



# **THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER**

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## **President's QTC**

September was a busy month. Where do I begin? Well, to start WQ7A, MARAC's Secretary, has completed and mailed all the delinquent paperwork that the state of Kansas requires and Aubrey, MARAC's Treasurer, has paid the delinquent annual fees and penalties in order to put MARAC back into a status of 'Current' with the state of Kansas. Next, we had a board meeting on 8/27 and approved several motions which included all of the MARAC Service awards for the prior administration, more on that later, three new by-law changes which the membership will need to vote on in November, and the appointment of a new Awards Manager, Awards Secretary, and Election Coordinator.

What's the difference you ask between the Awards Manager and Awards Secretary? The Awards Manager (N5MLP) is the Awards Committee Chairman and reports directly to the board. The Awards Secretary (N2JNE) handles all the award processing, plaque orders, mailing of the awards, and the award financials and reports to the Awards Manager. If you would like to be part of the Awards Committee, let N5MLP or your District Director know. The Award's committee is looking for a few good OM's/YL's. The Awards Secretary (N2JNE) has been going through a rather steep learning curve to come up to speed. He's had to re-install several programs back onto the Award's laptop in order to get the laptop back into shape to process awards and some email conflicts on the web has caused delays. But Charlie is making progress and patience is required by all.

Web changes have been slow because MARAC's webmaster (AF3X) has been under the weather as well as having a busy work schedule. Dave, KW1DX, has recently volunteered to help out. Thanks Dave.

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Now, more on the MARAC Service awards. It has been brought to the board's attention that there are some members who are very deserving of being nominated for a MARAC Service Award but haven't been nominated and therefore haven't received one or haven't received one lately. Any member of MARAC can nominate a deserving member so don't just leave the nomination process up to the board of directors. If there is someone you think is deserving based on the award's requirements, please submit a nomination to your District Director along with a short write-up justifying the nomination.

The County Hunter Database on MARAC's website provides information for all awards by call. Unfortunately the database does not show any of the MARAC Service Awards. We need to change that. In the meantime the Award's Secretary can generate a report for all the awards that a particular call has earned/received.

Our new Election Coordinator, Don, K7DM, has been busy learning how to configure Simply Voting for our upcoming election needs. In October we will have the quarterly voting and in November we will have the voting for the by-law changes that were approved by the board last month. A description of those by-law changes are in the meeting minutes elsewhere in this issue of the Roadrunner.

We're looking for a volunteer to host the 2017 National Convention. There are a lot of good experienced resources available from prior conventions to help guide you to a successful convention. If you are interested please let me know and we'll get you started.



**Dateline CW**

Ed, KN4Y

October, a CH'er parked quietly on a county line; the air was cooling and so very still.

**T**he month of September, while traveling to Florida in accordance with the Gregorian calendar commitment, took a break at the Heavenly solar cycle club for a spot of cosmic enlightenment and E-layer viewing. The month of September was enjoying the light show when a clockwise whirl of wind energy announced the arrival of tropical storm Hermine. Entering the Heavenly solar cycle club hurricane Hermine requested some low pressure. The two unusual identities were both headed for the Florida pan-handle. After a few skips and a hefty negative shot of vacuum both the month of September and the NOW hurricane Hermine decided to enter the Florida pan handle together. They got a late start and did not enter the Florida peninsula until after the bewitching hour. After arriving in Florida the now Hurricane Hermine got bored and became a whirlwind likened to the cartoon Tasmanian Devil and continued Northeast, but the month of September heard about Gator and decided to stay for 30 days and enjoy the FSU and UF football games and maybe do some county hunting.

I awoke at dawn for no particular reason to a still humid atmosphere; I quickly realized the lack of electrical power by having no lighted alarm clock to verify the time. I dressed by first morning light and went outdoors to survey the area for any structural damage by that naughty blow hard hurricane Hermine. The high speed wind gusts caused large trees to topple in both Leon and Wakulla counties that knocked down the electrical grid overhead power lines and smashed a few cars. No electrical power means I head to the shed praying the generator will run after setting in one spot for several years. Along the way I surveyed the property and it seems the pine trees had a contest to see what tree could drop the most limbs and survive. What a mess. After a walk around the house I found no structural damage, I give a sigh of relief.

I had seen an earlier weather forecast on TV and noted the forecast predicted that above normal winds from tropical Hermine could arrive at my QTH and on a whim I lowered my Yagi to 15 feet. I make a quick tower survey, all is well, and I crank the Yagi back to 50-feet. The highest priority project is done and I prance to the shed and move the generator out onto the deck. I pick up the five gallon fuel container and pour some ethanol free gas into the generator fuel tank until full. I say a prayer, set the choke, and on the third pull of the starting cord the generator, with a puff of smoke and welcomed noise, fired to life. I look upward and smile, an activity gone right. I look around trying to remember where I put the electrical extension cords.

I hear Gator's 4x4 turn off the main road, I head to the radio shack just as Gator down shifts and slides to a stop at the recycled railroad tie. I hear the thud of a hurricane Hermine inspired successful Kamikaze squirrel. Gator gracefully slides out of the driver's seat carrying a white cardboard container. "Greetings old Dude, I see you survived that hurricane Hermine. Hold on a minute I will check your mailbox." He hands me the white cardboard container and goes to the mailbox.

He returns carrying a self sealing rectangular mailing carton and several large envelopes. He hands me the mailing carton and I open it quickly before I have an anxiety attack. "Whoa, what is this? I cannot believe what I am holding; I check the mailing label to be sure it is addressed to me. This is a beautiful colorful engraved plaque for First Place in the Georgia QSO party as CW Rover single-operator." I hand the plaque to Gator, "Wow Dude this is heavy and very colorful." He looks around the shack, where are you going to mount it?"

I am not listening full time as I open the white cardboard box and grab a super sized hot latte. I sip and momentarily enter caffeine oblivion, "I have no idea Gator, I may have to hire a plaque on the wall efficiency expert and do a major re-mounting." Gator picks up one of the large white envelopes and opens it, "Dude you got first place operating from Florida in this year's Louisiana QSO party." He opens the second envelope "Wow Dude you also got first place in the Mississippi QSO party. When I get my ticket I will give you some competition in Florida." I change the subject, "Gator check out these logs." I hand Gator a sassy colored transgender memory stick.

Gator turns on the computer, gets a latte and inserts the memory stick. I sip my latte and Gator gooses the mouse. He reads from the screen, "Wow Dude you have been busy. You were busy operating in the Ohio QSO party, you made 65 QSO's, logged 4-No Star, and worked the mobiles Jim, K8MR, Dave, WN4AFD and Tom, N2CU." Gator does another mouse goose.

"Dude, I am impressed you made 166 QSO's in the Kansas QSO party, logged 2-No Stars, and worked a bunch of mobiles with 1X1 calls." I give thumbs up, "Yes the mobiles were roaming the State operating from counties and county lines, I had no time to nap." Gator sips his latte, "I also notice you operated in the CWop Open Competition. How did you do that with no power?" "Well Gator the Open Competition has three sessions, my electrical power came on in time to work the third session. Gator smiles, "Makes sense, I think, you made 59 QSO's, is that good?" I raise my right fist, "It was for me." Gator gives me the finger.

Gator sets his latte on the desk, “I see you made 70 QSO’s in the Tennessee QSO party and I notice it was mostly a 40-meter party with a late jaunt to 80-meters. You worked two mobiles Ted, W4NZ and Tom, K4ZGB.” “That is correct Gator I never heard one signal on 20-meters.” Gator is staring at the computer, “Dude, you only made 7 QSO’s in the Colorado QSO party, three QSO’s in the Hawaii QSO party and 4 QSO’s in the ARRL VHF contest. I bet you fell asleep again?” I give Gator a stern look, “No Gator the band conditions were horrible. I heard very few stations, but I did work the stations I heard.”

Gator leans back in the chair and sips his latte. “Dude, I see six meters could not be awakened, you only made 4 QSO’s in the ARRL VHF contest but you got two new counties on 6-meters.” I shake my head, “Sometimes an event is done by accident and not design.” Gator shakes his head, “Whatever that means.” He gooses the mouse, “Dude you only worked 5 QSO’s in the New Hampshire QSO party, band conditions again?” “No, the New Hampshire amateurs operate mostly sideband.” Gator laughs, “Bunch of CB’ers?” I change the subject, “Gator check out the New Jersey QSO party.”

Gator brings up the New Jersey QSO party log, “You did a little better with 24 QSO’s, still not a banner event.” “Check out the Washington Salmon Run, it is on that memory stick, and you will notice I did better.” Gator locates the file, “This is better Dude, you made 100 QSO’s and actually got one No-Star.” I smile big. “Check out the mobiles and you will know why.” Gator reads me the list of mobiles, “The Paladin Contest Club, K7ED, Mike, N7WA, the Western Washington DX Club, W7DX, and a MARAC member Darryl, WW7D.” I grin big, “Now you know the rest of the story.”

Gator turns around in the chair, “Dude I am not going to ask you if you have tasteless county hunting gossip because when I do...” CQ, CQ, CQ is heard from Gators cell phone. Gator shouts, “I knew it, I knew it, got to go Dude, a tree weakened by hurricane Hermine just toppled onto the main substation. He is gone like hurricane Hermine and I hear him yell. “Dude check out the elevated radials on the ten meter vertical.” I hear the printer stop. I obtain the print out and it is a list of the thirty-two mobiles heard during the month of September on the CW county hunters call frequencies.

I read: AB7RW, K0FG, K2HVN, K4ZGB, K7TM, KA4RRU, KB4BA, KC3X, KC7YE, KG4VBK, KM6HB, N0XYL, N1QY, N2OO, N4CD, N4JT, N4UP, N7IV, N8ZZ, N9JF, NU0Q, W0EAR, W0ETT, W0GXQ, W3DQT, W3ZUH, W4SIG, W7FEN, W7QDM, W9MSE, WB0PYF, and WB4KZW.

October is the QSO party fun month with 469 counties up for grabs, Starting off the CW fun is the popular California QSO party with 58 counties and many vineyards, and then,

the Pennsylvania QSO party with 67 counties, and then, the Arizona QSO party with 15 counties, and then, the Iowa QSO party with 99 counties, and then, the New York QSO party with 62 counties, and then, the South Dakota QSO party with 66 counties and the Illinois QSO party with 102 counties. I hope John, N6MU, has his key lubricated.

What? You are a contester! Then try the Greek CW contest, now I have the urge for a salad, or the Ontario CW contest. Note on October 10 or 10/10 is the 10-10 International 10/10 Sprint on ten meters, get the connection? Six days later is the 10-10 International Fall CW contest. Please listen for KN4Y on CW for both events. You can round out your CW fun with a journey to 160-Meters for the Stew Perry Topband Challenge. Better check out your vitamin supply or whatever if you operate from Colorado.

I look out the window, and notice the elevated radials on the ten meter vertical are down. I need to do a fix before the 10-10 contests. But now nap time.



## Secretaries Report of Recent Activities

Several bylaw changes were voted on at the last BOD meeting. Here is a synopsis of what we will be asking the membership to vote on during the month of November. Full BOD minutes follow this synopsis. The **BOLD** type is the actual language change

*The Board has decided to specify a member of the Awards Committee as the person who does the physical work of issuing awards and handling the monies involved. This person will be called the Awards Secretary. He will be an assistant to the Awards Manager and appointed by the Board. Below is the actual language change in the bylaws*

*For years the IRS has us using the fiscal year of April 1 to March 31. This bylaw change aligns our bylaws with the dates used for the IRS.*

*As we found out at the National convention this year, the convention date may vary. The Board has decided it would be a better plan to have a fixed date for the changing of officers. This requires several language changes as shown below.*

Board of Directors Meeting  
Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club (MARAC)  
Thursday, August 26, 2016

President Randy Hatt (AA8R) welcomed everyone to the BOD meeting, announced the meeting was being recorded, and called the meeting to order at 0001z on August 26, 2016.

**Board Members present via Uberconference:**

Vice-President – Chuck Secrest (NM1G)

Secretary – Terry Dummmler (WQ7A)

Treasurer – Aubrey Mansfield (W7OLY)

Northeast Director – Al Kaiser (N1API)

South Central Director – Barry Mitchell (N0KV)

Southeast Director – Kerry Long (W4SIG)

Great Lakes Director – Tim Eklin (W8JJ)

North Central Director – Mike Nickolas (NF0N)

Pacific Director – Paul Nelson (N7JPF)

Motion by Barry (N0KV), to accept the minutes of the previous BOD meeting as published. Seconded by Aubrey(W7OLY). Motion passed. Vote is Unanimous.

Motion by Chuck (NM1G), to approve the Treasurer's Report as published. Seconded by Al (N1API). Motion passed. . Vote is Unanimous.

### Old Business

Randy reports there is no old business.

### New Business

Motion by WQ7A

It has recently come to light that our standing with the State of Kansas business registration is in arrears due to lack of updating by the previous Secretary. One of the requirements to get re-instated is to name a new Resident Agent. Rory (Butch) Porter, WY0A, has volunteered to be the Resident Agent living in Kansas. I move to approve Butch, WY0A, as our Resident Agent. Second NM1G. Vote is Unanimous

Motion by WQ7A

I would propose that the Awards Manager position be changed to show that the position be the head of the Awards Committee. A new position of Awards Secretary will control the actual issuing the physical awards and control any monies dedicated to awards. The Awards Secretary will report to the Awards Manager who in turn will report to the Board of Directors.

This change will affect several sections of the Bylaws. The rewording follows:

### **5.1 AWARDS**

(a) The President shall appoint an Awards Manager from among the regular members of MARAC. The appointment shall be subject to ratification by the Board of Directors at the next meeting of the Board of Directors following the appointment. **The President shall also appoint an Awards Secretary from among the regular members of MARAC. The appointment shall be subject to ratification by the Board of Directors at the next meeting of the Board of Directors following the appointment.**

(b) The Awards Manager shall administer the MARAC Awards program in accordance with the policies and procedures adopted by the Board of Directors. **The Awards Manager will be the chairperson of the Awards Committee. The Awards Secretary will be in charge of collecting funds, reviewing awards applications and distributing the awards. The Awards Secretary will report to the Awards Manager.**

(c) The Awards **Secretary** shall receive and disburse funds in connection with the awards program in accordance with the policies adopted by the Board of Directors and the procedures established by the Treasurer.

(6) The Awards **Secretary** shall determine the media to be used when submitting applications and records for the awards.

I move to approve these changes to the Bylaws and schedule a vote by the members for approval. Second N7JPF. Vote is Unanimous

Motion by W7OLY

It has been the practice of the Treasurer to use a fiscal year beginning April 1 for some time.

I move to change bylaw section 6.1 FISCAL YEAR to read as follows:

**6.1(a) The fiscal year of the corporation shall begin on the first day of the month of April and end on the last day of the month of March.** This motion will need approval by the general membership.

Second WQ7A. Vote is Unanimous.

Motion by W7OLY

I move to approve the appointment of Don McMinds, (K7DM) as the MARAC Election Coordinator.

Second by NM1G. Vote is unanimous.

AA8R motions put forward by WQ7A

I move to approve the appointment of Ron Clift, (N5MLP) as the MARAC Awards Manager.

Second by N0KV. Vote is unanimous.



I move to approve the appointment of Charlie Steele, (N2JNE) as the MARAC Awards Secretary. (Considerable discussion takes place. BOD directs N2JNE to be an appointed member of the Awards Committee under the Awards Manager. Bylaws need changed to reflect Awards Secretary to accept awards monies from the Treasurer.

Second by W4SIG. Vote is unanimous.

I move to advance \$1500 to the new Awards Manager. Second by NM1G. W7OLY abstains, all others vote aye.

Service Awards:

AA8R motions put forward by WQ7A

I move to approve MARAC Merit Award to Kerry Long (W4SIG) and Amy Long for hosting the 2016 MARAC National Convention. Second by W7OLY. W4SIG abstains, all others vote aye.

I move to approve MARAC Merit Award to Pat Mitchell (N0DXE) for her tremendous help with all 2016 National Convention registrations. Second by N1API. N0KV abstains, all others vote aye.

I move to approve MARAC Merit Award to Joyce Both (WB9NUL) for her work as Hospitality Coordinator at the 2016 MARAC National Convention. Second by N0KV. Vote is unanimous.

I move to approve MARAC Outstanding Service Award for Ron Clift (N5MLP) for his service as MARAC Net Manager. Second by N7JPF. Vote is unanimous.

I move to approve MARAC Outstanding Service Award for Kent Reinke (KV7N) for his service as Election Coordinator. Second by W4SIG. Vote is unanimous.

I move to approve MARAC Outstanding Service Award for Terry Dummmler (WQ7A) for his service as Vice President. Second by W8JJ. WQ7A abstains. All others vote aye.

I move to approve MARAC Outstanding Service Award for Matt Matthew (W0NAC) for his service as Treasurer. Second by W7OLY. Vote is unanimous.

I move to approve MARAC Outstanding Service Award for Dave Splitt (KE3VV) for his service as President. Second by W4SIG. Vote is unanimous.

I move to approve MARAC Outstanding Service Award for Bob Devine (KC6AWX) for his service as Awards Manager. Second by W7OLY. Vote is unanimous.

I move to approve MARAC Outstanding Service Award for Bob Devine (KC6AWX) for his service as Pacific District Director. Second by N7JPF. Vote is unanimous.

I move to approve MARAC Outstanding Service Award for Jim Grandinetti (KZ2P) for his service as Secretary. Request for roll call vote. WQ7A votes Aye, NM1G votes Nay, W7OLY abstains, N1API votes Aye, W4SIG votes Aye, W8JJ votes Nay, NF0N temporarily gone from meeting, N0KV votes Nay, N7JPF votes Nay. Motion fails.

Motions by W4SIG

I move to approve MARAC Outstanding Service Award for Dave Pyle (KW1DX) for his many hours of developing and support of his SPOTME program. Second by W8JJ. Vote is unanimous.

I move to approve MARAC Outstanding Service Award for Lloyd Smith (NX4W) for his service as Simply Voting Coordinator. Second by W7OLY. Vote is unanimous.

Motions by N1API

I move to change the effective date of Officers and Directors terms of office. Bylaw changes are changes to Section 1.2(c) which when replaced will read:

**1.2(c). No person may hold more than one (1) seat on the Board of Directors at the same time. The term of office shall begin at 0000 UTC July 1 for newly elected Board of Directors. Newly elected Directors shall be introduced as the last order of business at the General Business Meeting if the annual meeting is held prior to July 1st.**

I move to approve these changes to the Bylaws and schedule a vote by the members for approval of Article 2, Officers, Paragraph 2.2 Terms Of Office and Vacancies which will read:

**2.2(b) The Officers shall take office at the same time as the newly elected Directors take office. Newly elected Officers shall be introduced as the last order of business at the General Business Meeting if the annual meeting is held prior to July 1st.**

**2.2(d) An officer appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve until 0000 UTC July 1.**

Second by W7OLY. Vote is unanimous.

Incentive membership motion:

**I move to offer a five (5) year reduced incentive member rate of four (4) times the current dues rate. This motion to take effect October 1, 2016**

Second by NM1G. Vote is unanimous.

Lifetime Membership Motion:

**I move that MARAC offer a Life Time Membership fee under the following structure:**

**Regular Life Time Membership at twenty-five (25) times the current dues rate.**

**Senior Life Time Membership for persons 65 years of age or older at ten (10) times the current dues rate. This motion to take effect January 1, 2017.**

Second by NM1G. Vote is unanimous. Motion to adjourn by N1API. Second by N0KV. Vote is unanimous.



## **County Challenge Top List 10<sup>th</sup> YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

This past August, the County Challenge Top List quietly became 10 years old. Do you already participate in the Top List? If not, do you know what the Top List is or have you ever heard of it?

Very simply described, the Top List is a changing ranking of county hunters in different emission categories that is based solely on the total number of contacts that are made on the 10 non-channelized amateur HF bands (160M through 6M). There are 4 ranked lists: Mixed Modes (which count CW -or- Phone -or- Digital contacts in each county), CW Mode, Phone Modes, Digital Modes and Combo Modes (which count CW -and- Phone -and- Digital contacts in each county).

The goal is to work as many counties as possible on as many bands and modes as possible. In each ranked modes list, the total number of counties worked on all bands is determined by the combined total of counties worked on each band. The objective of the Top List is to encourage county hunters to work and activate counties on as many bands and modes as possible as well as work fixed stations on bands and modes that are not often or usually activated by mobiles. It also offers an opportunity to have one score per mode to measure your progress in county hunting with a possibility to always improving it and reaching the next challenge level which is a level that -you- set for yourself.

It has recently become so easy to participate in the Top List it will likely surprise you and we'll explore that later on but first, let's start with a little history about how we got from there to here.

### The Top List from 2006 to 2015

The very first CCA Top List got its start with 14 participants on August 10, 2006 and can be viewed at this link: <http://w6rk.com/ccatoplist2.htm>. Risto W6RK provided the original development and web hosting space for the Top List. He also likely wrote the original CCA Rules document, which has since been updated and can be viewed at this link: <http://countyhunter.com/CCArules.htm>.

Two personnel changes occurred during these years. In 2008, Jim ND9M agreed to take over the monthly maintenance of the Top List. That is, he became the "go to" person who received all the contact totals submissions and merged them into the lists, adjusting the ranks each month along the way.

Then at some point earlier in this decade, Dennis KK7X took over web hosting of the Top List and to the present day he consistently and reliably makes it available for all of us to see each month at his <http://countyhunter.com> web site. He continues to be very involved with web hosting in the county hunting community and provides services that make the job of posting the Top List generally easier and much easier to manage than it formerly was.

As the years between 2008 and 2015 rolled by, Jim skillfully managed the Top List and perfected both the presentation of the Top List itself as well as the template form for participants to submit their contact totals. And then in late 2015 he took a job on a ship in the Pacific Ocean that was to start in January 2016 so he decided that enough was enough and that it was time to pass on the baton. Being the spreadsheet enthusiast that I am, I was interested in how the Top List actually worked so I initially contacted him to ask some questions about it and the next thing I knew, I had the job! (Isn't that normally how these

volunteer things work?)

Working alongside Jim last December and learning the Top List maintenance ropes was both educational and fun. I was very excited to assume these responsibilities and I am looking forward to serving the county hunting community in this fashion for several years to come. Hopefully, I have a few good ones (i.e. years) left in me. I will be very pleased if I can continue compiling and maintaining the Top List in as conscientious and efficient a manner as Jim had been able to provide during his 8-year tenure in the driver's seat.

### The Top List in 2016

As I launched into my new role in January I attempted to interest more county hunters to participate in the Top List and also to re-interest some county hunters who haven't submitted their contact totals in some time to start doing that again. I also expanded the Top List a bit and included some new items which are now being tracked and displayed. And since the only thing constant in the life of anything is change, there will likely be more tweaks in the months and years ahead as I determine yet more efficient and easier ways to do things.

Since January, quite a bit of work on the formulas and routines in both the Top List itself and the template form for participants to submit their contact totals has been done. And while of course I will always accept your contact totals in -any- format you can provide, the most recent template form for Excel 97-2003 or later can always be obtained from this link (which you should follow in your web browser to download it to your computer): <http://kk7x.x10.bz/CCAtemplate.xls>.

Occasionally the template form changes slightly to adjust to changing requirements so check the link often. The algorithms for the formulas and routines that are now embedded in this template form help us all catch errors with our contact totals before they ever get submitted for posting. And if you do not have Excel 97-2003 or later, I also have Excel 5.0/95 and MS Works compatible template forms available, so if you need to use either of these, please contact me via email and I will gladly send the latest template form to you in the format of your choice.

Actually submitting your contact totals to the Top List has never been easier! Most county hunters generally submit their contact totals for the next month's posting of the Top List toward the end of the current month and preferably before the 1<sup>st</sup> of the next month.

There are two ways to submit your contact totals to the Top List. Either use your logging program to display your current contact totals by band and mode and then copy them to the template form I talked about above, -or-, for those of you who use the MARAC Logger program there is now a really nice and easy way to do this without all the copying thanks to Terry WQ7A and Gene KD9ZP who worked very closely together earlier this year to make this happen. The new function in Logger allows you to quickly export your contact totals to a CSV (comma separated values) file that you can submit in place and instead of using the manually populated template form. Here is the procedure:

Select the View/Edit menu in Logger and then Book Summary. On the View Book Summary page there is a radio button on the upper right hand side of the screen that is labeled [Export for W6RK]. When you press this button, it writes a file named <yourcall> County Challenge Top List.csv to the folder in which

you keep your Logger data (normally C:\Logger Data).

The last step is to attach the template form that has been manually populated with your contact totals -or- the resulting CSV file from Logger to an email addressed to [toplist@w6rk.com](mailto:toplist@w6rk.com). It's really all as simple as that! The Logger method probably takes all of about 5 minutes to do.

So in 10 relatively short years, the number of Top List participants has grown from 14 to 110. Sadly, 5 are silent keys (including Bill Inkrote K2NJ who is a past president of MARAC and for whom the MARAC County Challenge Award is dedicated). 80 of the remaining 105 participants have earned the USA-CA award and 25 are working to earn the USA-CA award. You can submit contact totals for as many or few mode categories as you like and the current month's Top List may always be viewed at this link: <http://countyhunter.com/CCAtoplist.htm>.

If anyone has any questions, please contact me via email. I always welcome the submission of contact totals from county hunters, whether you are a monthly or occasional submitter, brand new to the Top List or somebody who has not participated in the Top List for some time. And if you formerly submitted contact totals to the Top List and are considering doing that again, then welcome back! I always look forward to receiving your contact totals whenever you can submit them.

See you all down the log!

Barry Siegfried K2MF  
[k2mf.bgs@gmail.com](mailto:k2mf.bgs@gmail.com)

**Awards Committee**

# Awards Committee

## **Awards Committee Reorganization Status:**

The Marac Board of Directors expressed a desire to see representation from each Marac district on the Awards Committee. During September I communicated with the board members to ascertain what their expectations were about the process to be used in selecting members for the committee.

Based on feedback from the board, I have decided that we will utilize several methods to solicit volunteers including a general announcement in the monthly RoadRunner publication, publication of a notice on the K3IMC forum website page, and possible communications from the directors to the members in their district (optional). Members who were most recently active members on the committee will not automatically be members going forward but are certainly welcome to volunteer to be considered again. I thank those that have been past members of the committee for their service to the club.

The future voting members of the committee will include the Awards Manager and one representative from each of the six districts (if possible) which would make a total of seven. If the Awards Secretary wishes to be a member of the committee, then the committee would increase to a total of eight. If a person cannot be found from one or more districts, we will decide how to handle that position on the committee if the situation occurs.

## **Solicitation of volunteers to be members of the Awards Committee**

In accordance with the reorganization goals outlined above, I am hereby requesting those members of Marac in good standing who are interested in being considered as a representative of their home district on the committee to send an email to me (via my address in the Marac database). I am interested in people who are: a) very active in chasing MARAC awards, b) interested in planning, developing, and maintaining a broad range of awards for county hunters with varying interests including different modes, mobile activity, service to the club, progressive challenge awards, etc., and c) committed to supporting club awards goals and operations for the enjoyment of all members.

The committee will be responsible for: a) initiating new awards proposals, b) reviewing proposals for awards from any club members, c) developing appropriate award rules for new awards, d) proposing the intended start date for the new award, and e) reviewing existing awards periodically for accuracy, completeness, ambiguity, or other issue that might warrant making a revision to the

wording of the award rules.

Participation in the activities of the committee will require members to: 1) be able to receive and send email from their home (and possibly from remote locations while traveling), 2) be able to participate in conference calls periodically in the evenings using phone or computer technology, 3) become familiar with the Marac awards rules as currently published (available on the Marac website), and 4) work independently or with other committee members to develop new award requirements, proposed rule wording, discussion of pros/cons concerning a proposed award, or other assignments which may be requested by the Awards Manager.

## Status of Awards Operations

If you did not see the overview of what issues had to be overcome in getting the awards processing up and running in the September issue of the RoadRunner, please read this portion of that edition for background.

### *Current status is as follows:*

- 1) N2JNE has assumed the responsibilities of the Awards Secretary position to get the processing of awards underway.
- 2) The last county awards section of the website is now operational and LC1/LC2 awards are being received and processed daily.
- 3) The computer code associated with the LC1 section of the program code is incorrectly sending emails to the sender saying their account is being debited by \$1 for each award sent. Disregard those emails because the awards balances are being kept in handwritten binders at present and no charges will be made since LC-1 awards are now free. The computer code in the copy we received needs to be modified to correct this problem, but KD9ZP has been in the hospital/rehab for some time and has not been able to access his computer to make the change. This will be corrected in the future by KD9ZP or some other member familiar with program code of this type.
- 4) The section of the website that allows submission of the other awards for “worked all counties” in many different awards has just been verified to be working (as of 9/30/16). However, if you should encounter a problem and get an indication that the submission did not work, please send an email to N2JNE at [marac.awards@gmail.com](mailto:marac.awards@gmail.com) with copies of any information you may have received about the problem.

Your patience while we work through these issues is appreciated. An update on current status will be provided in next month’s issue of RoadRunner.

MARAC Awards Committee



N5MLP – Ron Clift, Marac Awards Manager



## Net Chronicles

# Net Chronicles

This article is the eleventh 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 September

Weather has been getting a little cooler during September, QSO party activity has been picking up again, and several mobiles (including N4CD, AB7RW, WA9DLB, KC3X, K8ZZ, W0GXQ, N4JT, K7TM, and others) have been on long trips during the month. Band conditions have varied during the month, but I have heard quite a few people on the net frequencies making contacts. County hunters and others are continuing to participate in running national parks for the NPOTA event this year, and it continues to sustain much interest in exchanging contacts with others at many of the parks, monuments, and designated trails.

## Net control volunteers needed

We continue to need volunteers to sign up for some of the three hour sessions as net control. I will try to get the website for nets updated with schedules for now until the end of the year in the next few days. 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



N5MLP – Ron Clift, Chairperson



**MARAC 2nd Quarter Award Voting****For July, August & September 2016**

MARAC is now using a web-based system called Simply Voting for all of our voting needs. The window for this voting is October 1, 2016 through October 15, 2016. You will soon receive an email from Simply Voting containing instructions on voting and a password unique to you. This e-mail provides two links for you to get to the voting page. The first requires you to enter your user ID and password, but the second takes you directly there, thus the second method shown is the simplest to use.

There are a few things you need to be aware of when using the Simply Voting web site:

The start and end time is GMT.

The ballot consists of what Simply Voting calls questions. In this case, there are ten questions. The first question is shown below:

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**Electronic Ballot - MARAC Mobile Award & Net Control Quarterly**

MARAC Mobile Award & Net Control Quarterly

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**Best SSB Mobile 1st Choice**

**Please type in call only, no names.**

This question is **optional**. You may select **one** of the following.  
To write-in your vote, select **Write-in** and then type out your choice.

☐ **Write-in:**

Voting is a four-step procedure, which I admit is a hassle, but it's what we have to use.

1. You *must* click in the check box. Doing so highlights the window to the right of "Write-in."
2. Move the mouse pointer into the window and left-click. This places the cursor in the window.
3. Enter the call of your choice. 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.
4. Click Continue and enter your call and the password that was included in the e-mail you received from Simply Voting

If you have no choice for one of the awards, *do not* click in the check box, just move on to the next question. If you check the box and then decide you have no choice, you *must* uncheck the box before going on, otherwise Simply Voting expects an entry in the Write-in window.

You may send me your vote via e-mail or regular mail at the address below if you don't feel comfortable using Simply Voting. I must receive the ballot by the closing date of the voting window (October 15, 2016) to be counted. Please include your call along with your choices for each award.

Thanks.

73,

Don K7DM  
MARAC Elections Coordinator

## Annual Ugly Award



## Treasurer's Report (W7OLY) August 2016\*

**Beginning Account Balances August 16, 2016** **\$29,394.87**

**Income:**

Money Market Interest	\$1.26	
Awards Manager Income	\$0.00	
Misc. Income	\$5,694.88	(1)
Membership Income	\$340.00	
Logger Distribution	<u>\$40.00</u>	
Total Income:		\$6,076.14

**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:**

Fund Awards Account	\$1,500.00	(2)
Misc. Expenses	\$100.00	(3)
Office Expenses (Postage, Etc.)	<u>\$0.00</u>	

Total Expenses: \$1,600.00

**August Net Income Less Expenses** **\$4,476.14**

**New Total Cash Balance ALL Accounts:** **\$33,871.01**

Checking Account Balance	\$6,762.47
Money Market Account Balance	<u>\$27,108.54</u>
<b>Total Cash All Accounts:</b>	<b>\$33,871.01</b>

\* Includes September Transactions posted through 09/19/2016

## Notes:

- (1) Transfer of Convention Funds back to MARAC account.
- (2) Funding of the new Awards Account
- (3) State of Kansas incorporation fees.



# From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC Total Funds at the end of August should be discounted by **\$6,264.15**. This amount is a Deferred Liability of award fees pre-paid by members. After discounting, our true (spendable) Cash Assets are **\$27,606.86**

**Events**

10/1	CA QP
10/8	PA QP
10/8	FISTS SPRINT
10/9	NA SSB SPRINT
10/10	10-10 SPRINT
10/15	10-10 CW
10/15	IA QP
10/15	NY QP
10/15	SD QP
10/16	IL QP
10/17	RUN4BACON QRP CW
10/29	CQ WW SSB DX

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 Clift (N5MLP)***

***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**

**President:** Randy Hatt, AA8R, PO Box 427, Grant MI 49327, 517-812-9468, aa8r@aol.com

**Vice-President:** Chuck Secrest, NM1G, 14 Anthony Dr, North Kingstown, RI 02852, 401-484-4871, chuck@nm1g.com

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

Dues with an Electronic copy of the Newsletter copy are \$10.00 per year, check or money order. Dues are also available via PayPal to WQ7A@ARRL.NET

**Treasurer:** Aubrey Mansfield, W7OLY, 7717 Forest Park Dr, Olympia, WA 98502, 703-286-9987, w7oly@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:** Paul Nelson, N7JPF, 3013 W. 10th St, The Dalles, OR 97058, 509-698-6227, n7jpf-paul@charter.net

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

**Immediate Past President:** Vacant

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#### **Appointees**

**Awards Secretary:** Charlie Steele, N2JNE, 11 Prospect St, Saugerties, NY 12477, 845-706-2914, marac.awards@gmail.com

**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 29486, 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:** Don McMinds, K7DM, 535 E Chance Ala Mer NE, Ocean Shores, WA 98569, 425-652-2795, k7dm@centurylink.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