



# ***THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER***

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



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**Volume XXXIX**

**October 2009**

**Number 10**

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## **From My Point of View**

Joyce, WB9NUL

**F**all has arrived but we in the South are still waiting for cooler temperatures. I am happy to report we finally got some rain and things are looking green again.

I am sorry to report that we have lost another county hunter. Bob Hunt, KC5CV has passed away. Also, Harry, PA3ARM lost his stepdaughter. Our thoughts and prayers go out to each of the families.

I got a chance to get out for the Texas QSO party. I was only able to run one day as Barry and I went up to spend Grandparents day at his church school. Perhaps we can make some short jaunts in the near future. On the trip home we ran on 20 meters and also helped with net controlling. It had been a while since we had done that and it sure was fun .

To those of you going to the SouthEast mini, have a great time. Barry and I sure wish we could be there. Perhaps we can do it next year. Once you have enjoyed that mini think about the next one coming up in February here in Weslaco, TX. Barry and I promise you a relaxed and entertaining time. No trips planned though if you have a passport and want to go to Mexico, Cheryl KJ5PQ and Mike KG5UZ have said they would lead a group over to Neuvo Progreso.

That's all the news from here. 73 and keep cool,  
Joyce, WB9NUL



**Dateline CW**

Ed, KN4Y

Gator sez it be true and I do think. There are five reasons a county hunter should drink. Good beer and a friendly South East Mini, Or any other reason why.

We are discussing the Colorado QSO party. Gator points to the log, "that is not many QSO's for that many hours." I shrug my shoulders, "You never know until the fat lady sings and band conditions were not great and being on CW the activity was slow to crawl." "I see where that Texas Dude N4CD was running mobile, did you work him?" "Yes, I worked Bob a few times when I could hear him; there was not much mobile activity that I heard. The RTTY contest put a damper on working stations on 40-meters, but after that RTTY contest ended the band was great. But I heard no new stations. I heard nothing on 80-meters." Gator hands me a Imported Italian Espresso "Did you get any new Colorado counties?" "No, nothing, not even a new call combo, but Colorado gets run a lot by the county hunters. We enjoy our Imported Italian Espresso.

"I must say that idea you had to hang an picture of an Opossum on the Yagi was great. Not many know that a picture of an Opossum on parchment paper has a negative frequency from here to Tennessee of 7.040 MHz," Gator looks delighted, "Yes, I bet you had a pile-up of Tennessee 40-meter signals." "Exactly, but remember there were also five county hunters out mobile and a Club station that wandered around the State. "Who were the county hunter mobiles?" "I worked K4LTA, K4ZGB, N5WR, NY4N, and W4NN, and they were moving through the counties at a good rate." "Speeding?" "No Gator, no driver in Tennessee exceeds the posted speed limit, but they do rolling stops." Gator has put the log through the checker.

"You made 105 QSO's most on 40-meters with a five QSO opening on 20-meters, and finishing with eleven on 80-meters. You did a lot better in Tennessee award element wise with ten new counties for fifth time around, three new counties for both the K and N prefix, and the last for the W prefix in Tennessee. You also got three 1x2 and four 2x1 call combos, and four new counties on 80-meters." "I keep telling the CW county hunters how a State QSO party can increase their totals for various MARAC awards. But do they listen?" Gator finishes off his Imported Italian Espresso, "I do not know why they should." I ignore Gator and finish off my Imported Italian Espresso.

Gator looks at my South Carolina QSO party log, "Dang Dude this is as bad as the Colorado log." "I know, I listened on 40-meters and heard nothing for all those lonely hours." "I notice you had better luck in the Washington QSO party, you had a five QSO per hour rate." Gator is laughing hilariously as he goes to the cooler. He gets two bottled waters. The imported Italian Espresso needs dilution. I point to the totals, "I did get three for fifth time around, two natural bingo and seven Bingo III." "Bingo III when did you get Bingo II?" "I forgot to tell you, I was looking at the various awards listed in the MARAC logger and I see Bingo II. I did not know there was such an award so I do a recalculate and I have finished it. I asked Randy the MARAC awards guy and he said yes there was such an award, just send in the log." "Where is it? "What?" "THE BINGO II AWARD!" I point to the table. Gator picks up the certificate as his cell phone sends CW, Gator, gives a high five, flips me a sheet of paper and is out the door. I see it is a list of the mobiles that ran on the CW frequencies during September.

AC8W, AF3X, AK8A, K0ARS, K0RU, K0UU, K2HVN, K2UFA, K4BP, K4EXT, K4LTA, K4YFH, K4ZGB, K7TM, K8QWY, K8ZZ, KB4XK, KB6UF, KC3X, KG4VBK, KL1V, KM1C, KM6HB, KO7X, KS0X, N0KV, N0SM, N2OO, N4AAT, N4CD, N4PJ, N4RS, N5WR, N6HH, N9JF, N9QS, NM2L, NN9K, NT2A, NY4N, W0AV, W0ETT, W0GXQ, W0NAC, W3DYA, W3ZUH, W4HSA, W4NN, W6TMD, W7FEN, W7IM, W8MP, W9OP, WA1HIE.

I forgot to tell him about the Manchester senior reunion in Tennessee, it will wait. I look at the calendar and note there is the California, Pennsylvania and Illinois QSO parties. The 10-10 Sprint and the 10-10 CW QSO Party the same weekend as the MARAC South East Mini. A victim of no planning so I ignore it and get ready for nap time.



## Paper LC

Randy, AA8R

Last month I talked about how the “Email” Last County applications are processed. This month I will describe how the “Paper” Last County applications are processed and then what activities occur after all LC applications have been inserted into the Awards database.

Each month anywhere from half dozen to several dozen paper LC applications arrive via US mail. These paper applications have to be entered manually into the Awards database, which is one of several functions within the Awards Program (see Fig. 1). For each paper application, the appropriate data is typed into a data entry screen. After entering the data, a click on the “Post Award” button causes the data to be inserted into the Awards database.

There are several drawbacks to the manual data entry process:

1. Each LC application takes at least a minute (or more) to handle, whereas the electronic applications only take a few microseconds;
2. There is a greater chance of typing/data entry errors;
3. The account balance does not get sent back to the County Hunter (applicant).

So, once all of the LC applications are in the Awards database, what’s next? **BACKUPS!** (using an external device).

MARAC 2000 Award Processing Program

File Help

Get Email

Post Contest

Reset Tables

Create WAC Table

Email Last Counties

View Account

Create Packing Slip

Award For

Award List: Last County In The State

From Call: N4AAT From Operation: F

To Call: N5UZW To Operation: M

Paid By Call: N4AAT Check Number: 0

Date: 09/11/2001 Check Amount: \$0.00

Band: 40M Mode: SSB

State: AK County: Second J. D. N W

Band/Mode Endorsements: Mixed Bands and Modes

Other Endorsements:

Call Info: N5UZW

Joe G Watkins  
148 Allen Watkins Lane  
Dewitt, AR

72042  
1-870-946-8325  
moe@wildblue.net  
Account Balance: \$0  
Membership Date: 7/31/2010  
Call ID = 6292

Post Award

Last Number

Next Number

Cert: 29805 - Gold - Seq: 104

Cert: 29921 - Certificate - Seq: 105

(Fig. 1)

After the backup process is finished it’s time to print – Last County certificates, Roadrunner certificates, address labels, and packing slips. Following that comes 3 to 4 hours of assembling paper, stuffing and sealing envelopes, and determining postage and applying postage. The next day everything is taken to the local post office and, if Uncle Sam doesn’t go broke, you’ll receive your Last County Certificates and Seals within a few days.

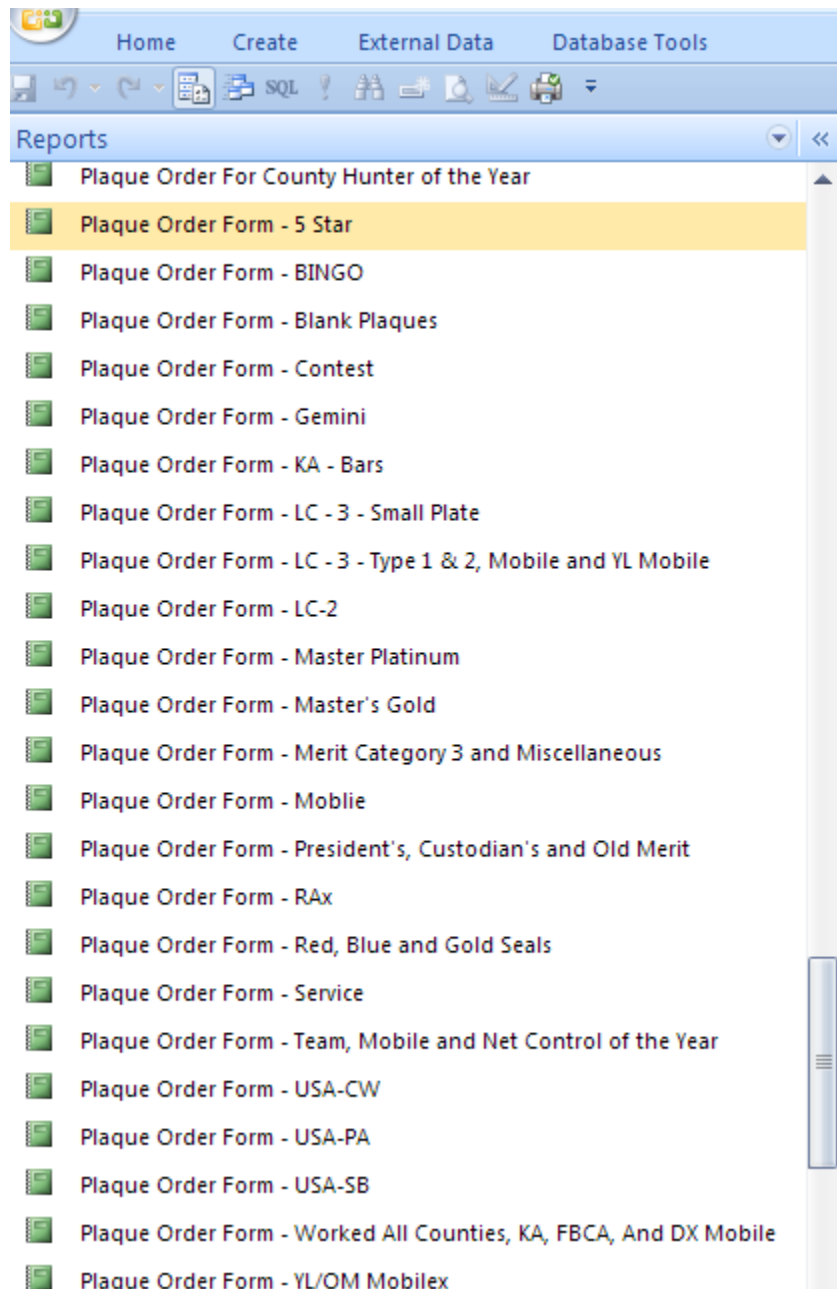
But, I’m not done yet. The plaques still have to be ordered. The Awards database, via a reporting feature, can generate the orders for the different plaques or plaque plates. See Fig. 2. A PDF file is created from each of the “Plaque Order” reports and emailed to the appropriate trophy shop. Then, another backup is taken.

The plaque orders arrive in about 3 to 4 weeks, which triggers another assembly process. The plates are attached to the “Car” plaques and each plaque is then wrapped in padded bubble wrap and put into either a padded envelope or a postal box. Then, another trip to the local Post Office for postage and mailing.

So, from the time the LC applications are processed, which is typically the last few days of each month, it takes about 3 to 4 weeks before the plaques are actually mailed out.

I've only scratched to surface of Awards processing, but this should give you a better understand of what it takes to be awarded a Last County certificate or plaque.

Gene, KD9ZP, is the author of the Awards program and, from my 30 years as a programmer/analyst, I can safely say Gene has done an outstanding job of developing this application with a high degree of data integrity.



(Fig. 2)

**AWARD VOTING**

Lloyd, NX4W

July, August &amp; September 2009

Voting will be open from October 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup> 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 right away. If you do not receive it, please go to <http://marac.org/database/default.asp> to get your email address corrected. 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 1<sup>st</sup> choice is awarded 2 points and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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: 1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_Best Net Control CW: 1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_Best Mobile SSB: 1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_Best Mobile CW: 1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_Best Mobile Team: 1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Your call sign: \_\_\_\_\_ MARAC # or Election Key \_\_\_\_\_

Lloyd S. Smith  
MARAC Election Coordinator  
4413 NW 36<sup>th</sup> 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 County Hunters Database web site <http://marac.org/database/default.asp> and enter your call in Call Lookup to determine your MARAC Expiration Date.



## Birthdays

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Current Call	Birthday Date
WD8LQB	Oct - 01
K5OH	Oct - 01
K4EBR	Oct - 01
N3HOO	Oct - 01
W9CRN	Oct - 01
WD0F	Oct - 01
AC7EJ	Oct - 02
K7DM	Oct - 02
WB4HN	Oct - 02
AK4N	Oct - 03
N6MJ	Oct - 03
AA7OA	Oct - 03
KE0OX	Oct - 03
K0RP	Oct - 03
KC5CV	Oct - 03
K0RCJ	Oct - 03
KF1B	Oct - 03
W6NK	Oct - 04
W8GZF	Oct - 04
WA3RA	Oct - 04
W5EG	Oct - 04
WO3Y	Oct - 04
W7GVE	Oct - 04
N6PE	Oct - 05
W2ET	Oct - 05
W5DU	Oct - 06
WA2RF	Oct - 06
W9JR	Oct - 06
NF9A	Oct - 06
KF5HY	Oct - 06
AA4JN	Oct - 06
W1ENE	Oct - 06
KQ9X	Oct - 06
WA4JA	Oct - 06

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Current Call	Birthday Date
N6QQ	Oct - 07
N7SU	Oct - 07
W4FFZ	Oct - 07
AG9S	Oct - 08
WB4FFV	Oct - 08
N1IA	Oct - 08
N3JW	Oct - 08
AA4HV	Oct - 08
W9JL	Oct - 08
K7TNT	Oct - 09
N1BY	Oct - 09
AB7DX	Oct - 09
N3XH	Oct - 09
WA2NEW	Oct - 09
W0NAC	Oct - 09
AE8EE	Oct - 10
K0EH	Oct - 10
N5OAQ	Oct - 10
N8WTQ	Oct - 10
WV2B	Oct - 11
K0ERE	Oct - 11
K6OHM	Oct - 12
W6VY	Oct - 12
K1BYE	Oct - 13
WA1UVX	Oct - 13
KH6MQ	Oct - 13
K0EQY	Oct - 13
NV7A	Oct - 14
WN9C	Oct - 14
N4UMR	Oct - 14
N0LXJ	Oct - 14
N0YO	Oct - 14
KF3BN	Oct - 14
WY4D	Oct - 14

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Current Call	Birthday Date
KD4NZ	Oct - 14
KD0S	Oct - 14
W6LZ	Oct - 15
KR1B	Oct - 15
W6YLJ	Oct - 16
AE7RN	Oct - 16
K8AN	Oct - 16
KCA6RC	Oct - 16
K8FO	Oct - 16
K9NW	Oct - 16
K3PT	Oct - 16
N9JLT	Oct - 16
W7GHT	Oct - 17
W5DBF	Oct - 17
K6CF	Oct - 17
N4UJK	Oct - 17
N8II	Oct - 17
WF1S	Oct - 17
KK8G	Oct - 17
KA5RNH	Oct - 18
W4WYD	Oct - 18
WU9C	Oct - 19
WB0CQO	Oct - 19
KD0IE	Oct - 19
NH7C	Oct - 19
N9QS	Oct - 19
N1OMS	Oct - 20
K0QH	Oct - 20
N0DT	Oct - 20
KB7VVP	Oct - 20
N9UP	Oct - 20
W7GQK	Oct - 20
WD8ELH	Oct - 21
K5VG	Oct - 21

AI5P	Oct - 21
W1JR	Oct - 21
AJ5C	Oct - 21
K4DD	Oct - 21
AF3X	Oct - 22
K1NWE	Oct - 22
K2MHE	Oct - 22
WB0VNN	Oct - 23
KQ3D	Oct - 23
KD6HGU	Oct - 23
WD8S	Oct - 23
KW4CZ	Oct - 23
KD0CY	Oct - 23
N7JT	Oct - 24
K6TEX	Oct - 24
W0KZZ	Oct - 24
KG0PP	Oct - 24
K3JHT	Oct - 24
WA0KAQ	Oct - 25
K8XTQ	Oct - 25
W0PEC	Oct - 25
KI8AP	Oct - 25
W9OBF	Oct - 25
WA4HXG	Oct - 25
W8OP	Oct - 25
W1IX	Oct - 26
W4OWY	Oct - 26
AH2W	Oct - 26
K4JNN	Oct - 26
DL5MC	Oct - 26
K0MB	Oct - 27
WZ8C	Oct - 27
WD9HEB	Oct - 27
K3MM	Oct - 27
WA2AKJ	Oct - 28
N4UF	Oct - 28
KG4UPA	Oct - 28
K6PEA	Oct - 28

W6YLZ	Oct - 28
KE0N	Oct - 28
W3DYA	Oct - 29
W2PDM	Oct - 29
K5FBS	Oct - 29
KC0VA	Oct - 29
NZ0Z	Oct - 29
K9WB	Oct - 30
KF8K	Oct - 30
WA6MUK	Oct - 30
N4EWK	Oct - 30
N9AOT	Oct - 31
W3HB	Oct - 31
WA0YFQ	Oct - 31
W8SES	Oct - 31
WA0SBR	Oct - 31

## Awards

Call	Date	Award
N2OCW	9/7/2009	5 Star
W9JL	9/3/2009	BINGO
KA1JPR	9/22/2009	BINGO II
KW4V	8/31/2009	BINGO II
KN4Y	9/12/2009	BINGO II
W6TMD	9/5/2009	BINGO III
N9QS	9/1/2009	Native American Counties
N9QS	9/1/2009	US Presidents Counties
KJ8F	9/10/2009	US Presidents Counties
KJ8F	9/23/2009	US Presidents Counties
W6TMD	9/20/2009	USA-CW II
WA5OPO	9/14/2009	USA-PA - K
N8KIE	9/26/2009	USA-PA - N
W8MP	8/31/2009	Worked all Counties - 1st Time - USA-CA
W3DLM	9/26/2009	Worked all Counties - 1st Time - USA-CA
W9JR	9/18/2009	Worked all Counties - 2nd Time
W0FP	9/13/2009	Worked all Counties - 2nd Time
KB6UF	9/3/2009	Worked all Counties - 4th Time
WB2ABD	9/10/2009	Worked all Counties - 4th Time
W6TMD	9/20/2009	Worked all Counties - 6thTime



Roadrunner Issued Per Month				
Call	Date	Award	Number	
WQ7A	8/18/2009	Last County Count 300	# 55	
N4CD	8/28/2009	Last County Count 1700	# 1	
WB4VFN	8/31/2009	Last County Count 25	# 480	
AF3X	8/31/2009	Last County Count 100	# 215	
AA8R	8/31/2009	Last County Count 100	# 216	
NN9K	8/31/2009	Last County Count 25	# 479	
KQ0B	8/31/2009	Last County Count 100	# 217	
AB7RW	8/31/2009	Last County Count 50	# 315	
AI5P	9/26/2009	Last County Count 800	# 6	
WB4KZW	9/26/2009	Last County Count 25	# 481	
KO1U	9/26/2009	Last County Count 175	# 114	
NF0N	9/26/2009	Last County Count 175	# 115	
N4CD	9/26/2009	Last County Count 1725	# 1	
KK6BB	9/26/2009	Last County Count 125	# 159	
KM9X	9/26/2009	Last County Count 250	# 69	
N8KIE	9/26/2009	Last County Count 600	# 21	

## New Members

**Marac No.    Call    Full Name    Address    City and State    Home County**

**Phone Number    E Mail Address**

R-4383    N8ERF    Dennis K Klipa    644 E. Whitehorn Drive    Midland, MI 48640    Midland

1-989-636-7704    klipad@charter.net

R-4384    N8NNA    Jackie Klipa    644 E. Whitehorn Drive    Midland, MI 48640    Midland

1-989-636-7704    klipad@charter.net

R-4386    KC0SKR    Delbert L Sawyer    1259 E. Frontier Lane    Olathe, KS 66062    Johnson

1-913-829-8242    ddaywyer@sbcglobal.net



## SC Mini

# 2010 SOUTH CENTRAL MINI

**WHEN:** Arrive Feb. 11, Depart Feb. 14, 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. 29. 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..... \$10.00=\$\_\_\_\_\_

OM/YL Couple..... \$15.00=\$\_\_\_\_\_

Chuck Wagon Dinner (Thursday night).....#\_\_\_\_\_X \$22.50=\$\_\_\_\_\_

Big Ranch Style Buffet

Saturday Night Dinner.....#\_\_\_\_\_X \$23.50 =\$\_\_\_\_\_

Fajita Fiesta includes Grilled beef/Chicken Fajita, Charro beans, Spanish Rice,  
Shredded Lettuce & Cheese, Tomato, Sour Cream, Pico de Gallo, Dessert & Drink

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

**Treasurer's Report  
September 30, 2009**

Funds Balance August 31, 2009 **\$16,355.40**

Income:

Bank adjustment (Checking now free!)	\$7.00
Money Market Interest	\$3.09
Logger Distribution	\$80.00
Awards Manager Income (AA8R)	\$909.95
	<u>\$1,000.04</u>

Expenses:

Fairmont Awards - Plaques	\$247.32
Print Right – Road Runner	\$481.71
Awards Manager Expenses	\$693.17
	<u>\$1,422.20</u>

(**\$422.16**)

Account Balances **\$15,933.24**

Checking Account **\$1,349.56**

Money Market Account **\$14,583.68**

**\$15,933.24**

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”*

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**Monthly Deadline for Articles is the 25<sup>th</sup>!**

**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 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

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**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

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**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.