



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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Volume XLI

May 2011

Number 5

From My Point of View Joyce, WB9NUL

April radio conditions in South Texas on 20 meters seem to be an improvement from what we have experienced in the last several months. Perhaps the conditions really are getting better. It was nice to work the mobiles who were on the way to the Michigan mini. Hope everyone had a good time.

I hope all of you are safe and sound and had no damage from the numerous tornados and the flooding that has occurred thru the states. We lost the top of our vertical to high winds (gusts over 50 m.p.h.)! We still are praying for rain as our county is in severe drought!

I wish to thank all of you who sent birthday wishes to me. I had a great day as Barry hosted a party and invited my stitching buddies for a day of stitching and a great meal! Needless to say, a great time was had by all.

Don't forget about Duluth and the National Convention. I look forward to seeing you all.

73, Joyce WB9NUL



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Dave's Call

Wow. What an April weatherwise! Sadly, Hollis, KC3X appears to have lost everything. Unfortunately, historically May is worse than April. Let's hope not. Dan, KB6NU, is not a CHer but he regularly puts out articles for club publication. Once in a while I put one here -- see "Story Project."

Dave KU4YM



Dateline CW

Ed, KN4Y

CW county hunting is an art, and the greatest of the arts.

I turn the radio on and set it to the county hunter's 20-meter CW net frequency when I hear Gator's truck stop at the recycled railroad tie. Gator comes into the radio shack bearing gifts of large lattes and pastries. "Good timing Gator, I was just getting ready to look at the logs from our Rover roaming during the Georgia QSO party." Gator hands me a latte. "Whoa Gator this is not from the Bad Ass Coffee shop." "Sure is Dude, it is the same shop with a different owner and a different name." We raise our cups to salute the memory of Bad Ass Coffee.

Gator turns on the computer as we sip our latte. "Look here Dude, this is a video of the destruction of the residence of Hollis, KC3X." "That is an awful happening so this Sunday I will light a candle for their quick recovery." "Nice gesture Dude." Gator is now looking at the Georgia QSO party log. "Not bad Dude, we made 891 QSO's, worked 47 multipliers for a total of 83,754 points. We worked 15 through 80-meters getting the most or 579 QSO's on 20-meters. You worked from 22 Georgia counties. I told you letting Bubba put that red clay on the van did the trick. In Georgia you cannot stay and play with out clay, red that is." I cannot argue with Gator it was a pile-up from county line to county line. I give Gator a stack of mail and he goes to the log to check the MRC's. When he is done checking I sign the MRC's and put the envelopes in the mail bin.

Gator picks up a large white envelope and opens it and takes out a certificate, "We got tenth place in the world in the Ten-Ten International Net mobile QSO party, but we came in last." "Yes, but who would want a certificate that states; Last Place in the World." Gator shakes his head in agreement and opens another large white envelope and removes a certificate. "This is for third place CW mobile with driver for a K4O." "That was last years Florida QSO party and remember I used the call K4O in memory of INK, N3OO." "Yes I remember, you made 1258 QSO's and only got third." "Remember Gator I am running against members of the Florida Contest Group, who run mobile doing CW left handed and Digital Right handed, while sipping coffee through a straw." "You also make a lot of mistakes transcribing your log."

I give Gator the evil eye and bite the ear off a chocolate bunny that survived Easter. "Take a look at the Missouri QSO party log." "You made 52 CW contacts and worked 29 Missouri counties. But you did get 7 QSO's for No-Star, 2 new counties on 80-meters and one for fifth time around." I hand Gator a bunny ear. "Now look at the Michigan QSO party log." "You worked a bunch of stations but only got 8 No-Star but you did get your last 1x2 call sign." "That is better than a chocolate bunny on a hot day, here is my Ontario QSP party log." "You only got six contacts, guess they don't like you." "Not really, I listened a lot and worked all the stations I heard. Here look at my South Dakota QSO

party log.” Gator starts laughing. “Good thing KD8S and K7RE were mobile in South Dakota or your score would have been four.” Gator’s cell phone goes off. “Got to go Dude, problem in the second stage. We will get to the FQP logs next time.” Gator is gone like an ice sculpture on Miami Beach in July.

I hear the printer start. It is a list of the mobiles heard running on the CW county hunters frequencies in April; AA8R, AC8W, AF3X, AI5P, K0ARS, K2HVN, K4YFH, K7RE, K7TM, K8AO, K8ZZ, K9JWV, KA4RRU, KB0BA, KB6TAL, KB6UF, KC7YB, KC6YE, KG4VBK, KL1V, KM1C, N0AX, N4CD, N4JJ, N4JT, N5XG, N6HH, N7IV, N9JF, NN9K, NX4C, W0EAR, W0GXQ, W0MU, W0NAC, W3DQT, W4SIG, W7FEN, W9MSE, W0OP, WA1IIE, WA4UNS, WA7JHQ.

I look at the contest calendar to see what May contests are on tap for the CW county hunter. There is the 10-10 Spring CW contest which I plan to do full time. The State QSO parties are Indiana and Nevada along with the 7th area, Zero land and New England. The big CW contest is the CW World Wide WPX contest at the end of the month. The King of Spain CW contest for those with a flare for DX. Too much chocolate, nap time.



MARAC 2011 Annual Voting

We are currently voting for the MARAC position of:

South Central Director: Barry Mitchell - N0KV

I did not receive any nominations for the positions of Great Lakes Director or North Central Director.

Voting will be taking place during the month of May only. Voting online is preferred at <http://www.marac.org/elections/default.asp> I will also be accepting mailed ballots postmarked during the month of May. Only eligible MARAC members residing in the districts described in 1.1 c (1-7) of the MARAC By Laws may vote for that District Director representing their District

The voting page on the MARAC website will be available starting May 1st thru May 31st. 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:

Kent Reinke –KL1V

MARAC Election Coordinator

Po 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.

During the month of June you will be voting for the CW and SSB County Hunter Of The Year and for the 4th Quarter Best Net Controls, Mobiles and Teams.



History Happens

Gary, K4EXT

The 2011 South-Central and Michigan Mini Conventions are now history, but coming up soon will be the National Convention in Minnesota as well as the South-East Mini in South Carolina.

Over the past 40+ years there have been various other conventions too ... such as the North-East Mini, the North-West Mini, the North-Central Mini, the Pacific Mini, and the 3M's. These are the ones I have discovered thus far ... maybe there are others!

The first National Convention of the Independent County Hunters Net was held the weekend of July 4th, 1969 in Mountain Home, Arkansas. Note that this was before MARAC had been officially formed.

However, several CH folks got together earlier in Jackson, Mississippi on March 8th and 9th, 1969 as a pre-cursor to that first ICHN National Convention. Primary organizers of this get-together were Steve Cope, K5KDG (USA-CA #45, MARAC #C-73, subsequent host to the 1st ICHN National Convention) and Paul Newberry, W4YWX (USA-CA #15, MARAC #C-100, currently N4PN).

The entire group is remembered in an old black-n-white photo as shown below:



Back Row: K4ARF, WB4KGJ, WA4FAT, W5PWG, W4YWX, W5POH
Front Row: K5KDG, WA4AFP, WA4LMR, K7ZJP, W5HDK, W4NXD, WØYLN, W4RMT

National

**43rd Annual MARAC National Convention
Duluth, Minnesota. Wed. July 6th – Sunday July 10, 2011
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites**

Name _____ Call _____ USACA # _____

Address _____ City _____ ST/PROV _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone # _____

Registration Fee Includes: one name badge, one Ham prize ticket, one cash prize ticket **\$25.00**

Additional Name Badges **Total number of additional badges** _____ X **\$3.00** = \$ _____

Badge Name _____ Call Sign or other designation _____ USACA # _____

Badge Name _____ Call Sign or other designation _____ USACA # _____

Desired photos mailed: Group _____ USACA Holders _____ YL _____ CW Ops _____ X **\$5.00** = \$ _____

E-mailed Photos are FREE

EXTRA PRIZE TICKETS - Raise your chances of winning the "BIG ONE"

Ham prize tickets - Single tickets # _____ X \$1.00 = \$ _____ 12 tickets # _____ X \$10.00 = \$ _____ 25 tickets # _____ X \$20.00

Cash prize tickets - Single tickets # _____ X \$1.00 = \$ _____ 12 tickets # _____ X \$10.00 = \$ _____ 25 tickets # _____ X \$20.00

Wednesday, July 6th Dinner at Grandma's Restaurant Canal Park - 5:00 pm (Pay your own bill) # _____ attending

Thursday, July 7th Soudan Underground Mine & Neutrino Lab Tours – Tower, MN # _____ X\$ 45.00 = \$ _____
(All day tour 7am – 4pm, lunch will be provided - circle which meat you prefer: turkey ham beef)

Friday, July 8th Glensheen Mansion Tour – 8:30 am – 11:00 am # _____ X\$ 20.00 = \$ _____

Duluth Vista Harbor Cruise – 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm # _____ X\$ 20.00 = \$ _____

Saturday, July 9th V.E. Test Session 10:00am - Free - Circle which test(s) you would like to take: TECH GEN EXTRA

Awards Banquet

(Happy Hour 5pm – 6pm - Cash bar, Dinner Served at 6:00 pm)

Grilled 8oz Top Sirloin Steak # _____ X \$25.00 = \$ _____ Northwood's Walleye # _____ X \$24.00 = \$ _____

Chicken Marsala # _____ X \$22.00 = \$ _____

Includes tip and taxes

Your Payment (Do not send cash) **Total \$ _____**

Make checks payable to Brian Bird - MARAC Convention

Mail this form and your payment to: Brian Bird, 4567 Caribou Lake Rd., Duluth, MN 55811-9607

Question, Comments, call Shari – 218-340-2431 or e-mail duluth2011@aol.com

EARLY REGISTRATION Register before **May 15, 2011** to get a chance for the early bird drawing!

Hotel Reservations – call Holiday Inn direct **1-800-477-7089 / 1-218-722-1202**

Mention "MARAC" cut-off date June 15

Queen Rooms (2 beds) \$94 + taxes, King Suites (1 bed) \$94 + taxes (**Group Code = MAR**)

<http://ichotelsgroup.com/redirect?path=rates&brandCode=HI®ionCode=1&localeCode=en&GPC=MAR&hotelCode=DULMN&PMID=99801505>

Mark your calendars and save the date to attend,



*The 43RD MARAC National Convention
July 6th – July 9th, 2011 Duluth, MN*

(Deadline for Early Registration Prize Drawing is May 15th, 2011)

Holiday Inn & Suites, 200 West First St. Duluth, MN 55802

1-800-477-7089 / 1-218-722-1202



Relax in comfort while you're visiting Duluth, Minnesota. Our hotel's accommodations include free high-speed Internet access in each room, plus cable TV with HBO and PPV. You can work at the desk or snuggle into the cozy, triple-sheeted bed. The refrigerator makes it easy to store snacks and drinks. Room rate \$94 + tax per night, Queen or King. **Group Code = MAR** When making reservation be sure to mention MARAC



Pets are welcome. One-time, non-refundable deposit/cleaning fee. We ask that you leave the hotel a cell phone number where they can reach you. Please do not bring your pet without notifying the front desk staff. Deposit \$25.00 USD per stay.

Wednesday evening dinner



Please join us Wednesday night at 5:00 pm at Grandma's Saloon and Grill, down at Canal Park; this is a great place to eat and sight see. This will be a pay your own way. After dinner you can take a walk along the lake walk, take a carriage ride, or sit and watch one of the big ships come into port under the Aerial lift bridge.



Thursdays Tour to Tower, MN
Soudan Underground Mine & Neutrino Physics Lab



Minnesota's first iron ore mine – the Soudan Mine– opened in 1882. The mine's value was in the special kind of ore it produced. The ore's high oxygen content was used to make high-quality steel in open-hearth furnaces. When technology changed; the ore from the mine was no longer needed. Soudan Mine stopped mining ore in 1962. Today you can explore the last level that the miners worked.



Have you ever wondered about the "dark" or "missing" matter of the universe? The high energy physics tour takes you 1/2 mile underground to a lab where physicists and engineers from around the world are trying to answer questions about how the universe works.

Fridays Tours:
Morning Tour - Glensheen Mansion



Welcome to Glensheen, the historic Congdon estate. Along the shore of Lake Superior, a 7acre expanse of wooded land enfolds the 39-room Jacobean Revival mansion that is Minnesota's premier historic house museum. The 1972 horror film "You'll like my Mother" was filmed at Glensheen, starring Patty Duke as a widow who travels to Duluth to meet her mother-in-law and, instead, makes a chilling discovery!

Afternoon Tour – Duluth Superior Harbor Cruise



Take in all the activity and spectacular scenery in the hard working Duluth and Superior Harbor. Our sightseeing tours are not to be missed! Our crew will provide a fun and unique experience to all passengers when sailing aboard a Vista Fleet vessel. Learn about the Harbor, Duluth's history, the science and ecology of Lake Superior and enjoy the panoramic views of the North Shore and the largest freshwater lake in North America.

Transportation



If you plan on flying into Duluth, we have: Delta, United or Allegiant to choose from, or If you plan to fly into Minneapolis and drive, we are 2 ½ hrs north of the Twin Cities.

Test Session



For those that would like to take a test or upgrade, we would like to offer you a chance to do so on Saturday morning at 10:00 am.

Test session is open to anyone that would like to participate. Testing is provided by: The Arrowhead Amateur Radio Club – Duluth / Superior. Please circle which exam(s) that you are interested in taking on the registration form. Get those books out and start studying.

FYI: Make sure you study for the NEW general test which takes effect July 1st.

Saturday Night Awards Banquet

We will be offering 3 different meal options:

Grilled 8 oz Top Sirloin Steak with Mushroom Ragot



Northwood's Walleye topped with Toasted Almond Butter



Chicken Marsala seasoned in clarified butter with garlic, shallot, fresh mushroom, and sweet Marsala wine, served on pasta with fresh vegetable and rich veal demi.



All entrees include tossed greens, bakery fresh bread, fresh seasonal vegetable and Chef's choice of appropriate starch or natural grain pilaf, coffee, tea and milk. There will be a cash bar open throughout the evening. Each of these meals were very tasty.



If you have any further questions please email Brian or Shari at:

Duluth2011@aol.com



National Addendum

This may be your last chance to do an Early Bird Registration. Remember the Early Bird prize is a Davis Vue wireless Weather Station.

Brian and Shari have added DXCC, WAS and VUCC card checking to the National events list. Bring your cards along with you.

New Members

MARAC Number

R4455

Callsign

K9WI

Name

John Kaiser



Birthdays

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
N1CP	May - 01
KB9ER	May - 01
K9GI	May - 01
W8WVU	May - 01
AD5WI	May - 01
AC7DC	May - 02
K5IW	May - 02
KF5EH	May - 02
KA5AGM	May - 02
KC2RNA	May - 02
W5AL	May - 03
VA3XOV	May - 03
N2DFC	May - 04
KA1JPR	May - 04
VE3KZE	May - 04
NK2W	May - 04
WD5O	May - 05
KB0LN	May - 05
W4USA	May - 05
W7CA	May - 05
WA0JCE	May - 05
K5PKQ	May - 05
W5BAK	May - 05
WV8LNX	May - 05
KC8EM	May - 06
K9DXA	May - 06
K4RYE	May - 06
KE1GI	May - 06
KJ8V	May - 06
W8CDC	May - 06
WY7LL	May - 07
W8RCW	May - 07
N5ZXR	May - 08
K6TWX	May - 08
AC4WF	May - 08

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
OH3JF	May - 09
K7VI	May - 09
K3PN	May - 09
W7KWR	May - 09
K3KX	May - 09
N1ETC	May - 10
N2NL	May - 10
K4IJQ	May - 10
K4FPF	May - 10
W4LTF	May - 10
W7CFR	May - 11
N2TR	May - 11
N4GJ	May - 11
AA6PI	May - 11
K5CBS	May - 11
AE3Z	May - 12
NX0X	May - 12
ND3T	May - 12
W6RJC	May - 13
KI4HL	May - 13
K0MT	May - 13
KO4VP	May - 13
KM9X	May - 15
AD4LQ	May - 15
KU9UUU	May - 15
N4JT	May - 15
N7JPF	May - 15
N9JZ	May - 15
K4PLB	May - 16
W4MAT	May - 16
WA0RVG	May - 16
N8BGF	May - 16
KA7ICF	May - 16
W5IUA	May - 17
W5VD	May - 17

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
N0SM	May - 17
K5CJ	May - 17
N3AO	May - 17
KG5RQ	May - 17
N9QPQ	May - 17
AA6AF	May - 17
AH9B	May - 17
KB4TI	May - 17
K0SSE	May - 18
WB9UKS	May - 19
AB5OK	May - 20
K1QFD	May - 20
NH7N	May - 21
WA1LJD	May - 21
KF0KC	May - 21
W9DC	May - 21
KM5QF	May - 21
N4DDK	May - 21
NA4FM	May - 22
W1TY	May - 22
KF7CT	May - 22
KJ6C	May - 22
AB2LS	May - 22
K8LJG	May - 22
N7AZ	May - 23
WW3DE	May - 23
W4RSD	May - 23
N9QEI	May - 23
K1CXP	May - 24
ND9M	May - 24
W7GVF	May - 24
KJ4VV	May - 24
WB2NFB	May - 24
AA9GF	May - 24
WB5KLJ	May - 25

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
N0VWD	May - 25
K9KBK	May - 25
N5MLP	May - 25
WA8OWR	May - 25
KL7NV	May - 26
NU9M	May - 26
KE9SZ	May - 26
N7LON	May - 27
WB4KZW	May - 27
NK0L	May - 27
K8EUX	May - 27
KF9LI	May - 27
KN4JR	May - 27
KC8AKM	May - 27
N8CIJ	May - 28
NOALC	May - 28
NL7KM	May - 28
KA4NZG	May - 28
W0CI	May - 29
KE9FG	May - 29
K1CN	May - 29
W9PIP	May - 29
N6VQQ	May - 30
N4ABR	May - 30
K4ZZ	May - 30
K8AO	May - 30
K2MF	May - 30
WB5IMT	May - 31
W9GBH	May - 31
N6PDB	May - 31
K7INA	May - 31
W1KSI	May - 31
W0ICP	May - 31

Awards

Awards Issued For Month			
Call	Date	Award	Number
AB4YZ	4/16/2011	USA-PA N Prefix	# 11
KB0BA	4/19/2011	Worked all Counties - 2nd Time	# 403
WD9EJK	4/9/2011	Worked all Counties - 8th Time	# 8

Roadrunner Issued Per Month				
Call	Date	Count	Award	Number
WG9A	4/25/2011	Last County Count 300	Last County Count 300	# 59
N5UZW	4/25/2011	Last County Count 200	Last County Count 200	# 102
WD9EJK	4/25/2011	Last County Count 250	Last County Count 250	# 77
KB6UF	4/25/2011	Last County Count 850	Last County Count 850	# 7



Treasurer's Report
March 31, 2011

Funds Balance February 28, 2011		\$17,544.67
Income:		
Money Market Interest	\$1.97	
Awards Manager Income	\$688.00	
Membership Income	\$559.19	
Logger Distribution	\$60.00	
		<u>\$1,309.16</u>
Expenses:		
Awards Manager Expenses	\$433.67	
		<u>\$433.67</u>
Account Balances		\$18,420.16
Checking Account	\$6,789.08	
Money Market Account	<u>\$11,631.08</u>	
		\$18,420.16

Note:s

Correction to Logger distribution for February 2011. Amount was \$185 vs \$195.
The following monies are not included in the above:

Awards Chairman's Funds	\$1,500.00
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Awards Manager's Report
March 31, 2011

Funds Balance January 31, 2010		\$1,500.00
Income	\$ 398.00	
		<u>\$ 398.00</u>
Expenses:		
Office supplies	\$ 0.00	
Plaque Suppliers	\$145.50	
Postage	\$ 207.51	
		<u>\$ 353.01</u>
Sent to Treasurer		\$398.00
Reimbursement received from Treasurer		\$ 353.01
Funds Balance March 31, 2011		\$1500.00



Calendar

~ May 2011 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 TEN-TEN CW 7 TH AREA QP NEW ENG QP IN QP ZEROLAND QP NV QP
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 FISTS SPRINT
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 CQ WW CW
29	30	31	Notes: ONLY START DATE SHOWN CLICK THE ITEM TO GO TO THE WEB SITE			

Story Project

Tell Your Ham Radio Stories on HamRadioStoryProject.Com

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

For a long time, I've had the idea to set up a website to capture ham radio stories. Well, I've finally done it. The Ham Radio Story Project (<http://www.hamradiostoryproject.com>) is now online!

This website was inspired by the Story Corps (<http://storycorps.org/>), which was itself inspired by NPR's National Story Project (<http://www.npr.org/programs/watc/features/1999/991002.storyproject.html>). The tagline for the site is "capturing the human spirit of amateur radio," and my motivation for setting up the sit is to capture personal stories of how amateur radio has touched lives, either the lives of amateur radio operators themselves, or of the people that we serve.

The site has only been online a month, and I already have several good stories. I reposted my story about checking the QSLs of a county hunter, and there are also stories about an international friendship that survived WW II and a story about how an Elmer touched the life of his student. These are exactly the type of stories I want to collect.

If you have a great story about ham radio, I want to hear about it and to publish it on HamRadioStoryProject.Com. If you want to tell the story yourself, let me know, and I'll set up an account for you on the site. If you would like some help, let me know, and I'll contact you and either write the story myself, or find someone else to help you.

I don't want to lose another great story because there isn't a place to tell it. HamRadioStoryProject.Com is the place to tell it.



N0SM

H. Stephen Miller, N0SM
USA-CA All Counties #1207, November 15, 2010

Ham radio has to be *the* single most fascinating hobby, with so many facets one can never hope to enjoy all of them. I still find myself like a kid in a toy store and enjoy contesting, DXing, traffic handling, VHF work, QRP, building both kits and from-scratch, and I've had a ball county hunting. Chasing counties is more an exercise of persistence than of great skill. Nevertheless, you have to keep on top of who is going where, when they'll be there, and have everything ready. Missing a rare and needed county often means a long wait for someone else to go there.

The earliest memory I have of an interest in radio was when I was in the fifth grade. My dad had brought home a couple of military handhelds (huge things), and my brother and I had fun running down the batteries talking from one end of the house to the other. In ninth grade, I had changed schools and the father of a new friend was a ham and later became my Elmer. Orris Wise, K0MVR, led me into the Novice Class license and then built a two-tube transmitter to go along with the Hallicrafters S-38E that I had purchased at my dad's summer camp PX after working as a civilian orderly cleaning officers' barracks half days for two weeks.

I didn't upgrade to General until the fall of 1967, after I was married. My wife wanted me to stay home. Well what else could I do that would have me at home and be away at the same time but amateur radio?

I can't tell you the exact date I began hunting counties, but it was in the very early 1970s. My wife had gotten Hodgkin's Disease, and I was making regular trips from Ottumwa, Iowa, to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, to visit her each weekend. If memory serves me right, we were on 3945 kHz during that time, and I was running a Galaxy V Mark II with Hustler antennas.

One of the members of our local club was Loren (Mac) McGinnis, WA0JCE, and either his wife or his brother would go on wild trips all over everywhere running counties, and had told me about it. I don't know how many counties I put out on those trips, but I worked all over the U.S. and had a ball. It was a real blessing and made the trip times fly by.

After a time, my wife recovered and I was no longer on the road. Occasionally, I would work a few counties, but my family came

along and my radio time was severely limited. I'd had a lot of fun but gave no thought to working 3000+ counties at the time.

In the late 90s, I started working counties in earnest, but still with little thought to really ever working all of them. Primarily, there were two things that drew me to county hunting: (1) What a great and thoughtful group of hams who would go the limit to help anybody. Their enjoyment of it was infectious. (2) The other thing that fascinated me was propagation. I've always enjoyed following propagation across the U.S. while chasing DX, and that was still a draw. But more interesting were the close-in contacts I was making on 20 meters. My little Iowa station was working stations in Illinois, Missouri, Wisconsin, and even Iowa. No, the signals weren't very strong, but they were hearing me as well as my hearing them. That's definitely changed now with the low sunspot count, but there are still days when propagation defies understanding.

Around 2002, I began to feel that it might be possible to work all counties. Going through my QSL cards, I found around 700 counties confirmed. Next I looked at the software to see where I stood and found I was close to the 2000 mark in contacts. The rest is pretty much history. I retired in 2005 and spent a great deal of time chasing counties that summer and fall. I got down to 500 needed and figured it would take forever to finish up, but it wasn't long until that number was 400, then 300, and eventually I finished up when WA0JCE, my mentor, delivered Kearney County, Nebraska.

The story only begins there. It took nearly three years to get the cards checked. One ham was called back to work, another had a serious bout with depression, and a third had a heart blockage. Finally, WA0ITP and N0JL performed the card checking and I prepared the cards K1BV had requested. In late August of 2010, I posted the booklet with signatures, check, and cards to Ted. After not hearing from him for almost a month and a half, I contacted Ted only to learn that the post office had temporarily lost the package.

I want to thank all of the county hunters for their patience, for all of the counties, and for the fine job they've done as net controls. These folks are all first-class operators and I admire each and every one of them. They made this possible.—N0SM

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!

Board of Directors

President: Joyce Boothe, WB9NUL, 21175 FM2556, Santa Rosa, TX 78593 1-956-636-9161, joycenul@aol.com

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