



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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MUsings from W0MU

Happy New Year!

I hope Santa Elmer brought everyone everything they wanted on their lists! We had a white Christmas and enjoyed having the family over of gifts, dinner and games. I must have been good enough as Santa Rigexpert antenna analyzer. I can't wait to use it! I wonder if he something????



ham radio wish for the exchange left me a new trying to tell me

Roy (Silver) N9QS reported that his house burned down the first week Everyone got out safe but the house was pretty much a total loss. I is going well.

of December. hope the recovery

Terry-WQ7A recently had a stroke. He spent a few days in the hospital and he is now home. He is in great spirits. He is having some issues with reading and writing which he hopes will return soon. Boni and Terry will be working together to make sure all his Secretary duties are handled and we are asking others to pick up more of the tasks with logger and some of the other projects he is involved with. Get well Terry and thanks for all you do for us! Special thanks to Boni too!

AB7RW, Phil is reporting that he is caught up on the LC1/LC2 backlog and that if you are holding any to feel free to send them off. He is still getting up to speed on some of the other awards. Thanks again for all your patience.

I have asked the Board and the Awards Committee to start discussion on ways to generate more activity. Currently we have very few mobile active compared with years past. The poor conditions never help but mobile activity is quite low making it more difficult to chase awards. One idea was to have a year long event to work 250, 500, 750, 1000 counties with a nice award for doing so. This would be targeted to people that are not dedicated to county hunting yet. We all know it doesn't take that much to get hooked we just have to figure out a way to get people to try. Of course, everyone would be encouraged to participate if this is something we decide to do. If you have any ideas please feel free to pass them on

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to me or N5MLP.

Along those same lines, I would like to find a volunteer or volunteers that would be interested in establishing Facebook and other social media sites for the club and actively promote the club across these applications. Other groups like POTA have large numbers of Facebook members and those pages are very active with enthusiastic activators and chasers. I think we are missing out not having this presence. If you might be interested, please send me an email or give me a call.

Remember that the ARRL is starting their Grid Square operating event on the 1st of the year. If you don't know your grid square you might want to figure it out as you are going to be asked a lot! Also if you do not use (Logbook of the World) LOTW you might want to think about using it. It is free and only LOTW confirmations will count just like the NPOTA program and awards. The full rules can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/>.

To find your grid square you can go to:
http://www.levinecentral.com/ham/grid_square.php

FT8 is still a very popular mode. I see more and more county hunters decoded everyday! The activity is high and you can make lots of contacts even with really poor band conditions. 30M is again picking up steam on CW and FT8. If you are not active on 30m you might want to get a simple dipole or even a vertical up as 30m has been really good lately.

Thanks for all your support in 2017!

W0MU
Mike Fatchett
President

Dateline CW
Ed, KN4Y

A new year, we are few, we happy few, we band as CW County Hunters.

Welcome to a New Year with old counties and Parishes, thirteen months, we cannot change this time rhythm, the space heater is red at maximum heat generation, and Year nap is in order. I am jolted upright into reality when I down shift prior to sliding to a stop at the recycled railroad outside even for the dedicated Kamikaze squirrels. I get up make a cracking sound as I go to open the door for Gator, “Come on in Gator I am about to have a latte hussy.” Gator laughs and quickly sets the white cardboard container on the desk and extracts a super sized latte and hands it to me. I am shaking in anticipation as I take a sip. My pulse slows, I am in pure ecstasy for a few seconds.



it happens every I need a latte, perhaps a New Year hear Gator’s 4x4 tie. It is too cold and my knees

Gator gets a latte, takes a sip then sets his latte on the desk, “I notice Dude you have a magazine on your lap, what’s up?” I take a sip of my latte, “I am reading about a new year long activity for amateur radio operators that is sponsored by the ARRL. The objective is to work other amateurs in as many maidenhead grid squares as possible just like working other amateurs in different States, Countries and counties comparable to what we do as county hunters. The event is called the ARRL International Grid Square chase and you can get the details from the ARRL web site. Gator burps, “Why is it called maidenhead.”

I smile knowingly, “The Maidenhead Locator System is a geographic co-ordinate system used by VHF amateur radio operators to detail their present location. You remember the grid square is exchanged in the ARRL VHF QSO party. Its purpose is to be a quick and accurate location during periods of adverse radio transmission conditions. The Maidenhead Locator System can describe locations anywhere in the world and was developed in 1980 at a meeting in Maidenhead, England. Now you know.”

Gator is not paying attention, “Dude, I just opened your CQ CW DX Contest log, seems like you did a little better but not your usual total.” I sip my latte, “Yes Gator I was in and out of the shack and grabbed a few contacts whenever I could and I finally stopped at 150 QSOs.” Gator seems impressed, “I guess you did okay getting 98 countries and 48 zones,” We sit and sip our lattes. Gator laughs, “Dude how did you do at the Florida State Senior Games? Did you run mobile to the site?” I take another rejuvenating sip of latte, “Yes Gator I told you my bowling doubles partner was going to drive the van

to Clearwater, and he did. I was able to run the six counties on the way there and on the return trip. It felt good operating mobile again, I logged 150 QSOs.”

Gator starts laughing, “I hate to interrupt Dude but I just found your log for operating mobile in the ARRL 160-meter contest while setting on the motel parking lot. Whatever possessed you to try such a ridiculous venture?” “Simple Gator, I have a 160-meter mobile antenna and I like to operate the 160-meter contest, submit a log and perhaps log a new county. I found a tree free parking spot and I mounted the 160 meter antenna on the van and started calling. There was a lot of noise on the band from all the Christmas lights in the area. I called and called and after a few hours I had 9 QSOs in the log. My butt started cramping so I shut down the radio and went to bed. But I can now say I operated in the 160-meter contest.” Gator sips his latte, “Different strokes for different folks.” He stoops down and picks a sheet of paper off the floor, “Dude what is this note: do winter?”

I take a super sized sip of my latte, “That is a note to remind me the local radio club, the Sportsman’s Paradise ARC, is going to participate in the winter field day scheduled the last weekend in January. I am going to operate the CW station. You are welcome to join the fun.” “Sounds like fun Dude but unfortunately I will be attending a meeting of the Redneck Coalition for Ethanol. You going to set up the radio station same as last year?” “Yes, you have a good meeting.” Gator is not paying attention; he is looking at the computer screen. “Dude, did you know Roy, N9QS, house burned down?” “No, I did know he had a hot CW signal.” Gator gives me the finger, “I also see that Bud, N7SU, is a silent key. Did you work him?” “No, Gator Bud is not in my log.” We bow our heads as Gator recites the Irish Blessing.

I hand Gator a memory stick, “Here check out my ARRL ten meter contest score.” I lean back and finish my latte. Gator starts laughing, “You operated all weekend in the ARRL ten meter contest and made 27 QSOs, you need to quit napping so much.” Gator is giggling so hard he has to put his latte down. I reach into the white cardboard box and get another super sized latte and take a sip, “I cannot control the propagation, I am the victim of propagation.” Gator rolls his eyes “The world feels for you poor old victim.” Gator wipes the tears from his eyes.

“Gator! I almost forgot to tell you that was a dangerous watermelon you gave me last week.” Gator yawns, “What are you talking about?” “I am talking about the watermelon you gave me; I set it in the shop and forgot about it. When I went to get the watermelon it had exploded making a mess of the shop. Can you imagine the mess if I had put the watermelon in here?” Gator laughs, “I never heard of a watermelon exploding, but live and learn. Dude, what has an exploding watermelon got to do with CW county hunting?”

I finish off my latte, “Education! Suppose a county hunter is mobile in this area and comes across one of those roadside stands selling local watermelons. All CW county hunters enjoy watermelon and they stop and purchase a melon to enjoy later at the motel. Knowing that a watermelon can explode the county hunter will consume the melon that night. Now you know the reason, feel better?”

Gator is not listening; he is looking at the QST magazine lying on the desk, “Dude for some reason that QST magazine seems different. He picks it up and flips the pages” “Yes Gator you are very observant, this issue and subsequent issues will have a different look.” Gator places the magazine back on the table.

Gator mouses around with the computer, “Dude I just noticed you worked the Croatian CW Contest, hold on while I load the log. First thing I notice Dude is you worked other DX stations and not just the 9A guys, why the change from last year?” “I had planned on working only the 9A stations, but propagation changed my plans. To make the contest more exciting I decided to work any station in the contest that I heard.” “Yes Dude you made 70 QSOs, I would consider that tolerable.” “What do you mean tolerable?”

Gator’s cell phone emits CQ, CQ, CQ, “Sorry Dude I have to move myself from here to the back forty, one of the surveillance guys found an injured reindeer and thinks it might be Rudolf.” Gator slugs down his latte and is out the door faster than Jerry operates CW. I hear him yell, “Men are from earth, women are from earth, CW county hunters are from earth. Deal with it.”

I hear the printer start and stop so I get the printout and it is a list of the county hunters heard during December on the CW call frequencies, I read: AB7NK, AF5CC, N4CD, AI5P, K0DEQ, K0FG, K0MAF, K2HVN, K2MF, KA2LHO, KN4Y, N2MH, N4JF, N4UP, NU0Q, WA4UNS, WD4OIN and WJ0Y.

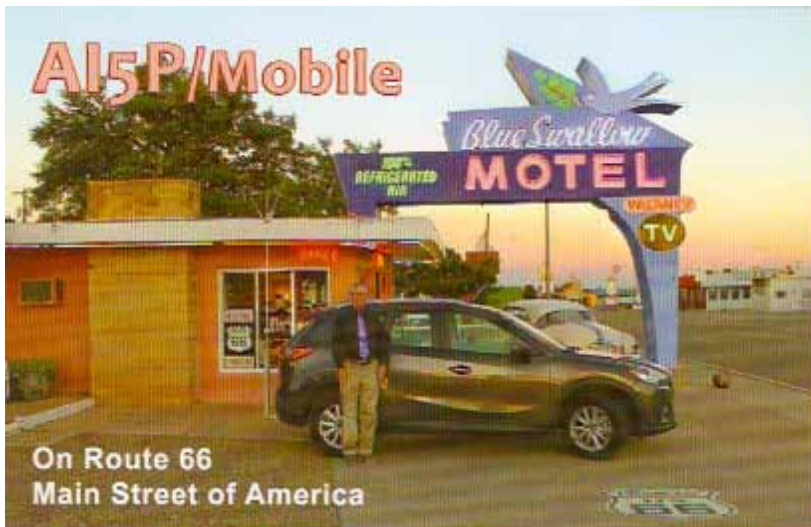
The New Year 2018 has one State QSO party and that is the Montana QSO party at the end of January. There is the CW North American QSO party and the SSB North American QSO party. There is the ARRL January VHF Contest, start collecting Grid Squares. Then of course there is the CQ 160-Meter CW Contest for the top band enthusiast and maybe new top band counties for the county hunter. Want to do DX then try the YBSSB DX Contest, Help celebrate the Indonesian Amateur Radio Organization Golden Anniversary. There is the DARC 10-Meter Contest, maybe ten meters will cooperate. There is also the LZ CW Open Contest, this contest exchanges two sets of serial numbers, a great contest for number buffs. There is also Hungarian Contest that I operate in in memory of my Grandmother who immigrated to the United States pregnant

with my Mother.

Closing out the first month of the New Year is the Winter Field activity. This tests the amateur's cold weather skills. I will be one of the operators on the CW station for the Sportsman's Paradise ARC, K4WAK, operating from Wakulla County, Florida. Hope to work you. Where did I put the electric blanket? I need a warm nap.

Route 66 Rick AI5P

I will be mailing out this special QSL card for those that worked me during my Route 66 Adventure last June-July. The cards are made out for the first contact with each station either on SSB or CW or both. No reply card is necessary unless you would like to send me one. If you don't get your card or you would like to have a different county/state confirmed, let me know via rickai5p@gmail.com and I will send you one. It was a great adventure and I appreciate all the contacts! 73 Rick AI5P/Mobile



AI5P @operating Mobile on Route 66 - Chicago to Santa Monica

66 AI5P/Mobile State:
County:

Confirming QSO with:	Date			UTC	MHz	RST	Mode 2 Way
	Day	Month	Year				

Route 66 was established in 1926 as one of the original highways in the U.S. Highway System. Running through eight states for 2,448 miles, it is known as one of the most famous roads in the world. It is a living museum open to any and all who possess the spirit of adventure and desire to discover the real America. From all over the world, people come to pay homage to this unique ribbon of asphalt and to immerse themselves in the American experience, both real and romanticized.

ABXA RSARS 4063 Thanks for the QSO 73 es DX. Rick Harris PSE/TNX QSL via AI5P

Photo: The iconic Blue Swallow Motel in Tucumcari, New Mexico. Built in 1939, it is one of the most beautiful and historic motels on Route 66. Special thanks to the owners - Kevin and Nancy Mueller - for allowing me to use this photo for my QSL card.

170310 jess

**Treasurer's Report (W7OLY)
November 2017***

Beginning Account Balances November 13, 2017 **\$18,151.46**

Income:

Money Market Interest	\$0.37	
Awards Secretary Income	\$0.00	
Misc. Income	\$0.00	
Membership Income	\$597.94	
Logger Distribution	<u>\$59.12</u>	
Total Income:		\$657.43

Other Expenses:

Awards Secretary Expenses	\$00.00	
Misc. Expenses	\$0.00	
Office Expenses (Postage, Etc.)	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Total Expenses:		\$0.00

Net Income Less Expenses **\$657.43**

New Total Cash Balance ALL Accounts: **\$18,808.89**

Checking Account Balance		\$ 3,686.63
Money Market Account Balance		<u>\$15,122.26</u>
Total Cash All Accounts:		\$18,808.89

* Includes Transactions posted through 12/13//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 August should be discounted by **\$6,290.15**. This amount is a Deferred Liability of award fees pre-paid by members. After discounting, our true (spendable) Cash Assets are **\$12,518.74**.



National

Here is the start to the 2018 convention - links to hotel - registration etc. to follow on MARAC page..

Date: October 3 4 5 and 6th, 2018

Where: Holiday Inn Country Club Plaza

1 East 45th Street

Kansas City, MO 64111

816-216-8018

Ed Eklin K8ZZ 231.649.4747

Events

- 1/6 KIDS DAY
- 1/6 ARRL RTTY ROUNDUP
- 1/13 NA CW QP
- 1/20 NA SSB QP
- 1/22 RUN4BACON
- 1/27 MT QP
- 1/27 WINTER FIELD DAY
- 10/3/18 50TH NATIONAL (NO LINK)
- 4/26/18 MI MINI

ONLY START DATE SHOWN

CLICK ON EVENT TO GO TO THAT WEB SITE



Awards

Awards Committee

Status of Awards Operations

The Awards Secretary, Phil, AB7RW announced this week on the K3IMC forum page that he is now ready to receive all types of awards applications. However, he requests that people submitting applications use good judgment and not submit everything at once. In addition:

- 1) Please restrict the number of separate awards you are submitting at one batch to 10. That will limit the number of items to check in case the system halts due to an error in a particular batch.
- 2) Please be aware that only one callsign can be entered for a particular application – no exceptions. Each award recipient must be on a separate application. For example, if you worked an OM/YL team and you wish to award both operators a LC-1, you must send in two applications.
- 3) If one contact with another operator was good for more than one award, you need to send in separate applications for each award even if they are for the same operator.
- 4) Any awards applications sent to Phil via email must be addressed to marac.awards@gmail.com. Applications sent to his personal email address cannot be processed.

Phil is currently recuperating from the flu and may not be processing awards for a few days.

Status of Self-credit Tracking Spreadsheet

If you didn't see comments in the October article about the status of implementing the self-credit award changes within Logger, refer to that article for more information. The November, 2017 newsletter article contained information about the spreadsheet release for capturing and submitting self-credit contacts (only) for an individual operator who is mobile in many states and can benefit from having all the states and counties pre-populated in the spreadsheet. A help file was also released and posted on the Marac website at: www.marac.org/chdownloads

Two other versions of the self-credit spreadsheet will be completed and posted in the next

few days to the posted link above. These will consist of:

1. A less complicated version which does not have pre-populated state/county names for all 3,077 counties. It is designed for individual users who may run counties occasionally in one or just a few states. The user can add the state/county information on an ad-hoc basis as needed.

Spreadsheet filename: **Self-Credit_IndivSimple_CALLSIGN_Data.xlsx**

2. A team version for OM/YL teams which allows logging of data for both team members separately but on the same line in the spreadsheet without having to duplicate the contact info in two separate spreadsheets.

Spreadsheet filename: **Self-Credit_Team3077_CALLSIGN_Data.xlsx**

Note: The helpfile for the first individual user spreadsheet can be used as a guide to use of the two new files. The simple spreadsheet in item 1 is to be completed by entering only those counties you actually run as needed for claiming self-credit. All of the data should be sorted by the state and then county name columns before submitting it as justification for an award application.

MARAC Awards Committee



Awards Committee

These MARAC members are serving on the Awards Committee:

Awards Manager - Ron Clift (N5MLP)

Robert Woody - N8KIE

Tony Mazzocco -WA9DLB

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

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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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