



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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



Volume XLVI

August 2016

Number 8

From your President Elect

Pattie & I should be at the Hyatt Place Hotel in Germantown, TN enjoying the 48th MARAC National Convention by the time the RR comes out. We have always enjoyed going to the different national and mini conventions over the years. What better way of putting a face with a voice and talking about everything and anything. I have gotten to know a lot of County Hunter's over the 40+ years of county hunting and that's getting close to having lifelong friends. Those kinds of friendships are cherished and become more important with each passing year.

How many times have you heard of a mobile driving mile after mile out of his/her way down some lonely winding back road to put out a county for someone else. More than once I'll bet. We all gain by helping the other guy. Some are not able to go out mobile and put out counties, and that's okay. There are lots of ways to help others, Net Control and Assistant Net Control for example. I have found it to be very rewarding to run the MARAC net on 14.324 or 7.182 and the mobiles are all extremely grateful for having someone available to assist them. Give it a try, you might like it. Make it as formal or informal as you like. Make it fit you. One of the best Net Control operators was Joe, N5UZW (sk). The way Joe and Scottie, N4AAT, ran the 40m net they just made you feel welcome and comfortable.

Another great way to help is to host a national or mini convention. We have had several successful conventions over the years so there are some great resources available to help. If you think you might be interested in hosting a mini or national event, feel free to chat with some of the prior hosts to find out what's involved. If you'd like to host an event please let me know.

Contents

Annual Meeting	7
Awards	6
Awards Resignation	9
Dateline CW	3
Dave's Call	1
Events	10
From your President Elect	1
MARAC Silent Keys	2
Net Chronicles	5
Treasurer's Report (W0NAC)	8

Dave's Call

OK gang, another year is about to begin and you're stuck with me yet again.

PLEASE, speak up and let me know what you want added to or changed in the RR. It's your newsletter.

Thanks,
Dave, KU4YM

Depending on how involved you'd like to be, the Election Coordinator position is open. Additionally the Contest Coordinator is considering retiring, which he will decide in the near future so this position may be open yet this year. If you would like to volunteer for either of these positions please let me know.

As the new Board of Directors (BOD) transition to office we've discovered some outstanding issues which need to be addressed immediately. The annual reports for the State of Kansas are outstanding for multiple years. As a result, the State of Kansas has declared MARAC's corporate status as "forfeited". Additionally our Resident Agent for the State of Kansas resigned late last year. So, we need to look for a new Resident Agent and get our back reports filed with the state, and pay a penalty, in order to restore our corporate status to good standing.

The BOD is also looking into a better method of meeting communications. Using mIRC is old technology. It is inherently confusing and causes chaos which leads to misunderstandings. The BOD has decided to use Uberconference at this year's annual meeting which will allow remote users to either call into the meeting via a toll free number or log in via their PC. I believe W4SIG has submitted an article in this month's RR giving instructions on how to use Uberconference. Another reason for using Uberconference as the primary way of attending the annual meeting remotely is that over the past several years AF3X has been acting as the scribe between the BOD and mIRC, and has been doing an outstanding job. However, currently Jeffery is not on the attendee list for the national and therefore no scribe is available for mIRC.

By the way, the first quarterly BOD meeting will be the either the end of August or the first part of September. Stay tuned for further details.

Randy, AA8R



MARAC Silent Keys

Callsign
KD5CXO

Silent Key Date
July 17, 2016

Dateline CW

Ed, KN4Y

Many stars are in the sky; Many planets plunge and die; Many county hunters are mobile you see; on a path to Tennessee.

Arriving on schedule is August the eighth month of the year. I believe the saying is true, that the older I get the faster the hand of time writes and moves on. I lean back in my office chair and imagine I am mobile running counties on my way to Tennessee. But, I am jolted back to reality when I hear the exhaust of Gator's 4 X 4 rolling down the driveway and quickly slide to a stop at the recycled railroad tie. I do not hear the sound of a successful Kamikaze squirrel. Gator slides out of the cab and comes into the radio shack carrying the anticipated white rectangular cardboard carton.

"Greetings Dude, you look lethargic, quick have a latte." I open the white rectangle cardboard container and get a super sized latte. I take a long slow sip of the hot nectar of the Gods and all the world's problems disappear, for just a moment. Gator turns on the computer and asks, "How did the club do at Field Day? I could not be there; I attended a meeting concerning the handling and safety precautions of storing ethanol. The darn meeting took most of the weekend. Fill me in."

I take another copious sip of hot latte. "As you know Gator we had our field day at the Wakulla Station Trail Head Park same as last year. This year the heat was brutal, sunny and 98 degrees F. By the time the antennas were erected and the stations set up, we were all too pooped to operate. After a short rest and cooling off period, we did make some contacts on CW, Sideband and Digital modes. The QSO totals are nothing to brag about." Gator smiles, "Boy, you sure could have used my expertise." Gator is laughing as he picks up the MARAC Roadrunner newsletter that had fallen onto the floor.

Gator looks at the cover page, "Dude, that county Lion Dude is no longer the MARAC President. I had hoped to meet The Big Green Dragon. Just saying it sounds so adventurous and exciting." I laugh, "Settle down Gator, I am not sure you want to meet something that is big and green and also Dave is a lawyer." Gator is shocked by this revelation, tears of realization run down his face. I pat Gator on the head, "Calm down and check out my log for the Marconi Memorial HF Contest."

As Gator turns toward the computer he picks up a letter. "Dude this envelope is from the Netherlands. Want me to open it?" I shake my head yes. Gator opens the envelope, "Dude this letter is from the Dutch PACC contest. It contains a neat ribbon as a Dutch token of Merit." Gator holds the ribbon up. "That is neat, lay it on the table and I will hang it on the wall." Gator is looking at the computer screen.

A few minutes later he turns around, "Dude did you really operate in the Marconi Memorial contest, you only made 53 QSOs. Did you have the antenna connected?" I laugh, "Yes Gator, the problem was uncooperative band conditions. I only heard a handful of stations. But later I had better conditions operating in the IARU HF World championship, check it out." I hand Gator a memory stick. Gator returns to mousing around.

Gator smiles and turns around in the chair, "Yes Dude you did better in the IARU contest, a lot better. You made 200 QSOs and I notice you made QSOs on all six bands." Gator sips his latte. "Yes Gator,

I enjoyed the contest and I just operated search and pounce. Next check out the CQ World-Wide VHF contest, I am anxious to see how many new six meter county contacts I made. Saturday it was just noise, but every once in awhile a signal blasted through. Sunday after church I turned on the radio and listened to the noise when suddenly the band exploded with CW signals. I had a ball.” Gator smiles, “Yes, you made 94 QSOs in a short time period, I am impressed.” I give Gator a thumb up, “I called CQ the whole contest and it was fun. How did I do new county wise on six meters?”

Gator manipulates the computer then turns around, “Not bad Dude. You worked 20 new counties on 6-meters and one 2x2 call.” I smile as I sip my latte and make a mental note to update my toplist.

“Dude have you heard any worthwhile gossip from the MARAC convention in Tennessee?” I shake my head yes “You know about the second amendment. Well it seems that Kerry...”

Suddenly CQ, CQ, CQ, is heard from Gator’s cell phone. “Darn it Dude. I got to go; the Alcohol Anonymous group from the senior center is at the plant entrance. I wonder what the H*** they want, probably samples.” He is gone like a shot of Vodka in the MARAC hospitality room. He roars off quickly leaving a successful Kamikaze squirrel by the roadside.

The printer stops I take the printed sheet and it is a list of stations heard during July on the county hunters CW call frequencies: I read: K0FG, K0MAF, K4YT, K8ZZ, KA3QLF, KA4RRU, KB6UF, KC3X, KS5A, N0KV, N2JNE, N4CD, N4JT, N7IV, N9QS, NU0Q, W0GXQ, W3DQT, W3A, W4SIG, W7FEN, W9MSE, WA3QNT, WA4PGM, and WU3H.

August is a hot month temperature wise but tepid with State QSO party activity. There is the Maryland-DC QSO party with 115 counties, the Hawaii QSO party with 5 counties, the Kansas QSO party with 105 counties and the Ohio QSO party with 88 counties, for a whopping 313 counties up for grabs. The SSB county hunters have a chance to get some new counties on 10-meters operating in the 10-10 International Summer SSB Contest. If ten is not cooperative then operate in the North American CW QSO party. I plan to operate the WAE CW DX Contest mobile from Pasco County Florida after bowling. There are 27 CW contests this month to keep the keyer from rusting. I feel the oncoming encouragement for a nap. But first sweet milk and torn up biscuits in a glass.

I go to the computer to shut it down when I notice on the screen the list of the winners of the 2016 MARAC awards. I read:: CW County Hunter of the Year – KB6UF Ron Jones, SSB County Hunter of the Year – AB7NK Mary Vince, CW Net Control of the Year – W0GXQ Jerry Mertz, SSB Net Control of the Year – WY8I Jim Odam, CW Mobile of the Year – W0GXQ Jerry Mertz, and SSB Mobile of the Year –KB6UF Ron Jones. Congratulations to all.



Net Chronicles

Net Chronicles

This article is the ninth in a continuing series of monthly newsletter articles focused on operations and activities on new MARAC sponsored county hunting nets. 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>.

Activity during June/July

County hunters and others are continuing to participate in running national parks for the NPOTA event this year. Quite a few members including AB7NK/K7SEN, N4CD, WA9DLB, KB0BA/N0XYL, W4SIG, N5MLP, and others have been on long road trips.

Net control volunteers needed during MARAC national convention

The annual MARAC national convention will occur during the first week of August, and several members are already on their way as this article is being written. Many net control operators which have supported the MARAC net in recent months will be travelling to the convention this year and will not be at their base station location to support net control functions. Members who will not be travelling to the convention are requested to support the net during this time to facilitate efficient operations, hold net frequencies on different bands, run multiple mobiles simultaneously on different frequencies, etc. Please sign up for some of the three hour net sessions during the period prior to and following the actual convention dates so that we can facilitate all of the mobiles that will be active. Ad hoc support for net controls is needed if there are no scheduled operators during a session. If you have any questions about net operations, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the other members who have been conducting operations.

That's all for this edition. I look forward to seeing many of you at the convention. I plan to have a net operations forum during the convention.

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

Awards

It is an honor and a privilege for me to announce the winners of the 2016 MARAC Awards. These individuals were selected by the vote of the MARAC membership:

CW County Hunter of the Year – KB6UF Ron Jones
SSB County Hunter of the Year – AB7NK Mary Vince

CW Net Control of the Year – W0GXQ Jerry Mertz
SSB Net Control of the Year – WY8I Jim Odam

CW Mobile of the Year – W0GXQ Jerry Mertz
SSB Mobile of the Year – KB6UF Ron Jones

Team of the Year – AB7NK/K7SEN Mary & Neil Vince

Congratulations to the winners and to all of the participants in the various categories. I am attaching photos of the County Hunter of The Year plaques.

Robert Devine – KC6AWX
MARAC Awards Manager



Annual Meeting**MARAC National Memphis, TN**

By Kerry, W4SIG

By the time you read this you are probably packing your bags, or already on your way, to the MARAC National in Memphis, Aug 1-4. We are really excited to be hosting the event this year! Close to 90 folks have registered so far. We are looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones. After all, who are those folks behind the mic and key sending 2-2s !?

We will be enjoying all Memphis has to offer, from music to history to great food! Travel safely and we will see you here!

By the way, if you haven't sent in your registration yet, please bring it with you instead of mailing. Thanks, 73!

MARAC Annual Board Meeting

By Kerry, W4SIG

A new and better way of attending the annual meeting remotely will be used for this meeting. It will be held on Aug. 4 at 1500Z.

The last couple of board meetings have used teleconference to conduct the meetings. This has been a huge success for both the board members and for the membership. Although mIRC is available as in the past, our usual fast typist, AF3X will not be attending and so no one is available to key in the conversations into mIRC. So for you remote folks your best and easiest option to listen in is via Uberconference. There are two ways you can join in:

1. By phone using the toll free number: 1-866-525-5354

You will be able to listen in to the entire meeting. All callers, except for board members, will be on mute during the meeting. After the meeting is over the lines will be opened up for membership questions and discussion. A recorded copy of the meeting will be available afterward if anyone wishes to listen in later.

2. By PC using Google Chrome or Firefox.

Go to: www.uberconference.com/aa8r0 (the last character is a zero)

Enter your call/name in the name field

Click on 'Join' button

Click on the "Mic & Speakers" button

Click on the "Use Selected Device" button



Treasurer's Report (W0NAC) June 2016*

Beginning Account Balances June 17, 2016 **\$29,929.56**

Income:

Money Market Interest	\$1.19	
Awards Manager Income	\$75.00	
Membership Income	\$ 197.50	
Logger Distribution	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Total Income:		\$273.69

June New Spotting Site/Logger II Expenses:

Spotting Site Fixed Expenses (CHSpots.org)	\$0.00
Spotting Site Recurring Expenses (CHSpots.org)	\$494.87
Logger II Fixed Expenses	\$0.00
Logger II Recurring Expenses	\$0.00

June Other Expenses:

Awards Manager Expenses	\$552.55
Misc. Expenses	\$136.75
Office Expenses (Postage, Etc.)	<u>\$0.00</u>

Total Expenses: \$1,184.17

June Net Income Less Expenses **(\$910.48)**

New Total Cash Balance ALL Accounts: **\$29,019.08**

Checking Account Balance	\$1,913.99
Money Market Account Balance	<u>\$27,105.09</u>
Total Cash All Accounts:	\$29,019.08

Note:

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

Awards Manager's Funds \$1,500.00



* Includes June Transactions posted through 07/7/2016

From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC Total Funds at the end of June should be discounted by **\$5867.50**. This amount is a Deferred Liability of award fees pre-paid by members. After discounting, our true (spendable) Cash Assets are **\$23,151.58**

Awards Resignation

MARAC Members,

I am attaching a copy of my resignation letter that I tendered to the Board of Directors. It has been a pleasure and honor for me to serve you as MARAC's Awards Manager for the past 6 years. I feel that I will no longer be able to devote the time that is necessary to perform these duties in the future. I must devote much more time in the future to evolving family matters.

I'm sure it's no secret that my family has had its share of medical problems during the past few years. First, my daughter had a successful kidney transplant. Both the surgery and the recovery were letter perfect, but it was a long drawn-out process. Then my younger brother died (unexpectedly) and that thrust my wife and me in position of sole caregivers for my 94-year-old father. I was now spending 3 to 4 days every week living at his house. Earlier this year my father fell and broke a hip. After a lengthy stay in the hospital and nursing home he passed away earlier this year. During this time my grandson was diagnosed with Leukemia. It has been a whirlwind of visits to doctor's offices cancer treatment centers and hospitals. My grandson has had a bone marrow transplant, but there are still some complications. My daughter needs all of the help that we can give her.

As I said, I enjoyed acting as your Awards Manager but my family MUST be my first priority. I want to thank everyone for tolerating my delays in processing your awards, your patience is appreciated.

*73 & thank you,
Bob - KC6AWX*



Events

8/6	10-10 SSB
8/6	NA ARRL CW QP
8/13	MD-DC QP
8/20	NA ARRL SSB QP
8/21	ROOKIE ROUNDUP RTTY
8/22	RUN4BACON
8/27	HI QP
8/27	KS QP
8/27	OH QP

ONLY START DATE SHOWN

CLICK ON EVENT TO GO TO THAT WEB SITE



Awards Committee

These MARAC members are serving on the Awards Committee:

Awards Manager - Bob Devine (KC6AWX)

Phil Yasson (AB7RW)

Dave Splitt (KE3VV)

Kent Reinke (KV7N)

Ed Palagyi (KN4Y)

“Matt” Matthew (W0NAC)

Ron Clift (N5MLP)

Percy Ford (KA1JPR)

Lloyd Smith (NX4W)

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

“A Road Runner Is A Very Fast Bird”

Monthly Deadline for Articles is the 25th!

Board of Directors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Appointees

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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