



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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Riding the County Lion Dave – KE3VV

The Big Green Dragon says that this is Labor Day weekend, so I'd better get to work and put together my Roadrunner column for the next issue. Lots of housekeeping issues, including a call for volunteers or nominees to serve in two seats on the MARAC Board and some thoughts on where we go next with awards during the transition from Logger to Logger II (now that some top-o-the-heap county hunters have achieved the lofty goal of Mobile Diamond). The County Lion thinks we should have an award for transmitting from all counties with a lion in the right front seat, but I do not sense a great deal of enthusiasm for that among the membership.

We have two vacant seats on the MARAC Board of Directors – one for the Northeast District (which includes Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, Canadian Call Areas VE1, VE2, VE9, VY2, and all of Europe) and the South Central District (which includes Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and all of the countries in Central and South America). The Board will fill these seats by appointment until the next election. The term of the Northeast seat ends in 2016 (so the next election will fill it for the remainder of that term) and the term of the South Central ends in 2015 (so the election will fill that seat for the following full three-year term until 2018). The terms of office begin and end in July, on the date of the National MARAC convention. (more)

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So if you live in one of the states or countries listed for either District and are interested in serving your fellow county hunters and helping keep MARAC headed down the road antenna side up, please send me an email expressing your interest and why you want to join the Board. The Board will fill the seats by appointment until the next election, which occurs in the May-June part of 2015, so you will have an opportunity to decide whether to run for the follow-on term. Salary and benefits are incredible and too numerous to list here – you would actually get the same compensation and perks that are lavished on me and all the other officers and BOD members.

The next issue that could use some input from loyal readers of the Roadrunner is new awards. Recommendations for awards come to the Board from the Awards Committee, and the Awards Committee has actually received a number of ideas for new awards. But for the last few years, all new awards have been in queue until they can be programmed into Logger. Until an award is added to Logger, the program will not keep track of counties completed and overall progress toward the award. At this point, the MARAC Board has approved funding and support for the development of Logger II, which is proceeding apace and is on track to be completed by the team of dedicated volunteers sometime in late 2015 or thereabouts. In the interim, programming new awards into the legacy Logger program has been suspended by the Logger Team while work is focused on the new program.

In the short time since the first Mobile Diamond Awards have been issued, our hard-working Awards Manager (Bob - KC6AWX) and I have been discussing how we can best approach this problem so we can focus on one of the several recommendations for a follow-on award and get something finalized. It seems like a rather simple task – and it might be if this were the KE3VV Mobile Radio Awards Club – but we need to consider all ideas, inputs, and recommendations (and there are already quite a few). Bob and I are going to move the process forward in good order, but we also need to keep in mind that it is a process toward agreement on the way to go.

Because we cannot add new awards to Logger at this time, we have been thinking about a tracking alternative for any follow-on awards until Logger II is ready. Although anyone working on a new award can log their contacts in Logger just like any other contacts, Logger will not track counties completed and remaining needs for the new award, those county hunters working on the new award will have to track progress manually, so we are looking at a manual logging option to track the award. MARAC Secretary Jim (KZ2P) has an Excel spreadsheet he uses for logging USA-CA contacts (one log entry for each county) that can be adapted for multiple county contacts (such as a requirement for two different bands or other multiple contacts – such as one for transmit and one for worked). I am sure that someone with lots of time on their hands can figure out how to adopt the spreadsheet (or make a new program) that will track a single award. Of course, there is always the tried and true method that I and other county hunters used for many years – paper logs and checklists. The logging bottom line was well-stated by the County Lion – it is better to have a new award than to have the whole logging package wrapped up before the start date. I agree.

I think we will be able to get a recommendation from the Awards Committee and Board approval for a follow-on award pretty soon and let folks who want to get started on it, as long as they don't mind tracking it manually. If you have any ideas for a new award, please send them along to me or the Awards Manager. The only requirement that seems to be set in stone is that any new award must have a significant “transmitted counties” component, because the main idea is to foster and reward putting out counties. And some of the great CHrs that have achieved Mobile Diamond are among the most prolific

road runners.

While we're at it, what shall we call the next new award? Should we eliminate the current Roadrunner award (that no one wants) and use that nifty name on the new one - Golden Roadrunner? Master Roadrunner? What do you think? The Big Green Dragon wants to call it the *Fire Breathin' Dragon Award*, of course, and the County Lion has suggested that we name it the *Lay It On the (County) Line Award*. I am sure you have much (much) better ideas. The mind expands and boggles.

Remember the SE Mini in Charleston is coming soon - the 6th-8th of October (which gets us the Mon-Wed non-weekend rates for those of us counting our gas money dollars) and Charleston has lots to do and enjoy. I hope to see you there – the SE Mini is always great fun... especially the group dinner at the Fat Hen on John's Island. The 2015 National web site for the July confab in the Villages in Florida is also up and running and can be accessed from the Events tab on the MARAC web site.

The County Lion has just reminded me that we need to start packing the truck for our next mobile adventure to New England for a wedding on the Vineyard, so until we hear you on the airwaves or see you in Charleston – 73, 88, travel safe and as always, Live Well and Be Happy!



Dateline CW
Ed, KN4Y

Which I have earned with the operation of my radio.

I have the pedal to the metal at maximum Jerry speed and headed towards the radio shack, but first a required stop to pick up a couple double lattes. I am back on the road and soon I turn into the designated driveway and notice Gator's truck parked by the recycled railroad tie. I notice two successful kamikaze squirrels, I park, grab the lattes, and head for the door and as I enter the shack Gator gives me the high sign, "It is about time you arrived." I set the lattes on the desk and ask, "What are you doing here so early." He finishes his vitamin drink, "I could not sleep not knowing how you did in the improvised County Hunters CW contest, so I came over and entered your hand written log into the Writelog program." I asked that contest question, "How did I do?" Gator grabs one of the hot double lattes.

Gator sips the latte, "I am very impressed, that Texas Dude Norm, within a short time frame rallied the CW county hunters for an action paced weekend in the County Hunters CW contest. I counted eleven different mobiles that you worked." I sip my latte, "Who are the mobiles?" Gator hands me a list: Jerry, K5YAA, Mark, KO1U, Pete KT1B, Barry, N0KV, Bob, N4CD, Bill, NU0Q, Jerry, W0GXQ, Norm the coordinator, W3DYA, Jim, W5JR, Jeff, W9MSE, Van, WC5D and with you mobile it is a dozen. Gator is reading an email, "Wait, that Norm Dude just listed the mobiles that operated in the county hunters contest." "Great, who is on the list that missed the thrill of a lifetime by not working Me.?" Gator laughs so hard that latte squirts from his nose and he reads: Phil, AB7RW, Paul, K1TKL, Ron, K2RP, Connie, K5CM, Bob, K7TM, Lowell, KB0BA, Don, N5XG, and .Jim, N9JF, Jeff, NY4N and

Ray, WB0PYF. There are two remote stations, Donna, AG6V, and John, WA2MUA. “What is a remote station?” “A remote station allows you operate from where you ain’t.” Gator ignores me.

I noisily slurp my latte, “Wow Gator, the twenty mobile turnout exceeds the CQP by 100 percent and about even with the FQP.”

“You sound biased.”

“I am.”

“Do you think MARAC will sponsor this tradition next year? The turnout is comparable to attendees at the conventions. ”

“I hope so, it is good publicity and shows that MARAC cares for its QSO party tradition and contest operating members.”

“What do you think of moving the CW contest to the month of May?”

“Fine for fixed stations but having several State QSO parties on the same date makes the operating space crowded for mobiles”

Gator is keyboarding the computer “Dude I see you worked the North American CW QSO party.” I shake my head yes, “Check it out; the log is on the memory stick.” Gator’s fingers dance across the keyboard, “Not a bad QSO count for a ten hour contest. You made 270 contacts spread out on six bands.” I wave my hand, “Gator, check out 10-meters for possible new counties, I had a great run on ten meters on Saturday.” Gator sips his latte, “Not a big success for new counties on ten but you did get three new counties on 80-meters.” I nod my head, “Yes, in this QSO party I tend to work the same stations every year.” Gator sips his latte as he mouses around, “I see you stayed up late Friday night to work the Worked All Europe CW contest.” I shake my head yes, “My goal was to make 100 contacts which I worked by noon Saturday. I wanted to work the Maryland-DC QSO party.” Gator gives me the zip my lip sign as he checks the memory stick index, “I do not see where you worked such a QSO party, what happened.” “I listened and listened on CW, and I think the WAE CW contest intimidated the Maryland CW operators and they stayed on sideband.” Gator shakes his head, “What a bummer.”

Gator turns around and out of the blue says, “Scottie was running in South Georgia. I wonder what he was doing down this way.” “Most likely he was checking on the Florida Carniverous Bladderwort.” “Really?” “Not really, probably just got lost. Which reminds me the SE Mini will be held in Mount Pleasant, SC – October 6th, 7th & 8th.” Gator starts laughing, “What a sequent. Are you going?” “Yes, I plan to go.” “Did you send in your registration?” “No not yet.” I sip my latte.

I hand Gator a memory stick, “Stop yapping, and check out my Kansas, Ohio and Hawaii QSO parties. Gator fakes a hurt look he inserts the memory stick into the USB. I finish off my latte just as Gator motions to me. “ Well Dude in the Kansas QSO party you made 171 QSO’s but only got six new counties on 15-meters, four no-star, a last N prefix and two natural Bingo.” I give Gator a thumbs-up, “I moved up and down the bands on CW tracking the ten mobiles and several fixed stations using 1x1 calls. It was a moving experience.” Gator is not impressed, “You got one new county on 15-meters in the Ohio QSO party and only made eight QSO’s in the Hawaii QSO party.” “Yes Gator, I went up and down the band working whoever I heard. It was fun, and now run my Colorado QSO party log.”

The tranquility is shattered as Gator’s cell phone ding-a-lings. “Got to run Dude, there is a truck on the loading ramp waiting to load elixir and two loaders are home sick. Put Colorado on the back burner.” He is gone like a religious experience and I think I heard him yell, “You think that a woman who is out of

your league bowls on a different night.” I hear the printer start and stop; it is a list of the mobiles heard on the CW county hunter’s frequencies during August. I read: AB4YZ, AF5CC, J3/AI5P, 9Y4/AI5P, K0FG, K2HVN, K3IMC, K4XU, K4YFH, K4ZGB, KA4RRU, KB6UF, KE3VV, KN4Y, KO7X, KS5A, KW1DX, N4AAT, N4CD, N7IV, N9AC, N9JF, NC2Y, NF0N, NG7Z, NM2L, NN9K, NT2A, NU0Q, W0GXQ, W3DQT, W3DYA, W4SIG, W7FEN, W8GEJ, W8UE, W9MSE, and WB0PYF.

The month of September is here already, where has the summer gone? I get older and it seems time passes more quickly, what happened to the 60 second minute? September is a fun month having six State QSO parties with 525 counties up for grabs. The State QSO party sequence is: Tennessee (95 counties) and Arkansas (75 counties), South Carolina (46 counties) and the Washington State salmon run (39 counties) and finishing off the month is Maine (16 counties) and Texas (254 counties). There are fifteen CW only contests so limber up the paddle and have a dit. Do you need counties on six meters for your top list? Operate in the ARRL VHF contest. Maybe you would like to work a park ranger? Try the Ohio and Indiana Parks on the Air activity. Nap time.

When the rust of death silenced the key of Gene, W1TEE,
A great county hunter, the counties ran mobile
are listed in logbooks forever. RIP my mentor.



New Members

<u>MARAC Number</u>	<u>Callsign</u>	<u>Name</u>
R4563	K6HP	Ed Parsons



MARAC Silent Keys

<u>Callsign</u>	<u>Silent Key Date</u>
WB7ATT	August 16, 2014

History Happens

Gary, K4EXT

Mary, AB7NK and Neil, K7SEN sent me a picture of the Kimball, Nebraska county line sign ... and that finished the state of Nebraska for the County Sign project. That makes 15 states that have been finished thus far - wow!

Other recent submissions included Lee, KC7QOP in Oregon, Michigan, and Pennsylvania ... President Dave, KE3VV in Virginia ... Ed, K8QWY in Ohio ... Bob, N4CD in New Mexico and West Virginia ... Fred, K0FG in Missouri ... Gene, K5GE in Texas ... Chuck, NM1G in New Hampshire ... Tom, KD6HWD with XYL Vicki, KD6MCM in Texas ... and the Dangerous Duo (hey, that's what they call themselves ... who am I to argue?) of Jerry, W0GXQ and Mike, NF0N in North Dakota.

I also got some goodies (and let me tell you, I really like goodies) for the MARAC Museum ... a MARAC Annual Report and B&B Shop County Hunter Directory from Jim, W6OUL ... a surprise box full of neat historical stuff (that I'm still sorting through) from Frank, W9WOC ... and a couple of data files from Jeff, W9MSE (expedited by my District Director Kerry, W4SIG) containing CW Contest Results over the past several decades.

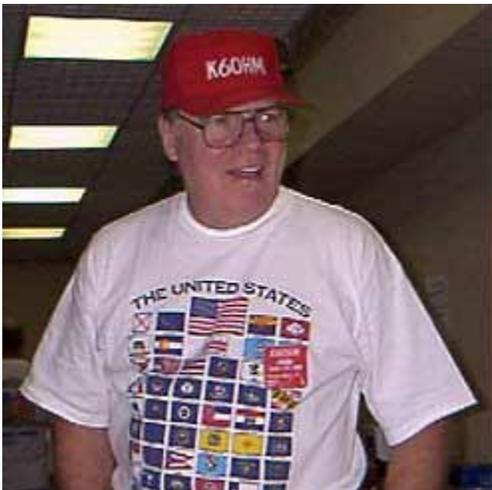
Many thanks to all! Please feel free to check out the current collection of pictures and information by visiting the CH History/Archive website at the following Internet address:

<http://www.CHarchive.com>

Unfortunately, County Hunting experienced a couple more SK's in August.

John Thompson, K6OHM passed away at age 76. His life included involvement in the Boy Scouts, US Marines, CBS TV, Disneyland, Disney World, and HRO sales. John had 4 stars and Bingo.

Erwin Bishop, WB7ATT passed away at age 78 from colon cancer. He and Jim, W8FNW had been good friends since 1967 ... and often ran counties together.



MARAC Voting Information

Remember, if you are a new member or are REJOINING following a lapse in membership you are NOT eligible to submit nominations or vote in an election until the first day of the month following receipt of the payment of dues and valid membership application by the MARAC Secretary. Those individuals maintaining uninterrupted membership status are not restricted from nominating or voting in the current month.

BALLOT RECOGNITION

I would like to congratulate the following stations for receiving recognition from their peers in the 1st quarter award voting - (no particular order). Only stations receiving 3 points or more are listed. I received 40 electronic ballots and no paper ballots.

NET CONTROL SSB: WY8I, KC3X, KZ2P, N5UZW, AB7NK, N5MLP, KA1JPR, N4AAT

NET CONTROL CW: N4CD, NM2L, K0DEQ, W0GXQ

BEST MOBILE SSB: N9QS, W4SIG, AA9JJ, N4CD, K5GE, AB7NK, K4YFH, N8KIE, KB6UF, K2HVN

BEST MOBILE CW: K4YFH, N4CD, W4SIG, W0GXQ, K5YAA, W5QP

BEST TEAM: N6PDB/WA6OCV, N0KV/N0DXE, W8FNW/W4FNW, KB0BA/N0XYL, AA9JJ/N9QPQ, AB7NK/K7SEN, W0NAC/N0LXJ

**Kent Reinke KV7N
MARAC Election Coordinator
1826 East 4500 North
Buhl, Idaho 83316**



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Board has two vacancies; the Northeast District Director and the South Central District Director. Your help is needed! Volunteer now! See page one for details.

Awards

Awards Issued For August 2014			
Call	Date	Award	Number
AC9GK	7/29/2014	Cliff Corne Jr. (K9EAB) Memorial	# 144 USA-CA Holders
AC9GK	7/29/2014	Gemini - Jack Scroggins (W0SJE)	# 87 2nd Time Holders
W6TPC	8/11/2014	Master's Gold	# 63
KB0BA	8/1/2014	Master's Gold	# 62
AB4YZ	8/10/2014	USA-CW	# 136
W3CR	8/11/2014	Call Combo 1x3	# 14
W3DLM	8/9/2014	BINGO	# 357
NA8W	8/2/2014	USA-CA WAC First Time	# 1246
K8OOK	7/29/2014	Worked all Counties - 3rd Time	# 242
N5MLP	8/19/2014	Worked all Counties - 4th Time	# 163
K7REL	8/2/2014	Worked all Counties - 8th Time	# 16
K5GE	7/30/2014	Worked all Counties - 8th Time	# 15

Roadrunner Issued For August 2014			
Call	Date	Award	Number
AA9JJ	8/9/2014	Last County Count 950	# 9
N8KIE	8/2/2014	Last County Count 925	# 10
K7SEN	8/2/2014	Last County Count 50	# 347
AB7NK	8/2/2014	Last County Count 175	# 138
W8GEJ	8/9/2014	Last County Count 25	# 515
N4CD	8/25/2014	Last County Count 2425	# 1
N9JF	8/25/2014	Last County Count 325	# 60
KB6UF	8/2/2014	Last County Count 1225	# 4
NA8W	8/25/2014	Last County Count 25	# 517
KJ5PQ	8/17/2014	Last County Count 700	# 21
NU0Q	8/17/2014	Last County Count 25	# 516
N9QPQ	8/25/2014	Last County Count 1225	# 5



Birthdays

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
W1VA	Sep - 01
KK5LC	Sep - 01
WE8D	Sep - 01
OZ8X	Sep - 01
KJ9P	Sep - 01
W1QK	Sep - 01
W3GQJ	Sep - 01
KQ4KI	Sep - 01
AD4IA	Sep - 01
K6CRA	Sep - 02
K1BS	Sep - 02
AC4GO	Sep - 02
WA6GQY	Sep - 03
N5ZF	Sep - 03
K4XI	Sep - 03
WB2GFE	Sep - 03
W6ZQ	Sep - 04
NN9K	Sep - 04
N9PM	Sep - 04
N3RM	Sep - 04
KB7RE	Sep - 04
W6RK	Sep - 04
W9GUY	Sep - 04
KAOW	Sep - 05
W3UJT	Sep - 05
KU4MP	Sep - 05
WD9HAW	Sep - 05
WA3LVH	Sep - 05
W9OO	Sep - 06
KN4S	Sep - 06
N7MPS	Sep - 06
KE5JA	Sep - 06
W9LMT	Sep - 07
W5DAM	Sep - 07

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
N5NAA	Sep - 07
WA2BEG	Sep - 07
WX7E	Sep - 08
N9AC	Sep - 08
N8AAE	Sep - 08
W1ATV	Sep - 08
N8STF	Sep - 09
KJ7PO	Sep - 09
KN5H	Sep - 09
K4SL	Sep - 09
KG9HC	Sep - 09
N7WL	Sep - 09
KG7Q	Sep - 09
W5XFM	Sep - 09
NW1O	Sep - 10
K8XF	Sep - 10
KB5FU	Sep - 10
NX0V	Sep - 10
W3RWJ	Sep - 10
W0OWY	Sep - 11
K9WA	Sep - 11
KB7ZTI	Sep - 11
N8MBW	Sep - 12
N5DUQ	Sep - 12
W5SM	Sep - 12
WG9A	Sep - 12
N9PC	Sep - 12
N9STL	Sep - 12
W0MU	Sep - 12
KD6WW	Sep - 13
N8RYD	Sep - 13
WU7R	Sep - 13
K4NK	Sep - 14
WA5OPO	Sep - 14

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
WB2QMY	Sep - 14
KF4PHW	Sep - 15
KG5IZ	Sep - 15
NE5Y	Sep - 15
N7CYQ	Sep - 15
KJ4KX	Sep - 15
W3IQ	Sep - 16
KF2GP	Sep - 16
K8NI	Sep - 16
VK7BA	Sep - 16
WA0LRQ	Sep - 16
W9CTA	Sep - 16
K0XT	Sep - 17
WJ9S	Sep - 17
W9DP	Sep - 17
WM3T	Sep - 17
AK6H	Sep - 17
WA4CUU	Sep - 17
W0IM	Sep - 17
KG5RJ	Sep - 17
KB9AIT	Sep - 17
AD7QN	Sep - 17
KE3NR	Sep - 18
N4PJ	Sep - 18
NX4P	Sep - 18
N8MYC	Sep - 18
W6QE	Sep - 18
N5QQ	Sep - 19
K0HNC	Sep - 19
K5KDG	Sep - 19
NB7B	Sep - 20
WB3JDC	Sep - 20
KC7OD	Sep - 20
KN4CQ	Sep - 21

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
AC4SW	Sep - 21
W9NS	Sep - 21
WB7PMZ	Sep - 21
VE2MAM	Sep - 21
KA1OCL	Sep - 21
NN6AA	Sep - 21
WT6P	Sep - 22
N9IHZ	Sep - 22
KL7IFP	Sep - 22
K1CGI	Sep - 22
K0PVW	Sep - 22
N9BAE	Sep - 22
K2UF	Sep - 23
W3CR	Sep - 23
KA6RAT	Sep - 23
N0GUR	Sep - 23
AA4AK	Sep - 23
N4MIC	Sep - 24
NM1G	Sep - 24
KG4FJC	Sep - 24
K7SEN	Sep - 24
KR4OE	Sep - 25
K3VQO	Sep - 25
KA1SF	Sep - 25
KD5YN	Sep - 25
N0XYL	Sep - 25
N7WO	Sep - 25
AJ0C	Sep - 26
N0UF	Sep - 26
KB5WY	Sep - 26
W5HV	Sep - 26
WBOJYB	Sep - 27
W7KFA	Sep - 27
W8EB	Sep - 27

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
AE2Z	Sep - 27
N2DP	Sep - 27
KO4EA	Sep - 27
NK8P	Sep - 28
W7FGD	Sep - 28
K7GA	Sep - 28
K9FP	Sep - 28
N4NX	Sep - 29
N5VT	Sep - 29
KD4RKJ	Sep - 29
W1IBS	Sep - 29
N5KB	Sep - 29
N4RNR	Sep - 29
WA6OTV	Sep - 29
K0BXF	Sep - 29
KC3X	Sep - 29
WA2CNJ	Sep - 29
WA1ZIC	Sep - 30



Digital Happenings

DIGITAL HAPPENINGS #25

(August 2014)

By W0NAC ("Matt")

I've heard comments from at least two county hunters that some of my technical topics have gone way over their heads. After thinking about this a bit, I feel that their comments are valid. So, this month I'm going to do my best to avoid theory and just try to explain in the simplest way possible how you can acquire, set up, and get on the air with a simple fixed and/or mobile digital rig. My goal is to motivate any of you that have thought about going digital, but are feeling a little overwhelmed by the technical challenges involved, to move out and join the fun. Naturally, the other usual topics will also appear. If I succeed in motivating any of you to "get off the fence", I would really like to hear from you by phone, email, text, or any other way of communication!

How To Set Up & Operate A New Digital Rig

Comments/Assumptions:

Following are lists of steps you would need to take when you are setting up a brand new digital rig for mobile operations in a vehicle that has never had any ham gear installed before. However, I have also attempted to make this useable for simpler situations (like modifying an existing fixed or mobile station for digital ops) by just ignoring unneeded steps or modifying them.

I have included only the bare minimum of essential information, because many of these topics have been covered in more detail in previous articles (a complete set of Digital Happenings #1 through #24 can be downloaded by clicking on the following link:

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/26171574/Happenings/DIGITAL%20HAPPENINGS%20%231-24.zip>.

Then, of course, there are always the various manuals (which "real" hams never read!) that you can consult if you get stuck. In writing this "How To" article I trust that you will have all the relevant manuals at hand (maybe printed out?). Further into this article I will provide a list of the manuals I use with links that you can use to download them.

Almost inevitably you will need to adapt (or just ignore) many of these steps to fit your own particular situation. This will be especially true if you need to use existing hardware (transceiver or interface) that is different from what I recommend here. If you ever reach a point where you are truly "stuck", just contact me and I will be happy to help you out. My email address is w0nac@comcast.net and my home phone number is (303) 799-3658.

How To Obtain Needed Hardware:

- 1) Basic Transceiver** - Even though this article assumes use of the ICOM IC-7000 transceiver in a new mobile installation, almost any brand of transceiver can be adapted for digital use, so your existing fixed or mobile rig station transceiver will very likely work just fine. All you need to do is have the correct cable(s) and a properly configured interface(s) on hand. If you currently have **both** a fixed rig and a mobile setup, it will be easier if both transceivers are the same model, but even if they are different this situation can be handled.

For a mobile rig, transceiver size and weight become important considerations. The following models immediately come to mind - ICOM IC-706 MKII, ICOM IC-7000, and YAESU 857. All of these radios are small and have remoteable control heads. This "How To" assumes use of the IC-7000, but any of the other two will work just fine. If funds are limited, you might even consider moving a

single radio (and its digital interface) back and forth between your mobile and fixed stations. Doing this would require a lot of ingenuity and be inconvenient, but it would certainly save a lot of money!

- 2) **Antenna** – For digital operations, any antenna that works well on the lower portion of the 20M band (14.000-14.150 MHz) will cover 90% of your needs. Having 17M, 30M and 40M capability will probably cover 99% of the rest. Also, if you wish to operate SSB and CW in addition to digital (most do), this will also affect your choices (and costs!).

For mobile digital use you will probably end up with a (electrically shortened) $\frac{1}{4} \lambda$ vertical monopole of some kind. If you are starting from scratch, I recommend that you consider using a 20M “Hamstick” (MFJ-1620T) mounted with a Breedlove Quick Disconnect (Model #032) on a Comet (Model HD5-3/8-24) Trunk Lip Mount. If you wish to add Hamsticks for other bands, you will need additional Breedlove Antenna Packs (Model #032) for each one you add plus a single Breedlove Quick Disconnect Cap (Model #031). All the Breedlove parts can be ordered online from <https://breedlovemounts.com>. All the other parts are available online from Ham Radio Outlet at <http://www.hamradio.com>. Using these parts for a single band (20M) antenna will cost about \$125. Adding “Hamsticks” and parts for two additional bands would bring your total cost up to a total near \$200.

The recommended antenna setup above is only one solution from hundreds offered by ham suppliers (and certainly not the most efficient). For example, many county hunters use Hustler parts to assemble a short (8 feet or so) vertical antenna with multiple resonators at the top end. Many different mountings are also used. For excellent detailed information on antennas and antenna mounts, I refer you to the K0BG site which can be reached at this link: <http://www.k0bg.com>. The articles on this site are packed with sage advice and a wealth of other topics covered in detail.

Ultimately, the decision on what to use is up to you! Just remember, almost any antenna will work for digital operations. It’s just a matter of how well they work for the price and convenience when changing bands/frequencies.

- 3) **Interface** – Again, possible choices here are many. Although it is a bit dated now, I covered most interface choices in detail in Digital Happenings #11. If you don’t already have an interface on hand that you wish to use, I still recommend that you buy a “Signalink USB” interface manufactured by Tigertronics.

My reasons for recommending the Signalink USB box were covered in detail in Digital Happenings #11 if you wish to review them, but everyone I know who have used the Signalink have been pleased. It is simple, small (good for mobile use), inexpensive, requires no special power source (powered through USB connection), and is very easy to setup and connect.

I recommend that you order your unit direct from Tigertronics by phone [1-800-822-9722 or (541) 474-6700]. In addition to the unit itself, you will also need the correct cable to connect to your model transceiver. Also, for a small additional cost, I recommend that you order the Plug & Play Jumper Module for your radio. This module will save loads of time and avoid errors when doing manual jumper connections.

When using some radios, there are as many as 3 different connection ports you can use. For example, most ICOM radios have both a 13-pin and an 8-pin Accessory jack on the rear panel as well as an 8-pin round microphone jack on the front. Any of these can be used, but each has their own advantages/disadvantages. The Tigertronics sales people are very familiar with the “in’s and out’s” for connecting to your model radio and can advise you on which choice is right for your situation.

However, if you have a choice, I recommend that you opt to use the “data” connection.

If you wish to use this interface for both your fixed station radio and your mobile rig, I recommend that you buy two units with each configured for its own radio. If this is too expensive, it is possible to use a single interface for both radios. However, if the 2 radios are different, you will probably need to reconfigure the Signalink box (take it apart) and also change cables each time you move the interface. This is doable, but very inconvenient! If both radios are identical you can use the same Signalink configuration and cable for both locations, but still have the inconvenience of physically moving the hardware back and forth. You also lose the ability of operating both stations at the same time.

- 4) **Computer**- For base station use, almost any computer will work fine even if it is old. However, if you also need to use this computer for other tasks in addition to digital operations, you may want a more up to date computer with lots of storage and a faster CPU. In any event, I recommend that you use a computer with Windows 7 or Windows 8.1 installed. Microsoft recently terminated all support for Windows XP (and prior versions). Even though a Windows XP computer may work OK for now, Microsoft no longer provides any security updates. This means that you may become more vulnerable to security threats (malware) as time moves on. Also, hardware drivers and other 3rd party software may suffer increasing compatibility and availability issues.

If you want to “put out” counties using digital modes while mobile (heaven knows we need a lot more digital mobiles!), having a computer in your car is mandatory! I have no specific brand or model recommendation, but when available space is considered, you will probably end up with a small notebook or netbook computer. You will want the largest (and brightest) screen you can safely fit into your vehicle. Other things you need to check out before buying are:

- a) Does the computer have at least 2 (more is better) USB ports?
- b) Is the screen readable in bright sunlight?
- c) Do the function keys act as function keys by default (highly desired!) or do you have to press a second key in combination (very awkward when using Fldigi macros)?
- d) Do either of the computer’s AC to DC or DC to DC power supplies generate any spurious harmonics within the ham bands you will be using? (Many do!) If so, you may have to choose a different model or run the AC power supply from a DC to AC inverter. Incidentally, many DC to AC inverters (especially those with non-sinusoidal output) are also noisy. If you go this route, I recommend that you do a Google search using the key words “RF quiet inverters” for more complete help in choosing one with true sinusoidal output.
- e) Can you see the keyboard at night? (An indirectly lighted keyboard can solve this problem.)

- 5) **Wiring/mounting** – I could write a book on this topic alone! But instead of “re-inventing the wheel”, I refer you to an outstanding web site by K0BG. You can find excellent instructions on Wiring & Grounding by clicking on the following link: <http://www.k0bg.com/wiring.html>. The only thing I can add is that radio installation shops (like Car Toys) are a convenient source for heavy duty flexible wire, large in line fuse holders, and such. If you talk nice, they may also do custom wiring of mobile equipment to your specifications. This custom work is expensive, but their expertise is often worth the cost, especially when you need to penetrate the vehicle firewall with heavy power cables and avoid airbags, etc. One caution, however. Auto sound installers will almost always try to have you let them use the vehicle body for the negative power return. **Don’t let them!** Insist on using a cable (same size as the positive power lead) for the negative power return. Also, fuse **both** cables near where they connect to the main vehicle battery. It is best if you can avoid using **any** of the vehicle wiring for powering any Ham equipment. This includes **not** using the 12V accessory sockets!

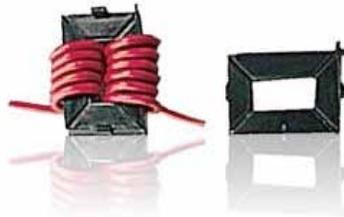
For convenience and safety I recommend that, when mobile, you mount your laptop/netbook computer as opposed to just setting it loose on the passenger side seat (or passenger's lap). Hams have shown their ingenuity through the years by designing many custom computer mounts, but if you are fresh out of good ideas, check out the following web sites for possible solutions:

- a) <http://www.rammount.com/Products/LaptopMounts/tabid/1510/Default.aspx#/>
- b) <http://www.bracketron.com/universal-vehicle-laptop-mount> .
- c) <http://www.mobiledesk.com/> .

There are many other sites available if you Google "mobile laptop computer mounts".

- 6) Miscellaneous Parts** – Among the extra parts you will need are various RF chokes (also called split beads) to suppress common mode RF from radiating from wires, cables, and coax in your vehicle. Again, the K0BG web site (<http://www.k0bg.com>) will provide you with essentially all the information you need on these devices and where to get them. Note: as a general rule place RF chokes at both ends of all cables and wires (winding 3-4 turns through the window). The one exception to this rule is that both ends of the heavy leads connecting to the main vehicle battery need not be suppressed.

Also, there is a Radio Shack Snap-Together Toroid Choke Core (Catalog # 273 -104) that I have used with good results in the past for RF suppression. You can get it at your local Radio Shack store or order it online at <http://www.radioshack.com> . Here is what it looks like:



The reasons that I recommend using this part are that it has proved to be very effective at HF frequencies and that the large snap-together window allows you to wrap multiple turns of large wire, audio cables, and even RG-8X size coax for maximum RF suppression. Its design also allows you to wrap multiple turns while the wire/cable is still connected at both ends. Pretty neat!

How To Obtain Needed Digital Software:

For your digital software, I strongly recommend that you use Fldigi (Fast Light DIGItal modem application). Most of the digital software programs out there were compared in Digital Happenings #14. However, even though this article was written almost a year ago, I still recommend Fldigi software for both mobile and fixed station use for the following reasons:

- a) It covers more digital modes (and sub-modes) than any other single program.
- b) Even though free, it has excellent support and is updated frequently.
- c) It has a plethora of features, but operates beautifully with easy to set up default settings.
- d) For the most part it is very reliable software and any bugs that do crop up are fixed in a timely manner.
- e) It has a clean easy to use interface.
- f) It has versions that will run on almost any PC running Windows, Linux, OS X (Macs), or Puppy Pet (a compact version of Linux).

You can obtain the latest setup exe for Fldigi from the following site:

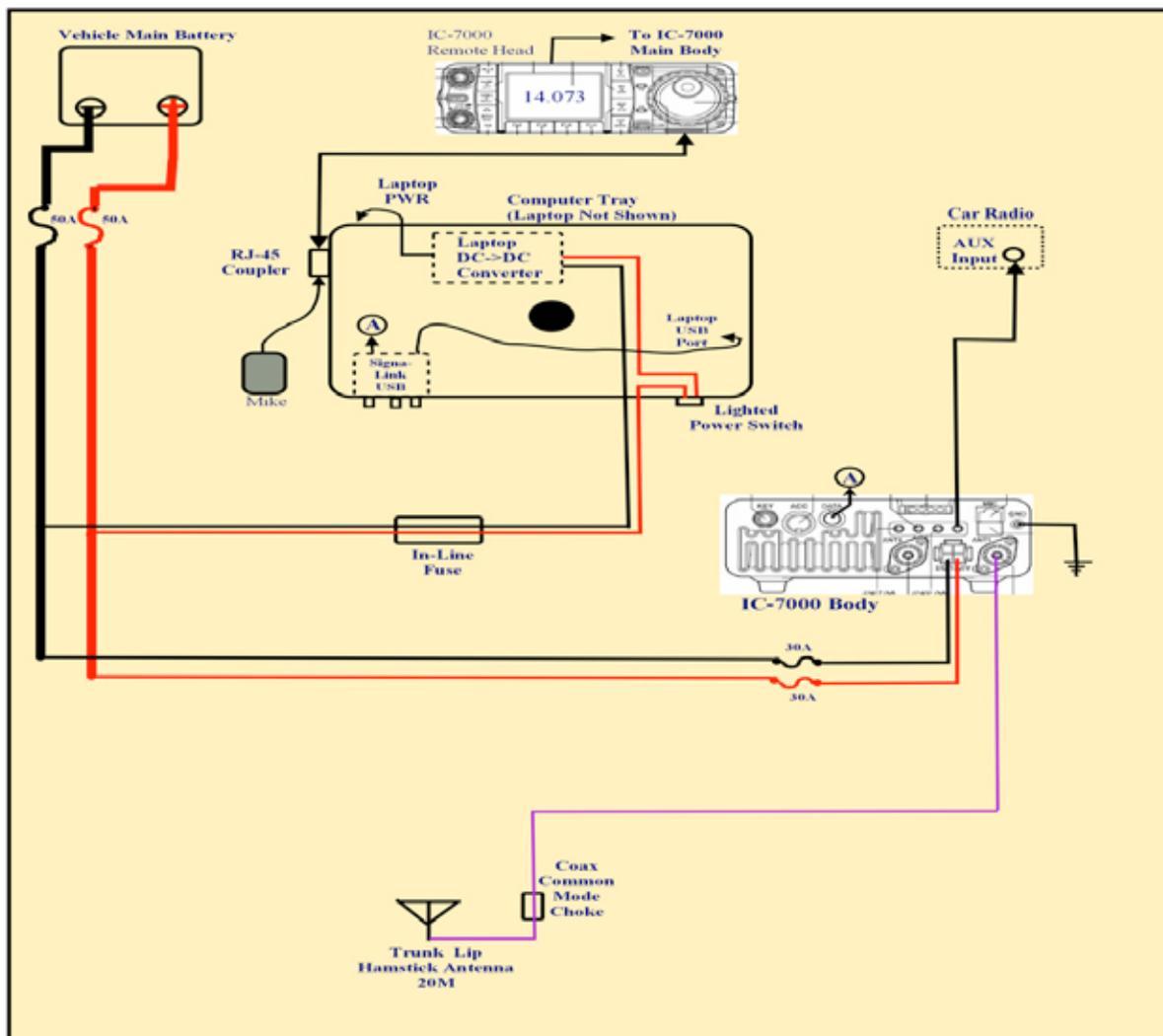
<http://www.w1hkj.com/download.html> . The Windows setup file can be downloaded by clicking on the first link in the Windows Setup column with the name "fldigi-3.21.83 setup". The Fldigi User's Manual 3.21 (PDF) can be downloaded from the same site by clicking on the "fldigi-Help PDF" link under the Help column. Other useful downloads can be found at the following:

- a) Beginners' Guide to Fldigi - W1HKJ Software: www.w1hkj.com/beginners.html
- b) Windows 7/8 Setup Instructions and General Information: <http://www.tigertronics.com/windows7.htm> .

Note: I recommend that you initially set up your mobile computer at a fixed location with a fast internet connection. You will need to be connected to the internet for any of the links in this article to work! I further recommend that you download ALL of the files listed above for later use when you install Fldigi. You should also PRINT out all the manuals for use when you have no internet connection.

How To Connect Your Hardware:

Here is a simple diagram for the new mobile installation I am using for an example:



After you have ALL the hardware you need and have physically mounted/attached the major items to your vehicle, follow the steps below to connect everything. If you already have an existing fixed or mobile station and just need to modify your setup, skip (or modify) any steps that don't apply.

- 1) Install the Comet Antenna Mount on the left side of the trunk lid making sure that the pointed set screws make firm contact with bare metal. Now is also a good time to use short battery cables to electrically bypass both trunk lid hinges to the vehicle body. In most cases you can place the cable lugs under the existing hinge bolts, but if not, use your ingenuity.

Route the coax to your transceiver antenna connector, but try to form a 3 or 4 turn coil about 4 to 6 inches in diameter (near the antenna mount) using excess coax. Clamp 2 or 3 Radio Shack RF chokes with all turns of the coax passing through the choke windows. Space the chokes evenly around the coil and use cable ties to get everything out of the way.

- 2) Route and connect the Remote Head cable to the Remote Head and the transceiver main body.
- 3) Route **heavy** (#8 minimum) Red & Black cables through the engine firewall. Many times you can use existing firewall grommets, but avoid all sharp metal edges that could cause a short circuit if they cut into the cables. Connect one end of both cables directly to the main battery with in-line fuses (50 A) in both leads located near the battery (leave the fuses out for now). Route the power leads inside the vehicle to a junction point near your transceiver body where you can attach the radio and computer power supply cables. If you really want to do things right, use a Power Pole junction strip (get a strip with extra connections so you can power new devices in the future) and connect everything up using Power Pole connectors.
- 4) Connect the fused transceiver power leads to the power junction (shortening them as much as practical).
- 5) With your computer and its DC - DC power supply mounted, connect the power supply to your computer. Then attach the appropriate connector to the 12 VDC power leads and connect to your power distribution strip. Note: You will need to wire a lighted power switch into this cable to turn the power supply off when not in use because the junction point it connects to will be "hot" at all times. Mount this switch where it is easily see by the driver (I use the front edge of the computer tray).
- 6) If not yet done, remove the Signalink from its case and install the jumper module or configure the internal jumpers. Carefully double check everything before closing the case. (Reading the Signalink instructions is crucial for successfully completing this step!)
- 7) Connect the Signalink provided USB cable to the Signalink box and to a USB port on your computer.
- 8) Plug the Signalink provided transceiver cable into the rear of the Signalink box and the other end into the appropriate connector socket on your transceiver. Note: For some transceivers you may need to connect two cables if the transceiver has a separate Push-To-Talk connector. Again, read your Signalink instructions carefully and cross-check against your transceiver manual.
- 9) Using a Stereo (male) to Mono (female) adapter on one end of a shielded Mono audio cable, plug the adapter into your Vehicle AUX input jack. Plug the other end into the Speaker jack on the rear of the IC-7000. Note: If your vehicle doesn't have an AUX connector for the audio system, you will probably need to mount and connect a small speaker to the speaker jack on your transceiver.

- 10) Lastly, run a short heavy ground strap from the IC-7000 ground point (on right end of rear panel) to a nearby grounding point on the vehicle body (sometimes seat rail hold down bolts can be used effectively).

How To Configure Your Hardware & Software:

Before you initiate a "Smoke Test", make sure that all equipment power switches are in the OFF position. Then, insert both 50A fuses in the in-line fuse holders near the main battery (+ lead first). If nothing "smokes", verify that ~ 12VDC battery voltage (with correct polarity) is present at the power junction point (Power Pole strip). Then perform the following steps:

- 1) Disconnect the Antenna feed line at the radio and connect the feed line to an antenna analyzer of some kind (MFJ-259, etc.). Mount your 20M Hamstick and adjust its "stinger" for resonance (minimum SWR) at 14.075 MHz. Note: We are optimizing the antenna for digital (and CW) use. If you also wish to use your rig on 20M SSB net frequency (14.336 MZ), you may need to compromise by tuning it to ~ 14.200 MHz and accept higher SWR at both desired frequencies. Or, you could buy two 20M Hamsticks and optimize each for one of the two desired frequencies and switch antennas as needed.

After tuning your antenna, re-connect the feed line to the IC-7000 and check for proper RF power output.

- 2) Turn the computer power supply ON and boot up your computer to a normal desktop. (I am assuming that you have configured your computer exactly the way you want it earlier and that all Microsoft updates are current.)
- 3) Turn all controls on your Signalink fully CCW. Then turn its power switch ON and verify by checking the green LED ON. You should see Windows automatically install the Signalink hardware driver. Go to Device Manager and verify that the "Sound, video and game controllers" item lists a "USB Audio CODEC" device and that it is working properly. Return to your desktop.
- 4) Install Fldigi by executing the setup.exe file downloaded earlier (you do NOT need to install flarq when asked). After installation, a "Wizard" will guide you through the initial default setup. Either fill in the requested information (like call sign, etc.) or accept the suggested default settings. Again, read the Fldigi install instructions before doing the install!
- 5) After finishing the Fldigi install, menu down to "Configure/Sound Card/Audio/Devices" screen and check that your Fldigi configuration screen matches the one below exactly and "Save" it:



- 6) Run through the **complete** Windows 7/8 Setup Instructions. This file is one that you downloaded and printed out earlier, but is also available on this link: <https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/26171574/Fldigi%20Manuals%20%26%20Files/Windows%207%20Setup%20Instructions.htm>.
- 7) With everything ON, Tune your radio to 14.070 MHz (USB Mode) on the dial. Set the Fldigi OpMode to BPSK-31 and check that the Squelch is OFF or set very low. Then slowly turn up the RX control on the SignalLink box. You should see noise begin to appear on the waterfall in addition to signals from casual PSK-31 contacts. Tune to a signal by clicking on top of its trace on the waterfall and you should see their conversation start to decode in the receive window.
- 8) Setting digital signal output level is next --- First, adjust the RF Power Output level control to 100% (Full up) and leave it there. Tune your radio dial to about 14.074 MHz and tune to a clear spot on the waterfall. If available, set your radio to show both Power Out and ALC action.
- 9) Click on the Fldigi "Tune" button (upper right on Fldigi screen) and check that both the red SignalLink PTT light comes on and that the transmit light on your transceiver is ON.
- 10) Slowly turn up the TX control on the SignalLink box and watch your transceiver for an increase in RF power out. Keep increasing the TX control until you just start showing a little ALC action or ~40 W power output is reached (whichever comes first). If any ALC action is showing, back the TX control down a bit until the ALC indication just disappears.
- 11) Click again on the Fldigi Tune button to toggle the radio back to Receive Mode. Your rig will now be set for the maximum undistorted digital signal you can expect out of a 100W PEP transceiver. From this point on, use **only** the SignalLink TX control to adjust RF power output.

Re-configure Fldigi & Load Macros For County Hunting Ops:

Almost all county hunter digital operations require the use of macros. Also, even though the default settings for Fldigi usually work just fine, you will probably need to customize them to suite your personal situation. Once again, your Fldigi manual is the final authority on both macros and Fldigi configuration, but I offer two short-cuts that you may wish to consider using. The first short-cut will install a base set of Fldigi macros in your computer that are nearly identical to what Sharon and I use for both mobile and fixed operations (both as a team and just a single operator). Naturally, you will need to modify (or even ignore) some of these

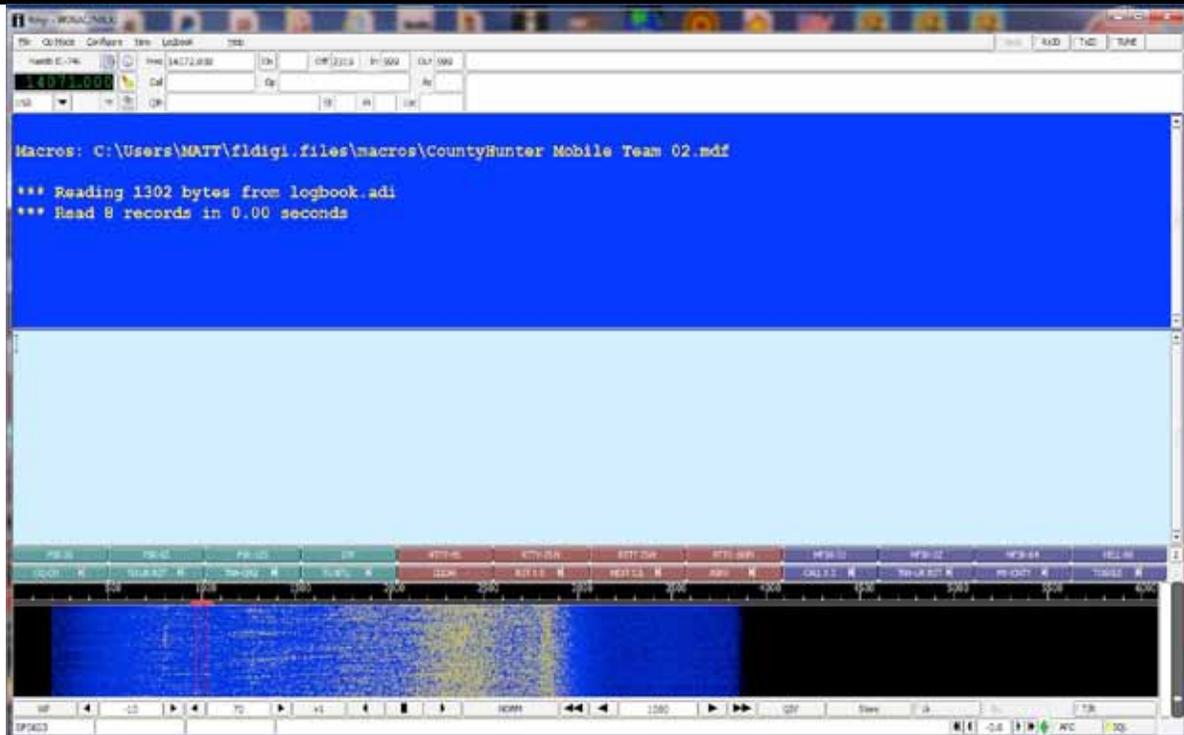
macros to fit your own circumstances. The second shortcut will quickly set your Fldigi software configuration to match what we use. Both of these short-cuts may save you a lot of time and effort compared to starting from scratch.

Fldigi stores macros (with an .mdf file extension) in the following default folder: "**C:\users\\fldigi.files\macros**". When you first install Fldigi, there will only be one macro file in this folder ("**macros.mdf**"). As you edit and add new macro files, they are saved in this same macros folder with different file names, but all will have an .mdf file extension. How to create and use macros was previously covered in Digital Happenings #4 so I won't go into more detail here.

As you modify Fldigi settings, your entire new configuration is saved in the file "**fldigi_def.xml**". This file is located in the "**C:\users\\fldigi.files**" folder.

Please follow the steps below if you wish to take advantage of these short-cuts:

- 1) Insure that the Fldigi program is NOT running.
- 2) Download the file "WONAC Macro Set.zip" using this link:
<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/26171574/Fldigi%20Macros/WONAC%20Macro%20Set.zip>
and move and unzip it in the "**C:\users\\fldigi.files\macros**" folder. After doing this you will find 7 new macros for you to modify and play with (their names pretty much describe what each macro would be used for).
- 3) Browse to the folder "**C:\users\\fldigi.files**" and rename the file "**fldigi_def.xml**" to "**fldigi_def old.xml**".
- 4) Download the new file "**fldigi_def.xml**" into the "**C:\users\\fldigi.files**" folder using the link:
https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/26171574/Fldigi%20Config%20Files/fldigi_def.xml .
- 5) Start the Fldigi program and select "File/Macros/Open from the main menu. If you find that you are not already there, browse to the "**C:\Users\\fldigi.files\Macros**" folder. While in this folder, select and open the file "**CountyHunter Mobile Team 02.mdf**". Your main Fldigi opening screen should now look very similar to the following:



You will still need to make a few configuration changes (like call sign and rig control), but in general, these new settings should work well for you. Also, if you wish to go back to your previous settings at any time, all you need do is re-name the file “**fldigi_def old.xml**” back to its original file name “**fldigi_def.xml**”.

When you have arrived at this point in the process, you are pretty well ready to go digital county hunting! The only other thing you need to do is learn how to use all your new toys under “real life” conditions. Hopefully, these last two examples will help.

How A Typical Fixed Station Would Work A Digital Mobile: (For this example, we will assume that you are the fixed station and that the mobile’s call sign is “N6PDB/M”).

- 1) Have your Logger spots up and running (or be monitoring 14.075 MH very closely) so that you know when a mobile is out there.
- 2) Have your rig all tuned up and ready to go on 20M digital.
- 3) Set your Fldigi mode to match theirs (mobiles usually start their runs on PSK-64).
- 4) Set your radio dial to the next even KHz below the mobiles frequency that will require an offset of 500 Hz or more. For example, if the mobile is spotted on a true frequency of 14074.8 KHz, set your radio dial to 14.0740 MHz and look for the mobile’s signal trace near 800 Hz offset on your waterfall. If they are spotted on a true frequency of 14074.1 KHz, set your radio dial to 14.0730 MHz and look for the mobile’s signal near 1100 Hz offset on your waterfall.
- 5) Fine tune on the waterfall trace until the mobiles transmissions are decoding as cleanly as possible.
- 6) When you see the mobiles call sign properly decoded and not imbedded in garbage, double click on it and Fldigi will place their call sign into the <Call> buffer. If you can’t see their call clearly on the screen, but you know who it is, you can click in the “Call” box (near top left of the Fldigi main screen) and type their call (N6PDB/M) in manually.
- 7) After the mobile has sent out a CQ County Hunters call or when they have completed their current contact, press function key F-9 to send your call sign. This macro will automatically turn on your transmitter, send your call sign 3 times, then switch your transmitter back OFF.

8) If the mobile decodes your call, they will send back something similar to:

**“WONAC UR RST IS 599
BTU”.**

9) You will then press function key F-10 which will automatically reply with the message:

**“N6PDB/M DE WONAC
UR ALSO 599 IN Douglas, CO
TU”**

10) They will acknowledge their report something like this:

**“WONAC
TU FOR MY 599
BK
OTHER CALLS? PSE KN”**

11) At this point the contact is valid, so log it!

12) Each time the mobile changes to the next mode just use the Fldigi macro buttons to change your own mode to match and repeat steps 7 – 11 above.

Changing modes in Fldigi is very easy. All you need do is either click on the macro button for the new mode, or hold down the <Shift> key before you press the corresponding macro function key. For example, to change to the mode RTTY-75N, either click on the 6th macro button from the left (top row) labeled “RTTY-75N”, or hold the <SHIFT> key down as you press function key F-6. If you forget all this, just “hover” your mouse cursor over any macro key and the actions you need to execute or edit that key will pop up!

Also, if you need to send a message that is not contained in any macro, press function key F-12 to “toggle” your transmitter ON, then manually type your message ending with function key F-12 again to “toggle” your transmitter back OFF. If you are a slow typist, you can also compose it first (using the keyboard) and it will be sent at full speed the next time the transmitter is activated by a macro key. Your manual text will be sent first. Then, any text associated with the macro will be sent next. For example, if you use function key F-12, only your manually typed text will be sent.

How A Typical Mobile Team (Digital) Would Put Out A County Line: (For this example, we will assume that the mobile team’s call signs are “KJ5PQ/KG5UZ/M”). Except for only using a single call sign, putting out counties as a single operator is very similar. Also, many of the details in the previous example remain the same, so these won’t be repeated.

- 1) Getting spotted is crucial for success! If you have wide area internet data coverage, try to spot yourselves on your favorite spotting site or ask for spotting help (off frequency) after completing a SSB run on the net. You can also monitor Logger spots for your own needs. If you have no internet data capability at all, you will have to rely on other fixed stations monitoring 14.075 MHz to spot you, but a published trip plan can also help a lot.
- 2) For maximum efficiency, plan on running county lines when possible. Although two operators may be able to put out counties “on the fly” using digital modes, it is very difficult to do safely. For a single operator/driver I consider it impossible. Even though it reduces the total miles you can cover in a reasonable day, I recommend that all your digital runs be made while parked.
- 3) Especially for your first run, review in your mind which macros you may use during the run, what

they do, and which function key activates them.

- 4) Re-configure Fldigi to reflect your new QTH (county line).
- 5) Have your rig all tuned up and ready to go on 20M digital.
- 6) Set your radio dial to the next even KHz below the nominal frequency on which you will operate. For example, if you are setting up to run on the normal county hunter frequency of 14075.0 KHz, then set your radio dial to 14.0740 MHz and your waterfall offset to 1000 Hz. Check that this frequency is clear and move the offset up or down as necessary to avoid interfering with others. Limit your offset changes to 500 Hz on the low side and 1500 Hz on the high side. This will keep you in the "sweet spot" for your sound card. If you need to move more than +/- 500 Hz, change your radio dial setting up or down by .001 MHz. Note: True frequencies above 14.0755 MHz will probably encroach on JT-65 operations, so move down from 14.0750 MHz if you must move.
- 7) After you are set on a clear frequency, "Lock" it by clicking on the "Lk" button on the lower right portion of your Fldigi main screen. This will allow you to fine tune your receive frequency without changing your transmit frequency. Remember, you will need to re-lock your transmit frequency after each mode change.
- 8) Press function key F-1 to send out your first CQ. If you are using my macros it will look like this:

**"CQ CQ COUNTYHUNTERS
DE KJ5PQ/KG5UZ/M
IN Custer/Fremont, CO
WHO NEEDS? PSE KN"**

Repeat CQ calls as necessary until you see/hear someone calling you with their call sign.

- 9) When you see a calling station's call sign properly decoded and not imbedded in garbage, double click on it and Fldigi will place their call sign into the <Call> buffer. If you can't see a call clearly on the screen, but you know who it is, you can click in the "Call" box (near top left of the Fldigi main screen) and type their call (KC3X) in manually.
- 10) Check that the call sign you wish to work shows in the "Call" box and then send their report by pressing function key F-2. This macro will then send the following message:

**" KC3X KC3X UR RST IS 599 599
BTU "**

- 11) KC3X will then acknowledge his report by returning a message similar to this:

**" KJ5PQ/KG5UZ/M DE KC3X
UR BOTH ALSO 599 599
TU "**

- 12) You will then acknowledge your report by using function key F-3 to send the following:

**" KC3X
TU FOR OUR 599
BK
OTHER CALLS? PSE KN "**

This contact with KC3X is now complete, so the logger can log it!

- 13) Immediately start looking and listening for other calls. When you can pick out a new call sign, repeat steps 9 – 13 until no more calls are seen.
- 14) At this point you might put out one last CQ to make sure you have given everyone a chance to work you on this mode.

- 15) When you see no one else calling, manually (use function key F-12) announce your next mode something like this:

“ NADA HEARD - NOW RTTY-75N RTTY-75N BK”

Then change Fldigi to the new mode and go back to step 4 and repeat.

- 16) If this was your last mode, announce your next county similar to this and then go back to step 4 and repeat.

**“ NADA HEARD - NEXT WILL BE Pueblo/El Paso, CO IN 45 MINUTES
KJ5PQ/KG5UZ/M CLEAR “**

- 17) If you are finished for the day, manually announce that fact with a message similar to this and QRT.

**“ THAT WILL BE ALL FOR TODAY. CU TOMORROW AT 1400Z
73’S! KJ5PQ/KG5UZ/M CLEAR “**

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	1344	3077	3077	1461	576	203	8394	54.6%	5/24/2014
2	AC0B	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	K0PVW	Rob	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
7	K0WJ	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	KA8IQP	Pamela	M/F	22	202	64	53	28	4	351	2.3%	9/12/2013
17	KC3X	Hollis	F	442	3077	3077	450	396	351	7351	47.8%	8/20/2014
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	730	3050	2138	672	280	108	6248	40.6%	8/28/2014
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	Barrv	M/F	529	3077	3034	2361	389	99	8960	58.2%	7/20/2014
29	N0LXJ	Sharon	M/F	1406	3077	2295	1279	561	307	7519	48.9%	8/30/2014
30	N1API	Al	F	882	3077	2592	842	596	474	7581	49.3%	8/24/2014
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	1093	3077	2990	1293	974	811	9145	59.4%	8/26/2014
34	N8CIJ	Dick	F	893	3077	3049	887	515	387	7915	51.4%	8/24/2014
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	NF0N	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	1228	3077	1365	554	396	162	5554	36.1%	8/26/2014
44	W0NAC	Matt	M/F	1862	3077	2856	2034	1180	542	9689	63.0%	8/31/2014
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	Gary	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
48	W4SIG	Kerrv	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
49	W4YDY	Dave	F	1115	3077	3077	1258	624	414	8450	54.9%	8/27/2014
50	W5QP	Rick	M/F	669	3077	2846	746	404	334	7407	48.1%	8/20/2014
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	388	2422	565	131	55	34	3207	20.8%	8/14/2014
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	WA7JHQ	Sterling	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
64	WB0M	Jeff	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
65	WB2ABD	Paul	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
66	WD4OIN	Jack	F	1150	3077	3070	1161	608	336	8252	53.6%	8/20/2014
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



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 _____

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

Beginning Account Balances July 18, 2014	\$37,689.47
July Income:	
Money Market Interest	\$2.72
Awards Manager Income	\$603.00
Membership Income	\$518.02
Logger distribution	\$45.00
Total Income:	<u>\$1,168.74</u>
July New Spotting Site/Logger II Expenses:	
Spotting Site Fixed Expenses	\$0.00
Spotting Site Recurring Expenses (New Web Site)	\$371.87
Logger II Fixed Expenses	\$0.00
Logger II Recurring Expenses	\$0.00
July Other Expenses:	
Awards Manager Expenses	\$441.05
Office Expenses (Postage, Etc.)	\$0.00
K9DCJ Club Call Renewal	\$21.10
Reimbursed 2014 Convention Seed Monies	-\$1,942.97
Total Expenses:	<u>-\$1,108.95</u>
July Net Income Less Expenses	\$2,277.69
New Total Balance ALL Accounts:	\$39,967.16#
Checking Account Balance	<u>\$8,911.34</u>
Money Market Account Balance	<u>\$31,055.82</u>
Total All Accounts:	\$39,967.16#

Note:

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

Awards Manager's Funds	\$1,500.00
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* Includes July Transactions through 8/18/2014

From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC Total Funds at the end of July should be discounted by \$7,413.50. This amount is a Deferred Liability of award fees pre-paid by members (carried on the Award Manager's books) which have been consistently included as current income in all previous Awards Manager Reports. The Awards Manager will continue reporting as in the past, except will now include the total amount of pre-paid fees in his monthly report.



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

Funds Balance July31, 2014		\$1,500.00
Income	\$ 929.50	
	<u>\$ 929.50</u>	
Expenses:		
Office supplies	\$ 0.29	
Plaque Suppliers	\$ 632.50	
Postage	\$ 185.32	
	<u>\$ 817.82</u>	
Sent to Treasurer		\$ 929.50
Reimbursement received from Treasurer		\$ 817.82
Funds Balance July 31, 2014		\$1500.00
Members Funds on Hand June 30, 2014		\$ 7413.50
Income – Funds deposited		<u>466.50</u>
Total Funds on Hand for Members		\$ 7800.00

NOTE

YOUR AWARDS MANAGER WILL BE OUT OF POCKET FROM AUGUST 29TH THROUGH SEPTEMBER 10TH.



Calendar

~ September 2014 ~						
un	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ONLY START DATE SHOWN	1	2	3	4	5	6 STRT KEY PTY IN PKS OH PKS
7 NA CW SPRNT TN QP	8	9	10	11	12	13 AR QP
14 NA PH SPRNT	15	16	17	18	19	20 SC QP
21 RUN4 BACON	22	23	24	25	26	27 CQ RTTY ME QP TX QP
28	29	30	Notes: CLICK ON EVENT TO GO TO THAT 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

Appointees

Historian: Gary Beam, K4EXT, 195 Nanny Goat Hill Rd, Elizabethton, TN 37643, ch2@k4ext.com

Newsletter Editor: Dave Hyatt, KU4YM, 159 Schooler Bend Ave, Summerville, SC 29483, 843-442-8666, dhhyatt@ieee.org

Sunshine Coordinator: Pat Reiner, KM6QF, 16931 Aldon Rd, Encino, CA, 91436, 213-999-0100, lovedoxies@aol.com

Webmaster: Mike Fatchett, W0MU, PO Box 3500, Parker, CO 80134, 303-790-4611, w0mu@w0mu.com

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

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.