Riding the County Lion
Dave – KE3VV

The County Lion is not a particularly happy camper these days. After a week at the Florida house in mid-January, we came back north with the Big Green Dragon on the AutoTrain to cold temperatures, gusting winds, and SNOW!! Those of you who joke about lawyers and shoveling know that even in jest, this does not include shoveling snow. My favorite attire is shorts and T-shirts, not wool watch caps, heavy gloves, and down jackets. One of the main reasons that most golf balls are white is to make sure that not even the most ignorant among us do not attempt to play golf in the snow. Even a good rant about the foul weather here in the Northeast cannot make me warm… so on to other things.

Now that I am back in DC, I have been able to gather a quorum from the depleted ranks of the MARAC Board of Directors, so we will have a special meeting this week to fill a couple vacancies on the Board – two vacant District Director positions. For the South Central Director position, the two candidates for appointment are Dick Brocaw (K5VYT) and Jerry Chouinard (K5YAA). For the Northeast District Director position, the two candidates for appointment are Al Keiser (N1API) and Charlie Steele (N2JNE). It takes five votes in favor of a candidate to make the interim appointment, so unless the Board can pretty much agree, we will have to let the membership decide in the upcoming election. Even the appointees will have to stand for election to fill the remainder of the unexpired term, so watch the ballot box and be sure to cast your votes.

Contents

With the very recent resignation of Dave (KW1DX) as Vice President, there is no time to seek volunteers to fill that vacancy, so the position of Veep will also be on the ballot this Spring. Choose carefully, folks, because that is the person who will lead MARAC when I decide that road trips are a better alternative to volunteerism. Speaking of volunteers, the possibility that the MARAC awards program would be shut down (at least temporarily) has been averted. Bob (KC6AWX) has agreed to continue in that key role with some help from Jim (KZ2P) and me to reduce the workload. We are very lucky to have Bob and Jim to keep things moving. Jim already has a significant workload as Secretary managing the memberships (new and renewals). Oh… did I mention the number of MARAC members who stepped up to take on the work of Awards Manager? Zero. I sure am glad that MARAC doesn't try to run organized nets like 3905 CC or 10-10. The silence when the call would go out for volunteer NCS would be deafening. Kind of like the silence on county hunter frequencies on most days.

This July may also see the last national convention of MARAC. To date, no one (or no group) has stepped forward to volunteer (there's that ugly word again) to organize and host the 2016 convention. So after this year's gathering in The Villages in Florida, there is nothing set for next year… the future site and sponsorship of annual conventions and meetings remains unknown. It really is a lot of fun to do, and it also means that you don't have to travel far to reach the convention site. Anyone who is interested in learning more about hosting the national should let me know and I will put you in touch with folks who can make it a rather painless experience.

Until next month (when I hope the news is better and I am back in Sunny Florida), the County Lion and the Big Green Dragon wish you well – even though the County Lion went outside earlier today and swore he saw his shadow – and good weather for road trips and county hunting.

Dateline CW
Ed, KN4Y

If CW county hunting is the best of possible worlds, what then are the others?

It is February, enough cold weather already, it is time for the hot weather, a major reason I moved to Florida. Cold weather (defined as any temperature below 70 F) should not be allowed past the Mason-Dixie line. I turn on the radio and I hear Jim running CW on the 20-meter band. I do not need the county but I can use the Stars. The rhythmical sound of Jim's CW is drowned out by the roar of Gator's 4X4 coming down the driveway, he slides to a stop at the recycled railroad tie. He gets out of the truck and makes a stop at the mail box. I open the radio shack door, "Good day, let me help you with the lattes." "A good day to you Dude, I have your mail." I look out the window and see one successful kamikaze squirrel.

I remove a latte from the container and take a gulp of the hot nectar of the Gods as I sort through my mail. I remove several large envelopes and hand them to Gator, "I think these are probably QSO party certificates. How about checking them out while I insert two raisin cinnamon bagels into the toaster." Gator takes the envelopes and opens them while I get some cream cheese from the refrigerator; a bagel should not be eaten naked.

Gator holds up a certificate, "This is a certificate for first place Florida in the 2014 Tennessee QSO party. There is also a nice write-up enclosed and you are really in fifth place overall based on your score." Gator opens the other envelope and extracts the contents, "This certificate is a colorful notice of your third place finish in the USA for operating in the 2014 Kansas QSO party using low power. This certificate has embedded a 1965 International Telecommunications Union stamp worth eleven cents and a five cent Voice of America stamp. Dude was it possible to mail a letter with a stamp that cost five cents?" I sip my latte, "Yes Gator I have some one cent postcards in that Cohiba Robustos Cigar box in the cabinet." Gator is not paying attention as he picks up the certificate that fell onto the floor.

Gator looks at the certificate, "You got this certificate for working the Pennsylvania QSO party." Gator checks the Nittany Amateur Radio Club web site, "Boy their QSO party summary is confusing, best I can determine you are in ninth place." I give Gator a thumb up, "I remember now, they have a rule 5 that reads: sideband operation on the hour, CW on the half hour. The QSO party sponsor's evidently do not know there are participants that operate only CW or only sideband." Gator gives me a quizzing look, "What has that to do with your score?" "Mobile operators like Jerry can go through one or more counties in the sideband half hour and I could miss some multipliers." Gator is not paying attention.

I take a bite from my creamed bagel as Gator snaps his finger to get my attention, "I see you worked the Canada contest. Good job Dude, you worked 80 Canadian stations on CW in the Canada Winter contest using low power." "Yes, I worked only Canadian stations since it was a RAC contest." "Do you suppose the cold weather will now be kept in Canada?" "No." "Darn." Gator suddenly turns around, "Dude I did not know you operated in the Stew Perry Long Distance Challenge on 160-meters." "Sure did and I had a run going until a higher power intervened so I scanned the band and the signals were down and the noise level had increased so I quit early and downed an Ensure with some cookies. How did I do?" Gator runs the program; he holds up nine fingers, "When you verify their location you will have nine new counties on 160-meters." I give Gator the high sign as I rinse down the bagel with my latte.

Gator is reading the MARAC web site, "Dude did you know this year's MARAC convention is at the Florida old farts habitat." "Gator, be nice, it is a senior community called The Villages located South of Ocala Florida in Sumter County. It is located as Lady Lake on older GPS. What is the date?" Gator looks at the computer, "It is in July are you going? Can I go with you?" "I will have to check with Mark." "That pink hated Dude, he likes me." I hand Gator a bagel. We sit down and enjoy the ecstasy of a bagel covered with lots of cream cheese.

Gator snaps his finger, "I almost forgot Dude, and how was your trip to run some Alabama counties for Wayne, WE7G?" I swallow the last bite of my bagel, "Worked out great Gator. The temperature was 26 degrees Fahrenheit when I started. The antenna froze up and I had to wait until the sun came up to transmit. I gave out three last counties, got lost a couple times." Gator laughs, "I told you to wait until I could drive you. How many counties did you run?" "I ran 13 counties, 9 in Alabama and made contacts on 15, 17, and 20-meters with good signals. I averaged 1.5 miles per QSO." "What does that mean?" "Nothing, it is just a statistic." I hand Gator a memory stick.

"Check how I did in the North American CW QSO party," I am thinking about getting another bagel when I notice my large belly in the mirror. Gator laughs, "You made 250 QSO's on five bands and you got one new county on 10 and 80-meters." I shake my head, "Yes, I tend to work the same stations every year." Gator snaps his fingers, "Dude, I did not know you worked the Hungarian DX contest" "Yes, I worked the contest in memory of my Grandmother who over 100 years ago left Hungary and came to America with my mother in her womb." Gator is not interested and asks, "Have you thanked K7TM, KM6HP, N4CD, W0GXQ, and WE7G for the last counties award?" "Not yet."

Gator has switched gears and is focused on the computer screen, "Wow! I read where a county hunter just got tenth time around and that means working 30,770 counties. I wonder how many years are required for the task. Now that is radio butt dedication." I take a bite from the bagel, "That is awesome, who is the county hunter?"

Gator's cell phone ding-a-lings, "Sorry Dude, have to go from here to there fast like a midget go-go dancer. There is a problem with the new azeotropic distillation unit. He is gone like extinguishers at a fire sale, I think I heard him yell. It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open. The printer starts and stops. I get the printout and it is the list of mobiles heard during January on the CW county hunters call frequencies, I read: AE3Z, AF3X, AF5CC, K0FG, K2HVN, K4YT, K7TM, K8ZZ, K9JWV, KA4RRU, KC7YE, KN4Y, KO7X, KW1DX, N0KV, N2JNE, N4AAT, N4CD, N4JT, N9JF, NF0N, NM2L, NT2A, W0GXQ, W3DYA, WA3QNT, and WA4PGM,

Before I take my well deserved stint in my Norm inspired recliner of refreshing relaxation I check the contest activities scheduled for the month of February. Glory be and hot Watts, the State QSO parties are returning with 111 counties up for grabs. There is the Vermont QSO party with 14 counties, the Minnesota party with 87 counties and the New Hampshire party with10 counties. The Northeast is partying again. Want some CW DX activity plan to participate in the ARRL CW DX contest and maybe some of the other worldwide contests. Kids are the future of amateur radio. Participate in the School Club Roundup and your legacy will live on. We started deer hunting when seven years old. Yeah, we saw Bambi, We got over it. Nap time.

Support Groundhog Day, dig a burrow.

Nominations for CW and SSB
County Hunter of the Year

Nominations are now in order for the 2015 CW and SSB County Hunter of the Year Awards. Nominations must be received by your District Director not later than March 31ST and should contain a brief list of reasons for the nomination. Your District Director will select one nominee (one for CW and one for SSB) from those received and forward that selection, with the reasons for the selection, to the Election Coordinator by no later than April 15th. Prior winners (per mode) are not eligible to receive this award a second time. Please read the requirements for County Hunter of the Year and support those members who work to make MARAC the vibrant organization that it is.

MARAC 2015 ELECTIONS ANNOUNCEMENT
Second Request

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

Also nominations are being accepted for the position of Vice President for a 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@GCI.NET or via regular mail, which must be received on my end 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 web site at http://marac.org click on Member Database and enter your call in Call Lookup to determine your MARAC Expiration Date.

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

History Happens
Gary, K4EXT

Recent picture submissions for the County Sign project came from Jim, N4JT in North Carolina and Virginia ... Scottie, N4AAT in South Carolina ... Lowell, KB0BA and Sandra, N0XYL in Illinois ... and Kent, KL1V (KV7N) in Montana.

Pictures of County Hunters were also received for Billy, KD5YUK, Aubrey, W7OLY, and Shel, N0DRX.

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

Ector County, TX was one of the last three counties needed in the state of Texas for the County Sign Picture Project. Thankfully, Mary, AB7NK and Neil, K7SEN wandered through Ector County recently and snapped a picture of the ever-elusive county sign.

Various sources on the Internet refer to Ector County as flat, barren, and stark. Mesquite trees can be found scattered throughout Ector County, but apparently they resemble bushes more than trees. One town in West Central Ector County is actually named Notrees! A lot of ghost towns can also be found ... a result of failed economic activity.

Ector County was founded in 1893 and named after Legislator, Jurist, and Confederate General Matthew Ector.

Digital Happenings

DIGITAL HAPPENINGS #30
(January 2015)
By W0NAC ("Matt")

I am excited this month to announce a great trip to Hawaii being planned by Jim (N4JT), Mike (KG5UZ), and Cheryl (KJ5PQ). They will be running all 5 counties in Hawaii on multiple digital modes from mid-February until late March 2015. They plan on spending at least 2 days in each county operating on at least 3 bands. Detailed operating schedule/times have not yet been determined, but I am sure they will be published shortly. Their flight out is on Feb 18th and their flight back is on March 30th.

Their trip will be giving some of us a "once in a lifetime" opportunity to finish both the **USA – Digital** and **5 – Mode** awards for Hawaii and I expect their operations will be extremely popular! However, their popularity could also be a big problem unless stateside county hunters exercise discipline and self-control. Some detailed suggestions will be given later in this article for orderly operating techniques.

Fldigi Tips:

1) **Latest Version of Fldigi** - 3.22.05. You should update now.

2) **How to Tune Difficult Modes** – Dave (W4YDY) has recently asked the following question: *"I'm having trouble decoding a couple of modes. I saw a call sign 1 time on Contestia 4/500 and on Domino22, I only copy less than 20%. Very hard to set the indicator on the right place on the waterfall. PSK, MFSK and RTTY are easy."*

Sensing that other digital county hunters may have the same problem tuning some modes, I decided to answer Dave's question here for everyone's benefit.

All of the various digital modes used by county hunters vary in the tuning accuracy needed to get reliable decoding. As Dave points out, PSK and RTTY are relatively easy to tune. However, I must disagree with his example of MFSK as an easy to tune mode. In my experience, MFSK-32 is very demanding when it comes to tuning accuracy. There are no published properties for all the digital modes that rate their required tuning accuracy. Until detailed studies are done, we will just have to use techniques that help us accurately tune "cranky" modes like Contestia 4/500, Domino-22, MFSK-32, and others.

For some of you old-timers the following discussion may be covering familiar ground. If so, just skip over the boring stuff.

There are basically 3 ways to tune a digital signal. These are clicking on the waterfall, using the fine tuning arrows, and using Automatic Frequency Control (AFC). I will discuss each of these techniques in turn using the following Fldigi screen shot for illustration:
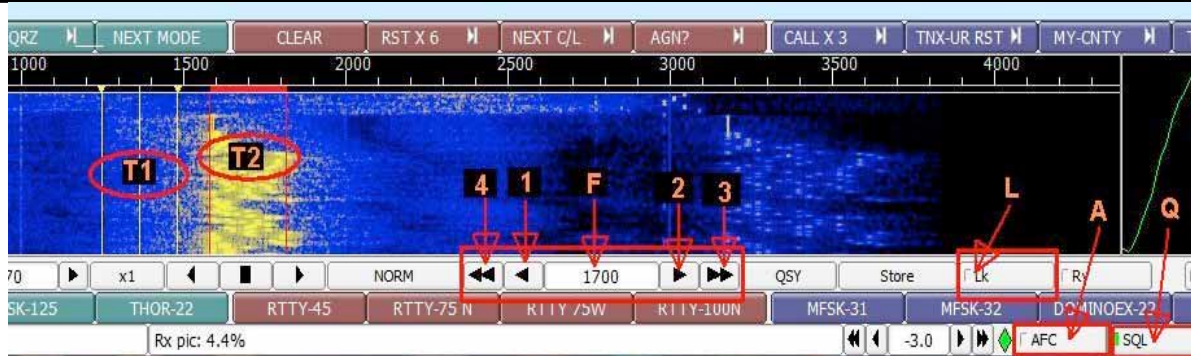
Clicking on the waterfall – For most of us, this is the most familiar tuning method. You

move your mouse pointer into either the Offset scale or waterfall itself to pop up the yellow tuning bracket (T1 on the screen shot). You then center the yellow tuning bracket over the signal as accurately as you can by sliding the mouse left and right. When you get the tuning bracket centered over the desired signal, you then left click the mouse. This will force the red offset tuning indicator (shown as T2 in the screen shot) to match the last position of the yellow tuning bracket. Assuming that you have AFC turned OFF, the red offset tuning indicator will then stay in the exact spot it was when you clicked your mouse. If you do all this with enough precision, the signal will begin decoding correctly.

However, this tuning method has some problems. It requires that you make very small (and accurate) cursor movements with your mouse. Modern mice have a very high resolution which makes them very "touchy". Even though your mouse has control settings which can help decrease sensitivity, most people just accept the default mouse settings and aren't even aware that they can be changed. In addition, our manual dexterity tends to degrade as we get older. All of these factors add up to making this tuning method almost impossible to use (by itself) for those modes that require extremely accurate tuning to decode properly. For example, I have seen weak MFSK-32 signals that need to be tuned within plus or minus 2 Hz before they would decode! Tuning with just the mouse needs help when trying to tune these "touchy" signals. The following two tuning methods supplement tuning with the mouse and DO NOT replace it.

Using The Fine Tuning Arrows – Fldigi provides 4 controls and one small display to

aid in fine tuning. These are labeled F,1, 2,3, and 4 on the screen shot above. The middle button (F) displays your offset (in digits) to within 1 Hz and can be read with more precision than trying to read offset directly from the offset scale. The left arrow (1) lowers the offset by 1 Hz each time it is clicked on. The right single arrow (2) acts identically to the left single arrow except that it increases the offset by 1 Hz each time it is clicked on. The two double left and double right arrows lower or increase the offset by 10 Hz each time they are clicked on. The way to use these controls is to first center the yellow tuning bracket (T1) over the desired signal and left click the mouse to roughly center the red tuning indicator over the signal. Then, while watching the digital offset indicator (F), click on the appropriate single arrow (1 or 2) to fine tune until the signal starts de-coding correctly. Personally, I find little use for the double arrow controls (3 or 4) as I can make an offset change of 10 Hz (or more) quicker using the yellow tuning bracket, but you may find them to be useful.

Again, all of the above assumes that the AFC is turned OFF. If AFC is on, it can over-ride any manual changes you might make.

Using Automatic Frequency Control (AFC) – This control is indicated by A on

the screen shot above. Clicking anywhere on the button will toggle AFC ON or OFF. The tiny square at the left end of the button is the ON/OFF indicator which lights up when AFC is ON.

Also, you need to know that AFC is not available for all modes. Of those modes commonly used by county hunters THOR, DOMINO, HELL, CONTESTIA, and OLIVIA don't provide for AFC. For these modes, the AFC button is "greyed out". All other modes do provide AFC to the best of my knowledge. For all modes that have AFC available, the required signal level threshold varies from mode to mode. This means that there is a minimum signal threshold below which AFC will no longer work. Also, if the signal strength is fluctuating widely, this can cause AFC to work intermittently. In addition, AFC will only work when you are already tuned fairly closely to the desired signal. This frequency threshold is hard coded into Fldigi software for each mode.

When ON, AFC works pretty much like one might expect. After rough tuning a signal, AFC will generally do a good job of completing the initial fine tuning required and correcting for any drift present on the other person's transmitted signal. However, AFC will usually override any small manual changes you try to make with the fine tuning arrows. This makes the two tuning methods incompatible. Also, when another station (besides you) calls a mobile and you have AFC on, your receiver will automatically tune to the other calling station's signal which is not necessarily exactly matched to the mobile's frequency.

Even worse, if both the mobile and calling station(s) have AFC active, it can lead to a situation where the mobile and calling stations end up "chasing each other" up or down the waterfall. This is why I recommend that the mobile station always lock their transmit frequency using the "Lk" button (indicated by L on the screen shot above). Also, be aware that when using Fldigi, you must re-lock your transmit frequency after each mode change.

In summary, for best results decoding weak signals and you are using any of the "touchy" modes, I recommend that you turn AFC OFF, do a rough tune with the yellow tuning bracket, then use the single arrow fine tuning buttons to fine tune until (hopefully) the signal starts de-coding. Also for very weak signals, you may need to turn your Squelch (Labeled Q on the screen shot above) OFF and just tolerate the 'garbage' that shows in the decode window when no signal is present.

Digital Operations –

Digital Operations – As more digital mobiles become active, we continue to experience the "growing pains" that occur with any new operation. Last month I outlined several possible solutions proposed by Dennis (N6PDB), Al (N1API), and others. These suggestions did inspire some comments as well as some new ideas by N4JT. I will repeat the original suggestion below and add Jim's comments (in red) plus my reply (in Blue) on each subject.

To Increase QSO rate/Efficiency

a) <u>Use shorter macros and CW abbreviations</u>. 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\<User Name>\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 . (NO Comments)

b) <u>Turn TxID OFF</u> (covered in detail earlier). (NO Comments)

c) <u>Use higher power</u> (CAUTION: avoid overloading final amplifiers and distorted signals). (NO Comments)

d) <u>Construct macros with provision for mode start delays</u>. For example, N1API suggests the following mobile reply macro when responding to a fixed station call: "N1API 599 599 N1API". (NO Comments)

e) <u>Use some of the faster new modes</u>. 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. N4JT: "PSK125 loss in signal is acceptable to me, I have had great success with it. Also Contestia 4-500 I like its ability to read with reasonable speed." W0NAC Reply: "I understand. It's always going to be a tradeoff between efficiency (speed) and working weaker stations. Since there will always be someone who will complain either way, I believe the mobile should make the final decision and use the sub-mode they feel is best."

To Manage Multiple Mobiles

a) <u>Locate better frequencies</u> (14.063?, 14.064?, 14.065?) that each mobile can use as personal frequency (informally coordinated). N4JT: "I have permanently moved to 14.068. I got tired of fighting all the other digital signals above 14070." W0NAC: "You have probably started a good trend. 14.074-14075 used to be fairly clear, but with JT-65 signals at 14.0755 and up and with other digital signals migrating up from 14072-14074, our old stomping ground is getting squeezed out. Even though 14068 is perfectly legal for Data/RTTY use, "The Considerate Operator's Frequency Guide" (by ARRL) suggests RTTY/Data use frequencies of 14070-14.095. 14068 may be thought of by many as CW territory. I'm not suggesting for a minute that you change. I would keep right on with 14068 and wait for any complaints. As the "New kids on the block" we are going to have some growing pains along the way. All I'm suggesting is that there may be other good clear frequencies between 14080 and 14095. We need to keep our options open on frequency for some time ahead." N4JT's Response: "I will consider the fact that someone may complain that I am not follow the ARRL guide. Like you said, I will stay there until it becomes a problem.

One more thing, during the major CW contests, I find even the regular digital frequencies get loaded with CW signals. For me I will try not to operate during those times.
If I must operate then, maybe I will move way up the band, perhaps above 14100."

b) <u>Have a volunteer Net Control</u> (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. (NO Comments)

Methods for Handling "Pile-ups" and multiple "Me First" People.

a) <u>Stations who know their signal will be weak wait</u> 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) <u>Take a list at the beginning of each run</u>, and then reply to each on the list in turn. Repeat as needed.

b) <u>Take contacts by call district</u>, i.e. 1's, 2's, etc.

c) <u>Use split operation</u> (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.

N4JT has another suggestion: "One little rock and a hard place the digital operators have, is stations are calling me on far more modes than they need for 5 mode. It really slows me down. I work them because someday I may need for transmit, but I wish people would use more discretion. Some may feel they are helping me. Someday I may have to drop back from 4 modes, I rather not at this time. "

W0NAC Reply: "Having been there many times myself, I fully sympathize with your dilemma. I know of no way the mobile themselves can ration the limited time they have to put out a county or county line. You have to depend on the stations calling you to ration themselves (which is going to be extremely difficult)! However, I have come to realize that the tools available out there (Logger and Logger Map) are very limited when it comes to knowing your 5 – Mode needs in near real time. Logger II will hopefully be better in reporting 5-Mode needs in greater detail, but it will be some time before Logger II is available. In the meantime, a specialized 5-Mode tool may be developed which can help with this problem."

For those of you who don't wish to wait for the new tool mentioned above, you can create and view a Logger report that will help you avoid unnecessary calls. From the Logger main menu just select "View/Edit", "Book", "5–Mode". Then select a single state (where the mobile is expected to run). Last, click the "View" button. You will get a screen similar to this (I selected California):

County	Mode	Call	My County	Date	Time	Frequency	Band	Mode	My RST	His RST	My Oper	His Oper
	1	K6AWS	CO Denver	11/18/99	21:29	14.336	20	SSB	55	55	M	M
	2	KQ6VH	CO Douglas	05/19/01	23:20	14.071	20	PSK	559	559	U	U
CA Alameda	3	W6RK	CO Moffat	12/02/04	17:47	10.113	30	CW	559	559	M	U
	4	KI6CYT	CO Douglas	09/20/14	04:35	7.076	40	JT65	599	599	F	F
	5											
	1	KD6VIP	CO Douglas	05/25/00	00:00	14.336	20	SSB	59	59	U	U
	2	KD7KST		11/12/06	18:47	10.139	30	PSK	599	599	M	F
CA Alpine	3	KC0QER	CA Alpine	11/12/06	18:26	146.52	2	FM	59	59	M	M
	4											
	5											
	1	KN6ZB	CO Arapahoe	01/26/00	22:44	14.336	20	SSB	33	33	M	M
	2	W6KAP	CO Douglas	12/01/12	07:00	3.572	80	JT65	599	599	F	F
CA Amador	3	AI5P	CO El Paso	07/31/10	16:17	14.0565	20	CW	599	599	M	M
	4											
	5											
	1	K0GEN	CO Arapahoe	01/08/00	20:15	14.336	20	SSB	59	59	M	M
	2	KD6EVM		10/14/03	03:00	14.071	20	PSK	559	599	M	U
CA Butte	3	KC0QER	CA Butte	11/13/06	15:59	146.52	2	FM	59	59	M	M
	4	W6TMD	CO Jefferson	01/31/06	21:20	10.114	30	CW	229	229	M	M
	5											
	1	KN6ZB	CO Arapahoe	01/26/00	23:24	14.336	20	SSB	22	22	M	M
	2	WK6I	CO Douglas	07/22/07	05:05	7.085	40	RTTY	599	599	F	F
CA Calaveras	3	K6HP	CO Elbert	05/14/10	17:13	14.072	20	PSK	599	599	M	F
	4	W6TMD	CO Arapahoe	11/04/07	14:28	10.123	30	CW	599	599	M	M
	5											
	1	N4CD	CO Douglas	11/11/99	21:31	14.336	20	SSB	55	55	U	M
	2	N0LXJ		07/09/14	16:44	14.071	20	RTTY	599	599	M	M
CA Colusa	3	WB7TXG	CA Colusa	11/13/06	00:06	7.071	40	PSK	599	599	M	F
	4	KC0QER		11/12/06	23:43	146.52	2	FM	59	59	M	M
	5	WU3H	CO Arapahoe	09/03/09	22:09	14.0565	20	CW	559	559	M	M

By scrolling through this report you can create (in advance) a simple Excel or Paper Matrix covering each county that the mobile is expected to run. Let's say that W5QP is expecting to run 4 digital modes in the California counties of Modoc, Lassen, and Plumas. Here is one example of a very simple matrix you can make by extracting data from the 5-Mode Book report above:

	Modes Completed For California					
County	Mode 1	Mode 2	Mode 3	Mode 4	Mode 5	Total Modes Needed
MODOC	THROB	SSB	RTTY	PSK	MFSK	0
LASSEN	THROB	SSB	RTTY	PSK	MFSK	0
PLUMAS	SSB	CW				3

This matrix tells me that when W5QP is in MODOC, I don't need to work him at all for 5-Mode (but I may still need him for his Stars, Prefix, 1X2 Call, or something else). In any event, I only need to work him one time to collect any other potential "goodies".

When in LASSEN, the situation is similar to when he was in MODOC, i.e. at most, one mode is all I need to work him on. In PLUMAS, I need to work him using 3 new modes. Personally, I would try working him on the first 3 modes and if successful, I would not call him at all when he runs his last mode. However, if any of the first three mode attempts fail, I still have a try at filling in the fifth mode.

A "real world" example of this technique will probably be more complex than this simple example, but if fixed stations use this matrix technique (along with other operating practices mentioned earlier), they can really help mobile stations use their limited time more efficiently.

January Digital County Hunter Activity:

The "digital highways" slowed down a quite a bit in January. Counting just the spots posted on W6RK, there were about 43 counties (not all unique) run on various digital modes. The vast majority of these runs were made by N4JT using a variety of modes and bands. Various other non-county hunters accounted for 6 different counties (mostly using PSK). Hopefully things will pick up in February and March, especially with all the mobile digital operations planned in Hawaii.

Active County Hunter Award Status:

As can be seen in Table 3 below, many digital county hunters continue to make 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.

13 digital county hunters have now logged over 50% of the 15,385 mode/counties needed to complete the "**5 – Mode Award**". These are shown in red in Table 3. The leader for this award is still Dennis (N6PDB) who has worked 10,133 (65.9%) of the 15,385 Counties/Modes needed to complete this award.

I would like to mention again the 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	Mary	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
3	AC0B	Cliff	F	205	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	12/10/2012
4	AD1C	Jim	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
5	K0DEQ	Bill	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
6	K0FG	Fred	F	333	3077	3041	336	60	19	6533	42.5%	1/1/2015
7	K0PVW	Rob	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
8	K0WJ	Lou	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
9	K4PBX	Jim	F	492	2967	476	130	81	38	3692	24.0%	1/23/2015
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	671	3077	3077	685	34	2	6875	44.7%	1/4/2015
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	KA8JQP	Pamela	M/F	22	202	64	53	28	4	351	2.3%	9/12/2013
18	KA9JAC	Bob	F	584	3077	3077	1784	345	101	8384	54.5%	1/22/2015
19	KC3X	Hollis	F	537	3077	3077	545	491	446	7636	49.6%	10/15/2014
20	KC6AWX	Bob	F	450	3077	1592	264	59	14	5006	32.5%	5/7/2013
21	KC7YE	Jack	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
22	KD5YUK	Billy	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
23	KD7KST	Bill	M/F	1792	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	9/30/2012
24	KF7PKL	Davis	F	473	1022	268	67	19	4	1380	9.0%	1/12/2015
25	KG5RJ	Greg	F	782	3050	2163	720	319	134	6386	41.5%	11/28/2014
26	KM1C	Bill	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
27	KU4YM	Dave	F	133	2862	130	66	19	8	3085	20.1%	10/16/2014
28	KM6HB	Mark	F	714	3077	2936	694	87	1	6795	44.2%	2/3/2013
29	KW1DX	Dave	M/F	96	3077	1145	99	70	40	4431	28.8%	1/10/2015
30	N0KV	Barry	M/F	621	3077	3054	2543	474	130	9278	60.3%	1/8/2015
31	N0LXJ	Sharon	M/F	1438	3077	2320	1309	614	348	7668	49.8%	1/25/2015
32	N1API	Al	F	1207	3077	2834	1185	919	807	8822	57.3%	1/25/2015
33	N4JT	Jim	M/F	1213	3077	3077	1295	851	730	9030	58.7%	1/18/2015
34	N5MLP	Ron	F	391	3077	409	54	37	9	3586	23.3%	5/19/2013
35	N6PDB	Dennis	M/F	1274	3077	3042	1573	1300	1141	10133	65.9%	1/26/2015
36	N7JPF	Paul	F	181	3077	1828	155	78	36	5174	33.6%	1/22/2015
37	N8CIJ	Dick	F	1071	3077	3059	1068	687	546	8437	54.8%	12/26/2014
38	N8HAM	Jim	F	0	3077	0	0	0	0	3077	20.0%	4/2/2013
39	N9WNN	Steve	F	0	2180	0	0	0	0	2180	14.2%	2/24/2013
40	NA8W	Darl	F/M	885	3077	1282	704	414	215	5692	37.0%	1/25/2015
41	NF0N	Mike	F	1044	3077	3077	1230	434	238	8056	52.4%	12/27/2014
42	NN9K	Pete	F	816	3077	859	78	1	0	4015	26.1%	3/23/2012
43	NT2A	Gene	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
44	NU4C	Paul	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
45	NW6S	Jim	F	927	3077	3077	948	271	200	7573	49.2%	12/16/2014
46	NX4W	Lloyd	M/F	1358	3077	1489	743	595	310	6214	40.4%	12/28/2014
47	W0NAC	Matt	M/F	1920	3077	2884	2091	1264	643	9959	64.7%	1/25/2015
48	W3DLM	Don	F	474	3077	2711	437	170	110	6505	42.3%	10/8/2014
49	W3ZUH	Dick	F	5	3077	2048	11	2	0	5138	33.4%	12/4/2013
50	W4SIG	Kerry	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
51	W4YDY	Dave	F	1298	3077	3077	1407	789	579	8929	58.0%	1/23/2015
52	W5QP	Rick	M/F	918	3077	2981	1111	767	676	8612	56.0%	1/24/2015
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%	8/14/2024
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	1277	3077	2431	1054	451	116	7129	46.3%	12/31/2014
60	WA4UNS	Doug	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
61	WA6OCV	Susan	M/F	328	3077	406	359	326	107	4275	27.8%	12/22/2014
62	WA7ETH	Ed	F	228	1932	428	39	3	0	2402	15.6%	10/26/2014
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	1258	3077	3071	1266	718	432	8564	55.7%	11/18/2014
67	WQ7A	Terry	F	819	3077	3075	823	727	642	8344	54.2%	12/1/2014
68	WY4D	Ben	F	326	3077	347	41	15	9	3489	22.7%	6/10/2014

How To Get Your 5 – Mode Statistics Updated:

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 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

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

New Members

MARAC Number	Callsign	Name
R4569	W7OLY	Aubrey Mansfield

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

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   =$ _____.

Awards

π Awards Issued For January			
Call	**Date**	**Award**	**Number**
N6PDB	12/29/2014	5 Star	# 69
W0EAR	12/31/2014	County Challenge	Level 14
W0EAR	1/22/2015	USA-CW II	# 33
K0PFV	1/25/2015	BINGO	# 364
KC3X	1/16/2015	BINGO VI	# 4
K7SEN	1/2/2015	BINGO	# 363
W4YDY	1/23/2015	Call Combo 1 x 3	# 17
WY8I	1/1/2015	US Presidents	# 43
N7JPF	1/27/2015	US Presidents	# 44
W7PFZ	1/21/2015	USA-CA WAC FIRST TIME	# 1248
KC3X	1/18/2015	Worked all Counties - 10th Time	# 6
WY8I	1/1/2015	Native Americans	# 46
N7JPF	1/27/2015	Native Americans	# 47

Roadrunner Issued For January				
Call	**Date**	**Count**	**Award**	**Number**
K7TM	1/18/2015	Last County Count 150	Last County Count 150	# 167
N0LXJ	1/8/2015	Last County Count 200	Last County Count 200	# 118
N0XYL	1/8/2015	Last County Count 300	Last County Count 300	# 70
WG9A	1/8/2015	Last County Count 425	Last County Count 425	# 42
KB6UF	1/9/2015	Last County Count 1250	Last County Count 1250	# 3
N9JF	1/9/2015	Last County Count 350	Last County Count 350	# 52
AB7NK	1/10/2015	Last County Count 250	Last County Count 250	# 88
KW1DX	1/10/2015	Last County Count 325	Last County Count 325	# 61
N4JT	1/16/2015	Last County Count 850	Last County Count 850	# 12
W0GXQ	1/17/2015	Last County Count 875	Last County Count 875	# 11
KW1DX	1/17/2015	Last County Count 350	Last County Count 350	# 53
AB4YZ	1/17/2015	Last County Count 800	Last County Count 800	# 17
W7FEN	1/17/2015	Last County Count 625	Last County Count 625	# 24
KB0MHH	1/23/2015	Last County Count 75	Last County Count 75	# 273
N9QPQ	1/26/2015	Last County Count 1250	Last County Count 1250	# 4
N8KIE	1/23/2015	Last County Count 950	Last County Count 950	# 10
N2JNE	1/23/2015	Last County Count 150	Last County Count 150	# 168
KE4TTS	1/23/2015	Last County Count 50	Last County Count 50	# 352

Roadrunner Issued For January				
Call	**Date**	**Count**	**Award**	**Number**
W8FNW	1/23/2015	Last County Count 100	Last County Count 100	# 245
N4CD	1/23/2015	Last County Count 2500	Last County Count 2500	# 1
KB0BA	1/19/2015	Last County Count 200	Last County Count 200	# 119
K3IMC	1/19/2015	Last County Count 475	Last County Count 475	# 38
K2HVN	1/18/2015	Last County Count 825	Last County Count 825	# 13
K4YFH	1/23/2015	Last County Count 100	Last County Count 100	# 246

Birthdays

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	**Birthday Date**
KD7UZ	Feb - 01
WA0SGJ	Feb - 01
K5TQ	Feb - 01
KQ4FA	Feb - 02
NA7MT	Feb - 02
N5PRU	Feb - 02
NG9J	Feb - 02
NK7B	Feb - 03
NG6X	Feb - 04
KD4QIT	Feb - 04
WB5P	Feb - 04
KD7KWM	Feb - 05
KA1Q	Feb - 05
WA0ZVF	Feb - 06
W3QZ	Feb - 06
W9RR	Feb - 06
KJ8F	Feb - 07
WN1F	Feb - 07
AA9MW	Feb - 07
K8IW	Feb - 07
AA4S	Feb - 07
WV9N	Feb - 07
N0BHO	Feb - 08
KJ6DB	Feb - 08
K0DBK	Feb - 08
K5BDL	Feb - 08
N4FTA	Feb - 08
NC2Y	Feb - 09
K8VJV	Feb - 09
WD9BCG	Feb - 09
N8MD	Feb - 09
W7ZD	Feb - 09
N1GM	Feb - 09
AB7NK	Feb - 10

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	**Birthday Date**
KL7JR	Feb - 10
N5IWA	Feb - 10
W1JD	Feb - 10
W3REG	Feb - 10
K2HPV	Feb - 10
K6VVA	Feb - 10
WA1NSD	Feb - 10
KA1YZV	Feb - 11
N5PU	Feb - 11
N4ACS	Feb - 11
WA7KKN	Feb - 11
NH6SR	Feb - 12
N4TOG	Feb - 12
WC5D	Feb - 12
KH6KW	Feb - 12
KD0ID	Feb - 12
W4DUE	Feb - 12
N8ELQ	Feb - 13
AB5C	Feb - 13
K5NV	Feb - 13
WA5NWZ	Feb - 13
KK5MI	Feb - 13
K3CAV	Feb - 13
N9KEH	Feb - 14
N4CCJ	Feb - 14
AA4C	Feb - 14
KF4YR	Feb - 14
KV7N	Feb - 14
AI9Q	Feb - 15
W0KEU	Feb - 15
N7UG	Feb - 15
N2IRQ	Feb - 15
K1NGJ	Feb - 15
N7TT	Feb - 15

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	**Birthday Date**
K4KWW	Feb - 15
N0CKC	Feb - 15
K1NY	Feb - 15
W9STW	Feb - 15
N8LXQ	Feb - 16
WC9O	Feb - 16
KS4DD	Feb - 17
AE3O	Feb - 17
KE9FH	Feb - 17
KT0K	Feb - 17
WS9G	Feb - 17
W0TOL	Feb - 17
WB9YCO	Feb - 17
N0CSM	Feb - 17
KA7RRA	Feb - 17
W4ABW	Feb - 18
KD4NFE	Feb - 18
KB4FS	Feb - 18
N0KV	Feb - 18
K5UO	Feb - 18
W7OLY	Feb - 18
NX4C	Feb - 19
K4BIO	Feb - 19
KB1EG	Feb - 19
K9KDS	Feb - 20
KC8ZON	Feb - 20
W5RIT	Feb - 21
N8SVR	Feb - 21
N9VRZ	Feb - 21
NL7BY	Feb - 22
N7CLA	Feb - 22
KB6TAL	Feb - 22
AE4FL	Feb - 22
K8IWI	Feb - 22

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	**Birthday Date**
WB3Q	Feb - 22
KZ3K	Feb - 22
WA3QNT	Feb - 22
KA2PUX	Feb - 23
KS5A	Feb - 23
N4RWH	Feb - 23
WB7VIZ	Feb - 23
K4QL	Feb - 23
WD0EPE	Feb - 23
NO2W	Feb - 24
W4ARH	Feb - 24
KA8MSU	Feb - 24
K8IOF	Feb - 24
W2UP	Feb - 24
K4AMC	Feb - 24
K9OFF	Feb - 24
K0WY	Feb - 24
K8MW	Feb - 24
K8QWY	Feb - 24
WD9EMW	Feb - 25
WB0M	Feb - 25
N3RC	Feb - 25
N3DMI	Feb - 25
KD7IQ	Feb - 25
W7AV	Feb - 25
AF5Q	Feb - 25
K8CW	Feb - 25
K8WR	Feb - 26
W5EHY	Feb - 26
KC2RS	Feb - 26
KU8R	Feb - 26
KK7LX	Feb - 26
N7MZI	Feb - 27
W0HFG	Feb - 27

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	**Birthday Date**
KR0I	Feb - 27
AA7LJ	Feb - 27
K4EEE	Feb - 27
K7REL	Feb - 28
K0ARS	Feb - 28
N5XG	Feb - 28
N5DG	Feb - 28
WK5A	Feb - 28
AB7KT	Feb - 28
AB4OI	Feb - 28
KJ7FJ	Feb - 29

Treasurer's Report (W0NAC)
December 2014*

Beginning Account Balances December 3, 2014   **$40.415.30**

December Income:

Money Market Interest	$2.87	
Awards Manager Income	$344.00	
Membership Income	$488.18	
Logger distribution	$25.00	
Total Income:		$860.05

December 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

December Other Expenses:

Awards Manager Expenses	$255.48	
Office Expenses (Postage, Etc.)	$0.00	
Total Expenses:		$255.48

December Net Income Less Expenses   **$604.57**

New Total Balance ALL Accounts: **$41,019.87 #**

Checking Account Balance	$4950.67	
Money Market Account Balance	$36,069.20	
Total All Accounts:		**$41,019.87 #**

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

    Awards Manager's Funds $1,500.00

* Includes December Transactions through 1/9/2015

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

Awards Manager's Report
January 31, 2015

Funds Balance December 31, 2014   **$1,500.00**

Income	$ 911.50	
	$ 911.50	
Expenses:		
Office supplies	$ 353.93	
Plaque Suppliers	$ 86.00	
Postage	$ 51.66	
	$ 491.59	

Sent to Treasurer $ 911.50

Reimbursement received from Treasurer $ 491.59

Funds Balance January 31, 2015   **$1500.00**

Members Funds on Hand December 31, 2014 $ 7654.00

Income – Funds deposited or Used   +129.50

Total Funds on Hand for Members $ 7783.50

Ed's (K8ZZ) Trip

Biggest event on this trip was to see my son Tim, W8JJ, successfully defended his research dissertation study in Seattle, WA. He now holds a PhD in organizational leadership and change from Antioch University. Now Dr Tim Eklin. Wow, what an accomplishment..

BIG thanks to Terry, WQ7A, for being my trip adviser and help desk on the road. BIG thanks to W0GXQ - K0DEQ - NM2L - W4SIG - N4CD and others for helping with relays. Wow, you guys were the best under poor conditions out west, in knowing when I was struggling on CW in the mountains. Big thanks to all the spotters, and county hunters are the best people I have ever been involved with. Nice surprise to give K0PFV the WBOW. Big thanks to all for the last county awards I have received. Nice visit with Terry, WQ7A, and his lovely wife Bonnie - Kate really enjoyed the visit also. Also nice visit with Paul, N7JPF, who was so kind to come to my hotel as I had a long day on the road. Transmitted all 39 counties in WA - 15 in OR - 6 in ID for a total of 65 new transmit counties. 897 left to finish all 3077 for transmit. I hope God gives me enough time to get them all.. Cost of the trip: Airfare - Food - 10 nights lodging - Gas - 3,000 plus miles on the rental car: **PRICELESS**.. Look forward to seeing you folks at the MI Mini. 50 plus already signed up.. Catch you on the next trip.. 73 Ed K8ZZ

PS Big thank you to Phil, AB7RW, for receiving my antenna's via FedEx in advance and helping install on rental car. Kate and I had a great visit with Phil and his lovely wife Barb, and dinner at a favorite local place in Vancouver, WA

Calendar

~ February 2015 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 VT QP 10-10 PH QP MN QP STRT KEY QP
8 NA CW SPRINT	9	10	11	12	13	14 CQ RTTY QP NH QP
15	16 RUN4BACON	17	18	19	20	21 ARRL CW DX
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 NA RTTY QP

ONLY START DATE SHOWN. CLICK ON EVENT TO GO TO WEB SITE.

Sorry folks, the links aren't working right. Back to the drawing board. Dave

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)

Ron Clift (N5MLP)

Monthly Deadline for Articles is the 25th!

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Vice-President: Vacant

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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

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