

Volume XLIV

December 2014

Number 12

## Riding the County Lion Dave – KE3VV

The Big Green Dragon keeps rumbling into the room with more topics for this month's Roadrunner column, so I'd better get this done and sent off to Dave the Fearless Editor before we run out of room or the Dragon collapses from the effort to keep me up to date on all things interesting and newsworthy.

First, we have an update from on progress toward the next generation of county hunting logging software. Those of you who attended the July National Convention in Visalia know that the plan recommended by the Logger II Development Team and approved by the MARAC Board put top priority on programming a new spotting site. The first step is getting the new spotting site up and functioning as a stand-alone application. Next action will be establishing connectivity to the site for users of the current version of Logger. This will allow the new spotting site to be thoroughly tested before transitioning away from the W6RK/W5UGD sites. After testing and transition, the Logger team will be able to re-focus more of their all-volunteer resources on Logger II development, and in the meantime MARAC users will continue to have uninterrupted access to critical spotting functions through the current Logger app.

Thanks to Jim (K4PBX), the beta test version new MARAC spotting site is up and running on the new host server. It is still fairly basic and lacks some of the "bells and whistles" that will eventually make it a state-of-the-art tool for county hunters, but works well and is ready for testing with the current Logger program. Visual Basic VB6 code for the MySQL connection between the new spotting site and Logger is in the process of being developed and tested by Gene (KD9ZP). The connection between the new

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#### ROADRUNNER

spotting site and Logger II is being written in the newer programming software Visual Basic 2010. Jim has completed the initial VB2010 coding and is ready to incorporate the interface into Logger II when the logging application is ready.

The County Lion reminds me that progress on the spotting site does not mean there has been no progress on Logger II. Far from it!! Dave (KW1DX) has accomplished three critical front-end milestones, including analysis of current awards to determine common functionality requirements among all of the different MARAC awards, as well as identification of problem areas and ideas for improved book processing performance. In addition, Dave has completed a review and analysis of the current Logger database structure and has prepared an outline of class libraries needed to hold contacts. Next steps in the Logger II development process will include initial implementation of screen mockups for review by the team, preparation of a list of proposed modifications to existing Logger databases, designing the process for conversion between Logger and Logger II, and class library development. Tim (KD5CXO), the Logger II team's "user friendly" interface guru has developed several proposed new screen designs that are being considered by the Logger II team.

Matt (W0NAC) has also been hard at work (in addition to his duties as MARAC Treasurer and the inhouse Roadrunner expert columnist on all things digital) updating the Logger II Software Requirements Specification (SRS) to include a few current Logger functions that were overlooked in the original version. Some cleanup is also needed in the SRS user interface area. This update should be completed and coordinated before the end of the year, but is not currently impeding progress on Logger II. Overall, Matt, Gene, Tim, and Dave believe that the plan approved by the Board last July is going well. I agree!

As you know, the MARAC Board of Directors has two current vacancies – the director for the South Central District and Northeast District. I am exceedingly pleased to announce that, in response to my request for volunteers to serve by Board appointment until the next election, I have heard from four of our fellow county hunters.

For the South Central Director position, the two candidates for appointment are Dick Brocaw (K5VYT) and Jerry Chouinard (K5YAA).

K5VYT was first licensed since 1959, and currently holds an Advanced ticket. He joined the US Navy in 1968, and spent two years aboard the USS Yorktown, where he handled phone patches for the crew at Christmas. After discharge from the service in 1971, Dick spent the next 10 years in Navy MARS (the Military Affiliate Radio System . He holds a BS in Electrical Engineering from New Mexico State, and spent the 32 years as an IT Professional, retiring from IBM in 2005. A familiar face in county hunting circles for many years, Dick has worked all counties six times, and has Bingo, Bingo II, and 5-Star awards. He holds one of the earliest MARAC member numbers - R353. He has logged about 50,000 QSOs while mobile, and put out over 1000 counties in all 48 states. He also enjoys working DX and has 294 confirmed.

K5YAA got his first ham ticket in 1959, while living in Dallas, Texas. His wife and son are also hams. In addition to a long career as a US Navy flight radioman in the north Atlantic, Jerry has spent much of his working life the business of designing and manufacturing radio telephone equipment for land mobile and aviation industries. Jerry has operated from many DX locations including Iceland, Newfoundland, and Grand Cayman. His current base of mobile operations is in Oklahoma, where he is very active

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during Field Day operations and all types of CW contesting. Jerry managed the ARRL W5 Incoming Bureau for over 8 years, and he is a Past President of the Oklahoma DX Association and is an honorary Life Member of that group. He was selected as the OKDXA Ham of the Year twice. Jerry's mobile activities include putting out counties in more than 10 QSO parties every year.

For the Northeast District Director position, the two candidates for appointment are Al Keiser (N1API) and Charlie Steele (N2JNE).

Al (N1API) was first licensed in 1979, and worked up to Amateur Extra in about 5 years. An active county hunter, he holds USACA # 806 and is closing in on 4th time (using CW, digital, and SSB), and holds a number of other MARAC awards, including Bingo and 5 Star. He also belongs to 10-10 and collects counties on 10 meters. He is an avid contester (including putting out counties in the New England QSO Party) and DXer (350 countries confirmed on SSB and Mixed and all current DXCC Counties worked). Al is in his second year as Vice President of his local Meriden Amateur Radio Club, (W1NRG) and is trustee for W1JAX (his late father's call sign).

Charlie (N2JNE ) was first licensed in 1980. He saw military service in both the Navy and Army National Guard. After leaving military service, Charlie served with the U.S. Postal Service until his retirement in 2005. He started county hunting in 1990, joined MARAC, and earned USACA #796 in 1993. He is an active mobile operator and has put out over 600 different counties (and transmitted from all counties in 11 different states). He has a DXCC for 20 meters, belongs to SKCC and is a card carrying BOZO.

While the MARAC membership does not vote on interim appointments to fill vacancies on the Board, the County Lion, the Big Green Dragon, and I wanted you to be aware that there are volunteers in our ranks who are willing to step up and serve their fellow members. I am now eagerly waiting to hear from potential appointees to the vital position of Awards Manager. I hope to be able to report next month that we are moving forward toward filling that position as well. Until then, best 73's/88's, and may all your holiday 22's and 229's magically become 59's and 599's). Be safe and warm and Good Hunting.



## Dateline CW

Ed, KN4Y

#### Christmas itself may be called into question, If carried so far it creates indigestion.

I have on my pink polar vortex proof underwear as I am out in the Sunny Florida fridge air putting up my multicolored LED Christmas lights across the roof line of the shack. Golly, another year in the book of life, what happened to the sixty second minute? The mail lady stops and hands me my mail. We exchange Christmas greetings. I recognize one of my envelopes that I had sent to the ARRL QSL bureau. I also notice the effect of the ARRL Log Book of the World program as my envelope is not packed tight with QSL cards, but old traditions die slowly. I also notice a large brown envelope which is probably a certificate for something. I set the mail inside the door and finish connecting the Christmas lights. I feel like singing but it starts the neighborhood dogs to barking.

The calm, quiet, cold brisk air of Sunny Florida is disrupted as I hear Gator's 4x4 roar down the driveway. He slides to a stop at the recycled railroad tie. Two kamikaze squirrels lie in testimony of their accomplishment. "Good timing Gator. I am about finished with the Christmas lights." Gator gets out of the 4x4 carrying a large container of steaming lattes. I give Gator the high sign and I motion towards the door. We go into the toasty warm shack and Gator sits by the computer and turns it on. I get two lattes and hand one to Gator. I open the small brown envelope from the ARRL QSL bureau. I hold the envelope up, "Look Gator, I got about 60 QSL cards from various DX stations. How about checking them out?" Gator takes the envelope; he remembers when an envelope from the bureau would contain 100 or more QSL cards. Someday the Logbook of the World will replace mailed QSL cards. Gator sips his latte as he sorts the QSL cards by date then event.

I open the large brown envelope and extract a certificate; I shake it in the air to get Gator's attention, "It is a certificate from the Mississippi QSO party and I am declared first place winner in Florida." Gator mumbles under his breath that more Florida stations need to work the State QSO parties. I ignore his sarcasm and notice Gator had printed out the summary for the ARRL November CW Sweepstakes. I wave to get Gator's attention, "Thanks Gator. During sweepstakes I made 140 QSO's, and worked 59 sections and had a score of 16, 520." "That should put you high in the lower end of the old farts category." Gator is laughing hysterically.

I ignore Gator and hand him a memory stick, "Here see what I did in the Kentucky QSO party." Gator is laughing, "It is hard to comprehend a State with non-green grass would have a QSO party." Gator sips his latte and leans back in the chair, "You had 19 QSO's, almost all mobiles." "Who were the mobiles?" "The only county hunter was John, AE8M on the road with two yokel local mobiles, John, K4OH and Tom, W5MX. But you did get three No-Star contacts and a Natural Bingo." "Well you take what you can get when running CW in a majority sideband State QSO party." Gator is busy checking the DX QSL cards against my logs, He hands me the QSL cards, "All checked. You can reply at your leisure. What is this W1AW/4 you have on the memory stick?" I sip my latte, "I participated in the ARRL W1AW Centennial QSO Party from Florida. I did a two hour CW stint on ten meters." Gator is not paying attention, "I see where the Michigan Mini will be at in Traverse City at the Holiday Day Inn West Bay Beach Resort on April 23 – 24 & 25<sup>th</sup> 2015. Are you going?" "You know I am not allowed in Michigan, and also that is the weekend of the Florida QSO party."

Gator is quiet for a rare moment and then blurts out, "I see you made 23 QSO's in the LZ DX Contest. Do you know that is not county hunting?" "It is good public relations and neat CW practice."

The intense concentration of the moment is broken by the extreme Ding-a-ling of Gator's cell phone, "Got to get back to the back forty, black bears are trying to get into the barley, maize, rye, and wheat bins." He is gone like a social security check at a senior BINGO parlor. I think I hear Gator yell, "Why do we say something is out of whack? What is a whack?"

At last peace and quiet, I bring up the DYMO label printer and prepare my QSL cards to be sent to the ARRL outgoing QSL bureau. I also cut the address label off my QST magazine and make out a check for the service. I will mail everything tomorrow. The printer stops and I get the list of mobiles heard during November on the various county hunters CW call frequencies. I see the wintery weather effect as I read: AF3X, AI5P, K0FG, K2HVN/VP9, K2MF, K7TM, K9JWV, KA4RRU, KB0BA, KB6UF, KL7RA, N0KV, N0XYL, N4CD, N8ZZ, N9AC, N9JF, NF0N, NM2L, NN9K, NT2A, W4SIG, WA3QNT, WA4PGM, WB4KZW, and WD4OIN.

The month of December with the Christmas Holiday season also has three CW ARRL contests and as you read this you can feel your competitive juices flow, which is understandable given this is the final month of the current year. (Sure went by fast). Start the Holiday month with the ARRL 160-meter CW contest, increase you top band worked counties totals. Next is the ARRL 10-meter contest, be careful the contest higher band change may cause a nose bleed. Ending the month is the ARRL Straight Key night; really, do hams still use a straight key? Another fun contest is the RAC Winter contest, did you miss the ARRL 160-meter contest, you have another chance before the New Year by operating in the 160-meter Stew Perry Top Band Distance Challenge. Then, ready or not, get prepared to welcome a New Year. I reminisce when I would offer to bait my dates hook, especially on the first date. Nap time.

#### MERRY CHRISTMAS



#### ROADRUNNER

#### History Happens Gary, K4EXT

Recent picture submissions for the County Sign project came from Phil, AB7RW in Kentucky, Virginia, and New Jersey ... Jack, K0MAF in California ... Ron, KA3DRO in Georgia and South Carolina ... Rick, AI5P in New Mexico ... and MARAC Southeast Director Kerry, W4SIG in Tennessee and Georgia.

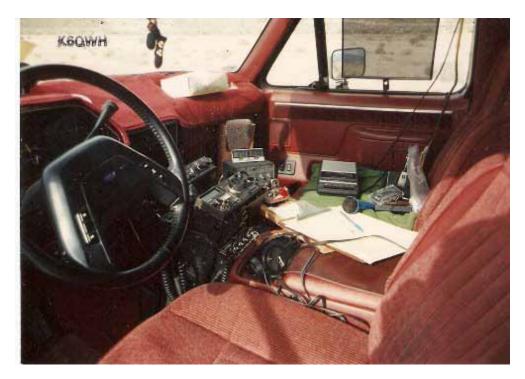
Many thanks to all! Please feel free to check out the current collection of pictures and information by visiting the CH History/Archive website at the following Internet address:

#### http://www.CHarchive.com

I doubt that there are two mobile installations that are exactly the same. I used to be a neat and organized person, but if I did an HF mobile installation today it would be an award-winning mess I'm sure. Fortunately, my son Justin, KG4VBK did our mobile installation a few years ago so all is well and fine ... just don't look behind the driver's seat though!

The picture below (courtesy Norm, W3DYA) is the mobile for Howard, K6QWH from the early 1990's or so. On the back of the printed picture, Howard wrote the following: "When I travel for contests etc. I travel alone and you can see my cab is full. Just an old man's hobby ... age 71 ... still ride my motorcycle and play an organ ... kinda!"

Howard received MARAC awards for running all counties in Arizona, Nevada, and California. He became a silent key in March 2004.





## BALLOT RECOGNITION 2nd Quarter 2014

I would like to congratulate the following stations for receiving recognition and votes from their peers in the <u>2<sup>nd</sup> quarter</u> award voting. There is no particular order, but all have received at least 3 points. 2 points are given for a first place vote and 1 point for a second place vote. I received 62 electronic ballots.

Second quarter results

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

NET CONTROL CW: N4CD, K0DEQ, W0GXQ, NM2L, KC3X

<u>BEST MOBILE SSB:</u> W0FP, AB7NK, W4SIG, N8KIE, AF3X, WA9DLB, K3IMC, N0KV, N9STL, KW1DX, K4YFH, N4CD, K2HVN, AA9JJ, KB6UF, N9QPQ, NA8W, KB0BA

BEST MOBILE CW: N9JF, W0GXQ, N4CD, W4SIG, AF3X, KW1DX, W5QP, AB7NK, N0KV

<u>BEST TEAM :</u> AB7NK/K7SEN, AA9JJ/N9QPQ, N0KV/N0DXE, KB0BA/N0XYL, KJ5PQ/ KG5UZ



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

### **New Members**

MARAC Number R4566 R4567

<u>Callsign</u> N2VQ

W8WV

<u>Name</u> Roy Leslie, JR Robert Mills





### **Digital Happenings**

## DIGITAL HAPPENINGS #28

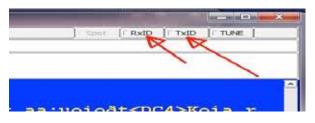
#### (November 2014) By W0NAC ("Matt")

As I am writing this article, it is just a couple of days before Thanksgiving. I am suddenly struck by the many blessings that we county hunters have received over the last year. Sure, there will always be a few negative things going on, but I would like to focus on the positive for a minute or so. I ask you, where else can you spend your time that yields so much overall satisfaction and just pure fun? We are blessed with many good friends, some of whom we never meet face to face. Our brains are being kept active by conquering new technical challenges in spite of our growing older – especially us digital folks! We are blessed by living free in the greatest country of the world.

I wish to thank all those who sent their kind comments on whether or not these articles are useful to them. Frankly, I needed the encouragement! I will stop threatening you with a survey (at least for a while)!

#### Tips and Tricks:

AI (N1API) suggests that some people may be inadvertently leaving their TxID turned on when working digital mobiles. In Fldigi TxID can be toggled ON or OFF by clicking on the TxID button in the upper right corner of the screen as shown here:



Having TxID "ON" adds time at the beginning of each transmission you make. This just slows things down. I also recommend that you work mobiles on a digital run with your RxID turned "OFF". This will avoid you being interrupted with RxID messages (from non-county hunters) during the run.

In the rare case where you do wish to send a TxID (maybe during an initial CQ call), this function can be triggered ON and OFF within the macro you use to call CQ.

#### New Digital Mode/Sub-mode Tests.

There are currently 34 different "Modes" listed in the MARAC rules that you may use for credit toward the **5** – **Mode award**. 14 of these modes have sub-modes and 20 do not. If you would like to see a complete table of all 34 modes and sub-modes it is available at the following link: https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/26171574/Modes/Mode-SubMode-Table-11-26-2014.xls

However, for the **USA** – **Digital award** you can only log contacts made using digital modes (excluding CW). When non-digital modes (like AM, SSB, FM, etc.) and CW are deleted from the list of all modes, 27 digital modes remain. From the 27 digital modes I then extracted 9 modes that I believe to be useable for mobile stations when making digital "runs". The other 18 were deemed unsuitable for use during digital mobile runs for a variety of reasons including special hardware required (DV, PACTOR, etc.), excessive time to complete one valid contact (JT-65, JT-9), and other problems.

Some time back, Terry (WQ7A) and I had conducted over the air tests of these 9 modes and their available sub-modes, but with the recent release of Fldigi Version 3.22.01, many new sub-modes became available for testing. We completed testing the new sub-modes on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014. The combined list of modes and all their sub-modes totaled 118. During our two way tests we determined bandwidth required, time to send/receive a 100 character message (converted to Words/Minute), and other general properties like forward error correction (FEC) delays, long pre-ambles, etc. Based on these test results I made a judgment call on which sub-modes should be considered candidates for further consideration. If you are interested in all the gory details of these tests, click on the following link:

https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/26171574/Modes/Modes-Submodes-Tests-11-26-2014.xlsx

A previous list of modes/sub-modes deemed potentially useful for mobile digital runs was published in August, 2013. Here is that list:

SHOPPING LIST OF DIGITAL MODES/SUB MODES				
MODE	SUB MODE 1	SUB MODE 2	SUB MODE 3	
CONTESTIA	8/1000			
DOMINO	16	22	44	
HELL	80			
MFSK	31	32	64	
OLIVIA	8/1000			
PSK	BPSK-63	BPSK-125	BPSK-250	
RTTY	45	75N	75W	
THOR	22			
THROB	4	X4		

After testing the new mode/sub-modes made available with the latest version of Fldigi, several appear to be promising and have been added to the old table. The new combined table follows:

MODE	SUB MODE 1/4/7/10	SUB MODE 2/5/8/11	SUB MODE 3/6/9/12
CONTESTIA	8/1000	4/500	
DOMINO	22	16	44
HELL	80	Feld Hell X5	
MFSK	32	16	22
	31	64	
OLIVIA	8/1000	4/500	
PSK	BPSK-63	BPSK-31	BPSK-125
	BPSK-250	4XPSK63R	5XPSK63R
	10XPSK63R	4XPSK125R	5XPSK125R
	2XPSK250R	8PSK-125	8PSK-250
RTTY	75N	45	75W
THOR	22		
THROB	4	X4	

## RECOMMENDED MOBILE DIGITAL MODES/SUB-MODES 11/26/2014

#### ROADRUNNER

Please note: Items in green are all newly added to this table.

Some of the new sub-modes under PSK may be bona fide <u>**new**</u> modes, but will require Awards Committee and BOD approval to add them to the master mode list. For the time being they will continue to be listed as sub-modes of PSK.

All of the new sub-mode candidates will require extensive mobile trials before they can be recommended for common use. They need to be checked for weak signal performance, how they work in a pile-up, and for ease of tuning. There may be some "jewels" hidden in this list, but we will never discover them without trying them out in the real world! Just after Thanksgiving Sharon and I will be making "trial" runs from several Colorado counties using some of these new sub-modes, so watch for us and be ready to select these new OpModes in Fldigi.

#### Version 3.22.01 Still The Latest Fldigi Release:

Many changes were made in this new version of Fldigi. If you wish to do some light reading (tongue in cheek!), you can download a 250 plus page maintenance text file that shows all changes in Fldigi since day one here: <u>https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/26171574/FldigiMxFiles/fldigi\_changes.txt</u>

If you haven't already done so, I highly recommend that you download and upgrade to Version 3.22.01. Some of the more significant new features were covered in Digital Happenings #27.

**New 8PSK Mode Added** – This new mode has 4 sub-modes (8PSK-125, 8PSK-250, 8PSK-500, and 8PSK-1000). Terry (WQ7A) and I have made brief tests of all 4 sub-modes with solid copy both ways. The two faster sub-modes are both too fast and require too much bandwidth, but I am recommending that the two slower sub-modes (8PSK-125 and 8PSK-250) be considered for mobile use. However, a lot of real world testing will be needed before either of these sub-modes expose their true value. Even if both turn out to be "dogs", it will be a lot of fun trying them out!

#### November Digital County Hunter Activity:

I didn't have time this month to summarize all November digital run spot activity, but this screen shot of spots on November 15<sup>th</sup> is remarkable!

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dicates N rnnt Pars	society.		Time to next Refresh (Web Page: W		nds		20 mi	Spots old nutes are not high	
Date	Time	Call(s)	County State	W0NAC Need	NOLXJ Need	Frequency	Mode	Spotter	Spo ID
11/15/14	21:21	N6PDB/WA6OCV	Winnebago, IL (rtty45)			14075.	rtty45	КС3Х	1
11/15/14	21:18	N6PDB/WA6OCV	Winnebago, IL (MFSK32)			14075.	MFSK32	KC3X	2
11/15/14	21:11	N6PDB/WA6OCV	Winnebago, IL (Domino22)			14075.	Domino22	WQ7A-TERF	3
11/15/14	21:06	N6PDB/WA6OCV	Winnebago, IL			14336.	SSB	N5MLP	- 4
11/15/14	21:01	NW8U	taylor, wv			21363.4	SSB	КМ6НВ	5
11/15/14	20:16	N6PDB/WA6OCV	Jo Davies/Stephenson, IL (RTTY45)			14075.	RTTY45	KC3X	6
11/15/14	20:10	N6PDB/WA6OCV	Jo Davies/Stephenson, IL (MFSK32)			14075.	MFSK32	KC3X	7
11/15/14	20:09	N6PDB/WA6OCV	Jo Davies/Stephenson, IL (Domino, 22)			14075.	Domino, 22	KC3X	8
11/15/14	20:07	N6PDB/WA6OCV	Jo Davies/Stephenson, IL 14.075 CW			14075.	CW	IBOT	9
11/15/14	19:58	N6PDB/WA6OCV	jo daviess/stephenson, il			14336.	SSB	N5UZW	10
11/15/14	19:50	N4JT	Durham/Orange, NC (Domino22)			7075.	Domino22	KC3X	11
11/15/14	19:47	N4JT	Durham/Orange, NC (MFSK32)			7075.	MFSK32	KC3X	12
11/15/14	19:45	N4JT	Durham/Orange, NC (RTTY75)			7075.	RTTY75	КСЗХ	13
11/15/14	19:44	N4JT	Durham/Orange, NC (PSK63)			7075.	PSK63	КСЗХ	14
11/15/14	19:42	N4JT	DURHAM/ORANGE, NC(PSK63)			7075.	PSK63	KG5UZ	15
11/15/14	19:38	N4JT	DURHAM/ORANGE, NC (Domino22)			14075.	Domino22	KG5UZ	16
11/15/14	19:34	N4JT	DURHAM/ORANGE, NC (MFSK32)			14075.	MFSK32	KG5UZ	17
11/15/14	19:30	N4JT	DURHAM/ORANGE, NC (RTTY75N)			14075.	RTTY75N	KG5UZ	18
11/15/14	19:26	N4JT	DURHAM/ORANGE, NC (PSK63)			14075.	PSK63	KG5UZ	19
11/15/14	19:03	KA9JAC/KB9YVT	Brown, WI			14336.	SSB	N5UZW	20
11/15/14	18:59	N6PDB/WA6OCV	Carroll/Whiteside, IL (RTTY45)			14075.	RTTY45	WONAC	21
11/15/14	18:53	N6PDB/WA6OCV	Carroll/Whiteside, IL (MFSK32)			14075.	MFSK32	WONAC	22
11/15/14	18:49	K4PLB	Bedford, VA			14336.	SSB	N5UZW	23
11/15/14	18:48	N6PDB/WA6OCV	Carroll/Whiteside, IL (DOM22) 14.075 CW			14075.	CW	IBOT	24
11/15/14	18:42	N6PDB/WA6OCV	Whiteside/Carroll, IL			14336.	SSB	N5MLP	25
11/15/14	17:47	W1AW/1	Providence, RI			18159.	SSB	KBOOK	26
11/15/14	17:20	N6PDB/WA6OCV	Clinton/Jackson, IA (rtty45)			14075.	rtty45	KC3X	27
11/15/14	17:13	KB0BA/N0XYL	Stark, IN			14336.	SSB	N5MLP	28
11/15/14	17:13	N6PDB/WA6OCV	Clinton/Jackson, IA (MFSK32)			14075.	MFSK32	КСЗХ	29
11/15/14	17:07	N6PDB/WA6OCV	Jackson/Clinton, IA (Domino22)			14075.	Domino22	WQ7A-TERF	30

22 of the 30 total spots on this page were digital spots covering a time span of just over 4 hours. Also, there were 2 different digital mobiles running (N6PDB/WA6OCV and N4JT). Dennis and Susan have put out so many new digital counties this month that I have lost count and they are still going at it "hot and heavy" in NC as this article is being written. Perhaps I can publish a summary of their entire trip in next month's Digital Happenings.

Also, a hearty welcome to AB7NK (Mary) who just got her fixed station configured to run digital. She has been working digital mobiles like crazy ever since! Who knows, when K7SEN (Neal) sees how much fun Mary is having, we may soon have another mobile team roaming the digital highways!

#### Active County Hunter Award Status:

As can be seen in Table 3 below, many digital county hunters have made great progress toward completing their "**USA** – **Digital Award**" and "**5** – **Mode Award**". 11 digital county hunters have logged over 1000 counties toward completing the "**USA** – **Digital Award**". Four more are "knocking on the door" with 900 or more digital counties. 10 digital county hunters have now logged over 50% of the 15385 mode/counties needed to complete the "**5** – **Mode Award**". These are shown in **red** in Table 3.

#### ROADRUNNER

			<u>Table</u>	3 - Active	Digital C	ounty H	lunters A	Award St	tatus			
				USA - DIGITAL			FIVE MODE					
#			STATUS*	COUNTIES			COUNTIES				% 5-Mode	LAST
"	CALL	NAME	(M,F,I)	(of 3077)	(1 MODE)	(2 MODES)	(3 MODES)	(4 MODES)	(5 MODES)	TOTAL	Completed	UPDATED
1		Randy	(191,1 ,1)	1344	3077	3077	1461	576	203	8394	EA 6%	5/24/2014
2	ACOB	Cliff	F	205		-	- 1401	- 570	- 205	0	0.0%	12/10/2012
3	AD1C	Jim	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
4		Bill	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	4/44/2014
5		Fred Rob	F	<u>188</u> -	3077	3013	<u>187</u> -	- 20	6	<u>6303</u> 0	41.0% 0.0%	4/14/2014
7		Lou	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
8	K4PBX	Jim	F	401	3018	385	127	81	38	3649	23.7%	11/23/2014
9	K5GE K5SF	Gene Dick	F	26	1893	575	8	0	0	<u>2476</u> 0	<u>16.1%</u> 0.0%	5/26/2013
11		Bill	F	599	3044	- ?	- ?	- ?	- ?	3044	19.8%	5/2/2013
12	K7REL	Tom	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
13		Ed	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
14		Ed Mike	F M/F	- 1026	- 3077	2989	- 1009	- 130	- 68	0 7273	0.0% 47.3%	7/23/2014
16		Pamela	M/F	22	202	64	53	28	4	351	2.3%	9/12/2013
17	KC3X	Hollis	F	537	3077	3077	545	491	446	7636	49.6%	10/15/2014
18	KC6AWX		F	450	3077	1592	264	59	14	5006	32.5%	5/7/2013
19 20		Jack Billy	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0% 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	753	3050	2146	695	295	123	6309	41.0%	10/24/2014
24		Bill Dave		- 133	2862	- 130	- 66	- 19	- 8	0 3085	0.0% 20.1%	10/16/2014
26		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		Barry	M/F	529	3077	3034	2361	389	99	8960	<u>58.2%</u>	7/20/2014
29 30	NOLXJ N1API	Sharon Al	M/F	1417 1078	<u>3077</u> 3077	2304 2782	<u>1289</u> 1052	<u>576</u> 791	<u>316</u> 682	7562 8384	49.2% 54.5%	10/26/2014 11/27/2014
31	N4JT	Jim	M/F	911	3077	3067	919	417	296	7776	50.5%	5/18/2014
32		Ron	M/F	391	3077	409	54	37	9	3586	23.3%	5/19/2013
<u>33</u>		Dennis	M/F	1169	3077	3024	1347	1035	876	9359	60.8%	10/27/2014
34	N8CIJ N8HAM	Dick Jim	F	1026 0	3077 3077	<u>3057</u> 0	<u>1023</u> 0	<u>644</u> 0	507 0	<u>8308</u> 3077	54.0% 20.0%	<u>11/25/2014</u> 4/2/2013
36	N9WNN		F	0	2180	0	0	0	0	2180	14.2%	2/24/2013
37		Darl	F/M	579	3077	1150	575	318	177	5297	34.4%	10/13/2014
<u>38</u> 39		<u>Mike</u> Pete	F	900 816	<u>3077</u> 3077	<u>3077</u> 859	<u>1091</u> 78	<u>283</u> 1	<u>127</u> 0	7655 4015	<u>49.8%</u> 26.1%	4/18/2014 3/23/2012
40		Gene	F		-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	5/25/2012
41		Paul	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ō	0.0%	
42	NW6S	Jim	F	784	3077	3077	805	114	79	7152	46.5%	5/6/2014
43	NX4W W0NAC	<u>Llovd</u> Matt	M/F M/F	1302 1889	3077 3077	1433 2868	658 2056	506 1213	245 579	<u>5919</u> 9793	38.5% 63.7%	<u>11/27/2014</u> 10/26/2014
45		Don	F	474	3077	2711	437	170	110	6505	42.3%	10/8/2014
46	W3ZUH	Dick	F	5	3077	2048	11	2	0	5138	33.4%	12/4/2013
47	W4IHI	Gary	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
48 49		Kerry Dave	F	- 1226	- 3077	- 3077	- 1356	- 754	- 540	0 8804	0.0% 57.2%	11/24/2014
50		Rick	M/F	822	3077	2963	970	631	549	8190	53.2%	11/23/2014
51	W6RK	Risto	F	-	-	-	-	-		0	0.0%	
<u>52</u> 53	W6RLL W7FEN	Joe		- 25	- 3077	- 2975	- 32	- 1	- 0	0 6085	0.0% 39.6%	10/3/2013
	W7FEN W7IN	Larry Larry	F		-	-	- 52	-	-	0	<u>39.6%</u> 0.0%	10/ 5/ 2013
55	W7QQ	Bill	M/F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
	W8RCW		M/F	388	2422	565	131	55	34	3207	20.8%	8/14/2024
57 58		Rich	F	90	3077	1674	- 44	- 0	0	<u>4795</u> 0	<u>31.2%</u> 0.0%	10/31/2012
59			F	1137	3077	2055	- 814	299	55	6300	40.9%	6/2/2014
60	WA4UNS	Doug	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
	WA6OCV		M/F	328	3077	328	320	130	10	3865	25.1%	3/28/2013
	WA7ETH WA7JHQ		F	228	- 1932	428	<u>39</u> -	3	-	<u>2402</u> 0	<u>15.6%</u> 0.0%	10/26/2014
	WBOM		r F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
65	WB2ABD	Paul	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
	WD40IN		F	1258	3077	3071	1266	718	432	8564	55.7%	11/18/2014
		<u>Terry</u> Ben	F F	<u>558</u> 326	<u>3077</u> 3077	<u>3070</u> 347	<u>561</u> 41	<u>463</u> 15	<u>392</u> 9	<u>7563</u> 3489	<u>49.2%</u> 22.7%	9/28/2014 6/10/2014
00		Dell		320	30//	34/	41	13	3	3403	22.170	0/10/2014

## 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**" award and the "**5 – Mode**" award and email it to WØNAC. 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: <u>https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/26171574/Happenings/5%20Mode%20Update.doc</u>

#### Main Topic For Next Month:

#### "Results Of Road Testing New Sub-modes"

If anyone has a story or tip that you would like 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.

Please email your comments/suggestions to <u>w@nac@comcast.net</u> and don't forget to send your updated digital status reports in by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month so that they will appear in the next month's edition of the "Roadrunner".

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

Matt – W0NAC



#### Awards

	Awards Issued For November					
Call Date		Award	Number			
K4XI	10/31/2014	Aaster's Gold # 64				
KODEQ	11/17/2014	USA-CW # 13				
KOPFV	11/8/2014	Worked all Counties - 3rd Time # 244				
AE3Z	10/27/2014	Vorked all Counties - 6thTime # 51				

	Roadrunner Issued For November					
Call	Date	Count	Award	Number		
N9STL	11/24/2014	Last County Count 200	Last County Count 200	# 117		
AI5P	11/24/2014	Last County Count 1000	Last County Count 1000	# 8		
WA4UNS	11/24/2014	Last County Count 225	Last County Count 225	# 95		
N4AAT	11/24/2014	Last County Count 1050	Last County Count 1050	# 5		
K4YT	11/24/2014	Last County Count 150	Last County Count 150	# 166		
AE3Z	11/24/2014	Last County Count 250	Last County Count 250	# 87		
WG9A	11/24/2014	Last County Count 400	Last County Count 400	# 47		
W4SIG	11/24/2014	Last County Count 275	Last County Count 275	# 75		



Roadrunr	ner - Birthdays
Call	Birthday Date
K1DFO	Dec - 01
KD2Q	Dec - 01
N8ZW	Dec - 01
кјон	Dec - 01
NU5V	Dec - 01
KZ2I	Dec - 01
WA4NBC	Dec - 02
NJ2DX	Dec - 02
WE3Z	Dec - 02
WA9EZT	Dec - 02
KM4IY	Dec - 02
W0MHK	Dec - 02
NE6B	Dec - 02
N7JB	Dec - 03
N4CW	Dec - 03
N9ER	Dec - 03
NI7F	Dec - 03
КОРҮ	Dec - 04
K7TM	Dec - 04
KU8G	Dec - 04
KE2RX	Dec - 04
WA7YUL	Dec - 04
N3XX	Dec - 04
W2GDW	Dec - 04
K1VSJ	Dec - 04
W8POF	Dec - 04
K8BBM	Dec - 04
K5JX	Dec - 04
W4IDW	Dec - 05
W8FDV	Dec - 05
NF9R	Dec - 05
KB1GN	Dec - 05
N1SPX	Dec - 05
W9MDP	Dec - 06

Birthdays				
Roadrunr	er - Birthdays			
Call	Birthday Date			
K6JN	Dec - 06			
K7DZE	Dec - 06			
K1QZV	Dec - 06			
N4VA	Dec - 06			
WA4DRM	Dec - 06			
K5CWR	Dec - 07			
KD4LM	Dec - 07			
W5OXK	Dec - 08			
КЕ5КС	Dec - 08			
K4ZT	Dec - 08			
N1WA	Dec - 08			
ABOEE	Dec - 08			
к9вх	Dec - 09			
KN8M	Dec - 09			
KE9VM	Dec - 09			
W3HU	Dec - 09			
NV4Z	Dec - 09			
KI7WO	Dec - 09			
AD5NW	Dec - 10			
K7ANT	Dec - 11			
KB9BL	Dec - 11			
NG9L	Dec - 11			
N8KIE	Dec - 11			
N8TA	Dec - 11			
WB5LOZ	Dec - 11			
K7KWO	Dec - 11			
M811	Dec - 11			
W9HA	Dec - 11			
NM5Z	Dec - 12			
KT7W	Dec - 12			
К6ХТ	Dec - 12			
WB8JZN	Dec - 13			
K4YY	Dec - 13			
KIOJO	Dec - 13			

Roadrun	ner - Birthdays
Call	Birthday Date
N9JF	Dec - 13
AC0B	Dec - 14
NN4NN	Dec - 14
W9UX	Dec - 14
WA4AUL	Dec - 14
WA7ETH	Dec - 14
N8CBW	Dec - 14
K1TEX	Dec - 14
WOXT	Dec - 14
N4RXF	Dec - 14
KJ6NR	Dec - 15
KX4WB	Dec - 15
N2XTU	Dec - 15
К9РО	Dec - 15
K8BHG	Dec - 15
KA5WGL	Dec - 16
W4HSA	Dec - 16
W3FG	Dec - 16
K6KLL	Dec - 16
NJ9X	Dec - 16
KE1LA	Dec - 17
KZ2P	Dec - 17
KC0VB	Dec - 17
AD1OS	Dec - 17
VE1WT	Dec - 17
AF4PQ	Dec - 17
N8ESR	Dec - 18
N4XP	Dec - 18
КВ9СС	Dec - 19
AD1C	Dec - 19
KC0QA	Dec - 20
KC1WE	Dec - 20
WA6KHK	Dec - 20
K1MLP	Dec - 20

#### ROADRUNNER

Roadrunn	er - Birthdays
Call	Birthday Date
W5JX	Dec - 20
K3FP	Dec - 21
WA4KER	Dec - 21
N4EEL	Dec - 21
K7OQZ	Dec - 21
KE2ZG	Dec - 21
W9UCW	Dec - 22
N7HS	Dec - 22
AB4AV	Dec - 22
K8NB	Dec - 22
N2FJ	Dec - 22
KJ5M	Dec - 23
WOFF	Dec - 23
ΝΟΤΚΧ	Dec - 23
WB5TWK	Dec - 23
NM5SR	Dec - 23
W3ZR	Dec - 23
N4FSZ	Dec - 23
AB0C	Dec - 24
KC4SF	Dec - 24
K1RY	Dec - 25
КЭРІ	Dec - 25
КЗІМС	Dec - 25
N8WH	Dec - 25
WA3PAK	Dec - 25
W6OF	Dec - 25
AG4DX	Dec - 25
WY7ML	Dec - 26
KH6G	Dec - 26
KGOBB	Dec - 26
K2QK	Dec - 27
NU4D	Dec - 27
CT1TZ	Dec - 28
KC1NA	Dec - 28

Roadrunner - Birthdays		
Call	Birthday Date	
KD3XA	Dec - 28	
W3JV	Dec - 28	
AC4MP	Dec - 28	
N2OO	Dec - 28	
W4BQD	Dec - 29	
W9WIC	Dec - 29	
W8UPH	Dec - 29	
K4SX	Dec - 29	
K6TV	Dec - 30	
NS5J	Dec - 30	
WS5R	Dec - 30	
W9MER	Dec - 31	
WD9EJK	Dec - 31	
KB7KR	Dec - 31	
WA3ZTY	Dec - 31	



## **Treasurer's Report (W0NAC)** October 2014\*

Beginning Account Balances October 10, 202	14	\$40,912.15
October Income:		
Money Market Interest	\$2.89	
Awards Manager Income	\$784.00 (Note 2)	
Membership Income	\$378.00	
Logger distribution	\$80.00	
Total Income:	<u>\$1,244.89</u>	
October New Spotting Site/Logger II Expension	ses:	
Spotting Site Fixed Expenses	\$0.00	
Spotting Site Recurring Expenses (New We	eb Site) \$0.00	
Logger II Fixed Expenses	\$0.00	
Logger II Recurring Expenses	\$0.00	
October Other Expenses:		
MARAC Web Site Security Upgrade	\$59.99	
Awards Manager Expenses	\$266.52 (Note 2)	
Office Expenses (Postage, Etc.)	\$0.00	
Total Expenses:	<u>\$326.51</u>	
October Net Income Less Expenses		\$918.38
New Total Balance ALL Accounts:		\$41,830.53 #
Checking Account Balance	\$5766.80	
Money Market Account Balance Total All Accounts:	<u>\$36,063.73</u>	\$41,830.53 #
Note:		
The following monies are not included in the a	ccount balances above: \$1,500.00	

Note 2: Combined September/October Award Manager income/expenses.

\* Includes October Transactions through 10/30/2014

# From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC Total Funds at the end of October should be discounted by \$7,520.00 This amount is a Deferred Liability of award fees pre-paid by members.



### Awards Manager's Report November 30, 2014

Funds Balance October 31, 2014

\$1,500.00	<b>\$1</b>	.500	.00
------------	------------	------	-----

Income	\$ 496.00		
		<u>\$ 496.00</u>	
Expenses:			
Office supplies	\$ 1136.96		
Plaque Suppliers	\$ 386.00		
Postage	\$ 288.31		
-		<u>\$ 1811.27</u>	
Sent to Treasurer			\$ 496.00
Reimbursement received from Treasurer			\$ 1315.27
Funds Balance November 30, 2014			\$1500.00
Members Funds on Hand November30, 2014			\$ 7440.00
Income – Funds deposited or Used			+ <u>172.00</u>
Total Funds on Hand for Members			\$ 7612.00

#### **MI Mini**

The 2014 Michigan Mini was hosted by Ed, K8ZZ and Joe, W8TVT and was held at the **West Bay Beach - Holiday Inn Resort** 615 East Front Street • Traverse City, Michigan 49686 Phone: **(231) 947-3700** • Fax: (231) 947-0361 Toll Free: **(800) 888-8020)** It will be held at the **Holiday Day Inn West Bay Beach Resort** again in **2015** with room rates of: **\$89.95** plus tax per night if reserved by March 27th, 2015.

Date for 2015 MICHIGAN MINI is April 23 - 24 & 25th..

On Saturday at 10:00 AM in Hospitality Room - Jerry, W0GXQ (MN) and Mike, NF0N (NE) will have a presentation on SSB and CW team operation.

## National

		nual National Co July 13th – 16 <sup>th</sup>	ARAC onvention 2015 Registration The Villages, Florida ion Prize drawing is May 1, 2015)	
NAME: (First/I	_ast)			
			ZIP CODE	_
Email Address				
Convention Re	gistration Fee (Inclu	des 1 badge and 1 p	ize ticket)	\$ 45.00
Name on Badge	CALI	LSIGN	USACA#	
Additional Name I	Badges (list below) = To	otal #	_@\$5.00 each.	=\$
Name	CALLSIGN	USACA#	Additional Info.	_
Name	CALLSIGN	USACA#	Additional Info.	_
			Additional Info.	
Banquet – The Roy Rolls and butter, c Classis Caesar Sal Sautéed seasonal Roasted new pota Sautéed Salmon to Sliced Tenderloin	offee and iced tea lad with croutons and sh vegetables toes opped with a shrimp & c of beef with roasted sha erved in a lemon wine sa	aved Parmesan chee itrus Dijon sauce illots in a Merlot wir		=\$
Additional Prize T	ickets	Prize (singles)	X \$ 1.00	=\$
		Prize (book/12	2 tickets)X \$10.00	=\$
		Cash (singles)	X \$ 1.00	=\$
		Cash (book/12	tickets)X \$10.00	=\$

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

=\$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### ROADRUNNER

## Calendar

-		~ De	ecember 20	)14 ~		
Sun ONLY START DATE SHOWN	Mon 1	Tue 2	Wed 3	4 Thu	Fri 5	Sat 6 TARA RTTY
7 10M RTTY STRT KEY SPRINT	8	9	10	11	12 NS RTTY SPRINT	13 ARRL 10M QP
14	15 RUN4BACON	16	17	18	19	20
21 ARRL ROOKIE CW	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Notes: CLICK ON EVENT TO GO TO WEB SITE 1/1/15 = STRT KEY NITE		

## MERRY

## **CHRISTMAS**



# Y'ALL!

#### **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 25<sup>th</sup>!

#### **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 Schooner 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: Vacant

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.