



# THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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## From My Point of View

Joyce, WB9NUL

Time is going much too quickly. Never take a trip when you have a column to write and you have a dead line. The reason the RoadRunner is late is because I didn't get this in on time. I did enjoy a ballgame in Houston and my team won! Yes, I still root for "dae Cubs"! The tickets were a gift from our daughter Jennifer for Mother's Day and Father's Day. Barry and I had an opportunity to run mobile on the trip. He was surprised at how many contacts we had until I reminded him of his status as a "no star". I was pleased that so many are working for the award.

In a few days our daughter Jane and husband John will be arriving and we are looking forward to showing them around the valley. Then I'm off to the mini in South Carolina. I'm really looking forward to seeing the gang.

I received an e-mail from Don, KA1YZV saying that WINHJ was a silent key. Another CH'er has left us. We'll miss you Shai.

I am pleased to see so many mobiles out and running counties. This last Sunday kept the net controls very busy. Have a great September and take time to enjoy the cooler weather.

73, Joyce, WB9NUL

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Dateline CW

ED, KN4Y

The action of a CW county hunter is best which procures the greatest happiness for the greatest numbers.

I finally got around to looking at my Ohio QSO party log, I have 23 no-star contacts, one natural bingo and 5 new counties on 80-meters, I look at my Kansas QSO party log, and I have 31 no-star contacts, 3 natural Bingo and 3 for fifth time around. I hear country music from Gator's boom box as he nudges to a sliding stop against the recycled railroad tie. He comes into the shack with a couple of super sized lattes and doughnuts from the new shop. Gator found out the baker is a past Miss Universe contestant whose talent was sending Morse code with two wires. He hands me a latte and a blue berry injected pastry, "What you doing Dude?"

I sip once, than twice and bye-bye pastry, "I was wondering what the WHOP quotient for the Icom 229H would be." "A WHAT?" "Well the light went off on the Icom 229H and I gave it a WHOP and the light came back on. I was wondering how many Whops I get before having to have the light replace? There is nothing in the manual." Gator looks at me like a deer in headlights. "Well I had a TV once that I would whop to get it turned on; I got about fifty Whops before it started smoking. Now enjoy the Latte until the men with the white jackets come for you." We enjoy the latte and pastry, who knew CW is a key ingredient in baking.

Gator whops the mouse, "let see what you did in the Colorado and Tennessee QSO parties. Alright Dude, you got 48 no-star contacts or half of the Tennessee counties. You also got the last for fifth time around and two new 80-meters counties. Did you work that Elvis place Dude?" "You mean Kerry, W4SIG, I worked him many times as well as other county hunters as Tim, K4ZGB, Doug, W9WI, Jeff NY4N and Bill, K4lta." Gator is looking at the Colorado log sheet." "Great, you worked 20 no-star and a new one on 80-meters. I notice there were a few mobiles out." "Yes, and two were county hunters Alan, KO7x and Ken W0ETT." Gator makes a spot check while downing another pastry.

It is sad that all CW county hunters have not enjoyed a Latte with a stuffed pastry made by a master baker knowing the code. Gator yells, "Where is your Connecticut and South Carolina QSO party logs?" "There are none, only heard a few stations." "Gads, shades of New Jersey Gator yells, "Where is your Connecticut and South Carolina QSO party logs?" "There are none, only heard a few stations." "Gads, the New Jersey lacking is spreading." "I made it up in the Washington Salmon Run." Gator sips his Latte, "Sorry to tell you this Dude, Salmon swim." "Not when they go mobile." Gator ignores me, "Well you did get three for fifth time around and four on 40-meters. Not bad for a wisea.." I throw a pastry at Gator as his cell phone bellows CW, "Sorry Dude got to hit the road, a pump seal just blew." As he goes out the door he flips me a sheet of paper.

I grasp the paper as it floats to the floor; this is a list of county hunters heard on the CW frequencies in September: AA8R, AA9KH, AB7RW, AC8W, AD5WI, AI5P, G4KHG, K0ARS, K0RU, K1BV, K2HVN, K2ZR, K4EXT, K4YFH, K4YT, K5END, K8ZZ, KA4RRU, KB0BA, KB6UF, KD8HB, KL1V, KM5PS, KM6HB, KO1U, N0LXJ, N0SM, N4AAT, N4CD, N5NA, N5XG, N9JF, N9QS, ND9M, NT2A, NX4C, W0BH, W0CML, W0GXQ, W0NAC, W3DYA, W3ZUH, W4HSA, W5JR, W9MSE, WA1HIE, WA5BDU, WB4KZW, WB4VFN. WC5D, WD4OIN, WE7G, WG9A, WY7LL, AD4ED.

Darn, I wanted Gator to check my Texas QSO party log, but it will not spoil. I look at the contest calendar; this is that time of the year for the contesting urge to kick-in. The big California QSO, second only to Florida, the Pennsylvania, the Arizona, the Iowa, the New York, and the Illinois QSO parties, that is 403 counties landlocked and waiting to be worked. There is the CW Stew Perry warm up on 160-meters. Keep in mind the 10-10 Sprint and the fall cw QSO party during which Gator wants to operate a few hours in the W/VE Islands QSO party on 10-meters from Saint George Island, Florida. It is past nap time.



**New Members**

<u>MARAC Number</u>	<u>Callsign</u>	<u>Name</u>
R4432	W5MGZ	Megan Albertson-Hoyt
R4433	KD0MBL	Richard Tew
R4434	KS4S	Wilson McKeithan
R4435	W4FMW	Damaris Ashton
R4436	KB7PI	Lyle Olmsted
R4437	N0LP	Nick Hanks

**BOD Minutes**  
**MARAC Board of Directors Meeting**

**September 16, 2010**

The Special Meeting of the MARAC Board of Directors was called to order at 0000Z by the President (Joyce-WB9NUL).

**Board Members Present**

President - Joyce Boothe - WB9NUL

Vice President - Leo Bingham - WY7LL

Secretary – Jim Grandinetti – KZ2P

Treasurer - Terry Dummler - WQ7A

North Central Director - Cliff Bird - AC0B

Great Lakes Director - Randy Hatt - AA8R

Northeast Director - Carol-Ann Reitman - AB2LS

Pacific Director - Robert Devine - KC6AWX

South Central Director - Ross Harrell - N0ZA

Southeast Director - Dave Splitt - KE3VV

A motion was made by Dave (KE3VV) and seconded by Bob (KC6AWX) to accept the minutes of the July 10, 2010 meeting. The minutes were accepted by a vote of 9 in favor and none opposed.

A motion was made by Dave (KE3VV) and seconded by Bob (KC6AWX) to accept the Treasurer's Report for June 2010. The report was approved by a vote of 8 in favor, 1 abstention, and none opposed.

A motion was made by Dave (KE3VV) and seconded by Cliff (AC0B) to accept the Treasurer's Report for July 2010. The report was approved by a vote of 8 in favor, 1 abstention, and none opposed.

**Old Business**

A motion was made by Joyce (WB9NUL) and seconded by Dave (KE3VV) to establish a MARAC Recruitment Committee and approve Duane (WV2B) as Chairman. The motion was approved by a vote of 9 in favor and none opposed.

A motion was made by Dave (KE3VV) and seconded by Terry (WQ7A) to accept the Mobile Diamond Award. A motion was made by Dave (KE3VV) and seconded by Bob (KC6AWX) to amend the award as submitted to change the first special rule to read "All Valid Contacts for this award must have been made on or after September 15, 2010." As part of the discussion on the amendment, the Awards Manager, Bob (KC6AWX), informed the Directors that seven members of the Awards Committee voted to recommend that the Board approve the Mobile Diamond Award start date to be after Board approval,

AA8R, KC6AWX and 2 other members did not vote. The amendment was approved by a vote of 5 in favor (KE3VV, WY7LL, KZ2P, KC6AWX, AB2LS) and 4 opposed (N0ZA, AA8R, WQ7A, AC0B). A motion to approve the Mobile Diamond Award, as amended, was approved by a vote of 5 in favor (KE3VV, WY7LL, KZ2P, KC6AWX, AB2LS) and 4 opposed (N0ZA, AA8R, WQ7A, AC0B).

The Mobile Diamond Award, as adopted is as follows:

### **Mobile Diamond Award**

**OBJECTIVE:** To make **Valid Contacts** in **All USA Counties** with mobile operators who have earned the MARAC Master Platinum Award, including contacts while transmitting from at least 500 counties on at least two different bands after the applicant has earned the Master Platinum Award.

#### **SPECIAL RULES:**

All **Valid Contacts** for this award must have been made on or after September 15, 2010.

An applicant must make contacts with holders of the Master Platinum Award in **All USA Counties** (Master Platinum contacts) after having earned the Master Platinum Award and both operators may count both counties.

After the date of the applicant's Master Platinum Award, the applicant must make additional **Valid Contacts** while transmitting from at least five hundred (500) different counties. In each of the 500 transmitted counties, the applicant must use at least (2) different **Bands** and make at least three (3) **Valid Contacts** with different stations on each **Band**.

While transmitting from at least five hundred (500) different counties, at least one (1) of the **Valid Contracts** must be with another holder of the Master Platinum Award. The contact may be on either of the two bands.

The two Master Platinum Award holders must be in separate counties (or countries) at the time a **Valid Contact** is made.

**AWARD LEVELS:** The Mobile Diamond is awarded for making Master Platinum contacts in **All USA Counties** and making multiple contacts while transmitting from at least 500 different counties on at least two **Bands** as a Master Platinum holder.

**APPLICATION AND FEES:** Standard application and logs. There are no fees for MARAC members for this award. Standard fees apply to non-members.

#### **New Business**

A motion was made by Dave (KE3VV) and seconded by Jim (KZ2P) to approve the appointment of Bob (KC6AWX) as MARAC Awards Manager. The motion was approved by a vote of 8 in favor, 1 abstention and none opposed.

A motion was made by Bob (KC6AWX) and seconded by Carol-Ann (AB2LS) to approve an Outstanding Achievement Award for Lloyd (NX4W) for his service as MARAC's Election Coordinator. The motion was approved by a vote of 8 in favor and none opposed.

A motion was made by Dave (KE3VV) and seconded by Cliff (AC0B) to approve an Outstanding Achievement Award for Chuck (AD8W) for his service as MARAC's Vice President. The motion was approved by a vote of 9 in favor and none opposed.

A motion was made by Dave (KE3VV) and seconded by Jim (KZ2P) to require the Awards Manager to submit monthly financial reports the Road Runner (similar to the Treasurer's Reports) and to have the Awards Manager's financial records audited annually prior to the MARAC Annual Meeting. There was a lengthy discussion concerning the dates and format of these reports. A motion was made by Dave (KE3VV) and seconded by Carol-Ann (AB2LS) to table the motion until the next meeting of the Board. The motion to table was approved by a vote 5 in favor and 1 opposed.

A motion was made by Randy (AA8R) that a member cannot simultaneously serve on the MARAC Board of Directors and the MARAC Awards Committee. There was no second on the motion.

A motion was made by Dave (KE3VV) and seconded by Jim (KZ2P) to amend the General Rules and-Definitions for MARAC Awards to add the following new section:

### **Awards – Effective Date of New Awards**

For all new MARAC awards that require earning a prior award as a prerequisite to the new award, the new award becomes effective on the date the new award is approved by the MARAC Board of Directors. **Valid Contacts** for these new awards must be made after the effective date of the new award.

The motion was approved by a vote of 5 in favor (WY7LL, KZ2P, AB2LS, KC6AWX, KE3VV) and 4 opposed (AC0B, AA8R, N0ZA, WQ7A).

A motion was made by Dave (KE3VV) and seconded by Carol-Ann (AB2LS) to adjourn the meeting at 0105Z.

Respectfully submitted,

James Grandinetti KZ2P



Voting

MARAC 1st QUARTER AWARD VOTING

July, August & September 2010

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Kent Reinke, KL1V  
MARAC Election Coordinator  
P.O. Box 215  
Valdez, Ak, 99686-0215

[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	
Call	Birthday Date
WD8LQB	Oct - 01
K9JWV	Oct - 01
K5OH	Oct - 01
WD0F	Oct - 01
K4EBR	Oct - 01
N3HOO	Oct - 01
AC7EJ	Oct - 02
K7DM	Oct - 02
WB4HN	Oct - 02
N6MJ	Oct - 03
AK4N	Oct - 03
AA7OA	Oct - 03
KF1B	Oct - 03
KE0OX	Oct - 03
K0DDS	Oct - 03
K0RCJ	Oct - 03
K0RP	Oct - 03
WO3Y	Oct - 04
W5EG	Oct - 04
W8GZF	Oct - 04
W6NK	Oct - 04
W7GVE	Oct - 04
WA3RA	Oct - 04
N6PE	Oct - 05
W2ET	Oct - 05
W1ENE	Oct - 06
W5DU	Oct - 06
WA2RF	Oct - 06
NF9A	Oct - 06
N3TG	Oct - 06
AA4JN	Oct - 06
W9JR	Oct - 06
KQ9X	Oct - 06
WA4JA	Oct - 06
KF5HY	Oct - 06
N7SU	Oct - 07
N6QQ	Oct - 07
W4FFZ	Oct - 07
N1IA	Oct - 08
WB4FFV	Oct - 08
W9JL	Oct - 08

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
N3JW	Oct - 08
AA4HV	Oct - 08
AG9S	Oct - 08
K7TNT	Oct - 09
WA2NEW	Oct - 09
W0NAC	Oct - 09
AB7DX	Oct - 09
N1BY	Oct - 09
N3XH	Oct - 09
K0EH	Oct - 10
N5O AQ	Oct - 10
AE8EE	Oct - 10
N8WTQ	Oct - 10
K0ERE	Oct - 11
WV2B	Oct - 11
K6OHM	Oct - 12
W6VY	Oct - 12
KH6MQ	Oct - 13
WA1UVX	Oct - 13
K0EQY	Oct - 13
K1BYE	Oct - 13
WN9C	Oct - 14
KF3BN	Oct - 14
N4UMR	Oct - 14
N0YO	Oct - 14
NV7A	Oct - 14
N0LXJ	Oct - 14
KD0S	Oct - 14
WY4D	Oct - 14
KD4NZ	Oct - 14
W6LZ	Oct - 15
KR1B	Oct - 15
W6YLJ	Oct - 16
KCA6RC	Oct - 16
AE7RN	Oct - 16
K9NW	Oct - 16
K8AN	Oct - 16
K8FO	Oct - 16
K3PT	Oct - 16
N9JLT	Oct - 16
KK8G	Oct - 17

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
W5DBF	Oct - 17
WK5X	Oct - 17
WF1S	Oct - 17
N8II	Oct - 17
W7GHT	Oct - 17
N4UJK	Oct - 17
K6CF	Oct - 17
KS4S	Oct - 18
KA5RNH	Oct - 18
W4WYD	Oct - 18
NH7C	Oct - 19
WU9C	Oct - 19
KD0IE	Oct - 19
N9QS	Oct - 19
WB0CQO	Oct - 19
KA2LHO	Oct - 20
KB7VVP	Oct - 20
N0DT	Oct - 20
N1OMS	Oct - 20
W7GQK	Oct - 20
N9UP	Oct - 20
K0QH	Oct - 20
K5VG	Oct - 21
K4DD	Oct - 21
WD8ELH	Oct - 21
W1JR	Oct - 21
AJ5C	Oct - 21
AI5P	Oct - 21
K2MHE	Oct - 22
AF3X	Oct - 22
K1NWE	Oct - 22
KW4CZ	Oct - 23
KD6HGU	Oct - 23
WB0VNN	Oct - 23
KQ3D	Oct - 23
KD0CY	Oct - 23
WD8S	Oct - 23
KG0PP	Oct - 24
K3JHT	Oct - 24
W0KZZ	Oct - 24
N7JT	Oct - 24

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
K6TEX	Oct - 24
W9OBF	Oct - 25
W8OP	Oct - 25
WA0KAQ	Oct - 25
KI8AP	Oct - 25
W0PEC	Oct - 25
WA4HXG	Oct - 25
K8XTQ	Oct - 25
W4OWY	Oct - 26
DL5MC	Oct - 26
W1IX	Oct - 26
AH2W	Oct - 26
K4JNN	Oct - 26
K3MM	Oct - 27
K0MB	Oct - 27
WD9HEB	Oct - 27
WZ8C	Oct - 27
W6YLZ	Oct - 28
K6PEA	Oct - 28
KE0N	Oct - 28
KG4UPA	Oct - 28
N4UF	Oct - 28
WA2AKJ	Oct - 28
KC0VA	Oct - 29
W3DYA	Oct - 29
NZ0Z	Oct - 29
K5FBS	Oct - 29
W2PDM	Oct - 29
K9WB	Oct - 30
KF8K	Oct - 30
WA6MUK	Oct - 30
N4EWK	Oct - 30
WA0SBR	Oct - 31
WA0YFQ	Oct - 31
W3HB	Oct - 31
N9AOT	Oct - 31
W8SES	Oct - 31

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

Funds Balance July 31, 2010		<b>\$12,438.53</b>
Income:		
Membership	\$432.89	
Money Market Interest	\$2.29	
Logger Distribution	\$90.00	
Awards Manager Income (AA8R)	\$403.00	
Awards Manager Returned Funds	\$1,500.00	
		<u>\$2,428.18</u>
Expenses:		
Awards Manager Expenses (AA8R)	\$1,210.52	
Print Right	\$332.79	
(92 units @ \$3.62 x 12 = \$43.41/year)		
		<u>\$1,543.31</u>
Account Balances		\$884.87
Checking Account	\$1,705.82	
Money Market Account	<u>\$11,617.58</u>	
		<b>\$13,323.40</b>
Note:		
The following monies are not included in the above:		
Awards Chairman's Funds (KC6AWX)	\$1,500.00	



**Awards Manager's Report  
August 31, 2010**

Funds Balance July 31, 2010		<b>\$1,500.00</b>
Income	\$1,080.00	
		<u>\$1,083.00</u>
Expenses:		
Office supplies	\$515.61	
Plaque Suppliers	\$139.00	
Postage	\$105.51	
		<u>\$760.12</u>
Sent to Treasurer		\$1,083.00
Reimbursement received from Treasurer		\$760.12
Funds Balance August 31, 2010		<b>\$1,500.00</b>





Running all the counties  
Kent, KL1V

**H**ere is a brief history of my adventures:

I started running counties during my senior year in high school in 1979 right after I stumbled across the county hunters net one afternoon. It sounded like a bunch of fun to try to put out a county mobile. I got my car set up and borrowed the high school's radio (a Kenwood TS-520 as I remember) and set out to go to Camas county Idaho which was 19 miles north of my folk's house. There were a few hams asking if I could put out that county for them.



Here is a picture of the exact spot where I transmitted from way back in March of 1979.

Shortly after that I joined the Air Force and was off to basic training. My first assignment was to Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls Montana. I was assigned to a GATR (Ground to Air Radio Transmitter/Receiver site) which was located on a butte just north of Great Falls. I placed an order for a spiffy new mobile radio (Kenwood TS-120S) and on the weekends instead of sitting in the barracks, I would take my car and park it on the top of the butte and would work mobiles on 20 meters. The reason I parked on the hill was so that I could easily "roll start" the engine after I ran the battery ran down on the old Chevette with the mobile rig. This quickly bored me so I decided to start going mobile to different Montana counties during the summer and fall of 1980. I was surprised at how many people needed counties in Montana. Just as I was getting the hang of things I received orders and was transferred to England for a 3 year tour. I packed up all 3 suitcases full of my belongings and drove to my next departure point which was New Jersey. I shipped my car over to England. I remember putting out a few counties along the way but didn't have time to zig zag the county hunter way.

While I was in England I got the call sign G5EDN and operated mobile but the only stations I could hear and work were other EU stations - so no new counties were worked while I was stationed there. In 1984 along came my next assignment, I received orders to go to Alaska. SCORE!!!!!! But it was to a strange sounding place called Shemya AFB. I could not find it on the main part of Alaska near the fishing rivers where I had hoped to get assigned, after a closer search I found a place at the end of the Aleutian Islands called Shemya Island. Oh my, this was not

the place I was hoping for!

I was told that there was a woman behind every tree on the island so that did not sound too bad until I got there and discovered that there were no trees on the island and thus very few women - 1,200 men and 25 women. I did find the site where I would be working was a HF/VHF/UHF site and had a pair of Collins KWM 2 A's in a side room for the MARS station. I was told I could go ahead and operate to my heart's content when it was not needed for military use. To my dismay when I powered them up there was only about 120 watts out of both radios with the amplifiers connected. Well since I was a radio tech and assigned to maintain all the radios on the island repairing these radios became my top priority. After about 3 days of hunting down parts and rebuilding and tuning both radios and amps I got one of them to put out 1,175 watts and the other to put out the full rated 1,200 watts - I was in business.

After a few days of listening on 20 meters and not hearing the county hunting nets I decided to try a little CQing but about all I was able to work on any band were thousands of JA's - day or night. Shemya is 1,800 miles west of Anchorage and only about 800 miles from Japan. I concluded that I would have to wait for my next assignment if I was going to be working any county hunters. In 1985 I got orders for Elmendorf AFB in Anchorage and knew I was in business and would be able to work the nets again. Yes conditions were much better from the mainland of Alaska.

It was Feb 2001, after a trip to the First District and another trip to the Second District, that I decided to start putting out counties from rental cars. I had no plans of ever going to all of the counties but just wanted to have some fun sight-seeing and putting out counties as I traveled along. I would spend my winters when propagation is dead (which happens all too often in Alaska) planning and drawing up my routes for the next big adventure. I wanted to get as many counties under my belt in the limited time I had in the lower 48. As the county totals added up I saw it was indeed possible to transmit from all the counties, but it would take several years and lots of trips to be able to go to them all.

The last county I transmitted from was number 3077, Murray, OK.



Murray County is right in the middle of tornado alley, which I had avoided on all my other trips. I decided on a trip in July when the likelihood of tornados was minimal. I made it without seeing even one tornado--whew!

Over the past 9 years of traveling to all the counties I have met the nicest people in the small towns where I would end up for the night and I would see some of the coolest places that are not in the travel brochures. The best county that I ran was Kalawao, Hawaii. It is located in a park and it is very quiet and the eucalyptus trees put off a scent that totally fills the air; it is very relaxing there. The worst county to run was Arlington Virginia. I hit that county at 5 pm and learned about grid lock is the hard way.

I want to thank all the county hunters who rode along with me on the radio over the past several years for your company and encouragement. This was a dream achievement for me.

### **CH Frequencies**

Following are popular frequencies often used by County Hunters. There are no nets operated by MARAC, but you'll find many members here.

<b>SSB</b>	<b>CW</b>	<b>PSK</b>
14.336	14.056.5	14.071
7.188	7.056.5	10.139
3.901	10.122.5	7.071
18.136	3.556.5	
21.336	18.091.5	
24.936	21.056.5	
28.336	24915.5	
	28.056.5	

**Awards**

**NEW NUMBERS**

K5GE 8/29/2010 5 Star # 48  
 KI7WO 9/25/2010 USA-CW # 115  
 W0GXQ 9/12/2010 USA-CW IV # 7  
 N3HOO 9/21/2010 BINGO # 322  
 N4JT 9/24/2010 BINGO II # 72  
 WA4UNS 9/7/2010 Worked all Counties - 3rd Time # 225  
 K5GE 8/29/2010 Worked all Counties - 6thTime # 37  
 W8RCW 9/21/2010 Cliff Corne Jr. (K9EAB) Memorial # 250 USA-CA Holders  
 W8RCW 9/21/2010 Gemini - Jack Scroggins (W0SJE) # 150 2nd Time Holders

**Roadrunner Issued Per Month**

Call	Date	Count	Award	Number
NX4W		Last County Count 175	Last County Count 175	# 120
N4JT		Last County Count 750	Last County Count 750	# 13
N4CD		Last County Count 1800	Last County Count 1800	# 1
KB6UF		Last County Count 775	Last County Count 775	# 10
WQ7A		Last County Count 350	Last County Count 350	# 44
N0KV		Last County Count 225	Last County Count 225	# 83
A15P		Last County Count 875	Last County Count 875	# 6
KM9X		Last County Count 300	Last County Count 300	# 56
N9JF		Last County Count 225	Last County Count 225	# 84
		Last County Count 250	Last County Count 250	# 72
KL1V		Last County Count 900	Last County Count 900	# 5
		Last County Count 175	Last County Count 175	# 121
		Last County Count 925	Last County Count 925	# 4
		Last County Count 75	Last County Count 75	# 248
W8JJ		Last County Count 25	Last County Count 25	# 488

**History Happens**

Gary, K4EXT

September was another good month for collecting history goodies. Mark, KM6HB sent me a 1993 mobile log book as printed by the B & B Shop. Pictures came in from a variety of sources including Doug, WA4UNS ... Kent, KL1V ... Scottie, N4AAT ... and Mike, W0MU. Doug also sent me some golden-oldie newsletters from 1981! Thanks to all ... and please keep the goodies flowing my way!

Some of the pictures I receive from folks are quite unique. Mobile county hunters certainly see some interesting sites in addition to passing out county after county. The photos below are examples of what I mean ... not necessarily CH-related, but taken by CH'ers in their travels.

The photo on the left is from Bob, N8KIE while he and Jackie traveled the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of Alaska. The US Post Office in Coldfoot, AK appears pretty basic, at least on the outside. The sign states that they are open for business from 1:30pm to 6:00pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Coldfoot is little more than a truck stop on the Dalton Highway between Fairbanks and Prudhoe Bay. According to the 2000 US Census, the population of Coldfoot was a whopping 13.

The photo on the right is from Scottie, N4AAT taken on his return trip from Wisconsin this past August. In Jasper County, Illinois there exists a mug tree which Scottie spotted while heading south on highway 49. This old oak tree was converted to a mug tree in 2003. It now holds dozens of mugs which visitors have left, plus a guest book for folks to sign.



**Calendar**

(Ed; For several months I've included a graphical calendar with buttons that I have not been able to link to the contest web site. Until I solve that problem, I'll fall back to a list.)

Start date	Contest	Web site
10/2	PSK rumble	<a href="http://www.n2ty.org">www.n2ty.org</a>
10/2	CA qp	<a href="http://www.cqp.org">www.cqp.org</a>
10/9	PA qp	<a href="http://www.nittany-arc.net/paqso.html">www.nittany-arc.net/paqso.html</a>
10/9	AZ qp	<a href="http://www.azqsoparty.org">www.azqsoparty.org</a>
10/9	FISTS fall sprint	<a href="http://www.fists.org">www.fists.org</a>
10/10	Straight key sprint	<a href="http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/wes">www.skccgroup.com/sprint/wes</a>
10/10	NA RTTY sprint	<a href="http://www.ncjweb.com">www.ncjweb.com</a>
10/16	Pumpkin sprint	<a href="http://www.podxs070.com">www.podxs070.com</a>
10/16	IA qp	<a href="http://www.wa0dx.org">www.wa0dx.org</a>
10/16	NY qp	<a href="http://www.nyqp.org">www.nyqp.org</a>
10/17	IL qp	<a href="http://www.w9awe.org">www.w9awe.org</a>
10/23	10-10 CW qp	<a href="http://www.ten-ten.org">www.ten-ten.org</a>
10/27	SKCC straight key sprint	<a href="http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks">www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks</a>
10/30	10-10 digital qp	<a href="http://www.ten-ten.org">www.ten-ten.org</a>

**Thanks**

“I just want to thank everyone for their sympathy cards on the loss on my mom in August. I appreciate your thoughts and prayers – they helped eased the burden of losing mom.”

Mom was 86, was in Assisted Living in Mich, and we were so thankful we visited with her the first of June (and also attended nephew's graduation), before embarking on our trip to Alaska. She went to be with the Lord the day after we returned to Colo from the Alaska trip.

Thank you,  
Pat Mitchell N0DXE



## Dumb

One of the Dumbest Things I've Ever Done in Ham Radio  
Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Mark, W8MP, and I often argue about what's dumber—his county hunting or my collecting QSL cards from stations whose call signs spell words. It's one of those arguments that will never be won. When you get right down to it, they're both pretty dumb.

Well, one Wednesday morning, I got a call from Mark. He asked, "Hey, want to do something really dumb tonight?" When I asked what he had in mind, he replied, "Well, one of my county hunter friends, Tim, W8JJ (he's the guy looking nervous in the black cap below), claims to have confirmed all 3,077 counties. He needs at least two General Class (or higher) hams to check his QSL cards and sign off on his application for the USA-CA award sponsored by CQ magazine. I guarantee that this will be one of the dumbest things that you ever do in ham radio. I also guarantee that it will be a lot of fun."

After a fine salmon dinner with some very chewy noodles (that Mark claims his son, KD8EEH insisted that he make), we cleared the table, and Tim got out his box of cards. Mark then explained how we should proceed. I was kind of curious about this, as it's clearly impossible to check all 3,077 QSOs in a single evening.

Basically, what the two checkers are supposed to do is to check random contacts until they are satisfied that the applicant does indeed have a QSL from all 3,077 counties. To select the contacts, you might choose counties where you lived, or counties that you have visited. I hit on the idea of having Tim produced the confirmations of all 16 counties in Massachusetts. Clark, who is more familiar with which counties are the most difficult to confirm, asked Tim to produce cards from some rare counties in Colorado and Hawaii.

Above all, though, the idea is to give the applicant as much grief as possible during the process.

Mark came up with the idea of calling several county hunters that he had phone numbers for and asking them to verify in their logs some of the QSOs that Tim was claiming. He first phoned Jim, N9JF, and we asked him about a 44 report that he'd given Tim seven years ago. He wasn't near his logbook, but he said that he did remember that contact and even rattled off the county (Wahkiakum, WA)!

Next, Mark phoned Guff, KS5A, who confirmed a contact, but was off by almost seven minutes. A long discussion ensued regarding the details of how a mobile logs contacts while out driving. In the end, we accepted the seven-minute discrepancy.

Finally, Mark phoned Larry, W0QE, to confirm a few of the MRCs that Tim had from him. (MRCs are records of multiple contacts. Using them instead of QSL cards makes the process of managing all these QSLs a lot easier.) Mark joked that it looked like one of the MRCs had a forged signature. Larry replied that all of his MRCs are stamped.

"Aha," Clark exclaimed, "this MRC doesn't have a stamp!"

I don't know what was going through Tim's mind at this point, but it probably wasn't good. Larry then explained that he probably sent out that MRC before he got the stamp. When we confirmed those dates, I think Tim breathed a little easier.

In the end, Clark and I signed off on Tim's application. And, even though Mark and I joke about how dumb this activity is, it's really only a joke. In my mind, it's quite an achievement. It takes a lot of persistence, too. It took Tim nearly ten years to do it.

Another cool thing about the county hunting sub-culture is the camaraderie amongst the county hunters. It's the nature of the beast that you'll be contacting many of them multiple times, and it's inevitable that you'll make friends with many of them.

As we were leaving, Tim said, "My wife asked me the other day if I could get now get rid of all my radios since I've talked to everybody." She obviously doesn't understand this ham radio sub-culture. Tim's only just begun.



*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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