



THE COUNTY LINE **ROADRUNNER**

Published Monthly by the Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club, Inc.



Volume XLVI

February 2016

Number 2

Riding the County Lion **Dave – KE3VV**

After spending far too much time watching the hopefully well-compensated Weather Channel reporters standing up to their ankles-knees-thighs in drifting snow during the Blizzard of 2016 that dumped more than two feet of snow on my house in DC, I must admit to a certain amount of gloating and an almost equal amount of empathy. This is my first winter totally away from the harsh reality of life in the Northeast, and I can't say that I miss it one iota. Can't go back now anyway. I gave my trusty Husqvarna snow blower to my Executive Assistant (who lives in snowy Hagerstown up by the Mason-Dixon Line) and loaded the Big Green Dragon and the County Lion into the truck and onto the AutoTrain and headed south in early January. Never looked back.

Certainly the highlight of my non-snowbound January had to be the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of MARAC last week. "Why was it a 'Special' meeting?" inquired the ever inquisitive County Lion. Well, I explained, that is a parliamentary term applied to all corporate board meetings except the annual meeting. The MARAC annual meeting is held once a year in July along with the annual MARAC convention. He just shook his mane and went back to trying to get the Big Green Dragon to turn down the fire to a more Floridian belch. If you are a bit curious about what happens at a "Special" meeting, or at least this one we held last week, here is a brief synopsis. . .

I called the meeting to order at 0000 Z on January 27, 2016 and a quick roll call revealed that all members of the Board of Directors were present.

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The first three items were routine housekeeping matters - approval of the minutes of the September 11, 2015 Meeting; approval of the Treasurer's Reports for the months of August, September, October, and November 2015; and approval of the Awards Manager's report for November 2015.

Two items arose under the heading of Old Business. The first was a report by N5MLP on the status of the new MARAC-sponsored nets. At present, the only net is a 20 meter SSB net that meets on occasion. As with any new enterprise, the growing pains are mostly associated with needing more volunteers for NCS duty and needing more mobiles to run different counties. The latter is a perennial challenge, especially in the winter, but with gas prices getting lower every day and better weather in a month or two, there is hope for more activity. Learn more about the MARAC nets on the MARAC website.

The other second item was a report and motion by W4SIG on the change in dates and venue for the 2016 MARAC National Convention from the previously announced July dates to August 1 through 4 at the Hyatt Place hotel in Germantown, TN, which received unanimous Board approval. More on the Convention will be in each issue of the Roadrunner, and Kerry has promised to work with the MARAC webmaster to get some information posted on the MARAC web site. On a personal note, I informed the Board that I will not be able to attend the 2016 Convention due to the change in dates. I already have a long-standing family commitment at the beginning of August that will have me languishing on Figure 8 Island in North Carolina in a far too expensive rental beach house. Oh well, maybe I can run some of those elusive Outer Banks counties. I plan to call for the regular Annual Meeting of the Board in July so that I can turn the reins of MARAC over to the next President after the results of the May election are announced (my second and final term as your President ends with the adjournment of the Annual Meeting). The line of succession forms now, and there is more information about the upcoming election as you page through the Roadrunner.

Back to the Board Meeting... and New Business.

The Board took up and passed a motion for MARAC to sponsor 2016 MARAC County Hunter CW and SSB contests. Greg (NM2L) has volunteered to be the Contest Coordinator and was appointed to that position. He will now appoint managers for each (CW and SSB) contest and will work with the MARAC webmaster to add a contest menu option and information to the MARAC website.

Next the Board adopted a motion by WQ7A to appoint a committee to investigate, negotiate with, and recommend to the Board a third-party election administration company to conduct and certify the validity of MARAC Board director and officer elections and membership ratification of Bylaw changes beginning with the 2016 MARAC elections and referendum to be held in May 2016. The committee will include W8JJ, N0KV, and W4SIG.

The Board then took up and passed several proposed changes to the MARAC Bylaws. The first was a motion to change Section 1.3(c) of the Bylaws regarding scheduling of board meetings to specify a time frame of 30 days within which the MARAC President must call a special meeting if any combination of five directors or officers request a special meeting. The Board also adopted a motion by W4SIG to clarify the intent of Section 4.1(e) of the MARAC Bylaws regarding MARAC Family Membership to add specific language requiring that Family Members must hold an amateur radio license. All changes to the MARAC Bylaws require ratification by the membership, so these changes will be on the ballot along with the election of officers and some of the directors in May.

The Awards Manager put forward several recommendations from the Awards Committee that were all unanimously approved by the Board. The first was a recommendation to modify the award rules for the Ran All (State) Counties Award to clarify that all segments of the award including Ran All USA Counties may be earned multiple times, as well as when the official list of USA Counties applies to each State Award and the Ran All USA Counties portion of the award. That was followed by Board approval of a recommendation to modify the award rules for the Double Diamond Award to clarify that contacts for the award do not have to be made between two mobile operators. The special requirement for at least 500 contacts to be made by the applicant while mobile in different counties on multiple bands only applies to the applicant for those contacts.

The final action by the Board was approval of a motion by N1API to authorize the Treasurer to reimburse the 2016 Convention Chairman up to \$2000 for major convention prizes for the 2016 Annual Convention. In addition the \$4000 in seed money provided for the Convention each year, this should allow for some substantial incentives for traveling to Memphis to have a chance to win some pretty fabulous prizes, as well as engage in a lot of fun activities and eyeball QSOs with the gang.

After adjournment, I opened the floor to questions and comments from the membership (and there were quite a few on the teleconference and in the chat room), but after an hour-long Board meeting, the chat session was brief and we all retired to our evening chores and relaxation.

Both the County Lion and the Big Green Dragon woke up briefly when the adjournment gavel sounded the end of the meeting, but soon continued their soporific sojourn through snooze city. I joined them shortly afterward after a brief stroll in the cool Florida evening sans snow, ice (other than a single cube in the single malt), and heavy jacket. 73, and Happy Valentine's Day to All!



Dateline CW

Ed, KN4Y

There are many paths that lead to a mobile county hunter's destination.

Boy the weather outside has been colder than a whaler's harpoon. I am in the radio shack with a nearby space heater that very seldom cycles. The radio is quiet; I have heard no mobiles calling on a frigid 20-meter CW frequency. I am paging through my QST magazine and I hear the barking of Gator's 4 x 4 as he approaches and slides to a stop at the recycled railroad tie. Gator opens the shack door and comes in carrying the familiar white cardboard container. "Greetings, Dude, I have some hot lattes to warm your frosty innards and stopped at the bakery for some fresh baked éclairs." I get a latte and a éclair, I lean back in my chair. This endeavor requires my full attention.

Gator turns on the computer, "Dude I had to leave before I checked your Stew Perry Top band Challenge log." I shake my head okay and for some reason I start humming Rocky Mountain High. Gator turns around, "Okay Dude, you got seven new counties on 160-meters and one 2x3 call. That is better than the last contest you operated on 160-meters." "Yes Gator, I usually do S&P and I realized I am working the same stations every contest, so I found a quiet frequency and started calling and you see my results." Gator is not paying attention.

"Dude, I opened your North American QSO party log, what a mess. What the heck happened?" I take a sip of my latte and roll my eyes, "I had a problem with my Writelog logging program. I entered QSO 86 and the logging program went kaput, I lost my log. I had this problem before and as a precaution I scribbled down each exchange and was able to reenter the data, but the times are wrong. I restarted the logging program and resumed working stations in the QSO party and the logging program ran as designed. At the end of the QSO party I reentered the 86 QSO's into the log but just guessed at the time." Gator raises his hand, "The best I can determine is you worked 45 States and made 225 QSO's and you worked all bands except 80-meters, what happened?" "When I switched to 80-meters the radio had no power output, I went out the next day and the antenna shunt wire had split in two." "That is awesome Dude; the next very warm day I will help you make repairs." "Thanks Gator."

Gator is reading the county hunter's forum, "Dude you remember that Ocean hopping Dude Jim, ND9M, that compiled the Top list and wanted to retire." "Yes, what happened?" "Well that Dude Barry, K2MF, is now the exalted top list honcho." "This is great, excellent to excellent, can't beat that exchange." Gator looks at my calendar, "Dude what is this note TREES?" I take a sip of my latte, "As you know Mother Nature's antenna support for non-mobile county hunters is a tree. To celebrate Arbor Day hundreds of young trees are given away." "Dude you don't need trees you have towers." "Don't interrupt, I went to the park to give a donation and the line for free trees was two blocks long." "How long was the donation line?" I have to giggle, "Gator you know better than to ask such a silly question." Gator is not listening; he is reading the computer screen.

"Dude I see you operated in the Hungarian DX Contest and made only 35 QSO's, you fall asleep again?" "No Gator the bands conditions were terrible, I always dedicate this contest to the memory of my Grandmother who 100 years ago traveled from Hungry to America. In fact my Mother was born in the Ellis Island Immigrant Hospital." Gator is not listening, he is moseying around. "Dude I see you have a log file for the Montana QSO party but I see no entries." "Yes Gator I listened and listened and

never heard a Montana station. I guess no-one told the amateurs in Montana there was a QSO party.” We have a good laugh and sip our lattes.

Gator removes two envelopes off the desk and opens both. “Dude this is a certificate from the Illinois QSO party.” “How did I do?” Gator studies the write-up, “Well first they have you listed as high power and I will need a submarine to get to your score.” Gator is laughing hilariously. He stops laughing and takes two certificates out of the second envelope, “Great Dude you are first place Florida, low power, in the Louisiana QSO party and you are also first place not in Louisiana, CW low power whatever that means.” “That means I was not in Cajun Country.” I hand Gator another envelope, “This came in today see what it is.” Gator opens the envelope using his redneck approved pocket knife, “This is a certificate for third place in the Colorado QSO party. Why a third place, this is not the QSO party Olympics.” “Settle down Gator, it is nice gesture.

“Dude, every time I ask about the MARAC sideband net I get a call and have to leave. I am going to ask one more time.” Gator’s cell phone sounds off, “ \$@%&^, Sorry Dude, a state booze guy showed up and is wanting some product information” As he drove off I think I heard him yell, “Did you know you get spoiled milk from a pampered cow?” The printer stops and I get the list of mobile stations heard during the month of January on the county hunter’s CW call frequencies. I read: AF5CC, AI5P, AL1G, K0FG, K1PUG, K4YT, K8ZZ, KA4RRU, KB6UF, KC5P, KE3VV, N0KV, N4CD, N4JT, N7JPF, N9JF, NA8W, NF0N, W0EAR, W0GXQ, W4SIG, W5QP, W7FEN, W9OP, WA3QNT, WB0PYY, and WQ7A,

The month of February, known as Shorty, has five QSO parties providing 257 counties up for grabs for the county hunters. There is the Vermont QSO party with 14 counties, the Minnesota QSO party with 87 counties and New Hampshire QSO party with 10 counties. Drink plenty of fluids and prepare for the excitement of the South Carolina QSO party on Saturday and next day on Sunday the North Carolina QSO party, a twofer weekend with 46 counties on Saturday and 100 counties on Sunday up for grabs. This happening gives new meaning to crossing the border. There are 33 contests for the CW operator. To name a few, the YURL YL-ON contest, the British Columbia QSO party, the North America CW sprint, the UBA CW DX contest and of course the ARRL International CW DX contest. If you are reading this and are a sideband operator try the 10:10 International Winter sideband contest. I am getting old; I no longer buy green bananas because it is too risky of an investment. Nap time



Dayton Hamvention

By Kerry W4SIG

This May 20-22 MARAC will have a booth at the Dayton Hamvention! We look forward to putting our best foot forward to educate folks about the joys of county hunting and the benefits of MARAC membership. Please plan on dropping by the booth and visiting. Also, let me know if you would be willing to man the booth for a short period. I am really looking forward to this, come join us!!



Net Chronicles

This article is the fifth in a continuing series of monthly newsletter articles focused on operations and activities on new MARAC sponsored county hunting nets. If you didn't see the first article which gives an overview of the nets and their purpose, please look for it in the October issue of the Road Runner newsletter. All of the current documentation on the new nets is also available on the MARAC website at the following link: <http://www.marac.org/nets.htm>.

MARAC sponsored net activity is picking up again after holidays!

Net activity is increasing following the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year holidays. Weather conditions are still impacting mobile activity in the northern and eastern states but quite a few mobiles have been out during January running national parks and other counties as well. The national park contest for this year is definitely stimulating a few of our members to participate and they report the contact activity is strong with non-members when transmitting from a park. This may be an opportunity for us to attract new members from some of those who participate due to the park contact contest during the entire year. Help keep up the good activity levels and have fun!

Marac Net Reminders:

- 1) The primary frequency has changed to 14.324, first alternate is any available frequency from 14.320 to 14.328, and second alternate is 14.317.
- 2) Scheduled net operating hours are 1400z to 2300z until the time changes to daylight savings time.
- 3) The current net schedule showing session assignments that need to be filled has been migrated to the main MARAC website at: <http://www.marac.org/nets/schedule/schedule20m.htm>
- 4) The email address to use to volunteer for net control or assistant net control positions for any of the net sessions has been changed to: chnetschedule@marac.org

Featured Documentation Excerpt for February, 2016

This month the featured documentation excerpt from the Marac Net Documentation on our club website is section 2.6 of the net policy document "Marac Policy for Sponsored Net Operation" (POL-NET-001) which reads as follows:

2.6 Marac Sponsored Net Operation Expectations

Sponsored net operation expectations are as follows:

1. All amateur radio operators (who follow FCC rules and identify properly) shall be welcome and treated fairly, equally, and with respect.
2. All services provided on the net, such as running counties from a mobile, tutoring, relaying, etc. shall be equally available to all licensed radio amateurs.
3. Net control operations shall be shared equitably.

4. All participants shall conduct themselves in such a manner as to support all other participants to achieve their county hunting objectives in a friendly, cordial, supportive, and productive atmosphere.
5. During periods when mobiles are not running, less formal activities (such as brief exchanges between members, requests to call another participant to complete a contact, requests to move a mobile to another frequency for a separate exchange, etc.) shall be allowed so long as breaks are given to recognize anyone ready to run.
6. Mobile operators who are ready to run a county shall always be given priority over a fixed station running a county.
7. During periods of inactivity on the net, the net control operators may provide information about:
 - a. MARAC,
 - b. operations on a MARAC directed net,
 - c. where to find out more information about county hunting on the MARAC or other websites,
 - d. specifics about various MARAC awards and the requirements to attain those awards,
 - e. health and welfare updates on members,
 - f. upcoming mobile trips which have been posted by members or non-members,
 - g. upcoming regional or national MARAC conventions, and
 - h. other relevant information.
8. The MARAC net control award shall be associated with net control operations on MARAC sponsored nets only.

That's it for this edition of Net Chronicles! *Come join us on the Marac nets! Let's all have more fun in 2016!*

MARAC Net Operations Committee



NSMLP – Ron Clift, Chairperson

MARAC Silent Keys

<u>Callsign</u>	<u>Silent Key Date</u>
WB8JZN	November 30, 2015
KA1YZV	October 24, 2015
KA7JNU	October 1, 2015

Looking for Digital Happenings?

By W0NAC ("Matt")

Digital 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> . A link to this new site is also provided on the MARAC web site (<http://marac.org>) under the "Digital by W0NAC" tab on the home page.

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



Dues

Please refer to the MARAC Database for membership expiration dates.

**Nominations
for CW and SSB
County Hunter of the Year**

Nominations are now in order for the 2016 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 Awards Manager 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 2016 ELECTIONS ANNOUNCEMENT
Second Request

Nominations are currently open for the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer (all 2 year terms). Nominations are also open for the following Directorships: Northeast Director – 3 year term expiring 2019 and Pacific Director- 3 year term expiring 2019.

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, 2016. 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 I must receive by March 10th.

MARAC VOTING INFORMATION

Remember, if you are a new member or are REJOINING following a lapse in membership, you are **NOT** eligible to submit nominations or vote in an election until the first day of the month following receipt of initial payment of dues and valid membership application to the Secretary of MARAC.

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

If you are unsure of your membership status, please go to the MARAC 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



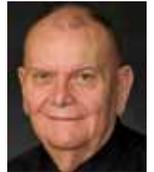
**Treasurer's Report (WONAC)
December 2015***

Beginning Account Balances December 1, 2015	\$38,914.95
December Income:	
Money Market Interest	\$1.58
Awards Manager Income	\$0.00 (See Note 2)
Membership Income	\$250.00
Logger Distribution	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Income:	\$251.58
December New Spotting Site/Logger II Expenses:	
Spotting Site Fixed Expenses (CHSpots.org)	\$0.00
Spotting Site Recurring Expenses (CHSpots.org)	\$0.00
Logger II Fixed Expenses	\$0.00
Logger II Recurring Expenses	\$0.00
December Other Expenses:	
Awards Manager Expenses	\$0.00 (See Note 2)
Dayton Hamvention Booth Reservation	\$575.00
Office Expenses (Postage, Etc.)	<u>\$16.99</u>
Total Expenses:	\$591.99
December Net Income Less Expenses	(\$340.41)
New Total Cash Balance ALL Accounts:	\$38,574.96. #
Checking Account Balance	\$2,482.17
Money Market Account Balance	<u>\$36,092.37</u>
Total Cash All Accounts:	\$ 38,574.54. #

Note:

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

Awards Manager's Funds	\$1,500.00
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* Includes December Transaction posted through 01/01/2016

From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC Total Funds at the end of December should be discounted by **\$6,201.00**. This amount is a Deferred Liability of award fees pre-paid by members. After discounting, our true (spendable) Cash Assets are **\$32,373.54**.

Note 2 – The Award Manager's report for December is delayed due to a family emergency.

Events

2/6 VT QP
2/6 10-10 SSB QP
2/6 MN QP
2/6 AGCW STRAIGHT KEY QP
2/6 FISTS SLOW SPEED SPRINT
2/7 NA CW SPRINT
2/7 SUPERBOWL (NO LINK)
2/13 CQ WW RTTY
2/13 NH QP
2/22 RUN4BACON
2/27 SC QP
2/27 NA RTTY QP
2/28 NC QP

ONLY START DATE SHOWN

CLICK ON EVENT TO GO TO THAT WEB SITE

4/21 MI MINI
8/1 NATIONAL (NO LINK YET)



MARAC 2016 National

Memphis, TN

48th Annual National Convention 2016 Registration

Aug 1st- 4th Memphis, TN

(Deadline for Early Registration Prize Drawing is May 1st, 2016)

NAME: _____ CALLSIGN: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ST/PROV: _____ ZIP _____

Email: _____ PHONE: _____

Convention registration fee: \$45.00
(One Registration fee/family unit – Includes 1 prize ticket)

Name on Badge: _____ Callsign: _____ USACA# _____

Additional Name Badges (list info below) Total # _____ @ \$5 each = \$ _____

Name _____ Callsign _____ USACA# _____ Relation: _____

Name _____ Callsign _____ USACA# _____ Relation: _____

Relation: S-Spouse, D-Daughter, S-Son, M-Mother, F-Father, O-Other

Photos Desired (Circle ones you want)

Photos (8x10) Group – USA CA Holders – YL – CW Ops _____ x\$5= \$ _____

Photos (emailed) Group – USA CA Holders – YL – CW Ops (Free/included w/registration)

Extra Prize Tickets (Increase your chances of winning the Big Prizes!)

Single Tickets _____ x \$1 = \$ _____

12 Pack Tickets _____ x \$10 = \$ _____

Events & Activities (Read detailed descriptions on following pages)

Monday, Aug 1 – Check in and hospitality room

Tuesday, Aug 2 – Graceland & Memphis Music Guided BusTour: 8:30 AM-5:30 PM _____ x \$88= \$ _____

Aug 2 – Do-It-Yourself Activities/Shopping, etc.

Aug 2 – Catered Memphis BBQ Dinner at hotel 6:00 PM _____ x \$8.50= \$ _____

Wednesday, Aug 3 – CW Forum, Remote Op Forum, Antenna Forum, then free time for tourism

Thursday, Aug 4 – MARAC Board Meeting 10:00 AM, Digital Forum, Pictures 6:15 PM,

Banquet/Dinner Buffet 6:30 PM _____ x \$37= \$ _____

Member Trivia, door prizes, main prizes, announcements

Mail your registration form and check, made payable to “2016 MARAC Convention” to:

Pat Mitchell, N0DXE

12200 Boothill Dr

Parker CO 80138

Hotel Reservations: (\$109 for King or Double)

Hyatt Place Germantown, 9161 Winchester Rd, Germantown TN 38138

Call 888-492-8847, and request Group Code: G-MARA , or online at:

http://www.germantown.place.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html?corp_id=G-mara

Door prizes/Gift Exchange: Everyone please bring a gift valued at no more than \$15. These will be swapped via ticket drawing (no fee for a ticket)

MARAC member trivia – At registration we will ask you to describe a little-known fact about yourself. It doesn't have to be regarding county hunting, or even ham radio. Just something interesting we might want to know. We will have fun with this!

Door Prizes – Everyone please bring a gift valued at no more than \$15. These will be swapped via ticket drawing (no fee for a ticket).

Main Prizes- Everyone will get a ticket for the main prize drawings. Additional tickets can be purchased at the event or in advance at a discounted rate. Get your chances in on one of several mobile HF rigs, Signalink USB for digital operation, mobile antennas, and more!

DETAILS ON DAILY ACTIVITIES:

Monday, Aug 1

Check in- you know the drill. Check in to your room and check in with the MARAC registration table for your packet of info. We will have refreshments in the hospitality room.

At 8:00 PM I will make a short presentation in the hospitality room on the week's activities.

Tuesday, Aug 2

Memphis Music Tour Day, 8:30AM to 5:30 PM – You don't want to miss this! Buses will pick us all up at 8:30AM and cruise us over to Elvis' Graceland. There we will take the Graceland Platinum Tour & Airplanes Tour. This includes:

- A multimedia ipad tour of Graceland mansion and grounds
- Graceland Archives Experience
- Self-guided tour of Elvis' two custom airplanes, the Lisa Marie and Hound Dog II
- Self-guided tour of Elvis' automobile museum, including his famous pink Cadillac
- Self-guided tour of I Shot Elvis: The Exhibit
- Self-guided tour of Elvis' Tupelo
- Self-guided tour of Elvis' Hawaii: Concerts, Movies, and More Exhibit

The average tour time 3-3.5 hours (more details can be found at graceland.com)

We will then board the buses and have a box lunch on the way downtown for the Memphis Mojo Tour. These tours have been classified as rolling concerts, so you'll need your instrument (don't worry, they've got you covered) and a camera to capture the good times. A Beale Street professional musician will personally give you one of the more unique and entertaining views of our great city. The Home of the Blues comes alive on this city tour. The musicians play and sing selections from the city's rich musical heritage, while entertaining you with comedy, history, and behind-the-scenes stories of your favorite Memphis personalities.

Along the way, you will see:

- Beale Street
- Stax Studio

- The Lorraine Motel
- Cotton Row
- Peabody Hotel
- Overton Park
- Historic Central Gardens
- St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital
- Early homes of Elvis, B. B. King, and Johnny Cash
- Sun Studio (an inside tour of the "birthplace of rock 'n roll and original recording studio of Rock, country music, and rockabilly artists such as Elvis, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis, Charlie Rich, Roy Orbison, and others)

We will then head back to the hotel for a catered Memphis style Corky's BBQ dinner (optional but **HIGHLY** recommended), casual style starting at 6:00 PM, including:

- BBQ Chicken
- Pulled Pork BBQ
- Baked Beans
- Cole Slaw
- Rolls, buns
- Iced tea, lemonade

Wednesday, Aug 3

9:00 AM CW County Hunter Forum, Bob N4CD

10:00 AM Remote Operations Forum, Pete NN9K

10:45 AM Mobile Antenna Forum, Barry W9UCW

Free time for tourism:

- The hotel has a shuttle that can take you anywhere within a 5 mile radius. This will get you to two of the best shopping centers in town (The Shops of Saddle Creek and Carriage Crossing), and to dozens of great restaurants.
- Want to see the city without driving everywhere? Go downtown and get on board with the Memphis Hop. For one low price this shuttle makes stops at 10 Memphis attractions every hour. Spend as much time as you want in each attraction and catch the next bus to move on at your own pace. The Memphis Hop operates Tuesday - Sunday each week and daily passes are only \$22 for adults. Get the details at MemphisHop.com

☐ American Dream Safari:



In the back of a 1955 Cadillac, Tad Pierson takes you on a journey like you've never experienced. His American Dream Safari company offers themed rides, including Juke Joint Full of Blues, a Delta Day Trip and a soul-soothing Road Therapy Tour. Tad has done personal tours for some very influential folks as the autographed door panels would indicate, and his rich historic and cultural knowledge are as vast as the Mississippi River is long. He can fit up to 5 people in his Cadillac. A three hour personalized tour for up to 5 passengers is \$200. Contact him directly for a reservation at 901-527-8870

☐ Memphis Uptown Carriage Rides



Spend any amount of time in downtown Memphis, and you'll surely come across a carriage. Saddle up for a horse-drawn carriage tour with the family or choose a romantic after-dinner trot exploring the heart of downtown. You'll get your own driver for these one-hour tours (with their ever-present canine companion) giving you a spin on the Memphis scene.

Other Memphis Sites of Special Interest:

Upon registration you will be sent a vacation guide of Memphis for your vacation planning. Some of special interest are:

- The Peabody Hotel – the South’s Grand Hotel.



With a style and tradition befitting one of Memphis’ grandest, most legendary hotels, The Peabody Memphis offers a magnificent bridge between the “Blues City’s” celebrated past and cosmopolitan present. Nestled in the heart of downtown, this historic Forbes Four-Star, AAA Four-Diamond hotel offers a one-of-a-kind experience just blocks from Beale Street, the Memphis Rock ‘n Soul Museum, the Gibson Guitar Factory, Fed-Ex Forum, Sun Studio, the Orpheum Theatre and the Memphis Cook Convention Center. Of special interest are the Peabody Ducks that parade off the elevator via a red carpet ceremony every day at 11AM and return at 5:00 PM to their rooftop palace. A real show!!! Arrive early to get a good view. More details at peabodymemphis.com.

- Memphis Pyramid Bass Pro Shop



An outdoors store unlike any other! It’s a new national destination experience located inside the massive iconic Pyramid in Downtown Memphis, TN. This new, immersive retail experience offers something for everyone from the serious outdoor enthusiast to families looking to have fun. This is much more than just a store. Inside the expansive 535,000-square-foot pyramid are many experiences and features that offer something for everyone. In addition to a vast assortment of outdoor gear, the Pyramid includes a wilderness hotel called Big Cypress Lodge, nearly 600,000 gallons of water features, a cypress swamp with 100-foot-tall trees an 84,000-gallon alligator habitat, and underwater ecosystems including aquariums teeming with more than 1,800 fish, the interactive Ducks Unlimited Waterfowling Heritage Center, Uncle Buck’s Fishbowl and Grill, a nautical-themed restaurant and bar with a saltwater aquarium and a

13-lane ocean-themed bowling alley, Beretta Fine Gun Center, the nation's tallest 28-Story Freestanding Glass Elevator and The Lookout, a breathtaking glass-floored cantilevering observation deck at the top of the 32-story steel Pyramid. With an array of retail, educational and fun attractions for guests of all ages, Bass Pro Shops at the Pyramid is one of the most dynamic, captivating retail adventures in the world.

□ National Civil Rights Museum- Loraine Motel



At the place of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s death in 1968 in Memphis, TN, the National Civil Rights Museum is a renowned educational and cultural institution. The Museum chronicles the American Civil Rights Movement with compelling presentations of iconic exhibits, oral histories of lesser-known civil rights foot soldiers, and visceral, in-the-moment experiences. Visitors will learn through emotionally charged, multi-user, multi-touch interactives, and a visually engaging, contemporary exhibit design that guides you through five centuries of history. More info at Civilrightsmuseum.org

□ Memphis Zoo



One of only a handful of American zoos to house Chinese Pandas. The Memphis Zoo, located in Midtown Memphis is home to more than 3,500 animals representing over 500 different species. Created in April 1906, the zoo has been a major tenant of Overton Park for more than 100 years.

- Stax Museum of American Soul Music.



The Stax Museum of American Soul Music, located at the original site of Stax Records in Memphis, Tennessee at 926 E. McLemore Avenue, is a 17,000 square-foot museum offering interactive exhibits, videos, vintage musical instruments used to create the Stax sound, stage costumes, photographs, records, and approximately 3,000 other items of memorabilia that tell the unique story, from beginning to present, of American soul music, particularly that of Stax Records and the Memphis Sound. Artists highlighted include Isaac Hayes, Otis Redding, the Staple Singers, the Bar-Kays, Booker T. & the MGs, Johnnie Taylor, Little Milton, Sam & Dave, Eddie Floyd, Rufus and Carla Thomas, Al Green, Aretha Franklin, Ike & Tina Turner, James Brown, Ray Charles, Sam Cooke, and hundreds of others. More info at staxmuseum.com

- Memphis Rock 'N Soul Museum



Originally a Smithsonian Institute research project, it became their first permanent exhibition outside of New York and Washington DC. Inside, you'll find seven expansive galleries showcasing instruments, costumes, photographs, artifacts and exhibits like "Rural Music," "Coming to Memphis," "Sun Records & Youth Culture," "Soul Music" and "Social Changes" that take you through a timeline and tell the story of Memphis and its music history. More info at memphisrocknsoul.org

□ Beale Street



All music lovers as well as those just looking for a fun night out on the town will not want to pass up an opportunity to visit Beale Street. This 1.8 mi (2.9 km) stretch of restaurants, bars, and clubs is more than just a place to get a bite to eat. It is now considered "The Official Home of the Blues."

From 1920 to 1940, artists descended on Beale Street and began to collaborate with one another, creating a new music style that blended smooth jazz with hard charging rock 'n' roll. This blend eventually gave birth to the blues, a new and distinctly American genre of music that gradually made its way into the American pop culture mainstream.

A visit to Beale Street today allows you to check out the blues clubs that served as the launching sites for some of the most famous American blues musicians of all time

□ Mud Island River Park



The Riverwalk is an exact scale model of the Lower Mississippi River flowing from its confluence with the Ohio River at Cairo, Illinois 954 miles south to the Gulf of Mexico. It features twenty cities that are mapped along the Riverwalk. Concrete wedges locate the main rivers flowing into the Mississippi or show river engineering structures such as floodways. There are four watershed walls which map the entire drainage area of the Mississippi River. The model empties into an acre size Gulf of Mexico. The park is designed using Corps of Engineers survey and navigational charts.

□ Pink Palace Museum



The Pink Palace Museum is one of the largest facilities of its kind in the Southeast. You can walk through a replica of the first self-service grocery store in the country, Clarence Saunders' Piggly Wiggly. Explore the cultural and natural history of the Mid-South through exciting exhibits, dioramas, and audio-visuials. Trace Memphis' development from the time of Spanish explorers through the Civil War and the yellow fever epidemics. Learn from the award-winning medical exhibit how health care grew to be Memphis' largest industry. You can also enjoy one of many IMAX movies or a show at the planetarium.

□ Memphis Botanic Garden



This 96-acre property includes 28 specialty gardens, which provide an in-depth look into various families of plants, flowers, and trees.

☐ Dixon Gallery and Gardens



Art museum specializing in impressionist and post-impressionist painting, featuring work by Matisse, Renoir, Gauguin, Cassatt and Turner

☐ Brooks Museum of Art



This museum houses an eclectic art collection from early Greek to modern. Brooks Museum is set in a beautiful park like setting. Every Wednesday is no admission charge

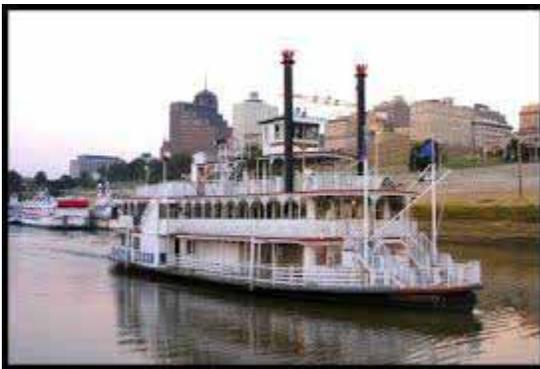
☐ Blues Hall of Fame



The Blues Hall of Fame honors those who have made the Blues timeless through performance, documentation, and recording. Since its inception in 1980, The Blues Foundation has inducted new members annually into the Blues Hall of Fame for their historical contribution, impact and overall influence on the Blues. Members are inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame in five categories: Performers, Individuals, Classic of Blues Literature, Classic of Blues Recording (Song), Classic of Blues Recording (Album). Since 1980, The Blues Foundation has inducted 350+ performers, industry professionals, recordings and literature into the Blues Hall of Fame. Of the 130 performer inductees, 120 of them are African-American.

The most popular cruise is the 90-minute sightseeing cruise, which take's visitors a step back into Tennessee history. Historical commentary gives a comprehensive and interesting narrative of past and present Mississippi River life.

☐ Memphis Riverboat Rides



Authentic American Riverboat Cruises on the Mississippi River. Take a Paddlewheeler a few miles up and down the greatest river in the U.S.A., The “Mighty” Mississippi. This is a great way to see and learn a bit of Mississippi River history while visiting Memphis.

☐ Railroad and Trolley Museum



Located in historic Memphis Central Station, the Memphis Railroad and Trolley Museum features “hands on” activities for the kids, model train layouts, memorabilia and displays with emphasis on the role of railroads and trolleys the history of Memphis.

□ Hunt Phelan House



Built between 1828 - 1832, the home was host to many well known Tennesseans such as President Andrew Jackson, Jefferson Davis and General N.B. Forest. Confederate General Leonidas Polk planed the battle of Corinth in the home and General U.S. Grant later used the house as his headquarters where he devised the Vicksburg campaign. The home also served as a Union hospital. After the war, one of the first schools for freed slaves was built on the property by the Freedman’s Bureau.

Thursday, Aug 4

10:00 AM MARAC Board Meeting

11:00 AM Digital Forum, chaired by Matt W0NAC and AI N1API

6:15 Group Pictures at Germantown Country Club

Location: Germantown Country Club

1780 Kimbrough Rd

Germantown, TN 38138

(about 15 minutes from host hotel)

6:30 PM MARAC Banquet at Germantown Country Club

Dinner Buffet:

Dinner Salad-Garden Salad with Tomatoes, Julienne Carrots and Red Cabbage

Roast Top Round of Beef carving station

Salmon Florentine

Garlic Creamed Potatoes

Rice Pilaf

Green Bean Almondine

Medley of Vegetables (Carrots, Cauliflower & Broccoli)

Rolls and Butter

Desserts: Cheesecake with Raspberry Topping, Lemon Cake, Key Lime Pie

Coffee, Iced Tea

Video

Door prizes

Main prizes

Announcements and awards



**Meeting of Board of Directors
MOBILE AMATEUR RADIO AWARDS CLUB****Wednesday – January 27, 2016**

President David Splitt (KE3VV) called the meeting to order at 2400Z on January 27, 2016 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)

1. Motion by KE3VV to accept the minutes of the September 11, 2015 Meeting. Seconded by WB9NUL. The motion passed by a vote of 9 in favor, 0 abstention and 0 opposed.
2. Motion by WQ7A to approve the Treasurer's Reports for August 2015, September 2015, October 2015 and November 2015. Seconded by N1API. The motion passed by a vote of 9 in favor, 1 abstention and 0 opposed.
3. Motion by N1API to approve Awards Manager's Financial Reports for November 2015. Seconded by WB9NUL. The motion passed by a vote of 9 in favor, 1 abstention, and 0 opposed.

Old Business

4. Report on the Status of MARAC nets. (N5MLP)
5. Board approval of change in date of 2016 Convention and venue. (W4SIG)

Motion by W4SIG to approve the change of the date and location of the 2016 MARAC Convention to August 1-4 at the Hyatt Place hotel in Germantown, TN. Seconded by WB9NUL.

The motion passed by a vote of 10 in favor, 0 abstention and 0 opposed.

New Business

6. Motion by NF0N for MARAC to sponsor 2016 MARAC County Hunter CW and SSB contests, that a Greg (NM2L) be appointed Contest Coordinator, and that a Contest Menu option be added at marac.org. Seconded by W4SIG.

The motion passed by a vote of 10 in favor, 0 abstention and 0 opposed.

7. Motion by N0KV to appoint a committee consisting of W8JJ, N0KV, and W4SIG to investigate, negotiate with, and recommend to the Board a third-party election administration company to conduct and certify the validity of MARAC Board Member/Officer and bylaw changes referendums beginning with the 2016 MARAC elections being held in May 2016. Seconded by W4SIG.

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

8. Motion by W4SIG to change section 1.3 (c) of the MARAC Bylaws regarding scheduling of meeting of directors to specify a time frame within which the MARAC President must call a special meeting if any combination of five Directors or Officers request such a meeting and to clarify who may call for the meeting. (Recommended changes are highlighted in red).

1.3(c) The President or **any combination of five (5) Directors and Officers** may call special meetings of the Board of Directors at any time. The President shall set a date and time for the special meeting and shall notify the Secretary for the purpose of giving notice of the meeting to all directors. **The meeting date must be within 30 days after the President receives the request for the special meeting. If the President fails to set the meeting date within the 30-day period, any combination of five directors and officers may set the date and time for the Special Meeting and notify the Secretary for the purpose of giving notice of the meeting to all directors.**

Seconded by W8JJ. The motion passed by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 abstention and 3 opposed.

9. Motion by W0NAC to clarify Section 4.1(e) of the MARAC Bylaws regarding MARAC Family Membership to add specific language requiring that Family Members must hold an amateur radio license.

4.1(e) Family Members: Any **amateur radio licensee** related to a Regular member who resides at the same address as the Regular member may become a Family Member of MARAC upon application. Family members do not pay dues, but continued membership shall be based on current payment of dues by the Regular member with whom they reside. Family members are entitled to vote and hold office, but shall not be entitled to receive a separate copy of the MARAC newsletter.

Seconded by W8JJ The motion passed by a vote of 10 in favor, 0 abstention, and 0 opposed.

Report of the Awards Committee

10. Motion by KC6AWX to modify the award rules for County Hunter of the Year by adding the word “consideration” and a 5th paragraph to the award rule, as follows:

Criteria for **consideration** for nomination for County Hunter of the Year include the following:

1. Quality and quantity of operating to provide Valid Contacts from multiple counties while in Mobile Operation or while assisting mobile county hunters as a Net Control Station (NCS) or assistant NCS.
2. Participation in MARAC activities and service to MARAC and the members of MARAC.
3. Other activities in support of county hunting.
4. Technical proficiency in design or usage or implementation of enhancements to mobile operation or county hunting net operations. Overall amateur radio general support in a manner consistent with good operation and advancement of the hobby.
5. **Current MARAC officers and directors are not eligible for this award.**

Seconded by W4SIG. The motion passed by a vote of 10 in favor, 0 abstention and 0 opposed.

11. Motion by KC6AWX to modify and clarify the award rules for Ran All (State) Counties Award, as follows:

Ran All (State) (USA) Counties Award

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with amateur radio operators while transmitting from every county in a State **or all States (all USA Counties)**.

SPECIAL RULES: The applicant must make **Valid Contacts** while transmitting from every county in a State **(or all USA Counties)** while the applicant is in a **Mobile Operation** or **Portable Operation**. **The counties required for each State award and the All USA Counties award are determined by the official list of USA Counties on the date of the application for an award. If the official counties list for State has changed after the applicant has already received a State award for that State, the revised list as of the date of application will be the list required for the All USA Counties award. However, if only the name of a county has changed and the boundaries of the county have not changed, credit for transmitting from that county survives and applies to the current name as well as the previous name.**

AWARD LEVELS: A separate State award is available for each State. All counties in a State must be completed for the award for that State. Each award may be earned multiple times up to a maximum of ten (10) times, but only the first time is a numbered award. An applicant must complete transmitting from all counties in a State **(or all USA Counties)** before starting over **for that State (or All USA Counties)**.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application. There is no fee for award certificates for MARAC members. For non-members, there is no fee for the first award certificate for each State. The fee for each additional award certificate for a State is \$3 for non-members. The fee for the optional mobile plaque for each State is \$20. A trophy will be awarded for completing **All USA Counties**. There is no fee for the trophy.

Seconded by KZ2P. The motion passed by a vote of 10 in favor, 0 abstention and 0 opposed.

12. Motion by KC6AWX to modify and clarify the award rules for the Double Diamond Award, as follows:

Double Diamond Award

OBJECTIVE: To make **Valid Contacts** in **All USA Counties** with other **mobile** operators who have earned the MARAC Mobile Diamond Award, including contacts while in a **Mobile Operation** transmitting from at least 500 counties as the holder of the Mobile Diamond Award.

SPECIAL RULES: All **Valid Contacts** for this award must have been made on or after September 15, 2015, and after the applicant has received the Mobile Diamond Award.

After having received the Mobile Diamond Award, the applicant must make contacts **with other holders of the Mobile Diamond Award in All USA Counties (Double Diamond contacts)**. Both Mobile Diamond holder operators **involved in each Double Diamond contact** may count both counties toward the Double Diamond Award. These contacts may be any combination of mobile to mobile, mobile to fixed or fixed to fixed stations.

The applicant must **also** make **Valid Contacts** while transmitting in a **Mobile Operation** from at least five hundred (500) different counties.

In each of the 500 different counties transmitted while in **Mobile Operation**, the applicant must use at least (2) different **Bands** and make at least three (3) Valid Contacts with different stations on

any one **Band** and a total of three (3) or more additional **Valid Contacts** on one or more additional **Bands (any combination of additional Bands)**. At least one of these mobile contacts must be with another holder of the Mobile Diamond Award and that contact may be on any **Band**. **If needed, this mobile contact may also count toward the requirement to make Valid Contacts with other Mobile Diamond holders in All USA Counties.**

For each **Valid Contact**, the two Mobile Diamond Award holders must be in separate counties (or countries) at the time the **Valid Contact** is made.

AWARD LEVELS: **There are no intermediate levels for this award. The award is for making Double Diamond contacts in All USA Counties, as well as transmitting from 500 counties in a Mobile Operation.**

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application and logs. There are no fees for MARAC members for this award. Standard fees apply to non-members.

Seconded by WQ7A. The motion passed by a vote of 10 in favor, 0 abstention and 0 opposed.

13. Motion by N1API to authorize the Treasurer to reimburse the Convention Chairman up to \$2,000.00 for major convention prizes for each Annual Convention, if needed, in addition to the convention seed money. Seconded by N0KV.

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

14. Being no further business to discuss, motion by N1API to adjourn the meeting at 0104Z. Seconded by N0KV. The meeting was adjourned by a vote of 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

Respectfully submitted,
James Grandinetti, Secretary



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 25th!

Board of Directors

President: David Splitt, KE3VV, 6111 Utah Ave NW, Washington DC 20015, 301-300-2818, davidsplitt@erols.com

Vice-President: Terry Dummler, WQ7A, PO Box 500, Yelm, WA 98597, 360-894-3715, wq7a@comcast.net

Secretary: Jim Grandinetti, KZ2P, 2690 Bohicket Rd, Johns Island, SC 29455, 843-323-8385, k2jg@comcast.net

Treasurer: Matt Matthew, W0NAC, 17525 Wilde Ave, Unit 108, Parker CO 80134, 303-799-3658, w0nac@comcast.net

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

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

Northeast Director: Al Kaiser, N1API, 194 Glen Hills Rd, Meriden CT 06451, n1api@cox.net

South Central Director: Barry Mitchell, N0KV, 12200 Boothill Dr, Parker, CO 80138, 303-841-6510, n0kv@earthlink.net

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

Southeast Director: Kerry Long, W4SIG, 1854 Newton Nook, Collierville, TN 38017, 901-331-1881, kerrylong@comcast.net

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

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

Appointees

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

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

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

Webmaster: Jeff Napier, AF3X, 3031 Tyler Jacob Way, Knoxville, TN 37931, 760-590-0797, napierv6@comcast.net

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

Election Coordinator: Kent Reinke, KV7N, 1826 East 4500 North, Buhl ID 83316, 208-543-6083, kr@gei.net

MARAC General Counsel: Bill Morgan, K0DEQ, 12012 County Rd 3000, Rolla, MO 65401, 573-465-5405, 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

Dues with an Electronic copy of the Newsletter copy are \$10.00 per year, check or money order.