



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

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## **President's QTC**

A few mobiles were out this month taking advantage of the new Self Credit rule which translate to everyone getting more counties. The mobile operators are out there spending their money, not ours; they're making the effort, not us; they're putting the wear & tear on their vehicles while we're putting the wear & tear on a cushy chair. So I am all for this new rule. The mobiles are making the sacrifices while we sit in our comfortable shacks waiting until the next county is spotted. One other comment on the Self Credit rule. When you submit your application for whatever award you must submit four documents:

1. WAC application.
2. Your log from Logger showing counties worked.
3. Needs list out of Logger for that award.
4. Acceptable spreadsheet (which the Awards Manager, N5MLP, is working on.) Showing counties put out. This should match the needs list from Logger.

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NOKV and NF0N are the only two who volunteered to run for North Central and South Central, respectively, so they will continue to represent the members from those two districts until 2020. Barry and Mike have done an outstanding job for the past 3 years and I look forward to continuing to work with them. Thank you Barry and Mike.

The month of April we have the Michigan mini, which Pattie and I are looking forward to. Then in May we have two big events. We'll first have the 51<sup>st</sup> MARAC USA QSO party and a week later is the Dayton Hamvention where MARAC will have a booth and a forum. And, of course, don't forget about the BIG one in September, 2017 MARAC National Convention in Colorado Springs, Co.



**Dateline CW**

Ed, KN4Y

County Hunting is no comfort to one not sociable.

**W**ow, it seems I just celebrated New Year's Day and now it is the month of April with over twenty-five percent of the year in the history books. I am reading an executive mandate issued by the current administration effective April First requiring all States to have the same number of counties and having similar name nomenclature. This mandate will make it easier for the educated deficient public to associate their location using a simplified modified GPS. This mandate will also make it easier for the spelling and pronunciation of the counties by limiting the county name to eight letters or less. Texas has filed a law suit against the mandate with the Supreme Court on the basis this will result in having counties the size of States. Louisiana also filed a law suit with the Supreme Court arguing that Parishes are not counties and are exempt from the mandate. It is rumored Randy, AA8R, President of the world famous county hunting group MARAC, is considering filing a law suit citing the possible destruction of the greatest world-wide award program. It is rumored CQ magazine has also filed a similar court brief. I guess we will have to wait and see how the events play out.

I hear Gator's 4x4 down shift as he enters the driveway and slides to a stop at the recycled railroad tie. I do not hear any kamikaze squirrels; I reckon the rednecks down the road are having their monthly rodent cook out. Gator comes into the shack carrying the white cardboard container and opens the lid, "Here Dude you need a hot latte. You look frazzled." I take a sip of the latte and enter into the kingdom of caffeinated ecstasy, "Yes Gator, I am fighting the Florida pine tree pollen, my nose is like Niagara Falls, it runs day and night." Gator makes a sad gesture and sits at the computer, "Did you operate in the North and South Carolina QSO parties?" I hand Gator a transgender memory stick, "Check out my logs." Gator inserts the memory stick into the USB port.

I sip my latte while Gator mouses around, then he says, "Not bad Dude, I see you made 41 QSO's in the South Carolina QSO party. You got one No-star, two new counties on 80-meters and you worked a last county for fifth time around. Did you send the LC?" I set my latte on the table, "Yes Gator I tried the LC program on the MARAC web site and it worked. The QSO party CW activity was limited, how many mobiles did I work?" Gator mouses the computer, "Best I can tell you worked Thaddeus, K3TD, Bert, N4CW and the Swamp Fox Contest Group, WW4SF." I laugh, "Yes their web site had at least ten mobiles listed I guess most mobiles operated using CB, I mean Sideband." Gator smiles to himself, "Well Dude you did better in the North Carolina QSO party."

Gator turns the computer screen towards me, “You made 70 QSO’s, got one No-star, one 2x2 call, and a new county on 80-meters. You also worked all the bonus stations, awesome. I see K3TD and N4CW were mobile again along with Roland, K5CW.”

I give Gator the high sign. He is checking my e-mail, “Dude that Tennessee Dude Kerry, W4SIG, sent you a poem. I did not know anyone in Tennessee did poetry.” I laugh, “Not everyone in Tennessee is a redneck, but close. Read me the poem” Gator takes a sip of latte then reads:

**Wireless, by K.G. Martin, 1904.**

”Boy that Kerry Dude is older than I realized”, Gator  
Laughs and continues:”

*Wireless, meaningless, save that we know  
that another man in a far away land  
stands by the side of a gibbering spark,  
punching his message into the dark.*

*Into the dark of a Summer’s night,  
and around the world and into the light  
of our brilliant Winter day  
Speeds the vibrant, quivering ray.*

*And, caught in the web of sky flung wires,  
sinks to earth, chatters, expires;  
But before it dies, skillful hands of man  
Have torn from it’s soul a Marconigram.*

I wipe a tear from my eye, “That is so true Gator; this proves you can be a MARAC officer and still appreciate other forms of art.” “Dude did he send you the poem using CW?” Gator is laughing so hard he passes gas. He finally settles down and dries his eyes, “Dude have you determined our mobile route for the Georgia and Florida QSO party?”

I shake my head yes, “For the Georgia QSP party on Saturday I plan to operate in the counties of: Thomas, Brooks, Cook, Lanier, Berrien, Atkinson, Coffee, Jeff Davis, Appling, Toombs, Treutlen, Emanuel, Jefferson, Washington, Baldwin, Wilkinson, Laurens, Wheeler, Telfair, Ben Hill, Irwin, Tift and Colquitt.

“Next day on Sunday I plan to run Grady, Mitchell, Worth, Turner, Crisp, Dooly,

Houston, Macon, Chattahoochee, Stewart, Clay, Early, Miller and Decatur.

“Saturday of the Florida QSO party I plan to operate in the counties of: Jefferson, Taylor, Lafayette, Dixie, Gilchrist, Alachua, Bradford, Union, (Nassau), Baker, Columbia, Suwannee, Hamilton, and Madison. This year I am going to stop on the interstate in that short section of Nassau County, last time I got run off by a State trooper, hoping for 10 minutes.” Gator laughs, “Don’t call me for bail.” I ignore Gator.

“The next day on Sunday I will run counties in the panhandle starting with Wakulla, Liberty, Franklin, Gulf, Bay, Walton, Holmes, Washington, Jackson, Calhoun, Liberty (again) Gadsden, and Leon.”

Gator is not paying attention he is staring at the computer, “Dude I see you have a log for the Idaho, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin QSO parties, I thought you were asked to bowl in the Tallahassee City Bowling Tournament.” I shake my head yes, “I worked the QSO parties after bowling, see how I did.”

Gator mouses around and then shakes his hand, “Dude you only worked six stations in the Idaho QSO party and got nothing to brag about. Wow Dude in the Oklahoma QSO party you worked the mobiles: Connie, K5CM, Ralph, K5DB, that power Dude Jerry, K5YAA, Olin, KM6MC, Bill, NU0Q and the all over the place Bob, W0BH. Not much to write home about, but you did get two new 2X2 calls and one Natural Bingo. In the Wisconsin QSO party you worked the mobiles: Jim, K8IR, John, N0IJ, Scott, NE9U and Rolf, NR0T. You worked two new counties on 80-meters and one No-Star, not bad for limited activity.” I shake my head in agreement, I hand Gator another memory stick, “Now check out my Louisiana and Virginia QSO parties.

Gator swaps out the memory stick and mouses around as I sip my latte. A few minutes pass then Gator turns around, “Well Dude in the Virginia QSO party you worked one new 1X2 call and one No-Star. Best as I can determine you only worked one mobile on CW and that was the Warrenton ARA, KW4VA.” “Yes Gator I did not hear much mobile activity, I think the Virginia QSO party is predominant sideband operators.” Gator sips his latte, “Dude you did not do much better in the Louisiana QSO party. You got one new county on 80-meters and a Natural Bingo. Again you worked only one mobile and it was that traveler Dude Chuck, NO5W,” I shake my head, “Yes and also band conditions were not the greatest.”

We sip our lattes. Gator shouts, “I see you operated CW in the Russian DX Contest. I also see you worked only Russian stations. I bet you are now on the FBI surveillance list.” I

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shake my head and laugh, “No problem Gator, this is a Russian contest so I worked only Russians. I don’t expect to win any awards.”

“Dude how did you do bowling in the tournament?” “I averaged over 200 for nine games.” “Awesome Dude”, have another latte.” We sit and slurp, then Gator asks, Dude what is that large ball over there by the operating desk? I laugh, “That is a stability ball I use during a rapid fire CW contest and I perch on it for ten minutes ever few hours to reduce back pain.” Gator laughs, “I guess one could say you are on the ball!” Gator snorts latte he is laughing so intense. I am not amused.

Suddenly Gators cell phone sounds off CQ, CQ,CQ. Sorry Dude I have to run off, some Dude name Vladimir Putin is at the warehouse and wants to talk with me.” I hear him holler; “Now I know why you retirees count pennies. You are the only ones who have the time.” I shut the door and turn around when I hear the printer start then stop. I get the printout; it is a list of mobiles heard during March on the county hunters CW call frequencies.

I read: AF5CC, AI5P, AK8A, K0DEQ, K0FG, K0MAF, K4CD, K5YAA, K7TM, K8KIE, K8ZZ, KA2LHO, KA4RRU, KC7YE, KW4CW, N0KV, N1DN, N4JT, N4UP, N5PHT, N7IV, N9JF, N9MM, NF0N, NU0Q, W0CML, W0GXQ, W4PJW, W4SIG, W8OP, WB0PYF, and WU3H.

As you read the April QSO party list the excitement may become very intense, sipping a cool glass of iced tea will control the heart rate. During April there will be eight State QSO parties with 685 counties up for grabs. Read slowly, the Mississippi QSO party (82 counties), the Missouri QSP party (115 counties), the New Mexico QSO party (33 counties), the Georgia QSO party (159 counties), the Michigan QSO party (83 counties), the North Dakota QSO party, (53 counties), the Nebraska QSO party (93 counties) and rounding out the month is the Florida QSO party (67 counties). Try operating in a non-American state QSO party experience, do the Ontario QSO party. Stop reading for a minute and take a long sip of iced tea, relax.

Maybe contesting is the RF additive in your blood, so do the Hungarian Straight Key Contest, the CQ Manchester Mineira DX contest. Feel like a computer challenge then do the 10-10 International Spring Digital Contest. There are 20 activities for the CW nut, it’s your choice. Dang it, I forgot to show Gator the neat certificate I received for top Florida score in the Washington State Salmon Run. Nap time.



**Events**

4/1 MS QP  
4/1 MO QP  
4/1 TX STATE POTA  
4/2 NA SSB SPRINT  
4/8 NM QP  
4/8 GA QP  
4/15 MI QP  
4/15 ND QP  
4/16 ARRL ROOKIE SSB  
4/17 RUN4BACON  
4/22 NE QP  
4/27 MI MINI  
4/29 10-10 DIGI  
4/29 FL QP  
9/25 NATIONAL

ONLY START DATE SHOWN

CLICK ON EVENT TO GO TO THAT WEB SITE



### **District Director Nominations**

Nominations for the North Central District Director and the South Central District Director are now closed. Mike, NF0N has volunteered to serve as North Central District Director and Barry, N0KV has volunteered to serve as South Central District Director. They were the only nominees and therefore are automatically selected to serve as directors. Thanks to both Mike and Barry for volunteering.

### **Nominations for CW and SSB County Hunter of the Year**

Nominations for the 2017 CW and SSB County Hunter of the Year Awards are now closed. Nominations should have been received by your District Director not later than March 31<sup>st</sup>. Your District Director will select one nominee (one for CW and one for SSB) from those received and forward that selection, with the reasons for the selection, to the Awards Manager by no later than April 15th. Prior winners (per mode) are not eligible to receive this award a second time. Please read the requirements for County Hunter of the Year and support those members who work to make MARAC the vibrant organization that it is.

### **MARAC 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Awards**

Voting will be open from April 15<sup>th</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017 for the Best CW and SSB Net Control, Best CW and SSB Mobile, and Team awards. There are no nominees for these awards; you vote for the person or persons you believe are the most deserving. Bear in mind that for the Best NC awards only operations on MARAC sponsored nets are valid. See the link “MARAC Sponsored Nets Approved by MARAC Board of Directors” under the “Nets” link on the MARAC website for complete information.

### **MARAC Voting Information**

Remember, if you are a new member or are renewing following a lapse in membership, you are *not* eligible to submit nominations or vote in an election until the first day of the month following receipt of initial payment of dues and valid membership application to the Secretary of MARAC. Members maintaining uninterrupted membership status are not restricted from nominating or voting in the current month. If you are unsure of your membership status, please go to the MARAC web site at

[www.marac.org](http://www.marac.org)

Left-click on “County Hunter DB” and enter your call in Call Lookup to determine your MARAC expiration date.

Don McMinds K7DM

MARAC Election Coordinator

## History Happens

Gary, K4EXT

Kent, KV7N recently sent me the certificate image below. The Idaho Counties Award was at one time offered by the club that Kent is currently a member of.

The achievement date on this award is November 1965. A good piece of history from the Magic Valley Radio Amateur's Club.



**MARAC BOOTH  
AT DAYTON HAMVENTION**

By Kerry W4SIG

**W**hen attending the Dayton Hamvention this year please take time to drop by the MARAC booth, #6608. This will be the second year that our club has sponsored a booth in Dayton. Last year was a tremendous success with ample opportunity to educate attendees about MARAC and county hunting in general. Many USA county hunter maps were distributed and information shared on the joys of our hobby. New members were signed up as well as old ones renewed. This year Lowell and Sandra, KB0BA and N0XYL, along with Dave, KS4BO will be hosting the booth for MARAC. Drop on by for a visit and use this as a great meeting place to eyeball with your fellow county hunters and encourage others to join in on the fun!



**Logger update**

Terry, WQ7A

**A**s you are probably aware MARAC is having problems created by easyCGI, our internet server. In the meantime, there is a temporary fix for updating the Logger program. The latest version of the program and latest version of the Logger database are available on the [MARAC.ORG/CHDownloads](http://MARAC.ORG/CHDownloads) site. There are two short text files explaining the procedures. [Update Logger Database.txt](#) and [Update Logger Program.txt](#).

On another note, the Logger team, headed by KD9ZP, would solicit some help. With the loss of KD5CXO we need someone who can take over the editing of the Logger Help file. This would entail changes made to Logger and correcting errors found. Some minor computer skill would help. We would also entertain the idea of one or more Logger users that could help with Logger distribution and installation as the need arises. If you would like to volunteer for either of these two positions, (or both), get in touch with KD9ZP.

Down the road we would like to see a volunteer team to help with the possibility of a future Logger II. Obviously we would need a major volunteer to code a new version, but that person should have the help of several volunteers to fill the writing/editing of a Help file, How To file, testing and distribution of a new program. If you have the talent and are willing to help, get in touch with KD9ZP.



**Awards**

Awards Secretary Report

**Congratulations to ALL!!!****Awards Issued February 1, 2017 - March 20, 2017**

Call	Award Date	Award	Number
K0DEQ	2/1/2017	Gemini - Jack Scroggins (W0SJE)	174
KC3X	2/9/2017	USA-CW IV	13
K3VAT	2/12/2017	USA-Digital	16
KM6QF	2/15/2017	Service	0
W3DYA	2/15/2017	Service	0
K4YT	3/7/2017	USA-PA - K	29

**Roadrunners Issued February 1, 2017 - March 20, 2017**

Call	Award Date	Award	Number
K8ZZ	2/13/2017	Last County Count 625	#26
KB0BA	2/19/2017	Last County Count 300	#74
AB7NK	2/28/2017	Last County Count 550	#33
N0KV	2/28/2017	Last County Count 875	#14
N4UP	2/28/2017	Last County Count 50	#360
N3MRA	3/14/2017	Last County Count 25	#525
NU0Q	3/14/2017	Last County Count 75	#278
W0GXQ	3/14/2017	Last County Count 1100	#7

**LC1 / LC2s Processed January 1, 2017 - February 19, 2017**

Last County in the State                   240  
Last County in the USA                    1

**FYI:**

Award applications will be processed once or twice monthly, depending on volume  
Award plaques & plates will be ordered monthly or bi-monthly, depending on volume



**Treasurer's Report (W7OLY)  
February 2017\***

<b>Beginning Account Balances February 8, 2017</b>	<b>\$25,963.66</b>
<b>Income:</b>	
Money Market Interest	\$0.00
Awards Secretary Income	\$150.00
Misc. Income	\$0.98
Membership Income	\$0.00
Logger Distribution	<u>\$40.00</u>
Total Income:	\$190.98
<b>February New Spotting Site/Logger II Expenses:</b>	
Spotting Site Fixed Expenses (CHspots.org)	\$0.00
Spotting Site Recurring Expenses (CHspots.org)	\$0.00
Logger II Fixed Expenses	\$0.00
Logger II Recurring Expenses	\$0.00
<b>February Other Expenses:</b>	
Awards Secretary Expenses	\$286.93
Misc. Expenses	
\$13.08	
Office Expenses (Postage, Etc.)	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Expenses:	\$300.01
<b>February Net Income Less Expenses</b>	<b>(\$109.03)</b>
<b>New Total Cash Balance ALL Accounts:</b>	<b>\$25,854.63</b>
Checking Account Balance	\$2,740.79
Money Market Account Balance	<u>\$23,113.84</u>
<b>Total Cash All Accounts:</b>	<b>\$25,854.63</b>

\* Includes February Transactions posted through 3/7/2017

\* The \$1,500.00 Awards Secretary Funds are not included in the above balance.

# From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC Total Funds at the end of December should be discounted by **\$6,279.15**. This amount is a Deferred Liability of award fees pre-paid by members. After discounting, our true (spendable) Cash Assets are **\$19,575.48**.



**Awards Financials****Awards Secretary Financial Report****February 2017**Bank Account Report:

Account Funds on hand January 31, 2017		1,525.18
Treasurer Reimbursement	-	
Funds received from members 2/1/17 - 2/28/17	-	
		<u>-</u>
		1,525.18
Expenses:		
Office Supplies	-	
Plaque Supplies	231.50	
Postage/Shipping	43.43	
Treasury reimbursement	25.18	
Member reimbursement	12.00	
Total Expenses		<u>312.11</u>
Account Funds on hand February 28, 2017		1,213.07
Reimbursement needed from Treasurer		286.93

Member Accounts Report:

Member Funds on Hand January 31, 2017	6,291.15
Net Funds deposited and/or used	<u>(12.00)</u>
Member Funds on Hand February 28, 2017	6,279.15



National

MARAC 2017 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: Includes badge & Non-alcoholic beverages & snacks. \$45.00
(One Registration fee/family unit – Includes 1 prize ticket)

Name on Badge: \_\_\_\_\_ Call sign: \_\_\_\_\_ USACA \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Attendees: Badges & non-alcoholic beverages & snacks included (list info below)
Total # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call sign \_\_\_\_\_ USACA# \_\_\_\_\_ Relation: \_\_\_\_\_
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call sign \_\_\_\_\_ USACA# \_\_\_\_\_ Relation: \_\_\_\_\_
Relation: S-Spouse, O-Other (specify-friend, son, daughter)

Photos will be e-mailed after convention -- Group, CW, YL, etc. Free/included w/registration)

Extra Prize Tickets (Increase your chances of winning the Big Prizes! (plus additional prizes)

Single Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ x \$1 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
12-pack tickets \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Events & Activities \*(Descriptions provided on-line)

\* Schedule of programs, mobile antenna testing, etc. on Tues and Wed provided at a later date and included w/registration package.

Monday, Sept 25 – Check in and hospitality room

Tuesday, Sept 26 – Bus Tour (U.S. Olympic Training Center and Garden of the Gods
on a Comfortable coach (9:20 a.m. – 2:20 p.m. # \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sept 26 – Do-It-Yourself Activities/Shopping, Programs, etc.

Wednesday, Sept 27 - Banquet/Dinner Buffet 6:00 PM # \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Door prizes, main prizes, announcements, etc.

TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your registration form and check, made payable to: “2017 MARAC Convention” to:

Pat Mitchell, N0DXE
12200 Boothill Dr
Parker CO 80138

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: https://www.reseze.net/servlet/SendPage?hotelid=1410&skipfirstpage=true&page=1694377

(Hotel is pet friendly)

Door prizes/Gift Exchange: Everyone please bring a gift valued at no more than \$15. These will be swapped via ticket drawing (no fee for a ticket)

## Information about Convention – for RR

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'Keeffe, 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

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. ManitouSprings.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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**“Call for Papers”**  
**for the 2017 MARAC National Convention**

If there's interest, we'd like to try something a little different with this year's forums at the MARAC National Convention. We'd like to see if we can find at least a few new forum topics and new speakers for this year's convention. So far, I've asked Larry, W0QE, to give a presentation summarizing the results of the mobile antenna measurement activities, and I will ask the "usual suspects" to chair a CW forum.

Is there something that you know about that you think would be of interest to the other County Hunters at the convention? If so, why not put a little something together to share and give a presentation! Doesn't need to be long – maybe 20-40 minutes. We will have a forum presentation area and a projector and screen available.

Please let Pat and I know by April 1<sup>st</sup> what you'd like to present. We'll review the topics and give you feedback shortly after that.

Thanks and 73's, Barry and Pat, N0KV/N0DXE

2017 MARAC National Convention Chairpersons

### **Fred, K0FG**

Licensed in 1970 as WB0BLR, I was fortunate enough to live about a mile from World Radio Lab (WRL) in Council Bluffs, IA. Dave, WB0BGQ, and I studied together and got our novice licenses together. Then we went to WRL to enjoy their radios and antennas. That was during a peak in the sunspot cycle and we were convinced that DX would always be that easy to work. In 1996 I changed my callsign to K0FG because Greg, N0GR, harassed me until I just had to upgrade to Amateur Extra class. In 2001 we retired and moved to central Missouri to live at Lake of the Ozarks.

In 1995 I finished working all states on 160-10 meters, no WARC bands. I worked lots of WAS nets and would like to thank all those folks who helped me. In 1996 I got a GERATOL award, if you don't know what that is do a Google search on it, it's tough to get, but those folks on the net are good hams.

Around 1995 Tom, WA9LKD, gave a talk at the Aksarben Amateur Radio Club meeting in Omaha, NE about county hunting and I was hooked. Working somewhat diligently it took me until 2009 to work all 3077 counties. I probably would have given up and quit but Les, K0LG, kept me inspired and eventually made a 350 mile round trip to give me a qso in my last county. I would like to thank Les, and all the mobiles, net control operators and all the others who helped me achieve this outstanding award. Now I'm just a few away from working them all for the third time mixed mode, and I lack about 30 to work them all on CW.

In 2008 I completed 5 band DXCC. I swore I would cutup my 80 meter dipole when I got that 100th country, but I kinda got to like the band, when it's quiet. So I may let the dipole stay up awhile so I can work the Geratol net on 3.668.

I still like to play in contests, especially RTTY. And I'm playing with PSK, it's almost as good as Clover, which most of you don't remember. I'm also trying to get my CW speed back up to what it was when I passed my 20wpm code test.

Current antennas: 50 ft tower with Force 12 C-4, 135 ft dipole at 30 feet, 265 ft Carolina Windom at 50 feet.

Current radios: Icom 7000 in the mobile with Hustler antennas. Elecraft K3, Elecraft KAT500, Elecraft KPA500, Ameritron AL-82, which is for sale.

If you hear me on the bands stop and say HI.

From QRZ

**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 25<sup>th</sup>!**

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**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

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