



# **THE COUNTY LINE** **ROADRUNNER**

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## **Riding the County Lion** **Dave – KE3VV**

The County Lion is miserable. Even sitting close to the Big Green Dragon (which is not always advisable, especially when the Dragon had Mexican food for lunch and is belching a rather toxic combo of guacamole and refried beans), the Lion is feeling the unanticipated ill effects of his trip Northward to D.C. for what was supposed to be a delightful spring filled with flowers and sunshine. Instead, the weather here is reminiscent of the worst days of this past Florida winter... rainy and chilly. Tomorrow it will be May Day and even that calendar reality will not force an abatement of this depressing cloud-covered miasma. The Dragon even muttered something about wishing for a Ted Cruz speech so he could bask in the warmth of the Senator's warm satanic breath. That is one funny dragon... claiming to be an Evilangelical... but, in truth, we are all pretty much as fed up with politics as we are with the weather. So we sit and cogitate about future road trips and other wanderings.

The trip north from the Space Coast was actually delightful – although the conditions on the radio were far less than ideal. On one day driving through Georgia and South Carolina I made exactly one SSB contact on 20 meters (too close to net control for help there and not much in the way of other help on a day with few mobiles running and band conditions more horrible than usual even in this long sunspot drought). Most of the CW contacts were with European county hunter stations. It was good to give out some needed counties to our hard-working Euro comrades... I can't imagine trying to work all USA counties from foreign soil. I wonder if The Donald will allow repeaters to be installed on top of the giant wall... and if so, will they be cheap Chinese knock-offs paid for with pesos?

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The best part of the trip north was a brief stopover with ham friends in Pinehurst, North Carolina. Although neither is into county hunting (or golf for that matter, even though they can walk to some of the most famous courses in America and live within a few miles of dozens of golf venues), they are active in local emergency radio groups and have a great collection of HF and VHF gear. On Sunday, before continuing onward on our journey, we had breakfast in the Payne Stewart bar at Pinehurst #2 overlooking the 18<sup>th</sup> green where Stewart won the U.S. Open before his tragic demise in a plane crash on his way home from a tournament. The last leg of the road trip through the backwaters of mid-Virginia was uneventful and we were able to make a few more contacts until the Northern Virginia traffic and band noise made it hard to focus on call signs and county line signs, so the “off” switch was the only sane decision.

The next few weeks will be filled with a wedding, house cleaning, some yard work, and a brief road trip to Roanoke, Virginia, where I will be the mechanical officer for the restored heavy Pullman Dover Harbor on a special railroad excursion in the consist behind the restored Norfolk & Western No. 611 steam locomotive. I will try to run some counties on the way to and from Roanoke and enjoy what the County Lion calls the perfect combination – radios and railroads.

The Big Green Dragon reminds me that May is election month for MARAC – and that the long reign of the despotic regime will soon come to a close (and not soon enough for me), so even though most of the offices will be filled by volunteers rather than victors, it is still important to participate in whatever way you think is appropriate. Also, keep in mind that the 2016 MARAC National is fast approaching (although not as fast as prior years when it was in July). As you know, family commitments will preempt my attendance at the Memphis gathering, but I encourage everyone to take advantage of the mid-country venue and make your plans to join the MARC Mingle on the Mississippi. 73 and 88 from Dave and the Lion and the Dragon.



**Dateline CW**

Ed, KN4Y

They are CW County Hunters,  
They themselves have said it,  
It is greatly to their credit,  
that they also operate mobile.

I am busy raking leaves when the postal route matron drives up. I go to her vehicle and she hands me a large white envelope and several bills. I think to myself she is a nice looking first class envelope herself. I throw a match on the pile of leaves and go into the shack. I flip the page on the calendar, golly this is the month of May already, which by the way is named for the Greek goddess Maia. I am snapped back to reality when I hear the bark of Gator's 4x4 roaring down the driveway and slides to a stop at the recycled railroad tie.

He comes into the shack carrying the anticipated white cardboard container, he opens the lid hands me a latte, "By the way Dude I saw your smoke signals, what's up?" I laugh, "Nothing Gator I am burning leaves, and by the way I just received this white envelope in the mail." Gator takes the white envelope; he takes out his six inch redneck pocket knife, flips the blade open and having years of field dressing wild fowl experience slits the envelope open. He delicately removes the contents, "Look here Dude you got first place in the Northern Florida Section operating single operator on ten meters in the ARRL DX contest. I smile proudly and we raise our plastic cups and make a latte salute. I then hand Gator a memory stick, "Here Gator see what we did as a rover in the Georgia QSO party. Gator goes to the computer; I look in the white cardboard container hoping to find an éclair. No sweet for the sweetest.

Gator gives me the high sign; "I have the Georgia QSO party results for you county hunting statistical junkies." He turns the computer screen towards me: I read the computer screen. The Georgia counties ran and the number of QSO's are: Appling 39, Bacon 43, Baker 20, Berrien 43, Brantley 41, Brooks 58, Calhoun 20, Charlton 71, Coffee 49, Cook 20, Dougherty 42, Echols 57, Grady 55, Irwin 42, Lee 44, Lowndes 48, Macon 30, Mitchell 48, Sumter 34, Terrell 28, Thomas 51 and Wayne 53. There were 543 QSO's on the 20-meter band and 393 QSO's on the 40-meter band. There were 46 States worked and 4 Canada provinces. The total distance traveled was 885 miles. Nothing on 15-Meters. I smile as I sip my latte,

I wave to get Gator's attention, "Gator as part of the ARRL National Parks on the Air I stopped at the Andersonville National Historical Site in Macon County, Georgia and gave out the National Park Service number NS02 and it was exciting, a nice pileup." Gator is not listening, he is looking at the ARRL DX Contest certificate, "I never thought you would be rewarded for laziness." I ignore his sarcasm, "Here check out the QSO parties on this memory stick." Gator inserts the memory stick and mouse around.

I sip my latte and after a few minutes Gator spins around in the chair, "Well Dude in the Michigan QSO party you made 72 QSO's and worked 40 counties. You worked three mobiles; two were MARAC county hunters Jim, K8IR and Scott, NE9U along with John, AE8M. You did get one No-star and one new county on 80-meters." Gator sips his latte, "The results of the Nebraska QSO party are also laughable; you made seven QSO's and worked two mobiles, the mobiles you logged are the MARAC

county hunter Mike, NF0N and the QCWA chapter mobile. You got two No-star contacts, a waste of time.” I shake my head, “Yes Gator the bands were not in good QSO party mode.” Gator starts laughing hilariously, “You made one QSO in the North Dakota QSO party, why even bother?” “As I said Gator, the bands were not conducive to QSO partying.”

Gator’s eyes light up, “Whoa Dude, you worked the Ontario QSO party and made 25 contacts how come so many contacts with such poor band conditions?” I smile, “Well Gator the signals are down hill.” Gator ignores me and reaches for another latte.

We are sipping our lattes listening to a quiet county hunters CW frequency, suddenly Gator asks, “Last month was the Michigan Mini did you hear any good or juicy gossip?” I shake my head yes, “I heard from Ed that the unimaginable happened. It seems...” Gator’s phone chimes off and Gator answers it, he has a disgusted look, “Dang it Dude there is a problem with the solar cells installed for stand-by controller power.” He is gone like a snowman on a hot winter day. I hear him yell, “I am not commitment-phobic: I love God, guns, football and the Prince.”

I hear the printer stop, I obtain the printout, it is the list of the mobiles heard during April on the county hunters CW call frequencies. I read: AF5CC, K0MAF, K1TKL, K2HVN, K2MF, K3IMC, K4XU, K4YT, K5GE, K5YAA, K7TM, K8IR, K8ZZ, KA2LHO, KA4RRU, KB0LF, KB6UF, KE3VV, KV7N, N0UR, N1DN, N4CD, N9JF, N9QS, NF0N, W0GXQ, W0IS, W4SIG, W7FEN, W9MSE, WA3QNT, and WQ7A.

Blame it on gravitational waves. The month May has arrived. May is known as the Greek goddess Maia, who hung around with the goddess of fertility, Bona Dea and produced five QSO parties with 495 counties up for grabs. There is the 7<sup>th</sup> Call Area QSO party with 258 counties, the Indiana QSO party with 92 counties, the Delaware QSO party with 3 counties, the New England QSO party with 67 counties and the Arkansas QSO party with 75 counties. Not enough? Join the excitement of the MARAC County Hunters QSO party running counties wherever they are located. I plan to participate in the 10-10 International Spring CW QSO party on ten meters. Another fun CW event is the King of Spain contest. And ending out Maia’s reign is the CQ world-wide CW WPX contest. The X has nothing to do with the contest rating. I heard the only difference between a Harley and a Hoover is the location of the dirt bag. Nap time.



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

**CW CHOTY KB6UF**  
**Nominated by Pacific Director, Bob Devine, KC6AWX**

## **Ron Jones - KB6UF**

I was first introduced to Amateur Radio, about 1950 by my Uncle W7KRM (SK), as a back note regarding him, he worked with DR. Oppenheimer at Los Alamos and on Tinian Island during WWII. I didn't get into radio until the CB craze came along in the 70's, bought a 23 channel rig, for my car, (I was mobile). Went to a friend's house one day, he had a rig in his house (had the funnies in it), I was tuning around the dial, heard some funny sounding voices, listened for a while finally realized it was VK land. Took me back 25 years to my uncles shack and the QSL cards he had, I said the heck with CB I want to do this, and starting studying.

I obtained my Novice ticket late 77 or early 78 (can't find the date) as KA6BXU, upgraded to General, Feb 1979 then to Advanced NOV 1979.

Just banged around the bands working DX, WAS, WAC, so on and so on. My first County Hunter contacts occurred on September 26, 1990, KK7X, he was in Cass, Iowa, I was in San Bernardino, CA. That is where it started (county hunting).

County hunting has provided me the opportunity to meet some really fine folks along the way (to many to mention here (you know who you are)) and to see the country, and to go places I wouldn't normally have gone to, as an example, my bucket list included driving up the ALCAN Highway to Alaska, in 2006 W6TMD and I did exactly that on our way to running the State of Alaska, had a great time had lunch with K3IMC in Skagway. One great trip, hell of a drive to run four JD'S.

BRIF HISTORY- USA-CA

1999 #989

Bingo-2002 #223

Mob to Mob-2009#8 5

Starr-2007#39

Masters Gold-2007#25 Platinum

-2010#12

5th Time-2012#108

Given out over 1350 last counties (that is what I enjoy doing the most, helping the folks out)

**SSB CHOTY KA9JAC**

**Nominated by North Central District Director, Mike Nickolaus, NF0N**

## **Bob Gedemer - KA9JAC**

Bob is an active County Hunter, working SSB, CW and Digital modes. Bob hit the road in 2000 and has since transmitted over one half of the USA counties, many multiple times. He has ran them all from 9 states. He has completed all counties three times, CW, Bingo I and II and closing in on Bingo III, 4<sup>th</sup> time and Masters Platinum.

Bob assisted with the 2006 Annual Convention in Appleton, WI, and has been both NCS and ANCS on many occasions on both the formal SSB net and informal net's on other bands. Bob has served on the MARAC Awards Committee.

Bob is an excellent candidate for County Hunter of the Year for SSB in 2016.

**SSB CHOTY AB7NK**

**Nominated by Pacific Director, Bob Devine, KC6AWX**

## **Mary Vince - AB7NK**

In late 1993, I had attended a ham radio demonstration of packet radio. Instantly I knew I had to become a ham. Knowing nothing about electronics I soon realized I may have delved into something far deeper than I originally thought. Three hundred and sixty four days later I had passed my extra which included (taking and failing three times) the dreaded Advanced exam including passing the 20 wpm code exam. I was assigned the call AB7NK (original call KC7HAY).

I became involved in traffic handling as well as net control for various nets, including the Broadway Consumer Net (National Guard Division). Within a year of being licensed I became Net Manager for the Arizona Traffic and Emergency Net.

I've also been involved in ARES/RACES in one capacity or another and served as Emergency Coordinator for SE Yavapai County.

In 2008, I was awarded a Lifetime Membership in the Yavapai Amateur Radio Club for contributions to the club and amateur community. I've served on numerous club committees, Awards Manager, VE Liaison, Historian, Hamfest, Field Day, Special Events as well as serving as treasurer. My most memorable time was teaching ham radio to the middle school students. In 2008, 5 students and 1 parent received their licenses.

Early 2010, Neil - K7SEN USA-CA #825 (ex: KA7JAS) succeeded in peaking my interest in

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county hunting. At the 2012 National Convention in Vancouver, WA. I was presented USA-CA #1229 by Ted Molinsky, K1BV. Since then I have achieved several awards and am currently working on Master Platinum which I hope to complete soon.

Now that K7SEN has retired we are able to spend more time on the road meandering where ever the truck decides to take us. For me, helping others achieve the award they are working on is by far the greatest gratification in county hunting.

Happy Hunting!

County Hunter of the Year CW \_\_\_\_\_

KB6UF \_\_\_\_\_

County Hunter of the Year SSB \_\_\_\_\_

KA9JAC \_\_\_\_\_

AB7NK \_\_\_\_\_

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

Voting will take 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>. If you prefer to mail your ballot to me, you can either copy this page or cut it out. Please circle the candidate for whom you are voting and include your callsign and MARAC membership number.

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

**President – Randy Hatt AA8R**

**Secretary – Terry Dummler WQ7A**

**Treasurer – Aubrey Mansfield W7OLY**

**Northeast Director Al Kaiser N1API**

**Pacific Director Paul Nelson N7JPF**

**We are also voting for the position:**

**Vice President – 2 year term expiring 2018**

**NM1G**

**Chuck Secret**

KA2LHO Kraig D Pritts

The voting for this position is being handled by an outside agency so do not send your votes to me for the position of Vice President.

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



### Michigan Mini Picture





## Early Bird Prize Announcement By Kerry, W4SIG

If you haven't already sent in your registration for the MARAC National in Memphis Aug 1-4 please get it in soon! June 1 is the cutoff date for eligibility for the early bird prize...a Kenwood TS480SAT mobile all mode transceiver!!! This great 100 watt rig with detachable control panel covers bands 160-6 meters and has a built in antenna tuner. Time is of the essence, so get those registrations in asap!



### TS-480SAT General Features:

- \* 100W output (50 MHz: 50W) DC 13.8V
- \* TX/RX 16-bit AF digital signal processing
- \* Separate LCD control panel with built-in speaker
- \* Continuous RX: 30 kHz to 60 MHz
- \* TX covers all Amateur bands 1.8 MHz to 50 MHz
- \* Other features include a TS-950-Class quad-mixer
- \* PSK31 compatibility
- \* Packet cluster tune (with TM-D700A)

\* PC-based control: ARCP-480 control program (free download from the Kenwood web site) enables PC-based control of all transceiver functions, as well as the customizing of TX/RX equalizer curves

\* Optional IF filters

\* Single cooling fan

**ALSO:** Note that the national website has been updated with a list of current registrants. If your name is not on the list let's get 'er done!

## **OTHER PRIZES UP FOR GRABS AT THE NATIONAL**

When you come to the national in Memphis you will also be eligible to win a multitude of great prizes including:

- ☐ A Kenwood TS480SAT All Mode Transceiver (Yes! Another one!)



- ☐ Hustler mobile resonators for 40M, 20M, and 17M

- ☐ TigerTronics Signal Link USB Integrated Sound Card for digital operation



□ Rig Expert AA-30 Antenna Analyzer



□ Rig Runner Power Distribution



And much more!! Remember, you can buy extra tickets for these drawings either when you register or once you arrive at the national.



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](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-visu­als. 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



Net Chronicles

# Net Chronicles

This article is the seventh 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>.

## Net activity really improved in April!

Many members traveled to the mini convention this past month in Michigan. There was consistent activity on many different bands and modes. In addition, various county hunters and others are continuing to participate in running national parks for the NPOTA event during 2016. Get out mobile when possible and help keep activity levels high! For suggested frequencies and hours of operation, see the information in the April article.

## Featured Documentation Excerpt for May, 2016

This month the featured documentation excerpt from the Marac Net Documentation on our club website is a continuation of the information in section 2.3 of the net standard operating procedure document "Planning and Operation of MARAC Sponsored Nets" (SOP-NET-001) which was presented in the April article:

### 2.3 Expectations of net control operators during a scheduled net (continued)

- Standard (default) run time allowed for mobile runs

Usually, mobile runs on a particular band are limited to 10 minutes in duration in order to give other mobiles a chance to run without having to wait too long or missing the opportunity to put out the county at all. Note: the net control operator and at least one assistant should ask if there is any other mobile ready to run after 10 minutes before letting a mobile exceed that time. If there are no other mobiles waiting to run, then the control operator may continue the run for another 2 or 3 minutes. After that time, an attempt should be made to move that mobile to another frequency if they wish to continue.

- Primary net control operator can shorten the length of run times allowed for mobiles when a large number of mobiles are active during a session

In order to ensure all mobiles get an opportunity to run their county for the net, run times should be shortened to allow all mobiles to have a reasonable opportunity to run their counties. The table below provides guidelines for run times based on the number of mobiles which are active:

Number of Active Mobiles:	Suggested Run Time Limit:
1 to 5	10 minutes
6 to 8	8 minutes
9 to 12	6 minutes



13 or more	5 minutes
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Notes: 1) the mobile can be moved off frequency when the time limit is reached if there are still operators calling to make a contact

2) an assistant net control should locate a frequency to move a mobile to prior to the end of the run in case that mobile needs to be moved. This will speed up the move and reposting process.

- Limit number of relay attempts for one operator

No more than two attempts at a relay should be allowed to ensure operators are not guessing what the report was until they finally get it. However, if the net control knows that an unusual occurrence such as a loud carrier that suddenly appeared has unduly affected normal operations, the net control may allow an additional attempt after the disruption has ceased. If a mobile station reports that they were affected by the temporary passing of an 18 wheeler that could be considered a satisfactory reason to give a third relay attempt.

- Provide net control support for any licensed radio amateurs to operate on the net

Net control operators should let all licensed operators who desire to participate in the net do so without question and with full support so long as they follow FCC rules and identify properly with a valid call sign.

- Volunteers who offer to move a mobile as well as the mobile to be moved should be able to make contact with the station to be run on the net before moving off frequency. Similarly, all net control stations should have to opportunity to work the mobile to be moved if the net control is to remain on the directed net frequency.

- During periods when casual conversations or comments are allowed, net control stations and all participants should yield the frequency to normal directed operation when a mobile indicates they are ready to run a county.

- Running multiple mobiles simultaneously on different frequencies

During periods of high activity, it may be necessary to run multiple mobiles simultaneously on different frequencies to allow all mobiles to run their counties in a timely manner. Net control operators should remember to ask if there are other mobiles who wish to be moved before starting a new mobile. Several may be trying to get the attention of a control operator at the same time.

**Your support for our net operations is requested and appreciated! *Come join us on the MARAC nets and we can all have more fun in 2016!***

**MARAC Net Operations Committee**



**N5MLP – Ron Clift, Chairperson**

**Treasurer's Report (WONAC)  
March 2016\***

<b>Beginning Account Balances March 3, 2016</b>	<b>\$30,437.32</b>
<b>March Income:</b>	
Money Market Interest	\$1.92
Awards Manager Income	\$0.00 (See Note 2)
Membership Income	\$198.00
Logger Distribution	<u>\$60.00</u>
Total Income:	\$259.92
<b>March New Spotting Site/Logger II Expenses:</b>	
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
<b>March Other Expenses:</b>	
Awards Manager Expenses	\$0.00 (See Note 2)
Pay Simply Voting Invoice #2748	\$734.20
Office Expenses (Postage, Etc.)	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Expenses:	\$734.20
<b>March Net Income Less Expenses</b>	<b>(\$474.28)</b>
<b>New Total Cash Balance ALL Accounts:</b>	<b>\$29,963.04 #</b>
Checking Account Balance	\$2,861.33
Money Market Account Balance	<u>\$27,101.71</u>
<b>Total Cash All Accounts:</b>	<b>\$ 29,963.04 #</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 March Transactions posted through 04/07/2016

# From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC Total Funds at the end of March 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 **\$23,933.54**

Note 2 – No Awards Manager Report submitted for March due to extended trip.



**Events**

- 5/7 10-10 CW QP
- 5/7 7<sup>TH</sup> AREA QP
- 5/7 IN QP
- 5/7 DE QP
- 5/7 NEW ENGLAND QP
- 5/14 AR QP
- 5/14 MARAC QP
- 5/16 RUN4BACON

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

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