



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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Riding the County Lion

Dave, KE3VV

My visit to Mount Pleasant (Charleston), SC for the SE Mini was, as usual, a blast. I got to see a bunch of county hunting compadres, play guitar with Scottie (N4AAT), pass along the Ugly Award to a most deserving recipient (Bob – N8KIE), flirt with a lot of wonderful ladies in the Hospitality Room, have lunch with a former high school girlfriend who lives there, have a great meal at the Fat Hen (at which I learned the final secret to their fabulous bacon and blue cheese coleslaw), visit the KZ2P shack and antenna farm on Johns Island (and see Pat and the bevy of rescue dogs that Jim and Pat have adopted), and many other adventures. Thanks once again to Jim (KZ2P) for hosting the event and Joyce (WB9NUL) for her usual great service as hostess for the Hospitality Room.

As Past President of MARAC, Joyce not only now has a vote at Board meetings (while the President only votes to break the exceedingly rare tie), but she has also accepted the challenge of leading the search for future sites and sponsors for the annual MARAC convention and membership meeting. Joyce can provide a lot of information and assistance to anyone who might want to show off their home town and host a convention. Give Joyce a call or send an email to find out more about how to volunteer.

Getting out of a nice warm bed at 3:30 AM and hitting the road for an 8-hour dash back to DC in order to act as mechanical officer on the first-ever trip of the DC Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society's historic pullman car (Dover Harbor) and the newly restored PRR coach Franklin Inn together on the same train. It was a short trip to New York City, and there was not much sleep in the Sunnyside rail yard in Queens, but rewarding and fun like most volunteer work on these trains. (More)

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At our last Board meeting, the MARAC Board of Directors began the move toward paperless awards. Under the leadership of our Awards Manager (Bob - KC6AWX) we are moving toward eliminating paper certificates for all awards that have been printed and sent through the mails, as well as Last County in a State (LC-1) seals and cover sheets. Certificates for awards (other than LC-1) will be sent as an email attachment in a format that can be printed by the recipient. LC-1 awards will be posted in the database on the MARAC web site, and a monthly report of LC-1 awards will be published right here in the MARAC Roadrunner newsletter.

While we want to go completely paperless, there will still be the option for those who want MARAC to do the printing and mailing of paper certificates through the mail, but there will be an extra surcharge to cover the cost. In addition, the Awards Manager has informed me that there are some county hunters who print out the on-line LC-1 application and send him batches of LC-1 applications on paper through the mail. Because the Awards Manager has to manually enter these applications into the database, I will be proposing that the Board adopt a surcharge for this service (which is really unnecessary because the form can be filled out and submitted on-line with an email receipt – a process that automatically generates the award and populates the database). Keep in mind that there are hundreds of these awards issued by the Awards Manager, so there will be a considerable cost saving to MARAC and MARAC members.

I am going to miss putting all those lovely red, blue, and gold seals on the printed LC-1 certificates, but then again I also miss finger painting, Play-Doh, and chasing little girls at recess.

Until next month, the best of 73's from me and the County Lion. Dave - KE3VV



New Members

MARAC Number
R4519

Callsign
KC4QWM

Name
Bill Grantham



Dateline CW

Ed, KN4Y

It is impossible to believe the emotional and spiritual intensity and pure, classic signals that can be produced by a mobile CW county hunter running a county line.

I am in the shack discussing the Texas QSO party with Gator who is massaging the Writelog log to see how we did. Gator waves to get my attention, "Not bad for a senior citizen with butt arthritis, you made 180 QSO, s and worked 113 counties. You added 28 No-Star, one 10-meter, six 15-meter and four 80-meter new counties to your logger totals. To top it off you got two Natural Bingos." "That is great, how many MARAC mobile county hunters did we work?" Gator looks at the computer, "You worked K5CM, N5DO, N5NA, W0BHM, W3DYA, and WC5D, that is six" "How many contacts with Norm, W3DYA?" "Only five, what happened?" He uses flying saucer resonators and the Florida panhandle cloaking switch was on." We have a laugh and sip our lattes.

Gator swings around in the chair, "What I really want to hear about is what happened at the Southeast Mini." "It was exciting. The first item discussed was the move to a paperless system for the MARAC LC award." "What is the LC and I hope this paperless activity does not include bathrooms." "LC means the Last County award now stop interrupting. A recipient of the LC award will be able to download the certificate for permanent copy. The attendees total 38 and most brimming with exotic rare BS, I mean county hunting information." "Did you give that Editor Dude's wife my hug?" "She did not attend this year." "Did you hug Dave to pass it on?" "No." "I want to see the group picture." "There was no group picture this year." "That is sad, another county hunting tradition gone, first paperless, now pictureless." Gator shakes his head feigning disbelief. "Gator, all is not lost. The XYL's at the Mini put a 500 piece jig saw puzzle together in two days. We also went to the Fat Hen and had seafood." Gator shakes his head, "I hope you drank bottled water."

Gator knocks a plain white envelope on the floor, he stoops over and picks it up and opens it up, "Look here Dude, you got two certificates, you were first place in Florida and Georgia in the MARAC QSO party. But then you were the only mobile operating in those States." I ignore Gator's sarcasm, "See what we did in the California QSO party." Gator checks the log, "You did not work a new prefix or county or anything." "I figured that, I have been working the CQP over 25 years and have all the counties. I do need a bunch of 2x2 calls. Do my Pennsylvania QSP party log." I sip my latte. "You did a little better in Pennsylvania; you got 4 no-Stars and a Bingo." "Yes Gator, I have also been working the Pennsylvania QSO party for years, we need to get the Amish into amateur radio." We finish our lattes, tears running down our eyes.

"I just thought of something, hang cool." I go out to the van and come back with a plain brown paper bag, "Here Gator I got this for you at the Southeast Mini banquet. Gator's eyes light up and he grabs the bag out of my hands. He looks at the contents, "Look here Dude I have a straw Roadrunner and a wooden Roadrunner and a Roadrunner tee shirt. There is also a book describing the behavioral patterns of the Roadrunner. Now I will know why the MARAC newsletter is called the Roadrunner." I get two more lattes; Gator is getting way too excited. "Look in the bag and see who donated that item." Gator looks into the bag and brings out a QSL card, "Well I be darned, it is from that Bozo, W9OP. It is good to have a talented wife; by the way, did you all do the bridge walk?" "No, if we had taken a picture the

reason would be oblivious. By the way Scottie, N4AAI, serenaded us after the banquets with songs of county hunter activities.” “Did he sing about me?” “No, he kept the songs church worthy.” “I thought he was on the Enterprise.” “He beamed down for the Mini.”

Gator’s cell phone sounds off. “Got to beam away Dude, the time clock fell off the wall.” He is gone like a mobile county hunter who just finished running a county line. The printer stops and I see it is a list of mobiles that operated during October on a CW county hunters call frequency. I read: AD0H, AF3X, AK8A, K2HVN, K5KDG, K5WAF, K7TM, KC7YE, KE3VV, KN4Y, KW1DX, N0KV, N3HOO, N4CD, N4JT, N5XG, N7IV, N7JPF, N8II, N9AC, N9IF, N9QS, NM2L, NT7R, W0GXQ, W0NAC, W3DQT, W3ZUH, W4HSA, W4SIG, W5IL, W5QP, W7FEN, W7GQK, W8GET, W9MDSE and WD4OIN.

I wonder what a CW county hunter, after voting, can do in his spare time in November. I check the contest calendar and it looks like one State QSO party and it is in Kentucky with 120 counties up for grabs. The big contest is the CW ARRL Sweepstakes and also later on phone. There is the CQ world-wide CW contest. The digital county hunters might want to operate in the 10-10 Digital QSO party. There are also some DX contests. Gator sez if you are part of a jug band be the one who empties the jugs. I survived another Southeast Min, how long can I push my luck. I make a note to tell Gator that Bob, N8KIE, was awarded the ugliest southeast county hunter for the year. Worry later, nap now..



Did You Know?

The Mammoth Site of How Springs (SD) contains the largest concentration of Columbian and woolly mammoth bones discovered in their primary context in the world! This National Natural Landmark is the only in-situ (bones left as found) display of fossil mammoths in America.

The largest underground gold mine is the Homestake Mine in Lead SD



History Happens

Gary, K4EXT

The next several monthly History Happens articles will look at the beginnings of MARAC. The information presented will come primarily from old meeting minutes and newsletters.

The first MARAC meeting was held at 7:30pm on March 21, 1970 at the Leawood, Kansas home of WA0WOB. Those present at this organizational meeting were Skip Skaptason, WA0WOB ... Jack Scroggin, W0SJE ... Cleo Mahoney, WA0SHE ... Ella Koons, W0AYL ... Clyde Stottlemire, W0YLN ... and Myron Baustian, WA0KQQ. Joe Bidnick, WA0PJX was unable to attend but was still considered one of the organizers.

A club Constitution was discussed, modified, and approved unanimously. Likewise, club By-Laws were discussed, modified, and approved unanimously. Publication of a newsletter was discussed, but tabled. Preparations were begun for the club's first awards.

MARAC's first elections resulted in the following: President, WA0WOB ... Vice-President, W0SJE ... Treasurer, W0AYL ... Secretary, WA0SHE ... Board Member (1-year term), WA0PJX ... Board Member (2-year term), WA0KQQ ... and Board Member (3-year term), W0YLN.

The seven organizers were assigned charter membership numbers, which were drawn by lot. Ella Koons, W0AYL became charter member number C-1. Shown below is a picture of Ella from 1995, courtesy of Lloyd, NX4W. Ella Koons became a Silent Key in January 2011.

The first MARAC meeting was adjourned at 11:00pm.



QSL Corner

Gary, K4EXT

I thought I would try doing a monthly Roadrunner column that looks at QSL cards (along with mini-bio for each) of ham radio County Hunters, past and present. Note that unique MRC's might also be featured in this column.

Bob Dyson, K0AYO got started in County Hunting a long time ago! He is USA-CA Worked-All-Counties recipient #106 (dated 07/26/1973) and MARAC Charter Member #C-10. Bob served as MARAC's president for four years, secretary for four years, and newsletter editor for sixteen (16) years! Bob also received a 2nd star as well as a couple of Ran-All-State awards.

Bob's QSL is courtesy of Bob Green of www.oldqslcards.com and CH'er Kurt, KC9UNL:

5142 Nall Johnson County	Roeland Park Shawnee Mission, Kansas, 66202
K Ø A Y O	
To <u>WØPLN</u>	confirming our QSO of <u>0334</u> G. M. T.
<u>5-18</u>	19 <u>68</u> Ur Sigs RST <u>5-7</u> Freq <u>3943</u>
Xmtr <u>HT37-HA10</u>	Revr <u>7551</u>
Tnx OM for QSO	Pse QSL
Vy 73	R. L. (Bob) DYSON <i>Bob</i>

If you have received a noteworthy QSL or MRC while chasing counties, please feel free to Email me an image of the card for possible inclusion in a future QSL Corner column.



Digital Happenings #3(October 2012)

Matt, W0NAC

I hope everyone out there in the County Hunting community has had a good month. I know that I have! Since last month's "DIGITAL HAPPENINGS" was published, I turned 80 years old, and I'm "still kickin" and in general having a great time! Who could ask for more?

So, how many of you have taken the plunge into digital or are contemplating doing so? There are days when I feel like a "voice in the wilderness". Then there are other days when I get to help someone get started on digital and I feel like my efforts are paying off. I know full well that going digital can be a challenge, but if you'll just take that first step down the path, I sincerely believe that you'll be rewarded with hours of enjoyment.

OK, I'll get down off my soapbox now and get on with the article...

HOW TO ADJUST YOUR SYSTEM FOR A CLEAN SIGNAL

Let me begin with a few caveats. Since it is not feasible to cover every combination of interface, software, and rig that is out there, I will, for purposes of this article, assume use of a standard setup using a SignalLink USB interface, Fldigi software, and one of the standard transceivers made by ICOM, YAESU, or KENWOOD. I have been informed that TEN-TEC has an entirely different way of adjusting their rigs, so if you own a TEN-TEC, you will need to consult your manual carefully and give it priority over anything I say here.

That being said, there are two fundamental goals you must strive to meet when tuning your system for digital operation. First, most digital modes require that everything in your system be as linear as possible. Second, you don't want to exceed the ratings on your transceiver final amplifiers and burn them up! Believe me, this is a real possibility if you drive them too hard. I will discuss typical transceiver power limitations first.

If you look at the Specifications section of your transceiver manual, you might see something like this:

Output Power	SSB/CW/FSK/FM	Max.	100W
		Min.	5W
	AM	Max.	25W
		Min.	5W (This example is from a KENWOOD TS-590S manual)

OR

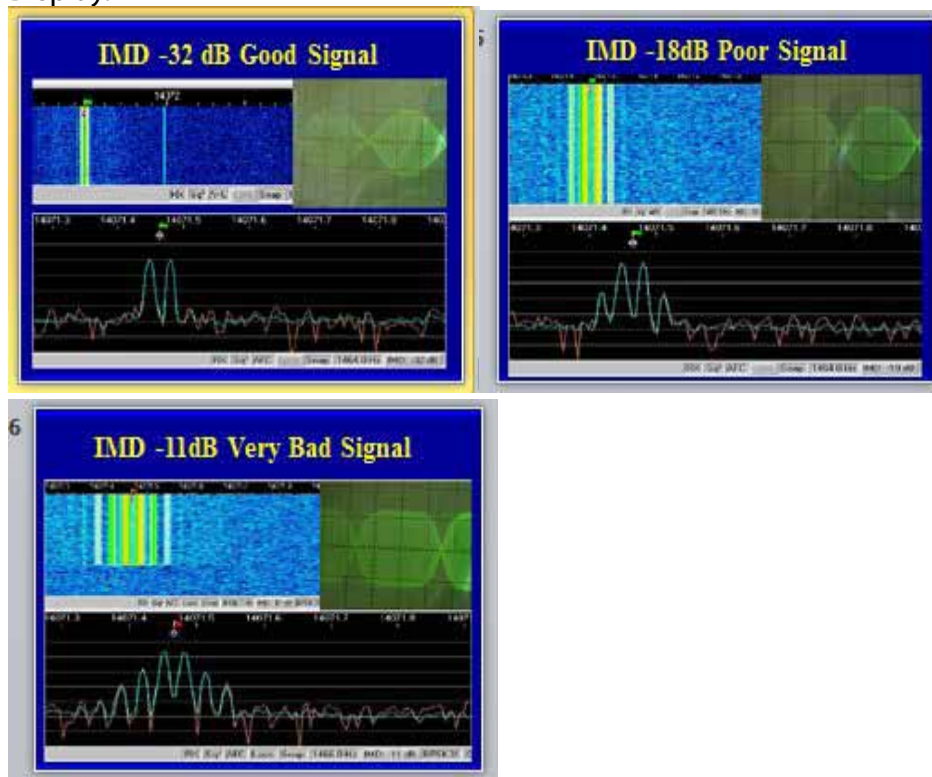
Output Power	SSB, CW, FM, RTTY	2-100W (1.8-50 MHz Bands)
	AM	1-40W (1.8-50 MHz Bands) (From an ICOM 7000 manual)

Almost all digital modes operate with a duty factor of nearly 100%. This is equivalent to the proverbial "brick on the key" when operating CW. This means that the AM ratings are probably the best ones to observe if you don't wish to damage your transceiver. Also, even though your manual's

ratings might lead you to believe that you can safely get 100W out of your transceiver, doing so will probably drive your final amplifiers into non-linear operation and your signal will only be a little stronger (maybe 3 dB), but very distorted, broad, and difficult to print. Probably the maximum RMS power output you can expect to get (with no distortion) from most 100W transceivers is about 30-40 Watts. Besides, most digital modes have excellent low signal capabilities, so high power is not generally needed. For example, JT-65 can provide reliable copy for signals with a S/N ratio of -25 dB! Admittedly this is an extreme example, but many digital modes are superior to even CW.

Now, what is the best way to adjust your transceiver output for the maximum digital signal it can produce without distortion? Here are the basic steps (repeated from last month) with some additional explanations and examples. Again, if you own a TEN-TEC transceiver, you should consult your manual, because the following procedures might not produce optimum results.

Before I begin, you need to know what is meant by a “clean” digital signal. I will illustrate this for a PSK-31 signal (perhaps the most popular digital mode). Here are 3 cases where various quality signals are displayed as they would be seen on your waterfall, on an oscilloscope, and on a Spectrum Display.



The leftmost picture shows a “Good” signal with an IMD of -32 dB. You can observe the almost complete lack of unwanted 3rd order products on all three display formats. In the middle picture you can see the increasing level of 3rd order products (harmonics). These show on the waterfall display as additional bands on either side of the main signal. On the spectrum display, you can see the 3rd order products increasing to either side of the main signal peaks. In the rightmost picture, you can see the results of severe over-driving. This “Very Bad” signal is over 3 times broader than normal for this mode and has very distinctive multiple bands displayed on the waterfall. It also contains growing 3rd, 5th, 7th and higher order unwanted sidebands.

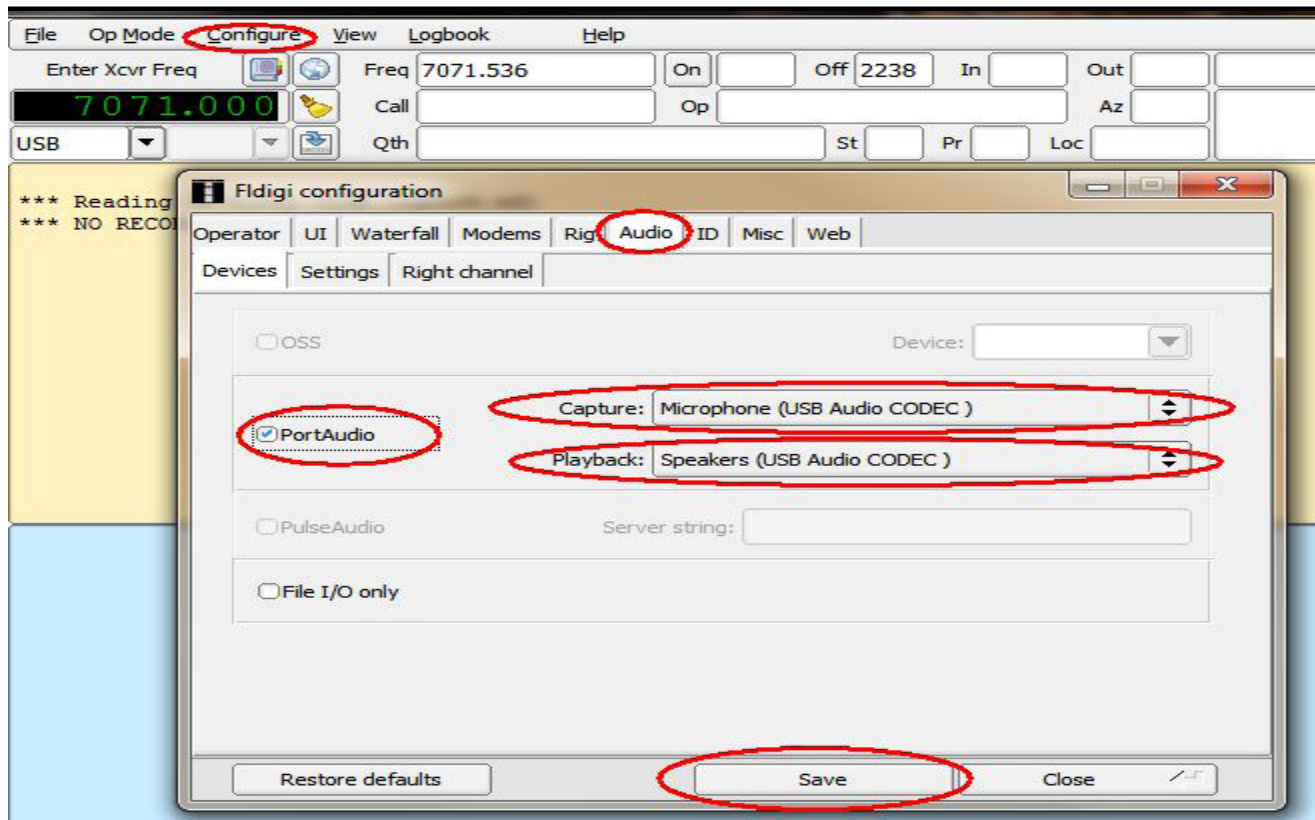
Naturally, our goal is to produce a signal that looks like the one on the top left!

Please keep in mind that you will be controlling the transceiver power output by adjusting the level of the modulated audio arriving at the transceiver audio input (usually Microphone input). What makes things confusing is that in some setups, there can be several controls in series with each other that need to be adjusted individually to get the desired output. To make matters even more confusing, the level controls for your computer soundcard have different names and work differently depending on whether the operating system you are using is Windows XP, Windows Vista, or Windows 7.

Regarding control of sound I/O on the PC, It has been said that "You are in a maze of twisty little passages, all alike". Fortunately when using an interface with a built in soundcard (like the Signalink USB), things get much easier because you can use the Signalink soundcard for just digital operations and use the computer soundcard independently for all other audio functions.

Some communications software has built in level controls designed to help you adjust the Windows audio levels. Unfortunately, most of these software controls were designed to interface with the audio controls in Windows XP. Since Windows 7 audio controls are different from XP, the sound controls built in to your communications software often won't work in Windows 7 and must be ignored!

I will now attempt to describe the controls you will need to adjust for the default system listed earlier, but first, you need to make sure that the Signalink built-in soundcard connections are configured properly for your communications software. You do this for Fldigi in the following screen which is accessed by clicking on the "Configure" Tab and then clicking on the "Sound Card" selection in the drop-down menu:



After clicking on the "Audio" tab, make sure that "PortAudio" is checked and that "Microphone (USB Audio CODEC)" is selected in the "Capture:" box and that "Speakers (USB Audio CODEC)" is selected in the "Playback:" box. Then, "Save" and "Close".

Once you are connected properly, the only levels you need to set for Windows 7 are those for the Signalink Microphone CODEC and Speakers CODEC/Application Level. Once adjusted properly, these computer settings can remain fixed. This leaves ONLY the TX and RX controls on the face of the Signalink USB which may need tweaking from time to time. You can't get much simpler than that! This simplicity of operation is one of the main reasons I have recommended the Signalink USB interface.

There are more detailed Windows 7 setup instructions available at the following link: <http://www.tigertronics.com/windows7.htm> . For additional help in Fldigi setup, please refer to the Fldigi manuals available at the following link: <http://www.w1hkj.com/download.html> . The manuals you will need to download (and print) are all under the "Help" column and are titled "Fldigi-Help", "Fldigi manual (pdf)". Now for the steps needed to produce a clean signal:

1) Begin by setting your transceiver power output control full up (100% power). Please note that if you are driving a linear with your transceiver (as I do occasionally) and only need 30-40W output to drive the linear, you can leave the transceiver power output control at a lower setting without harming anything,

2) Set your transceiver meters so that ALC action is displayed as well as power output. Having an external SWR/Power output meter connected between your antenna and your transceiver can also be very useful as the LED scales on many transceivers can be hard to interpret accurately.

3) Start with the Signalink TX control set at 0

4) If you are using a transceiver rated at 100 Watts PEP SSB, then limit the power output to less than ~40 Watts to avoid distortion and overloading your finals.

5) Trigger your transceiver to transmit mode (using your communications software and the PTT control built in to the Signalink interface), and then gradually increase the Signalink TX control (with the transceiver connected to a dummy load of course), and watch as power output increases for any ALC action. When ALC action begins to show a bit, back off on the Signalink TX control slightly until ALC action just disappears. This will give you the maximum power output with acceptable distortion for your rig.

There may be times when you wish to operate at power output levels well below the maximum – perhaps QRP levels. To do this, simply back off the TX control on your Signalink interface (not the transceiver power output control) until the desired power output is observed. Again, an external Multi-range SWR/Power meter can be helpful for adjusting the output power more precisely. If you carefully follow these steps, you are almost guaranteed to have a clean signal, but if you have any doubt about your signal quality, there are several other things you can do to check your IMD (Intermodulation Distortion).

First, there are hardware devices available that you can use to monitor your own IMD. A quick Google search turned up what looks like a great device offered by KK7UQ at the following link: <http://www.g4ilo.com/imd-meter.html> . I have seen others advertised in QST and CQ Magazine also.

Second, you can set up a separate monitor receiver with Digipan operating in full duplex mode.

Detailed instructions for doing this are available at: <http://www.rsq-info.net/IMD-Measurement.html> .

Lastly, you can solicit critical over-the-air reports from other operators. This is probably the method most digital operators use, but accurate reports require that these operators observe certain conditions. These conditions include only measuring IMD when the signal being measured is unmodulated (i.e. in IDLE) and with an S/N ratio above 36 dB. I also recommend that you use the PSK-31 mode for all IMD checks.

DIGITAL ACTIVITIES IN OCTOBER

The number of mobiles putting out counties using digital modes was very low last month. It may be that the price of gasoline is keeping a lot of folks at home. I know that travel expenses are one of several factors that have limited Sharon and my trips this fall.

I had the pleasure of helping four people last month. I furnished W9SUQ (Larry) several sets of sample macros for Fldigi and demonstrated how to modify/save them (I plan on discussing the use of macros in next month's article).

I answered several digital questions from W9JR (Rich) and helped N8HAM (Jim) get his Fldigi installation working correctly.

Finally, I have spent considerable time helping VK4AAR (Alan) get going on digital. This was a bit challenging because of the great time difference and because he had to use equipment that he

already had on hand that I was not familiar with. He is ending up with an Emachine Windows 7 computer, a Rascal GLS interface, and a USB to Serial converter for PTT control (through his Rascal GLS). We are now in the process of installing a MISO (Mike In Speaker Out) device for audio control since his Rascal GLS does not have an internal sound card. The MISO will act just like a second sound card (similar to the one internal to a Signalink USB interface) and free up his computer sound card for use by SKYPE. If you are using an interface that has no internal sound card, the MISO may be right for you. It is simple, inexpensive (\$10.00), and sets itself up automatically when plugged into a spare USB port. If you want to know more about this neat little device, go to the following link: http://www.packetradio.com/catalog/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=13&products_id=2150

I will be happy to help anyone get started. Just email me or call me on the phone. My email is w0nac@comcast.net and my phone number is 303-799-3658. Call any time.

I have included Table 1 which has been updated from last month as several new calls were added. If I have left anyone off the list you have my sincere apology! Just drop me a quick email and include your stats, if you know them, and I will be pleased to add you to the list. Conversely, if you are on the list and feel that you don't belong, please also drop me an email and I will remove you.

Logger will currently give you your status for the USA – Digital Award (Go to “View/Edit/Book/USA-Digital/All”), but for the 5-Mode award, Logger only reports those counties for which all 5 Modes have been worked. You can see this by going to “View/Edit/Book/5-Mode/All”. A fix has been requested that will report on the status of 1,2,3,4 and 5 completed counties, but it may be a while before this is released.

Table 1 - Active Digital County Hunters Award Status

#	CALL	NAME	STATUS* (M,F,I)	USA - DIGITAL Counties (of 3077)	(1 MODE)	(2 MODES)	FIVE MODE COUNTIES (3 MODES)	(4 MODES)	(5 MODES)
1	AA8R	Randy	F	1000+	-	-	-	-	-
2	AC0B	Cliff	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	AD1C	Jim	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	K0DEQ	Bill	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	K0PVW	Rob	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	K0WJ	Lou	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	K4PBX	Jim	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	K5GE	Gene	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	K5SF	Dick	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	K7REL	Tom	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	K8QWY	Ed	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	K8ZZ	Ed	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	KC3X	Hollis	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	KC6AWX	Bob	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	KD5YUK	Billv	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	KD7KST	Bill	M/F	1792	-	-	-	-	-
17	KG5RJ	Gregory	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	KM1C	Bill	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
19	N0KV	Barry	M/F	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	N0LXJ	Sharon	M/F	1298	3077	2201	1109	349	138
21	N1API	Al	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	N3HOO	Ed	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
23	N4JT	Jim	F	572	3077	3058	-	-	-
24	N5MLP	Ron	M/F	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	N6PDB	Dennis	F	91	3077	2477	66	0	0
26	N8CIJ	Dick	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
27	N8HAM	Jim	I	-	-	-	-	-	-
28	NA8W	Darl	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
29	NF0N	Mike	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
30	NN9K	Pete	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
31	NT2A	Gene	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
32	NU4C	Paul	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
33	NW6S	Jim	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
34	NX4W	Lloyd	M/F	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	W0NAC	Matt	M/F	1699	3077	2767	1825	830	220
36	W0QE	Larry	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
37	W4IHI	Garv	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
38	W4SIG	Kerrv	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
39	W4YDY	Dave	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
40	W6RK	Risto	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
41	W6RLL	Joe	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
42	W7IN	Larry	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
43	W7QQ	Bill	M/F	-	-	-	-	-	-
44	W9JR	Rich	F	90	3077	1674	44	0	0
45	W9SUQ	Larry	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
46	WA4UNS	Doug	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
47	WA7JHQ	Sterling	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
48	WB0M	Jeff	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
49	WB2ABD	Paul	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
50	WD4OIN	Jack	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
51	WQ7A	Terrv	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
52	WY4D	Bennie	F	-	-	-	-	-	-

For November I plan on discussing “How to use macros with specific examples” and “How to make your first digital contact”.

Future topics in the coming months include –

“How to ‘put out’ counties mobile using digital modes”

“How to operate as a mobile OM/YL team using digital modes”

“How to fine tune your Interface”

“Other Interesting modes (JT-65)”

So long again.....Please email me with your comments/suggestions at w0nac@comcast.net and don't forget to send me your counties worked status on the USA – Digital and 5 Mode Awards so I can update the Digital County Hunter list again next month.

Thanks and 73's

Matt – W0NAC



Birthdays

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
VE9DH	Nov - 01
K9ETB	Nov - 01
KU5DX	Nov - 01
NE9DHx	Nov - 01
K8HM	Nov - 01
W5IL	Nov - 01
N4PN	Nov - 01
K4SMT	Nov - 02
W9LHG	Nov - 03
AD0H	Nov - 03
W4WNT	Nov - 03
N5DWI	Nov - 03
KA3MMM	Nov - 04
W0EAR	Nov - 04
WA2AKB	Nov - 04
K0TE	Nov - 04
K0KY	Nov - 04
KI7AO	Nov - 04
KB2KBC	Nov - 05
KM1C	Nov - 05
NY2L	Nov - 05
KQ4DR	Nov - 06
WU4S	Nov - 06
N0LN	Nov - 06
NIOG	Nov - 06
W9KP	Nov - 06
N6VH	Nov - 06
N1API	Nov - 06
WB2Sk2nHU	Nov - 06
N0COL	Nov - 06
KE3ND	Nov - 06
KB1PA	Nov - 06
N9EB	Nov - 07
KW0U	Nov - 07
AA4FU	Nov - 07
WA3QVJ	Nov - 08
WB5CYS	Nov - 08

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
W9GN	Nov - 08
WB5KEA	Nov - 08
WO8L	Nov - 09
N6SFV	Nov - 09
K7OC	Nov - 09
KE9CA	Nov - 09
K1DAN	Nov - 10
N8DW	Nov - 10
NT9V	Nov - 10
W6ISQ	Nov - 10
K5LAM	Nov - 10
NX4W	Nov - 10
W5UGD	Nov - 11
W3SQA	Nov - 11
NJ6V	Nov - 11
W4SD	Nov - 11
AD6PB	Nov - 11
WG6X	Nov - 11
WB6EXT	Nov - 11
KK5NA	Nov - 12
NU7V	Nov - 12
W5IOO	Nov - 12
KM6GF	Nov - 12
N7PJP	Nov - 13
WB0AXN	Nov - 13
WB9STT	Nov - 13
N4XML	Nov - 13
N5MJ	Nov - 13
AA0TG	Nov - 13
N0DRX	Nov - 14
W5RBO	Nov - 14
KC5DSP	Nov - 14
K4JP	Nov - 14
K3RYA	Nov - 14
KU4VP	Nov - 15
W6ROY	Nov - 15
NE8Z	Nov - 15

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
W1VET	Nov - 15
N8AIL	Nov - 16
KA9FDV	Nov - 16
N8TW	Nov - 16
WA5AUR	Nov - 16
WB2AXG	Nov - 17
N7LYR	Nov - 17
WB9ZHS	Nov - 17
K7BOI	Nov - 17
N4LZ	Nov - 17
N9VIB	Nov - 17
W4XT	Nov - 17
W4TYO	Nov - 17
W8LSV	Nov - 17
K2RP	Nov - 17
AC9X	Nov - 17
AK9L	Nov - 17
K0JN	Nov - 17
N5TT	Nov - 17
W6TCD	Nov - 18
NF0N	Nov - 18
K6JEN	Nov - 18
N4KE	Nov - 18
W6SJR	Nov - 19
N7BVQ	Nov - 19
N7SJ	Nov - 19
W9DM	Nov - 19
KS4BO	Nov - 19
KC5P	Nov - 20
N9DEH	Nov - 20
K0JCK	Nov - 20
WB5YDH	Nov - 20
WL7EM	Nov - 20
W8TE	Nov - 21
W2WC	Nov - 21
KE7TI	Nov - 21
K0LU	Nov - 21

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
KM6D	Nov - 22
K2ZR	Nov - 22
W7WBZ	Nov - 22
KI8V	Nov - 22
K0CIE	Nov - 23
W1TEE	Nov - 23
NT2A	Nov - 23
W8DCH	Nov - 23
W5ETM	Nov - 23
KK7X	Nov - 23
W4EAS	Nov - 23
VE3HMK	Nov - 23
VE1BES	Nov - 24
KB9FBI	Nov - 24
N4LM	Nov - 24
WB2DSM	Nov - 24
KM4JA	Nov - 24
AB4LG	Nov - 25
KK5CP	Nov - 25
W4GP	Nov - 26
KE7YF	Nov - 26
KC6AWX	Nov - 26
W6SA	Nov - 26
KB0WD	Nov - 27
K7SN	Nov - 27
WV1Y	Nov - 27
AI9Y	Nov - 27
AK5PP	Nov - 27
AA9ZF	Nov - 27
K0WJ	Nov - 28
W2VX	Nov - 28
K0JIM	Nov - 28
KI7S	Nov - 28
WA8SCO	Nov - 28
KE3VV	Nov - 28
N9HRX	Nov - 28
W9UR	Nov - 29

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
KD1EJ	Nov - 29
KD8NR	Nov - 29
W3WG	Nov - 29
N2CT	Nov - 29
K9AAA	Nov - 29
KN9V	Nov - 30
KX8Z	Nov - 30
W1OZ	Nov - 30
W3DLM	Nov - 30
WY8I	Nov - 30



Awards

Awards Issued For September/October			
Call	Date	Award	Number
N8CIJ	10/2/2012	5 Star	# 62
NF0N	8/30/2012	5 Star	# 61
AA1VA	10/18/2012	USA-CW	# 131
W9MSE	9/30/2012	USA-CW V	# 5
KE3VV	10/17/2012	USA-PA "N" Prefix	# 18
W3CR	10/21/2012	Master Platinum	# 20
K4EXT	10/12/2012	BINGO	# 346
KC5QCB	10/7/2012	BINGO	# 345
W8FNW	9/13/2012	BINGO	# 344
NF0N	9/29/2012	BINGO II	# 90
W4SIG	10/11/2012	Worked all Counties - 2nd Time	# 420
W8TZA	9/27/2012	Worked all Counties - 2nd Time	# 418
K4YT	9/30/2012	Worked all Counties - 2nd Time	# 419
W9SUQ	10/20/2012	Worked all Counties - 3rd Time	# 234
N5MLP	9/12/2012	Worked all Counties - 3rd Time	# 233
WA4UNS	10/19/2012	Worked all Counties - 4th Time	# 157
W9MSE	9/30/2012	Worked all Counties - 5th Time	# 109
K5GE	9/3/2012	Worked all Counties - 7th Time	# 20



Roadrunner Issued For September/October				
Call	Date	Count	Award	Number
N4CD	10/6/2012	Last County Count 2125	Last County Count 2125	# 1
WA9DLB	9/22/2012	Last County Count 50	Last County Count 50	# 336
W7FEN	9/22/2012	Last County Count 550	Last County Count 550	# 28
N0KV	10/1/2012	Last County Count 400	Last County Count 400	# 42
W3DYA	10/6/2012	Last County Count 200	Last County Count 200	# 105
N8KIE	10/7/2012	Last County Count 775	Last County Count 775	# 13
N7JPF	10/7/2012	Last County Count 25	Last County Count 25	# 504
KA3DRO	10/14/2012	Last County Count 400	Last County Count 400	# 43
WQ7A	10/22/2012	Last County Count 450	Last County Count 450	# 37
AF3X	10/20/2012	Last County Count 175	Last County Count 175	# 126
WG9A	10/23/2012	Last County Count 325	Last County Count 325	# 55
N9JF	10/20/2012	Last County Count 300	Last County Count 300	# 64

THE FOLLOWING RECEIVED LAST COUNTY AWARDS FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER
FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO: <http://www.marac.org>

Email - Last County
Paid by Call
W7FEN
K4EXT
W7FEN
W7FEN
WA0RKQ
K4EXT
K5GE
K5GE
K5GE
K5GE
K5GE
K5GE
K5GE
K5GE
K5GE
AB7NK
AB7NK
AB7NK
AB7NK
AB7NK
KC5QCB
W3DYA
AB7NK
AB7NK
K5UH
KC3X
N4AAT
NF0N
AB7NK
W5QP
KC3X
KC3X
KC3X
N7JPF
N7JPF
N7JPF
N7JPF
VE5EGK

Email - Last County
Paid by Call
AB7NK
WB9STT
WB9STT
WB9STT
WB9STT
WB9STT
WB9STT
WD4OIN
KC3X
N4CD
N6PDB
N6PDB
N6PDB
N6PDB
N6PDB
N6PDB
N6PDB
N6PDB
N8CIJ
N8CIJ
W1ATV
WD4OIN
WD4OIN
K4EXT
K4YT
K4YT
N4CD
N4CD
N5UZW
N9WNN
KC3X
WA6KHK
WA6KHK
WA6KHK
WA6KHK
WA6KHK
WA6KHK
WA6KHK
AB7NK

Email - Last County
Paid by Call
KB0BA
KC3X
KB0BA
N4AAT
W7IN
AB7NK
AB7NK
AB7NK
KC3X
KC3X
KB0BA
WD4OIN
AA4GT
NF0N
W8TZA
AA4GT
KC3X
AB7NK
N4AAT
N8CIJ
W3DLM
W3DLM
W3DLM
WA0RKQ
K8QWY
KC3X
KC3X
AB7NK
K0DEQ
N4AAT
K1SO
N8KIE
N8KIE
N8MD
N8MD
N8MD

THE FOLLOWING RECEIVED LAST COUNTY AWARDS FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER
 FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO: <http://www.marac.org>

Email - Last County
Paid by Call
N8MD
N8MD
N8MD
N8MD
NF0N
WD4OIN
WD4OIN
WV2B
AB7NK
AB7NK
WD4OIN
WG9A
WG9A
WQ7A
WQ7A
AB4YZ
AB7NK
K6KLL
KC3X
KC3X
N6PDB
N6PDB
N6PDB
K7VAY
KC3X
VE5EGK
VE5EGK
WD4OIN
K4EXT
W8FNW
W8FNW
W8FNW
W8FNW
AA4GT
DL6KVA
K4EXT

Email - Last County
Paid by Call
W5QP
AB7NK
N4CD
W5QP
WQ7A
K7REL
KC3X
N4AAT
N4AAT
N8KIE
W8TZA
N9QS
W0NAC
WA0RKQ
WA0RKQ
WV2B
N5MLP
W3DLM
W3DLM
WG9A
KC3X
AB7NK
AB7NK
AB7NK
KC3X
KC3X
WQ7A
WQ7A
WQ7A
NM2L
VE1WT
VE1WT
VE1WT
VE1WT
VE1WT
VE1WT
VE1WT

Email - Last County
Paid by Call
VE1WT
VE1WT
VE1WT
VE1WT
KE3VV
K0DEQ
KC3X
KC3X
N8KIE
N4AKP
NF0N
NF0N
NF0N
WG9A
WG9A
WG9A



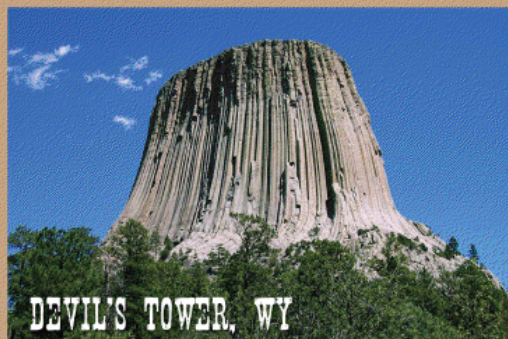
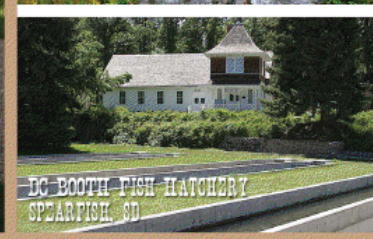
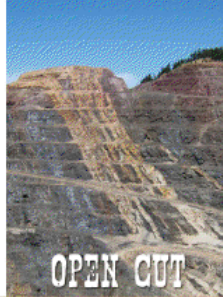
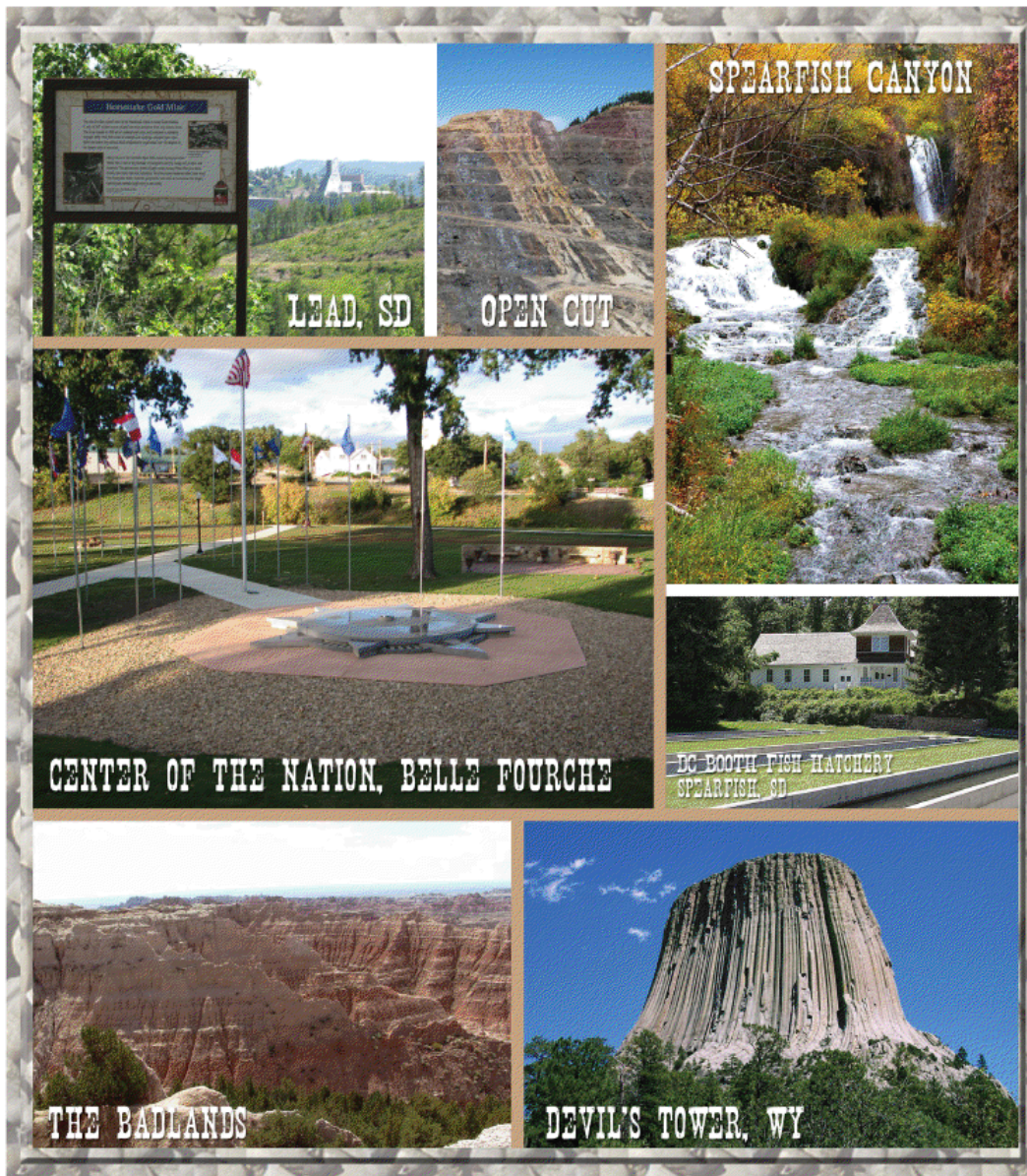
National

Please join us for the
2013 MARAC
National Convention



in the Beautiful **BLACK HILLS** OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Other attractions near Deadwood



**Treasurer's Report (W0NAC)
September 2012***

Beginning Account Balances Sep 4, 2012		\$32,645.71
September Income:		
Money Market Interest	\$2.07	
Awards Manager Income	\$503.50	
Membership Income	\$357.29	
Logger distribution	\$45.00	
Total Income:		<u>\$907.86</u>
September Expenses:		
Awards Manager Expenses	\$360.72	
Office Expenses	\$0.00	
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$0.00	
Total Expenses:		<u>\$360.72</u>
September Net Income Less Expenses		\$547.14
New Total Balance ALL Accounts:		\$33,192.85
Checking Account Balance	<u>\$7190.11</u>	
Money Market Account Balance	<u>\$26,002.74</u>	
Total:		\$33,192.85

Note:

The following monies are not included in the above:

Awards Chairman's Funds \$1,500.00

* Includes some September transactions recorded through 10/27/2012



**Awards Manager's Report
September 30, 2012**

Funds Balance August 31, 2012		\$1,500.00
Income	\$ 503.50	
	<u>\$ 503.50</u>	
Expenses:		
Office supplies	\$ 00.00	
Plaque Suppliers	\$ 172.00	
Postage	\$ 188.72	
	<u>\$ 360.72</u>	
Sent to Treasurer		\$ 503.50
Reimbursement received from Treasurer		\$ 360.72
Funds Balance September 30, 2012		\$1500.00

**Awards Manager's Report
October 31, 2012**

Funds Balance September 30, 2012		\$1,500.00
Income	\$ 338.00	
	<u>\$ 338.00</u>	
Expenses:		
Office supplies	\$ 20.16	
Plaque Suppliers	\$ 90.00	
Postage	\$ 96.75	
	<u>\$ 206.91</u>	
Sent to Treasurer		\$ 338.00
Reimbursement received from Treasurer		\$ 206.91
Funds Balance October 31, 2012		\$1500.00



Calendar

~ November 2012 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ONLY START DATE SHOWN	CLICK ON EVENT TO GO TO WEB SITE			1	2	3 ARRL CW SWEEPS
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 10-10 DIGI QP KY QP
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 ARRL SSB SWEEPS
18	19 RUN4BACON	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 STRT KEY SPRINT	29	30	Notes:



AI5P

The following appeared in the October ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Newsletter

This month we take a look at ARRL Life member Rick Harris AI5P of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Rick began monitoring the short-waves in 1959 around the old-style family shortwave radio set found in many homes in the 30s and 40s and soon discovered ham radio. Only one problem: his town in Arkansas didn't have a ham club and he didn't know any of the local hams. Still he monitored, and actually stumbled onto a county hunting net. As he heard new counties, Rick sought to confirm them with SWL cards and confirmed over 1,000 counties as a SWL, earning him his first county hunter award: CQ USA-CA as a SWL.

Rick finally became licensed in 1969 and immediately continued his quest to collect as many counties as he could. As one who enjoyed traveling and learning history, Rick jumped to the other side of the equation in 1972 and began operating while mobile across the United States to hand out counties needed by others.

Forty years later Rick not only put an abundance of much-needed counties into the logbook of hams across the nation and world; he reached a major milestone of his own. During a month-long trip to Alaska to tour and operate on the air, Rick fulfilled his goal of transmitting from every one of the United States' 3,077 counties. You can read about Rick's trip to Alaska and achieving his goal in his own words in the August 2012 edition of County Hunter News at <http://www.chnewsonline.com/County%20Hunter%20News%20August%202012.pdf> (page 23).

Rick's other passion is both chasing DX, and being chased as the DX. In the course of his travels around the world he's operated from 77 different countries. His other achievements include 5BDXCC, WAZ (from two locations), DXCC (from 10 locations), CW-DXCC (from two locations), and WAS (from several locations). Rick has also worked all the 3,077 counties in the United States five times over with the last time being all 2XCW. To say Rick has enjoyed being on the air since becoming licensed is an absolute understatement. His activity as a ham, and the operating skills gained along the way, is exemplary.

If you are interested in the challenge of working counties, Rick offers the following advice: "The Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club (MARAC) web site is a good place to start learning about county hunting. CQ Magazine sponsors the original USA-CA (USA- Counties Award) while MARAC sponsors a number of other awards associated with county hunting. Also, listen to the County Hunting Nets prior to 'jumping in' so you know the procedures and learn the process of working the counties on their frequencies."

Some websites he recommends for further information include: <http://www.cquest.com/ch/index.html>, <http://www.marac.org>, and <http://www.countyhunter.com>

Awards Committee

These MARAC members are serving on the Awards Committee:

Awards Manager - Bob Devine (KC6AWX)

Phil Yasson (AB7RW)

Bob Gedemer (KA9JAC)

Dave Splitt (KE3VV)

Kent Reinke (KL1V)

Ed Palagyi (KN4Y)

Leo Bingham (WY7LL)

“Matt” Mathew (W0NAC)

David Pyle (KW1DX)

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: David Splitt, KE3VV, 6111 Utah Ave NW, Washington DC 20015, 301-300-2818, davidsplitt@erols.com

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Secretary: Jim Grandinetti, KZ2P, 2690 Bohicket Rd, Johns Island, SC 29455, 843-323-8385, k2jg@comcast.net

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Pacific Director: Robert T. Devine, KC6AWX, 407 Alameda Del Prado, Novato, CA 94949-6302, 415-883-8980, kc6awx@marac.org

Southeast Director: Kerry Long, W4SIG, 1385 Auburn Woods Dr, Collierville TN 38017, 901-331-1881, kerrylong@comcast.net

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MARAC General Counsel: David Splitt, KE3VV, 6111 Utah Avenue NW Washington, D.C. 20015-2461, 1-202-362-3355, ke3vv@marac.org

Computer Data Manager: Gene A Olig Sr, KD9ZP, W 4325 4th St Rd, Fond du Lac, WI 54937, 920-923-0130, kd9zp@att.net

Dues with an Electronic copy of the Newsletter copy are \$14.00 per year, check or money order; \$14.75 via PayPal.