



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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Riding the County Lion

Dave – KE3VV

Well, as those of you who attended the National Convention in Visalia are already aware, the County Lion skipped the trip – I think he was not up for (or down with) the idea that we would be riding in a train for six days and was unimpressed with the promise to put out a few counties in nearby California while in Visalia. So be it... he will definitely be heading out with the Big Green Dragon and I for a long road trip that begins next week and wanders (meanders?) about the South.

The trip was fun. The overnight Amtrak to Chicago and then the California Zephyr through the Rocky Mountains to the San Francisco area was fun – although the train was delayed by the usual freight traffic, track repair slow orders, and a couple of medical emergencies. The food was good and the crew amiable and the sights west of Denver were – to say the least – quite spectacular. I would like to do a road trip through there so I could stop and take it all in – a big beautiful country!! The return trip was not as good by a long shot – long delays, missed connections, and poor Amtrak communication – so we ended up cancelling the train to DC, renting a car, and driving the 13 hours back home. Sure wish I had been able to put out some of those Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, and Western Maryland counties (although the latter were pretty late at night).

Once the train arrived in Emeryville, just across the Bay from San Francisco, we found a place to overnight on Hotels Tonight (as great app for last minute places to overnight around the world) and then a short road trip over the Bay and coast range then along the coast highway to Monterey. A room at a small hotel on the Pacific Ocean for two days meant breakfast room service and the sounds of waves lapping at the shore (punctuated by the occasional sound of gulls fighting over a morsel of food on the small beach just below the open window).

Contents

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| ANNUAL MEETING | 12 |
| Awards | 8 |
| Awards Manager's Report | 25 |
| Birthdays | 6 |
| Calendar | 27 |
| Dateline CW | 3 |
| Digital Happenings | 17 |
| History Happens | 5 |
| MARAC 2014 Member Awards | 26 |
| New Members | 16 |
| Riding the County Lion | 1 |
| SE Mini | 10 |
| Treasurer's Report (W0NAC) | 24 |

The most magnificent place in Monterey, along with all of the other sights and souvenir shops along Cannery Row, is the Monterey Aquarium. As a Scuba Diver and lover of all things oceanic, I have been to a number of aquariums, and have actually spent a lot of weekends diving in the tanks at the National Aquarium in Baltimore as a volunteer safety diver, but few aquariums can even come close to the extraordinary collection and presentation of marine life in the Monterey facility. We spent a number of hours over two days taking it all in and could have lingered a lot longer.

After a jaunt down the coast to Big Sur and a lunch at Duarte's - an out-of-the-way tavern and restaurant famous for pie - and an early dinner and mandatory shopping stop at Nepenthe, we spend one more night in Monterey then headed for Visalia across the mountains. That was one great ride - dotted line highway with twists and turns and scenery that would be useful to NASA if they decided to fake a Mars landing. Before arriving (destinating!!) in Visalia, we stopped for lunch in the sleepy (hot and probably more siesta-y) little town of Coalinga at another highlight of the trip - a small local eatery named Los Reyes. For a few pesos (OK - dollars) we were stuffed with some of the best Mexican chow I have ever had... and I have had a lot. Ole!

My last column included a long list of kudos to the many volunteers and county hunters who make my job easy and make county hunting fun... if you missed it, those are names and call signs you should know and thank when you have a chance. Speaking of my job, one of the tasks added last month is the MARAC web site, which I am endeavoring to bring up to date and add some little tweaks - like a full-blown link to K4EXT's wonderful History and Archive site. There is now a top menu link that will take you directly to Gary's site, which is replete with pictures of county hunters, lots of memories and historical data, and a whole scrapbook of county line signs. The County Lion and I have so far only added one pic to the collection - last weekend on our trip into Virginia (to finish putting out the last 8 counties I needed to transmit for the Master Platinum award) where we snapped a shot of the Henrico line sign).

The dates for the SE Mini in Charleston have also been corrected - it will be the 6th-8th of October, which gets us the Mon-Wed non-weekend rates for those of us counting our nickels. I hope to see a bunch of you in Charleston - the SE Mini is always great fun... especially the group dinner at the Fat Hen on John's Island. Somehow the County Lion and I cannot get enough of their coleslaw (secret ingredient = bacon, one of the main food groups along with beer and pie). In any event, if there are any suggestions, changes, tweaks, or other things you would like in the MARAC web site, let me know. Not promising I will git-er-done right away, but I will certainly keep track and do what I can. AND... if anyone out there has web-site upkeep and programming experience and would like to volunteer to be the new Webmaster, that would be super... just send me an email... include any ideas you might have for the site. Salary and benefits are amazing - you would actually get the same compensation and perks that are lavished on all of the officers and members of the Board - and you would get to add your own stamp to the MARAC web site.

Well... I'd better get packed up and ready to head south for a trip that will begin in Southwest Virginia and wander south to Florida on back roads - then after a break to visit my Mom and some friends and look for some of that cheap Florida swampland, we will head north for a week at the beach in North Carolina. I never or rarely post my road trips because I never know which way I am going to go. The Big Green Dragon navigates and consults the nasty lady in the GPS and the County Lion - but rarely asks me - so the path is usually off the green stamps and through interesting places. Until we hear you on the road or see you in Charleston - 73, 88, travel safe, and, as always... Be Well and Happy!



Dateline CW

Ed, KN4Y

A CW county hunter makes no errors. The errors are Volitional and are the portals to running a new county.

The weather is hotter than Bozo in a bikini; the air conditioner has not cycled since I arrived at the radio shack. I switch on the computer and next the radio to listen for a CW mobile, alas I hear only white noise. I open a bag of biscuit dough that came in the mail and following instructions I made several cannabis biscuits and put the tray into the microwave oven. I hear Gator's truck slide to a stop at the recycled railroad tie, he stops at the mailbox. He is carrying two large lattes and I open the door for him. "Hello Gator, I got a surprise for you." Gator sets the mail and lattes on the desk, "I think you received another State QSO party certificate, what is the surprise?" "I received a box of cannabis biscuit mix from a CW county hunter who stopped in Colorado while on his way to the MARAC convention in California. You mix the powder with brandy to make a cannabis dough, bake and you have high fluffy biscuits. It is the new soul food"

Gator hands me a latte, "Will the biscuit compliment a latte?" The microwave buzzer buzzes, I remove the tray from the oven and let it cool for a minute, "Here try a biscuit." "Did you operate in the MARAC CW QSO PARTY?" "There was no MARAC U.S. County QSO party this year." Gator has the look of devastation, "I thought you operated mobile in the MARAC CW contest. The MARAC contest has been around since 1967. Remember when MARAC also had a 10-meter contest until the band stopped cooperating?"

I nibble my biscuit, not bad, and I do a throat rinse with the latte, "Calm down Gator, Norm, W3DYA, rode in with flying saucer antennas and coordinated this year's operating session as the County Hunters CW contest." I hand Gator a memory stick, "Here see what I did." Gator grabs the memory stick and says "Remember history is a MARAC tradition and I hope MARAC members will see that the CW QSO party continues. "Can I lobby for continuation of the contest?" "Yes you can. Send an e-mail to President Dave and advise him that participation is about the same as convention attendees." "I have a better idea; I will have a talk with Giuseppe." Gator is reading the county hunters forum, "Dude the webmaster Mike, W0MU is retiring, what is a webmaster?" I shake my head, "I think it has something to do with spiders."

Gator goes off on a tangent, "Wow Dude, five county hunters all achieved the Mobile Diamond award at the same time." This gets my attention, "Really? Who are they?" Gator turns the screen and I read: Gene, K5GE, Scottie, N4AAT, Bob, N4CD, Joe, N5UZW and Bob, N8KIE. Gator continues, "if you read further they all have been assigned award number 1." "That is awesome; but to keep the MARAC numbering sequence the next county hunter who achieves the Mobile Diamond award will be number 6. I guess the next challenge will be the Duplex Diamond Mobile award, I just made this up." Gator is not paying attention he is opening the white envelope.

Gator holds up a certificate, "It is for your participation in the Virginia QSO party, you are high in Florida, whatever that means. Dude did you heard if there was a CW meeting at the MARAC Convention." "No, what happens in Visalia stays in Visalia." "Dude you got that wrong. What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas, what happens in California is on CNN news." We both have a laugh as we reach for another biscuit, I need to contact a CW county hunter in Colorado, I smack my lips, these are really

good biscuits.

I hand Gator another memory stick, “Check out my Canada log so I can e-mail it to Canada. You know Gator I almost forgot about Canada Day, but remembered in time to get a few hours operating.” “I do not know why you want to send the log in, you only have 6468 points.” I take a swig of latte, “It is tradition.” Gator is checking the memory stick index, “I see you did the WRTC with the IARU HF world championship contest.” He brings up the log, “Not bad Dude, 260 QSO’s and you worked 44 of the 1x1 Stations, I see you quit at midnight.” “I did the S&P routine and I did not quit, I fell asleep.” Gator is looking at the memory stick index he turns around in the chair.

“I see you worked the CQ WW VHF Contest and it was not a complete 6-meter fiasco you got 12 new counties on 6-meters and you worked your last ‘W’ prefix in Texas.” Gator grabs another biscuit. I point at the computer, “Gator, please see what I did in the county hunters QSO party.”

Gators cell phone ding-a-lings, “Sorry Dude I will get your QSO party log later I have to buzz off. An automatic steam valve is not responding to temperature changes. He is gone like the ink in a mobile county hunters pen. I don’t think I heard him yell, “I don’t care who won the Civil War.” The printer stops and I get the list of county hunters heard on the CW call frequencies during July. You can tell it is summertime. I read: AB4YZ, AB7RW, AI5P, K0FG, K0RU, K1TKL, K4YFH, K4YT, K5YAA, K7TM, K8QWY, K8ZZ, K9JWV, KA4RRU, KB6UF, KC7YE, KO1U, KO7X, KS5A, KW1DX, N0KV, N2JNE, N2OO, N3MRA, N3RC, N4CD, N4JT, N4RS, N8KIE, N9AC, N9JF, NF0N, NM2L, NN9K, NT2A, W0NAC, W3DQT, W3DYA, W3QT, W4SIG, W5QP, W7FEN, W8GEJ, W8MP, W9MSE, WB0PYF and WC5D.

I look at the August contest calendar and see there is activity for the CW operator starting with the North American QSO party and the Worked All Europe contest. There are five State QSO parties to keep the CW county hunters active on other frequencies: The Maryland-DC (24 counties), Hawaii (5 counties), Kansas (105 counties), Ohio (88 counties) and Colorado (64 counties). If you like DX activity, check out the Russian District Award contest, the Keymen’s club of Japan contest or the YO DX HF contest. I make one more check of the MARAC website. I read that David, KW1DX, is CW county hunter of the year, Jerry, W0GXQ, is the best CW net control and the best CW mobile operator. I make a note to congratulate them. My redneck neighbor said he will not let his 14-year old daughter smoke at the dinner table in front of her kinds. I feel nappy, first one more biscuit.

My friend Bill, KM4W, King of the 3-M Mini, a Silent Key. RIP.



History Happens

Gary, K4EXT

I like it when states get finished for the county sign picture project. I like it a lot! In the past month, the final 4 counties needed for Colorado were submitted by Richard, W5IL. Also in the past month, the final 22 counties needed for Mississippi were submitted by Rick, W5QP. Very nice - thanks guys!

Other submissions included Lee, KC7QOP in Oregon and Indiana ... Charles, N2JNE in New York ... Ed, KN4Y in Florida, Alabama, and Georgia ... Richard, W5IL in Mississippi and New Mexico as well as Colorado ... and Alex, K5XY in New Mexico. I also finished going through Terry, WQ7A and Boni's CD of Michigan Mini trip pics and added new ones for Michigan, Indiana, and Oregon.

Many thanks to all! Please feel free to check out the current collection of pictures and information by visiting the CH History/Archive website at the following Internet address:

<http://www.CHarchive.com>

William "Bill" Bell, KM4W passed away at home on July 22nd at age 93. For County Hunters, he was best known for hosting the Manchester-Murfreesboro-Mini (3M) Convention each year in Middle Tennessee from the early 80's through 2004.

Comments on the K3IMC Forum from Bill's friends included "What a fine gentleman" (W0EAR) ... "A great asset to CHer's" (N8HAM) ... "I consider it an honor to have known him" (K7DM) ... "What a great person" (N4AAT) ... "One of the finest gentlemen this hobby ever saw" (KA3DRO) ... and "Bill was my elmer and coach in County Hunting" (KC3X).

The picture below of Bill with XYL Jimmie is from 1983 and is courtesy of W2DPM/N4ANV.



Birthdays

| Roadrunner - Birthdays | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Call | Birthday Date |
| WA6HBV | Aug - 01 |
| K8ZZ | Aug - 01 |
| AA4GT | Aug - 01 |
| K3TEM | Aug - 01 |
| N5WD | Aug - 01 |
| W7CB | Aug - 01 |
| N5HLG | Aug - 01 |
| W1BPT | Aug - 01 |
| WA5BDU | Aug - 01 |
| K5CM | Aug - 01 |
| W1EKZ | Aug - 02 |
| NO3X | Aug - 02 |
| K3MI | Aug - 02 |
| AJ5ZX | Aug - 02 |
| HB9RG | Aug - 02 |
| K6INM | Aug - 03 |
| N9ID | Aug - 03 |
| N3PYQ | Aug - 03 |
| K1TKL | Aug - 03 |
| WC5B | Aug - 03 |
| K0FG | Aug - 04 |
| AE5EA | Aug - 04 |
| N5WRX | Aug - 04 |
| KX4XX | Aug - 04 |
| KR0G | Aug - 04 |
| N2JNE | Aug - 04 |
| AB7RW | Aug - 05 |
| N8EMV | Aug - 05 |
| AC4XL | Aug - 05 |
| N5OHQ | Aug - 06 |
| NG0T | Aug - 06 |
| KD7RM | Aug - 07 |
| WA1UDI | Aug - 07 |
| EA8CTB | Aug - 07 |

| Roadrunner - Birthdays | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Call | Birthday Date |
| K8ZKJ | Aug - 07 |
| N9RNG | Aug - 07 |
| KI6YX | Aug - 08 |
| KF0LZ | Aug - 08 |
| WN8F | Aug - 08 |
| KB0KX | Aug - 08 |
| AF8CS | Aug - 08 |
| W9DND | Aug - 08 |
| W7IN | Aug - 08 |
| K9XE | Aug - 09 |
| KE9OI | Aug - 09 |
| AA5LM | Aug - 09 |
| AK4P | Aug - 10 |
| KN4EH | Aug - 10 |
| KD0U | Aug - 10 |
| W7ZC | Aug - 10 |
| KK0J | Aug - 10 |
| AC2J | Aug - 11 |
| WW8O | Aug - 11 |
| AA9JY | Aug - 11 |
| AF0O | Aug - 12 |
| KI7SS | Aug - 12 |
| N0BZ | Aug - 12 |
| NP2C | Aug - 13 |
| KQ6MN | Aug - 13 |
| KA1LSD | Aug - 13 |
| AA1VA | Aug - 14 |
| K4YT | Aug - 14 |
| N1AM | Aug - 14 |
| WA0UPL | Aug - 14 |
| KC4OV | Aug - 15 |
| W4QCP | Aug - 15 |
| WQ7A | Aug - 16 |
| KV4GO | Aug - 16 |

| Roadrunner - Birthdays | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Call | Birthday Date |
| K0JV | Aug - 16 |
| AJ4A | Aug - 17 |
| K7NN | Aug - 17 |
| N5QLZ | Aug - 17 |
| KG4NNK | Aug - 17 |
| KB3FN | Aug - 17 |
| K2UPD | Aug - 17 |
| K9IR | Aug - 18 |
| W8PN | Aug - 18 |
| KW7JS | Aug - 18 |
| W0FP | Aug - 18 |
| WA7JHQ | Aug - 19 |
| WK9O | Aug - 19 |
| AB7CB | Aug - 20 |
| W9HB | Aug - 20 |
| WB4ZXP | Aug - 20 |
| KF8XK | Aug - 21 |
| AH6EZ | Aug - 21 |
| AD4RE | Aug - 21 |
| K6BM | Aug - 21 |
| KJ4JC | Aug - 21 |
| WA4VCB | Aug - 21 |
| WD4HVZ | Aug - 22 |
| K0NO | Aug - 22 |
| W7RIP | Aug - 22 |
| NW6S | Aug - 22 |
| N7MT | Aug - 22 |
| K7DOL | Aug - 23 |
| KK0JX | Aug - 23 |
| AA8R | Aug - 23 |
| KB5JN | Aug - 23 |
| KW1DX | Aug - 23 |
| K6SSD | Aug - 23 |
| W4SIG | Aug - 24 |

| Roadrunner - Birthdays | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Call | Birthday Date |
| KD4HXM | Aug - 24 |
| N5PB | Aug - 24 |
| AA0LV | Aug - 24 |
| KW4V | Aug - 24 |
| N0UR | Aug - 24 |
| WT3W | Aug - 24 |
| WW1H | Aug - 24 |
| K0CO | Aug - 25 |
| K8ZEE | Aug - 25 |
| W2CC | Aug - 25 |
| W1PX | Aug - 25 |
| KE4UP | Aug - 25 |
| K9DZG | Aug - 25 |
| KB4JAA | Aug - 25 |
| N5LP | Aug - 25 |
| W4SKW | Aug - 25 |
| NS3U | Aug - 26 |
| KC0VYS | Aug - 26 |
| W0UBT | Aug - 26 |
| WB4VFN | Aug - 26 |
| K5JF | Aug - 26 |
| N0GAK | Aug - 26 |
| WA4PGM | Aug - 26 |
| N7HT | Aug - 27 |
| W8CE | Aug - 27 |
| W0CML | Aug - 27 |
| KC7JC | Aug - 28 |
| K7WY | Aug - 28 |
| AG4IF | Aug - 28 |
| W4IO | Aug - 28 |
| N9AZI | Aug - 29 |
| WD5GNX | Aug - 29 |
| WQ1H | Aug - 29 |
| WA4QPD | Aug - 29 |

| Roadrunner - Birthdays | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Call | Birthday Date |
| W5GND | Aug - 29 |
| K6NA | Aug - 29 |
| NR2S | Aug - 29 |
| N4USM | Aug - 29 |
| W0ETT | Aug - 29 |
| KJ8W | Aug - 30 |
| WC8R | Aug - 30 |
| K0UMD | Aug - 30 |
| NU7G | Aug - 30 |
| K0IG | Aug - 31 |
| K9FRW | Aug - 31 |
| N6KMR | Aug - 31 |
| W3HZB | Aug - 31 |
| KR6F | Aug - 31 |
| KI0RD | Aug - 31 |
| W8DUV | Aug - 31 |
| W8BMZ | Aug - 31 |



Awards

| Awards Issued For July | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Call | Date | Award | Number |
| KC3X | 7/23/2014 | USA-CW III | # 14 |
| WA9DLB | 6/27/2014 | USA-PA "N" Prefix | # 21 |
| WA9DLB | 7/12/2014 | USA-PA "W" Prefix | # 13 |
| WA9DLB | 7/12/2014 | USA-PA ALL Prefixes | # 5 |
| K1TKL | 7/28/2014 | BINGO | # 356 |
| W3CR | 7/5/2014 | BINGO VI | # 3 |
| KB0BA | 7/22/2014 | BINGO II | # 94 |
| KB0BA | 7/27/2014 | Worked all Counties - 3rd Time | # 241 |
| NT2A | 7/7/2014 | Worked all Counties - 3rd Time | # 240 |
| N5MLP | 7/7/2004 | Mobile to Mobile | # 21 |
| KE3VV | 7/27/2014 | Master Platinum | # 24 |
| KE3VV | 7/26/2014 | Worked all Counties - 8th Time | # 14 |

| Roadrunner Issued For July | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Call | Date | Count | Award | Number |
| K4YFH | 7/22/2014 | Last County Count 75 | Last County Count 75 | # 272 |
| NT2A | 7/4/2014 | Last County Count 25 | Last County Count 25 | # 514 |
| N4CD | 7/4/2014 | Last County Count 2375 | Last County Count 2375 | # 1 |
| N8KIE | 7/5/2014 | Last County Count 900 | Last County Count 900 | # 10 |
| KB0BA | 7/5/2014 | Last County Count 175 | Last County Count 175 | # 135 |
| N5UZW | 7/14/2014 | Last County Count 325 | Last County Count 325 | # 58 |
| W3CR | 7/14/2014 | Last County Count 425 | Last County Count 425 | # 40 |
| KA4RRU | 7/15/2014 | Last County Count 50 | Last County Count 50 | # 346 |
| AB7RW | 7/15/2014 | Last County Count 125 | Last County Count 125 | # 185 |
| W5QP | 7/22/2014 | Last County Count 175 | Last County Count 175 | # 136 |
| W0NAC | 7/4/2014 | Last County Count 325 | Last County Count 325 | # 57 |
| KW1DX | 7/22/2014 | Last County Count 275 | Last County Count 275 | # 73 |
| K5GE | 7/22/2014 | Last County Count 425 | Last County Count 425 | # 41 |
| AB7NK | 7/22/2014 | Last County Count 150 | Last County Count 150 | # 164 |
| W4SIG | 7/22/2014 | Last County Count 250 | Last County Count 250 | # 84 |
| N0DXE | 7/22/2014 | Last County Count 225 | Last County Count 225 | # 94 |
| K2HVN | 7/22/2014 | Last County Count 800 | Last County Count 800 | # 16 |
| N0XYL | 7/22/2014 | Last County Count 275 | Last County Count 275 | # 74 |
| K8ZZ | 7/22/2014 | Last County Count 475 | Last County Count 475 | # 37 |
| KE3VV | 7/28/2014 | Last County Count 325 | Last County Count 325 | # 59 |
| N4CD | 7/25/2014 | Last County Count 2400 | Last County Count 2400 | # 1 |
| N9STL | 7/22/2014 | Last County Count 175 | Last County Count 175 | # 137 |



SE Mini

2014 SE Mini

- Location: Quality Inn & Suites; Mount Pleasant, SC
Dates: October 6, 7 & 8, 2014
Directions: Follow I-26 East until it ends and take exit 220. Follow signs to Mt. Pleasant/Hwy 17 North. Cross Cooper River Bridge and take Coleman Blvd./Hwy 703 exit. On Coleman Blvd/Hwy 703 turn right at first traffic light. Hotel is on the right.
More details will be posted at <http://www.SEMINI.org>
Room Rate: \$99.99 per night plus tax. Call the hotel directly for reservations and mention “amateur radio”. The phone number is 800-704-4480. The rate is valid only through September 12th - Make your reservations early!
Hotel Notes: There is a 2 night minimum stay, and a one night deposit is required. Cancellations must be done 2 weeks in advance, and all but \$25 of your deposit will be refunded. Cancellations within 2 weeks will be charged for 2 nights.
Parking: Ample FREE parking, with no overhangs to eat antennas!
Activities: Dinner at the “Fat Hen” and walking the bridge are planned. Other area attractions include Historic Charleston tours, shopping, dining, golfing, plantations, Patriot’s Point, The Hunley & Fort Sumter.
Dinner: Buffet Style Dinner- \$28 per person.
Registration \$10 per person.
Website: More information, including online registration is available at: <http://www.semini.org>

Send registration and fees to:

John M. Hoyt – W5UGD
118 Halifax Rd
Easley, SC 29642

Email: w5ugd@homelandsecureit.com for additional information

2014 SE Mini Registration

Callsign: _____

Name (to be put on badge):

Address:

USA-CA#: _____

Additional Names/Calls/USA-CA Numbers:

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------|
| Basic Registration: | | 10.00 |
| Additional Registrations | _____ x 10.00 | _____ |
| Banquet Tickets | _____ x 28.00 | _____ |
| Total | | _____ |

**ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MOBILE AMATEUR RADIO AWARDS CLUB**

President David Splitt (KE3VV) called the meeting to order at 1600Z on July 12, 2014 in Visalia, CA.

Board Members present in Visalia, CA

President – David Splitt (KE3VV)

Secretary – James Grandinetti (KZ2P)

Treasurer – Matt Matthew (W0NAC)

Pacific Director – Robert Devine (KC6AWX)

Board Members present via the mIRC Chat Room or phone

North Central Director – Tony Mazzocco (WA9DLB)

Southeast Director – Kerry Long (W4SIG)

Motion by KC6AWX to accept the minutes of the July 13, 2013. Seconded by W0NAC. The motion was approved by a vote of 5 in favor and none opposed.

Motion by KZ2P to approve the Treasurer's Reports for June 2013 (Amended), July 2013, August 2013, September 2013, October 2013, November 2013, December 2013, January 2014, February 2014, March 2014, April 2014 and May 2014. Seconded by KC6AWX. The motion was approved by a vote of 4 in favor, 1 abstention and none opposed.

Motion by W0NAC to approve Awards Manager's Financial Reports for July 2013, August 2013, September 2013, October 2013, November 2013, December 2013, January 2014, February 2014, March 2014, April 2014, May 2014 and June 2014. Seconded by KZ2P. The motion was approved by a vote of 4 in favor, 1 abstention and none opposed.

Old Business

KE3VV reported that W3DYA sponsor the CW Contest this year, it will not be a MARAC event.

New Business

KZ2P reported that he filed MARAC's 2013 Annual Reports with both the State of Kansas and the A.R.R.L.

Motion by KC6AWX to send \$300.00 to W8TVT to help defray the hospitality room expenses for the Michigan Mini. Seconded by KZ2P. The motion was approved by a vote of 5 in favor and none opposed.

Motion by W0NAC to approve a MARAC Merit Award for Robert Devine (KC6AWX) for hosting the 2014 MARAC National Convention. Seconded by W4SIG. The motion was approved by a vote of 4 in favor, 1 abstention and none opposed.

Motion by KC6AWX to approve a MARAC Outstanding Service Award for Barry Mitchell (N0KV) for his service as MARAC South Central Director. Seconded by WA9DLB. The motion was approved by a vote of 5 in favor and none opposed.

Motion by WA9DLB to approve a MARAC Outstanding Service Award for Carol-Ann Reitman (AB2LS) for her service as MARAC Northeast Director. Seconded by KC6AWX. The motion was approved by a vote of 5 in favor and none opposed.

Motion by WA9DLB to approve the 2015 MARAC National Convention to be held at The Villages, Florida from July 13, 2015 until July 16, 2015. The convention will be hosted by KZ2P and KA1JPR. Seconded by KC6AWX. The motion was approved by a vote of 4 in favor, 1 abstention and none opposed.

Motion by W0NAC to approve initial funding of \$2,000 in fixed costs and \$1200 per year recurring costs for the Logger II and New Spotting Sites development and web site operational funding, including purchase of a license for the professional version of Microsoft Visual Studio 2010; shared ISP service for developers and web site backup; commercial grade web site

hosting and spotting, domain name registration, web site template; and backup hardware and software.

The MARAC Computer Data Manager will have the responsibility and authority to pre-approve all fixed cost purchases or reimbursements, as well as the determination of recurring cost obligations. The Computer Data Manager will be authorized to request the MARAC Treasurer to issue checks to pay these expenses. The MARAC Treasurer will track and report all expenditures as separate expense line items on the monthly and annual reports. Seconded by KC6AWX. The motion was approved by a vote of 5 in favor and none opposed.

***** FUNDING PROPOSALS FOR LOGGER II AND SPOTTING NETWORKS *****

LOGGER II & NEW SPOTTING SITES DEVELOPMENT

The Logger Team is currently working on two projects - Logger II Program Development and New Spotting Sites Development – under the leadership of Computer Data Manager (KD9ZP). The new spotting sites are currently in beta testing and running on private computers with expenses being paid by the individual developers. Development of Logger II has made minimal progress to date and is now awaiting finalized software specifications and official MARAC sponsorship and funding support. The Logger Team is working on these projects to address some important issues and needs.

LOGGER II DEVELOPMENT

The need for developing an updated logging software application to replace Logger (Logger II) has been apparent for some time now.

The current version of Logger is written in Microsoft Visual Basic 6 (VB6), a programming language that is now outdated and lacks many modern features. The final release of VB 6 was in 1998, and Microsoft stopped supporting the VB6 Integrated Development Environment (IDE) in April of 2008. While Microsoft has said that “The Visual Basic team is committed to “It Just Works” compatibility for Visual Basic 6.0 applications on Windows Vista, Windows Server 2008 including R2, Windows 7, and Windows 8,” clearly, Microsoft support is waning rapidly and we need to take that into account and develop a version of Logger based on an upgraded version of Visual Basic.

Logger II is being developed using the newer Microsoft Visual Basic 2010. This new development tool (now called VB.net) has been totally revamped by Microsoft and includes many new features that will give us the opportunity to make Logger II look and feel more like current Windows programs. Logger II will run faster and smoother, provide user friendly error detection and handling, and use new tools to accomplish other needed tasks. For these reasons and more, Logger II will be written in VB.net

In addition to utilizing current Logger user’s data, Logger II will add new features, such as the ability to upload and download to EQSL and LOTW, make custom “data mining” of contact information possible, create spots using “drop down” selections to preclude bad spots, incorporate almost all current logger features, and more.

We are fortunate that K4PBX (Jim, a Microsoft beta tester for Operating Systems), with help from KW1DX (Dave), has agreed to lead the development of Logger II as delegated by the Computer Data Manager (KD9ZP), but their continued efforts will require financial support from MARAC.

NEW SPOTTING SITE(S) DEVELOPMENT

The reasons for creating a new spotting site are a bit more complex, but this project is based primarily on the need for a tested and reliable spotting system for county hunters that will eventually replace the current sites, which are not sponsored by MARAC. Having an operational MARAC spotting site will also address the possibility that the current sites would not be available at some time in the future. The spotting function has become so ingrained into day to day county hunting operations that MARAC needs to take the initiative to ensure that there is no interruption to this important.

In addition, there are several technical issues that are being addressed by the new MARAC Spotting Sites project, including:

- 1) The State/County field (which is also used for comments) is limited in the number of characters it can contain, is extremely prone to user errors, and is difficult to parse accurately.
- 2) The need for separate Mode and Sub-Mode fields (rather than using the limited capacity of comments in the State/County field for this purpose).

- 3) Enduring that spots can be posted at all hours, every day, all year (24-7-365).
- 4) The need for redundancy and reliability that is not achieved using only a single cluster.
- 5) Lack of communication and other technical issues in creating an uplink.

LOGGER TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

Both of these projects have been ongoing for some time on a strictly voluntary basis with all hardware and software costs being absorbed by members of the Logger team. The time has come for MARAC to “step up” and officially “bless” these two tasks by funding them. While every effort will be made to minimize costs, the Team proposes a project funding cap approach (rather than an item-specific budget and approval or ongoing requests to the Board for incremental funding). This will give the Data Manager and project teams needed flexibility. Development schedules will be included in the Software Requirements Documents (SDR) for these two tasks. It is important to recognize that all of the labor to develop the software is being donated to MARAC by the Logger Team, and all labor will continue on a voluntary basis at no cost to MARAC. The following funding is recommended:

NEW SPOTTING SITE AND BACKUP:

- 1) Commercial grade Web site hosting and spotting – Estimated Recurring Cost \$300 to \$600 per Year.
- 2) Domain name registration – Estimated Recurring Cost \$15 per Year.
- 3) 3rd party Template – Estimated Fixed Cost \$100.
- 4) Backup Computer hardware (Simple computer, 2 hard drives, UPS, Keyboard, Monitor, Windows 8.1) – Estimated Fixed Cost \$1300.
- 5)

LOGGER II DEVELOPMENT:

- 1) Purchase Licensed Professional Version of Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 – Estimated Cost \$500.
- 2) Share (50%) Expense of ISP service at 2 sites – Total Monthly Recurring Cost \$50 per Month

The Team proposes that MARAC **fixed costs** for both projects shall be initially funded with a maximum expenditure cap of \$2,000. In addition, MARAC recurring costs for both projects (per year costs) would be pre-approved with a maximum expenditure cap of \$100/Month or \$1200/Year.

The Computer Data Manager will have the responsibility and authority to pre-approve all fixed cost purchases or reimbursements, as well as the determination of recurring cost obligations. The Computer Data Manager will be authorized to request the MARAC Treasurer to issue checks to pay these expenses. The MARAC Treasurer will track and report all expenditures as separate expense line items on the monthly and annual reports.

Respectfully submitted by

Robert “Matt” Matthew (WONAC) and the Logger Team

Logger II and New Spotting Site**ESTIMATED Costs/Timelines****Logger II – ESTIMATED Project Cost and Timeline**

- A) Microsoft Visual Studio (commonly known as Visual Basic) currently cost \$499.00. I have for years used the free addition without issues but MS can change that policy at any time.
- B) Software to compile and distribute Logger II as an executable. Free for commercial and noncommercial use as long as we do not remove any copyright information. Donations are accepted by the author.
- C) Share monthly expense of ISP - Approximately 50% of the cost.
- D) If MARAC charges for Logger II and if certain commercial or copyrighted enhancements are added to Logger II, it may be considered a commercial product that is subject to some licensing fees on some software that is currently free for noncommercial use. Although these costs would be minimal, they are not included in the requested project funding caps and any additional cost for this would have to be approved by the MARAC BOD.

Because Logger II is dependent on the new MARAC spotting site being fully functional and operational, the Logger II timeline is based on completion of the Spotting site project. After Logger II goes into “production” status and is in use by MARAC members, it will require ongoing support and maintenance as Award Rules change, new awards are added, and

operating system software changes. Refinements will always be needed.

Month 0 to Month 3 - A beta test version will be delivered to beta testers. At this point the software will be limited in capability. This is more to establish flow, usability, operation on various systems and screen resolutions.

Month 3 to Month 6 - Refinement of findings of the beta test with the addition of features.

Month 6 to Month 12 - Beta testing continues with the addition of enchantments and features.

Month 12 to Month 15 - Request and select a few MARAC members (non-beta testers) to test the software and provide feedback.

Month 15 - Continue refinement and release production version 1 for use by members.

Spotting Site – ESTIMATED Project Cost and Timeline

A) Hosting service must meet the criteria to support Web site hosting and spotting. Cost is between \$29.99 to \$49.00 a month (\$299 to \$359 a year). A saving of around \$5 a month is usually available if paid on an annual basis. Included are:

- B) PHP 5
- C) MYSQL Database
- D) MySQL 5 Data Server
- E) FTP
- F) Storage Space for data
- G) Linux OS
- H) cPanel Account Control Panel
- I) Javascript Support
- J) CGI Library
- K) Web File Manger
- L) Server Side Includes
- M) Message Forum
- N) Crontab
- O) Auto Backups Daily

B) Domain name registration - Annual fee of about \$15 for a .com or .org domain name.

C) Template. If we use a template written by third party, the cost is \$50 to \$100. Utilizing a pre written CSS template can reduce time to deliver by 2 to 3 weeks.

D) Computer backup if Web Hosting service is down. Computer should be an I3 to I5 core processor. Computer would have Windows 8.1, 8 GIG Ram, and 2 hard drives. Hard drives would either be in Raid configuration or Disk 1 backups to Disk 2 daily. Also needed a UPS capable of at least @45 minutes of backup power. This backup computer will be running cluster software, CC Cluster Software. Interface can utilize a free 3rd party software, CC Cluster Client. Spots posted to the cluster will be transferred to Web site manually when hosting is back on line. A mid ranged PC \$899 to \$999, which includes keyboard, mouse, and monitor.

E) Second hard drive - \$75 to \$95

F) Uninterruptible power supply (UPS) - \$122 to \$179

G) Share monthly expense of ISP. Approximately 50% of the cost...

Month 0 to Month 3 - Contact commercial web site hosting providers and procure web hosting company and obtain domain name.

Write HTML, PHP, MYSQL code and have a beta test site running. Site is not fully enhanced at this phase.

Interface to Logger. Work with Data Manager and Logger Team to ensure Logger can post and receive spots from site.

Month 4 to Month 12 - Add chat room, history searching, email notification of needed spot, And other enhancements.

Motion by W4SIG to eliminate the \$20 charge for Logger to MARAC members. The motion failed due to the lack of a second.

Motion by W4SIG to offer Logger free to non-MARAC members. The motion failed due to the lack of a second.

At this point KE3VV permitted W4SIG to present the merits of the two previous motions.

Motion by KC6AWX to give the President authority to form a Committee to solicit and present recommendations on ways to increase the Club's membership. Seconded by KZ2P. The motion was approved by a vote of 5 in favor and none opposed.

Being no further business to discuss, motion by W0NAC to adjourn the meeting at 1707Z. Seconded by KZ2P. The meeting was adjourned by a vote of 5 in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,
James Grandinetti, Secretary



New Members

| <u>MARAC Number</u> | <u>Callsign</u> | <u>Name</u> |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| R4559 | KB0QGT | Michael Saft |
| R4560 | K4XD | Rowland Archer |
| R4561 | WY7GC | Garth Crowe |
| R4562 | KD5HTJ | Rhea Ann Crowe |



Digital Happenings

DIGITAL HAPPENINGS #24

(July 2014)

By W0NAC ("Matt")

This month's Digital Happenings is going to be a bit different than before. First I will cover (in some detail) the results of our digital trip to and from the MARAC National Convention at Visalia, CA. Then I will give you a tip on how to properly set up the RTTY-75N Mode in the latest version of Fldigi. Next month I will pick back up on a technical topic as usual.

Detailed Results of Visalia Trip:

First, let me say thanks to the many county hunters that patiently followed us during some very long days! My trip planning was (once again) overly optimistic in how many miles we could cover in a day and still spend 45 minutes to 1 hour sitting on multiple county lines putting out digital modes. As a result, we were often still driving as late as 11:00 PM to get to our motel. A couple of times we looked at each other and said "We're getting too old for this!" But -- we love it, so what are we going to do? (Hi Hi). Our next trip will be planned with much shorter days and maybe even a bit of sightseeing thrown in.

Overall, our trip covered 20 days (7 of which were spent at the convention and visiting our newest great-grandson "Ari" in Eugene, OR) and ~ 4300 miles on our VW's odometer.

Referring to the Table below, we put out 32 counties "on the fly" using SSB mode only. We had to do this to save travel time. We put out 46 counties (mostly on county lines) using SSB mode plus 3 to 5 different digital modes. In total we put out 78 counties in 11 states.

| STATE | SSB ONLY | SSB + DIGITAL | TOTAL |
|---------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| CO | 3 | 7 | 10 |
| WY | 7 | 5 | 12 |
| SD | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| MT | 1 | 12 | 13 |
| ID | - | 2 | 2 |
| WA | 7 | 7 | 14 |
| OR | 5 | - | 5 |
| CA | 6 | 8 | 14 |
| NV | 1 | - | 1 |
| AZ | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| NM | - | 1 | 1 |
| TOTALS | 32 | 46 | 78 |

The next table below shows our combined contacts by call sign and mode for the first 48 of 92 calls that had 10 or more contacts with us. To save space, 83 call signs with less than 10 total contacts are lumped together on line 93 near the bottom of the 2nd page.

| | | | W0NAC/N0LXJ CONTACTS (BY MODE) | | | | | | | | |
|----|---------------|----------|--------------------------------|------|------|--------|------|-----|-----|----|-------|
| # | CALL SIGN | NAME | PSK | RTTY | MFSK | DOMINO | HELL | SSB | FM | CW | TOTAL |
| 1 | AA1VA | Terry | | | | | | 20 | | | 20 |
| 2 | AA9JJ | Frank | | | | | | 48 | | | 48 |
| 3 | AB7NK | Mary | | | | | | 62 | | | 62 |
| 4 | AC0CU | Patty | | | | | | 18 | | | 18 |
| 5 | AJ5ZX | Randy | | | | | | 12 | | | 12 |
| 6 | K0MAF | Jack | | | | | | 32 | | | 32 |
| 7 | K1DFO | Walt | | | | | | 32 | | | 32 |
| 8 | K1TKL | Paul | | | | | | 48 | | 1 | 49 |
| 9 | K2HVN | Bill | | | | | | 34 | | | 34 |
| 10 | K2JG | Jim Club | | | | | | 11 | | | 11 |
| 11 | K2MF | Barry | | | | | | 2 | | 14 | 16 |
| 12 | K4PBX | Jim | 34 | 34 | 38 | 20 | 8 | 24 | | | 158 |
| 13 | K4YFH | Jimmy | | | | | | 32 | | | 32 |
| 14 | K4YT | Karl | | | | | | 128 | | | 128 |
| 15 | K5GE | Gene | 4 | | 4 | 4 | 4 | 28 | | | 44 |
| 16 | K5XY | Alex | | | | | | 10 | | | 10 |
| 17 | K7REL | Tom | 4 | | | | | 34 | | 1 | 39 |
| 18 | K7TM | Bob | 4 | | | | | 28 | | | 32 |
| 19 | K8EMS | Mike | | | | | | 32 | | | 32 |
| 20 | K8QWY | Edward | | | | | | 16 | | | 16 |
| 21 | K8ZZ | Edward | | | | | | 20 | | | 20 |
| 22 | K9EN | Ken | | | | 4 | | 8 | | | 12 |
| 23 | KA1JPR | Percy | | | | | | 12 | | | 12 |
| 24 | KA4RRU | Mike | 20 | 18 | 18 | 12 | 8 | 18 | | | 94 |
| 25 | KA9JAC | Bob | | | | | | 10 | | | 10 |
| 26 | KB0BA | Lowell | | | | | | 64 | | | 64 |
| 27 | KB6UF | Ron | | | | | | 20 | | | 20 |
| 28 | KB9YVT | Ann | | | | | | 10 | | | 10 |
| 29 | KC3X | Hollis | 66 | 70 | 68 | 18 | 4 | 104 | | | 330 |
| 30 | KC6AWX | Bob | 20 | 24 | 20 | | | 4 | | | 68 |
| 31 | KD5YUK | Billy | | | | | | 12 | | | 12 |
| 32 | KG7Q | Jim | 34 | 42 | 36 | 24 | | 14 | | 1 | 151 |
| 33 | KL7D | Bruce | | | | | | 20 | | | 20 |
| 34 | KW1DX | Dave | | | | | | 46 | | | 46 |
| 35 | KY0E | Milt | | | | | | 10 | | | 10 |
| 36 | KZ2P | Jim | | | | | | 11 | | | 11 |
| 37 | LY5A | Jonas | | | | | | 7 | | 1 | 8 |
| 38 | N0DXE | Pat | | 2 | 4 | | | 44 | | | 50 |
| 39 | N0KV | Barry | 30 | 30 | 30 | 4 | | 94 | | | 188 |
| 40 | N0LXJ->W0NAC* | Matt | | 124 | | | | | 125 | | 249 |
| 41 | N0XYL | Sandra | | | | | | 68 | | | 68 |
| 42 | N1API | Al | 52 | 52 | 60 | 22 | | 10 | | | 196 |
| 43 | N4AAT | Scottie | | | | | | 34 | | | 34 |
| 44 | N4JT | Jim | 42 | 54 | 56 | 12 | | 62 | | 1 | 227 |
| 45 | N5BGQ | | | | | | | 14 | | | 14 |
| 46 | N5KGY | Jerry | | | | | | 20 | | | 20 |
| 47 | N5MLP | Ron | | | | | | 86 | | | 86 |
| 48 | N5UZW | Joe | | | | | | 26 | | | 26 |

The next page of this table shows the remaining 44 call signs that had 10 or more contacts with us.

| | | | W0NAC/N0LXJ CONTACTS (BY MODE) | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|------|------|--------|------|------|-----|----|-------|
| # | CALL SIGN | NAME | PSK | RTTY | MFSK | DOMINO | HELL | SSB | FM | CW | TOTAL |
| 49 | N6PDB | Dennis | 88 | 80 | 68 | 44 | 4 | 92 | | | 376 |
| 50 | N7JPF | Paul | 12 | | | | | 16 | | | 28 |
| 51 | N7LFX | Larry | 16 | 4 | | | | 20 | | | 40 |
| 52 | N8CIJ | Dick | 72 | 66 | 60 | 30 | 8 | 38 | | | 274 |
| 53 | N8II | Jeffrey | | | | | | 16 | | | 16 |
| 54 | N8KIE | Bob | | | | | | 64 | | | 64 |
| 55 | N9QPQ | Kay | | | | | | 48 | | | 48 |
| 56 | N9QS | Silver | | | | | | 26 | | | 26 |
| 57 | N9STL | Joyce | | | | | | 54 | | 1 | 55 |
| 58 | NA8W | Darl | 24 | 24 | 28 | 14 | | 28 | | | 118 |
| 59 | NF0N | Mike | 26 | 32 | 36 | | | 34 | | | 128 |
| 60 | NT2A | Gene | 4 | | | | | 10 | | | 14 |
| 61 | NX4W | Lloyd | 8 | 4 | 8 | | | | | | 20 |
| 62 | VA7MJR | Richard | | | | | | 10 | | | 10 |
| 63 | W0EAR | Don | | | | | | 48 | | | 48 |
| 64 | W0NAC->N0LXJ* | Sharon | | 124 | | | | | 125 | | 249 |
| 65 | W0FP | Frosty | | | | | | 32 | | | 32 |
| 66 | W1ATV | Walter | | | | | | 10 | | | 10 |
| 67 | W3CR | Chuck | | | | | | 10 | | | 10 |
| 68 | W3DLM | Don | 10 | 10 | 8 | 4 | | 6 | | | 38 |
| 69 | W4SIG | Kerry | | | | | | 48 | | | 48 |
| 70 | W4YDY | Dave | 26 | 18 | 24 | 4 | | 32 | | | 104 |
| 71 | W5PKE | Curtis | | | | | | 42 | | | 42 |
| 72 | W5QP | Rick | 72 | 70 | 66 | 42 | 8 | 10 | | 1 | 269 |
| 73 | W7GQK | Abe | | | | | | 10 | | | 10 |
| 74 | W7IN | Larry | | | | | | 16 | | | 16 |
| 75 | W8FNW | Jim | | | | | | 30 | | | 30 |
| 76 | W8RCW | Rich | 36 | 24 | 18 | 24 | 4 | 24 | | | 130 |
| 77 | W8TZA | Bill | | | | | | 22 | | | 22 |
| 78 | WA0LMK | Leroy | | | | | | 14 | | | 14 |
| 79 | WA3QNT | Bob | | | | | | 30 | | | 30 |
| 80 | WA4EEZ | Leslie | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | | | | | 16 |
| 81 | WA4UNS | Doug | 36 | 50 | 54 | 28 | 4 | 34 | | | 206 |
| 82 | WA6OCV | Susan | 52 | 44 | 46 | 30 | | 48 | | | 220 |
| 83 | WA9DLB | Tony | | | | | | 40 | | | 40 |
| 84 | WB0CQO | Joe | | | | | | 12 | | | 12 |
| 85 | WB4KZW | Gene | | | | | | 10 | | | 10 |
| 86 | WB9STT | John | | | | | | 16 | | | 16 |
| 87 | WD4OIN | Jack | 20 | 20 | 24 | 12 | | 16 | | | 92 |
| 88 | WD9EJK | Paul | | | | | | 12 | | | 12 |
| 89 | WG9A | Bill | | | | | | 26 | | 1 | 27 |
| 90 | WQ7A | Terry | 80 | 80 | 68 | 34 | | 74 | | | 336 |
| 91 | WV2B | Duane | | | | | | 10 | | | 10 |
| 92 | WY8I | Jim | | | | | | 62 | | | 62 |
| 93 | Totals For 83 Call Signs With < 10 Contacts | (Various) | 14 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 302 | 1 | 9 | 340 |
| | TOTALS: | | 914 | 1112 | 848 | 390 | 52 | 3001 | 251 | 31 | 6599 |
| | NOTE: | * = Team Contacts With Each Other | | | | | | | | | |

Overall we logged almost 6600 total contacts with 175 different call signs. 3316 of these contacts were made using 5 different digital modes, 3001 were made using SSB, 251 were made using FM (mostly working ourselves) and 31 were made using CW.

Numbers listed in red show those who made the most contacts in any given mode (In some cases two or more call signs tied). The most active person on the 5 digital modes and all modes combined was N6PDB (Dennis). Coming in a close second and third were WQ7A (Terry) and KC3X (Hollis).

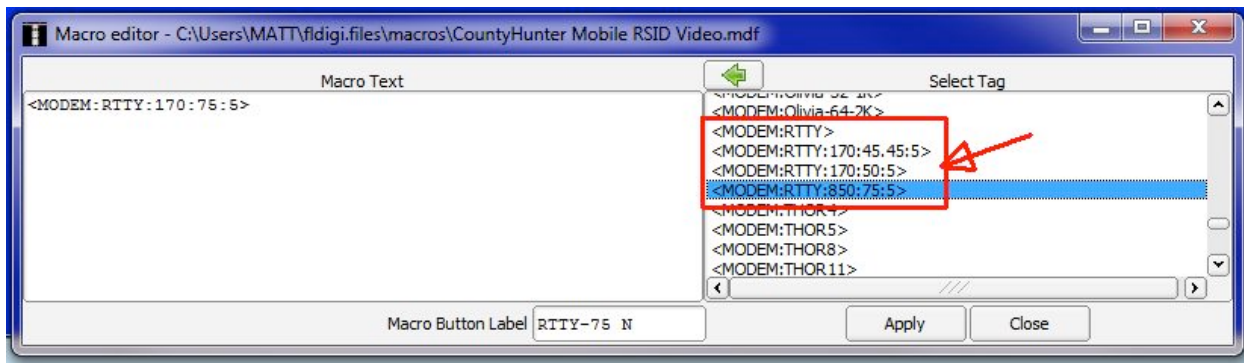
Also, when you look over this list, you will see a total of 20 or so county hunters who are very active on digital! People who are joining the ranks of digital operation seem to be growing rapidly. It wasn't that long ago that Sharon and I felt good about getting 4-5 contacts per mode. On this trip we often had 13 or more contacts on each digital mode. Sometimes it took over an hour sitting on a county line to complete contacts with everyone who wanted one on SSB plus as many as 5 digital modes! We had our macros fairly "tersed up" and were using the faster sub-modes to save time, but were still taking an hour or more to finish running a county line. This is a problem, but a nice one to have. As digital county hunting matures, I'm convinced we will find better operating procedures that will boost everyone's contact rate. If any of you have a better idea on how to speed up mobile digital operations, I would love to test out your idea.

Overall, Sharon and I were very pleased with the results of our trip. I believe that we helped a large number of people make good progress on their **5 – Mode** and **USA – Digital Awards** (That was our main objective). Riding the ferry to Lopez Island (San Juan County) and seeing the scenery was a lot of fun. We even met a fellow ham (K9QJS "Hoop") who lived on the island while sitting in a parking lot putting out San Juan County.

As we were on the final days of a great trip, we found that we were not ready to come home and wished that we had at least another week or so to put out more digital counties! Oh, well, such is the life of a county hunter.....

Tip On Setting Up Fldigi For RTTY-75N

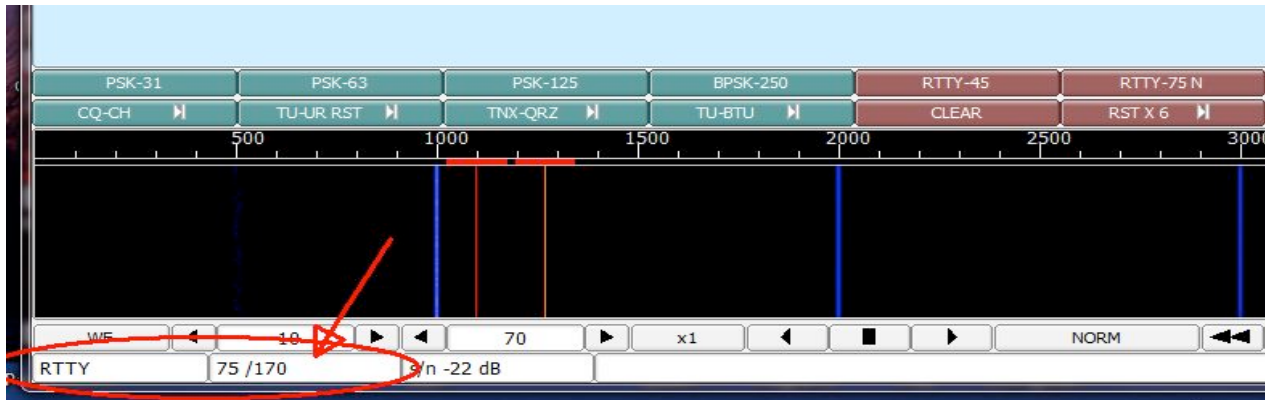
The latest version of Fldigi software (Version 3.21.83) has a problem when setting up the RTTY-75N mode using a macro. Manually switching to RTTY-75N using "Op Mode" to pull down a mode selection list still works fine. However, if you try to set up one of your macro buttons with a "canned" Tag using the Macro editor (shown below), you will find only 4 RTTY Tags to select from, and NONE of them are correct for RTTY-75N.



What you need to do is pull one of the four Tags over to the Macro Text box and edit it by hand to exactly match what you see in the left window above. Perhaps the easiest one to edit is the one highlighted in blue, but any of the four will work as a baseline for editing. You could also carefully type in the macro

from scratch. Naturally, you will also need to make the Macro Button Label look something like the one above.

Regardless of how you switch to the RTTY-75N mode, the lower left corner of your Fldigi screen should look like this:



If it doesn't match, you will need to re-check your macro.

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 | Randv | F | 1344 | 3077 | 3077 | 1461 | 576 | 203 | 8394 | 54.6% | 5/24/2014 |
| 2 | ACOB | Cliff | F | 205 | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | 12/10/2012 |
| 3 | AD1C | Jim | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| 4 | KODEQ | Bill | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| 5 | K0FG | Fred | F | 188 | 3077 | 3013 | 187 | 20 | 6 | 6303 | 41.0% | 4/14/2014 |
| 6 | KOPVW | Rob | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| 7 | KOWJ | Lou | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| 8 | K4PBX | Jim | F | 270 | 2982 | 255 | 107 | 75 | 34 | 3453 | 22.4% | 7/23/2014 |
| 9 | K5GE | Gene | F | 26 | 1893 | 575 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 2476 | 16.1% | 5/26/2013 |
| 10 | K5SF | Dick | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| 11 | K5WAF | Bill | F | 599 | 3044 | ? | ? | ? | ? | 3044 | 19.8% | 5/2/2013 |
| 12 | K7REL | Tom | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| 13 | K8QWY | Ed | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| 14 | K8ZZ | Ed | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| 15 | KA4RRU | Mike | M/F | 1026 | 3077 | 2989 | 1009 | 130 | 68 | 7273 | 47.3% | 7/23/2014 |
| 16 | KA8JQP | Pamela | M/F | 22 | 202 | 64 | 53 | 28 | 4 | 351 | 2.3% | 9/12/2013 |
| 17 | KC3X | Hollis | F | 400 | 3077 | 3077 | 408 | 353 | 304 | 7219 | 46.9% | 7/20/2014 |
| 18 | KC6AWX | Bob | F | 450 | 3077 | 1592 | 264 | 59 | 14 | 5006 | 32.5% | 5/7/2013 |
| 19 | KC7YE | Jack | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| 20 | KD5YUK | Billy | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| 21 | KD7KST | Bill | M/F | 1792 | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | 9/30/2012 |
| 22 | KF7PKL | Davis | F | 379 | 879 | 211 | 48 | 15 | 1 | 1154 | 7.5% | 10/9/2013 |
| 23 | KG5RJ | Greg | F | 711 | 3050 | 2133 | 655 | 273 | 104 | 6215 | 40.4% | 7/25/2014 |
| 24 | KM1C | Bill | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| 25 | KU4YM | Dave | F | 112 | 2856 | 109 | 54 | 14 | 4 | 3037 | 19.7% | 7/26/2014 |
| 26 | KM6HB | Mark | F | 714 | 3077 | 2936 | 694 | 87 | 1 | 6795 | 44.2% | 2/3/2013 |
| 27 | KW1DX | Dave | M/F | 68 | 3077 | 991 | 65 | 50 | 24 | 4207 | 27.3% | 4/26/2014 |
| 28 | N0KV | Barry | M/F | 529 | 3077 | 3034 | 2361 | 389 | 99 | 8960 | 58.2% | 7/20/2014 |
| 29 | N0LXJ | Sharon | M/F | 1406 | 3077 | 2293 | 1278 | 560 | 307 | 7515 | 48.8% | 7/30/2014 |
| 30 | N1API | Al | F | 874 | 3077 | 2511 | 827 | 586 | 459 | 7460 | 48.5% | 7/25/2014 |
| 31 | N4JT | Jim | M/F | 911 | 3077 | 3067 | 919 | 417 | 296 | 7776 | 50.5% | 5/18/2014 |
| 32 | N5MLP | Ron | M/F | 391 | 3077 | 409 | 54 | 37 | 9 | 3586 | 23.3% | 5/19/2013 |
| 33 | N6PDB | Dennis | M/F | 1065 | 3077 | 2971 | 1260 | 949 | 780 | 9037 | 58.7% | 7/26/2014 |
| 34 | N8CIJ | Dick | F | 888 | 3077 | 3044 | 881 | 508 | 382 | 7892 | 51.3% | 7/25/2014 |
| 35 | N8HAM | Jim | F | 0 | 3077 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3077 | 20.0% | 4/2/2013 |
| 36 | N9WNN | Steve | F | 0 | 2180 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2180 | 14.2% | 2/24/2013 |
| 37 | NA8W | Darl | F/M | 699 | 3064 | 980 | 481 | 266 | 135 | 4926 | 32.0% | 6/4/2014 |
| 38 | NFON | Mike | F | 900 | 3077 | 3077 | 1091 | 283 | 127 | 7655 | 49.8% | 4/18/2014 |
| 39 | NN9K | Pete | F | 816 | 3077 | 859 | 78 | 1 | 0 | 4015 | 26.1% | 3/23/2012 |
| 40 | NT2A | Gene | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| 41 | NU4C | Paul | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| 42 | NW6S | Jim | F | 784 | 3077 | 3077 | 805 | 114 | 79 | 7152 | 46.5% | 5/6/2014 |
| 43 | NX4W | Lloyd | M/F | 1185 | 3077 | 1327 | 493 | 338 | 103 | 5338 | 34.7% | 4/26/2014 |
| 44 | W0NAC | Matt | M/F | 1861 | 3077 | 2854 | 2031 | 1180 | 541 | 9683 | 62.9% | 7/30/2014 |
| 45 | W3DLM | Don | F | 359 | 3077 | 2390 | 298 | 101 | 55 | 5921 | 38.5% | 10/12/2013 |
| 46 | W3ZUH | Dick | F | 5 | 3077 | 2048 | 11 | 2 | 0 | 5138 | 33.4% | 12/4/2013 |
| 47 | W4IHI | Garv | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| 48 | W4SIG | Kerry | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| 49 | W4YDY | Dave | F | 1000 | 3077 | 3077 | 1149 | 495 | 300 | 8098 | 52.6% | 4/22/2014 |
| 50 | W5QP | Rick | M/F | 661 | 3077 | 2827 | 727 | 382 | 314 | 7327 | 47.6% | 7/20/2014 |
| 51 | W6RK | Risto | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| 52 | W6RLL | Joe | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| 53 | W7FEN | Larry | F | 25 | 3077 | 2975 | 32 | 1 | 0 | 6085 | 39.6% | 10/3/2013 |
| 54 | W7IN | Larry | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| 55 | W7QQ | Bill | M/F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| 56 | W8RCW | Rich | M/F | 273 | 2395 | 465 | 56 | 8 | 5 | 2929 | 19.0% | 7/14/2014 |
| 57 | W9JR | Rich | F | 90 | 3077 | 1674 | 44 | 0 | 0 | 4795 | 31.2% | 10/31/2012 |
| 58 | W9SUQ | Larry | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| 59 | WA4EEZ | Leslie | F | 1137 | 3077 | 2055 | 814 | 299 | 55 | 6300 | 40.9% | 6/2/2014 |
| 60 | WA4UNS | Doug | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| 61 | WA6OCV | Susan | M/F | 328 | 3077 | 328 | 320 | 130 | 10 | 3865 | 25.1% | 3/28/2013 |
| 62 | WA7ETH | Ed | F | 211 | 1925 | 418 | 39 | 3 | 0 | 2385 | 15.5% | 7/24/2014 |
| 63 | WA7IHO | Sterling | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| 64 | WB0M | Jeff | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| 65 | WB2ABD | Paul | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| 66 | WD4OIN | Jack | F | 1126 | 3077 | 3070 | 1136 | 577 | 312 | 8172 | 53.1% | 7/16/2014 |
| 67 | WQ7A | Terry | F | 494 | 3077 | 3065 | 497 | 397 | 324 | 7360 | 47.8% | 7/29/2014 |
| 68 | WY4D | Ben | F | 326 | 3077 | 347 | 41 | 15 | 9 | 3489 | 22.7% | 6/10/2014 |

How To Get Your 5 – Mode Statistics Updated:

Several past Digital Happenings articles have given detailed instructions on 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 showing your progress for both the **USA – Digital** and the **5 – Mode Awards** and email it to W0NAC. Instead of repeating these instructions every month I have included them in a Microsoft Word document that you can download by clicking on the following link: <https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/26171574/Happenings/5%20Mode%20Update.doc>

Other possible topics for future months include (in no particular order):

“More Lesser Well Known Features of Fldigi”

“How to Log Your Digital Contacts in Logger”

“Macros – Revisited”

“New Digital Awards?”

“Digital Software Installation – Revisited”

If anyone has a story or tip that you wish to contribute, I will certainly try to include it. Short stories describing your experiences/joys/frustrations in getting started in digital ops would be especially welcome. Summaries of any digital trips you make (or have made in the past) would also be good. I look forward to hearing from you. Don't be shy!

Please email me with your comments/suggestions at w0nac@comcast.net and don't forget to send your updated status for the **USA – Digital** and **5 - Mode Awards** so I can update the Active Digital County Hunters Award Status list again next month.

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

Matt – W0NAC



**Treasurer's Report (W0NAC)
June 2014***

| | | |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|
| Beginning Account Balances June 5, 2014 | | \$37,546.70 |
| June Income: | | |
| Money Market Interest | \$2.64 | |
| Awards Manager Income | \$491.50 | |
| Membership Income | \$320.99 | |
| Logger distribution | \$40.00 | |
| Total Income: | <u>\$855.13</u> | |
| June Expenses: | | |
| Awards Manager Expenses | \$712.36 | |
| Office Expenses (Postage) | \$0.00 | |
| Total Expenses: | <u>\$712.36</u> | |
| June Net Income Less Expenses | | \$142.77 |
| New Total Balance ALL Accounts: | | \$37,689.47# |
| Checking Account Balance | <u>\$6,636.37</u> | |
| Money Market Account Balance | <u>\$31,053.10</u> | |
| Total: | | \$37,689.47# |

Notes:

The following monies are not included in the account balances above:

Awards Manager's Funds \$1,500.00
2014 National Convention Seed Monies \$4,000.00 (Some will be reimbursed later)

* Includes June Transactions through 7/18/2014

From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC Total Funds at the end of June should be discounted by \$7,520.50. This amount is a Deferred Liability of award fees pre-paid by members and being held in escrow in the Award Manager's Account.



**Awards Manager's Report
July 31, 2014**

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|-------------------|
| Funds Balance June 30, 2014 | | | \$1,500.00 |
| Income | \$ 603.00 | | |
| | | <u>\$ 603.00</u> | |
| Expenses: | | | |
| Office supplies | \$ 15.29 | | |
| Plaque Suppliers | \$ 232.00 | | |
| Postage | \$ 193.76 | | |
| | | <u>\$ 441.05</u> | |
| Sent to Treasurer | | | \$ 603.00 |
| Reimbursement received from Treasurer | | | \$ 441.05 |
| Funds Balance July 31, 2014 | | | \$1500.00 |
| Members Funds on Hand June 30, 2014 | | | \$ 7520.50 |
| Income – Funds used | | | <u>107.00</u> |
| Total Funds on Hand for Members | | | \$ 7413.50 |



MARAC 2014 Member Awards

County Hunter of the Year SSB:

TIE

WA9DLB Tony Mazzocco

W0NAC Matt Matthew

County Hunter of the Year CW: KW1DX David Pyle

Best Net Control SSB: KZ2P Jim Grandinetti

Best Net Control CW: W0GXQ Jerry Mertz

Best Mobile SSB: KW1DX David Pyle

Best Mobile CW: W0GXQ Jerry Mertz

Best Mobile Team:

TIE

N0KV/N0DXE Barry & Patricia Mitchell

AA9JJ/N9QPQ Frank & Marilyn Yohe

Please take time to congratulate these members for a job well done and for furthering the advancement of County Hunting.

Ballot Recognition

I would like to congratulate the following individuals. These calls are in order of finish 1st 2nd and 3rd place for the year 2014.

BEST NET CONTROL SSB: KZ2P, N5UZW, AB7NK

BEST NET CONTROL CW: W0GXQ, N4CD, K0DEQ

BEST MOBILE SSB: KW1DX, (AF3X, W4SIG)* tie for second place

BEST MOBILE CW: W0GXQ, N4CD, W4SIG

BEST TEAM: (N0KV/N0DXE, AA9JJ/N9QPQ)* tied for first place KB0BA/N0DXE

**Kent Reinke, KV7N
MARAC Election Coordinator
1826 E 4500 N
Buhl, Idaho 83316**



Calendar

| ~ August 2014 ~ | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------------------------|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| ONLY START DATE SHOWN | | | | | 1 | 2 10-10 SSB QP NA CW QP |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 MD-DC QP |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 NA SSB QP |
| 17 ROOKIE RNDUP DIGI | 18 RUN4BACON | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 HI QP KS QP OH QP |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 CO QP |
| 31 | Notes: CLICK ON EVENT TO GO TO WEB SITE | | | | | |



Awards Committee

These MARAC members are serving on the Awards Committee:

Awards Manager - Bob Devine (KC6AWX)

Phil Yasson (AB7RW)

Dave Splitt (KE3VV)

Kent Reinke (KV7N)

Ed Palagyi (KN4Y)

“Matt” Matthew (W0NAC)

David Pyle (KW1DX)

Ron Clift (N5MLP)

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

Vice-President: David Pyle, KW1DX, 26 Van Dyke Rd, Hollis, NH 03049, 603-589-1830, kw1dx@tangaroan.com

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

Treasurer: Matt Matthew, W0NAC, 17525 Wilde Ave, Unit 108, Parker CO 80134, 303-941-0867, w0nac@comcast.net

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

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

Northeast Director: Vacant

South Central Director: Vacant

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

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

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

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Election Coordinator: Kent Reinke, KV7N, 1826 East 4500 North, Buhl ID 83316, 208-543-6083, 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

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.