



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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



Volume XL

February 2010

Number 2

From My Point of View

Joyce, WB9NUL

I can hardly believe that in less than two weeks the South Central mini will be happening. We have some of the supplies in already so we won't starve to death. I'm expecting that the weather will be warm and the sun will be shining. For those of you who are coming (about 50 people) please remember to bring a small door prize. We had a nice visit from K4YFH, Jimmy and his wife, W4URZ, Linda last week. They're staying in La Feria and they will be joining us at the mini.

Please note that that the Michigan mini is coming up. I'm sure they will have a great time getting together. Ed and crew have been busy planning for a great mini.

This newsletter has the registration for the National Convention. Please, take time to look at the activities that are planned. Besides those activities there is great birding in the area. Just recently a new bird was discovered a tiger heron. This bird had not been seen in the United States before.

Happy Valentine's Day!

88's Joyce, WB9NUL



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Dateline CW

Ed, KN4Y

Those CW county hunters most apt to be obsequious and conciliating running counties, who are under the discipline of shrews at home.

Our Florida weather is below average with twenties in the mornings. The space heater is running full bore. I turn on the rig and computer to get all the heat I can. I need one of those foot warmers from my old CB days. Where are those hot flashes when needed? I hear Gator drive in, slide to a stop, and get out of the warm cab into sub-freezing temperatures. He yelps as his flip-flops hit the frozen tundra and he jogs to the shack. Gator comes in. "Where is all that Global heating." I point to the space heater. "In there." We have a good laugh, which is good on a cold morning.

"Hold on Dude," Gator runs out to his truck and comes back with two super sized lattes, "Forgot I had picked these up at the Bad Ass coffee place. I think I have frozen toes." We sit semi-shivering while enjoying the java. "What is that on your desk?" That is a plaque I received it from the Colorado QSO Party for First Place out-of-state, low power CW." "You were probably the only out-of-state entry." I am tempted to throw the plaque at Gator.

Gator picks up a certificate from the pile of papers on the desk. "I see you got first place Florida in the Illinois QSO Party; this is a neat certificate with great graphics. Look, the Illinois state animal is the Whitetail Deer. We should rename our deer hunting season the Illinois hunting season." We enjoy a good laugh and the Latte. "Speaking of QSO parties; the ARRL year of QSO parties is over and what have we learned." Gator sets up the 3-Leg Lightweight Oak Easel and gets several bullet point pad markers. "Let's list the top twelve reasons a county hunter should consider participating in a State QSO party."

1. The more mobiles running in a QSP party, the more counties up for grabs.
2. A county hunter's chance for natural bingo contacts will be increased.
3. A county hunter has an excellent chance to get new call combo's.
4. The mobile operator is a county hunter good for Stars, Bingo etc.
5. The mobile operator is good for the No-Star award.
6. After the party, promote county hunting with your QSL card.
7. Go mobile in your State QSO party, the operating event is priceless.
8. Participate as a fixed station if cannot go mobile, almost priceless.
9. Depending on propagation, the State counties can be worked on several bands.
10. Learn the various exchanges used in QSO parties; good preparation for contesting.
11. Use whatever operating mode you enjoy.
12. A good State QSO party requires a U in the sum of the participants.



We look at the list, what did we forget? I am sure some county hunter will tell us. We sit admiring our endeavor and finishing the Latte. I point out to Gator that contests are also a good source for getting MARAC award contacts. I show him my sweepstakes contest log and point out I made 22 contacts for Bingo III, a Natural Bingo and three new call combo's, and nine new counties on 80-meters. The counties will have to be verified using e-mail or a QSL card. A county verification is not necessary with contacts in a State QSO party. The latte is gone, the cup discarded. It is times like this when an espresso machine is a good investment.

We hear CW from Gator's back pocket; he answers his cell phone, "Got to go Dude, the underground drug cartel wants to do a TV interview of my H1N1 elixir." He is gone like a mobile county hunter's signal when the fuse blows. I notice he has left the list of mobiles that ran on the CW county hunters frequencies in January. I read the calls on the list. N7IV, K0ARS, K2HVN, K4YFH, K8ZZ, KA3QLF, KA4RRU, KB0BA, KB6UF, KD5JWC, KE3VV, KN4Y, N0KV, N4JT, N9JF, W0NAC, W4HSA, W7FEN, W8MP, W8TZA, WA4PGM, WV2B. This nasty weather sure has slowed down mobile activity. I open a bottle of the H1N1 elixir and take a small swig; yes, no respectable virus could survive so I decide to finish the bottle and get the cure. But first I look at my contest calendar.

This month you have a good choice of QSO parties; the weather is too nasty to be outdoors, so pick your favorite State QSO parties and start working the party stations. This month you can get the thrill of achievement from Delaware, Vermont, Minnesota, New Mexico, New Hampshire, Louisiana, Mississippi and North Carolina. Put Gator's list to test, how many items can you acquire? I was told by a guy that got his information from the brother of one of the mobiles that county hunters will be mobile in many of the listed QSO parties. To make it even easier the exchange is RST and State for all the above QSP Parties. We need new county hunters and what better way then support the ARRL School Club Roundup. Check it out at arrrl.org/scr. Dang it, I forgot to tell Gator the Southeast Mini news, oh well it will wait until his Next visit. Another super sized swig of the elixir and wait a second for nap time.

Election News

Nominations for CW and SSB

County Hunter of the Year

Nominations are now in order for the 2010 CW and SSB County Hunter Of The Year awards. 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. 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 2010 ELECTIONS ANNOUNCEMENT

Second Request

Nominations are currently open for the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, (all 2 year terms). Nominations are also open for the positions of Northeast Director and Pacific 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 in a state within the district and they are listed on the MARAC website, <http://marac.org/directors.htm>

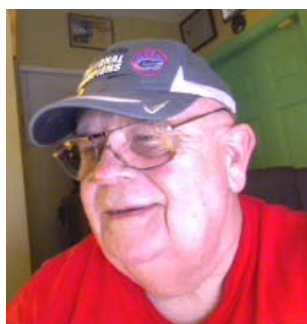
If you are willing to serve MARAC in an elected position, please send your nomination to nx4w@cox.net or via regular mail, which must be received on my end by March 10th.

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

National

42nd Annual MARAC National Convention

WESLACO, TEXAS- Wed. 7 July through Sat. 10 July, 2010

Best Western Palm Aire Hotel & Suites

NAME _____ CALL _____
USACA# _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ST/PROV _____
ZIP _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ BEST PHONE NO. _____ - _____

REGISTRATION FEE -Includes one badge, one Ham prize ticket, one cash prize ticket and E-Mailed photos
\$30.00

ADDITIONAL NAME BADGES Total number of additional badges _____ X **\$2.50** =
\$ _____

BADGE NAME _____ **CALL** or other designation _____ **USACA #** _____

BADGE NAME _____ **CALL** or other designation _____ **USACA #** _____

BADGE NAME _____ **CALL** or other designation _____ **USACA #** _____

DESIRED PHOTOS GROUP - USACA HOLDERS - YL - CW OPS **E-MAILED PHOTOS ARE FREE**

Please circle the ones you want

NUMBER OF PRINTED AND MAILED PHOTOS WANTED _____ X **\$5.00** =
\$ _____

EXTRA PRIZE TICKETS Raise your chances of winning the "Big Ones"

HAM—Single tickets # _____ X **\$ 1.00** =
\$ _____

HAM--12 pack tickets # _____ X **\$10.00** =
\$ _____

CASH-Single tickets # _____ X **\$ 1.00** =
\$ _____

CASH-12 pack tickets # _____ X **\$10.00** =
\$ _____

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES PLEASE READ PAGE TWO FOR DESCRIPTIONS!!!!

Wednesday, July 7 ----- **“DINNER AT THE LONE STAR”** # attending _____ (Pay your own bill)

(We need the number to make the reservation)

Thursday, July 8 ----- **“A DAY ON THE KING RANCH”** # going _____ X \$60.00 =
\$ _____

Friday, July 9 -- **“DOLPHIN WATCH CRUISE AT SO. PADRE”** # going _____ X \$28.00 =
\$ _____

Saturday, July 10 ----- **“AWARDS BANQUET”** Includes tip and taxes
Flounder Almondine -----# _____ X \$25.00 =
\$ _____

Chicken Marsala-----# _____ X \$23.00 =
\$ _____

YOUR PAYMENT (Do not send cash, please) **TOTAL**
\$ _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO “2010 MARAC CONVENTION”

Mail this form and your payment to: Joyce Boothe, 21175 FM2556, Santa Rosa, TX 78593

Questions, Comments, call me—956-202-3373 or e-mail me at JoyceNUL@aol.com

EARLY REGISTRATION Register before May 1, 2010 to get a chance for the early bird prize!

HOTEL RESERVATIONS-----Call direct 1-800-248-6511---**Mention “MARAC”** (Cut-off date June 23)

Convention rooms for one or two persons--\$69 + tax (good before and after event)

Includes Buffet/Cook-to-Order Breakfast every morning

MARAC National Convention **Events and Activities** Weslaco, TX July7-10, 2010

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7 Opening day evening—**“DINNER AT THE LONE STAR”** Fellowship

Most of the day will be taken settling in, renewing old friendships, sitting around the pools, and getting the “lay of the land.” That evening we’ll “caravan” the 13 mile straight shot drive toward Harlingen to enjoy dinner and good times together. The **Lone Star Restaurant**, not related to the chain by that name, has been a landmark in the Valley for decades. We’ll have our own big dining room, order from the menu and enjoy great food and drink at moderate prices. The Lone Star serves seafood, steaks, Mexican dishes, burgers, and smoked meats from its own mesquite fired smoke house. They have fantastic appetizers, a full service bar, their own bakery, all set in very pleasant surroundings. Join us for a great opening get-together.

Check it out here: [http://www.thelonestarrestaurant.com/Lone Star Restaurant/Home.html](http://www.thelonestarrestaurant.com/Lone_Star_Restaurant/Home.html)

THURSDAY, JULY 8 A chance to relive history—**“THE KING RANCH”** A day long tour

It was about 150 years ago that Richard King, the salty steamboat captain developed the world’s largest ranch of nearly one million acres here in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The King Ranch is larger than the state of Rhode Island. This National Historic Landmark is considered to be the birthplace of the American ranching industry. This is where the Santa Gertrudis breed of cattle was developed, as well as the first registered American Quarter Horse. Besides the **ranch operations**, you’ll visit the **Henrietta Memorial Museum** and it’s rich collection of artifacts, browse the **Sellers Market** near the **Old Opera House** where saddles, blankets and those famous King Ranch purses are sold, plus much more. You’ll be treated to a **Texas Style Bar-B-Que** at the Ceasar Kleberg camp house for the midday meal.

The tour bus will load at the motel in the morning and you will spend most all of the day in air conditioned comfort either riding or inside visiting the various locations. There will be a minimum of outside walking. Check out these web sites: www.king-Ranch.com & www.KRsaddleshop.com

FRIDAY, JULY 9 Off to South Padre Island - **“DOLPHIN WATCH CRUISE”** & lunch at Blackbeard’s

This is a favorite of both visitors and residents the Lower Rio Grande Valley. You’ll board a tour bus at the motel after breakfast and motor out to South Padre Island. There you’ll board a big double decker boat and cruise the calm blue waters around the south end of the Island. You’ll see the dolphins feeding, playing and surfing in the wake of ships going in and out of the port waterway. You’ll see the shrimp boats heading to the gulf, the old Confederate Landing and other points of interest. Then, back on land, the bus will take you up the Island’s “main drag” to Blackbeard’s. This casual eatery has great seafood, burgers, and steaks at very moderate prices. Order from the menu at your own expense, then board the bus for the return to Weslaco.

Check the websites: <http://www.theoriginaldolfinwatch.com> & <http://www.blackbeardsspi.com/>

SATURDAY, JULY 10 The final event **“THE AWARDS BANQUET”** Plaques & prizes & food & fun

SATURDAY, JULY 10

This event, hosted by outgoing President Joyce, WB9NUL and her merry band of revelers will end what we all expect to be a “good time had by all,” as she takes on her new role as Past President Emeritus. After opening remarks and dedication, a fine meal served by the folks at the Palm Aire, then the presentations of special MARAC Awards, then a fun time for the drawing of winners of the donated prizes, special Ham prizes & cash prizes.

The menu choices: **1. Flounder Almandine**—Filet of Flounder lightly coated with cornmeal
& sautéed until Golden, finished with Almonds
2. Chicken Marsala—Sauteed Breast of Chicken with Fresh Sauteed
Mushrooms & a Marsala Wine Demi Glaze

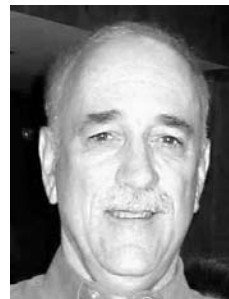
Both served with: Green Bean Almandine, New Roasted Potatoes with Rosemary & Garlic,

For dessert, Carrot cake.

Coffee & Iced Tea

Awards

Call	Date	Award
K7REL	1/23/2010	BINGO III
W4YDY	1/15/2010	Cliff Corne Jr. (K9EAB) Memorial
AA8R	1/21/2010	Cliff Corne Jr. (K9EAB) Memorial
W4YDY	1/15/2010	Gemini - Jack Scroggins (W0SJE)
W4YDY	1/15/2010	Native American Counties
W4YDY	1/15/2010	US Presidents Counties
AD8W	1/18/2010	USA - Call Sign Combo
KL1V	1/18/2010	USA - Single Band
WQ7A	1/19/2010	USA - Single Band
AA8R	1/19/2010	USA - Single Band
K4YT	1/2/2010	Worked all Counties - 1st Time - USA-CA
N4AAT	1/3/2010	YL Mobile
W4YDY	1/15/2010	YL Mobile
N4AAT	1/3/2010	YL-OM Team
W4YDY	1/15/2010	YL-OM Team



Award Name	"Number of LC"
Last County In The State	219
Last County In The USA	6

New Members

<u>MARAC Number</u>	<u>Callsign</u>	<u>Name</u>
R-4394	WK5X	Robert Forsman
R-4395	KD9Q	Richard Ranson



History Happens

Gary, K4EXT

Happy New Year from your newly appointed MARAC Historian. I would first like to thank Joyce, WB9NUL and the Board of Directors for getting me on board to do a job that I'm sure I will enjoy. I hope that MARAC members will also enjoy the various glimpses down memory lane I hope to present in future issues of the Roadrunner as well as on the Internet.

My plans as MARAC Historian are quite clear cut:

1. Collect information/pictures/stories from CH'ers
2. Organize and maintain received information
3. Publish received information for all to see

First, a little bit about me. I was originally licensed in 1968 and operated as WA9WZV until 1985 or so. After raising a family and foolishly letting my license expire, I re-tested in 2002 alongside my two sons Josh, KG4VBJ and Justin, KG4VBK. I then "vanitized" my call sign to K4EXT which at that time reflected upon my software business name as well as its web site. I retired from software development in 2003 and started county hunting in 2007.

My youngest son Justin, KG4VBK and I really enjoy going mobile and putting out counties on both CW and SSB. Our recent move to Carter County, Tennessee presents all kinds of day-trip county-running possibilities in Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, and North Carolina. We're looking forward to that!

The final paragraph I write for each Roadrunner article will likely be the same – I will shamelessly beg for County Hunters to submit information and pictures about themselves, their CH experiences, their CH mobile outings, their CH convention trips, and their CH enjoyment. I can be reached via mail and Email as listed on the Roadrunner officers/directors/appointees page. Please contribute what you can to the CH archive!



Birthdays

Call	Birthday Date
K5TO	Feb - 01
WA0SGJ	Feb - 01
KQ4FA	Feb - 02
N5PRU	Feb - 02
NA7MT	Feb - 02
NK7B	Feb - 03
WB7ATT	Feb - 03
WB5P	Feb - 04
NG6X	Feb - 04
KD4QIT	Feb - 04
KA1Q	Feb - 05
WA0ZVF	Feb - 06
W3QZ	Feb - 06
W9RR	Feb - 06
K5AAR	Feb - 07
KJ8F	Feb - 07
WV9N	Feb - 07
K8IW	Feb - 07
AA4S	Feb - 07
AA9MW	Feb - 07
N4FTA	Feb - 08
KJ6DB	Feb - 08
K5BDL	Feb - 08
N0BHO	Feb - 08
K0DBK	Feb - 08
K8VJV	Feb - 09
N8MD	Feb - 09
W7ZD	Feb - 09
WD9BCG	Feb - 09
N1GM	Feb - 09
KL7JR	Feb - 10
N5IWA	Feb - 10
W1JD	Feb - 10
W3REG	Feb - 10
K2HPV	Feb - 10
N4ACS	Feb - 11
KA1YZV	Feb - 11
N5PU	Feb - 11
WD9GSU	Feb - 11
KD0ID	Feb - 12
WC5D	Feb - 12
N4TOG	Feb - 12
KH6KW	Feb - 12
NH6SR	Feb - 12
W4DUE	Feb - 12
AB5C	Feb - 13
N8ELO	Feb - 13
KK5MI	Feb - 13
K3CAV	Feb - 13
K5NV	Feb - 13
KF4YR	Feb - 14
AA4C	Feb - 14
N9KEH	Feb - 14
KL1V	Feb - 14
N2IRO	Feb - 15
K4KWW	Feb - 15
N7UG	Feb - 15
W9STW	Feb - 15
K1NY	Feb - 15
K1NGJ	Feb - 15
N7TT	Feb - 15
KD4PY	Feb - 15
N0CKC	Feb - 15
N8LXQ	Feb - 16
WC9O	Feb - 16
KD0ASY	Feb - 17
KS4DD	Feb - 17
N0CSM	Feb - 17
WB9YCO	Feb - 17
KE9FH	Feb - 17
WS9G	Feb - 17
AE3O	Feb - 17
KT0K	Feb - 17

Call	Birthday Date
KD4NFE	Feb - 18
N0KV	Feb - 18
W4ABW	Feb - 18
K5UO	Feb - 18
KB1EG	Feb - 19
K4BIO	Feb - 19
K9KDS	Feb - 20
KC8ZON	Feb - 20
N8SVR	Feb - 21
W5RIT	Feb - 21
N9VRZ	Feb - 21
NL7BY	Feb - 22
AE4FL	Feb - 22
N7CLA	Feb - 22
WA3QNT	Feb - 22
WB3Q	Feb - 22
KZ3K	Feb - 22
K81WI	Feb - 22
KB6TAL	Feb - 22
WB7VIZ	Feb - 23
WD0EPE	Feb - 23
KS5A	Feb - 23
K4QL	Feb - 23
K4AMC	Feb - 24
K9OFF	Feb - 24
K8QWY	Feb - 24
W2UP	Feb - 24
K8MW	Feb - 24
KA8MSU	Feb - 24
W4ARH	Feb - 24
K0WY	Feb - 24
NO2W	Feb - 24
WD9EMW	Feb - 25
K8CW	Feb - 25
AF5Q	Feb - 25
WB0M	Feb - 25
N3RC	Feb - 25
N3DMI	Feb - 25
KD7IQ	Feb - 25
W7AV	Feb - 25
W5EHY	Feb - 26
KK7LX	Feb - 26
KU8R	Feb - 26
KC2RS	Feb - 26
K8WR	Feb - 26
N7MZI	Feb - 27
AA7LJ	Feb - 27
KR0I	Feb - 27
W0HFG	Feb - 27
K4EEE	Feb - 27
K0ARS	Feb - 28
WK5A	Feb - 28
N5DG	Feb - 28
AB4OI	Feb - 28
N5XG	Feb - 28
AB7KT	Feb - 28
KJ7FJ	Feb - 29

**Treasurer's Report
December 31, 2009**

Funds Balance November 30, 2009 **\$18,197.38**

Income:

Membership	\$1,020.00
Money Market Interest	\$3.03
Logger Distribution	\$20.00
Awards Manager Income	\$514.00
Return of funds check not cashed	\$350.32
	<u>\$1,907.35</u>

Expenses:

Bay Port Tech – Auto Plaques	\$223.20
Print Right – Road Runner	\$465.71
Awards Manager Expenses	\$350.54
S.E. Mini Convention Contribution	\$300.00
National Convention Seed	\$3,000.00
	<u>\$4,339.45</u>



(\$2,432.10)

Account Balances **\$15,765.28**

Checking Account \$2,169.47

Money Market Account \$13,595.81

\$15,765.28

Note:

The following monies are not included in the above:

Awards Chairman's Funds	\$1,200.00
2010 National Convention Seed	\$3,000.00

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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: Jim Grandinetti, KZ2P, 2690 Bohicket Rd, Johns Island, SC 29455, 843-323-8385, k2jg@comcast.net

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

Appointees

Historian: Gary Beam, K4EXT, 195 Nanny Goat Hill Rd, Elizabethton, TN 37643, ch2@k4ext.com

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Webmaster: Mike Fatchett, W0MU, PO Box 3500, Parker, CO 80134, 303-790-4611, 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.