



# THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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## Riding the County Lion

Dave – KE3VV

With the cool weather just around the corner, the County Lion is being a lot more solicitous of the Big Green Dragon, whose warm breath can keep the chill away for a good while. I am about to embark on an extended trip via rail to Seattle then auto down the coast to Napa and a few days in wine country and San Francisco before jetting back to D.C. Then after Halloween (and about the time of the next installment of Riding the County Lion), I will head back to the Florida QTH for a while... at least through Thanksgiving.

Late last month I was musing about a topic for this column and the County Lion suggested that I do something interesting for a change (subtly not being a forte of the lion breed). Then he said, why not let me (the County Lion) conduct an interview with someone really interesting who is involved in county hunting and use the interview as your column. Who (I inquired, sensing he already has an interviewee in mind)? Gary Beam - K4EXT - the official MARAC historian. Perfect! I have been around MARAC a pretty long time, and no one has taken on the job of Historian like Gary. He is truly one of a kind in the county hunting historian biz. So here it is... the first ever County Lion Interview. . .

**County Lion:** When did you take on the position of MARAC Historian?

**Gary (K4EXT):** I was appointed MARAC Historian by Joyce Boothe (WB9NUL), President of MARAC at the time, and it was announced at the MARAC Board of Directors meeting on December 2, 2009. I had actually lobbied for the appointment for several months before that – then Dave (KE3VV), then SE Director of MARAC, recommended me, and Joyce made the official appointment.

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**County Lion:** What stuff did you inherit from your predecessors? Were any archive materials from previous Historians available for your use?

**Gary (K4EXT):** KE3VV emailed an article he wrote about the beginnings of MARAC (I think it had been published in *World Radio*). WB9NUL told me that she had nothing from the prior Historian. So, I pretty much started from scratch.

**County Lion:** When did you start your History Happens column for the Roadrunner?

**Gary (K4EXT):** I actually wrote an article for the January 2010 Roadrunner, but emailed it to the wrong Internet email address. Hmm ... bad start! So it wasn't until the February 2010 issue of the Roadrunner when my first History Happens column appeared.

**County Lion:** It sure sounds like you enjoy putting those columns together! How did you get started with gathering county hunting history?

**Gary (K4EXT):** Writing is enjoyable for me ... although I struggle with subjects to write about at times. I was able to scrounge up enough old photos as well as pick up prior editions of the Roadrunner from AA8R, WA4UNS, KN4Y, and W0OWY. I owe them a big "Thank You!" for getting me started. Going through all that material helped me gain a better understanding of the roots of MARAC. It also provided inspiration for a number of the subjects I could write about.

**County Lion:** When did you start the CH History/Archive ([www.CHarchive.com](http://www.CHarchive.com)) website?

**Gary (K4EXT):** I decided early on that having a website dedicated to the history of MARAC and County Hunting in general would be the best way to present more information to interested folks. I created the website and it went "live" in early 2010. One of the early features was called "The Hunters" ... pictures and short bio's of county hunters past and present.

**County Lion:** When did you start the County Sign Project and begin gathering photos of county line signs?

**Gary (K4EXT):** My son Justin (KG4VBK) and I started going out mobile in the Alabama QSO party as well as the MARAC CW Contest when we still lived in Southeast Alabama. We always had more fun taking our time instead of hard core "contesting," so we usually stopped to take a picture of the county line road sign as we entered each county. In early 2011, I decided that a neat feature of the CH History/Archive website would be pictures of county signs. I figured just a small quantity would do... starting with our Alabama signs ... but I had no ambition to go out and take 3077 pictures of county line signs!

**County Lion:** Seems like the idea caught on with other MARAC members!

**Gary (K4EXT):** You bet! Visitors to the website really liked the idea and started emailing county sign pictures from their own collections. Then Bob (N4CD) started sending me county sign photos in mid-2012 ... and we're talking about hundreds of pictures! So the number of counties with county sign pictures grew and grew. Today, I only need 200 or so photos of signs for missing counties to complete

the project!

**County Lion:** What's next for our History Guru?

**Gary (K4EXT):** I want to continue to tell the County Hunting story and expand the CH History/Archive website, adding new features as well as completing and expanding some old features.

**County Lion:** Come on, Gary! As we wrap up this interview, give us a preview... what is in the works?

**Gary (K4EXT):** Well . . . Jerry (W0GXQ) is putting together contest data (going back to 1967) that will soon become a part of the website. I also have this idea of adding photos of awards that will illustrate how plaques and certificates have changed over the years. After seventy-something Roadrunner articles, I am still working hard to catch up with Ed, KN4Y ... so gotta keep busy!

**County Lion:** Thanks, Gary. That's all for this month, so 73 and 88 from moi (the Lion) , the Dragon, and Dave.



**Dateline CW**

Ed, KN4Y

Imagination is as good as many county hunting expeditions, and much cheaper.

I am in the radio shack deeply immersed in verifying eQSL contacts when I hear Gator's 4x4 slide to a stop at the recycled railroad tie. I hear no cry of success from a kamikaze squirrel. Gator enters the radio shack carrying a container of hot lattes and hands me one, "Greetings Dude, what in the world are you doing? I drove by about midnight two days ago and I saw the radio shack lights were still on. Were you doing extended napping, or working a contest I did not know about?" I blow on my hot latte and take a gulp, "Gator do you remember a while back I mentioned the fact I had not received any eQSLs and we thought perhaps amateurs lost interest in the program. As you know I do not participate in the eQSL program but I do reply to any eQSLs that I receive." Gator nods his head yes and sips his latte. "Go on with your boring story."

I motion to Gator to sit down and I tell him my story. "I would occasionally receive a few eQSLs and I would confirm the contact, but for the last few years I received none so I brought up the home page to see if the system was still active and I noticed the MY Profile heading and just for the heck of it I brought up my profile. I actually read the site and noticed an entry for my QTH start and ending dates. I changed the ending date from 2001 to the last day of 2015. The next day I checked my eQSL web site and I have over 6000 eQSLs. I was flabbergasted, so I got a few high energy drinks and started confirming the eQSLs and I lost track of time. Now you know why you saw the shack lights on at the bewitching midnight hour."

Gator is laughing so hard he passes gas, "I am sorry Dude, but that is a funny story. How are your confirmations progressing?" I sip my latte, "I have finished confirming the eQSLs for the 2014 and 2015 years. I also confirmed all the DX and Canada entries, I am not sure any eQSLs dated prior to 2014 are germane." I hand Gator a purple memory stick, "Here make yourself useful and check out my Kansas QSO party results."

Gator sits at the computer and mouses around with one hand and sipping his latte with the other hand. After a few minutes he turns around. "Here are the facts, you worked 12 mobiles with 1X1 calls, and you made a QSO in 91 Kansas counties and a total of 170 QSO's. You also worked eight no-stars and spelled out: SUNFLOWER, KANSAS, FART, and YELLOWSNOT and..." I wave my hand, "That is enough already, I think the Colorado QSO party is also on that memory stick." I sip my now luke warm latte.

Gator sips his latte, "Dude you got any pastry?" "Not unless you brought some." Gator manipulates the mouse, "Boy, the Colorado QSO party was a disaster. You only worked 19 QSO's and the reason I bet is there was only one mobile on CW." I shake my head, "Yes it was not a well attended QSO party at least not on CW, who was the mobile?" "The mobile is a Dude named Greg, W0ZA; he is not a MARAC member." Gator smiles, I see another reason why you had a low Colorado score, you also worked the CW OPEN and made 72 QSO's. What the heck is that?" "I heard stations on CW calling CWO; I thought that might mean Cute Women Operating so I listened and concluded he exchange was a number and a name. I started working the stations and you see the results. I found out later it was the CWops CW open."

Gator is not paying attention and I grab another latte, Gator turns around in the chair, “Dude I am looking at your results for the Tennessee QSO party, you must have had a blast. You made 110 QSO’s but only got two No-Stars and two new counties on 80-meters. Wow, there were six mobiles running around the Volunteer State working CW and singing Rocky Top.” I started laughing and some latte went up my nose. “That was funny Gator, who were the mobiles?”

Gator reads the list mobiles off the computer screen: Tom, K4ZCB, Julius, N2WN, Don, N4ZZ, Jeffery, NY4N, Ted, W4NZ and the MARAC Southeast Director Kerry, W4SIG. I motion to Gator, “that reminds me that next year the MARAC convention is in Tennessee.” Gator looks at the computer screen, “Dude I see you got a LC from Karl, K4YT, did you thank him?” “Not yet but I have it on my bucket list.”

Gator is reading the forum, did you know that Shannon County South Dakota is now Oglala Lakota County. This a good reason for using CW, I would hate to try and say that name.” Yes Gator I read something about the name change awhile back, it is part of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.” I hand Gator a dingy brown memory stick

“Check out my Arkansas QSO party CW results.” I finish off my latte as Gator works the gizmo; I wish Gator had not mentioned pastry. Gator motions me to listen as he reads the Arkansas results. “You got 3 No-star, 3 Natural Bingo, four 2x2 calls and a new county on 80-meters. If there had not been five mobiles on CW your score would have been next to nothing.” “Who are the mobiles on CW?” “There are two mobiles from Oklahoma, Connie, K5CM and Jerry K5YAA, also Bob, N4CD and Norm, W3DYA from Texas and the Arkansas Klub station AA5AR which is also a bonus station.” I hand Gator a memory stick I had marked tri Q.

Gator inserts the memory stick, “Boy Dude, you were busy on CW, you worked the South Carolina QSO party with a no free Bar-B-Cue score, the only mobile you worked was Bill, N4IQ but the contact was good for one No-Star. I told you South Carolina is a sideband state remember, Dum spiro spero.” I shake my head in agreement, “Gator, ignore the New Jersey QSO party log, I screwed it up by deleting the Saturday QSO’s.” Gator starts laughing, “I am not going to ask you the procedure you used, and I see you also worked the Washington State QSO party known as the Salmon Run.” “Yes, check it out while I heat the last two lattes in the microwave.”

I hand Gator a reheated latte, “Careful it is hot hot.” Gator takes a swig of the latte, “Wow you are correct this is hot and so good.” Gator runs the log routine, “You sure did a lot better in Washington with 84 QSO’s, but you only got one 2X3 call and three No-Star.” “Yes Gator, I work the Salmon Run every year and new contacts for awards are limited. Who were the mobiles on CW I worked?” “You worked four: Randy, K7TQ, Greg, KB7OPS, the DX Klub, W7DX and the only county hunter Darryl, WW7D.”

“Gator, I heard some juicy hot gossip about the new MARAC board of directors.” Gator smiles big like a blood moon when CQ, CQ, CQ is heard from Gator’s cell phone. “Sorry Dude, the computer lock on an ethanol tank is corrupt and tankers are arriving. He is gone like free drinks at The Villages hospitality room. I hear him yell: “My cousin has been married three times and still has the same in-laws.” The printer stops and I get the list of stations heard during August on the county hunters CW call frequencies.

I read: AA8R, AB4YZ, AB7RW, AE3Z, AI5P, K0FG, K2HVN, K2MF, K3IMC, K4YT, K7DM, K8ZZ, KA4RRU, KB0BA, KB6UF, KC7YE, KS5A, KW1DX, N0XYL, N2JNE, N4CD, N4JT, N9JF, W0EAR, W0GXQ, W3DQT, W3DYA, W3ZUH, W4SIG, W7FEN, W9MSE, WA3QNT, WA4PGM, and WB4KZW,

October the Halloween month starts with the Celebrated California QSO party (58 counties) usually there are no mobiles due to the high gas prices, but the large number of fixed stations keep the fun going from county to county. Then, and then, here comes Arizona (15 counties) and Pennsylvania (67 counties) QSO parties, also the 10-10 Sprint which I will be operating CW. Then, then and then, here comes the QSO party pileup that includes: the Iowa (99 counties), Illinois (102 counties), New York (62 counties), and South Dakota (66 counties), There is also the 10-10 Fall CW QSO party in which I plan to operate Listen for my signal on ten meters, If that evening you are too hyper to sleep, relax working the Stew Perry Topband Challenge on 160-meters. There are 36 CW contests this month, take your pick. Statistics show that at the age of seventy, there are five women to every man; I wonder how many are CW county hunters? I will get to the Texas QSO party logs later, now is nap time.



### New Members

| <u>MARAC Number</u> | <u>Callsign</u> | <u>Name</u>          |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| R4586               | W4CC            | John Covington III   |
| R4587               | W7SAF           | Shirley Fenstermaker |
| R4588               | KT7G            | Rick Smith           |
| R4589               | K7PM            | Paul Meier           |
| R4590               | N7QMT           | Delvin Bunton        |
| R4591               | KG7EEE          | Dave Eaton           |
| R4592               | NO7DE           | John Gaynor          |
| R4593               | W7SLS           | Scott Scheirman      |
| R4594               | K6JEB           | Jack Burris          |
| R4595               | KI6FYW          | Kyle Spemcer         |
| R4596               | KE7NUQ          | Ric Shaner ***>>     |
| R4597               | N5FPW           | Larry Van Horn       |
| R4598               | W4GVH           | Gayle Van Horn       |
| R4599               | KB2QOL          | Sheila Tarver        |
| R4600               | KC8JCB          | Lawrence Kielasa     |
| R4601               | N3HIH           | John Cahoon          |
| R4602               | KD4NSU          | William Adams        |
| R4603               | NA2X            | Bob Rossi            |
| R4604               | K7KH            | Leland Hansen        |



## Net Chronicles

# Net Chronicles

## ***Breaking News!* MARAC is now sponsoring amateur radio nets!**

This article is the first in a continuing series of monthly newsletter articles focused on operations and activities on new MARAC sponsored county hunting nets. In each article, you will find featured topics concerning various aspects of net operations including net policy (adopted by the MARAC Board of Directors), net standard operating procedures (created and issued by a new Net Operations Committee), net operating schedules, designated net operating frequencies on many bands for various modes, upcoming special activities (such as one-time scheduled nets on various bands to determine interest level in those bands and times of operation), new documentation, opportunities for net control training or mentoring, special net staffing levels before and after upcoming conventions, and more.

It would be impossible to fully cover the background behind establishing these nets, purpose of the nets, policy for operation of the nets, standard operating procedures, expectations of net control operators and net participants, schedules, frequencies designated to be used, etc. in one newsletter article. For that reason, the new Net Operating Committee has created a new "Nets" section of the MARAC.org website which has all that documentation available for you to read. The first page of the Nets section provides an outline of the content. Clicking on any of the sub-headings will take you to a document which addresses that particular subject. Please read the Overview document first and then any of the other subjects you are interested in. The complete policy document for net operations which was adopted by the Board of Directors at their September 11, 2015 meeting is available as is a standard operating procedure (SOP) for net operations issued by the Net Operations Committee.

Initially, a daily net has been planned to operate from 1300z to 2200z (nine hours) on 20 meter SSB frequencies. This period will be comprised of three separate three-hour sessions with different net control operators. We expect to begin operation of that net on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 1300z. In the interim, ad-hoc nets are underway for both CW and SSB on various bands. The suggested frequencies for a primary, first alternate, and second alternate frequency can be found in the SOP and in a separate specific document which is on the main table of contents page for easy reference. Some frequencies on various bands have not yet been established but will be added after additional research and discussions with various members has been completed.

Another website (hosted by KW1DX) has been created to provide an online schedule of the net control stations which will support the first scheduled net for SSB operation on the 20 meter band. This schedule goes from October 17<sup>th</sup> through January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016. The functionality of the site does not currently include the capability for members to sign up for net control positions online, but that capability may be added later. Instructions are provided at the top of the page to submit a sign-up request via email.

Links to the websites mentioned above are as follows:

Nets page on Marac.org: <http://www.marac.org/nets.htm>

Net control personnel schedule: <http://www.kw1dx.com/ch/net/schedule20m.htm>

**TO ALL MEMBERS:** The Net Operations Committee invites you to participate in these net activities to support the objectives stated in the policy document (displayed in the following excerpt from the policy):

### **2.3 Purpose of all MARAC sponsored nets**

The purpose of all Marac sponsored nets will be to:

1. further achievement of county hunting goals in a friendly, cordial, supportive, efficient, and productive manner,
2. further awareness of the county hunting activities, awards, challenges, and opportunities for enjoyment among the entire amateur radio community, and
3. further the club's ability to attract and retain new members to support the club's activities and goals.

All licensed radio amateurs and MARAC members are welcome to participate in these nets. The committee also welcomes member feedback on any aspect of net operations. One of our biggest challenges will be to staff these net control positions. Please support the nets as a net control or assistant net control.

*We look forward to hearing you on the nets soon!*

MARAC Net Operations Committee



N5MLP – Ron Clift, Chairperson



## History Happens

Gary, K4EXT

August was another slow month for County Sign pictures. Only one submission came in ... Dave, AKW4M in Rabun County, Georgia.

Bob, NA5AR mailed me an 8 by 10 black-and-white glossy photo, in pristine condition, believed to be from the 1969 Convention of the Independent County Hunters Net (ICHN) in Mountain Home, Arkansas. The call signs in the map/legend are unchanged from way back when.



Back Row: K2PFC W5ULN WØYLN WAØKQQ KØAYO W5HDK WAØJRZ W5ROP K9CSL W5PWG K5VTA  
 Center Row: W5POH WA5OCG W4YWX KØIFL W9CNG K4ISE WAØPJX WAØDCQ K8VSL W4RMT WAØKGD  
 Front Row: W5EHY K8DCR K9KKX WAØSHE K5KDG WA5AEB WAØWOB WØBL WØSJE  
 Not in Pic: WAØEVO WA5WWW WA5OCT W5MAJ K5JEW K4LSP

Many of these folks were deeply involved in the beginning of MARAC in 1970. For example: Skip, WAØWOB became the first president ... Jack, WØSJE became vice-president and awards manager ... Cleo, WAØSHE became secretary ... and Clyde, WØYLN became newsletter editor.

Steve, K5KDG is still on the air these days. So is Mike, WAØKGD (now NFØN) who is also the newly elected MARAC North Central District Director.

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

<http://www.CHarchive.com>



**Digital Happenings**

**LOOKING FOR DIGITAL HAPPENINGS?**

By W0NAC ("Matt")

**D**igital Happenings #36 (published in July 2015) was the last article published. It has been replaced with a new web site "All Things Digital" which you can find at <http://www.w0nac.com> . The new site continues the popular "Active Digital County Hunters Award Status" table. It also provides a means of downloading any or all of the past 36 Digital Happenings articles plus several utility programs you may find useful. The Award Status table (displayed on the new site's home page) will be updated frequently. Please continue using the Digital Report Utility (which sends an email to me) as you have done in the past, except there is no longer any deadline to meet.

In case you are doing your digital award updates for the first time, here is a link to a Word document which explains the process in detail: <https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/26171574/Happenings/5-Mode-Update.doc> .

Matt – W0NAC



Radio Cruise

*My Pin Money Travel, LLC Announces  
It's Fifth Amateur Radio Cruise*

***MPMT'S HAM RADIO CRUISE 5***  
**On the Carnival Breeze January 8, 2017 for 7 Days**

**The perfect gift for the “hard to buy for” person.  
Great vacation with family and friends**

Planned activities onboard include seminars conducted during days at sea, working Maritime Mobile on two ship installed HF stations with DX for all licensed amateurs, prizes for hams and non-hams and all the fun of a Carnival Cruise! Special arrangements have been made with Carnival Cruise Lines for two HF operating stations and antennas.

Cruise from Galveston, Tx. To Jamaica,  
Grand Cayman and Cozumel returning to Galveston.



**Only 48 cabins reserved. Book quickly - don't miss the great prices & extras!\***

All prices are double occupancy and include government taxes and fees from:

Inside Cabin (Cat 4B) double occupancy

Balcony Cabin (Cat 8B) double occupancy

Balcony Cabin (Cat 8C) double occupancy

(Ocean View, Cove Balcony and Suites available by special arrangements.)

DEPOSIT of \$250 PER PERSON DUE AT BOOKING in order to assign your stateroom.

Group guarantee will expire August 11, 2016 then sales will be based on availability.

\*Each stateroom also receives a \$25 onboard credit, bottle of wine and 2 tote bags.

TRAVEL INSURANCE IS OPTIONAL, BUT HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

Cruise offered EXCLUSIVELY through Debbie Rumfield, N5DSR “The Ham Cruise Lady” with My Pin Money Travel, LLC (MPMT) who can be reached at [mypinmoneytravel@yahoo.com](mailto:mypinmoneytravel@yahoo.com) or by telephone at 832-656-0731.

This event is organized by Lance Rumfield, WD5X, Technical Coordinator, in an effort to offer amateurs the ability to enjoy the rare opportunity of operating at sea while participating in a terrific vacation.

\*\*\*Go to our web page at [mypinmoneytravel.com](http://mypinmoneytravel.com) for past cruise information and photos.

### Operating Details as planned:

Two Kenwood TS-480 HX (or similar) HF mobile transceivers with two screwdriver antennas will be provided. Screwdrivers will be installed on ship's top upper deck railing. Stations and antennas will be on opposite sides of the ship at the stern. Bring your own keyers/phones/computers /interfaces/etc!!! One Signal Link adapter will be provided. (Sorry – **NO** HF operation or external antennas of any kind will be allowed from individual staterooms, balconies, or public areas.)

Personal Handi-Talkies may be used on the Carnival Breeze while at sea!!!

Special permission to operate onboard the Carnival Breeze has been arranged as long as proper licensing is obtained and formal agreements between Carnival and My Pin Money Travel are acknowledged and followed.

Amateur operation will be while in U.S. or international waters.

Each participating amateur will receive a copy of the authorization to operate as signed by the Captain of the Breeze., Technical Coordinator, Travel Agent and the amateur!

### Licensing Requirements:

If you wish to operate a station or handheld while on board, copies of the following documents must be submitted to WD5X as soon as possible as it may take up to 90 days to acquire all required documents and we must have documents submitted to Carnival before final payment date:

- 1) Copy of valid U.S. amateur license
- 2) Copy of a valid IARP (you must register for this immediately copying Debbie, The Ham Cruise Lady, at My Pin Money Travel, LLC who will be receiving originals from ARRL and will be forwarding a copy to you shortly before sailing and providing original to you on the ship)

Please consider joining us in 2017. We had a great time in 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2015 and look forward to a repeat event!!!!

Note: Only licensed amateurs who are participants of this limited opportunity group event will be allowed to operate amateur equipment while on the Carnival Breeze.

NOTE: U.S. Customs recommend all cruise passengers possess a valid U.S. passport in order to board the ship!!!!!!

EMAIL OR CALL FOR PRICES. CARNIVAL DOES NOT ALLOW PRICES TO BE POSTED ON THE INTERNET, BUT WILL BE PROVIDED UPON REQUEST.

**MARAC 2<sup>nd</sup> QUARTER AWARD VOTING**  
**July, August & September 2015**

**V**oting will be open from October 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup> for the best net control, mobile and team awards. The easiest way to place your vote is at the MARAC web site <http://marac.org/elections/>. All you will need to enter on the sign in page is your callsign and your MARAC voting key. If you have lost or do not know your voting key, enter your callsign and then click on the button below to request your key. The key will be immediately emailed to your email address on record. If you do not receive it, please go to <http://marac.org/database> to verify that your email address is correct. If you need to change/correct your email address, please contact KZ2P at [K2JG@Comcast.net](mailto:K2JG@Comcast.net). You may also send me your vote via regular mail. However I must receive the ballot by the closing date of the voting window to be counted. Please include your callsign, MARAC membership and key numbers along with your choices for each class to my address listed below.

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

At the meeting held September 11, 2015, the MARAC Board of Directors adopted a policy to establish MARAC-sponsored county hunting nets. The Board also changed the rules for the net control awards to require that all awards be restricted to net operations on MARAC-sponsored nets. Therefore, votes that have already been cast (April through September) will not count toward these awards and new votes will only be counted for net control operators on MARAC-sponsored nets.

**OBJECTIVE:** To recognize members of MARAC who have made a significant contribution to county hunting by operating as net control operator for a MARAC-sponsored Net Operation.

**2nd quarter**

Best Net Control SSB: 1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Best Net Control CW: 1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Best Mobile SSB: 1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Best Mobile CW: 1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Best Mobile Team: 1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Your call sign: \_\_\_\_\_ MARAC # or Election Key \_\_\_\_\_

Kent Reinke, KV7N

MARAC Election Coordinator  
1826 East 4500 North  
Buhl, Idaho 83316

*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.

**Kent Reinke**  
**MARAC Election Coordinator**



**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MOBILE AMATEUR RADIO AWARDS CLUB****Friday - September 11, 2015**

**P**resident David Splitt (KE3VV) called the meeting to order at 2300Z on September 11, 2015 via Teleconference and the mIRC MARACBOARD chatroom.

**Board Members present:**

President – David Splitt (KE3VV)  
Past President – Joyce Boothe (WB9NUL)  
Vice President – Terry Dummler (WQ7A)  
Secretary – James Grandinetti (KZ2P)  
Treasurer – Matt Matthew (W0NAC)  
Great Lakes Director – Timothy Eklin (W8JJ)  
North Central Director – Mike Nickolas (NF0N)  
Northeast Director – Al Kaiser (N1API)  
Pacific Director – Robert Devine (KC6AWX)  
South Central Director – Barry Mitchell (N0KV)  
Southeast Director – Kerry Long (W4SIG)

Motion by KE3VV to accept the minutes of the July 16, 2015 Meeting. Seconded by WB9NUL. The motion passed by a vote of 9 in favor, 1 abstention and 0 opposed.

Motion by KE3VV to approve the Treasurer's Reports for June and July 2015. Seconded by WQ7A. The motion passed by a vote of 8 in favor, 1 abstention and 1 opposed.

Motion by KE3VV to approve Awards Manager's Financial Reports for July and August 2015. Seconded by NF0N. The motion passed by a vote of 9 in favor, 1 abstention and 0 opposed.

**New Business**

1. Discuss the proposal submitted by Kerry (W4SIG) for the 2016 MARAC Annual Meeting to be held on Monday - Thursday, July 11-14, at the Hampton Inn and Suites on Shady Grove Road in east Memphis.

Motion by W4SIG to approve the Proposal for the 2016 MARAC Annual Convention submitted by Kerry Long (W4SIG). Seconded by N0KV. The motion passed by a vote of 10 in favor, 0 abstentions and 0 opposed.

Motion by KE3VV to authorize the Treasurer to advance up to \$4,000.00 for the 2016 Annual Convention. Seconded by KC6AWX. The motion passed by a vote of 9 in favor, 1 abstention and 0 opposed.

2. Request from Ed Eklin (K8ZZ) for MARAC financial support for the 2016 Michigan Mini. (Note – the Treasurer will provide the payment to K8ZZ on or after January 1, 2016).

Motion by KE3VV to approve the request for \$500 financial support for the 2016 MARAC Michigan Mini submitted by Ed Eklin (K8ZZ). Seconded by N1API. The motion passed by a vote of 8 in favor, 1 abstention and 1 opposed.

3. Request from Tim Traylor (KD5CXO) for funds for Logger Help software.

Motion by KE3VV to approve the request submitted by Tim Traylor (KD5CXO) for up to \$120 for the purchase of a HelpNDoc Standard software license for use with Logger Help. Seconded by WQ7A. The motion passed by a vote of 10 in

favor, 0 abstentions and 0 opposed.

4. Establishment of MARAC-sponsored county hunter nets.

Motion by NOKV that MARAC establish MARAC-sponsored county hunter nets and adopt the policy set forth in the attached document (NET-POL-001 “MARAC Policy for Sponsored Net Operation”) as direction from the MARAC Board of Directors regarding sponsored net operation and that the MARAC sponsored nets will be administered by a MARAC Net Operations Committee consisting of regular members of MARAC.

The MARAC Net Operations Committee will: (1) Research, test, recommend, and establish frequencies for the conduct of the net; (2) Establish, maintain, and issue standard operating procedures (SOPs) for operation of MARAC net(s) and assure they are followed (An initial draft of the first SOP (SOP-NET-001 “Planning and Operation of MARAC Sponsored Nets” is attached for reference); (3) Maintain a schedule of net control operators. Net control operators will be required to stipulate that they have read, understand, and intend to abide by the net guidelines. Net control operators that violate these guidelines will no longer be eligible to serve as net control operators; (4) Provide advice and/or training to net control operators, as needed (5) Establish a mentoring program to encourage and train new net participants; and (6) Provide for communications mechanisms to members and non-members concerning sponsored net operations including, but not limited to newsletter articles, orientation sessions or materials, and member recruiting information materials.

Further, that the Board of Directors shall appoint the Chairperson of the Committee by majority vote and oversee the administration of net operations and that the Board appoint Ron, N5MLP, as the initial Net Operations Committee Chairperson with additional committee members to be appointed by the Committee Chairperson. Seconded by W8JJ. The motion passed by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 abstentions and 2 opposed.

5. Increase of MARAC Annual Membership Dues to \$10 and LC-1 Fee Reduction.

Motion by W0NAC that MARAC annual membership dues be set at ten dollars (\$10) for all members, new members, and renewals with the following exceptions: (a) The dues of any new members who joined MARAC for free between the dates of July 16th 2015 and October 1, 2015 shall remain at \$0.00 until their first annual renewal (1 year); (b) Other regular members who had a renewal date during this same time frame (July 16th – October 1st) and paid no dues, shall have their renewal date extended to November 1st, 2015; (c) Members who have prepaid dues for more than one year shall have their renewal date extended by applying any such excess funds at a rate of \$10.00/year; and further that the fee for LC-1 awards be reduced to \$0.00 effective. October 1, 2015. Seconded by W8JJ. The motion passed by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 abstentions and 4 opposed.

5. Report of the Awards Committee – New Awards and Award Rules Revisions

(a) Double Diamond Award

Motion by KC6AWX that the Board of Directors approve the MARAC Double Diamond Award as submitted by the Awards Committee. Seconded by KZ2P. The motion passed by a vote of 9 in favor, 1 abstention and 0 opposed.

(b) Bingo Cinco Award

Motion by KC6AWX that the Board of Directors approve the MARAC Bingo Cinco Award as submitted by the Awards Committee. Seconded by WQ7A. The motion passed by a vote of 9 in favor, 1 abstention and 0 opposed.

(c) Revised Five Mode Award

Motion by KC6AWX that the Board of Directors approve the revised MARAC Five Mode Award as submitted by the Awards



Committee. Seconded by KZ2P. The motion passed by a vote of 9 in favor, 1 abstention and 0 opposed.

(d) Remote Operations – Revised MARAC Award Rules

Motion by KC6AWX that the Board of Directors approve the revised MARAC Award Rules for Portable and Remote Operation and Valid Contacts as submitted by the Awards Committee. Seconded by W8JJ. The motion passed by a vote of 8 in favor, 1 abstention and 1 opposed.

(e) Net Control Operations and Net Control Awards

Motion by KC6AWX that the Board of Directors approve the revised MARAC Award Rules for Net Operations, Net Control - Hours of Service, Net Control Award, and Net Control of the Year awards as submitted by the Awards Committee. Seconded by W4SIG. The motion passed by a vote of 8 in favor, 1 abstention and 1 opposed.

6. Appointment of MARAC General Counsel.

Motion by NF0N that the Board of Directors appoint Bill Morgan (K0DEQ) as MARAC General Counsel. Seconded by KC6AWX. The motion passed by a vote of 10 in favor, 0 abstentions and 0 opposed.

Being no further business to discuss, motion by KE3VV to adjourn the meeting at 2351Z. Seconded by KC6AWX. The meeting was adjourned by a vote of 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

Respectfully submitted,  
James Grandinetti (KZ2P), Secretary



**Treasurer's Report (WONAC)  
August 2015\***

**Beginning Account Balances August 3, 2015** **\$40,566.62**

**August Income:**

|                       |                |          |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------|
| Money Market Interest | \$1.43         |          |
| Awards Manager Income | \$662.00       |          |
| Membership Income     | \$0.00         |          |
| Logger Distribution   | <u>\$25.00</u> |          |
| Total Income:         |                | \$688.43 |

**August 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 Exp (CHSpots.org Domain Name) | \$0.00 |  |

**August Other Expenses:**

|                                 |               |          |
|---------------------------------|---------------|----------|
| Awards Manager Expenses         | \$392.70      |          |
| New MARAC Banner (KS4BO)        | \$101.09      |          |
| Shipping New Banner (KS4BO)     | \$39.87       |          |
| Office Expenses (Postage, Etc.) | <u>\$0.00</u> |          |
| Total Expenses:                 |               | \$533.66 |

**August Net Income Less Expenses** **\$154.77**

**New Total Cash Balance ALL Accounts:** **\$40,721.39 #**

|                                 |                    |                      |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Checking Account Balance        | \$4,635.09         |                      |
| Money Market Account Balance    | <u>\$36,086.30</u> |                      |
| <b>Total Cash All Accounts:</b> |                    | <b>\$40,721.39 #</b> |

Note:

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

|                        |            |  |
|------------------------|------------|--|
| Awards Manager's Funds | \$1,500.00 |  |
|------------------------|------------|--|



\* Includes August Transactions through 8/31/2015

# From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC Total Funds at the end of August should be discounted by **\$7,917.00**. This amount is a Deferred Liability of award fees pre-paid by members. After discounting, our true (spendable) Cash Assets are **\$32,804.39**.

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**Events**

|       |                  |
|-------|------------------|
| 10/3  | CA QP            |
| 10/9  | NCCC RTTY SPRINT |
| 10/10 | 10-10 SPRINT     |
| 10/10 | PA QP            |
| 10/10 | AZ QP            |
| 10/17 | 10-10 CW         |
| 10/17 | NY QP            |
| 10/17 | IA QP            |
| 10/17 | SD QP            |
| 10/18 | IL QP            |
| 10/19 | RUN4BACON        |
| 10/24 | CQ WW SSB        |

ONLY START DATE SHOWN

CLICK ON EVENT TO GO TO THAT WEB SITE



**Awards Committee**

**These MARAC members are serving on the Awards Committee:**

**Awards Manager - Bob Devine (KC6AWX)**

**Phil Yasson ( AB7RW )**

**Dave Splitt ( KE3VV )**

**Kent Reinke ( KV7N )**

**Ed Palagyi ( KN4Y )**

**“Matt” Matthew (W0NAC)**

**Ron Clift (N5MLP)**

**Percy Ford (KA1JPR)**

**Lloyd Smith (NX4W)**

*The County Line Roadrunner*  
**MARAC Secretary**  
**2690 Bohicket Rd**  
**Johns Island, SC 29455**

*“A Road Runner Is A Very Fast Bird”*

**Monthly Deadline for Articles is the 25<sup>th</sup>!**

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**Board of Directors**

**President:** David Splitt, KE3VV, 6111 Utah Ave NW, Washington DC 20015, 301-300-2818, [davidsplitt@erols.com](mailto:davidsplitt@erols.com)

**Vice-President:** Terry Dummler, WQ7A, PO Box 500, Yelm, WA 98597, 360-894-3715, [wq7a@comcast.net](mailto:wq7a@comcast.net)

**Secretary:** Jim Grandinetti, KZ2P, 2690 Bohicket Rd, Johns Island, SC 29455, 843-323-8385, [k2jg@comcast.net](mailto:k2jg@comcast.net)

**Treasurer:** Matt Matthew, W0NAC, 17525 Wilde Ave, Unit 108, Parker CO 80134, 303-799-3658, [w0nac@comcast.net](mailto:w0nac@comcast.net)

**Great Lakes Director:** Timothy Eklin, W8JJ, 7398 Waterfall Dr, Grand Blanc, MI 48439, 810-603-2801, [w8jj@comcast.net](mailto:w8jj@comcast.net)

**North Central Director:** Mike Nickolaus, NF0N, 316 East 32nd St, South Sioux City, NE 68776, 402-494-6070, [nf0n@arrl.net](mailto:nf0n@arrl.net)

**Northeast Director:** Al Kaiser, N1API, 194 Glen Hills Rd, Meriden CT 06451, [n1api@cox.net](mailto:n1api@cox.net)

**South Central Director:** Barry Mitchell, N0KV, 12200 Boothill Dr, Parker, CO 80138, 303-841-6510, [n0kv@earthlink.net](mailto:n0kv@earthlink.net)

**Pacific Director:** Robert T. Devine, KC6AWX, 407 Alameda Del Prado, Novato, CA 94949-6302, 415-883-8980, [kc6awx@marac.org](mailto:kc6awx@marac.org)

**Southeast Director:** Kerry Long, W4SIG, 1854 Newton Nook, Collierville, TN 38017, 901-331-1881, [kerrylong@comcast.net](mailto:kerrylong@comcast.net)

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

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

**Appointees**

**Historian:** Gary Beam, K4EXT, 195 Nanny Goat Hill Rd, Elizabethton, TN 37643, [ch2@k4ext.com](mailto:ch2@k4ext.com)

**Newsletter Editor:** Dave Hyatt, KU4YM, 159 Schooner Bend Ave, Summerville, SC 29483, 843-442-8666, [dhhyatt@ieee.org](mailto:dhhyatt@ieee.org)

**Sunshine Coordinator:** Pat Reiner, KM6QF, 16931 Aldon Rd, Encino, CA, 91436, 213-999-0100, [lovedoxies@aol.com](mailto:lovedoxies@aol.com)

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**Election Coordinator:** Kent Reinke, KV7N, 1826 East 4500 North, Buhl ID 83316, 208-543-6083, [kr@gci.net](mailto:kr@gci.net)

**MARAC General Counsel:** Bill Morgan, K0DEQ, 12012 County Rd 3000, Rolla, MO 65401, 573-465-5405, [k0deq@arrl.net](mailto:k0deq@arrl.net)

**Computer Data Manager:** Gene A Olig Sr, KD9ZP, W 4325 4th St Rd, Fond du Lac, WI 54937, 920-923-0130, [kd9zp@att.net](mailto:kd9zp@att.net)

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