



# **THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER**

*Published Monthly by the Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club, Inc.*



**Volume XLIII**

**November 2013**

**Number 11**

## **Riding the County Lion**

Dave – KE3VV

If it seems like you are receiving your Roadrunner issue for November a bit earlier this month, it may be because I am actually submitting my *Riding the County Lion* column on time. This does not signal a major behavioral paradigm shift or life style change, but the reality that I am going out of the country for a week of real R&R. By “real” R&R, I mean that I will not be working on the road or dealing with email and phone calls... cutting off from the world. This one will be a cruise to Bermuda, so nothing really existing... just eating, drinking, and relaxing. Maybe some shopping and swimming or snorkeling too.

The County Lion is not all that excited about this trip because he is remaining at home to guard the ham shack. He is much more excited about the longer trip to Kenya coming up in late January of next year. He gets to go along on that one because we will be visiting some distant relatives in the Maasai Mara. I had to explain to him that there are no county lines in Kenya and that the Lions there may be wet or dry depending on the season (we are going in the dry season before the March rains begin). At first he thought maybe he was being invited along on a DX-pedition to the wilds of Africa, but I told him that there will be no ham radios on this trip. He is now up in the attic rummaging around for an old pith helmet that I got when I was on the staff at Woodstock in 1969. Good luck! (more)

### **Contents**

Awards	9
Awards Manager's Report	22
Birthdays	10
Calendar	23
Dateline CW	3
Digital Happenings	12
History Happens	6
Human Interest	8

MARAC National	5
MARAC Silent Keys	7
New Members	7
Notes	19
Riding the County Lion	1
Treasurer's Report (W0NAC)	21
WY7LL	20

The annual trek to Charleston for the SE Mini was once again a lot of fun, although the up and down state of the economy kept the attendance down a bit this year, but we hope the numbers will pick up next year. We all had a great time. As usual, the Tuesday dinner at the Fat Hen arranged by host KZ2P was a gustatory highlight... I just can't get enough of their bacon infused coleslaw, as well as the many piscatorial delights. The Big Green Dragon is not much of a seafood aficionado, but he heats up over anything with bacon (he brags that he was the inventor of extra crispy bacon – a likely story), so I snuck him out some coleslaw.

Later this month the County Lion and the Dragon will head south to Blacksburg VA on a brief road trip to share Thanksgiving with my daughters. Eldest offspring is a gourmet chef, so it will be a grand feast... and there will be pie. Thanksgiving this year falls on my birthday, but I have been assured that there will not be 68 candles planted in the pumpkin pie. I hope that everyone will be able to share that day with friends and relatives, I will be listening on the airwaves for greetings from my county hunting family.

Time to get packed for my cruise – while listening to the radio in the background for the last few counties I need for USA-CW II and the Prefix A award and trying not to get distracted by the DX voices calling on a often wide open 10 meter band. Until next month, be safe and have fun on the road wherever you travel... The Southern Road Gang without Shotguns and Shovels – Dave, the County Lion, and the Big Green Dragon - 73's and 88's to all.



**Dateline CW**

Ed, KN4Y

All is lost save CW county hunting and beer.

There is a cool nip in the air as I stop at the mailbox before going into the radio shack. I go inside and turn on the lights and I hear Gator's truck slide to a stop at the recycled railroad tie. He enters the shack, "Greetings Dude, I see you got the mail. What is the obese brown envelope?" I pick up the overstuffed brown envelope, "This envelope is from the ARRL QSL bureau, it contains QSL cards from DX and Canada stations. I send the bureau the stamped envelope and they put the QSL cards to me in the envelope and mail the filled envelope back to me." Gator opens the envelope, "Wow, Dude, there are QSL cards from Japan, Germany and France to mention a few countries. Here is one from a contest station." Gator reads the card, "It has no reply necessary on the front. Why send a card if a return card is not wanted? Here, enjoy a hot latte." I savor the aroma and a slow gulp completes the ritual, "That is a contest station bragging about their score but if you notice most of the QSL cards have please QSL marked." Gator counts the cards, "There are 80 cards in this envelope. I thought the ARRL Log Book of the World made QSL cards obsolete." "This is a tradition and exchanging QSL cards will not end anytime soon."

Gator turns on the computer, "I hated to leave you at the start of the Texas QSO party, let see what you did without me." I laugh, "The Texas QSO party was a CW blast. Lot of CW fixed and mobile stations, it was a case of if you snooze you lose. The mobiles took advantage of the higher speed limit in Texas and moved quickly from county to county. This the most fun I have had in a Texas QSO party since the Armadillo Run many, many years ago when you were still in diapers. How many mobiles were MARAC county hunters?" I sip my latte while Gator gets the information. He lets go of the mouse, "The best I can tell there was K5CM, K5JX, K5NA, K5YAA, N5DO, N5NA, NS5J, W0BH, WD5D and that Norm Dude W3DYA. I never wore diapers, I started life in shorts." I bet that was a sight to behold. See if I increased any of my MARAC award totals."

Gator does a massage of the log, "You worked 24 No-star, one 2x2 and 2x1 and worked N5DO in Kinney, Texas for 5<sup>th</sup> time around." Gator picks up a large white envelope off the desk and opens it, "I see you got a certificate from the 2012 Arizona Centennial QSO party for single operator, low power in Florida." Gator checks the Arizona QSO party web site. "I see you actually came in fifth." He is laughing so hard he spills his latte on the QSL cards. I hand him a paper towel roll. When he is finished I hand Gator the memory stick with the California QSO party log, "Let see what we did in the California QSO party."

I sip my latte as he massages the log. "Dude you made over 200 QSOs and only got two Bingos." I shake my head, "Yes, I have run so many California QSO parties I have worked just about all the MARAC award elements for California." Gator sips his latte, "I see you worked only one mobile." "Yes, the price of fuel is high and discourages rover operation." "I never thought about that. I also see the number of QSO's you made in the Arizona QSO party would fit on a big toe." I sip my latte, "Yes, I did not hear many stations on CW, but I did work who I heard. Since you got a hot mouse check the Pennsylvania QSO party. It is also on that memory stick." Gator chuckles at the thought of a hot mouse "Well Dude, You made over a 100 QSO's but only got one county on 160-meters, three No-Star and one 2x2 call." "Yes, I have worked the Pennsylvania QSO party so many times that without mobile activity in the non ham counties, the same stations and counties are worked every year."

Gator is staring at the computer, "Big news Dude, the county hunters running counties in Montana and accidentally hit a deer can harvest the carcass for the dinner table. The regulations have been approved by the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission." I sip my latte, "Now in addition to a radio and antenna a county hunter in Montana will have a deer field dressing kit and portable grill. Gives a new meaning to: Guess Who's Coming to Dinner." We have a good laugh imagining a county hunter on the net says, 'will QRT for a deer dinner'. We spill out lattes laughing so hard, and Gator asks, "I wonder if W4SIG goes to Montana." The laughter starts all over again. A county hunter is easily amused.

Gator gets some cookies, the waist destroyer of many CW county hunters, and hands me a few. I think no, but I am already chewing, "Gator, check my 10-10 CW QSO party log." "Roger, will do." Gator manipulates the mouse, "Not bad Dude, you got some new ten-ten numbers. You got 17 Stateside and 9 DX." "Any new counties?" "Nope." "Dang."

There is a sound emitting from Gator's back pocket. It is his cell phone. Gator shuts down the computer, "Sorry Dude have to get to the back forty there is a short in the electrified fence. He is gone like the munchies at a MARAC hospitality room. I hear him yell, "I never said I was a vegetarian." I look out the window and see all but one kamikaze squirrel made it across the driveway.

The printer stops and I get the list of mobiles heard on the county hunters call frequency during October. I read: AF3X, AK8A, KO7X, K3IMC, K4XI, K4YFH, K6RIM, K9JWV, KA4RRU, KB6UF, KC3X, KC7YE, KW1DX, N1QY, N4CD, N4JT, N6YEU, N7IV, N9AC, N9JF, N9QS, NN9K, W0GXQ, W0NAC, W3DQT, W3ZUH, W5QP, W6YX, W7FEN, W8GEJ, W9MSE, WA3QNT, WA4PGM, WB0PYF and WB4KZW,

November 3 the time falls back to regular standard time. Next month the chill factor increases so any reason to stay in a warm radio shack is welcome. I scan the contest calendar and I see there is both the CW and sideband ARRL Sweepstakes, both major contests.. The OK-OM CW DX contest is fun and is a good prelude to the CQ WW CW contest. The only State QSO party is Kentucky with 120 counties up for grabs. I forgot to tell Gator that at the Southeast Mini the great county hunter Roy (Silver), N9QS, received the prestigious Southeast Ugly award. I no longer lie about my age, I now brag about it. Nap time.

Now in county hunters heaven, N3HOO, W7KQZ and N4UJK.



MARAC National  
46<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention 2014 Registration  
July 9 – 12 Visalia, California  
(Deadline for Early Registration Prize Drawing is May 1, 2014)

NAME: (First Mi, Last) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST/PROV \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

Convention registration fee: \$ 45.00

(One registration fee/family unit – Includes 1 prize ticket & 1 group photo)

NAME ON BADGE \_\_\_\_\_ CALLSIGN \_\_\_\_\_ USACA# \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Name Badges (list information below) Total # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign \_\_\_\_\_ USACA# \_\_\_\_\_ Relation \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign \_\_\_\_\_ USACA# \_\_\_\_\_ Relation \_\_\_\_\_

Relation: W-Wife, H-Husband, D-Daughter, S-Son, M-Mother, F-Father, X-Friend, GD-Grand Daughter,  
GS-Grand Son, for any additional badges please attach or list on back of form.

*Enter number of persons that will attend events*

**Wednesday 09 July – Check-In/Do It Yourself Activities**

**Thursday 10 July**

If enough interest a Bus will come to the hotel, free of charge and transport a group to the nearby Indian Casino, please check here if interested \_\_\_\_\_

**Friday 11 July (Tour below is limited to Max of 30 People)**

Sequoia National Park – Depart 8:00/9:00 AM (2 buses 15 each)

#Adults \_\_\_\_\_ X \$35.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday 12 July**

Banquet – **San Joaquin Buffet**

Mixed Field Green Salad with assorted Dressings

Pasta Salad with Bay Shrimp, Red Onions, Red and Yellow Bell Peppers

Platter of Sliced Fresh Fruit and Berries

Grilled Balsamic Vegetable Platter with Fresh Mozzarella Cheese

Braised Breast of Chicken in Red Wine Sauce with Pancetta and Pearl Onions

Charbroiled Salmon Medallions on Bed of Sautéed Spinach, Dill Herb Sauce

Rice Pilaf, Roasted Red Potatoes

#Adults \_\_\_\_\_ X \$45.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Prize Tickets**

Prize (Singles) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$ 1.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Prize (Book 12 tickets) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cash (singles) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$ 1.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cash (Book 12 tickets) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Photographs**

Extra: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

YL: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

USA-CA: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CW: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

DATA: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail Registration Form and Check to – Robert Devine (KC6AWX) [Home Phone 1-415-883-8980]**

**(Make check payable to “MARAC”, 407 Alameda Del Prado, Novato, CA 94949)**

**Hotel Reservations – MARAC (MAR)**

**Guest rooms have been set aside for your special event (\$89) One King Bed Standard Rooms: [Link to Hotel](#)**

Telephone: dial (800)holiday ask for a room from the above group room blogLink:

[MARAC](#)

## History Happens

Gary, K4EXT

The 2000 counties mark for the County Sign Database Project has been achieved. Thanks again for all of the C/L pictures that were sent my way!

Some new photos of individual County Hunters also made their way to me over the past month or so, including those of Jack, K0MAF ... Mark, W4GP (ex-WB9OOG) ... Jim, W6OUL ... and Sherry, W7SRR (XYL of W6OUL).

Check out the latest collection of pictures and information by visiting the CH History/Archive website at the following address:

**<http://www.CHarchive.com>**

I like it when Roy, N9QS (aka, Silver) sends me pictures of county signs. Silver certainly has many County Hunter qualifications with 8 stars, CWII, Bingo-5, Mobile-to-Mobile, 5-Star, Master Platinum, and various Prefix, Call-Combo, and Ran-All-State awards. When mobile, he runs counties on both SSB and CW ... and usually on multiple bands too. And on some occasions, I have heard him give a short history lesson on a county before running it.

But it's the County Hunting pictures that always seem to make me grin just a little bit. Silver poses for all of his county sign pictures it seems. In fact, sometimes I wonder how his XYL Bonnie puts up with all of his theatrical antics!

Hopefully, the photo collage shown below readily demonstrates exactly what I mean. The pics and poses were all taken on May 27, 2010 while in the Virginia counties of Bedford, Cumberland, Gloucester, Lancaster, and Northumberland.

Thanks again for the great pics Silver!



**New Members****MARAC Number**

R4548

**Callsign**

WA9LKF

**Name**

Robert Erickson

**MARAC Silent Keys****Callsign**

KQ8D

N5AWE

W0RSD

WY7LL

KF5AT

W4UB

N4UJK

N3HOO

W7KQZ

**Silent Key Date**

2013

June 24, 2013

June 30, 2013

July 12, 2013

July 12, 2013

July 13, 2013

October 1, 2013

October 12, 2013

October 16, 2013

---

Human Interest

---

AWARDS ARE NOT THE ONLY PERKS THAT COME WITH COUNTY HUNTING . . . . .

Sometimes I look back with nostalgia on some aspects of life in a small town. Matt and I grew up here in Colorado in a small town of about 5,000 people which, - - compared to some of the towns we drove through in Nebraska a few months ago, - - would have been considered a metropolis! This was another of our infamous “county hunting” trips but this time there were no dramatic rescues, calls for roadside assistance or dusty rides through cow pastures on rutted dirt trails labeled as county roads on GPS! Nope, we were on a mission to help a fellow county hunter from Stockholm, NJ make a radio contact in Hooker County Nebraska. By our being physically present in that county, our friend was able to contact us for his very last county for his WBOW.

The extra bonus in the trip for Matt and me, was discovering that there are still a few places in this world where faith and trust and kindness and - - and - - well, “salt of the earth” friendliness still exist.

Mullen, Nebraska, “the biggest little town in Hooker County” is located in the Sandhills of Nebraska, and is the county seat. It had a population of 505 in 2011. Pioneers first inhabited this area of the Western Nebraska Sandhills beginning in the late 1870’s. Native Americans were also in the area until military troops moved them all out by 1880. The railroad came through in 1887, and a depot named Mullen was housed in a boxcar near the Trefren trading post. The town of Mullen was established in 1888, and Hooker County was officially formed in 1889. Mullen remains the county seat and is the only surviving town in the county. This is where we spent the night and it was an unexpected bright spot on our return trip home.

Matt and I stayed in the town’s only motel and had a late supper in a little café across the street that doubled as a video rental business, a small game room and I don’t know what else. We were greeted with a big smile and cheerful service by Carol, the lady owner and soon we and the only other customer there were laughing and talking like neighbors while we ate. It didn’t take us long to find out that the railroad track was just across the street from the motel and the coal trains going east and west run 24 hours a day. As tired as we were from being on the road for over 12 hours we probably only heard the first one or two before we were sound asleep!

Morning found us pulling into the parking lot of the rustic looking Red’s Café and Lounge for breakfast before heading out for home. Inside we discovered that breakfast was being served in the bar which was filled with an amazing collection of funny signs on the wall behind the counter, one of which read “Free Beer Here (Tomorrow Only).” - - *Didgya get that ?? . . Ha Ha!*

In one corner of the small barroom there was an old upright piano and a dusty TV set mounted on the wall. An eclectic assortment of figurines and decorative wine bottles filled shelves and, believe it or not, - - there were safety belts on the bar stools! And not to be missed, over the exit door there was a string of hanging beer cans labeled “Cowboy Wind Chimes.”

Red himself served us steaming mugs of coffee along with our breakfast. When we walked through the door there was a large table with two couples and several men talking and laughing and before long we were also included in the friendly chatter going on. Just as we were getting ready to leave someone at that table asked us, “What’s that *thing* on the back of your car?” That of course, lead to an explanation of the ham radio antenna and our being in Nebraska.

There’s an old saying we’ve probably all heard before - - “Nothing good ever came out of Nebraska but I-80.” Well, Matt and I are here to tell you that *that just ain’t so!* On two previous occasions going through that state we’ve experienced the kindness of people going out of their way there to help us when we found ourselves in a couple of difficult situations - - - which leaves me thinking about an old song called “Dear Hearts and Gentle People (who’ll never, ever let you down).”

Sharon N0LXJ



**Awards**

Awards Issued For Sept/Oct			
Call	Date	Award	Number
K4YT	9/18/2013	5 Star	# 67
N8OYY	9/4/2013	BINGO	# 353
WB4KZW	10/6/2013	Master Platinum	# 22
N1API	10/6/2013	BINGO II	# 93
W0EAR	10/20/2013	BINGO III	# 29
W8FNW	10/13/2013	USA-CW	# 134
KA1JPR	10/24/2013	USA Call Sign Combo 1x3	# 10
WA9DLB	10/24/2013	USA Call Sign Combo 1x3	# 11
W5RQ	10/9/2013	USA-CA 1 <sup>ST</sup> Time	# 1237
N3RM	10/7/2013	Worked all Counties - 4th Time	# 160
W4YDY	10/8/2013	Worked all Counties - 6thTime	# 47

Roadrunner Issued For Sept/Oct				
Call	Date	Count	Award	Number
K4YFH	9/17/2013	Last County Count 50	Last County Count 50	# 341
K0PFV	9/3/2013	Last County Count 25	Last County Count 25	# 509
N7PIB	9/3/2013	Last County Count 200	Last County Count 200	# 108
WQ7A	9/3/2013	Last County Count 500	Last County Count 500	# 34
W0GXQ	9/3/2013	Last County Count 725	Last County Count 725	# 18
N0KV	9/3/2013	Last County Count 500	Last County Count 500	# 35
N4CD	9/3/2013	Last County Count 2250	Last County Count 2250	# 1
K2HVN	9/10/2013	Last County Count 750	Last County Count 750	# 16
N0DXE	8/31/2013	Last County Count 175	Last County Count 175	# 133
AD0H	9/17/2013	Last County Count 50	Last County Count 50	# 340
WD9EJK	10/23/2013	Last County Count 275	Last County Count 275	# 71
KB6UF	9/17/2013	Last County Count 1150	Last County Count 1150	# 5
AB4YZ	9/21/2013	Last County Count 750	Last County Count 750	# 17
N8KIE	9/21/2013	Last County Count 850	Last County Count 850	# 10
N9QPQ	10/23/2013	Last County Count 1175	Last County Count 1175	# 4
W7FEN	10/14/2013	Last County Count 600	Last County Count 600	# 25
W3ZUH	9/10/2013	Last County Count 100	Last County Count 100	# 241



## Birthdays

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
W5IL	Nov - 01
K8HM	Nov - 01
K9ETB	Nov - 01
N4PN	Nov - 01
NE9DHx	Nov - 01
KU5DX	Nov - 01
VE9DH	Nov - 01
K4SMT	Nov - 02
W9LHG	Nov - 03
N5DWI	Nov - 03
W4WNT	Nov - 03
AD0H	Nov - 03
K0KY	Nov - 04
K0TE	Nov - 04
K3BW	Nov - 04
W0EAR	Nov - 04
WA2AKB	Nov - 04
KA3MMM	Nov - 04
KI7AO	Nov - 04
NY2L	Nov - 05
KB2KBC	Nov - 05
KM1C	Nov - 05
N6VH	Nov - 06
W9KP	Nov - 06
KB1PA	Nov - 06
KE3ND	Nov - 06
N0LN	Nov - 06
NI0G	Nov - 06
WB2SHU	Nov - 06
KQ4DR	Nov - 06
N1API	Nov - 06
N0COL	Nov - 06
WU4S	Nov - 06
N9EB	Nov - 07
KW0U	Nov - 07
AA4FU	Nov - 07
N9CJH	Nov - 07

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
W9GN	Nov - 08
WA3QVJ	Nov - 08
WB5KEA	Nov - 08
WB5CYS	Nov - 08
WO8L	Nov - 09
K7OC	Nov - 09
KE9CA	Nov - 09
N6SFV	Nov - 09
NT9V	Nov - 10
N8DW	Nov - 10
NX4W	Nov - 10
K1DAN	Nov - 10
K5LAM	Nov - 10
W6ISQ	Nov - 10
WG6X	Nov - 11
AD6PB	Nov - 11
WB6EXT	Nov - 11
W4SD	Nov - 11
W3SQA	Nov - 11
NJ6V	Nov - 11
W5UGD	Nov - 11
KM6GF	Nov - 12
KK5NA	Nov - 12
W5IOO	Nov - 12
NU7V	Nov - 12
WB9STT	Nov - 13
AA0TG	Nov - 13
WB0AXN	Nov - 13
N7PJP	Nov - 13
N5MJ	Nov - 13
N4XML	Nov - 13
K4JP	Nov - 14
N0DRX	Nov - 14
W5RBO	Nov - 14
K3RYA	Nov - 14
KC5DSP	Nov - 14
KU4VP	Nov - 15

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
NE8Z	Nov - 15
W1VET	Nov - 15
W6ROY	Nov - 15
N8AIL	Nov - 16
KA9FDV	Nov - 16
N8TW	Nov - 16
WA5AUR	Nov - 16
N4LZ	Nov - 17
WB2AXG	Nov - 17
N7LYR	Nov - 17
K0JN	Nov - 17
W8LSV	Nov - 17
K7BOI	Nov - 17
W4XT	Nov - 17
W4TYO	Nov - 17
AK9L	Nov - 17
N9VIB	Nov - 17
N5TT	Nov - 17
WB9ZHS	Nov - 17
AC9X	Nov - 17
K2RP	Nov - 17
W6TCD	Nov - 18
NF0N	Nov - 18
N4KE	Nov - 18
K6JEN	Nov - 18
N7BVQ	Nov - 19
W6SJR	Nov - 19
N7SJ	Nov - 19
NE9U	Nov - 19
W9DM	Nov - 19
KS4BO	Nov - 19
N9DEH	Nov - 20
WL7EM	Nov - 20
K0JCK	Nov - 20
KC5P	Nov - 20
WB5YDH	Nov - 20
KE7TI	Nov - 21

**Roadrunner - Birthdays**

Call	Birthday Date
W2WC	Nov - 21
W8TE	Nov - 21
K0LU	Nov - 21
KM6D	Nov - 22
W7WBZ	Nov - 22
KI8V	Nov - 22
K2ZR	Nov - 22
KK7X	Nov - 23
W8DCH	Nov - 23
W5ETM	Nov - 23
W4EAS	Nov - 23
VE3HMK	Nov - 23
K0CIE	Nov - 23
W1TEE	Nov - 23
NT2A	Nov - 23
KM4JA	Nov - 24
N4LM	Nov - 24
WB2DSM	Nov - 24
VE1BES	Nov - 24
KB9FBI	Nov - 24
AB4LG	Nov - 25
KK5CP	Nov - 25
W6SA	Nov - 26
KE7YF	Nov - 26
W4GP	Nov - 26
KC6AWX	Nov - 26
WV1Y	Nov - 27
KB0WD	Nov - 27
AA9ZF	Nov - 27
AI9Y	Nov - 27
AK5PP	Nov - 27
K7SN	Nov - 27
K0WJ	Nov - 28
K0JIM	Nov - 28
KI7S	Nov - 28
KE3VV	Nov - 28
N9HRX	Nov - 28

**Roadrunner - Birthdays**

Call	Birthday Date
WA8SCO	Nov - 28
W2VX	Nov - 28
N2CT	Nov - 29
KD1EJ	Nov - 29
W9UR	Nov - 29
KD8NR	Nov - 29
K9AAA	Nov - 29
W3WG	Nov - 29
KB4KBS	Nov - 29
KX8Z	Nov - 30
KN9V	Nov - 30
W3DLM	Nov - 30
W1OZ	Nov - 30
WY8I	Nov - 30



## Digital Happenings

### Digital Happenings #15

(October 2013)

By W0NAC ("Matt")

Over the last several months, several people have told me that they are planning on setting up a mobile station for digital operations. As far as I know, no one has yet followed up on their good intentions. I just purchased a new vehicle (Volkswagen Passat Diesel) a few days ago and I am deeply involved in installing antennas, radio, computer, etc. It's almost like starting from scratch since the car differs in many ways from the Honda Civic Hybrid that I had before. It occurred to me that others might be motivated and helped if I share some of the trials and tribulations during the installation process. The full story will have to be spread out over at least 2 articles because it will be fairly long and detailed. My hope is that a better understanding of the process will encourage some of you to go ahead and install (and operate!) a digital mobile station. As all of you probably know, having more mobiles out there is the key for anyone to complete the two new digitally related awards (**USA Digital Award & 5 Mode Award**). So, if you have ever considered putting together a digital mobile station, NOW is the time to put your intentions into action and "Git-R-Done"!

### Challenge Department:

Last month I challenged you to solve the following puzzle:

**If you had an infinite supply of water and a 5 quart and a 3 quart pail, how would you measure exactly 4 quarts? And what is the least number of steps you need?**

There are at least 2 solutions to this puzzle, but the best one I came up with is as follows:

<u>Step #</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Amount in 3 Quart Pail</u>	<u>Amount in 5 Quart Pail</u>
0	Starting Point	0	0
1	Fill 5 Quart To Top	0	5
2	Fill 3 To Top From 5	3	2
3	Empty 3 Quart	0	2
4	Pour 5 into 3	2	0
5	Fill 5 Quart	2	5
6	Finish Filling 3 from 5	3	4** (Solved!)

The next best solution (Which takes 8 steps) is as follows:

<u>Step #</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Amount in 3 Quart Pail</u>	<u>Amount in 5 Quart Pail</u>
0	Starting Point	0	0
1	Fill 3 Quart To Top	3	0
2	Dump 3 into the 5	0	3
3	Refill 3 Quart	3	3
4	Fill 5 To Top From 3	1	5
5	Empty 5 Quart	1	0
6	Empty 3 Quart Into 5	0	1
7	Fill #3 To Top Again	3	1
8	Pour All of 3 Into 5	0	4 ** (Solved!)

Five people submitted solutions this month (in the order given below). Also shown is the number of steps their solution required.

1 - W2CC – Dave	8 Steps
2 - KB9VQM – Louie	8 Steps
3 - WA2DWP – Mike	8 Steps
4 - AD0H – Skip	11 Steps (Innovative approach using Marks)
5 - W8DCD – Kirby	6 Steps <b>THE WINNER!</b>

The key in solving this puzzle using the smallest number of steps was to choose the correct starting bucket! Kirby was the winner this month with only 6 steps required. Congratulations!

Here is a new puzzle for you all. Have fun with it. I challenge you to solve it without use of the internet!

### **“Crossing a Rickety Bridge at Night by Flashlight”**

**A group of four people (Annie, Bob, Carl, and Deral) need to cross a bridge. It is dark and they must light their path with a flashlight. No more than two people can cross the bridge simultaneously, and the entire group has only one flashlight. Different people take different times to cross the bridge and the slowest person in any group determines the time to cross.**

**Annie can cross the bridge in 1 minute**

**Bob can cross the bridge in 2 minutes**

**Carl takes 5 minutes to cross the bridge**

**Deral is the slow poke! It takes him 10 minutes to cross the bridge**

**How can the entire group make it to the other side of the bridge in 17 minutes maximum?**

Watch for the solution in next month’s article along with a list of those that sent in their solution(s) to this puzzle. Send your solutions to [w0nac@comcast.net](mailto:w0nac@comcast.net).

### **THE STORY OF W0NAC’S NEW MOBILE INSTALLATION:**

Before I dive into the story, let me say right up front that this will not be a complete “How To” book on mobile installation. I will only be hitting high points. Also, this story contains a lot of personal opinion based on many years of experience. I set up my first serious mobile rig in 1998 and over the next 15 + years have had HF rigs installed in 5 different vehicles including a Mazda pickup, GMC truck, Honda Ridgeline truck, Toyota Tundra truck, and the Honda Civic Hybrid. This story will be about installing a mobile rig capable of digital ops in a Volkswagen Passat Diesel.

#### **1) PICKING THE VEHICLE**

I realize that everyone doesn’t have complete control over the vehicle they have to work with, but if you do have choices, I believe that being electrically quiet between 3 and 30 MHz is the single most important criterion you should consider (I’ll list other important criteria later).

Vehicles, in general, have many devices that may cause electrical noise. These include pulse noise (ignition/spark plugs), “hash” noise from any DC motor with brushes, and Alternator “whine”. These types of noises have been around for many years and ways to suppress them are well known and readily available. More modern vehicles have one or more computers onboard. These can present an entirely new set of problems with noise in the form of “birdies” or harmonics. Also, any DC to AC inverters and DC to DC converters can also cause “birdies”. In essence, any device that has other than pure sine wave currents (i.e. square waves) will, by its very nature, produce multiple harmonics which can show up in your radio as “birdies” unless they are filtered out. Typically these harmonics will drift slowly through the frequency you wish to operate and sound like someone is tuning up on your frequency. Very irritating to say the least!

Unfortunately, even if a manufacturer may have conducted some EMI/EMC testing, it is all focused on controlling interference to the operation of their own installed equipment (AM/FM radios, Satellite radios, various computers, various RFID devices, etc. I know of no manufacturer’s installed gear that operates in the 3-30 MHz range. As a

result, they have little or no motivation to conduct expensive EMI/EMC tests in this frequency range just to make a few hams happy! Even if they do conduct tests, they are not willing to pay for special filters, etc. needed to mitigate electrical noise that affects hams. Let's face it – catering to ham radio operators is probably at the extreme bottom of their agenda and may not even be on their agenda at all.

Where does that leave the typical ham? You will have to do your own testing and noise mitigation. There are some relatively easy tests you can make, but if you are planning on buying either a new or a used vehicle, you will need the cooperation of the current owner to do these tests. In my case, the VW dealer was very cooperative and even let me have the vehicle overnight and half the next day to conduct my tests.

Assuming you have the owner's blessing, you will need the following equipment:

- 1) Small portable radio (like the ICOM IC-7000) that can receive SSB, AM, on at least 80M, 40M, 20M, 15M, and 10M.
- 2) Heavy power cord for the radio with heavy duty clamps for connecting to the main vehicle battery and long enough so that you can locate the radio on the front seat. (Do NOT use Cigar Lighter connector!)
- 3) Simple antenna magnetic mount with enough coax to reach the radio on the front seat.
- 4) At least 2 simple antennas (like "Ham Sticks") for 40M and 20M
- 5) An RF "sniffing" tool which is made from a 20-30 ft. long piece of coax with standard RS-232 male connector at one end (goes to the radio) and the other end with the braid stripped back 3-4 inches leaving 3-4 inches of center conductor (with insulation) exposed. Electrical tape is then used to cover any remnant of exposed braid and the tip of the exposed center conductor.

To conduct the tests, start by mounting the mag mount (with the 40M antenna) and running the coax through a window into the front seat. Clamp your power cable directly to the main battery posts and route the cable to the radio you have in the front seat. Connect the power cable to the radio and the antenna coax to the HF antenna connector.

The first thing you need to do is to establish a baseline environment noise level. With the vehicle engine OFF and ignition switch OFF, "fire up" your radio. Set all noise control features (ANF, DSP, filters, etc.) on the radio to OFF and tune it to around the middle of the 40M band on LSB (~ 7.150 MHz). If where you tune is occupied by a signal, tune away until no signal is present, just noise. Adjust the RF gain to full UP. Adjust the AF volume to where you hear a considerable level of general Noise. This noise will be a combination of noise from the sun and other space objects, and noise from your immediate surroundings (other cars, appliances, power lines, etc.). This is your baseline noise level.

Without changing anything else, just turn the ignition switch to the "Accessory" position (if you have one). Carefully note any increase in noise. Usually, there will be no change.

Now turn the Ignition switch to the ON position without starting the engine. Again, note any increase in noise level. This will "smoke out" noise from electric fuel pumps (a notorious culprit), other motor driven devices, and possibly computer noise.

Next, start the engine and rev it up to various speeds in addition to letting it idle. Note any increase in noise level and determine if it is related to engine speed. Also, drive the car at various speeds and check for electrical noises related to acceleration and deceleration, braking, shifting, etc. Keep notes!

Next, drive the vehicle to a spot that you believe is generally quiet (away from the city if possible) and repeat the tests listed above. Again, make notes!

If none of these tests produce an increase in general noise compared to your baseline, consider yourself very fortunate! Your vehicle is very quiet from a general noise point of view, but may have other problems which we will test later.

If you DO have higher noise levels with the engine running than with it stopped, you should next determine if it is "conducted" noise or "radiated" noise (in my experience it will almost always be "radiated"). The test to determine whether it is "radiated" or "conducted" is quite simple. With the engine running and the noise present, disconnect

the antenna from the radio. If the noise all goes away, it is “radiated” noise. If the noise is still there with the antenna disconnected, it is “conducted” noise. Which type of noise you have is important to know, because each noise type will be cured using different techniques and devices.

Wait! You’re not done testing yet. You still need to test for harmonics (“birdies”) that the car and its equipment may be radiating. This test is somewhat tedious, but vital. Find the quietest location possible (away from the city if possible) and run the engine and ALL accessories. You can turn on limited noise filters at this time, but NOT automatic notch filters. The idea is to be able to hear very weak CW signals. Once set up, slowly tune across the entire 40M band and 20M band (you will need to change antennas) searching for harmonics (“birdies”). These will usually drift slowly in or out of your pass-band as the device producing them changes temperature. Also, they can be relatively “pure” notes or sound “rough” depending on the source.

Don’t forget that, even though the vehicle you are testing checks out as “clean”, any equipment you add later yourself (computers, inverters, power supplies, etc.) may cause noise problems to raise their ugly heads again.

A vehicle that is electrically “clean” is a rare bird indeed! All 5 of my previous vehicles had some kind of noise issues. So far, the new VW Passat has checked out to be totally quiet. I suspect that having a diesel engine (No spark plugs!) accounts for a lot of this quietness. Being so electrically quiet is the main reason I picked this vehicle over several other vehicles being considered.

Naturally, there are other factors that must be considered when picking a vehicle (new or used) for digital mobile. Some of these other factors include price, fuel economy, comfort, ride, handling, and useable places where you can install your radio(s), laptop, and antenna(s). You may never find the perfect vehicle, but for me, the Passat comes close. In addition to being total quiet (electrically), it is claimed to get over 40 MPG, is extremely quiet mechanically with low road noise, is very comfortable, handles well and comes with a great set of convenience features as standard equipment.

With the understanding that my next comments are based on my own experience, what others have told me, and very weak anecdotal evidence, here is some information to consider before choosing a vehicle. Any or all of these comments could have been corrected over time or when the manufactures came out with newer models.

2014 Volkswagen Passat Diesel – Extremely quiet electrically, great mileage, super car! Only drawback found so far is lack of an ignition switch accessory position to run radio without running the engine. (My Experience)

2008 Honda Civic Hybrid (Now called “Insight”) – Super mileage, lots of road noise, electrical drive system very noisy (have to shut engine off to hear weak signals), very durable, harsh ride, small cockpit & trunk, had to install trailer hitch to mount antenna. (My Experience)

Honda Ridgeline – Fair mileage, comfortable, quiet ride, extremely stubborn harmonic noise problem from servo motor driven throttle system (never cured it!), engine cooling fans noisy, heater motor noisy, had to have tilt down antenna mount in trailer hitch to clear rear hatch. (My Experience)

Toyota Tundra – Reasonably comfortable (for a truck), lots of cockpit space, but terrible mileage. Electrically quiet, excellent off-road capability, very pricey when fully equipped, had to have tilt down antenna mount in trailer hitch to clear rear hatch. (My Experience)

Dodge Rental Cars – Seemed to be electrically quiet (mostly used while parked with mag mount antenna in various spots on Hawaii (all 5 counties), nice ride, reasonable mileage, small cockpit space, mounting a permanent antenna may be difficult. (My Experience)

Chevy Diesel Truck – Owner claims that this vehicle is dead quiet electrically! Absolutely no noise! (Other’s Experience)

Fords in general – In the past Fords were notorious for a stubborn fuel pump noise problem caused by a brush type electrical pump inside a plastic fuel tank which failed to provide shielding. Problem took draconian measures to fix! (My Experience with Mazda truck using Ford parts plus anecdotal evidence)

Toyota Prius – Many different people have stated that the electrical noise problems with these vehicles render them essentially un-useable for county hunters. I would carefully test this vehicle before purchase. (Strictly Anecdotal Evidence)

If, for whatever reason, you really have no choice of vehicle and are stuck with whatever you currently have, don't despair! Use the tests outlined earlier to determine what kind of noise problems you may have (conducted or radiated). Then, if radiated, you can use the "sniffer tool" described earlier to pin-point the source(s) of your noise. Once located, there are many fixes available such as common mode chokes (sometimes called ferrite beads), placing flexible ground straps around hood and trunk hinges, bonding, etc. I will be happy to provide you with advice over the phone if you are "stuck".

## 2) INSTALLATION SO FAR

As this is being written, I have only had the new VW Passat for a few days. Some dealer installed options are going to be installed next week. While waiting for a Class 1 trailer hitch to come in and be installed, I have personally installed the computer mount and tray and the VHF/UHF antenna. I will be using the trailer hitch as a mounting point for the same hybrid antenna that I had on the Honda Civic. After the antenna is in place, the car will be scheduled for Car Toys to do a custom installation of all the wiring for the 2<sup>nd</sup> battery, battery isolation relay, 2-wire DC wiring from main battery (in engine compartment) to the Kinetik battery in the trunk. Also to be installed are a 12 VDC power distribution system for the linear amplifier, Icom IC-7000 radio (with 30 Farad voltage stabilizer), 300W DC to AC Inverter, and LDG Tuner. Miscellaneous other control cables and wiring will also be installed. I will try and have a complete functional flow diagram for next month's Digital Happenings.

Some recommendations: If you decide to install a 2<sup>nd</sup> battery (as I am doing), I recommend that it be connected to the main battery using 2 heavy duty cables (one for positive, one for ground). Naturally, BOTH of these leads should be fused at the main battery end. I have found that most installers will try and talk you into using the body of the vehicle as the ground return because it is easier. Insist on a 2-Wire system. This can prevent many issues with what are called "ground loops" where DC and AC currents may flow in unexpected paths through your vehicle frame and body. Ground loops can create undesired mutual coupling between the various pieces of equipment you have installed. In short, they can be bad news!

Also, I recommend that you use a heavy duty automatic relay to isolate the two batteries. The other choice is heavy duty (high amperage) diode isolation. The problem with diode isolation is that all diodes have a small, but significant voltage drop across them of ~ .4 volts regardless of current flow. This small voltage drop will cause the 2<sup>nd</sup> battery to always reach a lower state of charge than the main battery. Constantly running the 2<sup>nd</sup> battery with an incomplete charge will reduce its life through a process called sulfation.

By next month the installation should be complete. I plan on telling you the rest of the story then along with other tips on what to do and what not to do.

## October Activities:

Digital activities during October were very low. The only stations operating digital spotted on W6RK were:

10/4	W0NAC/N0LXJ Elbert, CO	PSK-63, RTTY-45, DOMINO-22
10/19	K2T Suffolk, NY	RTTY-45
10/20	NS0A Henry/Knox, IL	PSK-31

There were undoubtedly other digital stations out there (maybe working state QSO parties?), but they were not spotted on W6RK.

Support calls related to Digital setup, etc. were almost non-existent in October. Maybe this article will inspire some

new people to call. As always, I stand ready to help anyone who has problems or wishes to get started with Digital operations. Just email me at [w0nac@comcast.net](mailto:w0nac@comcast.net) or call me any time at 303-799-3658.

The updated Table 3 is given below:

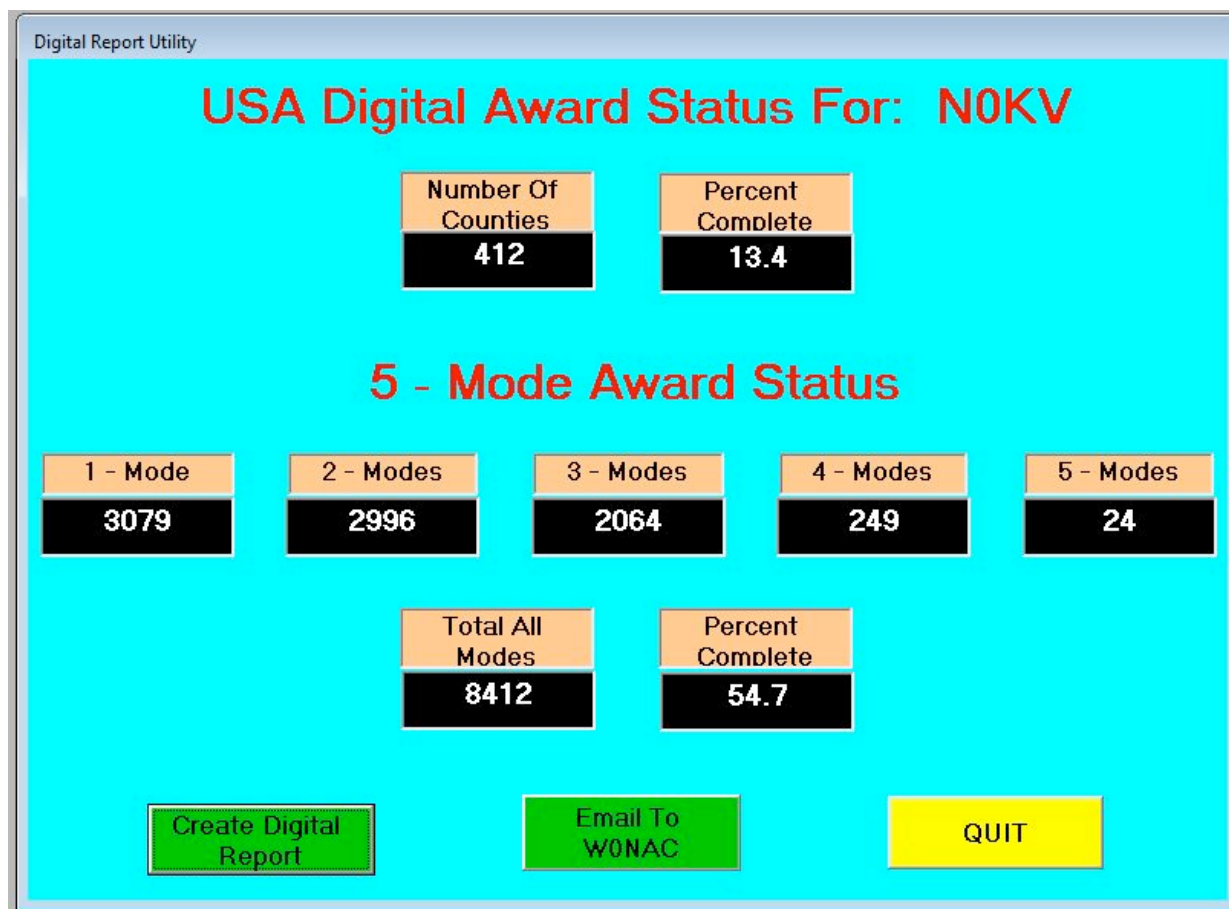
**Table 3 - Active Digital County Hunters Award Status**

#	CALL	NAME	STATUS* (M,F,I)	USA - DIGITAL Counties (of 3077)	(1 MODE)	(2 MODES)	FIVE MODE COUNTIES (3 MODES)	(4 MODES)	(5 MODES)	TOTAL	% 5-Mode Completed	LAST UPDATED
1	AA8R	Randy	F	1000+	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	9/30/2012
2	AC0B	Cliff	F	205	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	12/10/2012
3	AD1C	Jim	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
4	K0DEQ	Bill	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
5	K0PVW	Rob	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
6	K0WJ	Lou	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
7	K4PBX	Jim	F	106	2575	84	6	0	0	2665	17.3%	10/15/2012
8	K5GE	Gene	F	26	1893	575	8	0	0	2476	16.1%	5/26/2013
9	K5SF	Dick	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
10	K5WAF	Bill	F	599	3044	?	?	?	?	3044	19.8%	5/2/2013
11	K7REL	Tom	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
12	K8QWY	Ed	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
13	K8ZZ	Ed	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
14	KA8JQP	Pamela	M/F	22	202	64	53	28	4	351	2.3%	9/12/2013
15	KC3X	Hollis	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
16	KC6AWX	Bob	F	450	3077	1592	264	59	14	5006	32.5%	5/7/2013
17	KC7YE	Jack	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
18	KD5YUK	Billv	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
19	KD7KST	Bill	M/F	1792	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	9/30/2012
20	KF7PKL	Davis	F	379	879	211	48	15	1	1154	7.5%	10/9/2013
21	KG5RJ	Greg	F	606	3049	2079	559	192	62	5941	38.6%	10/2/2013
22	KM1C	Bill	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
23	KU4YM	Dave	F	30	2782	29	10	2	1	2824	18.4%	9/6/2013
24	KM6HB	Mark	F	714	3077	2936	694	87	1	6795	44.2%	2/3/2013
25	N0KV	Barry	M/F	445	3077	3026	2257	312	66	8738	56.8%	10/4/2013
26	N0LXJ	Sharon	M/F	1361	3077	2263	1208	472	236	7256	47.2%	10/27/2013
27	N1API	Al	F	483	3077	1706	384	196	115	5478	35.6%	10/24/2013
28	N3HOO	Ed	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
29	N4JT	Jim	F	736	3077	3064	743	235	150	7269	47.2%	10/21/2013
30	N5MLP	Ron	M/F	391	3077	409	54	37	9	3586	23.3%	5/19/2013
31	N6PDB	Dennis	M/F	664	3077	2768	745	420	305	7315	47.5%	8/27/2013
32	N8CIJ	Dick	F	676	3077	3014	668	303	229	7291	47.4%	9/5/2013
33	N8HAM	Jim	I	0	3077	0	0	0	0	3077	20.0%	4/2/2013
34	N9WNN	Steve	F	0	2180	0	0	0	0	2180	14.2%	2/24/2013
35	NA8W	Darl	F/M	579	3022	852	381	212	99	4566	29.7%	9/12/2013
36	NF0N	Mike	F	785	3077	3077	915	108	50	7227	47.0%	12/31/2012
37	NN9K	Pete	F	816	3077	859	78	1	0	4015	26.1%	3/23/2012
38	NT2A	Gene	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
39	NU4C	Paul	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
40	NW6S	Jim	F	722	3077	3077	743	59	35	6991	45.4%	9/7/2013
41	NX4W	Lloyd	M/F	1135	3077	1274	436	290	97	5174	33.6%	7/27/2013
42	W0NAC	Matt	M/F	1806	3077	2821	1960	1071	422	9351	60.8%	10/27/2013
43	W3DLM	Don	F	359	3077	2390	298	101	55	5921	38.5%	10/12/2013
44	W4IHI	Garv	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
45	W4SIG	Kerry	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
46	W4YDY	Dave	F	876	3077	3077	1035	353	175	7717	50.2%	9/5/2013
47	W5QP	Rick	M/F	244	3077	2598	252	113	83	6123	39.8%	10/6/2013
48	W6RK	Risto	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
49	W6RLL	Joe	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
50	W7FEN	Larry	F	25	3077	2975	32	1	0	6085	39.6%	10/3/2013
51	W7IN	Larry	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
52	W7QQ	Bill	M/F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
53	W9JR	Rich	F	90	3077	1674	44	0	0	4795	31.2%	10/31/2012
54	W9SUQ	Larry	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
55	WA4EEZ	Leslie	F	1053	3077	1420	572	153	21	5243	34.1%	9/6/2013
56	WA4UNS	Doug	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
57	WA6OCV	Susan	M/F	328	3077	328	320	130	10	3865	25.1%	3/28/2013
58	WA7JHQ	Sterling	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
59	WB0M	Jeff	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
60	WB2ABD	Paul	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
61	WD4QIN	Jack	F	757	3077	3069	721	241	122	7230	47.0%	10/7/2013
62	WQ7A	Terry	F	201	3077	3028	206	132	112	6555	42.6%	8/24/2013
63	WY4D	Ben	F	229	3077	252	31	15	9	3384	22.0%	10/22/2013

As you can see, the table is gradually filling up with more people reporting their status.

### **How To Get Your 5 - Mode Statistics Updated:**

Two months ago I gave you a new and easy way to update your Digital statistics for Table 3 by using a small program called “Digital Report Utility”. This new program will create a report for you with your progress shown for both the **USA – Digital** and the **5 – Mode Awards**. Here is a sample screen shot of a typical report using NOKV’s (Barry’s) database:



Once your own report is showing on your screen and you are OK with the numbers, the program can also email your statistics to me so I can update Table 3. There is no longer a need for anyone to manually extract their statistics.

Installing and running the new utility is easy. Just download “**Install Digital Report Utility Version 0.1.9.exe**” from the MARAC Server ( <http://www.marac.org/chdownloads> ) or use the following Dropbox link (which is available 24/7) <https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/26171574/Digital%20Report%20Utility/Install%20Digital%20Report%20Utility%20Version%200.1.9.zip> to get a zipped version of the same install file. You can save the file anywhere you wish on your computer (desktop, download folder, etc.) because it is not sensitive to location. When you execute this install file, just follow the default selections and it will install the new utility program in the proper folder (Program Files or Program Files (x86)) and place an icon on your desktop that you can use to run it.

**Please Note:** When you first run the program you need to make sure that it is pointed to your call sign database file (files if you are an OM/YL team). This file(s) will usually be found in your “C:\Logger Data” folder.

To point the program to your file(s), press F-10 while on the opening screen. Please see last month’s article for more detailed instructions if you need them.

Since it is nice and easy now, I encourage everyone listed on the table to use the new utility to email me current statistics NLT November 27<sup>th</sup> so I can update the table with your information. If there are others not listed in Table 3 who would like their statistics included, just run the utility and have it email your numbers to me. I will get you listed!

**During the month of October, 10 people used the new utility and emailed the results to me.**

**These were:**

**KF7PKL, KG5RJ, N0KV, N1API, N4JT, W3DLM, W5QP, W7FEN, WD40IN, and WY4D. I encourage others whose status is out of date (or totally missing) to download/install the new utility and use it to email updated status to me.**

**Caution:** The email portion of this program may not work with every email client out there, especially web based email clients. If that part doesn't work for you, just include your numbers in an email that you create manually using your own email client and send it to [w0nac@comcast.net](mailto:w0nac@comcast.net). Many Thanks!

Possible topics for the coming months include (in no particular order):

**"Completion Of Digital Mobile Installation Story"**

**"How To Log Your Digital Contacts In Logger"**

**"Macros – Revisited"**

**"New Digital Awards?"**

**"Digital Software Installation – Revisited"**

**"Award Difficulty Index"**

**"Additional Digital Mode Test Results"**

As always, I still need (and welcome) your suggestions on topics for future articles! Or if you have something you wish to contribute I will certainly try to include it. Short stories describing your experiences/frustrations/etc. in getting started in Digital ops would be especially welcome. Summaries of your Digital trips would also be good. I look forward to hearing from you.

Please email me with your comments/suggestions at [w0nac@comcast.net](mailto:w0nac@comcast.net) and don't forget to send me your updated status for the **USA – Digital** and **5 - Mode Awards** so I can update the Digital County Hunter Status List again next month.

73's and we hope to see you on our waterfall again real soon!

Matt – W0NAC



## Notes

With voting going on right now, there will be no report this month from Kent, KV7N

Bob, KC6AWX, will be celebrating his birthday on a cruise at the end of the month, so there will be no awards and birthdays reported in the next issue.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST -- The Ugly Man of the SE Mini for the next year is the one and only --  
Silver, N9QS!



WY7LL



**Treasurer's Report (W0NAC)  
September 2013\***

Beginning Account Balances Sep 4, 2013 **\$35,918.81**

August Income:

Money Market Interest	\$2.55	
Awards Manager Income	\$0.00 #	
Membership Income	\$622.00	
Logger distribution	\$20.00	
Total Income:		<u>\$644.55</u>

August Expenses:

Awards Manager Expenses	\$0.00 #	
Office Expenses	\$0.00	
Total Expenses:		<u>\$0.00</u>

September Net Income Less Expenses **\$644.55**

New Total Balance ALL Accounts: **\$36,563.36**

Checking Account Balance	<u>\$5,533.49</u>	
Money Market Account Balance	<u>\$31,029.87</u>	
Total:		<b>\$36,563.36</b>

Note:

The following monies are not included in the above:

Awards Chairman's Funds	\$1,500.00
-------------------------	------------

\* Includes September Transactions through 10/4/2013

# Awards Manager Income and Expenses for September were not available for this report. Combined September/October Income and Expenses will be reported in October.



**Awards Manager's Report  
October 31, 2013**

Funds Balance August 31, 2013		<b>\$1,500.00</b>
Income	\$ 869.00	
	<u>\$ 869.00</u>	
Expenses:		
Office supplies	\$ 0.00	
Plaque Suppliers	\$ 87.00	
Postage	\$ 45.17	
	<u>\$ 132.17</u>	
Sent to Treasurer		\$ 869.00
Reimbursement received from Treasurer		\$ 132.17
Funds Balance October 31, 2013		<b>\$1500.00</b>



## Calendar

~ November 2013 ~							On
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
ONLY START DATE SHOWN		CLICK ON EVENT TO GO TO WEB SITE			1	2 ARRL CW SWEEPS	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 10-10 DIGI QP STRT KEY SPRINT KY QP	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18 RUN4BACON	19	20	21	22	23 CQ WW CW	
24	25	26	27 STRT KEY SPRINT	28	29	30	



**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 ( KV7N )**

**Ed Palagyi ( KN4Y )**

**“Matt” Matthew (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 25<sup>th</sup>!**

---

#### **Board of Directors**

**President:** David Splitt, KE3VV, 6111 Utah Ave NW, Washington DC 20015, 301-300-2818, [davidsplitt@erols.com](mailto:davidsplitt@erols.com)

**Vice-President:** Leo Bingham, WY7LL, (SK)

**Secretary:** Jim Grandinetti, KZ2P, 2690 Bohicket Rd, Johns Island, SC 29455, 843-323-8385, [k2jg@comcast.net](mailto:k2jg@comcast.net)

**Treasurer:** Matt Matthew, W0NAC, 17525 Wilde Ave, Unit 108, Parker CO 80134, 303-941-0867, [w0nac@comcast.net](mailto:w0nac@comcast.net)

**Great Lakes Director:** Dan Mulford, KM9X, 5225 N Co Rd 100E, Osgood IN 47037, 812-498-6702, [km9x@frontier.com](mailto:km9x@frontier.com)

**North Central Director:** Tony Mazzocco, WA9DLB, 275 E County Line RD, Barrington, IL 60010, 224-678-5265, [wa9dlb@hotmail.com](mailto:wa9dlb@hotmail.com)

**Northeast Director:** Carol-Ann Reitman, AB2LS, 100 Woodbury Rd, Highland Mills, NY 10930, 845-928-6238, [ab2ls@optonline.net](mailto:ab2ls@optonline.net)

**South Central Director:** Barry Mitchell, N0KV, 12200 Boothill Dr, Parker, CO 80138, 303-842-5635, [n0kv@arrl.net](mailto:n0kv@arrl.net)

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

**Southeast Director:** Kerry Long, W4SIG, 1385 Auburn Woods Dr, Collierville TN 38017, 901-331-1881, [kerrylong@comcast.net](mailto:kerrylong@comcast.net)

**Immediate Past President:** Joyce Boothe, WB9NUL, 21175 FM2556, Santa Rosa, TX 78593 1-956-202-3373, [joycenul@aol.com](mailto:joycenul@aol.com)

**Awards Manager:** Robert T. Devine, KC6AWX, 407 Alameda Del Prado, Novato, CA 94949-6302, 1-415-883-8980, [kc6awx@marac.org](mailto:kc6awx@marac.org)

#### **Appointees**

**Historian:** Gary Beam, K4EXT, 195 Nanny Goat Hill Rd, Elizabethton, TN 37643, [ch2@k4ext.com](mailto:ch2@k4ext.com)

**Newsletter Editor:** Dave Hyatt, KU4YM, 159 Schooner Bend Ave, Summerville, SC 29483, 843-442-8666, [dhhyatt@ieee.org](mailto:dhhyatt@ieee.org)

**Sunshine Coordinator:** Pat Reiner, KM6QF, 16931 Aldon Rd, Encino, CA, 91436, 213-999-0100, [lovedoxies@aol.com](mailto:lovedoxies@aol.com)

**Webmaster:** Mike Fatchett, W0MU, PO Box 3500, Parker, CO 80134, 303-790-4611, [w0mu@w0mu.com](mailto:w0mu@w0mu.com)

**Custodian, Club Call, K9DCJ:** Joyce Boothe, WB9NUL, 21175 FM2556, Santa Rosa, TX 78593 1-956-202-3373, [joycenul@aol.com](mailto:joycenul@aol.com)

**Election Coordinator:** Kent Reinke, KV7N, 1826 East 4500 North, Buhl ID 83316, 208-543-6083, [kr@gci.net](mailto:kr@gci.net)

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