



# THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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## Riding the County Lion Dave – KE3VV

The spring rains have come to Florida on the heels of the winter rains (which are not supposed to happen because winter is the “dry” season) – all courtesy of El Niño and leaving things rather soggy. Of course the Big Green Dragon loves it because it washes away the coating of pollen that gives the Dragon a bright yellow cast on dry days and has aging allergy sufferers spending their pension and social security nickels on antihistamines and boxes of nose tissues. [Yes, I know we all refer to them as “Kleenex” – which is a brand name owned by Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc., but as an exec with the Xerox Corporation, I am sensitive to the generic use of brand names like “Xerox machine” or “Xerox copies.” Of course, that is also the source of confusion and, on occasion, the unintended use of equipment and supplies when I hear another ham say on the radio, “Copy that!”] So the great irony of the past few months is that when the clouds shed their tears our eyes are dry, and when the skies are blue and clear, our eyes are weeping and noses running.

Other signs of spring abound. Our resident osprey, sandhill cranes, and other birds are nesting and hatching eggs and coddling their chicks. On another other side of the food chain, our local reptiles are filling the lakes with gator sex while chowing down on small pets that have been carelessly allowed to roam outside. Our neighbor’s cat went for an evening stroll and was accosted by a mother bobcat... she got away – far away- and didn’t come home for a few days to end the hand-wringing and misery of doubt. Suffice it to say that Florida is not a great venue for outdoor cats and small dogs. That bobcat lives in the scrub jungle behind our house and has a couple of bobkittens to feed, so I am sure a little kitty would spice up the regular menu of field mice, squirrels, and the occasional slow bird.

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The County Lion notes that MARAC election nominations are closed and that there are only two contested position this time around. Chuck Secrest (NM1G) and Kraig Pritts (KA2LHO) are vying for the Vice President position that is being vacated by incumbent Terry Dummler (WQ7A), and the Pacific Director slot currently held by Bob Devine (KC6AWX) will be decided between Tom Conway (K7REL) and Paul Nelson (N7JPF). The only other director position - Northeast Director - will continue to be held by incumbent Al Kaiser (N1API), who is running unopposed.

All of the other officer positions, the MARAC volunteers who do most of the work (other than the services performed by the Awards Manager, who puts in more hours than the rest of us combined) will be filled by acclamation because only one candidate has volunteered for each job. I will be retiring and handing over the reins of the office of MARAC President to Randy Hatt (AA8R). The membership management and numerous other duties of the position of MARAC Secretary that have been handled flawlessly by Jim Grandinetti (KZ2P) will be assumed by Terry Dummler (WQ7A), who is moving over from the Vice President slot to a more officially active role. The hard-to-fill shoes of Matt Matthew (W0NAC), who has done a magnificent job as Treasurer (in addition to providing MARAC members with all the information and skills needed to be first class digital operators) will be worn by Aubrey Mansfield (W7OLY).

The voting for the two contested offices will take place on-line during the month of May. This issue of the Roadrunner contains self-supplied biographical information on each of the candidates, but feel free to contact each of them and ask any questions you may have about their positions on the vital issues of the day. According to Section 1.2 of the MARAC Bylaws, "The term of office shall begin at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors at the annual convention of MARAC, and shall be the last order of business at the meeting," so the new officers and directors will take over officially after the August annual meeting at the convention in Germantown, TN. Terry (WQ7A) will be handling the chair at the meeting as VP standing in for me – the outgoing President – because the August date for this year's annual convention and membership meeting conflicts with a prior commitment with Laurene and the gathered offspring. I will be sorry to miss the last meeting of my Reign of Terror, but family comes first. I asked the Big Green Dragon if he would go in my place, but he reminded me that dragons are not allowed in places like Memphis and New Orleans in the hot and steamy Dog Days of August. The County Lion may show up – so look for him lurking in the corner near the bar.

As the Lion and the Dragon constantly remind me, every organization needs an ongoing revitalization of leadership and participation, and it is good to see some of our members ready and willing to be active. Thanks to all four candidates for running for the contested slots, and congratulations to the other volunteers who will take office this summer. 73, and Happy Hunting!



**Dateline CW**

Ed, KN4Y

The Michigan State Police received county hunting training to handle the MARAC Conventioneers.

Peacocks do not lay eggs and can you believe this is already the month of April. Why is the year in such a hurry to become history? Perhaps it is because on April first the State of Louisiana may consider renaming their parish's nomenclature to counties to be in accordance with the format used in the other states. Also to be Politically Correct the legislature required several counties to be renamed: Ascension Parish will be Up County, Assumption Parish will be Perhaps County, Saint Bernard Parish will be Barney County, Saint Charles will be Chuck County, Saint Helena Parish will be Hell-bent County, Saint James Parish will be Bubba Jim County, Saint John the Baptist Parish will be Big John County and Saint Landry will be Washy County.

I am jolted back to reality when I hear the bark of Gator's 4X4 exhaust as he enters the driveway, down shifts, and slides to a stop at the recycled railroad tie. Gator slides off the seat and enters the radio shack carrying the much anticipated white cardboard recyclable container. Gator flips the lid open and hands me a latte, "Any mobile running?" I nod yes and cherish that first sip of my latte, "I am working W0GXQ on 15 and 17-meters in Iowa." "Say hello to Jerry for me." "I will next time he is QRZ, now I would like you to check out my North and South Carolina QSO party logs." Gator turns on the computer. I sip my latte as imaginary coffee bean fairies prance about, driving out the endless boiled egg experience.

Gator studies the computer screen, "Well Dude you did not set any county hunting records during the South Carolina QSO party but you did work five new counties on 80-meters, logged two new 2x2 call prefix, and one no star." "Who were the mobiles I worked on CW?" Gator turns back to the computer, "There was Bill, N4IQ, Ariel, NY4G and the Swamp Fox Contest Group WW4SF. Not many for a highly promoted QSO party." I shrug my shoulders, "Well Gator, The Palmetto State amateurs are primarily sideband operators, many of the CW operators have retired and moved to Florida." "Did you just make that up?" "Yep!"

Gator is not listening as he sips his latte. He turns around in the chair, "Well Dude you made more CW contacts in the North Carolina QSO party but only worked one new county on 15 and 80-meters and got two No-star contacts, you should have raked the yard and been more productive." I pretend I did not hear Gator, "How many mobiles did I work?" Gator checks the log, "You worked three mobiles: Tad, K3TD and two MARAC county hunters Connie, K5CM and Kyle, WA4PGM. I suppose the Tar Heel State CW operators also moved to Florida." "That be affirmative." Gator shakes his head and sips his latte.

"Dude! I just read the ARRL on-line newsletter and Tom, NY2RF, is the new ARRL CEO. The previous Top ZZ guy has retired. Do you know Tom?" "Nope!" "Dude I almost forgot, soon we do the Georgia QSO party, have we got a route yet?" "Yes, it is on the red memory stick.

Gator opens the file and reads: The Saturday route is; Grady, Thomas, Brooks, Lowndes, Echols, Charlton, Brantley, Wayne, Appling, Bacon, Coffee, Irwin, Berrien, and Cook counties. The Sunday route is; Thomas, Mitchell, Dougherty, Lee, Sumter (Stop and also run NPS #NS02 the Andersonville

National Historical Site), then Terrell, Calhoun, and Baker. I sip my latte and nod yes.

Gator yells, “That is great. Now how about the Florida QSO party at the end of the month? “Nothing new, we will run Northeast counties Saturday and panhandle counties on Sunday. I am a creature of habit.” Gator shakes his head in agreement, “I just found the log for our mobile run into Georgia to get counties for Eli, HA9RE, Bill, K2HVN and a few others.” I give Gator a thumb up and he continues, “We travelled 360 miles, ran 13 Georgia counties and made 319 contacts. By the way Dude did you find out what happened to your 15-meters?” “Yes, it was a fluke. The plug to the LDG antenna tuner vibrated out and when you plugged back in you bent a pin.” “I get blame for everything, how come 17, 20 and 40 meters were not affected?” “I have no idea, but the LDG tuner manufacture should change the plug design so vehicle vibration does not pop it out.”

“Dude you were going to tell me about the new van, for which you did not ask for my van expertise.” I lean back in the chair put my feet on the pail that catches the QRM emitted from the rig. “Listen up Gator; I decided to obtain a new mobile for county hunting. I had an old GMC van so I went to the GMC dealer to purchase a new van. The sales people talked to me but that was it, I think they thought I was too old to purchase a new van. I ran into the same mind set at the Chevy dealer. One day on my way to bowling I noticed several new Dodge vans on a back lot. I went to the Dodge dealer and one was a new two year old 2014 Dodge Promaster cargo van. We decided on a price and I sent the van to Georgia to have the interior customized. I went to that stereo place and had the power cord installed for the radio. I had a Kargo Master roof rack installed on the top as a ground plane for the antenna. I installed a stainless steel plate for the Breedlove antenna mount. I purchased the RG213/U with PL259 to Ring Terminals coax cable from ABR Industries. As you know I use Hustler resonators mounted horizontally at 145 inches above ground. I had no ignition noise during the county run in Georgia and copied great signal reports. Now you know the rest of the story, now do the logs for the Oklahoma; Idaho and Wisconsin QSO parties.”

Gator gives me the finger and turns toward the computer. I sip my latte as I wait. Finally Gator turns around: “First I have the Idaho QSO party and you only worked 16 QSO’s but you got one No-star and one new county on 40-meters. You worked one mobile, Darryl, WW7D, who is a MARAC member.” I shake my head in agreement, “I did not hear many Idaho stations on CW.” Gator smiles, “You did better in the Wisconsin QSO party with 95 QSO’s but only got two No-stars and one new county on 80-meters. I do notice there were four MARAC members operating mobile: Jim, K8IR, Jim, N0UR, Scott, NE9U and the one and only Jeff, W9MSE. Also mobile on CW was John, N0IJ.

Gator gets another latte and returns to the computer. His eyes light up.”Wow Dude, you did a lot better in the Oklahoma QSO party making 146 QSO’s and getting six No-star, three new counties on 80-meters and three 2X2 calls. I can understand why this was possible on CW, you worked six MARAC members operating mobile: Ron, AF5Q, Connie, KC5M, Don, K5DB, Jerry K5YAA, Bob, W0BH and that Texas Dude Norm, W3DYA. Completing the mobile posse is Ron, AD0DX.” We give a latte salute to the courageous mobile operators.

Gator points to the hall tree, “I see two new Gold Medals hanging there, what did you do this time?” I laugh, “I came in first in the Tallahassee Capital City Senior Games in the bowling singles and doubles event.” “That is awesome, is it like the Olympics?” “Yes except the participants are a lot older and the medal is pretend Gold.” Gator is not impressed, he picks up a certificate off the desk, “Not bad Dude.

You came in first place in Florida in the 2015 Louisiana QSO party” Gator sets the certificate in the in-basket, “Whoa Dude what is this?” Gator picks up a coin lying in the in-basket. I smile, “That Gator is a California Gold Rush challenge coin. I got for operating in the 50<sup>th</sup> California QSO party,” “Pretend Gold?” “Yes.”

The printer starts and stops, Gator hands me a printout, “Just saw this on the forum, you might be interested.” The printout contains the list of names of the uncontested new MARAC officers. I read the names to Gator.

President: Randy Hatt, AA8R  
Secretary: Terry Dummler, WQ7A  
Treasurer: Aubrey Mansfield, W7OLY  
Northeast Director: Al Kaiser, N1API.

Gator’s current attention span has expired and he is looking at the computer as he sips his latte, “Dude, what happened? You only got 19 contacts in the Louisiana QSO party and only 3 No-star contacts.” I shake my head in an agreement, “First, I participated in the City bowling tournament and when I finally got into the shack I found terrible band conditions. Who were the mobiles?” “Well Dude I see only two, Charles, NO5W and loveable Norm, W3DYA.” “Gator, check out the Virginia QSO party, I did a little better.” “You did well; you got twice as many QSO’s and three new counties on 80-meters. Best I can tell you worked one mobile Bud, W2RU. Dude did you find out about Ed and...”

Gators cell phone activates CQ, CQ, CQ, “Sorry Dude, the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union is on the way to the plant to do intense sampling of my elixir to verify the properties.” He is gone like a Lotto investment. I hear Gator yell, “May the force be with y’all.” I close the door and hear the printer stop; I grab the printout, it is a list of stations that operated during March on the county hunter’s CW call frequencies. I read:

AI5P, AK8A, K0FG, K0MAF, K4ZGB, K4ZXM. K8IR. K8ZZ, KA4RRU, KB6UF, KC3X, KN4Y, N0KV, N4CD, N7IV, N9AC, N9JF, NF0N, NM2L, VA3XOV, W0BH, W0GXQ, W3DOT, W3DYA, W4SIG, W7FEN, W8JI, W8RF, W9MSE, WB0PYF, and WD4OIN.

Double your vitamin intake and be prepared for the April QSO parties with 685 counties up for grabs. Starting the month off is the Mississippi QSO party with 82 counties and the Missouri QSO party with 115 counties. After a brief rest all this fun continues with the New Mexico QSO party with 33 counties and the much anticipated Georgia QSO party with 159 counties. Then another brief rest before the foursome arrives; The Nebraska QSO party with 93 counties, the Michigan QSO party with 83 counties, the North Dakota QSO party with 53 counties. Wait there is one more from North of the boarder, the Ontario QSO party. Saving the best for the last is the renowned Florida QSO party with 67 counties. This month there are 38 activities to keep a CW operator keying away. I read that the word Politics can be described as ‘poli’ the Latin word meaning ‘many’ and ‘tics’ meaning blood sucking creatures. Darn, I forgot to have Gator check out my results in the FOC QSO party, but first. Nap time.



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

**N**ominations 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 31<sup>ST</sup> 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 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.

Voting will be taking place during the month of May **only**. Voting online is preferred at <http://www.marac.org/elections> I will also be accepting mail ballots postmarked during the month of May.

The voting page on the MARAC website will be available starting May 1<sup>st</sup> thru May 31<sup>st</sup>.

I want to thank the following county hunters who have volunteered to serve in the following positions. They are running unopposed so congratulations is in order:

President – Randy Hatt AA8R  
Secretary – Terry Dummler WQ7A  
Treasurer – Aubrey Mansfield W7OLY  
Northeast Director Al Kaiser N1API

The following positions are up for election

I would like to introduce Chuck (NM1G). Chuck is a candidate for the position of Vice President.

**Election Bio  
Chuck Secest  
NM1G**

Fellow County Hunters and MARAC Members I'm running for the Board of Directors position of Vice President.

I was first licensed in 1961 as WN8ASV and then as WA8ASV after passing the General test in 1962. When the FCC announced the 2x1 calls in 1978. I became AD8W. I started county hunting in the late 60's. First on the 75 meter CHC net and then ICHN both on 75 and 20 meters. I remained active county hunting until the mid 80's when family and job obligations took priority. While living in Florida in 2001,

I reactivated my county hunting activities.

I retired from County government in 1995 after serving as Data Processing Manger for 26 years. After retiring from county government I started doing consulting work. In 1998 I moved to Florida and accepted a contract with Walt Disney World as their Anti-Virus Program Coordinator. Then in 2004 I decided to leave the work force, retire full time and move back to Michigan. While in Michigan I met and married my wife Sandy. After traveling around the country and several visits to the New England area. Sandy and I decided to try life in the Northeastern US. We ended up moving to Rhode Island in 2012 and bought a home on Narragansett Bay. A great takeoff angle across salt water to Europe and Africa, not so good back stateside. Along with the move came the decision to leave my AD8W call of 34 years behind and become NM1G.

Today my radio time is split between county hunting, Dxing and casual contesting. Most of my county hunting is now spent on CW, however I now have my Digital setup running and plan to add that to my hunting pursuits.

I hold USA-CA #216 dated 2/20/1979 and this past December earned the Fifth time award. Additionally I hold WPX-PA-W & K, Bingo 1 & 2, 5 Star, 1X3 calls and Master Gold. I'm getting close and hope to finish CW, plus WPX-PA-N & A in the near future.

My non-radio activities include Reading, Hiking, Snow Shoeing, Golf , watching Movies and an avid fan of NFL Football (Packers and Patriots).

My past MARAC service includes Great Lakes District Director and Two terms as Vice President. My wife Sandy and myself had the honor of serving as the Conventioneers for the 2009 MARAC National Convention in Petoskey Michigan.

I would be honored to serve as your MARAC Vice President. I promise that I will keep an open mind on all matters that come before the BOD and to vote in the best interest of the members and a strong growing MARAC organization.

Chuck Secrest NM1G (ex. AD8W & WA8ASV) – MARAC #R-827

**I would also like to introduce Kraig Pritts (KA2LHO). Kraig is also a candidate for the position of Vice President**

**Election Bio**  
**Kraig D. Pritts**  
**KA2LHO**

I respectfully submit my name in nomination for the MARAC Officer position of Vice President.

Although perhaps not as well known as many others in the organization, my MARAC number of R-1433 represents a decades old involvement in the activities of MARAC. After a ham related accident dulled

my interest in ham radio in general for several decades, my retirement a year and a half ago resulted in a rekindled an interest and involvement in County Hunting, MARAC and active mobile operations.

I also believe that my career involving 12 years a Superintendent of Schools and working with Boards in that role as well as my current position as President of a county wide Board of Directors in Onondaga County, NY provide a knowledge and understanding of the role and responsibility of a Board of Directors and my history in County Hunting provides the context of MARAC.

I hope to be able to provide guidance and support for the President and other members of the Board of Directors and MARAC in general through team based actions to further the cause of mobile operations and find ways to encourage and support those who are newly involved in the activities of the organization.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kraig D. Pritts  
KA2LHO

### **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 your initial payment of dues and valid membership application by the Secretary of MARAC. Those individuals maintaining uninterrupted membership status are not restricted from nominating or voting in the current month.

**I would like to introduce Tom (K7REL). Tom is a candidate for the position of Pacific Director.**

### **Election Bio**

**Tom Conway  
K7REL**

MARAC Biographical Sketch From K7REL (Revised 03/10/16)

First licensed at age 14, I only discovered county hunting by accident back in 2001, while surfing the internet one day and stumbling across the net frequencies posted on the AC6V website. I immediately became addicted to the fast pace of the various net operations and have been an active county hunter for over 15 years now. I used to run mobile, until I was “banned” from 14.336 in 2004 for daring to speak out against the mistreatment of many of my fellow county hunters. I simply could not, in good conscience, remain silent in the face of such abusive behavior. Since then I have gone on to earn another 22 MARAC awards; all without the help of that particular NCS.



I believe MARAC exists because of its members, and that the BOD should serve that membership according to the will of the majority. I would like to see a return to the civility, camaraderie, and friendlier days of county hunting, that I hear so many of the “old-timers” speak of. I think the Board of Directors should be actively promoting goodwill and fraternity among all county hunters, as well as the amateur radio community in general. With that in mind, I would work for the following:

1. Changes in the MARAC By-Laws to ensure a fair, free, open, honest, democratic, and transparent election process; Safeguarding the anonymity of the voter, to ensure the principle of a “secret” ballot, and to require that once the votes are counted, the results are made public, along with the actual vote counts, so that the membership knows exactly how many votes each candidate for MARAC office has received. Members should also receive some kind of confirmation that their electronic or mail-in ballots have been received, and security measures need to be put in place to make sure that nobody is allowed to vote more than once, like has happened before. Nominations for MARAC candidates should be published as soon as they are received, so we know who is running for what office, and to avoid having 4 or 5 people running for the same office, while two or three other positions go “*unopposed*”. The actual counting of the votes should be witnessed by at least two “disinterested”, non-BOD members of the club.
2. All meetings of the BOD should be open to the entire membership via toll free, dial-in teleconferencing, with members free to participate, comment, and ask questions. An official agenda of any/all items for discussion should be emailed to the membership along with copies of the RoadRunner prior to any board meetings.
3. Continued support for the newly operational MARAC sponsored Net, making it a place where everybody is welcome, and where everybody is treated with courtesy and respect; where nobody is “banned”; and nobody is being run off the frequency. Encourage more people to help by serving as Assistant and Net Control.
4. Find ways to strengthen the integrity of the MARAC awards system.

**I would also like to introduce Paul (N7JPF). Paul is also candidate for the position of Pacific Director.**

### **Election Bio**

**Paul Nelson**

**N7JPF**

A special greeting to the MARAC members of the Pacific Area. It would be my honor to represent you as the Pacific Director.

I have been a member of MARAC since 1991. My first CH QSO contact was with KY0E/m in Apache,

AZ, (5/19/91) and I have been hooked ever since. I ventured out on my first mobile road trip to give out counties in OR/CA in August of 1993, and have enjoyed mobile operation ever since, when my schedule has allowed. To this point, I have given out 269 counties (556 towards MG), which isn't many, but those of you who have been out west realize those are large counties, and many miles between. Also, in the past 3 years I have enjoyed contributing county-line pictures for the "CHarchive" project.

I proudly hold USACA #1238, earned in 2013. I am 2/3 of the way through finishing USA-CW only. My most recent activity has been learning the art of transmitting/m on digital and CW. The CW is coming slowly, but I am finding personal success with that. I appreciate the patience of those who try to copy my mobile-CW!

I am fortunate to live in the beautiful pacific northwest where there are many needed counties, and I have the ability to eventually get to them, helping those who need one to finish up. I have always appreciated the fine members who have gone out of their way to help me, and I try to return the favor every chance I get, in any mode or band. Those of you who have visited with me at the conventions and on the phone, know I will always go out of my way for you. I love helping my fellow CHer's

I ask for your vote as Pacific Director, and I will represent you faithfully.

73, Paul, N7JPF  
Wasco County, OR

***MARAC 4th Quarter Award Voting  
January - March***

Voting will be open from April 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup> for the best net control, mobile and team awards. The easiest way to place your vote is at the MARAC web site <http://www.marac.org/elections> and all you will need to enter on the sign in page is your call sign and your MARAC voting key. If you have lost or do not know your voting key then enter your callsign and click on the button below to request your voting key. The key will immediately be emailed to your email address on record. 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.

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.

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 \_\_\_\_\_

It has been a very busy spring for me with very little time for the radio or making mobile trips. I have been trying to finish up the pruning of all the trees (approx. 2,000) before they start to bud out, then dormant spray needs to be applied. When things slow down I hope to be on the radio a bit more often.

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



**New Members**

**MARAC Number**  
R4620

**Callsign**  
KE0FIM

**Name**  
Karen Johnson

**On the Receiving End**

Gerry, W0GXQ

If you are not a CW mobile operator, you may have wondered what it's like out there on the road. It is surely not as easy as handling a DX stations operation. The DX station can more or less manage the situation by announcing his listening frequency range, whereas the mobile operating the county hunter nets has to contend with all stations calling on the same frequency.

If you have not experienced the blast of incoming signals on the same frequency, you cannot know what it is like. By the end of a run, your head is ringing! Even if the mobile operator is familiar with 99% of the call signs, it is very difficult to pick out a specific call. Now, add in road and wind noise, a less than optimum speaker, probable power line and atmospheric noise, you are already at a disadvantage in the receiving department.

Some mobile operators will ask for /M or DX at the start of their run because these are generally the disadvantaged as far as propagation and/or signal strength.

One sure way to get the mobiles attention is to send your call slightly (1 to 1.5 hz) off frequency. I rarely miss a caller who presents a different tone in my receiver. If you have your transceiver set into memory for the net, just crank in some transmit offset. I run with open filtering, and I realize that some operators do not, so play with the offset numbers.

A mobile will always tell you to QRX if they want you to wait. So, when you hear nothing after the mobile sends QRZ, it usually means that they cannot pull out a call sign from the pileup. This is the time to throw in your call. There are only a handful of county hunters who use this "edge" to make the contact.

Even if you are using code readers, you should recognize the wait sign "AS" (di-dah-di-di-dit). The mobile operator has a reason for sending the "AS", so

please standby when you hear it.

Some years ago I learned about mobile operators taking a LIST; not sure if it was a practice of a SB or CW operator, but it can be used at times when you are trying to get the callers to “spread out the incoming calls”. The theory is that when you ask for a LIST, the callers will suddenly turn respectful and throw in their calls more less one at a time. Personally I like to take as many as I can get down on paper before I start calling them back. Believe me it is a lot less strenuous for the mobile operator. Often you will hear the incoming LIST of stations run in the opposite direction; that is, the last one heard may be answered first. After a taking a LIST a couple of times, the “din” has subsided to the point where the mobile operator can go back to the QRZ.

Using full break-in has many advantages for both the mobile and the callers. As a caller, you may hear the mobile come back to another station, so why keep transmitting. If you prefer not to use (or cannot use) full break-in, make the setting as fast as feasible.

One final note . . . if a mobile is on a county line, they seldom leave prior to working every caller, so there is NO need to be first.

Let’s make it a more pleasant experience for the mobile.  
73, W0GXQ

### MARAC Silent Keys

Callsign  
W5QP

Silent Key Date  
March 14, 2016

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Net Chronicles

**Net Chronicles**

This article is the sixth 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>.

**Spring net activity is underway!**

Now that the weather is improving, there are more state QSO parties underway and mobile activity is picking up. Spring and summer travel should increase the number of mobile runs being handled on the nets. Various county hunters and others are continuing to participate in running national parks for the NPOTA event during 2016. I recently visited two national parks in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico but could only collect the various stamps available at each site since I didn't have a mobile/portable station available to run either park. Really wished I could do that while I was there. Get out mobile when possible and help keep activity levels high!

*Marac Net Updates/Reminders:*

- 1) The primary frequency is 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 moving back to 1300z to 2200z following the change to daylight savings time in early March. As a result, the three sessions on the net schedule page have been modified as follows:

Session:	Start:	End:
Early	1300z	1600z
Mid-day	1600z	1900z
Late	1900z	2200z

- 3) The current net schedule showing session assignments that need to be filled is on 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 is: [chnetschedule@marac.org](mailto:chnetschedule@marac.org)

**Suggestions Welcomed for How to Improve Net Operations!**

If you have any input on net operations for the MARAC sponsored nets, please send those suggestions to N5MLP. I welcome feedback and will give sincere consideration to including those suggestions in our operation.

## Featured Documentation Excerpt for April, 2016

This month the featured documentation excerpt from the Marac Net Documentation on our club website is part of section 2.3 of the net standard operating procedure document “Planning and Operation of MARAC Sponsored Nets” (SOP-NET-001) which reads as follows:

### 2.3 Expectations of net control operators during a scheduled net

- Preferential prioritization for mobile operators

Net control stations should first ask if there are any mobiles ready to run a county before asking if there are any fixed stations that would like to put out their county. Only when all mobile stations have been exhausted should the net control person ask for fixed stations who might wish to put out their county. If there are many mobile stations running counties in a particular session, it would be best not to ask for fixed stations because it may impact a mobile station from running in a timely manner just a minute or two later. If the mobile was only going to be in a new county for a short time, it might cause that county to be missed altogether.

- Preferential order placement for existing active mobiles over new mobiles which indicate they wish to run a county also

When a new mobile asks to be added to the list of mobiles to be run, that new mobile should be added to the bottom of the list (if a list is being used to manage the mobiles at that time). If no list is being used at the time, and multiple mobiles respond to a request for mobiles that are ready to run, the mobiles previously on the list should be given priority over a new mobile who has just joined the net.

- The Primary Net Control operator should maintain a list of active mobiles when the active mobile count exceeds 6 mobiles, although personal discretion of the primary net control for the session is allowed.

A primary net control operator should maintain a fluid list of mobiles as they run counties when the number exceeds the threshold stated above. That means that mobiles should be called in the order of which mobile has not run as recently as other active mobiles. After each mobile runs, that mobile then goes to the “bottom” of the list and the net control will continue to call from the top of the list.

- When using a call list, net control operators should usually ask if any other mobiles wish to be moved after determining who is the next mobile in order that is ready to run.

An assistant net control operator may choose to move a mobile off frequency, but if there is only one assistant net control for that session, it would be better to ask for a volunteer from the members participating to move the mobile off frequency so the assistant can continue to participate in relays for the new mobile and ensure all that want relays are given that opportunity.

***That’s it for this edition of Net Chronicles! Come join us on the Marac nets! Let’s all have more fun in 2016! I hope to see you at the MARAC national convention in August!***

**MARAC Net Operations Committee**



NSMLP – Ron Cliff, Chairperson

**Top Ten (or so) Reasons**

**to Register for the Memphis-MARAC National Now!**

By Kerry, W4SIG

- Gas is cheap! Cheaper now than it has been for years. Think of all that money you can save for printing more MRCs!
- Where else in the world can you taste world-famous Memphis BBQ but in Memphis
- Memphis is centrally located. Only a one-day drive from Chicago, Topeka, Amarillo, Charlotte, or Columbus. And only 4,000 miles from Anchorage, Alaska!
- Imagine the fun you will have running those small KY, TN, MS, AR counties! A new one every 10-20 minutes. Think of it as a past path toward your mobile transmit goals!
- In the summer Memphis is not as hot as Death Valley. Well, not quite...
- Enjoy the spacious and modern amenities of Hyatt Place accommodations in Germantown, TN, a suburb of Memphis.
- Meet the faces behind all those “2-2”s you’ve heard on SSB throughout the years!
- Meet the faces behind all those “T U”s you’ve heard on CW throughout the years!
- Meet the faces behind the “waterfalls” on digital!
- Meet Elvis!
- Have fun browsing all the car porcupine antenna setups of the mobiles in the parking lot.
- Attend forums on mobile antennas and learn about remote operation!
- Win a prize!!





**Meeting of the Board of Directors  
MOBILE AMATEUR RADIO AWARDS CLUB**

**Tuesday – March 16, 2016**

President David Splitt (KE3VV) called the meeting to order at 1600Z on March 15, 2016 via the mIRC MARACBOARD chatroom.

**Board Members present:**

President – David Splitt (KE3VV)  
Vice President – Terry Dummmler (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 N0KV that MARAC adopt the Election Methods Committee recommendation and use “SimplyVoting” to administer 2016 MARAC elections, authorize NX4W to execute the contract with SimplyVoting, and authorize the Treasurer to pay up to \$825 this year for the SimplyVoting on-line service. Further, that the election results and vote totals for each candidate and referendum item, as well as a list of the electors who voted, be provided to the Board as soon as available following the close of balloting on May 31, 2016. Seconded by W4SIG. The motion passed by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 abstention and 1 opposed.

Motion by N1API to adjourn the meeting at 1607Z. Seconded by NF0N. The motion passed by a vote of 9 in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,  
James Grandinetti, Secretary



**Kalawao County Hawaii**

Bob, N8KIE and Bob N4CD

**B**ob, N8KIE, headed over to Molokai to run the county line of Kalawao and Maui counties. He's done this more than a few times over the years and it is an expensive trip (\$250 for a few hours on the island) to get there. This year – being the year of National Parks on the Air – he also stumbled into a new situation. He'd be in National Historic Site (NHS) HP18 – Kalaupapa . Like half a dozen other county hunters (AI5P, KA4RRU, W5IL...) he would have the opportunity to give out the park. Actually, he would be the first to 'activate' it. (To get credit for activation, you have to make at least 10 QSOs). Then upload them to Logbook of the World – LoTW. He had the radio, antenna and himself in Kalawao County with the bumper hanging over into Maui County. For NPOTA, the operator, rig, and antenna must in 'in the park'. To the NPOTA folks, this is 'Kalaupapa Historic Site'.

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He noted via email:

N8KIE:

The trip started very early. The only nonstop flight on a twin-engine plane leaves at 6 am. That means up at 4:30 to get to airport by about 5, and I'm not a morning person.

The previous day flights were canceled by bad weather and high winds. After a bumpy 15 minute flight we landed on Molokai. I waited about 30 minutes in line at the only rental car place and got a Chrysler minivan. At least the battery is right out in the open.

Used my Icom 7100 and a quad mag on the roof with a 3 piece Outbacker. That is a neat antenna for a trip like this as it all can go into a carry-on, no checked luggage to lose.

I drove up to the overlook and set up and worked people on 14336 with the help of Bob, KC6AWX. I tried several of the MARAC net freqs but heard nothing. Then went to 17 and 15 SSB for a total of 101 contacts. Each band change required standing in the sliding door opening and removing the antenna, changing bands and re-installing it. Tried 12 and 10 but no luck and didn't hear anyone on cw. I next went into the town to get something to eat. After a little wandering around, really not much to see went back to try cw again -- no luck. Went through the SSB bands and decided to quit as my legs were really hurting from standing on the door edge changing bands. Total cost \$145 air, \$95 minivan and \$5 for gas. It was a good trip."

Bob N8KIE - -----  
de N4CD

I know the county line comes up to the top of the ridge where county hunters run it. Now, with the internet and Google Earth, you can get a nice view of the island and the overlook parking lot where you run that county line. I was fairly sure that the NHS boundary was also the same as the boundary of Kalawao – but I had to make sure. The NPOTA folks like things to be well defined – although out in Hawaii – they are so laid back it’s often hard to get an answer from most folks.



Overlook

Parking Lot

As you look at the picture the northeast side of the parking lot is in Kalaawao, the bottom side in Maui.

Here’s the standard map for Kalawao County



The overlook parking lot is right where the 470 is – you're on highway 470 that terminates there.

Now, the question was – is the National Historic Park – the same boundary as the county?

I went on line to the park service site. Hmmmm....confusion!



Now there were green and purple areas. Most parks are the green areas. The overlook is by a purple area. Hmmm..

So I took the bull by the horns, and dropped the good folks at the email address for the park a question about what was the actual park area.

Got back a nice note that resolved everything.

“Aloha Bob,

Nearly all of the land within the 10,700+ acre authorized park boundary remains in non-federal ownership, co-managed by the State of Hawaii Department of Health and by the

National Park Service through several cooperative agreements & a Lease with DHHL. Land owners include the Department of Hawaii Homelands (DHHL/purple), Department of Transportation (DOT/yellow), and Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR/green). The National Park Service owns the Molokai Light Station and 22 acres surrounding it (NPS/lime green). The U.S. Coast Guard maintains and operates an automated light in the structure. The park boundary is that dark green line that outlines the purple & green area and extends 1/4 mile into the ocean.

Hope this answers your question. If there's anything else, please don't hesitate to ask.

Mahalo, Leslie

Leslie Kanoa Naeole, Management Assistant Kalaupapa National Historical Park  
PO Box 2222; Kalaupapa, HI 96742  
Office: (808) 567-6802 x 1103"

So if you should wander to Kalawao this year, you too could be activating one of the rarest of the park units. If you do put out the park, be sure to have gotten a 'certificate' for LoTW for the DX location of Hawaii before you try to upload to LoTW. Even though you're still in the United States, Hawaii is "DX" – a separate DXCC country for LoTW and DXCC. Just like AK, Guam, Virgin Islands, Guantanamo Bay, Antarctica US bases, etc. If you try to use your lower 58 certificate, you'll create a horrible mess that is hard to undo.

When you go mobile there this year, be sure that the driver, radio, and antenna are in Kalawao County – with the bumper hanging over into Maui Those NPOTA folks insist the 'radio, operator, and antenna' all have to be 'in the county' – hi hi. For county hunters, only your bumper needs to be hanging into the other county to run the line!

And if you don't want to upload to LoTW – don't run the 'park' or lots of folks who chase the parks will be upset. Hi hi.

A major expedition for a few days is headed that way in April to put out the park – same group that run in about five years ago in the HI QSO Party – Bev, AH6NF and club members from Oahu. They'll be fixed and running vertical antennas from the lower part of the county/park. So you got another chance to catch Kalawao County. If you are curious about the lower part of Kalawao – and the previous operation – see our coverage in this issue of the County Hunter News:

<http://www.chnewsonline.com/County%20Hunter%20News%20October%202011.pdf>

Thanks Bob N8KIE for the contact – conditions not the greatest that but he put 100 plus contacts in the logbook with some help from west coast relay stations. (KC6AWX/WQ7A and others).

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**National**

**MARAC 2016 National, Memphis, TN  
48<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention 2016 Registration  
Aug 1<sup>st</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> Memphis, TN**

(Deadline for Early Registration Prize Drawing is May 1<sup>st</sup>, 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](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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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-visuais. 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, Cassat 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 Al 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



**Treasurer's Report (W0NAC)  
January 2016\***

**Beginning Account Balances January 1, 2016** **\$38,574.54**

**January Income:**

Money Market Interest	\$4.40	
Awards Manager Income	\$0.00	(See Note 2)
Membership Income	\$240.00	
Logger Distribution	<u>\$105.00</u>	
Total Income:		\$349.40

**January 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	

**January Other Expenses:**

Awards Manager Expenses	\$1,415.69	(See Note 2)
Michigan Mini Funding	\$500.00	
Office Expenses (Postage, Etc.)	<u>\$25.60</u>	
Total Expenses:		\$1,941.29

**January Net Income Less Expenses** **(\$1,591.89)**

**New Total Cash Balance ALL Accounts:** **\$36,982.65. #**

Checking Account Balance	\$5,885.88	
Money Market Account Balance	<u>\$31,096.77</u>	
<b>Total Cash All Accounts:</b>		<b>\$ 36,982.65 #</b>

Note:

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

Awards Manager's Funds	\$1,500.00	
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\* Includes January Transaction posted through 02/06/2016

# From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC Total Funds at the end of January 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 **\$30,781.65**.

Note 2 – The Award Manager's reports for December & January is delayed due to a family emergency. Some Awards expenses for plaques were paid directly in January



**Treasurer's Report (W0NAC)2  
February 2016\***

**Beginning Account Balances February 1, 2016** **\$36,982.65**

**February Income:**

Money Market Interest	\$3.02	
Awards Manager Income	\$122.50	(See Note 2)
Membership Income	\$160.00	
Logger Distribution	<u>\$45.00</u>	
Total Income:		\$330.52

**February 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

**February Other Expenses:**

Awards Manager Expenses	\$866.33	(See Note 2)
Fund Seed Money For 2016 National Convention	\$4,000.00	
Fund 2016 National Convention Prizes	\$2,000.00	
Reimburse WOMU For MARAC.org Domain Renewal	\$13.07	
Office Expenses (Postage, Etc.)	<u>\$6.45</u>	
Total Expenses:		\$6,885.85

**February Net Income Less Expenses** **(\$6,555.33)**

**New Total Cash Balance ALL Accounts:** **\$30,427.32 #**

Checking Account Balance	\$3,337.53	
Money Market Account Balance	<u>\$27,099.79</u>	
<b>Total Cash All Accounts:</b>		<b>\$ 30,437.32 #</b>

Note:

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

Awards Manager's Funds	\$1,500.00
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\* Includes February Transactions posted through 03/03/2016



# From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC Total Funds at the end of February should be discounted by **\$6,029.50**. This amount is a Deferred Liability of award fees pre-paid by members. After discounting, our true (spendable) Cash Assets are **\$24,407.82**.

Note 2 – These figures are from the Dec/Jan/Feb combined Awards Manager's report.

Not included are Awards expenses for plaques which were paid directly in January.

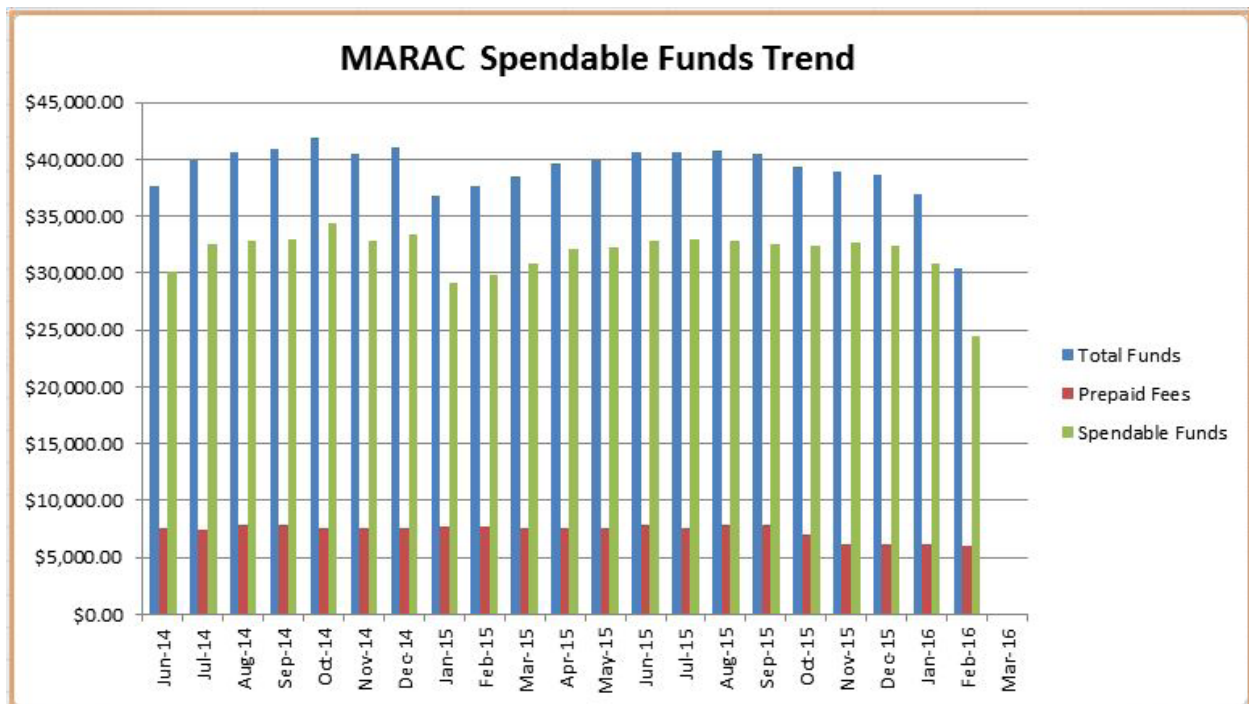
**MARAC Spendable Funds Analysis**  
**“Matt” – (W0NAC) MARAC Treasurer**

For several years MARAC members have been able to prepay award fees. This is a very convenient service that allows them to avoid sending multiple small checks, but it does require the Awards Manager to maintain books on the status of each member’s account.

All awards pre-payments have been (and still are) lumped with regular awards payments and reported to the Treasurer as general Awards income. These prepayments from a balance sheet perspective should be considered as a deferred liability because eventually they will either be used to pay for future awards or be refunded to the member. Rather than totally change existing accounting procedures, I have chosen a simple change in the monthly Treasurer’s reports to more accurately show what “spendable” funds are available.

Since June 2014 the Awards Manager (KC6AWX) has reported (with a few exceptions) monthly on the total amount of prepaid award fees held in his books. The monthly Treasures reports now have a brief note at the bottom where the total prepaid award fees reported by the Awards Manager are subtracted from total MARAC cash assets to give a more accurate figure for “spendable” cash.

Since June, 2014 there have been many changes in membership dues and Award fees. Almost all of these changes were made with the intention of returning what many believed was excessive MARAC cash reserves to the entire general membership. Whether or not we are on the right track to meet this goal is still a matter of some controversy, but the chart given below may help.



On the chart, spendable funds (Green bars) are produced by subtracting Prepaid Fees (Red Bars) from Total cash funds (Blue Bars). Tracking the trend of Spendable Funds shows that we reached a peak value of ~\$34,000 in October 2014 with a second peak of ~\$33,000 in July 2015. Since January 1<sup>st</sup> of

this year there has been a substantial reduction of spendable cash (~\$24,500.00 in February). This was in large part caused by sending “seed” money of \$4,000.00 and special prize funds of \$2,000 for the 2016 National Convention. Some of the “seed” money will eventually be returned, but for the time being it is all logged as an expense. Also, membership dues income has dropped considerably so far in 2016 with only 15 – 19 members renewing their membership each month.

If anyone wishes to delve deeper and do their own analysis, I recommend that you download past editions of the Roadrunner to get the monthly Treasures reports of interest. Also, I may be able to do further analysis if you can tell me what you would like to see.



### Awards Mgr Letter

To All My County Hunter Friends,

You guessed it – it's time for another trip, well actually 2 trips. I will be out of the country from March 19<sup>th</sup> until April 11<sup>th</sup> and again from April 16<sup>th</sup> until May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Again, **please do not send LC1 applications from 3/19/2016 thru 4/11/2016 and again from 4/16/2016 thru 5/11/2016.** You can send your logs for various awards and I will process them when I return and I will date these awards the day I receive the logs – no problem. The problem with LCs is that they overload the system.

Thank you for your help and consideration.

73 – Bob KC6AWX  
MARAC Awards Manager





**Events**

- 4/2 MI QP
- 4/2 MO QP
- 4/3 NA SSB SPRINT
- 4/9 NM QP
- 4/9 GA QP
- 4/16 NE QP
- 4/16 MI QP
- 4/16 ND QP
- 4/17 ARRL ROOKIE SSB
- 4/18 RUN4BACON
- 4/21 MI MINI
- 4/23 10-10 DIGI
- 4/30 FL QP

ONLY START DATE SHOWN

CLICK ON EVENT TO GO TO THAT WEB SITE

- 8/1 NATIONAL



**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**

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

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**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)

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**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)

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