think it is because to work all the counties, someone has to help you out. This friendship feeds other friendships and others help others over and over again. This is what keeps my interest going. This was true in 1966 and is still true today.

MARAC Voting Information

Remember, if you are a new member or are REJOINING following a lapse in membership, you are <u>NOT</u> 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.

BALLOT RECOGNITION

I would like to congratulate the following stations for receiving recognition from their peer's and votes in the 3rd quarter award voting: (no particular order)

NET CONTROL SSB: KZ2P, N5UZW, N4AAT, WQ7A, W8DCD

NET CONTROL CW: NM2L, W0GXQ, N4CD

BEST MOBILE SSB: KL1V, KB0BA, N0KV, N4AAT, N8KIE, NF0N, NX4W

BEST MOBILE CW: W0GXQ, KL1V, W9MSE, K0ARS, N9JF, N4CD

BEST TEAM: N0KV/N0DXE, AA9JJ/N9QPQ, KB0BA/N0XYL, KM9X/KB9MGI, N6PDB/WA6OCV

MARAC 4th Quarter Award Voting

ROADRUNNER

Also Voting for County Hunter of the Year SSB and CW

Voting will be open from June 1st through June 30th for the best net control, mobile and team awards. The easiest way to place your vote is at the MARAC web site http://www.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 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 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	2 nd Choice
Best Net Control CW:	1st Choice_	2 nd Choice
Best Mobile SSB:	1st Choice_	2 nd Choice
Best Mobile CW:	1st Choice_	2 nd Choice
Best Mobile Team:	1st Choice _	
	2 nd Choice_	
County Hunter of the Ye	ear SSB	County Hunter of the Year CW
N4AAT		K8ZZ
KM9X		N9QS
N7ID		NF0N
Choice for SSB		Choice for CW
Your call sign:	MAR	RAC # or Election Key

Lloyd S. Smith – NX4W

MARAC Election Coordinator

4413 NW 36th Dr

Gainesville, Fl 32605-5424



Award Turnover Randy, AA8R

First of all, thanks to everyone for having patience while we go through this transition of the Award program from one person to another. As of today, Memorial Day, I have received one shipment of some of the awards stuff and expect another shipment of the remaining items before the end of the month. I am still in the process of getting organized and diligently working on learning the Awards database and the Awards Processing program so that I will be up to speed for the annual awards. I also have a lot of catch up work to do as many of you have sent in award requests which have not yet been processed. I will be working on these requests as time permits and will do my best to get your requests processed as soon as possible. However, my first priority right now is to ensure we are ready to handle the annual awards.

eQSL

is coming to Logger

Tim, KD5CXO

CQ Magazine is now accepting EQSL confirmations for the USA-CA Award. Save hundreds of dollars on postage. There will be a forum at the MARAC National to discuss the ramifications of this to the County Hunting community. Persons working on their USA-CA Award and all mobiles are especially invited. Tim KD5CXO

Page 10 ROADRUNNER

New Members

Marac No. Call Full Name Address City and Home County Phone Number E Mail Address State R-4371 KC9ACL William F Wooten III 2003 North Limestone Dr Elletsville IN 47429-9493 Monroe 1-812-876-8689 wootenfiii@yahoo.com R-4372 N7HT P.O. Box 2010 Belfair WA 98528 David B Brooks Mason 1-360-275-9893 dbbrooks@hotmail.com R-4373 KC4YB Steve Knittel 1905 Six Branches Dr Roswell GA 30076 Fulton 1-770-645-8012 kc4ybo@nfarl.org



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Treasurer's Report May 31, 2009

Funds Balance April 30, 2009	\$19,724.23
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Income:

Dues	\$472.00
Money Market Interest	\$3,81
Logger Distribution	\$20.00
Awards Manager Income (Not Reported)	\$0.00

\$495.81

Expenses:

\$3.50	
\$137.52	
\$315.80	
\$0.00	
\$391.14	
	\$137.52 \$315.80 \$0.00

\$847.96

(\$352.15)

Account Balances \$19,372.08

Checking Account \$802.31 Money Market Account \$18,569.77

\$19,372.08

Note:

The following monies are not included in the above:

Awards Chairman's Funds	\$1,200.00
New 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

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

Vice-President: Chuck Secrest, AD8W, 4033 N West Bay Shore Dr, Suttons Bay, MI 49682, 231-271-7907, chuck@ad8w.com 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

Great Lakes Director: Randy Hatt, AA8R, 7878 W County Line Rd, Howard City, MI 49329, 517-812-9468, aa8r@aol.com North Central Director: Cliff Bird, AC0B, 6140 Hwy 194, Saginaw, MN 55779, 218-343-7473, ac0b@arrl.net Northeast Director: Carol-Ann Reitman, AB2LS, 100 Wood-

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

South Central Director: Ross Harrell, N0ZA, 2433 Bella Pago Dr, Grand Junction, CO, 81503, 970-216-6604, n0za@bresnan. net

Pacific Director: Robert T. Devine, KC6AWX, 407 Alameda Del Prado, Novato, CA 94949-6302, 1-415-883-8980, kc6awx@marac.org

Southeast Director: David Splitt, KE3VV, 6111 Utah Ave. N.W., Washington, DC 20015-2005, 1-202-362-3355 ke3vv@ marac.org

Appointees

Awards Manager: Randy Hatt, AA8R, 7878 W County Line Rd, Howard City, MI 49329, 517-812-9468, aa8r@aol.com

Newsletter Editor: Dave Hyatt, KU4YM, 159 Schooner Bend Ave, Summerville, SC 29483, 843-442-8666, dh-hyatt@ieee.org

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

Webmaster: Mike Fatchett, W0MU, PO Box 3500, Parker, CO 80134, 303-548-7222, w0mu@w0mu.com Custodian, Club Call, K9DCJ: Joyce Boothe, WB9NUL, 21175 FM2556, Santa Rosa, TX 78593 1-956-636-9161 joycenul@aol.com

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

MARAC General Counsel: David Splitt, KE3VV, 6111 Utah Avenue NW Washington, D.C. 20015-2461, 1-202-362-3355, ke3vv@marac.org

Computer Data Manager: Gene A Olig Sr, KD9ZP, W 4325 4th St Rd, Fond du Lac, WI 54936, 920-923-0130, kd9zp@att.net

Dues with a printed copy of the Newsletter are \$20.00 per year. Dues with an Electronic copy are \$14.00 per year. Dues with the Newsletter mailed to all continents other than North America 30.00 a year.