



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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Riding the County Lion

Dave – KE3VV

Happy New Year, MARAC!!

Both the Big Green Dragon and the County Lion are a bit groggy and bleary-eyed from the holiday parties and watching waaaaay too much football and hockey and consuming a lion's share of holiday cheer. Lots of family time, even though a mid-December trip to the Florida meant that we arrived back in DC just a few days before Christmas. Hustle and bustle. Things are proceeding apace at the Florida house - new appliances and some furniture – trying to get the place in shape to escape from the mid-Winter cold that has all of us shivering here in the frozen north. I will head back down to Melbourne-Viera in a few weeks to continue the process. On the agenda is setting up a Florida office and ham shack so I am able to get back on the air down there. I am also in the process of re-working the mobile set-up in the truck, so not much putting out counties until that project is done.

Some good news-bad news (or vice versa). Lots of folks have ideas about what MARAC should do and not do, but the essence of MARAC is awards... awards... and awards. That is the whole purpose of the club and means that the most important task performed by the all-volunteer "staff" of MARAC is to administer the MARAC Awards program. At the top of that list is processing new award applications, ordering plaques for the major awards, and sending out award certificates. There are some related tasks, like posting the awards on the MARAC web site and updating the MARAC database that is available to members on the web site and accessed by Logger to allow members to keep track of award contacts and progress toward the awards they are pursuing.

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The key volunteer in this endeavor is the MARAC Awards Manager. Several months ago, I announced that Bob (KC6AWX) had asked to turn over the position of Awards Manager – he has done it for a long time and has family commitments he needs to address. I asked for anyone interested in taking on the task of Awards Manager to get in touch. The silence has been deafening. Like I said before, we all want to pursue awards and get the numbers and certificates and plaques... and we all want the database kept up-to-date so Logger can track our awards. But it seems that no one wants to step up and do the work necessary to get it done. The same is true of the MARAC web site. I have asked for a volunteer to take on the upkeep of www.marac.org. No takers.

OK – that is the bad news. It could be worse. I could be announcing that MARAC will just close down the awards program – essentially put the club in suspended animation until a new Awards Manager is found – but that is not going to happen. Bob has agreed to continue as Awards Manager with some help from Jim (KZ2P) and myself. While Bob will continue to process awards and certificates, Jim and I will help out with plaques and award updates. I will also continue to sit in as interim webmaster and keep up the web site as time permits. Thanks, Bob! Thanks, Jim!

Now that the Board does not have to meet to ratify the appointment of a new Awards Manager, I will call a meeting to fill the vacancies on the Board – although those appointments will only last until the next election. That will occur sometime in the next month... as soon as I can get my travel schedule settled. So that is where we are, folks... MARAC will continue – at least for the immediate future. Thanks again to Bob for continuing to do a great job as Awards Manager and to Jim for helping out in addition to taking care of the membership renewals and other tasks as MARAC Secretary. Fare Forward!



New Members

MARAC Number
R4568

Callsign
W7JY

Name
Gerald Lillie



Dateline CW

Ed, KN4Y

CW county hunting in the New Year is a struggle, but not warfare.

I am monitoring the 20-meter CW county hunter's frequency. I feel bloated from consuming way too much soft cider (this is the official state beverage of New Hampshire) and after the countdown ball dropped another New Year is here along with my 40 year anniversary as a ham. Myself imposed solitude is broken by W4SIG calling from some county; I had the apple mouth from drinking the soft cider but what the heck on CW Kerry, will not know, so I work him. It was a new county and in my excitement I knock a certificate onto the floor. I gingerly bend down and pick it up. It is for the Hawaii QSO party. I am first place in the W4 call area, low power. I will go mobile on the island when there is an interstate road constructed to Hawaii; I am ready to drive interstate Five-O.

The bone numbing chilling sunny Florida frigid air is punctured by Gator's 4X4 exhaust discharge as he roars down the driveway, sliding to a stop at the recycled railroad tie. It is even too cold for the kamikaze squirrels. Gator enters the radio shack with a cardboard container holding several supersized lattes. "Happy New Year Dude. I brought some liquid for internal warming." He hands me a latte and sits by the computer. I hand him a memory stick, "Happy New Year als., Please check out the CQ world wide CW contest." We sip our lattes while Gator runs the log routine. "I notice you operated CW only on ten meters logging 250 QSO's and you worked 74 countries, but this is not county hunting." I take a sip of my latte, "I consider this as on the air CW practice. Please hush your mouth and run the 160-meter contest log." Gator makes a nasty grin and turns toward the computer screen. A few minutes later Gator grunts and whips around in the chair.

"Not bad Dude, during the 160-meter CW contest your activity is more like county hunting, you worked 29 new counties and one natural Bingo, your operating time is well spent." We raise our lattes to salute the fortuitous low band contest county hunting. Gator is mouseing around on the computer when he says, "Look here Dude, on the MARAC web site there is a section called stories." I get up and stand by the screen and we read the various stories. Gator breaks the reading silence, "You know Dude you need to submit what occurred when you were running a county line while parked in a graveyard." I shake my head, "No Gator that would scare too many CW mobile county hunters." "Yes, you are probably right. By the way, did you go to the local radio club Christmas dinner?" "Sure did, I ate a fine shrimp salad." "Was it grilled or blackened shrimp?" "Neither, I mean it was a small salad." Gator goes back to the computer. I am laughing so hard I spill my latte. I compose myself and hand Gator a memory stick, "Please check out my ARRL ten meter contest."

Gator takes the memory stick and runs the program while sipping his latte, "You made 340 QSO's and got five new counties on ten meters. Wow a whopping two percent, just about the same as the interest paid on a CD." "Sad but true Gator, just out of curiosity how many contacts have a ten-ten number?" Gator goes back to the computer as I hear W0GXQ on the radio, I finish the contact with Jerry just as Gator turns around, There are 59 contacts with a ten-ten number. You did a little better at 17 percent, I wonder why there are not more ten-ten members in a ten meter contest?"

I sip my latte and lean back in my chair, "There is a farcical rule that prohibits the exchange of a ten-ten

number using a QSL card. Therefore there is no incentive for members to work a ten meter contest if the ten number is not part of the exchange.” Gator laughs, “How ironic, and the purpose of the organization is to promote activity on ten meters.” Look at the county hunters that would join, but we digress from county hunting.”

Gator is staring at the screen, “I notice you ran a 9A CW contest, which is a new one.” I finish off my latte, “Yes Gator, that is the Croatian contest and I only worked 20 stations.” “More CW practice I assume. By the way? what did you get for Christmas?”

Gators cell phone ding-a-lings, “Sorry Dude have to leave here and go there. Santa’s sleigh hit the top of the C distillation column and a steam valve started leaking.” He is gone like visibility in a white out. I think I hear him yell, “Livestock, usually, is a poor choice for a wedding gift.” It is still too cold for the kamikaze squirrels. There is one latte left; I pop it into the microwave for a jolt of heat. I hear the printer stop and I get the print out, it is a list of the activity on the county hunter’s CW call frequencies during December, I read: AF3X, AK8A, K0FG, K2HVN, K4ZCB, K7TM, K8ZZ, KB6UF, KC3X, KN4Y, KQ7X, KW1DX, N2JNE, N2OO, N4CD, N4JT, N7IV, N8II, N9JF, NM2L, NN9K, W0GXQ, W3DQT, W4SIG, W5QP, W7FEN, WA4PGM AND WB4KZW.

The first month of the New Year (can you believe 2015?) arrived with no planned State QSO parties: Don’t feel sad, there is the ARRL Straight Key Night (Really) with some day operating allowed. There is the CW North American QSO party (the exchange requires that you know who you are). If serial numbers on CW turn you on then participate in the LZ Open CW contest. Operating in the Run for the Bacon CW Contest you need a flying pig number, have Mike or Ken send you some Cannabis and join the fun. There is the Classic Exchange where two old Dudes send CW to each other (NOT!). A well attended event is the CQ WW CW 160-meter Contest, a good way to get new counties on the low band. There is also the ARRL VHF Contest and when 6-meters are open you can work grid squares on CW and sideband. I lean back in my chair, you know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks. Nap time.

Have a prosperous and work needed counties New Year.



MARAC Silent Keys

Callsign
KN4JR

Silent Key Date
December 9, 2014

History Happens

Gary, K4EXT

Recent picture submissions for the County Sign project came from Jerry, W0GXQ in North Dakota ... Kerry, W4SIG in Tennessee ... Charles, KV4DX in Kentucky ... and Jack, W0MAF in Illinois, Georgia, and Tennessee. Major congrats to Bob, N4CD for finishing up West Virginia with Ritchie County ... and to Lee, KC7QOP for finishing up Oregon with Jackson County!

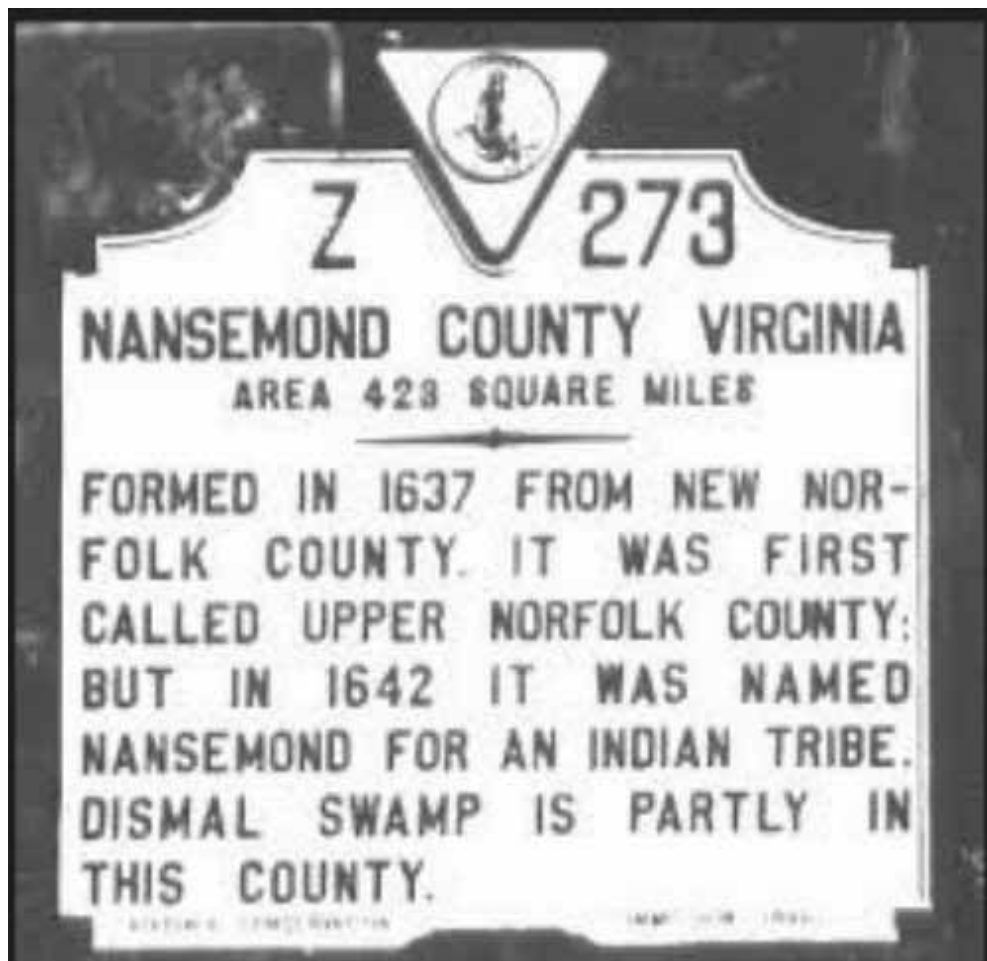
Many thanks to all! Please feel free to check out the current collection of pictures and information by visiting the CH History/Archive website at the following Internet address:

<http://www.CHarchive.com>

Have you worked Nansemond County, Virginia? Or have you worked the Independent City of Nansemond, Virginia? Maybe some of the old-time County Hunters have.

Nansemond was a county until 1972, then an independent city from 1972 to 1974, and then absorbed into the Independent city of Suffolk, Virginia.

Nansemond was named after the Nansemond tribe of Native Americans.



National

MARAC

47th Annual National Convention 2015 Registration
July 13th - 16th The Villages, Florida
(Deadline for Early Registration Prize drawing is May 1, 2015)

NAME: (First/Last) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

Email Address _____

Convention Registration Fee (Includes 1 badge and 1 prize ticket) \$ 45.00

Name on Badge _____ CALLSIGN _____ USACA# _____

Additional Name Badges (list below) = Total # _____ @\$5.00 each. = \$ _____

Name _____ CALLSIGN _____ USACA# _____ Additional Info. _____

Name _____ CALLSIGN _____ USACA# _____ Additional Info. _____

Name _____ CALLSIGN _____ USACA# _____ Additional Info. _____

ACTIVITIES

Monday July 13th - Check-in/Hospitality Room open

Tuesday July 14th - Dora Canal Tour - 9:00 AM

Wednesday July 15th - Photos - 2:00 PM

Thursday July 16th - Annual Meeting - 1300Z
Banquet - 5:00 PM

Banquet - The Royal Buffet

- Rolls and butter, coffee and iced tea
Classis Caesar Salad with croutons and shaved Parmesan cheese
Sautéed seasonal vegetables
Roasted new potatoes
Sautéed Salmon topped with a shrimp & citrus Dijon sauce
Sliced Tenderloin of beef with roasted shallots in a Merlot wine reduction
Chicken Piccata served in a lemon wine sauce
Vanilla ice cream

Number _____ @ \$45.00 = \$ _____

Additional Prize Tickets Prize (singles) _____ X \$ 1.00 = \$ _____

Prize (book/12 tickets) _____ X \$10.00 = \$ _____

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

Cash (book/12 tickets) _____ X \$10.00 = \$ _____

Dora Canal Tour _____ X \$45.00 = \$ _____

Photographs - all photographs will be emailed to each attendee.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED = \$ _____

Digital Happenings**DIGITAL HAPPENINGS #29****(December 2014)****By W0NAC ("Matt")**

As I am writing this article, there is only 1 day left of the old year. As the song by Tennessee Ernie Ford says, we are all "Another day older and deeper in debt !" I would say that digital guys and gals are "Another year older and deeply blessed!" As I have said before, operating digital is just one more way we have to enjoy this wonderfully diverse hobby of Ham Radio. If you like a technical challenge, digital operation is for you – not as a replacement for what you do now, but as an addition to the things you do for fun.

Digital county hunting made large strides forward in this last year. Many new people seem to be "jumping on the bandwagon" and actively pursuing the USA – Digital and 5 – Mode awards. I see the day rapidly approaching when MARAC will need some new digital awards to keep people challenged when they complete the existing awards. It was not that long ago that the 5 – Mode award was looked on as too hard to ever complete! Today, 11 people are over half way toward finishing with some over 60% done.

I would like to think that this series of Digital Happenings articles and my other efforts have been the cause of this growth in digital county hunting, but in my heart of hearts I know this is not the case. Digital county hunting is larger than any one individual and will grow or fail on its own merits. I consider myself to just be along for the ride on a movement that will hopefully outlast all of us!

Sharon and I hope that every one of you has a prosperous and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

November New Modes Test Results:

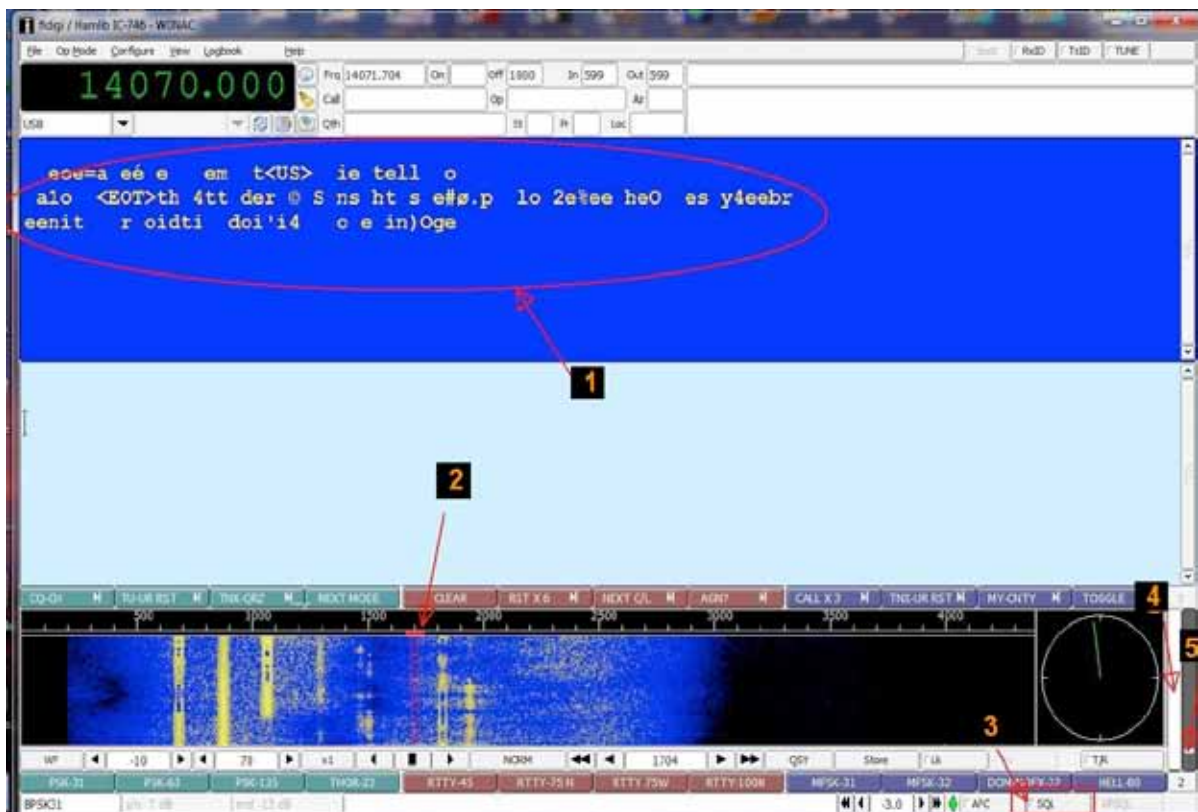
On November 28th and 29th Sharon and I made a mobile trip around southeast Colorado with the primary objective of testing some of the new modes/sub-modes supported by Fldigi. Our other goal was to just put out some digital counties for those who might need them. The table below summarizes our results:

NOVEMBER 2014 MODE TEST RESULTS			
#	Mode/Sub-Mode	Number Contacts	Comments
1	SSB	185	Non Digital Mode - Only Counts For 5 - Mode Award
2	PSK-63	48	Popular Current Mode - 3 dB Lower S/N Than PSK-31 - Slightly Slow
3	RTTY-45	4	Old Standby Mode - Good S/N - Slow
4	RTTY-75N	30	Lower S/N Than RTTY-45 - Reasonably Fast - Doesn't Handle Pile-Ups Very Well
5	MFSK-32	44	Popular Current Mode - 3 dB Lower S/N Than MFSK-16 - Slightly Slow - Critical Tuning
6	CONTESTIA-4/500	14	New Mode - Used By One Other Mobile. Needs More Testing
7	DOMINO-22	22	Popular Current Mode - Agreeably Fast
8	OLIVIA-4/500	4	New Mode - Similar to CONTESTIA-4/500 - Needs More Testing
9	4XPSK63R	4	New Mode - More Than 2X Faster Than PSK-63. Needs A Lot More Testing!
10	5XPSK63R	4	New Mode - Almost 3X Faster Than PSK-63. (May Be Too Fast. Needs A Lot More Testing!
11	THOR-22	60	Fairly Popular Current Mode - Slightly Slow
12	8PSK-125	8	New Mode - Has Long Preamble + Garbage. Is Not On Current Approved Modes List. Needs More Testing.
13	8PSK-250	2	New Mode - Has Long Preamble + Garbage. Is Not On Current Approved Modes List. Not Useable !
14	2XPSK125R	8	New Mode - Very Fast!. Needs A Lot More Testing!
15	4XPSK125R	6	New Mode - Almost 4X Faster Than PSK-63. Needs A Lot More Testing!
16	10XPSK63R	6	New Mode - More Than 5X Faster Than PSK-63! Probably Too Fast And Wide. Not Recommended.
	TOTAL ->	449	
			As of 12/31/2014

In summary, there are so many new modes supported by Fldigi that we only scratched the surface on this trip! Also, some of the modes/sub-modes supported by Fldigi cannot be legally used on HF frequencies per FCC Part 97 Rules. I am working on a new table of all currently available Modes/Sub-modes which summarizes their Baud Rate, WPM, Band Width, Legality (by band), etc., but this is still a work in progress. It should be finished by next month.

Fldigi Tips:

- 1) **Latest Version of Fldigi** - 3.22.04. You should update now.
- 2) **Mobiles Lock Tx Frequency** – To avoid “chasing” other fixed stations who are slightly higher or lower in frequency, mobiles should always lock their transmit frequency by clicking on the “Lk” button in the lower right portion of the screen. You will need to re-lock each time you change modes as all mode changes clear this button.
- 3) **Using Fldigi Squelch Control** - First, an illustration of where the squelch controls are located:



Squelch is toggled ON/OFF by clicking on the “SQL” button (#3 in picture). If squelch is on it will be indicated by a miniature light showing in the left end of the button. Note that the miniature light is yellow if squelch is ON, but the signal is weaker than the squelch trigger level. This light turns green when the signal exceeds the squelch trigger level. In the instance shown above, squelch is OFF (no light).

Squelch sensitivity is set by “grabbing” the small slider (#5 in picture) with your mouse and dragging it up or down the bar. With the slider all the way to the bottom, squelch is effectively turned OFF. Higher positions require stronger signals to “break” the squelch.

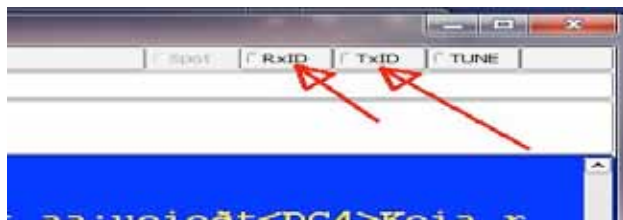
Signal level is indicated with a green bar (#4 in picture). In the instance shown, signal level is very weak with the bar just barely showing. Fldigi is not tuned to any signal (#2 in picture), so all that is really showing is just noise and since squelch is OFF, just “gibberish” is being decoded in the Receive Window (#1 in picture).

The usual purpose of a radio squelch control is to silence the audio when only background noise is present. In Fldigi, squelch is used to prevent the decoding of noise as “gibberish” in the Receive Window. This is usually a fairly simple adjustment, but when trying to decode weak digital signals it can get a little “tricky”. The squelch adjustment usually turns out to be a compromise between too high (no “gibberish”) which only decodes stronger signals, and too low (lots of “gibberish”) in order to decode weak signals. In fact, for digital mobiles running counties, it may be advisable to just turn the squelch OFF and put up with the “garbage” decoding so that you can pull the weak signals out that you might miss otherwise.

The picture below illustrates the case where you have squelch turned ON and a signal is overriding the squelch trigger level set:



- 4) **Use of TxID and RxID** - AI (N1API) suggests that some people may still be inadvertently leaving their TxID turned on when working digital mobiles. I have also observed this during our Christmas trip to NM. 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. For county hunters 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 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. Also, for casual (non-county hunter) CQ calls, you may wish to have TxID and RxID both on. This can help anyone wishing to answer your CQ to determine your exact mode and frequency.

Digital Operations – As more digital mobiles become active, we are experiencing the usual “growing pains” that occur with any new operation. There will always be the need to increase efficiency and get higher QSO rates. Also, when 2 or more digital mobiles are out running counties on the same day (which is a great situation!), there will inevitably be conflicts. If all of us approach solving these problems with good will and respect for others, I’m sure that equitable solutions will be found and implemented. Please don’t forget – we are doing this for fun (aren’t we?). Don’t get too serious.

Here is a list of some possible solutions proposed by Dennis (N6PDB), Al (N1API), and others. Anyone should feel free to “chime in” and share your thoughts on these plus suggest other ideas of your own.

1) To Increase QSO rate/Efficiency

- a) Use shorter macros and CW abbreviations. Specific macro file suggestions are welcome. I will act as a clearing house and publish them here. I will start with the “W0NAC-Test-Macro.mdf” file that Sharon and I use when mobile. You can download a Zipped version of the file here: <https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/26171574/Fldigi-Macros/W0NAC-Test-Macro.zip> Just UnZip the file and place it in your “C:\Users\\fldigi.files\macros” folder to check it out with Fldigi. Please send your macro files to me as Zipped files attached to an email to w0nac@comcast.net.
- b) Turn TxID OFF (covered in detail earlier).
- c) Use higher power (CAUTION: avoid overloading final amplifiers and distorted signals).
- d) Construct macros with provision for mode start delays. For example, N1API suggests the following mobile reply macro when responding to a fixed station call: “N1API 599 599 N1API”.
- e) Use some of the faster new modes. For example, N4JT has been using PSK-125 lately. Unfortunately, like all things in life, there is a tradeoff to be made. In this case, every time you double the speed of a mode, you lose 3 dB in weak signal capability. Simply stated, PSK-125 is 6 dB worse than PSK-31 when comparing weak signal decoding ability. If propagation is good and all signals are strong, this is a “no brainer” decision, but if propagation is poor you could miss making a number of potential contacts by using the faster sub-modes.

2) To Manage Multiple Mobiles

- a) Locate better frequencies (14.063?, 14.064?, 14.065?) that each mobile can use as personal frequency (informally coordinated).
- b) Have a volunteer Net Control (fixed station) manage the order of mobile runs and “move” digital mobiles to an alternate frequency if someone is ahead of them on the list and they can’t wait.

3) Methods for Handling “Pile-ups” and multiple “Me First” People.

- a) Stations who know their signal will be weak wait till the end of the run to call after the strong stations have “had their go”. This will help avoid unnecessary QRM at the beginning of the mobile’s run. Besides, weaker stations won’t be heard early on anyway!
- a) Take a list at the beginning of each run, and then reply to each on the list in turn. Repeat as needed.
- b) Take contacts by call district, i.e. 1’s, 2’s, etc.
- c) Use split operation (like rare DX stations use). Fldigi supports split operation very easily, but tuning may not be fast enough to support a high QSO rate. Also, once people determine the frequency that the mobile is listening to, the pile-up may simply move to the new frequency. It would also add more complexity to the mobile’s operations that are already pretty challenging.

Split operation, in my mind, requires a lot more thought and testing before it is seriously considered.

December Digital County Hunter Activity:

The “digital highways” were extremely busy this month! Counting just the spots posted on W6RK, there were over 276 runs on various digital modes. I haven’t counted the number of counties, but there were many! Please keep in mind that the 276+ runs are only those spotted. Many times a mobile will be posted for the first mode ran, but will run 2-4 additional modes without being spotted!

There are now at least 6 mobile teams active in digital operations. These are: Mary & Neal (AB7NK/K9SEN), Bob & Ann (KA9JAC/KB9YVT), Mike & Cheryl (KG5UZ/KJ5PQ), Dennis & Susan (N6PDB/WA6OCV), Matt & Sharon (W0NAC/N0LXJ), and Darl & Tim (NA8W/N8EWQ). Others who “put out” their home county (fixed operation) were: Leslie (WA4EEZ), Doug (WA4UNS), and Walt (W1ATV). Single mobiles operating digital in December include Jim (N4JT), Rick (W5QP), and Dave (KW1DX). If I missed anyone here, I apologize.

Also, early December caught the end of Dennis and Susan’s (N6PDB/WA6OCV) monumental trip which spanned the USA twice! Dennis reports that on this trip they “put out” 233 counties, made 4127 digital contacts, 1941 SSB contacts, and 2 CW contacts. In total they covered 6943 miles in their RV and survived lots of snow and ice! Many thanks to both of you for your service to MARAC and special kudos from the growing crowd of digital county hunters for all the USA – Digital and 5 – Mode award counties that you made available.

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”. 14 digital county hunters have logged over 1000 counties toward completing the “USA – Digital Award”. Two more are “knocking on the door” with ~900 or more digital counties. As of 12/04/2014 a total of 7 people have applied for and received the first level of this award as shown below:

USA - DIGITAL AWARD RECIPIENTS (Level 1)							
#	Call Sign	Name	Certificate Number	Plaque?	Award Level	Counties	Level Date
1	KD7KST	Bill	1	No	1	1712	?
2	NX4W	Lloyd	2	No	1	1000	03/11/2008
3	W0NAC	Matt	2	No	1	1000	03/28/2008
4	AA8R	Randy	3	No	1	1002	02/03/2010
5	N0LXJ	Sharon	5	No	1	1013	03/02/2011
6	N1API	Al	6	No	1	1006	11/16/2014
7	N8CIJ	Dick	7	No	1	1027	11/26/2014
8							
9							
10							

That leaves 7 (soon to be 9) people who are eligible at Level 1, but have not yet applied.

12 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. The new leader for this award is

Dennis (N6PDB) who has worked 9967 (64.8%) of the 15,385 Counties/Modes needed to complete this award.

There is also a little known award under the 5 – Mode award for working all counties in a state using 5 modes. As far as I know, I am the only one so far to receive one of these WAS awards (for CO). Check your records – you may be eligible for one or more of these 5 – Mode WAS awards. Please read the MARAC rules for the 5 – Mode award for more details.

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	AB7NK	Marv	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
3	AC0B	Cliff	F	205	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	12/10/2012
4	AD1C	Jim	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
5	KODEQ	Bill	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
6	K0FG	Fred	F	188	3077	3013	187	20	6	6303	41.0%	4/14/2014
7	KOPVW	Rob	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
8	KOWJ	Lou	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
9	K4PBX	Jim	F	401	3018	385	127	81	38	3649	23.7%	11/23/2014
10	K5GE	Gene	F	26	1893	575	8	0	0	2476	16.1%	5/26/2013
11	K5SF	Dick	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
12	K5WAF	Bill	F	599	3044	?	?	?	?	3044	19.8%	5/2/2013
13	K7REL	Tom	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
14	K8QWY	Ed	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
15	K8ZZ	Ed	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
16	KA4RRU	Mike	M/F	1026	3077	2989	1009	130	68	7273	47.3%	7/23/2014
17	KA8IQP	Pamela	M/F	22	202	64	53	28	4	351	2.3%	9/12/2013
18	KC3X	Hollis	F	537	3077	3077	545	491	446	7636	49.6%	10/15/2014
19	KC6AWX	Bob	F	450	3077	1592	264	59	14	5006	32.5%	5/7/2013
20	KC7YE	Jack	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
21	KD5YUK	Billv	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
22	KD7KST	Bill	M/F	1792	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	9/30/2012
23	KF7PKL	Davis	F	379	879	211	48	15	1	1154	7.5%	10/9/2013
24	KG5RJ	Greg	F	782	3050	2163	720	319	134	6386	41.5%	11/28/2014
25	KM1C	Bill	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
26	KU4YM	Dave	F	133	2862	130	66	19	8	3085	20.1%	10/16/2014
27	KM6HB	Mark	F	714	3077	2936	694	87	1	6795	44.2%	2/3/2013
28	KW1DX	Dave	M/F	68	3077	991	65	50	24	4207	27.3%	4/26/2014
29	NOKV	Barry	M/F	529	3077	3034	2361	389	99	8960	58.2%	7/20/2014
30	NOLXJ	Sharon	M/F	1438	3077	2318	1306	613	348	7662	49.8%	12/31/2014
31	N1API	Al	F	1138	3077	2813	1113	857	745	8605	55.9%	12/24/2014
32	N4JT	Jim	M/F	1130	3077	3077	1188	734	613	8689	56.5%	11/25/2014
33	N5MLP	Ron	M/F	391	3077	409	54	37	9	3586	23.3%	5/19/2013
34	N6PDB	Dennis	M/F	1226	3077	3038	1525	1246	1081	9967	64.8%	12/22/2014
35	N7JPF	Paul	F	164	3077	1770	144	75	36	5102	33.2%	12/23/2014
36	N8CIJ	Dick	F	1071	3077	3059	1068	687	546	8437	54.8%	12/26/2014
37	N8HAM	Jim	F	0	3077	0	0	0	0	3077	20.0%	4/2/2013
38	N9WNN	Steve	F	0	2180	0	0	0	0	2180	14.2%	2/24/2013
39	NA8W	Darl	F/M	579	3077	1150	575	318	177	5297	34.4%	10/13/2014
40	NF0N	Mike	F	1044	3077	3077	1230	434	238	8056	52.4%	12/27/2014
41	NN9K	Pete	F	816	3077	859	78	1	0	4015	26.1%	3/23/2012
42	NT2A	Gene	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
43	NU4C	Paul	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
44	NW6S	Jim	F	927	3077	3077	948	271	200	7573	49.2%	12/16/2014
45	NX4W	Lloyd	M/F	1358	3077	1489	743	595	310	6214	40.4%	12/28/2014
46	W0NAC	Matt	M/F	1916	3077	2882	2088	1258	637	9942	64.6%	12/31/2014
47	W3DLM	Don	F	474	3077	2711	437	170	110	6505	42.3%	10/8/2014
48	W3ZUH	Dick	F	5	3077	2048	11	2	0	5138	33.4%	12/4/2013
49	W4SIG	Kerry	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
50	W4YDY	Dave	F	1243	3077	3077	1365	770	553	8842	57.5%	12/23/2014
51	W5QP	Rick	M/F	898	3077	2972	1059	714	626	8448	54.9%	12/22/2014
52	W7FEN	Larry	F	25	3077	2975	32	1	0	6085	39.6%	10/3/2013
53	W7IN	Larry	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
54	W7QQ	Bill	M/F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
55	W8RCW	Rich	M/F	388	2422	565	131	55	34	3207	20.8%	8/14/2024
56	W9JR	Rich	F	90	3077	1674	44	0	0	4795	31.2%	10/31/2012
57	W9SUQ	Larry	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
58	WA4EEZ	Leslie	F	1137	3077	2055	814	299	55	6300	40.9%	6/2/2014
59	WA4UNS	Doug	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
60	WA6QCV	Susan	M/F	328	3077	406	359	326	107	4275	27.8%	12/22/2014
61	WA7ETH	Ed	F	228	1932	428	39	3	0	2402	15.6%	10/26/2014
62	WA7JHQ	Sterling	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
63	WB0M	Jeff	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
64	WB2ABD	Paul	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
65	WD4QIN	Jack	F	1258	3077	3071	1266	718	432	8564	55.7%	11/18/2014
66	WO7A	Terry	F	819	3077	3075	823	727	642	8344	54.2%	12/1/2014
67	WY4D	Ben	F	326	3077	347	41	15	9	3489	22.7%	6/10/2014

How To Get Your 5 – Mode Statistics Updated:

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 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>

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 w0nac@comcast.net and don't forget to send your updated digital status reports in by the 23rd 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



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.

Awards

Awards Issued For December			
Call	Date	Award	Number
KA4RRU	12/26/2014	BINGO	# 362
K5GE	12/1/2014	USA-PA "W" Prefix	# 13
N9STL	12/12/2014	Bingo 5	# 6
WA2NEW	12/25/2014	USA-CA WAC 1 st Time	#1247
NX4W	11/30/2014	Worked all Counties - 3rd Time	# 245
N8CIJ	12/8/2014	Worked all Counties - 7th Time	# 23
N9STL	12/11/2014	Worked all Counties - 8th Time	# 16

Roadrunner Issued Per Month				
Call	Date	Count	Award	Number
AB7NK	12/28/2014	Last County Count 225	Last County Count 225	# 96
KW1DX	12/28/2014	Last County Count 300	Last County Count 300	# 69
WB4KZW	12/16/2014	Last County Count 50	Last County Count 50	# 351
N4CD	12/16/2014	Last County Count 2475	Last County Count 2475	# 1
W0GXQ	12/16/2014	Last County Count 850	Last County Count 850	# 11
W4SIG	12/16/2014	Last County Count 300	Last County Count 300	# 68



Birthdays

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
K1DFO	Dec - 01
KD2Q	Dec - 01
N8ZW	Dec - 01
KJ0H	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
KOPY	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

Roadrunner - 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
W50XK	Dec - 08
KE5KC	Dec - 08
K4ZT	Dec - 08
N1WA	Dec - 08
AB0EE	Dec - 08
K9BX	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
W8JJ	Dec - 11
W9HA	Dec - 11
NM5Z	Dec - 12
KT7W	Dec - 12
K6XT	Dec - 12
WB8JZN	Dec - 13
K4YY	Dec - 13
KI0JO	Dec - 13

Roadrunner - 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
W0XT	Dec - 14
N4RXF	Dec - 14
KJ6NR	Dec - 15
KX4WB	Dec - 15
N2XTU	Dec - 15
K9PO	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
KB9CC	Dec - 19
AD1C	Dec - 19
KC0QA	Dec - 20
KC1WE	Dec - 20
WA6KHK	Dec - 20
K1MLP	Dec - 20

Roadrunner - 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
W0FF	Dec - 23
N0TKX	Dec - 23
WB5TWK	Dec - 23
NM5SR	Dec - 23
W3ZR	Dec - 23
N4FSZ	Dec - 23
AB0C	Dec - 24
KC4SF	Dec - 24
K1RY	Dec - 25
K9PI	Dec - 25
K3IMC	Dec - 25
N8WH	Dec - 25
WA3PAK	Dec - 25
W6OF	Dec - 25
AG4DX	Dec - 25
WY7ML	Dec - 26
KH6G	Dec - 26
KG0BB	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



MARAC 2015 ELECTIONS
ANNOUNCEMENT

Nominations are currently open for the following Directorships:

- Great Lakes Director – 3 year term expiring 2018
- Southeast Director – 3 year term expiring 2018
- North Central Director – 2 year term expiring 2017
- South Central Director – 2 year term expiring 2017
- Northeast Director – 1 year term expiring 2016

Nominations will be open for 60 days - from January 5th through March 10th. Nominations must be received and affirmed by the nominee by no later than March 10, 2015. Any current member of MARAC is eligible to run for office. For the District Director position you must live within the District which is listed on the MARAC website.

If you are willing to serve MARAC in an elected position, please send your nomination to KR@GCL.NET or via regular mail, which I must receive by March 10th.

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 initial payment of dues and valid membership application to the Secretary of MARAC.

Those individuals maintaining uninterrupted membership status are not restricted from nominating or voting in the current month.

If you are unsure of your membership status, please go to the MARAC County Hunters Database web site <http://marac.org/database> and enter your call in **Call Lookup** to determine your MARAC Expiration Date.

MARAC 2nd QUARTER AWARD VOTING
October – December

Voting will be open from January 1st through January 31st for the best net control, mobile and team awards. The easiest way to place your vote is at the MARAC On-Line Ballot site <http://marac.org/elections/>. All you will need to enter on the sign in page is your callsign and your MARAC key. If you have lost or do not know your key then enter your callsign and click on the button below to request your key. The key will be immediately emailed to your email address of record. You may also submit your vote via regular mail. I must receive the ballot by the closing date of voting. Please include your callsign, MARAC membership and key number along with your choice(s) for each class.

A vote for 1st choice is awarded 2 points and 2nd choice is awarded 1 point. **Please do not vote for the same call for both choices.** Of course any choices can be left blank.

Best Net Control SSB: 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

Best Net Control CW: 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

Best Mobile SSB: 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

Best Mobile CW: 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

Best Mobile Team: 1st Choice _____ / _____
2nd Choice _____ / _____

Your call sign _____ MARAC # or Election Key _____

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



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

Beginning Account Balances November 10, 2014		\$41,830.53
November Income:		
Money Market Interest	\$2.60	
Awards Manager Income	\$496.00	
Membership Income	\$377.44	
Logger distribution	\$20.00	
Total Income:	<u>\$896.04</u>	
November New Spotting Site/Logger II Expenses:		
Spotting Site Fixed Expenses	\$0.00	
Spotting Site Recurring Expenses (New Web Site)	\$0.00	
Logger II Fixed Expenses	\$0.00	
Logger II Recurring Expenses	\$0.00	
November Other Expenses:		
2015 Michigan Mini (K8ZZ)	\$500.00	
Awards Manager Expenses	\$1,811.27	
Office Expenses (Postage, Etc.)	\$0.00	
Total Expenses:	<u>\$2,311.27</u>	
November Net Income Less Expenses		(\$1,415.23)
New Total Balance ALL Accounts:		\$40,415.30 #
Checking Account Balance	<u>\$4,348.97</u>	
Money Market Account Balance	<u>\$36,066.33</u>	
Total All Accounts:		\$40,415.30 #

Note:

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

Awards Manager's Funds	\$1,500.00
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* Includes November Transactions through 12/02/2014

From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC Total Funds at the end of November should be discounted by \$7,612.00 This amount is a Deferred Liability of award fees pre-paid by members.



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

Funds Balance November 30, 2014		\$1,500.00
Income	\$ 344.00	
		<u>\$ 344.00</u>
Expenses:		
Office supplies	\$ 0.00	
Plaque Suppliers	\$ 183.00	
Postage	\$ 72.48	
		<u>\$ 255.48</u>
Sent to Treasurer		\$ 344.00
Reimbursement received from Treasurer		\$ 255.48
Funds Balance December 31, 2014		\$1500.00
Members Funds on Hand November 30, 2014		\$ 7612.00
Income – Funds deposited or Used		+ <u>42.00</u>
Total Funds on Hand for Members		\$ 7654.00



Calendar

Sorry folks. WinCalendar did something that makes it impossible for me to put a calendar in a “portait” view.

I’ve spent a lot of time including looking for an alternate to no avail.

I’ll try to have it solved by next month. 73 Dave KU4YM



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: 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.