



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

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## **President's QTC**

**W**hat a great time at the National Convention in Memphis. Great accommodations, great southern food and great southern hospitality. Well done Kerry, Amy & Pat.

Neither the outgoing President nor the outgoing Secretary could make the annual board meeting this year so it was decided several weeks prior to the meeting that Vice President Terry, WQ7A, would chair the meeting. A couple weeks prior to the annual board meeting several motions were sent to the Secretary to be put on the agenda but the agenda was never sent out to the board so without an agenda we had a very short meeting. After the meeting was adjourned the floor was opened up to the onsite and remote members. We got a lot of positive feedback on using Uberconference for the meeting and will probably stick with it.

Election Coordinator Resignation: Kent, KV7N, has stepped down as Election Coordinator. Kent has volunteered for several years and has done a great job as Election Coordinator. At the August 25<sup>th</sup> board meeting Don, K7DM, was appointed and confirmed as MARAC's new Election Coordinator. Thank you Don for volunteering.

Awards Manager: KC6AWX's resignation was effective August 4th. Charlie, N2JNE, has stepped forward to take on the task of Awards Manager and was confirmed at the August 25<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Three of the previous AMs (KD9ZP, KC5QCB & AA8R) will provide training as best they can but many things have changed since they were AMs. I can't speak for the other two AM's but I know my cob webs are getting thicker by the day. So, please be patient while Charlie goes through the learning process. And, until you hear differently from either N2JNE or from me, **please hold onto all your award applications until we can get this turnover completed.**

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Splitting Award Manager Duties: The BOD has approved splitting up the duties of the AM to make that job considerably easier. The two positions are now called Awards Secretary and Awards Manager. The Awards Secretary, N2JNE, will handle all the financials and processing of the awards and will report to the Awards Manager. The Awards Manager will function as the Awards Committee Chairman and will report to the BOD. Ron, N5MLP, has volunteered to be the Awards Manager and was confirmed at the August 25<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Ron will be rebuilding the committee from scratch. If you are interested in being on that committee please let your District Director know. Thank you Charlie and Ron for volunteering.

State of Kansas: MARAC's new Secretary, WQ7A, is working with MARAC's General Counsel (Bill, K0DEQ) to get MARAC back into a status of "Good Standing" State of Kansas. Because MARAC is incorporated in the state of Kansas, MARAC is required to submit an Annual report and pay a filing fee of \$40 each year. MARAC has not sent in the Annual report nor the filing fee since 2014. As part of the reinstatement process MARAC needs to send the Annual Report and filing fees for 2015 and 2016 as well as a reinstatement fee.

Resident Agent: To be incorporated in the state of Kansas MARAC is required to have a valid Kansas mailing address. To do this we must have what is called a Resident Agent (RA). Butch, WY0A, has volunteered to be MARAC's Resident Agent.

Each of these positions had multiple volunteers and I am very pleased to see the renewed enthusiasm. While not all of these folks have been appointed to a position, their willingness to volunteer their time and knowledge is greatly appreciated. So if you get a chance to talk with any of the following volunteers, tell them thank you.

N2JNE	KA2LHO	KA9JAC	WY0A	KC5QCB
N5MLP	WA4UNS	K3IMC	K7DM	

Our current Webmaster is having trouble keeping up with all the needed changes to our web site because of his work schedule and we are looking to get Jeffery some help. So if you have the time and know how to maintain a web site, give me a call or send an email.

I think I have said enough for this month. Drop me an email or catch me in the W6RK chat room if you have any suggestions or what to talk further.

Randy, AA8R



**Dateline CW**

Ed, KN4Y

A CW mobile county hunter's location signal is as good as his RST.

**H**ere already is September, (which means seven} and is the ninth month of the year to come rolling unopposed through the panhandle. I assume the County Hunters that survived the convention are delighted that soon cooler travel weather is coming. I am in the shack listening to the noise on the CW net and reading RM11708 when I hear Gator's 4x4 down shift and slide to a stop at the recycled railroad tie. Gator enters the shack carrying the familiar white cardboard container, "Good day Dude you look like a mobile operator whose radio just smoked." I shake my head, "Yes I feel bad about not attending the convention and I have been reading this ARRL proposal that could be a problem for CW operators, but a sip of latte and I will be renewed." Gator quickly hands me a latte. I take a large sip and in a reasonable time flip back to reality. Gator turns on the computer.

"I glad you turned on the computer, here check out my Islands on The Air contest." I hand Gator a gorgeous trans-gender memory stick. Gator gooses the mouse and after a few minutes turns around in the chair. "You worked 100 contacts during the Island on The Air contest but only half were islands. I notice 15-meters opened for a while. I thought you were going to go to St. George Island and operate." "Yes, but I could not get my ducks in a row, but, maybe next year." "Did you bowl Sunday in the FSU sports tournament?" "Yes that was part of my logistics problem." Gator is looking at the computer as we sip our lattes.

"Dude, I notice you worked the North American QSO party." "Yes I did S&P, how did I do?" Gator checks the log, "Not bad Dude, you made a contact on all bands except 10 and 15-meters. You made a total of 200 QSO's. I see you were on a Florida Contest Group team named SECC#1. Looking at your score I bet the teams members wished you had been assigned to another team." Gator is laughing so hard he passes gas. I give him the finger and turn on the fan.

"I just noticed that cuddly Dude Norm, W3DYA posted the results of the MARAC USA QSO party." "Great how did I do?" Gator shakes his head, "You were first in Florida and Georgia because you had no competition. In Alabama you got beat by Tom, K4GZB." "Don't be sarcastic, I already think I know the answer, did Jeff W9MSE, win the mobile category?" Gator laughs, "Yes, which is a foregone conclusion." We smile knowingly and sip our lattes.

Gator shakes his head, "Dude I checked the topband list and you are not listed, I though you sent your numbers in." "I did send my list but for some reason Barry never received it." "The next time I will send in the list and Barry will get it." "Be my guest."

Gator resumes looking at the computer screen, "Dude I see you worked the Worked All Europe CW contest. I thought you had a bowling tournament." I sip my latte, "Yes I did. After bowling in the Suncoast Senior tournament I planned to work the Maryland QSO party mobile from Pasco County Florida, but, the only stations I heard were working the WAE. I work the WAE every year so I decided to give it a try operating from my mobile. By golly several Europeans stations heard me." Yes Dude, I notice you made 27 QSO's and worked 30 counties, not bad from a mobile." "Yes Gator it was fun and it was getting hot and I was about to quit when a rain storm came through and cooled the antenna down

and I made a few more QSO's. Sunday I was tired after bowling six games and drove straight home and did not even turn on the radio to hear if MDQP was active." Gator picks up a memory stick lying on the table, "Is there a log on this memory stick?" I give him the universal change memory stick gesture, "Can't remember."

Gator brings up the index, "The only new activity I see is the Russian District Award contest." I snap my fingers, "Yes I remember, I did operate in that contest. I heard stations calling so I joined the fray doing S&P.. How did I do?" "You worked really rapid rushing Russians." Gator laughs hilariously."Actually Dude you made 39 QSO's and worked 34 districts. Is that good.?" "I have no idea; I just enjoyed some foreign CW."

"Dude have you heard what transpired during the convention, was there a CW meeting?" I sip my latte, "Yes , Norm told me there was a CW meeting and Bob, N4CD, discussed the National Parks on the Air program plus the usual in one ear and out the other discussions." "No Dude I mean some ripe juicy gossip." "Yes!" I lower my voice, "it seems Kerry and Randy..." Suddenly CQ, CQ, CQ is heard from Gator's cell phone. Gator looks disgusted, "Dude I have to get to the back forty, with all the rain we have had it seems some rattlesnakes have entered the number three still." He is gone like a county hunter at the end of a convention, I think I heard him yell, "We need to have a CW county hunters Budweiser beer museum." I shake my head; I don't want to hear what I heard. I hear the printer start and stop.

I get the printout and it is a list of mobile county hunters heard during August on the CW call frequencies, I read: AB7RW, K0FG, K0MAF, K4YT, K7TM, K8ZZ, KA2LHO, KA3QLF, KA4RRU, KC3X, KE0TT, KN4Y, N0AC, N0KV, N1QY, N2JNE, N4CD, N4JT, N4UP, N9JF, N9QS, NF0N, NM2L, NU0Q, W0GXQ, W3DQT, W4SIG, W7FEN, W7TM, and W80PYF.

The QSO parties in September provide 489 counties up for grabs starting with Tennessee QSO party (95 counties) and the Colorado QSO party(64 counties) and if CW QSO's slow down look for the superb CW operators CW open. Next along comes the New Jersey QSO party (21 counties), the Washington Salmon Run (39 counties). Actually salmon swim, but don't rock the keyer. To wrap the month up is the Maine QSO party (16 counties) and the Texas QSO party (254 counties). It is rumored that the great mobile Norm, W3DYA, will not participate in the Texas QSO party. Let us CW county hunters hope it is just a rumor. There is also the Ohio State Parks on the Air, which reminds me next year there is planned a Florida State Parks on the air on the same date as the Alabama QSO party that I participate in as a mobile. What a bummer. I digress, there is the ARRL: September VHF contest, and the mighty Peanut Power QRP Sprint. I wonder why a driver's license is shown prior to a liquor purchase when drinking and driving is not allowed. Too much stress, it is Nap Time.



**2017 MARAC National Convention**

By Kerry W4SIG

**T**he MARAC Board is looking for a host for the 2017 National Convention. If you are interested in finding out more about this exciting opportunity please let your district director know and we will be glad to provide you with more info. The club has been doing this for 48 years now so there is a lot of experience and advise on how to make it run smoothly. I enjoyed putting it on in Memphis this past month and can aid you with the initial process. It does take quite a while to get things organized, so we need to hear from volunteers soon, please! Thanks!



**2016 MARAC National Wrap-up**

By Kerry W4SIG

The 48<sup>th</sup> annual MARAC Annual Convention is in the books! Wow, what a fun time everyone seemed to have. With close to 100 in attendance it was a great opportunity to get to know your fellow county hunters much better. Music was in the air with Scottie and his band of guitar and ukulele players performing at their best! Many visited Graceland and all its' wonders. There was a great tour of Memphis music history culminating at Sun Studios with an opportunity to stand where the "Million Dollar Quartet" of Elvis, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Carl Perkins played and recorded together. Even Fred, K0FG, sang into the mic they used back in 1956! Jack, K0MAF, even entertained the tour-goers on the bus back to the hotel. Others took time to visit Beale Street, the Bass Pro Shop Pyramid store, and the Memphis zoo. We had a full house for the Memphis barbecue dinner as well.

Forums hosted by N4CD, N5MLP, N1API, WB9UCW, and NN9K were enjoyed by many during the convention. It was a time for fun and learning from the pros! The annual board meeting convened using the new Uberconference phone conference call with many listening in live over their pcs or phones. It went off without a hitch and we have had 100% positive feedback on using this method for all future board meetings. That evening we had a wonderful banquet meal, announced awards, and drew for prizes. Of special note, congrats to Karl, K4YT, for winning the TS480 Early Bird Prize and to Paul, N7JPF, for winning the grand prize of a TS480 transceiver.

I hope everyone enjoyed their stay and visit to Memphis. It was worth the work to be able to see so many of our friends. Special thanks go to Pat, N0DXE, for her eight months of registration management and to Joyce, WB9NUL, for her coordination of the snacks and drinks for all four days of the convention. For those that were here thanks for coming, and for those that could not make it hopefully we will see you at next year's party, location to be determined! 73s and 88s!



**Board of Directors Meeting**  
Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club (MARAC)

Thursday, August 4, 2016

Vice-President Terry Dummler (WQ7A) welcomed everyone to the 2016 National Convention, announced the meeting was being recorded, and called the meeting to order at 1500Z on August 4, 2016.

Following the opening of the meeting, Terry polled the teleconference attendees to determine whether Secretary Jim Grandinetti (KZ2P) was present. Upon determining Jim was not present, Terry announced Pattie (W8TAX) would take meeting notes.

**Board Members present at the host hotel meeting room, Germantown, TN:**

Vice-President – Terry Dummler (WQ7A)  
Northeast Director – Al Kaiser (N1API)  
South Central Director – Barry Mitchell (N0KV)  
Southeast Director – Kerry Long (W4SIG)  
Past President – Joyce Boothe (WB9NUL)

**Board Members present via teleconference:**

Treasurer – Matt Matthew (W0NAC)  
Great Lakes Director – Tim Eklin (W8JJ)  
North Central Director – Mike Nickolas (NF0N)

**Board Members not present:**

President – Dave Splitt (KE3VV)  
Secretary – James Grandinetti (KZ2P)  
Pacific Director – Robert Devine (KC6AWX)

Motion by Al, N1API, to accept the minutes of the previous BOD meeting as published. Seconded by Barry, N0KV. Motion passed.

Motion by Joyce, WB9NUL, to approve the Treasurer's Report as published. Seconded by Kerry, W4SIG. Motion passed.

**Old Business**

Terry reported there was no agenda published or transmitted to the Board, so there is no old business to attend to.

**New Business**

Motion by Matt, W0NAC, to have Jeffrey, AF3X, be tasked to as soon as possible make all necessary changes on the MARAC website needed to reflect the new MARAC slate of officers as directed by the MARAC secretary. Seconded by Kerry, W4SIG. Motion passed.

**Announcements**

1. MARAC's standing with the State of Kansas as a Non-Profit Organization is in arrears. Apparently was dropped a couple years ago and it has just come to light recently. The new BOD will get this straightened out. Estimate of the cost for this may be a few hundred dollars.
2. Thank you and round of applause to all out-going Board members for their service
3. Plaque awarded to Don, KE3IMC, as # 18 to complete running of all 3077 counties.
4. Status of turnover between the out-going and in-coming officers:
  - a. Awards Manager – there may be some delay in getting the awards program up and running again; the AM sent awards records, etc., to the incoming VP's address so the stuff is hopefully sitting on their doorstep; will get things up and running as soon as possible;
  - b. Treasurer – turnover has been going smoothly and is almost complete;
  - c. Secretary – there's been no communication from Jim, KZ2P, so don't know the status of any MA-RAC club documentation, etc., and how that will get turned over;
5. Kerry, W4SIG
  - a. Membership – the booth at Dayton ham fest was very successful; many new and returning members signed up; there's a new location for the Dayton event next year, but booth space has been requested;
  - b. There are new materials/banner on display here at the convention which are available to the members for use at local ham events;
  - c. The Annual report shows a loss of approximately 20% of the membership last year; the new BOD will be making every effort to reach out to those members;
  - d. Convention – there are just shy of 100 attendees this year;
  - e. Simply Voting – voting using this tool went very smooth and was successful; thanks to all who helped get this set up;
  - f. Teleconference – thanks to Randy, AA8R for getting this set up;
  - g. Website for this national – thanks to AF3X for all his efforts in getting this website set up;
6. Terry asked for a round of applause for Kerry, W4SIG for all his efforts for this great convention;
7. Awards – normally the awards manager withholds all the awards and typically announces everything at the national convention. Unfortunately the information was leaked out before the national so apologies go out to those receiving awards;
8. Randy, AA8R, will be introducing the new incoming board members and taking questions following the close of this meeting.

Motion by Al, A1API to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Kerry, W4SIG. Motion passed.



**Treasurer's Report (W7OLY)  
July 2016\***

**Beginning Account Balances July 17, 2016** **\$29,019.08**

**Income:**

Money Market Interest	\$2.19	
Awards Manager Income	\$0.00	
Misc. Income (1)	\$373.62	
Membership Income	\$ 160.00	
Logger Distribution	<u>\$20.00</u>	
Total Income:		\$555.81

**July 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

**July Other Expenses:**

Awards Manager Expenses	\$0.00 (2)
Misc. Expenses (3)	\$131.97
Office Expenses (Postage, Etc.)	<u>\$48.05</u>

Total Expenses: \$180.02

**July Net Income Less Expenses** **\$375.79**

**New Total Cash Balance ALL Accounts:** **\$29,394.87**

Checking Account Balance	\$2,287.59
Money Market Account Balance	<u>\$27,107.28</u>
<b>Total Cash All Accounts:</b>	<b>\$29,394.87</b>

\* Includes July Transactions posted through 08/15/2016

Notes: (1) Balance of outgoing Awards Manager's Funds after closeout.

(2) Actual Award Manager expenses were \$1,126.38 but account was closed and the net after expenses, \$373.62, is shown as Misc Income above.

(3) New checks, deposit slips, & envelopes.



# From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC Total Funds at the end of July should be discounted by **\$5,867.50**. This amount is a Deferred Liability of award fees pre-paid by members. After discounting, our true (spendable) Cash Assets are **\$23,527.37**

## Net Chronicles

# Net Chronicles

This article is the tenth in a continuing series of monthly newsletter articles focused on operations and activities on 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 August

The annual MARAC national convention occurred August 1 – 4 in Memphis, TN and was very well attended with over 100 members and family present. Thanks to Kerry, W4SIG and his wife for hosting the convention and to N0DXE, WB9NUL, and others for assisting. There were lots of contacts being made on the Marac sponsored nets during this period before, during, and after the convention dates. I had a great time and hope everyone else did also. Attending a regional or national convention is a great way to meet members who you have talked to on the air for years but have never met in person or to see those you have met previously and catch up on what is happening in their lives.

There were too many active mobiles putting out counties going to and from the convention to list here. I would like to thank all those mobiles for activation of so many counties and I am sure the other members appreciate it greatly.

County hunters and others are continuing to participate in running national parks for the NPOTA event this year, and it seems to have generated much interest in exchanging contacts with others at many of the parks, monuments, and designated trails.

### Net Operations Forum at the Convention

W4SIG invited me to have a Marac Net Operations forum during the convention and I was able to do that just after the CW forum and prior to the remote operations forum. It was a good chance to cover some of the objectives of the Marac Nets and discuss issues, procedures, and other related subjects. The forum was also well attended and I appreciated the opportunity to discuss the status of the nets and what we need to do to increase participation. Thanks to N0KV and others who spoke during the forum.

### Net control volunteers needed

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.

**Your support for our net operations is requested and appreciated! *Come join us on the MARAC nets!***

MARAC Net Operations Committee



NSMLP – Ron CBT, Chairperson

**National Pix**



All



USA-CA?



Beauties



CW

Photos by Al, N1API and Kerry, W4SIG



These are random selections from the 100+ photos provided by AI, NIAPI

**Awards Committee**

# Awards Committee

## **Awards Committee Reorganization**

As most members are probably aware, the Awards Committee ceased to function several weeks ago prior to the national convention. Submissions from members during that time have not been processed and entry of LC-1 or LC-2 awards was discouraged until a new committee was established and transfer of records could occur. At the quarterly Marac Board of Directors Meeting on Thursday, August 25, 2016, I was appointed as the Marac Awards Manager.

A new position, Awards Secretary, was proposed to the board and discussed. This position would handle the processing of awards applications, issuance of awards and certificates, preparation and shipping of plaques, and handling of funds for the awards function. That proposal was adopted, but will need to be incorporated into the official club bylaws by an amendment that will be voted on by the membership in the near future. It is anticipated that N2JNE, Charlie Steele, will assume the duties of Award Secretary if the bylaw changes are approved by the membership.

I will be working with all of the directors to establish a new Awards Committee representing each of the districts. That work is just beginning and I will keep the members updated on progress through this section of the newsletter in future months.

## **Status of Awards Operations**

We are working to resume processing of awards applications and will do so as soon as the records and systems can be analyzed, bank accounts established, checks obtained, and systems brought online with new security parameters. Please be patient with the committee as this process is completed.

I look forward to resuming operations and staffing the new committee at the earliest possible date. Then, we will start evaluation of new awards and rules changes for the club.

### **MARAC Awards Committee**



N5MLP – Ron Clift, Marac Awards Manager

### Dave's Call

**H**i. Well, it's the start of another Road Runner year. Thanks to all who have helped make the RR a success this past year. Without your input, we'd have been nothing. Please keep it up.

Ellen and I don't get to all the Nationals. We're sure glad we made it to Memphis. Kerry and Amy, well at least Amy, made it a blast. We loved it.

I hope you also read the County Hunter News by Bob, N4CD. I love his NPOTA stories. I've tried three activations for a grand total of three contacts. Not my game apparently.

The Board of Directors fulfilled their promise of quarterly meetings with an 8/25 meeting. It was over an hour but a lot got done. It was open to all via Uberconference (see the MARAC website for the phone number). If you didn't attend, you missed a good meeting. Please be sure to attend the next one in November.

A little business. If you want to see something different let me or your district director know. I'm not a computer guru but I can try to make it happen. Regarding submittals, I prefer Word documents, doc or docx. Don't go heavy on formatting. My page layout software tends to choke. Lastly, my preference for readability is Times New Roman. I can convert just about anything. Thank you for making my life a little bit easier by using TNR.

73, Dave, KU4YM

PS Al, N1API has provided me with over 100 photos from the National. Randy is trying to get them posted on the MARAC web site.



**Events**

9/3 CO QP  
9/4 TN QP  
9/5 MI QRP CW SPRINT  
9/11 NA CW SPRINT  
9/17 NJ QP  
9/17 NH QP  
9/17 WA STATE SALMON RUN  
9/18 NA RTTY SPRINT  
9/19 RUN4BACON QRP  
9/24 ME QP  
9/24 TX 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 - Ron, N5MLP**

**Phil Yasson ( AB7RW )**

**Dave Splitt ( KE3VV )**

**Kent Reinke ( KV7N )**

**Ed Palagyi ( KN4Y )**

**“Matt” Matthew (W0NAC)**

**Ron Clift (N5MLP)**

**Lloyd Smith (NX4W)**

**Tele Board Meetings**

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT @ 2359Z**

**11/16/2016**

**02/15/2017**

**05/24/2017**



*The County Line Roadrunner*  
**MARAC Secretary**  
**PO Box 500**  
**Yelm, WA 98597**

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

**Pacific Director:** Paul Nelson, N7JPF, 3013 W. 10th St, The Dalles, OR 97058, 509-698-6227, n7jpf-paul@charter.net

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