



# THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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



Volume XLVII

May 2017

Number 5

## President's QTC

Here we are in May, already, and another Michigan mini is over. If you didn't make it this year you missed another great mini. The MI mini is like a bottle of fine wine . . . it just keeps getting better with age. Huge "Thank You" to Ed, K8ZZ, and Joe, W8TVT, for another outstanding job.

The Mich mini banquet had an extra special event this year. Gene, KD9ZP, was awarded the *MARAC Lifetime Service* award for his extraordinary work in developing and maintaining Logger and the awards program over the past 20+ years. Gene's efforts have been instrumental in advancing county hunting to the level of sophistication we all currently enjoy. He has truly gone above and beyond in his contributions to MARAC. Gene was presented a special plaque in recognition of his achievements and, of course, treated to a much deserved standing ovation. Well done Gene!



It is noteworthy that it's been over 12 years since the last Lifetime Service award was awarded. According to the MARAC Awards database, in the 50 years of MARAC's existence only 7 others have been awarded this outstanding recognition:

### Contents

AI5P Route 66	10
Awards	7
Dateline CW	3
DX Visalia	11
Events	10
Logger update	6
MI Mini	11
President's QTC	1
Treasurer's Report (W7OLY)	8

- K2NJ, Bill Inkrote – 2005
- KM4W, Bill Bell – 2000
- W2NWL, Roger Purdy – 2000
- N8ELQ, Randy Davis - 2000
- K9DJC, Arnie Bachmann – 1989
- K0AYO, Bob Dyson - 1996
- W0OWY, Bill Nash – 1991

As most of you are aware we have been having problems with the MARAC web site for most of this year. To help resolve the problems, both Gene, KD9ZP, and Dave, KW1DX, have made several major changes to the web site over the past couple of months. The biggest change was converting the web pages from using Microsoft Access to Microsoft MySQL. Most, not all, of the web displays are now using MySQL and the team has resolved the critical issues. I have asked Dave, KW1DX, to make a list of any remaining issues, prioritize the list, and work on them as time permits. (Please keep in mind Dave still works full time and has plenty of other family obligations.) It's important to note here that all updates done by the MARAC Secretary and by the Awards Secretary are still being applied to the Access database. Each time these databases are updated they have to again be converted to the MySQL database in order for the updates to be displayed on the web site. The “quirks” with this new process are still being worked out, so please be patient.

Another big improvement to our web site support is the formation of an “Information Technology” group or IT group which is chaired by Dave, KW1DX. Dave has already recruited several volunteers to be part of the IT group. They are:

- Mike, W0MU
- Gene, KD9ZP
- Dennis, N6PDB
- Mike, K8EMS
- Terry, WQ7A
- Matt, W0NAC

There is a lot of talent and experience in this IT group. Thanks guys for being willing to contribute your time and talents.

Upcoming activities:

May 13-14: MARAC CW Contest. Rules can be found at [WWW.MARAC.ORG](http://WWW.MARAC.ORG) or from NM2L.

May 19-21: Dayton Hamfest. MARAC will have a booth again this year. For more information please contact KB0BA/N0XYL.

Sept. 25-27: National Convention is Colorado Springs, CO. More information is on the MARAC web site.

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



**Dateline CW**

Ed, KN4Y

I believe that in the end the CW mobile county hunter will prevail.

I finish hosing the red clay off the van after running Rover in the Georgia QSO party and Mobile in the Florida QSO party. I cannot believe it is the month of May, named after the Greek goddess Maia, who knows Bona Deam the goddess of the CW YL county hunters. I hear Gator's 4x4 slide to a stop at the recycled railroad tie. I have not seen a kamikaze squirrel since the redneck bar-b-cue. Gator stops at the mailbox, gets the mail and enters the radio shack carrying the familiar white cardboard box. I have this sudden urge for coffee. "Greetings old Dude, ready for a latte?" I think what a silly question but I play along, "Why yes Gator, that would be an uplifting gesture." Gator gives me a funny look as he hands me a latte. I sip and enjoy a coffee romance, "Thanks Gator, you awoke my senses, how about checking a couple of QSO parties?"

Gator takes a latte and sits at the computer, he mouses around a bit then laughs, "Dude you worked CW in the FOC QSO party, what is that, Fats On CW?" I have to giggle, "No Gator, FOC means, First Class CW Operators Club. I enjoy working anything first class, but I am not a member so I did not send in my score." Gator shakes his head, "Probably not worth the effort, you worked a bunch of DX stations, but you did get one new county on 80-meters." I wave my hand, "That is great, I did not expect to work a new county." I sip my latte then raise the cup in a salute. Gator is again mousing around.

"I see you only made 36 QSO's in the Mississippi QSO party. I see the problem, there were only two mobiles, Tom, K4XGB and Chuck, NO5W. "You are correct Gator, I miss the old days when mobiles would come from Texas and transmit from the many Mississippi counties." "Whatever happened to the recliner connoisseur Norm?" I laugh, "I think Norm got lazy" We have a laugh as we sip our lattes. "But your activity is not a total loss, you worked four no-star counties." I give Gator the high sign. We sip our lattes.

Gator gives out a yelp, "Dude you did a lot better in the Missouri QSO party. You made 93 QSO's, got three new counties on 80-meters and four No-Star. I see the reason, you worked seven mobiles. They were: Raymond, K0E, Pat, K0PC, Jerry the power Dude, K5YAA, Ron, N0E, Ward, N0O, Mark, W0E and Kyle, W0W. What is with the 1x1 calls?" "BEARS-St.Louis offers an award for working the letters that spell 'SHOW ME'," "What is it you are shown?" "I guess it is method to see who can spell." We have a good laugh. As we sip our lattes. I ask, "By the way, what was in the mail?"

Gator gets out his redneck liberal banned bone handle switch blade knife and opens the three envelopes. “Wow Dude, You operated only ten meters and got tenth place in the ARRL DX contest.” Gator is laughing so hard he spills his latte. I am not amused, I hand him a shop towel, “It is testimony I was not the only participant that operated on a dead band.” Gator holds up a certificate, “Now this is better, you had the top Florida score in the Washington State Salmon Run.” Gator holds up the third certificate, “This is neat Dude. This is an Activator Award from the ARRL for running a park during last year’s national parks on the air event. By the way Dude how did you do in the Georgia QSO party?” I take a sip of my latte.

“Well Gator, to make a long story short I logged 525 QSOs on Saturday traveling through 17 Georgia counties putting 500 miles on the odometer. Sunday I logged 409 QSOs traveling through 17 Georgia counties putting 499 miles on the odometer. I did have an antenna event on Saturday. I had installed the 80-meter resonator I got from Barry, W9UCW, many many years ago. The LDG tuner made a lot of buzzing and eventually I had full output and I made some contacts on 80-meters. Later after darkness arrived, I went to 80-meters and had no output. Sunday morning I noticed the resonator had broken off at the stub and was hanging down. That ended my 80-meter aspirations. Then Sunday afternoon I alternated working a county on 20 and 40-meters. I was in Schley County and when I moved to 20-meters I heard no stations and though the band had died, so I finished the QSO party on 40-meters. Monday morning I found my 25 year old 20-meter resonator was gone, broke off at the stub. I have ordered new resonators. A highlight of the trip was working BOZO, it made my day.” Gator is looking at the computer and is not paying attention; he turns around from the computer.

“Dude I just read that Pat, W5WMU is a silent key, did you work Pat?” “I am sorry to hear that; yes I worked Pat mobile and have many Louisiana counties in my log.” We bow our heads as I recite the Lord’s Prayer.

Gator’s eyes brighten as he looks at the computer, “Dude I just clicked on the MARAC web site and have you prepared for the 51th MARAC County Hunters CW Contest on May 13 & 14 operating from 1400z to 2400z each day. I also notice Greg, NM2L, is the chief honcho, what happened to dear old Norm, W3DYA?” I laugh, “I suspect after many great years Norm has retired to let a younger county hunter have all the fun.” We have a good laugh and sip our lattes. Gator asks, “Are you going to operate in the MARAC contest?” “Yes Gator, but only Saturday. I have a Mother’s Day party to attend at the Wakulla Springs lodge.” Gator is not listening; he picks up a memory stick off the side table, “What is on this memory stick Dude?”

“Darn Gator I almost forgot I had worked the Mississippi and Ontario QSO parties. Check them out will you.” Gator does the various manipulations, “Dude I see that you transmitted across the border and worked the Ontario QSO party. I assume band conditions were below par, you made 17 QSO’s, am I right?” I shake my head yes, “Yes Gator I heard very few Ontario stations and some of the stations I heard could not hear me.”

Gator is looking at the computer, “Dude I see you did not do much better operating in the Michigan QSO party. You made 37 QSOs. Going to blame the band for the low score?” I finish my latte, “Not entirely Gator, Michigan uses a serial number in their exchange and not many mobiles venture out. I read later Jim, K8IR and Dave, W8DW operated mobile, I only worked Jim in one county and Dave in two counties. Maybe next year the serial number will be removed from the exchange and more mobiles will hit the road.” Gator finishes his latte, “Easier said than done,” I make an O with my finger, “Gator check out the Nebraska QSO parry log and my mobile run in the Florida QSO party.”

Gator’s cell phone goes CQ, CQ, CQ, “Sorry Dude I will check the Nebraska and Florida log later, There is a bunch of hippies at the front gate with ‘CHEAPER ELIXIR FOR THE DOWNTRODDEN’ signs.” He roars out of the driveway and I hear him shout, “What do you call a county hunter with gas? Mobile.” I wonder if county hunting is worth all this hassle, I shut the door and hear the printer stop. . I get the printout; it is a list of mobiles heard during April on the county hunters CW call frequencies.

I read: AB7RW, AF5CC, K2HVN, K2MF, K4DEQ, K7TM, K8TE, K8ZZ, KA2LKQ, KA4RRU, KB0BA, KN4Y, KR9L, N0KV, N2OO, N4CD, N4UP, N7IV, N7JPF, N9JF, N9QS, NF0N, NM2L, NU0Q, W0GXQ, W4SIG, W8UE, WA3QNT and WB0PYF.

As mentioned previously the big county hunters event for the month of May is the annual MARAC CW Contest, sometimes referred to as a QSO party, with worldwide participation. The 7<sup>th</sup> Call Area QSO party is big with 258 counties up for grabs plus the New England QSO Party with 67 counties up for grabs. This can be compared to working 14 State QSO parties on the same weekend plus the Indiana QSO party with 92 counties up for grabs. This is a no nap activity. There is also the Delaware QSO party with 3 counties and Arkansas with 75 counties. The ten meter band has not been contest nor QSO party operating friendly, so the 10-10 International Spring CW QSO party may become a lesson in listening to ones self while cleaning the radio shack. KN4Y is determined to open the ten meter band, please have pity on old Ed and check between 28.035 – 28.045 MHz every once in awhile. For the contester there is the CQ-M International DX Contest, His Majesty King of Spain CW contest. Rounding out the month of May is the CQ World-Wide WPX CW Contest. Key in this event. (get it?). Nap time.



### **Logger update**

As 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](#).

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!!!**MARAC Lifetime Service Award:

The MARAC Lifetime Service Award has been awarded to Gene, KD9ZP. A plaque was presented to Gene at the banquet during this year's Michigan Mini. Gene was honored with this award to recognize his extraordinary work in developing and maintaining both the Logger and Awards programs over the past 20+ years.

Awards Issued March 1, 2017 - April 23, 2017

Call	Award Date	Award	Number
K4YT	3/7/2017	USA-PA - K	29
N6PDB	4/22/2017	Worked All State - 5 Mode - 1st Time - HI	1
N6PDB	4/22/2017	Worked All State - 5 Mode - 1st Time - NM	1
N6PDB	4/22/2017	Worked All State - 5 Mode - 1st Time - OK	2

Roadrunners Issued March 1, 2017 - April 23, 2017

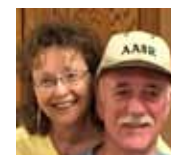
Call	Award Date	Award	Number
N0XYL	4/13/2017	Last County Count 400	#53
N3MRA	3/14/2017	Last County Count 25	#525
N4UP	4/23/2017	Last County Count 75	#279
NU0Q	3/14/2017	Last County Count 75	#278
W0GXQ	3/14/2017	Last County Count 1100	#7

LC1 / LC2s Processed March 1, 2017 - April 23, 2017

Last County in the State      180  
Last County in the USA        0

**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



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


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**Beginning Account Balances April 7, 2017** **\$25,854.63**

**Income:**

Money Market Interest	\$0.95	
Awards Secretary Income	\$3.00	
Misc. Income	\$0.00	
Membership Income	\$260.00	
Logger Distribution	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Total Income:		\$263.95

**March 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

**March Other Expenses:**

Awards Secretary Expenses	\$79.81
Misc. Expenses	\$0.00
Office Expenses (Postage, Etc.)	<u>\$0.00</u>

    Total Expenses: \$79.81

**March Net Income Less Expenses** **\$184.14**

**New Total Cash Balance ALL Accounts:** **\$26,038.77**

Checking Account Balance	\$2,923.98
Money Market Account Balance	<u>\$23,114.79</u>
<b>Total Cash All Accounts:</b>	<b>\$26,038.77</b>

\* Includes March Transactions posted through 4/7/2017

\* 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 **\$6,237.15**. This amount is a Deferred Liability of award fees pre-paid by members. After discounting, our true (spendable) Cash Assets are **\$19,801.62**.





Awards Secretary Financial Report

**March 2017**

Bank Account Report:

Account Funds on hand February 28, 2017		1,213.07
Treasurer Reimbursement	286.93	
Funds received from members 3/1/17 - 3/31/17	<u>3.00</u>	
		<u>289.93</u>
		1,503.00
Expenses:		
Office Supplies	-	
Plaque Supplies	-	
Postage/Shipping	37.81	
Treasury reimbursement	-	
Member reimbursement	<u>42.00</u>	
Total Expenses		<u>79.81</u>
Account Funds on hand March 31, 2017		1,423.19
Reimbursement needed from Treasurer		76.81

Member Accounts Report:

Member Funds on Hand January 31, 2017	6,279.15
Net Funds deposited and/or used	<u>(42.00)</u>
Member Funds on Hand February 28, 2017	6,237.15



**Events**

5/6            10-10 CW  
5/6            7<sup>TH</sup> AREA QP  
5/6            IN QP  
5/6            DE QP  
5/6            NEW ENG QP  
5/13          AR QP  
5/13          MARAC CW  
5/19          HAMVENTION  
5/22          RUN4BACON  
9/25          NATIONAL

ONLY START DATE SHOWN

CLICK ON EVENT TO GO TO THAT WEB SITE

**AI5P Route 66**

Hoping for fulfill one of my “bucket list” items this summer - Driving Route 66 from Chicago to Santa Monica. By my count, there are 54 counties along the route. I hope to activate all of them on my trip. I am planning to be on 20/30/40 SSB and CW. Right now the start date is planned for June 18. This could change, of course, based on a variety of variables. I plan on awarding a prize to the MARAC member who works me in the most counties - SSB, CW, and Mixed. Only one prize per person. In case of a tie, the award will go to the one who worked me earliest. I also plan to have a Facebook group page (AI5P Route 66 ) to announce travels as I go. Please join! Should be an interesting experience on the road!  
73 Rick AI5P

**MI Mini**



**DX Visalia**



Barbara, AC7UH; Barry, W9UCW; Chuck, NM1G; Bob, WD4OWY; Mark, W9OP

**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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**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

**Appointees**

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

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