



# THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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## From My Point View

Joyce, WB9NUL

In my last letter I said I hoped everyone had come through the tornados with no damage. KC3X and Sandy were hit by one of those tornados and lost everything. We had good Samaritans who came and helped them. I want to thank all of you who came to their aid. Hollis and Sandy please keep in touch and let us know how things are coming together. Insurance companies can be so slow and with all of the damage in so many states it becomes a nightmare. Barry and I remember from Hurricane Dolly. Our prayers are with you both.

The National Convention is drawing closer. Brian tells me there is a Logger program on the agenda for Saturday and also they have arranged for testing so you can get your license or go for an upgrade. I get to take a year off from Hospitality as Brian and Shari's girls will be taking care of that job. That means I have more time to talk and hear your county hunting stories and catch up on what is new in the CHing world.

Not much else is new here. Barry and I are out doing rain dances as our county is in extreme drought conditions. The only good thing is he doesn't have to mow the grass so often. Have a good month and see you in Minnesota. 73, Joyce



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**Dateline CW**  
Ed, KN4Y

The greatest number task for county hunters, at present is 3-0-7-7.

I finished entering all the contacts I made while mobile during the Florida QSO party when I heard Gator's truck slide to a stop at the recycled railroad tie. I did not hear a thud and that is good. He comes into the shack with two lattes, hands me one and asks, "What you doing Dude" "I just entered the FQP contacts into the Writelog logging module. Here take the chair by the computer and calculate the score." He drops his butt into the chair, "Did you know the average person's left hand does 56% of the typing."

I sip my hot latte as Gator fiddles with the computer, "Not bad Dude. You made 1398 contacts; missed Alaska and Nebraska for WAS and worked 6 Canada places. Figuring in the low power multiplier you got 399,760 for a claimed score." I sip my latte and give Gator the thumbs-up, "That is great and my best score to date since 1988 when I started running mobile in the FQP. I would have done better if my driver did not have to eat every hour on the hour" "Do you want to hear the rest of the report you old fart?" "Yes." "Then button your Botox lips. You made 265 contacts on 40-meters, 1132 contacts on 20-meters and 1 contact on 15-meters. We ran 26 counties and covered 930 miles. Did you know Writelog does not give a summary?" "Yes, that is a bummer."

We sip our lattes as Gator checks the statistics, "I see you missed running Madison county." "It was your fault; you took forever to get through Gainesville." "I could not help it if the girls were..." "Never mind I do not need to hear your excuses." Gator picks up a large manila envelope and opens it, and takes out a certificate, "This is for you working the New York QSO party. You got first place in Florida, single operator, low power using CW. You must have been the only Florida station to send in a log."

I ignore Gator as he may be correct and hand him a shoebox containing envelopes, "Make yourself useful and check these MRC's, there is a bunch from DX county hunters." Gator starts opening the envelopes, "Got an error MRC, this is from a county hunter in Daytona Beach and the contact was made on sideband." "No, I actually gave Wakulla County using sideband." Gator looks horrified, "You seem okay Dude, what was it like." "It was similar to the old days when we ran 27.175 MHz at the jetties." Gator has lost interest and continues checking the MRC's.

I go to the back room and push the generator out on the porch. This month starts hurricane season and I need to check out the generator. Darn, the gasoline container is empty so I shelve the plan for the time being and go back inside the shack. I look at the piggy bank hoping there are enough coins accumulated to get a few gallons of petrol. Gator turns around in the chair, how did you do in the 10-10 CW QSO party?" "The ten meter band was not cooperative and I only made 25 QSO's." Gator's answers his cell phone, "Got to go Dude the bottles for the Southeast mini have arrived," Gator is in his truck dusting the trees and I hear the squirrels coughing. I make a mental note to check to see if I he said what I heard him say. The printer starts.

I grab the printout and it is a list of county hunters who operated during May on a CW net frequency. Spring has sprung with: AA8R, AB7RW, AC7JW, AF3X, AK8A, K0ARS, K0FG, K2HVN, K4YFH, K7TM, K8ZZ, K9JWV, KA4RRU, KA9JAC, KB6UF, KC7TF, KL1V, KM1C, KN4Y, KW1DX, N0KV, N4CD, N4PJ, N5XG, N6HH, N6MA, N7IV, N7MAL, N8BIL, N9JF, NF0N, NI7R, NQ7R, NT2A, NX4C, VA3XOV, W0EAR, W0GXQ, W0NAC, W3DQT, W4HSA, W4SIG, W5QP, W7FEN, W9MSE, WA1IIE, WA3QNT, WA7JHQ, WB0PYF, WE7G.

I look at the ARRL contest corral to see what operating activities the CW county hunters might like to do. There is the Alabama QSO party and I plan to be mobile in 14 of the 67 Alabama counties. There is the ARRL VHF party and I will be on CW on 50.095 MHz or there about. There is also the West Virginia QSO party with 55 counties. To finish the month is the big event; the ARRL field day. I will be operating CW with the club call K4WAK in Wakulla County, Florida; a contact is good for natural Bingo. I need to check how many new 30-meter contacts I made working the county hunters attending the Dayton Hamvention and also do my CQ WPX contest log. So much to do, so little time, but now nappy time.



### **Thank you**

Hollis, KC3X and Sandy, K4SMT

**E**ver since the tornado came and God protected us both while the house totally disintegrated all around us, our lives are forever changed, not by the material loss but by the amazing friends we are so blessed to have. Starting with Ed, N3HOO and Carla, who drove their beautiful RV down from Pennsylvania, so we would have a place to stay!

Life has been insane from morning till night and we have worked to the point of total exhaustion. Then today, Bill, KM1C arranged for us to meet him and we were completely speechless to find out what he has been so busy doing on our behalf! We know that times are hard for everyone and we are overwhelmed by your generosity and can never adequately thank you all for what you have done for us! As soon as things slow down we intend to personally thank each of you who have been so incredibly generous and we apologize for not being able to do it sooner.

Hollis, KC3X & Sandy, K4SMT

### **An Appeal**

Sandy, WB4EVH

Nothing has changed in all my years as a ham. I get QSL cards with and MRC. The MRC is usually not filled out correctly. That is a simple matter to fix. Just check the right square. But the QSL cards are another matter. It will have the date and frequency and a line drawn through everything else making the card of no value. I do not understand the logic in this. From the GA QSO party my screwed up card count is now at 50% of 24 cards.

My wish is that someone would revisit how to fill out an MRC and a QSL card one more time. Believe it or not, it is moe old hams than new ones making the mistakes.

(Any takers? Ed.)

**National**

**43<sup>rd</sup> Annual MARAC National Convention  
Duluth, Minnesota. Wed. July 6<sup>th</sup> – 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 6<sup>th</sup>** Dinner at Grandma's Restaurant Canal Park - 5:00 pm (Pay your own bill) # \_\_\_\_\_ attending

**Thursday, July 7<sup>th</sup>** \_\_\_\_\_  
(All day) **Cancelled due to a fire**

**Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup>**      **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 9<sup>th</sup>**      **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](mailto:duluth2011@aol.com)

**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&regionCode=1&localeCode=en&GPC=MAR&hotelCode=DULMN&PMID=99801505>

*Mark your calendars and save the date to attend,*



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

**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. **Cutoff date is June 15th for our block of rooms.** The \$94 rate will be honored if rooms are still available right up to the convention if we still need them.



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. Not much green space downtown.

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 Physic's Lab



**Tour has been  
cancelled due to a fire.**

**Refunds will be in your registration package.**

**Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused!**

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 7-acre 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. There is also a shuttle from Minneapolis to Duluth for \$69 round trip. [Skylineshuttle.com](http://Skylineshuttle.com)

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 1<sup>st</sup>.**



## **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](mailto:Duluth2011@aol.com)

## 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 the payment of dues and valid membership application by the MARAC Secretary. Those individuals maintaining uninterrupted membership status are not restricted from nominating or voting in the current month.

### BALLOT RECOGNITION

I would like to congratulate the following stations for receiving recognition from their peer's and votes in the 3rd quarter award voting: (no particular order). Only stations receiving 3 points or more are listed.

NET CONTROL SSB: KA0SHC, KZ2P, N5UZW, N4AAT

NET CONTROL CW: W0GXQ

BEST MOBILE SSB: AA0TT, N5UZW

BEST MOBILE CW: W4SIG, W0GXQ,

BEST TEAM: N0KV/N0DXE, KB0BA/N0XYL

### SSB CHOTY KC6AWX Nominated by Kent -- KL1V

Mr. Robert T. Devine – KC6AWX

Bob was first licensed in 1988 and worked mostly DX and IOTA islands until November of 1996. It was at that time he stumbled across the County Hunter Net on 14.336 and he has been an active participant ever since.

Bob completed USACA 1<sup>st</sup> Time (#967) on 12/24/98, 2<sup>nd</sup> Time (#271) on 08/07/00, 3<sup>rd</sup> Time (#161) on 09/14/02, 4<sup>th</sup> Time (#118) on 10/20/04, 5<sup>th</sup> Time (#85) on 8/12/2007, Bingo (#172) on 10/08/99, Bingo 2 (#20) on 08/19/02, Bingo 3 (#9) on 9/20/2006, K Prefix (#8) on 07/16/05, Master Gold (#13) on 07/28/05 and 5 Star (#23) on 12/30/05.

Bob is a proficient mobile operator and is able to hear the weakest of stations. He always helps on the net when needed - as both Net Control and Assistant Net Control. He has transmitted all of the San Francisco Bay Area counties on numerous occasions and has been instrumental in removing these counties from the "most needed list". He has amassed 65 Last Counties and 8 WBOW awards. Bob also holds the Cliff Corne Award (#465) 07-14-97. Bob's radio activities have been somewhat curtailed in recent months because of a family illness that requires his immediate and undivided attention.

In 1997 he assisted in formatting the county line program for Kwiklog. He researched the county lines throughout the San Francisco Bay area of California and sent this information to KJ4EJ for inclusion in the Kwiklog Program.

Bob has been a member of MARAC since 1996 and has always been actively involved in the Club - attending 98% of all of the meetings. He was elected to the Office of Pacific Director in 2001 and has represented his District as a member of the Board of Directors since. When a site for the MARAC National in 2002 was needed, Bob stepped to the plate and volunteered to host the convention. He hosted the MARAC National Convention in Visalia, Ca in 2002. He received the MARAC MERIT AWARD category 2 on July 13, 2002. Not satisfied to sit on his laurels, he hosted the 2008 MARAC National Convention in Visalia, CA.

When the need arose - Bob stepped-up and volunteered to assume the position of MARAC's Awards Manager. Since becoming the Awards Manager in July 2010, Bob has demonstrated his ability and competency in administering all of the requirements of this position.



Bob is also an ARRL accredited volunteer examiner (8 years) and in charge of the ARRL 6<sup>th</sup> District Incoming QSL Bureau since 2005.

### **CW CHOTY KE3VV Nominated by Jim -- KZ2P**

Dave Splitt - KE3VV

Dave exemplifies someone who meets the goal of the CHOTY Award: “To recognize members of MARAC who have made a significant overall contribution to MARAC and county hunting.”

His service to MARAC has spanned more than a decade. He was previously recognized with the Merit Award for his work on revamping the MARAC Constitution and Bylaws, the Custodian’s Award for re-vamping the MARAC Award Rules and his long service on the Awards Committee, and the President’s Award for his service as MARAC General Counsel and as a member of the MARAC Board of Directors. Among his contributions large and small, he wrote the intro for N4UJK’s Coloring Book and helped Magellan with the copyright and served a stint as assistant MARAC webmaster.

Dave is well known for putting out counties in the “Big Green Dragon” and handling the care and feeding of the County Lion (which accompanies Dave on the road when he acts as Master of Ceremonies – first at the 3M and more recently at the SE Mini). He is currently developing a web site (<http://ke3vv.splitt.us/>) that features the County Lion’s Guide to County Hunting with a step by step graphic guide to MRCing, a brief history of MARAC, and other features.

At the urging of his County Hunting Elmer, WA3ZMY – Bill (SK), Dave began mobile county hunting in 1997, and has logged thousands of miles including more than 700 different counties from Maine to Florida and 300 MP counties. He has logged thousands of mobile contacts and put out almost 300 last counties using both SSB and CW. Dave’s fist is regularly heard on 40-30-20 CW in every county where he is mobile.

Dave was first licensed as a novice in 1959, after picking up Morse code from his Dad, a B-17 radio operator in WWII. He holds an Extra Class license and is an avid county hunter with 5 USA-CA Stars and USA-CW, Master Gold, as well as a wall full of other awards.

### **MARAC 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Award Voting**

#### **April – June, Also Voting for County Hunter of the Year**

Voting will be open from June 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup> for the best net control, mobile and team awards. The easiest way to place your vote is at the MARAC web site <http://www.marac.org/elections/> and all you will need to enter on the sign in page is your call sign and your “[election key](#)”. If you have lost or do not know your key then enter your callsign and then click on the large button below to request your key. The key will be immediately emailed to your email address of record. You may also send me your vote via regular mail. I must receive the ballot by the closing date of the voting window. 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 \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

County Hunter of the Year SSB \_\_\_\_\_ County Hunter of the Year CW

KC6AWX

KE3VV

Choice for SSB \_\_\_\_\_

Choice for CW \_\_\_\_\_

Your call sign: \_\_\_\_\_

MARAC # or Election Key \_\_\_\_\_

Kent Reinke – KL1V

MARAC Election Coordinator

PO BOX 215

Valdez, Alaska 99686-0215



### New Members

**MARAC Number**

**Callsign**

**Name**

R4456

KD5FZN

Roger Bekkerus

R4457

N2FJ

Frederick Bennett II

R4458

N7IV

Joseph Ferrara

R4459

KK4BVK

Michael Wickman



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**Hawaii 2011**  
Rick, AI5P

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I had been thinking about a Hawaiian trip for a couple of years and in September, 2010, decided to start planning. The next couple of months brought research into airlines, hotels, rental cars and thoughts of what type of antennas to use. By December, 2010, the travel plans were in place. I had also sought feedback and advice on a variety of subjects from fellow countyhunters K1ER, KL1V, N4CD, G4KHG, KS5A, WQ7A, N8KIE, AA8R and AA9JJ/N9QPQ. They all provided me with good insight on operating in Hawaii and places to visit.

I decided to use Ham Stick (r) antennas due to their compact size. I ordered 40, 30, 20, 17, and 15 meter Ham Sticks (r) and a new Mag mount. I also bought a MFJ-259 SWR analyzer to tune the antennas on my car here. This was done and the antennas tested on the air. How to transport them? I bought a piece of 2 inch PVC and cut it to 48 inches. I had a ski bag cut down to meet the airlines' maximum size of 62 linear inches. With caps on each end of the PVC, the antennas were strongly protected for transport (Photo 1). I found the 15 meter antenna was a rod about 1.5 inches too long so that antenna was dropped from the mix. The transceiver was my venerable Icom IC-706. The rig and the antennas worked out very well.



I arrived in Honolulu after the flight from Albuquerque via Dallas. No major surprises - but the \$ 160 for my bags (two suitcases and the antenna bag - the third bag is \$ 100) wasn't much fun to pay!

on the afternoon of March 22

I did not plan on operating in Honolulu during the first stop. I stayed at the Hale Koa Hotel (part of the Fort DeRussy Armed Forces Recreation Center), right on Waikiki Beach. Excellent hotel and highly recommended for those eligible to use! I spent two days strictly as a tourist - Waikiki Beach, Pearl Harbor and the U.S.S.

Arizona Memorial, Iolani Palace, Honolulu Academy of Arts, the Aloha Tower, a “circle tour” of Oahu to include the North Shore surfing areas and the Dole Plantation, and dramatic views of Diamond Head. Wow - quite a start to the trip!

On March 25<sup>th</sup> I flew to the “Big Island” or Hawaii County as we know it. At Hilo airport I picked up my first rental car - a Mazda3. A nice car and performed quite well. When they say the “Big Island” mean it - all of the other islands fit inside the area of this island. I had arranged to stay at the B&B run by Randy, KH6RC, and Lynn at Ocean View of the SW side of the island. It was about a 2 hour drive from the airport. On the way



well. they would Here Leillani his wife side of drive there I

attempted my first mobile contacts and only managed two – the first being WQ7A on 20 meters SSB. Conditions weren't the best over the next few days. I managed to work 47 stations: 11 on 20 meters SSB, 26 on 20 meters CW, 4 on 17 meters SSB, and 6 on 17 meters CW. 30 and 40 meters were a bust. I did work portable during the CQ WPX contest and worked over 1300 stations using the KH6RC station - An Icom 756 Pro III, Steppir Yagi and Swan Mark II amp. A number of county hunters were worked during the contest.

Sightseeing included the Pacific Tsunami Museum, Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden, Akaka waterfalls, Ka Lae, the /M setup at the southernmost point in the U.S. - debatable since Territory of American Samoa might have very legitimate claim!), Punalu'u Black Sand Beach (with turtles), Volcanoes National Park and the Pu'uuhonua Honaunau National Historical Park (Place of Refuge). Unfortunately, part of this last park was closed due to tsunami damage from the horrendous Japanese earthquake/tsunami of March 11th.



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I spent the last night in Hilo as I had an early flight back to Honolulu. I had planned on running the county again but it was

raining cats and dogs - so that ended that idea!. Actually, there was lots of rain during my time on the "Big Island" - but I didn't mind as it has been months since a decent rain in Albuquerque.

So the next morning (March 30), I turned in the rental car (624 miles driven) after filling it up (\$ 4.40 a gallon) and flew to Molokai via Honolulu.

Molokai is a very laid back island and not one of the most visited. County hunters go there because it has both Maui and Kalawao counties. I stayed at the Hotel Molokai which has been recently remodelled and is quite nice. It even has a nice restaurant and floor shows. The Hula was supposedly begun on Molokai so you can imagine the floor shows! The rental car turned out to be a Dodge Charger -

a muscle car! No small cars were even rented - it was the Dodge or a Minivan or a big Jeep. So I kept the gas guzzler.... no other choice at the time. The only "town" is Kaunakakai which has the island's two gas stations and a two or three block "main drag" with all the stores.

So I headed  
overlooks  
peninsula  
the county  
the park as



up to Palaau State Park which  
the famous Kalaupapa  
and Kalawao county. I ran  
line of Maui and Kalawao in  
advised by others who have

been there. The first contact was with NF0N on 17 meters CW and the first SSB contact was with KM6HB on 20 meters. With several trips to the park, a total of 125 contacts were made: 17 meters SSB - 2, 17 meters CW - 33, 20 meters SSB - 28, 20 meters CW - 27, 30 meters CW - 19, and 40 meters CW - 16.

I also had the good fortune to meet and lunch with Merv, K9FD/KH6 (ex-KH7C), lives on Molokai. He only operates CW primarily a DXer.



have  
who  
and is

I wanted to ride the mules down to the Kalaupapa National Historical Park but I was disappointed to find out they were fully booked for the next couple of weeks. I later found out you could actually walk down with special permission but I suspect that walk back up would

have been tortuous!

Not too many tourist activities but I did enjoy visiting the Molokai Museum, the R.W. Meyer Sugar Mill, Coffees of Hawaii and experiencing one of my favorite adventures of the whole trip - a morning of whale watching! That was pretty exciting and I got quite a few good photos.

On April 1st I departed for Kauai. Of course, I had to fill up the Charger (216 miles) and with gas \$ 4.78 a gallon it cost me \$ 67... Ouch! I arrived at Lihue, Kauai, via Honolulu that afternoon. I stayed at the Garden Island Inn in Lihue which was quite nice and very interesting with its decorative motif. This time I got a very nice Hyundai Accent to spirit me around this beautiful island. I ran the county several times at different locations. The first contact was with K7INA on 20 meters CW and the first SSB contact was with AD6PB also on 20 meters. Eventually 121 contacts were made: 17 meters SSB: 5, 17 meters CW: 31, 20 meters SSB: 29, 20 meters CW: 30, 30 meters CW: 10, 40 meters CW: 15 and 40 meters SSB: 1.

Kauai is famous for rain but I was pretty fortunate. Only a few showers while I drove around the island (313 miles) and visited the Kauai Plantation Railway, Waimea Canyon ("Grand Canyon of the Pacific"), Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge with its iconic lighthouse (Photo 5), the Kauai Museum and Wailua Falls. Kauai is also a shopper's "paradise" with just too many beautiful things to buy... my credit card took some big "hits" here!

On April 5th I flew back to Honolulu to finish up sightseeing and run my last Hawaiian county. My rental car was a Honda Civic Sedan and I again stayed at the Hale Koa. I basically drove around the "circle tour" route I had taken earlier to make some more stops and



run the county. The first contact was with AH6V on the "Big Island" on 20 meters SSB and the first CW contact was with K7TM

also on 20 meters. I ran the county a few times including once from the third floor (open roof) of the hotel parking lot downtown. A total of 42 contacts were made: 17 meters SSB: 3, 17 meters CW: 9, 20 meters SSB: 8, 20 meters CW: 11, 30 meters CW: 8, and 40 meters CW: 3.

The total number of mobile contacts: Hawaii County: 45, Maui/Kalawao County: 125, Kauai County: 121, Honolulu County: 42, Grand total: 333.

I had the good fortune to meet Stan, KH6CG, and Bill, KH6OO, and their wives during this last stop in Honolulu. From here I flew to American Samoa to operate as KH8/AI5P for 10 days - but that's another story. I did have a 12 hour layover in Honolulu on the way home and had the opportunity to meet a number of members of the KH6BB (U.S.S. Missouri) Amateur Radio Club - including John, K1ER, USA-CA # 871. Bill, the ship where I got well as the chance to 6). Their basic USA-hanging in the radio the Pacific Aviation to the airport for to Dallas and then April 20th. Great trip with some amazing experiences and meeting an interesting group of folks along the way - both hams and non-hams. Hope you made a contact and I will be sending out special QSL cards in the next few weeks.



73, Rick AI5P

Birthdays

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
KG8N	Jun - 01
NS6X	Jun - 01
K0GSV	Jun - 01
W8QZ	Jun - 01
KE8ST	Jun - 01
W4AMW	Jun - 01
KB7YD	Jun - 01
K5IID	Jun - 01
W1MHD	Jun - 02
NF4A	Jun - 02
K5OT	Jun - 02
NC4F	Jun - 02
KG0AY	Jun - 03
KJ4SLY	Jun - 03
W2IN	Jun - 03
WA0RKQ	Jun - 03
N9DYE	Jun - 03
KJ4EJ	Jun - 03
K5MSU	Jun - 04
N9GN	Jun - 04
K5NRA	Jun - 04
ND7J	Jun - 04
K1SO	Jun - 04
KE0UQ	Jun - 04
AE4JG	Jun - 04
K1MIJ	Jun - 05
K0AYO	Jun - 05
W9AJ	Jun - 05
AA9RE	Jun - 05
K4LSG	Jun - 05
KA1ID	Jun - 05
AA0TT	Jun - 05
W8MP	Jun - 05
K9JF	Jun - 05
N6QA	Jun - 05
N7TAX	Jun - 06
KA5A	Jun - 06
N5SMQ	Jun - 06
AJ4QP	Jun - 06
WJ8B	Jun - 06
W8LS	Jun - 07

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
K7WC	Jun - 07
K4YP	Jun - 07
WA9WGJ	Jun - 07
W7LY	Jun - 08
AA9ID	Jun - 08
K9EN	Jun - 08
WB3AXC	Jun - 08
VK3MW	Jun - 09
W0XXX	Jun - 09
K2ETA	Jun - 10
WB9ELH	Jun - 10
W8RCL	Jun - 11
N6NRZ	Jun - 11
N5VMW	Jun - 11
NA8W	Jun - 11
K1XG	Jun - 11
W6IYS	Jun - 12
WA0ZBK	Jun - 12
W3BZJ	Jun - 12
KC5QCB	Jun - 12
K4BU	Jun - 12
WA5RD	Jun - 12
W9ACE	Jun - 13
N4OA	Jun - 13
N7IGX	Jun - 13
NE8M	Jun - 13
WA4CHI	Jun - 13
K4DI	Jun - 14
K1YE	Jun - 14
KC3YT	Jun - 14
W4TET	Jun - 14
W5LXG	Jun - 15
KI7AI	Jun - 15
W0ZQ	Jun - 15
KB0BA	Jun - 15
K5GUY	Jun - 15
N5QS	Jun - 15
NI7B	Jun - 16
WI9C	Jun - 16
KC2CD	Jun - 16
AE5B	Jun - 16

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
KK6BB	Jun - 16
N4ILQ	Jun - 16
WA9OUE	Jun - 16
K6BWZ	Jun - 17
K0ODF	Jun - 17
W6OUL	Jun - 17
W6TMD	Jun - 17
NT4W	Jun - 17
KD9Q	Jun - 18
W4DOS	Jun - 18
W4LJM	Jun - 18
WV9D	Jun - 18
N9MBL	Jun - 19
KA2K	Jun - 19
N2BM	Jun - 19
NU4N	Jun - 19
N4EED	Jun - 20
KD5YUK	Jun - 20
N3CI	Jun - 20
WB0TVL	Jun - 20
K7WUR	Jun - 20
K0NZ	Jun - 20
G3NDC	Jun - 21
KE6GJ	Jun - 21
KI7MK	Jun - 21
K8RN	Jun - 21
W4OGG	Jun - 22
N8ACL	Jun - 22
NJ4K	Jun - 22
KI6PG	Jun - 22
NV6L	Jun - 22
WD8OWA	Jun - 23
WV1U	Jun - 23
K0DCL	Jun - 23
K0LG	Jun - 23
KE7GI	Jun - 23
N9FR	Jun - 24
KB7PI	Jun - 24
N7IV	Jun - 24
W9NII	Jun - 24
N4CD	Jun - 24

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
KB6UF	Jun - 25
W4EHT	Jun - 25
KC0MB	Jun - 26
KC9GW	Jun - 26
KB4QCE	Jun - 26
W4JVN	Jun - 27
W9CNG	Jun - 27
K5VFW	Jun - 27
WB9OOE	Jun - 27
WA4UNS	Jun - 28
KE5RJT	Jun - 28
KG5UZ	Jun - 28
WA0LPA	Jun - 28
KD9ZP	Jun - 29
KD2EC	Jun - 29
N6VZ	Jun - 29
K7IOO	Jun - 29
W9MSE	Jun - 30
W0LRH	Jun - 30
WD5JGS	Jun - 30
W2DWR	Jun - 30
K8SJ	Jun - 30
WD5RS	Jun - 30
AL7RQ	Jun - 30



**Awards**

<b>Awards Issued For May</b>			
<b>Call</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Number</b>
K4YFH	5/12/2011	Gemini - Jack Scroggins (WOSJE)	# 215 2nd Time Holders
K8AO	5/24/2011	BINGO	# 330
VA3XOV	5/24/2011	BINGO	# 329
KD5YUK	5/19/2011	BINGO	# 328
K4YFH	5/12/2011	BINGO	# 327
KA9JAC	5/15/2011	BINGO II	# 79
AA8R	5/2/2011	BINGO II	# 78
WV2B	5/6/2011	RAS – NY	# 14
LY5A	5/7/2011	Worked all Counties - 3rd Time	# 228
KE3VV	5/23/2011	Worked all Counties - 6th Time	# 39
N9QS	5/16/2011	Worked all Counties - 8th Time	# 9

<b>Roadrunner Issued For May</b>			
<b>Call</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Number</b>
AB7RW	5/29/2011	Last County Count 75	# 256
K0FG	5/23/2011	Last County Count 25	# 493
AF3X	5/23/2011	Last County Count 125	# 167
W7FEN	5/23/2011	Last County Count 500	# 32



Calendar

~ June 2011 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ONLY START DATE SHOWN			1	2	3	4 10-10 DIGI OPEN  AL QP
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 ARRL VHF QP
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 SMIRK QP  WV QP
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 FIELD DAY
26	27	28	29	30	Notes: CLICK THE EVENT TO GO TO THE WEB SITE	



## History Happens

Gary, K4EXT

Maybe hard to believe these days ... but propagation was apparently so good back in the early 1990's that MARAC decided to sponsor an annual 10-Meter QSO Party.

The first 10-Meter CW QSO Party was held on March 10-11, 1990. Suggested operating frequencies were 28.150-28.500 Mhz with a 28.155-28.165 Mhz mobile window. MARAC plaque winners included Jim, W4HSA (mobile) ... Norm, W6NNV (fixed) ... and Andrew, VE2AQP (Canada).

The first 10-Meter SSB QSO Party was held the following weekend on March 17-18, 1990. Suggested operating frequencies were 28.330-28.380 Mhz with a 28.340-28.355 Mhz mobile window. MARAC plaque winners included Bill, K7IOO (mobile) ... John, N7TT (fixed) ... Maurice, VE6MAA (Canada) ... and Teresa, PT2TF (DX).

The 10-Meter QSO Party coordinator in 1990 was Skip, N4FSZ. Soapbox comments for this inaugural event included "Single Band Great!", "Can work band opening to closing and still get some sleep!", and "First time on 10 meters mobile and had lots of fun!".

Subsequent 10-Meter QSO Parties were held from 1991 through 1994 ... with contest scores diminishing each year along with band conditions. For example, in 1991 SSB mobile winner K7IOO amassed 1.7 million points ... in 1992, 345K points ... in 1993, 12K points ... and in 1994, 224 total points.

1994 soapbox comments also illustrated the quick decline in propagation and scores. Norm, W3DYA stated "Drove (Karen did) through 57 counties and had contacts in 8!". Alan, K8CW commented "Great participation! Very crowded. Called CQ CH test over 1500 times with no answer!". And Howard, K6QWH said "Was the worst band conditions ever. Even worse than last year!".



**Teresa, PT2TF with OM - USACA #816 - MARAC 10M QSO Party Winner 1990-91**



Treasurer's Report  
April 30, 2011

Funds Balance March 31, 2011 **\$18,420.16**

Income:

Money Market Interest	\$2.21	
Awards Manager Income	\$398.00	
Membership Income	\$629.29	
		<u>\$1,029.50</u>



Expenses:

Awards Manager Expenses	\$353.01	
Internet Server Host	\$107.40	
		<u>\$460.41</u>

Account Balances **\$18,989.25**

Checking Account \$5,355.96

Money Market Account \$13,633.29

**\$18,989.25**

Notes

Transfer from Checking to Savings \$2,000

The following monies are not included in the above:

Awards Chairman's Funds \$1,500.00

Awards Manager's Report  
April 30, 2011

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

Income	\$ 400.00	
		<u>\$ 400.00</u>

Expenses:

Office supplies	\$ 0.00	
Plaque Suppliers	\$ 42.50	
Postage	\$ 121.56	
		<u>\$ 164.06</u>

Sent to Treasurer \$400.00

Reimbursement received from Treasurer \$ 164.06

Funds Balance April 30, 2011 **\$1500.00**





## OK1APV

**The First USA-CA All Counties Recipient in the Czech Republic**  
**Antonin Blaha, OK1APV**  
**USA-CA All Counties #1210, December 17, 2010**

The USA-CA Award for non-American stations is one of the most difficult awards. I started in 1967 and I got the last county in 2010. In the past my activity varied in accordance with the propagation, and sometimes was very little due to my occupation.

I got my callsign, OK1APV, in 1966. At the beginning I was allowed to work only on 160 and 80 meters with 10 watts. Later I was allowed to work with 50 watts, and then gradually with 200 watts on all bands. The best band for me was 40 meters. I used 200 watts and an G5RV antenna, all homemade. I think that my signals were very good and I could work all continents, but I preferred to work the U.S. stations, including the mobile stations.

The first information for me concerning the USA-CA was in 1969. It interested me very much and I started to hunt everybody I heard. There was a lack of information about who would travel and where, as there were not many OK stations that could give me some help, so I had to find some information on the bands. The Czech ham magazines did not publish anything about it and I was not able to get the U.S. magazines. All the necessary information I had to find out on the bands.

A great help was to participate in U.S. contests, QSO parties, and County Hunter activities. I even got some awards for first place in the DX category. I got some new counties. Later I was on the County Hunters Net and that helped me very much. The perfect organization and fb net controls. I got information about lists of the /M stations and information about the dates of their activities. Some of the callsigns I can remember even now. Without their help it wouldn't have been possible to get the award. Some of them were: N9AG, KV0E, NG0T, WA6VJP, W1TEE, N5QQ, N0CYB, W0GXQ, and many other excellent operators. Apologies to those I forgot to name here. Many thanks, friends.

Most of my Qs were on CW because I did not have any commercial equipment. I got only about 66 counties on SSB. The big problem was to copy the callsigns and the names of the counties. Some signals were very weak. Improvement came with the internet, where there was a lot of information about activities, sometimes a long time before the start of an activity. I have been using a PC since 2006. Others were using the PC much earlier. A big help was the USA Road Atlas. I had chance to follow the routes to where the expedition travelled. Sometimes I waited in a queue and when it was my turn the propagation had ended. I had to wait for a new expedition.

It was very exciting to get a new county. When the propagation was good I was on the band almost every night. I worked the next to last county I needed on September 18, 2010 at 16:48 GMT. I worked Eddy and Barbara, W5/G4KHG, from Carton County, NM. After that QSO I was very happy, and I thank my XYL Eva, who has tolerated my hobby for many years. (Thanks a lot, Eval)



*The First USA-CA All Counties Recipient in the Czech Republic, Antonin Blaha, OK1APV, USA-CA All Counties #1210.*

At the end, though, I had found that as of November 15, 2001 there was a new county, Broomfield, CO, and that there was only one station there, W0QE. I checked my logs and found my QSO with him. I worked him on May 4, 2003. Immediately I sent him my QSL card direct and it was the last county, #3077.

I received these endorsements:

Sept. 20, 1980, USA-CA 500, #1517, All CW  
 Sept. 20, 1980, 1000, #623, CW  
 Sept. 13, 1982, 1500, #607, CW  
 Feb 25, 1984, 2000, # 609, CW  
 Apr. 23, 1985, 2500, #583, CW, #1 in OK  
 Dec. 17, 2010, 3000, #1235, CW/SSB  
 Dec 17, 2010, 3077, #1210, CW/SSB, first in OK

My station is all homemade: antennas are LW, G5RV 3-el Yagi, quad, and dipoles. I bought an old Kenwood TS-520 in 1998. I have had a Kenwood TS-830 + SB-200 since 1998. I also have a Yaesu FT1000 MP + ACOM 1010.

There are about 115,000 QSOs in my logs.

I would like to thank all the U.S. operators who helped me with the outstanding success of getting the USA-CA All Counties award as a first in OK country. A lot of thanks to all the operators who congratulated me on that success and who still remember my callsign, OK1APV. I wish good luck to all USA-CA County Hunters.

—73, Tonda, OK1APV

*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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