



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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From My Point of View

Joyce, WB9NUL

The fall season is going so fast. The Southeastern Mini was so relaxing. I got to meet new people and interact with old friends. Also, Jane, our daughter and John her husband came to visit. They have decided that in a couple of years they will retire to the valley and take care of Barry and me. Time will tell.

This next week will be a reunion of high school friends from Barry's graduating class that will be held at the same motel in Weslaco that the Mini and Nat'l were held. The final banquet will be at the Lone Star restaurant. This should be a fun four days.

The Awards Committee is hard at work fine tuning some awards that exist and will be working on some new ones. Keep up the good work Bob and crew! Keep an eye out on the web site about the Nat'l coming up in July. The Minnesota gang are hard at work planning an enjoyable time for us all. Also, info will be up soon on the South Central mini.

Hope you all got out and voted. Till next month Happy Turkey Day! Joyce



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Dave's Call

Thanks again to all who make these newsletters possible. Without you there'd be no RR!

At long last the calendar is an interactive graphic; click the contest and go to the website reported for the event.

Have a great Thanksgiving!



Dateline CW

Ed, KN4Y

We affirm that nothing great in county hunting has been accomplished without passion.

I am sitting in the shack listening to 20-meters waiting for a county hunter to QRV. I am looking at my Texas QSO party summary. I worked 47 no-stars, 2 Natural Bingo, and 3 new counties on 80-meters. I look at the list of the county hunters who operated mobile in the TxQP: Jim, AD4EB, Richard, K5NA, Bob, N4CD, Alan, N5NA, Ralph, N5RZ, Charlie, NO5W, Bob, W0BH, Norm, W3DYA, Ed, W5TM and Jim, N9JF who made a wrong turn and ended in Texas. I hear Gator's truck slide up to the recycled railroad tie and hear the country music stop.

Gator enters the shack carrying four super sized lattes and a cardboard box of pastries, "Any county hunters running yet?" I take a latte and take a slow sip, the stuff is still hot, "Not heard anything on 20-meters. I have been looking at my Texas QSO party results." Gator looks at the summary, "You made 226 QSO's, and you must not have napped. You never told me running a county line could be very dangerous." "There is a small element of danger, why are you asking?" "I took highway 98 and as I went from Jefferson County to Wakulla County I noticed a raccoon had been killed running the county line."

I sip my latte and give Gator the thumbs up; he is not one for four letter words. I hand him my California QSO party log. "Remember Gator I was out of town Friday and Saturday and got on the air for the CQP Sunday afternoon." We sip our Lattes as Gator checks out the CQP log. "You got seven for Bingo and the last county for fifth time around, which made it worthwhile. How about the Pennsylvania QSO party?" I hand him the log and I have a pastry covered with white sugar and filled with gooseberry jelly. "How are you and that new baker doing with CW?"

Gator ignores me, "I guess you were out of town again as you only worked the Pennsylvania party for 8 hours on Sunday. You did get the last county for fifth time around and four new counties on 80-meters, not bad. I see you worked that Dude that ran in the Texas QSO party, Norm, W3DYA." He left Texas to run in the Pennsylvania QSO party and both States benefited." (This joke is so old Al was on his first time around). Gator looks at my Iowa QSO party log. "Not bad Dude you got a natural bingo, three fifth time around and 13 for no-star. I can see State QSO parties are a great way to get no-star contacts." I shake my head in agreement. "Also county hunters like Pat, K0PC, Tim, N9BIL and Dan, KE0G, out mobile seems to make Iowa smaller. I hand him my New York QSO party log.

He does the computer thing. "I am impressed Dude, in the New York QSO party you got the last 'W' prefix, last county for fifth time around, and last 1x2 call combo. You also got 13 for the no-star award and 7 counties on 80-meters. You worked two county hunters out mobile, Gene, NT2A and Paul, WB2ABD." Gator does the Illinois QSO party log. "I see you spent Sunday afternoon operating CW and you got 31 for no-star and 4 for natural bingo. I see the county hunters were out mobile in Illinois. You show working: Roger, KF9D, Tim, N9BIL, Jeff, W9MSE, Doug, W9WI and dang Jim, N9JF, made another wrong turn." I look at the print out. "You know Gator the more CW county hunters out mobile the more fun for all." Gator nods his head in agreement.

Gator's cell goes off, "Got to go Dude the government is going to allow 15 percent ethanol in gasoline, I have to do a 24/7 schedule for next month. He is gone like a mobile county hunter whose radio fuse blows. He did not notice that Scott, KA3QLF, was also mobile in the PaQP.

I look the print out Gator handed me as he left, I see it is the list of mobiles heard during October on the CW county hunter frequencies: AA8R, AA9KH, AF3X, K0ARS, K2HVN, K4YFH, K4YT, K7RE, K8ZZ, KA3QLF, KB6TAL, KB6UF, KD8HB, KE3VV, KL1V, KM1C, KO1U, N0KV, N4CD, N4HIM, N4JT, N4PJ, N7IV, N9JF, N9QS, ND9M, NF0N, NO5W, NS7E, NT2A, W0CNL, W0GXQ, W3DQT, W3ZUH, W4HSA, W5AL, W8GEJ, W8JJ, W9MSE, W9OP, WA1IIE, WA4PGM, WB2ABD, WY7LL.

Dang it, I forgot to tell Gator that Scotty, N4AAT, got the UGLY award at the Southeast Mini. I make a note on the chalk board. I look at the contest list for this month; this is the season for contests, especially DX contests. There is the big ARRL CW sweepstakes, and the CQ world-wide CW contest. Take these contests into account when planning a county hunting trip. The Kentucky QSO party is a loner with 120 counties up for grabs. Nap time.



North to Alaska

Barry, N0KV and Pat, N0DXE

On June 2, armed with our copy of Trailer Life, The Milepost (Alaska Travel Planner), tons of maps, 2 spare tires (which thankfully we didn't need to use), we left Colorado (via Mich) with fifth wheel in tow. Since we were pulling the fifth wheel, the antennas were two ham sticks mounted in the front stake holes of the truck bed, with separate antennas for 20M and 40M with an automatic tuner. (Portable ops and statistics listed below).

We took the East Access Route to Alaska through Alberta, Canada, and at the British Columbia border (Dawson Creek), we picked up the Alaska Highway, which 1390 miles later, officially terminates at Delta Junction, Alaska. The highway is generally a 2-lane paved road with areas of construction typical of summer construction in the northern US. It was in one of these areas that we got a broken window in the side of the 5th wheel along with a large golf ball sized chip in the front truck window.

Since we were on a leisurely pace, we not only soaked up the scenery, but made numerous stops. A few of those were: Liard Hot Springs, where we took a dip in the hot pool, to the Sign Forest at Watson Lake (started by a homesick GI helping build the Alaska Hwy during WWII), to Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, where we took in the vaudeville show, Frantic Follies and had the window repaired on the 5th wheel.

Although most of the Alaska Highway was in good shape, a section north of Whitehorse to the Alaska border was full of frost heaves so we spent a day bouncing along, before we made it to Tok, the first major town in Alaska (Fourth Jud. District). At the campground in Tok we were entertained by singer Dave Stancliff, a local favorite. From there, we made a quick stop at Delta Junction, the official terminus of the Alaska Highway, before continuing on to Fairbanks.

In Fairbanks, we spent about 10 days site-seeing and operating both mobile and portable. Fortunately, we were able to set up portable ops at our campground. The portable antenna was a 33 ft base fed vertical antenna (on our class 3 trailer hitch), fed with a 4-1 balun and an automatic antenna tuner (similar to one marketed by S9antennas.com.)

Leaving the 5th wheel at the campground in Fairbanks, we started north toward the Second District - the adventure begins! Eleven miles north of Fairbanks, we caught the Elliott Highway (all paved) and 73 miles later, we connected with the Dalton Highway or "Haul Road." The Dalton (total length 415 miles) is mostly gravel with the exception of 85 miles of pavement and potholes!!! Any 18-wheelers we encountered were courteous and few and far between.

After a long day of driving (including a stop to have our pictures taken at the Arctic Circle sign), we hi-tailed it to the Second District, 237 miles up the Dalton. Since it was getting late, we operated just past the North Borough sign, and thankfully the conditions were good since we were essentially in a valley. Boy, when Johnny Horton sang: "North to Alaska, going north the rush is on," he hadn't encountered the rush of county hunters anxiously waiting to work the Second District. After operating for several hours Sunday evening, we backtracked south 45 miles to Wiseman, population 14, where we had B&B reservations (thanks to a tip from Bob/N8KIE). After a good night's rest and breakfast of sourdough pancakes and eggs, it was back up to the Second District, this time operating portable from a high spot known as Chandalar Shelf (spectacular location with a large valley to one side with mountains in the backdrop). Then it was back to the B&B for another night's rest before heading back down the Dalton to Fairbanks.

In Fairbanks, we picked up the fifth wheel and headed to the Third District – via Denali NP to Anchorage. In Anchorage, we had breakfast with Kent, KL1V and Bruce, KL7D. Kent was returning from a stateside trip.

From Anchorage, we headed to the Kenai Peninsula, where we spent several days site-seeing and fishing. Then it was back through Anchorage (not a whole lot of roads in Alaska), and to Haines, Alaska (First District), where we spent several days. Again, we were able to set up the portable antenna at the campground, so we operated both mobile and portable. We also took the opportunity to go to Juneau one day via a high speed catamaran complete with whale watching (porpoises and seals too) and attended the SE Alaska State Fair. And, according to Pat, a trip to Alaska would not be complete without seeing a grizzly. So, we headed out to the local bear watching area which proved fruitful on the second attempt!!

After having way too much fun, it was time to hit the road and head home. I think we worked everyone who needed Alaska counties, with the exception of one or two folks (sorry we weren't able to give out MP yet). Will there be another trip to Alaska – maybe in another 5 years!

Here are the stats from the trip:

Total number of miles driven: 13,975

Total SSB QSOs in Alaska: 385

Total CW QSOs in Alaska: 257

Other: 4 (Pat & Barry working on 2M)

QSOs from First District: 174

QSOs from Second District: 206

QSOs from Third District: 114

QSOs from Fourth District: 152



Hawaii

Kent's, KL1V Trip to the Hawaiian counties

In 2008 I decided to run all of the counties in Hawaii. I had been looking into how long it would take, with the least amount of flying between the islands, to run all of them in a 10 day period. I found it was indeed possible to visit the 5 counties, on the 4 islands, and still be able to make it back home within the 14 days I had off from work.

I decided on going to Hawaii in September because hotel and rental car rates were more reasonable. So after a few days of searching the internet for rooms, car rentals and airline tickets I set my plan into action. My researched found that I was allowed only 1 checked bag between Honolulu and Molokai Island; so this trip was going to be done out of 1 suitcase and 1 carryon bag that contained 2 complete radio set ups and all the electronics needed to put out counties. (The carryon for the flight to Molokai was checked as "A la Cart" and thus I was able to avoid the 1 bag limit).

The trip to Hawaii went well except that the first day was very very long. After working (yea - I know - a bad word) 12 hours I had a 6 hour drive to Anchorage. The flight to Seattle left around 1 AM and it connected with my flight to Honolulu, which was another 6 hour trip. I was a little tired when I finally got off the plane and got a taxi to my hotel. The next morning my rental car was waiting for me at the hotel and there was no holding me back now - the adventure begins! I decided to go to the Eastern side of the island so I would have a clear ocean shot to the mainland.



Honolulu County looking East

Signals were not strong but I was able to make 24 contacts on SSB/CW. I had allowed myself 1 day of putting out this county because it the easiest one for folks to work.

The next day was an early flight to Molokai Island on Island Airlines. It only takes about 20 minuetts to get to Molokai from the Honolulu airport. I was advised by Bob (N8KIE) to try to get the rental car as soon as I got off the plane because there are a limited number of cars available and they are rented out on a first come first serve basis. If they run out you are out of luck till someone checks one back in. So off I went the to the Budget rental car office to get a car I was the 3rd in line and was able to score my car. The line was quite long behind me because the people waited to get

their luggage before renting a car. Then I proceeded across the street to get my bag and carryon which was waiting outside on a big long bench that it used for the luggage rack. I was off to check into the only hotel that was in operation on the island. I made a phone call to K9FD who was living on the island and he agreed to meet me and show me where the Kalawao/ Maui county line is located.



Maui/Kalawao County line

Merv advised me that the county line passes thru exactly where the car is parked. The county line is in a real quiet part of the island away from all power lines and very little traffic. There are several picnic tables in the area and it is surrounded by eucalyptus trees, so the whole area smells like cough drops.

On the way back to the hotel there is a coffee plantation and a nice store that sells fresh brewed coffee and sandwiches, so that is all a county hunter needs for the long day of county hunting - except for maybe a cold beer!

When I got back to the hotel I was greeted by several geckos that were in my room checking out my luggage. It is a good thing they are around because they dine on the local bug population - I didn't see a single "bug" during my stay. During my 3 days on the island I was able to make 102 contacts on 20 and 40 meters.

The next leg of my odyssey took me to the big island of Hawaii and Hawaii County. I had to fly back to Honolulu to catch an Hawaiian Airlines flight for the trip to Kona, pick up a different rental car and reinstall all the radio gear all over again. There is a huge volcano in between the Kona side of the island and the mainland so I decided to stay 1 night at a hotel in Hilo. I was lucky because there is a park located next to the hotel that was a perfect spot and very quiet.



Hawaii County looking East from Hilo

From Hawaii I made 39 contacts on 20 meters before driving back to Kona (stopping at every coffee place I could find and buying beans to take back to Alaska with me). I had to stay the night in Kona because of the early morning flight to the last island - Kauai. This meant that I had to fly back to Honolulu and get on another plane for Kauai.

Kauai was the most scenic island I visited on this trip, but there are no hotels on the Eastern side of the island so I had to settle for the Southern side - as far East as I could get. The hotel was right next to a beach/park so it was also a quiet spot to operate.



Kauai County looking Southeast

I had 3 days to operate from Kauai before my long flight to Seattle then back to Alaska. I was able to make 62 contacts on 20 and 17 meters.

Thanks to everyone who pointed their antennas to the West to pick up my weak mobile signal.



Calendar

~ November 2010 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Only starting dates shown	1	2	3	4	5	6 RCA qp ARRL cw sweep
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 KY qp
14 Strt key spr	15	16	17	18	19	20 ARRL ssb sweep
21	22 Run for bacon	23	24 SKCC strt key spr	25	26	27 CQ ww cw
28	29	30	Notes:			

New Members

MARAC Number

R4438
R4439
R4440

Callsign

VE2MAM
OK2PAY
KI2G

Name

Gilles Larche
Lada Prajsner
Bob Hynes

Birthdays

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
VE9DH	Nov - 01
W2NWL	Nov - 01
K8HM	Nov - 01
K9ETB	Nov - 01
NE9DHx	Nov - 01
N4PN	Nov - 01
K4SMT	Nov - 02
N5DWI	Nov - 03
W7TSM	Nov - 03
W9LHG	Nov - 03
AD0H	Nov - 03
W4WNT	Nov - 03
K0KY	Nov - 04
K0TE	Nov - 04
W0EAR	Nov - 04
KA3MMM	Nov - 04
WA2AKB	Nov - 04
KI7AO	Nov - 04
KB2KBC	Nov - 05
NY2L	Nov - 05
KM1C	Nov - 05
N6VH	Nov - 06
KQ4DR	Nov - 06
N0LN	Nov - 06
N0COL	Nov - 06
NI0G	Nov - 06
W9KP	Nov - 06
WU4S	Nov - 06
N1API	Nov - 06
KE3ND	Nov - 06
KB1PA	Nov - 06
AA4FU	Nov - 07
N9EB	Nov - 07
KW0U	Nov - 07
WA3QVJ	Nov - 08
WB5KEA	Nov - 08
WB5CYS	Nov - 08
W9GN	Nov - 08
W5VEO	Nov - 08
K7OC	Nov - 09
WO8L	Nov - 09

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
N6SFV	Nov - 09
KE9CA	Nov - 09
K5LAM	Nov - 10
W6ISQ	Nov - 10
K1DAN	Nov - 10
NX4W	Nov - 10
N8DW	Nov - 10
NT9V	Nov - 10
WB6EXT	Nov - 11
W5UGD	Nov - 11
W3SQA	Nov - 11
W4SD	Nov - 11
NJ6V	Nov - 11
WG6X	Nov - 11
AD6PB	Nov - 11
KM6GF	Nov - 12
NU7V	Nov - 12
W5IOO	Nov - 12
N7PJP	Nov - 13
WB0AXN	Nov - 13
N5MJ	Nov - 13
WB9STT	Nov - 13
N4XML	Nov - 13
AA0TG	Nov - 13
KC5DSP	Nov - 14
W5RBO	Nov - 14
K4JP	Nov - 14
NE8Z	Nov - 15
KU4VP	Nov - 15
W1VET	Nov - 15
W6ROY	Nov - 15
KA9FDV	Nov - 16
N8AIL	Nov - 16
N8TW	Nov - 16
WA5AUR	Nov - 16
K7BOI	Nov - 17
N4LZ	Nov - 17
WB2AXG	Nov - 17
N5TT	Nov - 17
N7LYR	Nov - 17
K2RP	Nov - 17

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
W8LSV	Nov - 17
N9VIB	Nov - 17
AK9L	Nov - 17
WB9ZHS	Nov - 17
K0JN	Nov - 17
AC9X	Nov - 17
W4TYO	Nov - 17
W4XT	Nov - 17
K6JEN	Nov - 18
N4KE	Nov - 18
W6TCD	Nov - 18
NF0N	Nov - 18
W6SJR	Nov - 19
N7SJ	Nov - 19
N7BVQ	Nov - 19
KS4BO	Nov - 19
W9DM	Nov - 19
KC5P	Nov - 20
K0JCK	Nov - 20
WL7EM	Nov - 20
N9DEH	Nov - 20
WB5YDH	Nov - 20
W8TE	Nov - 21
KE7TI	Nov - 21
K0LU	Nov - 21
W2WC	Nov - 21
KM6D	Nov - 22
W7WBZ	Nov - 22
KI8V	Nov - 22
W8DCH	Nov - 23
W4EAS	Nov - 23
W5ETM	Nov - 23
VE3HMK	Nov - 23
KK7X	Nov - 23
K0CIE	Nov - 23
NT2A	Nov - 23
W1TEE	Nov - 23
N4LM	Nov - 24
VE1BES	Nov - 24
KM4JA	Nov - 24
WB2DSM	Nov - 24

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
KB9FBI	Nov - 24
KK5CP	Nov - 25
AB4LG	Nov - 25
KE7YF	Nov - 26
W4GP	Nov - 26
W6SA	Nov - 26
KC6AWX	Nov - 26
AI9Y	Nov - 27
AK5PP	Nov - 27
WV1Y	Nov - 27
AA9ZF	Nov - 27
KB0WD	Nov - 27
K7SN	Nov - 27
K0JIM	Nov - 28
K0WJ	Nov - 28
KI7S	Nov - 28
KE3VV	Nov - 28
N9HRX	Nov - 28
WA8SCO	Nov - 28
W2VX	Nov - 28
KD8NR	Nov - 29
N2CT	Nov - 29
KD1EJ	Nov - 29
W3WG	Nov - 29
K9AAA	Nov - 29
W9UR	Nov - 29
W3DLM	Nov - 30
KX8Z	Nov - 30
KN9V	Nov - 30
W1OZ	Nov - 30
WY8I	Nov - 30

**Treasurer's Report
September 30, 2010**

Funds Balance August 31, 2010 **\$13,323.40**

Income:

Money Market Interest	\$1.91
Logger Distribution	\$105.00
Awards Manager Income (AA8R)	\$1,083.00
National Convention Returned Funds	\$1,985.52
	<u>\$3,175.43</u>



Expenses:

Awards Manager Expenses	\$760.12
Print Right (40 units @ \$5.01 x 12 = \$60.12/year)	\$200.40
	<u>\$960.52</u>

Account Balances **\$14,455.31**

Checking Account \$3,918.82

Money Market Account \$11,619.49

\$15,538.31

Note:

The following monies are not included in the above:

Awards Chairman's Funds \$1,500.00

**Awards Manager's Report
September 30, 2010**

Funds Balance August 31, 2010 **\$1,500.00**

Income \$1,073.00
\$1,073.00

Expenses:

Office supplies	\$468.22
Plaque Suppliers	\$493.00
Postage	\$298.53
	<u>\$1259.75</u>



Sent to Treasurer \$1,073.00

Reimbursement received from Treasurer \$1259.75

Funds Balance August 31, 2010 **\$1,500.00**

History Happens

Gary, K4EXT

Thanks again to folks that sent me photos from their collections and archives. John, W5UGD sent me a slew of pics he found from the 1980's and beyond ... Carl, W9OO sent me a bunch of individual CH'er pics ... and Terry, WQ7A updated me with pictures of himself and his (yawn) toys.

One of the pictures Carl, W9OO sent me not long ago caught my attention again recently. The MARAC Annual Convention was held in Indianapolis, Indiana in July 1988. Well, I lived in Indy from age ½ to around age 26. I can't say that I really miss the Hoosier state in any way ... it was the blizzard of 1978 that finally got me out of the snow-belt and into the sun-belt! But Indy is where I was raised, and it was neat to see that at least one of the conventions was held in Nap Town.

This 1988 convention was actually a pretty big deal. The announcement from convener Herb, WD9GBH (now W9GBH) in the March 1988 Roadrunner was eight (8) pages long! The early-registration prize was a Kenwood TS-140S HF transceiver ... the convention Grand Prize was yet another TS-140S! Activities surrounding the Indy convention included trips to Conner Prairie Farm, the Indianapolis 500 Motor Speedway, and the Indianapolis Zoo (yes, I still have kin-folk who reside at that place). One count said 151 registrations were received for the convention and 237 banquet tickets sold!

Tim, N9DEH was named County Hunter of the Year (CHOTY) as well as SSB Mobile of the Year. The pre-registration TS-140S was won by Al, KG5J and the Grand Prize TS-140S was won by Norm, W6NNV (SK). Other prizes included several cash awards, a very nice afghan, and an Icom HT.q

It should be noted that Ed, KN4Y failed to receive any prize even though everyone else at his banquet table won something. I'm not sure how his investigation of this obvious conspiracy is going 22 years after-the-fact, although the undercover code name "Gator" has shown up on many secret MARAC documents!



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 **Valid 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 Contacts** 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.

MOBILE DIAMOND AWARD Q&A

(Q1) Do I have to earn the Master Platinum Award before I can start working on the Mobile Diamond Award?

(A1) **YES.** The Special Rule that applies says:

An applicant must make **Valid 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.

(Q2) When I work another Master Platinum holder, can both of us count both counties toward the Master Diamond Award?

(A2) **YES.** A different part of the same Special Rule applies:

An applicant must make **Valid 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.

(Q3) Do I have to work another Master Platinum holder on both bands to get Mobile Diamond credit for transmitting from a county?

(A3) **NO.** The requirement is to make one (1) contact with an MP holder from each of 500 different counties using either one of the two required bands (this makes sense because of the difference in propagation distances on different bands):

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.**

(Q4) Do I have to run my MP counties on the same day on the two different bands?

(A4) **NO.** Although it probably makes sense to run both bands on the same day (i.e., at the same time), there is no requirement in the rules to do it on the same day. The applicable Special Rule makes no mention of doing it on the same day or the same month or the same year (and you can't read something into a rule that isn't there). You don't get credit for transmitting from the county until you run it on at least two bands. The rule:

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**.

(Q5) Do I have to make all three valid contacts from a transmitted county on the same day?

(A5) **NO.** This seems like a silly question, but (as we know), there are no silly questions. There is no requirement in the rule to make all three contacts at the same time (and once again, you cannot read something into a rule that is not there, even if it seems logical to you). Of course, it makes more sense to do it all on the same day, and most of the time it will happen that way, but the multiple contact rule is not dependent on the time or date of the contacts... it just requires three contacts on each band using at least two bands

(Q6) Do I have to work different stations on the different bands or could I work the same three stations on both bands?

(A6) **NO.** Once again, that scenario depends a lot on propagation, but as long as you are working multiple stations on each band, you are complying with the rule. The rule requiring contacts with different stations is to be sure that everyone understands that you can't just make multiple contacts with the same station on the same band and get credit for the county. This rule was written to be consistent with the intent of the award to encourage county hunters who already have a lot of awards to continue to put out counties for other county hunters. The rule:

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.

(Q7) Do I have to make a contact with another Master Platinum holder on one of the same two bands that I make the other contacts?

(A7) **NO.** This is another example of making sure you are not reading more into a rule than is actually written. The different requirements are independent. The rule says that the MP contact may be on either of the two required bands – but it does not say it must be on one of those two bands. You could make a valid

contact with another MP holder on 40m CW and make three other contacts on 20m SSB and three other contacts on 75m CW and you would have completed the Mobile Diamond requirements for (a) making a MP contact and (b) transmitting from that county on two different bands and making contacts with at least three different stations on each band.

(Q8) Do I have to be mobile for any of the contacts I make for the Mobile Diamond Award?

(A8) **NO.** This may seem strange (given that the name of the award is the Mobile Diamond Award and it is sponsored by the Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club), but that is not a requirement of the award. You could make contacts with mobile MP holders while those MP holders are in 3076 other counties and you are fixed in your county. Then you could be fixed or portable in 500 different counties for the requirement to transmit from those 500 different counties. It may seem unlikely, but this way it would allow someone who does not actually have a mobile set-up to travel to 500 different counties and make contacts from each county using another ham's fixed station. You could also travel around the country and make contacts from portable rigs on Field Day in 500 counties.

(Q9) Can I run 500 counties on Band A and 500 different counties on Band B and count those 1000 different counties toward the Mobile Diamond transmitted counties requirement?

(A9) **NO.** The requirement is for at least two bands from the same 500 counties. Of course these are minimum requirements for the award... the more counties that you put out using more bands and modes, the better for all county hunters (as well as the automobile dealers, tire shops, gas stations, motels, fast food joints, and all of the other segments of the economy that benefit from mobile county hunting).

(Q10) So, in summary, that means that after I get my MP number, I can make a fixed or mobile contact with another MP holder on any band at any time using any mode and count both counties for my Mobile Diamond contact requirement. Then, on a different day on a different band (using any mode), I can transmit from a county and make valid contacts with any three stations, and that fulfills the Mobile Diamond requirement for one transmitted county on one band. I still need to make three contacts from that county with any three stations on a different band before I can count that county as transmitted for Mobile Diamond. My check list for each county is:

___ One contact with another MP holder on any day on any band on any mode from each county in the USA or when either the other MP holder is in the county or I am in the county.

___ Make contacts with any three stations on any day on Band A on any mode while I am transmitting (fixed or mobile or portable) from that county. I need at least 500 different counties.

___ Make contacts with any three stations on any day on Band B on any mode while I am transmitting (fixed or mobile or portable) from the same 500 counties as Band A.

(A10) **Yes..**

Awards

USA-CA		
To Call	Award Date	Certificate Number
VA3XOV	9/29/10	1204
W4SIG	10/11/2010	1205
NU4C	10/22/2010	1206

To Call	Date	Award	Number
WQ7A	10/5/2010	Cliff Corne Jr. (K9EAB) Memorial	# 503 USA-CA Holders
KO1U	9/28/2010	DX Mobile	# 105 Countries
WY7LL	10/20/2010	Gemini - Jack Scroggins (W0SJE)	# 265 2nd Time Holders
WQ7A	10/22/2010	Master Platinum	# 11
KB6UF	10/26/2010	Master Platinum	# 12
W9MSE	10/7/2010	Master's Gold	# 45
W4SIG	10/10/2010	USA-CW	# 117
K5GE	10/5/2010	USA-CW	# 116
N5KGY	10/28/2010	BINGO II	# 75
KD8HB	10/16/2010	BINGO II	# 74
N4RS	10/10/2010	BINGO II	# 73
NF0N	10/16/2010	Worked all Counties - 3rd Time	# 226

Roadrunner Issued Per Month				
Call	Date	Count	Award	
K4YFH	10/14/2010	Last County Count 25	Last County Count 25	# 489
K8ZZ	10/13/2010	Last County Count 250	Last County Count 250	# 73
KO1U	10/13/2010	Last County Count 200	Last County Count 200	# 101
NM2L	10/13/2010	Last County Count 75	Last County Count 75	# 249
N0KV	10/13/2010	Last County Count 250	Last County Count 250	# 74
K2HVN	10/14/2010	Last County Count 575	Last County Count 575	# 24
N4CD	6/27/2010	Last County Count 1800	Last County Count 1800	# 1
W9MSE	10/14/2010	Last County Count 275	Last County Count 275	# 63
AI5P	10/25/2010	Last County Count 900	Last County Count 900	# 6
KC1NA	10/27/2010	Last County Count 800	Last County Count 800	# 9
N8KIE	10/25/2010	Last County Count 650	Last County Count 650	# 19
KF5AT	10/24/2010	Last County Count 75	Last County Count 75	# 251
N9QPQ	10/24/2010	Last County Count 950	Last County Count 950	# 4
W7GQK	10/24/2010	Last County Count 75	Last County Count 75	# 250
W0GXQ	10/27/2010	Last County Count 525	Last County Count 525	# 28



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 25th!

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