

Volume XLVII February 2017 Number 2

## **President's QTC**

January has been a quiet month, which is a first. The board of directors only has a couple of issues to deal with at the next board meeting on Feb. 15 at 2359z. (Wed night)

I have been receiving emails asking the status of the MRC QSL bureau that Jeffery, AF3X, is running. There have been several attempts to talk with Jeffery to ask the status of the MRC QSL bureau and so far I have gotten no response. The MRCS QSL bureau is not part of MARAC and so the board of directors has no control of its operation.

Upcoming events for all County Hunters and members of MARAC are:

Nominations are now being taken for SC & NC District directors until March 10.
 MARAC board meeting February 15.
 Michigan Mini April 27, 28 & 29.
 MARAC CW CWQP May 13 & 154
 Dayton gathering May 19, 20 & 21.
 MARAC National Convention in Colorado Springs − September 25, 26 & 27.

That's about it for this month. As always, you can find me in the W6RK chat room if you have a questions.

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#### **ROADRUNNER**

# **Dateline CW**Ed, KN4Y

Inconsistencies of a county hunter's opinion are often justifiable.

What? Already! February the second month of the year is upon us. February is the shortest month of the year with 28 days; mobile county hunters have to kick up the pace. I am in the radio shack working on my routes for the upcoming QSO parties when I hear Gator's 4X4 roar down the driveway and slide to a stop at the recycled railroad tie. He enters the shack carrying the familiar white cardboard box container; I start to drool, a common county hunter's response to caffeine stimuli. "Good morning Dude, here have a latte." Gator opens the white cardboard container and hands me a super sized latte. I feel for all the county hunters that drink plain coffee. We sit, sip and sigh.

Gator is looking at my messy desk, "Dude, what is this list of names of MARAC counter hunters you have printed?" I set my latte on the table, "As you know Gator last year the ARRL Amateur Radio operators helped the National Park Service (NPS) celebrate their 100th anniversary. Hams from across the country activated NPS units, promoted the National Park Service and showcased Amateur Radio to the public. It was an outstanding success. I decided to make a list of all the MARAC county hunters who activated a National Park." Gator looks at the list, "This list is impressive Dude, is it complete?" I shake my head, "I hope so but if I missed any MARAC member I hope they will let me know. Bob, W0BH, activated a bunch of parks but is not a MARAC member so is not on that list."

Gator reads the list: Phil, AB7RW, Ron, AF5Q, Rick, AI5P, John, K0PFV, Bill, K2HVN, Ron, K2RP, Brian, K7RE, Bob, K7TM, Kraig, KA2LHO, Scott, KA3QLF, Mike, KA4RUU, Bob, KA9JAC, Ann, KB9YVT, David, KU4YM, Ed, KN4Y, Barry, N0KV, Bob, N4CD, Jim, N4JT, Bob, N8KIE, Mike, N9ID, Jim, N9JF, Darl, NA8W, Jim, ND9M, Mike, NF0N, Bill, NU0Q, Kerry, W4SIG, Richard, W5IL, and Carl, W9OO.

Gator shakes his head, "An awesome list Dude, did they all activate the same number of National Park Sites?" "No Gator I just listed the names of the activators, but I must mention that Bob, N4CD, came in second on the ARRL list with 336 activations." Gator's memory span is miniscule and he goes back to the computer. I sip my latte.

Gator motions with his hand, "Dude, I read that Ray, AB4YZ, Jack, N7ID and Ester, KB6HW, are listed as a Silent Key, did you know them?" I never worked Jack or Ester on CW but I worked Ray on CW all over the Southeast," We bow ours heads as I recite the

Lords Prayer.

I hand Gator a memory stick,"Check out my results for the North American CW QSO Party." Gator inserts the memory stick and mouses around. We sip our warm lattes. Gator stomps both feet.

"Dude you done good in the North American CW QSO Party with a total of 200 QSO's and 100 multipliers and you worked five bands. But you only got one new county on 80 and 160-meters, sad." I clap my hands, "Yes Gator I did only S&P so I worked most of the same contest stations. I need to call to work the casual contest operator." Gator shakes his head, "That makes sense, hold on; I will bring up this other contest listed." I nod my head as I sip my latte and pop a piece of ginger.

Gator turns around, I see you worked the Hungarian DX contest and you worked 44 Hungarian stations, you know you can work other DX stations during the contest?" "I am aware of that Gator but I work this contest in memory of my Grandmother who migrated to the United States from Hungary in the early1900's. My Mother was born on Ellis Island. I do this memorial contest every year." Gator wipes a tear from his eye, "A beautiful memory Dude." Gator sips his latte and stares at the computer screen.

He reaches behind my important junk paper rack and gets the only magazine, and looks at it, "Dang Dude what you doing with a bon appétit magazine, getting tired of fatback?" "That came in the mail. I just have not yet put it in the recycle bin, But it would not hurt your diet to have a fluke poke bowl." Gator is laughing so hard he snorts latte. I pop a shop towel and hand it to him. We sit laughing at each other. Suddenly Gator's cell phone goes CQ, CQ, "I have to run Dude. A bearing went on the Elixir bottling line and we are behind schedule on the WCTU order. I hear him yell, "Why are No Hunting signs riddled with bullet holes?"

I hear the printer start and stop. I get the print out of the mobiles heard on the CW county hunters call frequencies. I read: AB7NK, AK8A, K0DEQ, K0FG, K2HVN, K7TM, K8ZZ, KA2LHO, KA3QLF, KA4RRU, KB6UF, KC3X, KC7YE, KW1DX, N2CX, N2MH, N4CD, N4JT, N4UP, N9JF, NU0Q, W0MU, W4SIG, W8OP, and WA3QNT.

O Ye of little state QSO party faith rejoice for during the month of February there are four State QSO parties with 247 counties up for grabs. There is the Vermont QSO party with 14 counties, the Minnesota QSO party with 87 counties and the South Carolina QSO party with 46 counties on Saturday and the North Carolina QSO party with 100 counties on Sunday. What about the OMISS QSO party don't want to forget Mississippi.

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However, the OMISS QSO party is not a State QSO party it is the Old Man International Sideband Society QSO party. It is a contest for old men operating sideband that are sociable. This could involve county hunters. The big contest is the ARRL International CW DX contest. This event brings the big guns out. And remember our future is the young hams so participate in the ARRL School Club Roundup. This month there is 19 contests for the CW operator, have fun. Dit Dit.

Attention mobile county hunters, do you plan to visit Florida? Let me tell you about Florida's 511 Traveler Information System. This system provides real-time traffic information on the interstates, highways, toll-roads (we have a lot of them), and major roadways in Florida. Interested? Visit www.FL511.com for details. Call toll-free 511 within Florida to get traffic information.



### **Awards Committee**

# **Awards Committee**

## **Awards Committee Activity:**

As noted in the December newsletter, the positions of committee members representing each of the MARAC districts have all been filled. The new members were listed in that newsletter.

The first meeting of the committee was held on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 via teleconference. All but two of the members were able to attend. Some known expectations from the MARAC Board of Directors and other goals for the next year were discussed. Also, operational details such as the method of communications and frequency of meetings were discussed.

The second meeting of the committee was held on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 via teleconference. One member was not able to attend. Discussion focused on three topics including: a) current processing and numbering issues related to awards which have interim levels of accomplishment that are eligible for an award (e.g., 1000, 2000, and 3000 counties), b) changes in the rules for several awards that would allow a mobile/portable station to receive credit for their own needs in a county when they run the county if they make at least with one contact with another operator that is good for that credit while in the county, and c) the appropriate amount of service credit per year to be awarded the Awards Manager and Awards Secretary positions since the previous duties of the Awards Manager position have been split.

#### Work is underway to:

- Make recommendations to the MARAC Board of Directors prior to the 2/15/17 meeting concerning modifications to allow mobile/portable stations to receive credit for their own needs in counties they run.
- Make a recommendation on the amount of service hour credit to be awarded annually to the Awards Manager and Awards Secretary
- Categorize existing awards
- Identify awards which may require rewording for clarification
- · Identify potential changes to existing awards
- Develop recommendations for new awards to be pursued

# **Status of Awards Operations**

During the months of December and January, the Awards Secretary continued to process new award applications and order/distribute plaques as requested. The online applications used to submit awards requests are functioning normally. Financial reporting to the club Treasurer is also proceeding normally.

#### **MARAC Awards Committee**



N5MLP - Ron Clift, Marac Awards Manage

## Awards

Awards Secretary Report

Congratulations to ALL!!!

Awards Issued December 2016 - January 26, 2017

Call	Date	Award	Number
K7DM	12/3/2016	Gemini - Jack Scroggins (W0SJE)	# 173
N2JNE	12/26/2016	USA - Single Band 20M	# 30

Roadrunners Issued December 2016 - January 26, 2017

		J	
Call	Award Date	Award	Number
NOKV	12/5/2016	Last County Count 850	#14
W4SIG	12/5/2016	Last County Count 450	#45
WA9DLB	12/5/2016	Last County Count 125	#189
KL1V	12/6/2016	Last County Count 1025	#10
NODXE	12/6/2016	Last County Count 325	#66
N4CD	12/6/2016	Last County Count 2625	#1
NFON	12/6/2016	Last County Count 300	#73
W3DYA	12/6/2016	Last County Count 225	#104
WA4UNS	12/6/2016	Last County Count 250	#93
KB6UF	12/10/2016	Last County Count 1475	#2
KD1EJ	12/10/2016	Last County Count 25	#523
N8KIE	12/10/2016	Last County Count 1150	#6
W9SUQ	12/10/2016	Last County Count 100	#253
AB7NK	12/17/2016	Last County Count 500	#39
KODEQ	12/17/2016	Last County Count 50	#358
KB9YVT	12/17/2016	Last County Count 100	#254
N9JF	12/17/2016	Last County Count 400	#52
N9QS	12/17/2016	Last County Count 850	#15
WONAC	12/17/2016	Last County Count 375	#53
AA9JJ	12/28/2016	Last County Count 1050	#8
AI5P	12/28/2016	Last County Count 1025	#11
KA9JAC	12/28/2016	Last County Count 200	#124
N9QPQ	12/28/2016	Last County Count 1325	#3
WQ7A	12/28/2016	Last County Count 600	#28
K0FG	1/5/2017	Last County Count 125	#191
K2HVN	1/5/2017	Last County Count 900	#13
KB6UF	1/5/2017	Last County Count 1500	#2
NODXE	1/5/2017	Last County Count 350	#59
N2JNE	1/5/2017	Last County Count 175	#143
N4UP	1/5/2017	Last County Count 25	#524
NX4W	1/5/2017	Last County Count 200	#123
WA4PGM	1/5/2017	Last County Count 125	#190
K7SEN	1/16/2017	Last County Count 175	#144
KA3QLF	1/16/2017	Last County Count 50	#359
AB7NK	1/26/2017	Last County Count 525	#34

## **National Convention Registration**

September 25-28, Hotel Elegante Conference & Event Center, Colorado Springs CO

(Deadline for Early Registration Prize Drawing is July 1, 2017)

NAME:	CALL SIGN	:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:	STATE/PROV:	ZIP	
E-MAIL:	PHONE	:	
Convention Registration Fee: Note: Include (One Registration fee/family unit – Include)		erages & snacks.	\$45.00
Name on Badge:	Call sign:	USACA	
Additional Attendees: Badges & non-ale	coholic beverages & snacks included Total #@ \$10 each		
NameC	Call sign USACA#	Relation:	
NameC	Call sign USACA#	Relation:	
Relation: S-Spouse, O-Other (s	specify-friend, son, daughter)		
Photos will be e-mailed after convention  Extra Prize Tickets (Increase your cha Single Tickets  12-pack tickets			\$ \$
<b>Events &amp; Activities</b> *(Descriptions prov * Schedule of programs, mobile antenna package.		vided at a later date and incl	uded w/registration
Monday, Sept 25 – Check in and hospita Tuesday, Sept 26 – Bus Tour (U.S. Olymon a Comfortable coach (9:20 a.m. – 2: Sept 26 – Do-It-Yourself Activities/Sho Wednesday, Sept 27 - <b>Banquet</b> /Dinner E	npic Training Center and Garden of 20 p.m. #x \$35.00 ppping, Programs, etc.	\$	\$
Door prizes, main prizes, announcement	s, etc.		
		TOTAL:	<b>\$</b>
Mail your registration form and che Pat Mitchell, N0DXE 12200 Boothill Dr Parker CO 80138	neck, made payable to: "2017	MARAC Convention"	to:

Hotel Reservations: (\$119 for single or double, plus tax). Includes breakfast.

Hotel Elegante Conference and Event Center, 2886 S. Circle Dr., Colorado Springs CO 80906

Call 719-576-5900 and request Group Code MARAC or book on-line at: <a href="https://www.reseze.net/servlet/SendPage?hotelid=1410&skipfirstpage=true&page=1694377">https://www.reseze.net/servlet/SendPage?hotelid=1410&skipfirstpage=true&page=1694377</a>

(Hotel is pet friendly)

#### **ROADRUNNER**

## **Information about Convention**

The 2017 MARAC National Convention will be held at the Hotel Elegante Conference and Event Center in Colorado Springs (I-25, exit 138) on 25-27 Sep with check out on 28 Sep. Early check in is on 24 Sep (Barry, N0KV and Pat, N0DXE will be setting up in the hospitality room after 6 p.m.) We will have several programs, an organized bus tour plus a buffet banquet.

Bring a gift to the gift exchange, which will take place the evening of the banquet. Gift should be in the \$15 range. We will also draw for the early bird prize and other prizes at the banquet.

Registration is now open (see Registration Form). Registration for the early bird ticket/prize is 1 July 2017.

Colorado should be beautiful this time of year with the Aspen trees turning a golden yellow. Come see the majestic mountains and visit some of the many Colorado Springs/Pikes Peak area site-seeing opportunities.

Free Visitor Information: Colorado Springs Visitor Information Center. Web: VisitCOS.com (719) 685-7623

- **Pike's Peak** you can drive to the summit (14,115') or take the scenic Pike's Peak Cog Railway, the highest train in the U.S. and highest cog in the world. Open all year but reservations for the train are recommended. CogRailway.com or (719) 685-5401.
- If driving to Pike's Peak, stop in the North Pole-Santa's Workshop, where it's Christmas every day of the year. Pike's Peak Hwy, NorthPoleColorado.com, (719) 684-9432.
- U. S. Air Force Academy home to Air Force Cadets future Air Force officers. The Visitor's Center presents a movie on cadet life along with exhibits and gift shop. Located at I-25, exit 156. Free
- Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. Has a permanent collection of paintings, photography, modern art including works by Ansel Adams, Dale Chihuly, Georgia O'Keefffe, and many others. (719) 634-5581.
- Cave of the Winds where you can explore deep inside a winding cave. There are 3 cave tours to choose from. CaveOfTheWinds.com or (719) 685.5444.
- **Manitou Cliff Dwellings**, authentic dwellings of the of the Anasazi Indians built more than 700 years ago. CliffDwellingsMuseum.com, (719) 685-5242
- **The Broadmoor** a 5-star historic hotel, considered "The Grand Dame of the Rockies." A site to behold, you can walk the grounds, peruse the boutiques, or dine in one of the hotel's fine restaurants Located at exit 138, it is 3 miles west of I-15.
- **Cheyenne Mountain Zoo**, America's one and only mountain zoo, which stands at 6714 ft and houses many amazing creatures. Hand-feed a giraffe. I-25, exit 138. 2.75 west then 2 mi SW. CMZoo.org or (719) 633-9925.
- Seven Falls -7-tiered natural wonder cascading falls near Broadmoor. SevenFalls.com
- **Ghost Town Museum** step back in time and explore an old west town inside a museum setting. GhostTownMuseum.com, (719) 634-0696.
- Historic Old Colorado City. Historic shopping district with unique gift shops and a great place

#### **ROADRUNNER**

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to eat. The ladies will love this area. 2234 W. Colorado Ave., ShopOldColoradoCity.com, (710) 577-4112.

- **Historic Manitou Springs** just west of Old Colorado City, Manitou is a quaint mountain town with many unique shops and a great place to grab lunch. You can drink from the 8 mineral springs. ManitourSprings.org, (719) 685-5089
- **Prorodeo Hall of Fame**. History and legends of professional rodeo. ProRodeoHallofFame.com, (719) 528-4764.
- Western Museum of Mining and Industry. (800-752-6558)
- World Figure Skating Museum and Hall of Fame. (719) 635-5200

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

## **Beginning Account Balances December 7, 2016**

\$32,862.45

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Money Market Interest	\$1.08
Awards Manager Income	\$30.00
Misc. Income	\$00.00
Membership Income	\$300.00
Logger Distribution	<u>\$20.00</u>

Total Income: \$351.08

## **December 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

### **December Other Expenses:**

Awards Secretary Expenses	\$799.41
Misc. Expenses (2,3,4,5)	\$6,098.43
Office Expenses (Postage, Etc.)	<u>\$0.00</u>

Total Expenses: \$6,897.84

#### **December Net Income Less Expenses**

(\$6,546.76)

#### **New Total Cash Balance ALL Accounts:**

\$26,315.69

<b>Total Cash All Accounts:</b>
Money Market Account Balance
Checking Account Balance

\$23,111.89 **\$26,315.69** 

\$3,203.80

- (1) Transferred \$4,000.00 to checking from Money Market Account
- (2) Sunshine Expense Reimbursement \$76.43
- (3) First Bank Activity charge \$12.00
- (4) 2017 National Convention Seed (\$4K) + Prize Money (\$2K) \$6,000.00
- (5) Returned Membership Check Debit \$10.00



<sup>\*</sup> Includes January Transactions posted through 1/7/2017

<sup>\*</sup> The \$1,500.00 Awards Secretary Funds are not included in the above balance. Notes:

<sup>#</sup> From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC Total Funds at the end of December should be discounted by \$6,226.15. This amount is a Deferred Liability of award fees pre-paid by members. After discounting, our true (spendable) Cash Assets are \$20,089.54.

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	Events		
2/4	VT QP		
2/4	10-10 SSB		
2/4	MN QP		
2/5	NA CW SPRINT		
2/11	OMISS QP		
2/18	ARRL DX CW		
2/20	RUN4BACON		
2/25	SC QP		
2/25	NA RTTY QP		
2/26	NC QP		
4/27	MI MINI		
9/25	NATIONAL (no link)		

ONLY START DATE SHOWN

CLICK ON EVENT TO GO TO THAT WEB SITE



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## **Awards Committee**

## These MARAC members are serving on the Awards Committee:

**Awards Manager - Ron Clift (N5MLP)** 

**Robert Woody - N8KIE** 

Tony Mazzocco -WA9DLB

David Pyle - KW1DX

**Robert Hallock - K7TM** 

**Bob Voss - N4CD** 

**Jack Jacobs - WD4OIN** 

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 25th!

#### **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 Pay-Pal 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

#### Appointees

**Awards Manager:** Ron Clift, N5MLP, 10719 Lake Windcrest Dr, Magnolia, TX 77354

**Awards Secretary**: Pattie Hatt, W8TAX, PO Box 427, Grant MI 49327, 517-812-9468, marac.awards@gmail.com

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

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

**Webmaster**: David Pyle, KW1DX, 26 Van Dyke Rd, Hollis, NH 03049, 603-321-9748, dave@kw1dx.com **Custodian, Club Call, K9DCJ**: Joyce Boothe, WB9NUL, 21175 FM2556, Santa Rosa, TX 78593, 956-202-3373 joycenul@aol.com

**Election Coordinator**: Don McMinds, K7DM, 535 E Chance Ala Mer NE, Ocean Shores, WA 98569, 360-289-0520, 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