



# **THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER**

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



**Volume XL**

**May 2010**

**Number 5**

## **From My Point of View**

Joyce, WB9NUL

**W**here did the month of April go? It's been a very busy spring for us. Barry and I will be taking a motor trip up to Illinois in mid May. One of our granddaughters is getting married. It seems like just yesterday she was a small toddler. Also, while we're there we'll visit with son Jim and his family including Grandson Logan who will be deployed to Egypt at the end of the month. In Joliet we will try to finalize affairs of Barry's mother's estate.

The National convention is fast approaching. The May 1 early registration deadline has been reached. As of right now there are 14 people who will have a chance to win that radio. I have to admit I'm disappointed that so few registrations have come in. Any registration that comes in postmarked by May 1 will be added to the mix.

Hope to see you in July.

73, Joyce, WB9NUL

## **Contents**

Annual Voting	3
Awards	6
Birthdays	4
Dateline CW	2
From My Point of View	1
History Happens	10
National	8
New Members	11

**Dateline CW**

Ed, KN4Y

And God stepped out on the emptiness, He looked around and said, "I'm lonely. I'll make me a world with CW county hunters."

I am inputting my Georgia QSO party mobile logs into the Writelog logging program and I hear Gator's truck slide to a stop against the recycled railroad tie. He opens the door and shouts, "I have a great idea." He goes back out to the truck and returns with two supersized latte. "Thanks gator, what is your great idea?" "Well at the MARAC national convention there could be a county hunter or facsimile thereof that is set up to put the county lines into a GPS unit. Just think of the county hunters that would line up for this service. Who do I contact?" "This year the convention is at Weslaco, Texas and you need to e-mail the idea to Joyce, who is in charge." "I do not think she likes me, will you e-mail her my idea?" "I will if I don't forget."

Gator picks up the busted 40-meter resonator lying on the desk, "Ever figure out what happened to cause the resonator to break?" "The resonator was in the van for many years and the core crystallized, and the flexing while mobile caused it to snap." "Can it be fixed?" "I am going to try and Gorilla glue it using a wooden dowel, and hope for the best, I have ordered a couple more resonators for stand-by duty."

Gator finishes entering the data into the logging program for the Georgia QSO party, "Not bad Dude. We ran 473 miles and activated 18 counties and you ran 301 miles and activated 10 counties. Shows you how important a Gator is." I slap him upside the head, and he starts entering the Florida QSO party, laughing hilariously. I relax and sip my latte. Gator spins around in the chair, "When you going to send in your Georgia QSO party log?" "Not going to because there is no category for my operation. I am going to request a certificate for my favorite driver." Gator grins from ear to ear. His cell phone goes off and he is out the door talking like a rabid salesman. I guess I will finish entering the Florida contacts.

I notice a sheet of paper in the printer, Gator has compiled a list of mobiles running on the CW frequencies. I can see the effect of nice weather as I read: AF3X, K0ARS, K0IU, K2HVN, K4EXT, K4YFH, K4YT, K5YAA, KA4RRU, KB6UF, KE3VV, KG4VBK, KL1V, KM9X, KN4Y, KS5A, KS7S, KT8K, K0KV, N4CD, N5XG, N6HH, N7IV, N9JF, N9QS, NM2L, NT2A, W0GXQ, W0NAC, W3DQT, W3DYA, W3ZUH, W4HSA, W7FEN, W7KQZ, W8JJ, W8MP, W9MSE, WA7JHQ, WB2ABD, WB4KZW, WD4OIN, WE7G,

This month is the MARAC contests along with the 7<sup>th</sup> area, Indiana, New England, Nevada QSO parties. The big contest is the CQ WW WPX CW contest. A fun CW activity is the His Majesty King of Spain contest. I wonder if Gator was correct that using the Bubba red clay that was taken from under a defunct Georgia station really helped on 40-meters. I will finish my Florida logs later. Almost missed nap time.

### **Annual Voting**

**W**e are currently voting for the MARAC positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Pacific Director and Northeast Director and the following candidates are running for these offices:

President: Joyce Boothe - WB9NUL  
Vice President: Lightning Leo Bingham - WY7LL  
Treasurer: Terry Dummmler - WQ7A  
Secretary: James Grandinetti - KZ2P  
Pacific Director: Robert T. Devine - KC6AWX  
Northeast Director: Carol-Ann Reitman - AB2LS

Voting will be taking place during the month of May only. Voting online is preferred at <http://www.marac.org/elections/default.asp> however: I will also be accepting mailed ballots postmarked during the month of May. Only members living in the open districts can vote for their own director position.

The voting page on the MARAC website will be available starting May 1<sup>st</sup> thru May 31<sup>st</sup>. If you prefer to mail your ballot to me, you can either copy this page or cut it out. Please circle the above candidates you are voting for along with enclosing your callsign and MARAC member number to:

Lloyd Smith –NX4W  
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.

During the month of June you will be voting for the CW and SSB County hunters of the year. Also voting will be available for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter for Best Net Controls, Mobiles and Teams.

73 until next month,  
Lloyd Smith – NX4W  
MARAC Election Coordinator

#### **NX4W Resignation as MARAC Election Coordinator**

At this time I would like to announce my resignation as MARAC Election Coordinator. I have held this position for 3 years and feel that it is time for someone else to have a chance to experience this position. The resignation will be effective with the annual meeting in July. It is really not all that complicated and I will be happy to send my 3 ring binder to the new appointee that maps out what has to be done each month. Basically it amounts to counting ballots and writing Roadrunner articles. I will complete the RR article for August, which gets written in July. The next article will not be due until the end of September for the October issue. If you are interested in this position, please contact the President, Joyce Boothe, WB9NUL, [joycenul@aol.com](mailto:joycenul@aol.com) It has been a pleasure to serve the members of MARAC in this position and I will look forward to serving you in another position in the future.

73' Lloyd, NX4W

## Birthdays

Call	Birthday Date	Call	Birthday Date	Call	Birthday Date
AD5WI	May - 01	W7KWR	May - 09	KB4TI	May - 17
N1CP	May - 01	K3KX	May - 09	N3AO	May - 17
W0IZV	May - 01	K4IJQ	May - 10	K0SSE	May - 18
K9GI	May - 01	N1ETC	May - 10	WB9UKS	May - 19
W8WVU	May - 01	N2NL	May - 10	AB5OK	May - 20
KB9ER	May - 01	K4FPF	May - 10	K1QFD	May - 20
AC7DC	May - 02	W4LTF	May - 10	KF0KC	May - 21
K5IW	May - 02	W7CFR	May - 11	NH7N	May - 21
KF5EH	May - 02	AA6PI	May - 11	W9DC	May - 21
KC2RNA	May - 02	K5CBS	May - 11	KM5QF	May - 21
KA5AGM	May - 02	N4GJ	May - 11	WA1LJD	May - 21
VA3XOV	May - 03	N2TR	May - 11	N4DDK	May - 21
W5AL	May - 03	NX0X	May - 12	K8LJG	May - 22
NK2W	May - 04	AE3Z	May - 12	KJ6C	May - 22
VE3KZE	May - 04	ND3T	May - 12	AB2LS	May - 22
KA1JPR	May - 04	KI4HL	May - 13	W1TY	May - 22
N2DFC	May - 04	K0MT	May - 13	KF7CT	May - 22
W5BAK	May - 05	KO4VP	May - 13	NA4FM	May - 22
W7CA	May - 05	W6RJC	May - 13	N9QEI	May - 23
WV8LNX	May - 05	AD4LQ	May - 15	N7AZ	May - 23
W4USA	May - 05	N7JPF	May - 15	N1RL	May - 23
WA0JCE	May - 05	N9JZ	May - 15	W4RSD	May - 23
KB0LN	May - 05	KU9UUU	May - 15	W7GVF	May - 24
WD5O	May - 05	KM9X	May - 15	ND9M	May - 24
K5PKQ	May - 05	N4JT	May - 15	WB2NFB	May - 24
KC8EM	May - 06	N8BGF	May - 16	K1CXP	May - 24
KJ8V	May - 06	K4PLB	May - 16	KJ4VV	May - 24
KE1GI	May - 06	WA0RVG	May - 16	AA9GF	May - 24
K4RYE	May - 06	KA7ICF	May - 16	N0VWD	May - 25
W8CDC	May - 06	W4MAT	May - 16	K9KBK	May - 25
W8RCW	May - 07	K5CJ	May - 17	N5MLP	May - 25
WY7LL	May - 07	W5VD	May - 17	WA8OWR	May - 25
N5ZXR	May - 08	AA6AF	May - 17	KE9SZ	May - 26
AC4WF	May - 08	W5IUA	May - 17	KL7NV	May - 26
K6TWX	May - 08	AH9B	May - 17	NU9M	May - 26
K3PN	May - 09	KG5RQ	May - 17	WB4KZW	May - 27
K7VI	May - 09	N0SM	May - 17	NK0L	May - 27
OH3JF	May - 09	N9QPQ	May - 17	K8EUX	May - 27

<b>Call</b>	<b>Birthday Date</b>
KC8AKM	May - 27
KF9LI	May - 27
N7LON	May - 27
KN4JR	May - 27
N0ALC	May - 28
N8CIJ	May - 28
NL7KM	May - 28
KA4NZG	May - 28
K1CN	May - 29
W0CI	May - 29
KE9FG	May - 29
W9PIP	May - 29
N6VQQ	May - 30
K8AO	May - 30
N4ABR	May - 30
K2MF	May - 30
K4ZZ	May - 30
W0ICP	May - 31
W9GBH	May - 31
WB5IMT	May - 31
N6PDB	May - 31
W1KSI	May - 31
K7INA	May - 31

## Awards

Call	Date	Award
KE0AY	4/11/2010	Gemini - Jack Scroggins (W0SJE)
K8ZZ	4/26/2010	Gemini - Jack Scroggins (W0SJE)
KE0AY	4/11/2010	Native American Counties
KE0AY	4/11/2010	US Presidents Counties
AD8W	4/13/2010	USA - Single Band 20 meters
AD8W	4/13/2010	USA-PA - K
WA9DLB	4/24/2010	USA-PA - K #19
N9QS	4/9/2010	USA-PA - N
N9QS	4/6/2010	USA-PA - W
WA6OCV	4/16/2010	Worked all Counties - 1st Time - USA-CA
K8ZZ	4/24/2010	Worked all Counties - 2nd Time

Roadrunner Awards Issued			
Call	Date	Award	Number
N0XYL	4/26/2010	Last County Count 75	# 245
W0GXQ	4/26/2010	Last County Count 475	# 32
KL1V	4/26/2010	Last County Count 800	# 7
WA7JHQ	4/26/2010	Last County Count 125	# 162
N0DXE	4/26/2010	Last County Count 50	# 320
N9QPQ	4/26/2010	Last County Count 850	# 4

**Treasurer's Report****March 31, 2010**

Note: Your Treasurer was out of town the month of February.

Membership and Awards income are reported in March.

Funds Balance February 28, 2010 \$15,994.26

## Income:

Membership	\$1,668.00
Money Market Interest	\$2.89
Logger Distribution	\$245.00
Awards Manager Income	\$1,060.00
	<u>\$2,975.89</u>

## Expenses:

Hoppers - Plaques	\$28.50
Print Right – Road Runner	\$465.10
Awards Manager Expenses	\$733.49
Treasurer postage	\$44.00
	<u>\$1,271.09</u>

Account Balances \$17,699.06

Checking Account \$4,094.87

Money Market Account \$13,604.19

\$17,699.06

## Note:

The following monies are not included in the above:

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

National

**42<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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 July 7-10, 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 log 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](http://www.king-Ranch.com) & [www.KRsaddleshop.com](http://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.theoriginaldolphinwatch.com> & <http://www.blackbeardsspi.com/>

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

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**—Sautéed Breast of Chicken with Fresh Sautéed 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

## **History Happens**

Gary, K4EXT

**J**ust a friendly reminder ... if you plan on doing any Spring cleaning in your radio shack, please remember me before you elect to throw anything away! Contributions to MARAC History have been somewhat slim thus far. My postal address and Email are good in this newsletter, in the MARAC database, and on QRZ. Please send some old goodies!

Roadrunner newsletters from the mid-90's often included a monthly column by Steve, WN7J called "25 Years Ago" which chronicled MARAC activities from the early 70's. For example, in the October 1995 Roadrunner, Steve wrote about MARAC happenings for October 1970 ... highlights of which are discussed below.

An October 1970 club meeting was held at the home of Clyde, W0YLN (later W5TQE and now a Silent Key) and attended by five members.

For the first six months of operation, the club showed income of \$917.50 and expenses of \$681.66. Non-profit tax-exempt forms were in the process of being completed.

Plans for the 1971 ICHN convention in Kansas City were being finalized, including an announcement that the first-place door prize would be a Tempo 1 transceiver and power supply.

The newest USA-CA numbers (#40 thru #44) were announced ... and the newest MARAC membership numbers (up to #R-133) were announced.

It was decided to proceed with ideas for a 3,079 Last County award. Feedback from the membership was requested on an award for the Last County in a State, including whether this should be for last county worked or last county confirmed.

**New Members**

**MARAC Number**

**Callsign**

**Name**

R4406

K0FY

Charles Davis

*The County Line Roadrunner*  
**MARAC Secretary**  
**2690 Bohicket Rd**  
**Johns Island, SC 29455**



*“A Road Runner Is A Very Fast Bird”*

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

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**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

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

**Sunshine Coordinator:** Pat Reiner, KM6QF, 16931 Aldon Rd, Encino, CA, 91436, 213-999-0100, lovedoxies@aol.com

**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

**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.