



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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MUsings from W0MU

March is here! Wow! It will be coming in like a lamb means it will go out like a lion. March and April snowiest months. We will see. We could sure use the



here in Colorado, which happens to be one of our moisture.

It has been nice to see a few more mobiles out and about across the nation. Propagation has not as cooperative continued to be challenging. 30M should be a go to band 40m should be pretty good even during the day. W4SIG is heading to Hawaii for his anniversary and is hoping to make a special trip to Kalawao County. He will keep us updated.

as the weather has improved and conditions have at this point in the cycle and

N9QS called me the other day to give me an update on his house fire situation. They are doing well. They found a rental right away and his local community pitched in find them clothes, furniture and essentials. His house a total loss and they will be rebuilding from scratch on the same lot. There is still lots of work to do but things are improving.

Elections

Elections are just around the corner. You should find the election announcement in this Roadrunner from Don, K7DM our election Coordinator. There are six positions up for election this year; President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, South East Director and Great Lakes Director. K8ZZ, W4SIG, KA3QLF and I will be running again as incumbents. If you think we doing good job for the club, we would appreciate your support. W7OLY, Aubrey would like to step away as Treasurer.

WQ7A, is stepping down as Secretary. Terry will still continue to help us out. He is about 95% recovered from his stroke, but is still having some issues with reading. There are no words to express my gratitude to WQ7A for all he has done for MARAC. He has been on the board in a number of positions for many years. He has been on the logger support team about as long as logger has been around if not before. Thank you Terry for all you have done! You deserve a break! Thanks is hardly enough, but thank you, thank you, thank you!

If you would like to help the club out please consider running for any of the open positions and let Don know.

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Club Direction

Last month I talked about a number of things the board was considering to increase activity. We are still moving forward on those items but the roadblocks are that we just do not have volunteers with the necessary skill sets to make many of these changes happen. If you have IT or more specifically database skills and some free time and would like to help please contact me.

We have established a committee to document and chart the award processes. N7JPF, WQ7A, AB7RW and AA8R have volunteered to do this. Once we all understand the processes, we can then work on problem areas.

The biggest reality we must face is Gene, KD9ZP who created and kept all our awards software and Logger running smoothly is not able to devote us as much time these projects any more. The time he can devote now is just keeping things going. I think it would be unfair to him to ask him for anything more as he has given us everything.

Facebook/Website

I am still looking for some people that would be interested in working on a Facebook page for MARAC. I am also looking for someone that might be interested in working on the website. The current theme has served us well but I would like to see it updated to 2018 standards with a Wordpress site or similar. If you want to help please let me know.

Awards

The board had a working meeting a week ago to discuss some issues with awards. The board will be holding a formal meeting on March 1 to vote on these changes. W4SIG has made these proposals for the Board to consider regarding County Hunter of the Year.

County Hunter of the Year

Proposal 1:

Change how frequent a member can be awarded the CHOTY award. Currently it states in the Objective Section:

“A member of MARAC may only receive this award only once (for each category)”

Proposed Change:

“A member of MARAC may receive this award multiple times for each category, however, only once every three years for the same category.”

Reason for Proposed Change:

It has been noticed that over the 50-year history of our club many deserving individuals have received CHOTY awards. However, as our membership numbers have declined, most of the heavily active members have already received this award once. As a result, recent history indicates that MARAC has received very few nominations for this prestigious award. It is either that no one cares to take the time to nominate fellow members, or that everyone that is on the minds of members as deserving has already received this award before. This proposal would open up eligibility for both SSB CHOTY and CW CHOTY to all members except the individuals who won them the prior two years.

Proposal 2:

Specify that qualifications for CHOTY must be based on member activity during the current election year.

Proposed Change:

“Member qualification must be based on his/her activities during the current election year.”

Reason for Proposed Change:

The purpose for this addition is to ensure that candidates are only eligible due to county hunting and MARAC activity for the current year, since that is the year being considered for the award. There is no sense nominating someone for activity in prior years for the current year’s award.

Proposal 3:

Change the following item in the CHOTY Awards Rules:

“5. MARAC board members are not eligible for this award.”

Proposed Change:

“5. MARAC Board members are eligible for this award. However, consideration should not be based upon their fulfillment of their board duties. Their consideration must be based upon activity outside of this such as mobile activity, net assistance activity, spotting activity, service to other members, and general overall enhancement of county hunting.”

Reason for Proposed Change:

The original reason for eliminating eligibility of MARAC Board Members for this award was the perception that one had to be a board member or host a convention to be qualified for the service to MARAC requirement. It has since been pointed out that a Board Member could have significant impact on county hunting outside of their board duties. Therefore, they should be able to be considered based on these conditions.

Self Credit and Remote Operations:

It was not clear to everyone that intent of the Self Credit rule was to get credit you physically had to go out and operate from that county. The rule was put in place to encourage mobile and portable activity. The rule does not state that Remote Operation would be included nor did it specifically disallow it, so the board feels that remote operations do not qualify for self credit as the operator is not physically in that county which is required of a mobile or portable operation.

Self credit approved for a number of our awards. I will use the wording for Bingo Cinco but it is the same for the other awards except for the award specific wording.

Self-credit (optional): A mobile/portable operator who holds a Bingo Award or higher level Bingo award (Bingo II, Bingo III, etc.) may claim self-credit toward this award for the transmitted county by making at least one Valid Contact on the HF bands. The credit received will be equal to the number of Bingo credits the operator claiming self-credit currently holds. All contacts which claim self-credit must have been made after 2/15/2017.

We define Mobile and Portable operations as:

Mobile Operation

Making contacts using a radio in or on a movable vehicle is a Mobile Operation. The vehicle does not have to

be in motion. The radio must be powered by the vehicle or other power source that is contained in the vehicle and which is independent of all commercial or other outside power sources.

The vehicle must be capable of movement without having to disconnect any wiring or antennas in order to move to another location. Examples of vehicles that are capable of mobile operation include automobiles, trucks, RV's, trains, bicycles, airplanes, and buses.

Portable and Remote Operation (see Fixed or Portable Operation)

Operation from a non-mobile, temporary fixed location. This includes battery-powered operation that is not in a vehicle. Remote operation (remote control of a distant station, including use of the internet to communicate with the remote station, or other indirect operation) is allowed for MARAC awards.

To clarify this, I will ask the board to approve adding a clause that states to get self credit that the operator MUST be physically located in county for which self credit is being claimed and that operation of a remote radio from a county will not count for self credit.

Plaques

Cars, cars and more cars. Getting the car plaque the first couple of time was pretty cool for most. After that the novelty wears off. Some people have even asked not to receive the car plaque. N5MLP suggested that a very nice wood plaque with an engraved plate and a blank area where we can attached endorsement plates or X time plates might be more cost effective and would allow for endorsements such as WBOW or CHOTY for multiple years. This would be more in line of what you might see with an ARRL or CQ plaque. Many of us have limited wall space so being able to consolidate like awards makes sense. Any artwork would continue on the same traditions.

Hamfest Tables

W4SIG has requested a table for MARAC for Dayton and N7JPF has requested a table at SeaTac. If you would like to volunteer to help out of those tables please contact them directly, I am sure they would appreciate the help.

That wraps it up for this month. Don't forget the Michigan Mini is coming up in April and our 50th National will be in Kansas City in October. I will not be able to attend the mini but I hope to see everyone in KC! I am always open to suggestions and comments so feel free to email or call.

W0MU
Mike Fatchett
President

Dateline CW

Ed, KN4Y

Mad dogs and CW County Hunters go out in the mid-day sun.

I am in the radio shack planning my mobile route Alabama, Georgia and Florida QSO parties. I try counties that are listed on the county hunter's most the page on my at-a-glance to the March calendar Daylight saving time begins, I murmur to myself Eastern Time the whole year, but political habits are feel the warmth as I also notice that spring begins the space heater a nasty look, although heating was of last month. This is also the month that Good Friday and the last Friday of the month are the same Friday.



for the upcoming to run as many wanted list. I flip and notice that why not use hard to break. I this month, I give not needed most

I turn on the radio to the twenty meter CW frequency to hear who is running when I hear Gator down shift his 4X4 and he slides to a stop at the recycled railroad tie. I hear a thud and notice a successful Kamikaze possum, now that is a first. Gator enters the radio shack wearing his Icom hat that Doug gave him. I notice he is carrying the familiar white cardboard container and he laughs, "What have you been doing Dude?" He hands me a super sized latte and I waste no time putting the hot latte to my brew designation, "I have been working on my QSO party routes, which reminds me, will you enter some logs into the computer." Gator nods affirmably as he starts the computer. As we wait we sip, two renowned county hunter activities.

I hand Gator an off-color memory stick. "Here, see how I did in the CQ 160-meter contest." Gator plugs in the memory stick and mouses around. "Not bad Dude, you made 100 CW QSOs, worked 32 states and four DX is that good?" I shake my head no, "I had to go to the funeral home and afterwards I operated in the 160-meter contest just to unwind, I got to 100 and I went into the house and cried." Gator is looking at the computer.

"Dude I see you made 11 CW QSOs in the British Columbia QSO party and a CW QSO six-pack in the Vermont QSO party. What is your excuse this time?" I smile, "The band conditions were not favorable to this shack, but bring up the Minnesota QSO party and you see what happens when the band cooperates." Gator brings up the Minnesota QSO party log,

“I must say Dude your 94 CW QSOs indicates you stayed awake during the Minnesota QSO party. I also notice you worked almost all 1X1 calls with five stations operating mobile.” I wave my hand, “Gator please check Logger to determine how many of the mobiles were MARAC members.” Gator mouses around, “I checked twice Dude; none of the mobiles you worked were MARAC members. What is the importance of so many 1X1 calls?” I sip my latte, “Working the letters has something to with this being the 20th anniversary of the Minnesota QSO party.”

Gator is not paying attention; he is laughing hilariously, “Dude you made 3 CW QSO’s in the Dutch PACC Contest same excuse, nasty band conditions?” Tears are running down Gator’s eyes. I give Gator a disgusted look, “If you remember Gator, that weekend I operated mobile on the way to the Northwest bowling tournament. I tried to contact many Dutch stations but only three of the stations could hear me. I did try many times; I also tried on 40-meters without any success. But I did run five Florida counties on several CW county hunter’s frequencies.” Gator is not paying attention he is staring at the computer screen.

“Bad news Dude, I see that county hunter Willie, N4XE, is a silent Key, did you know Willie? I shake my head yes, “Seems I remember meeting Willie at a MARAC Convention. He was a real old timer county hunter his USACA number is 37. We bow our heads as Gator recites The Shepherd’s Psalm. We quietly sip our lattes.

Gator looks at the computer screen and laughs, “Dude, I just read the county hunters Michigan Mini is April 26-28th at Traverse City, are you going?” I look sad, “No Gator, I went to the Midland convention in 2000 and got into a situation where I cannot return to Michigan again. The case has been sealed.”

Gator shakes his head, “Dude I just brought up your ARRL international CW DX log, which is not county hunting.” I laugh, “Gator working all the strange call signs. some operators with some sloppy fists, improves one’s ability to work counties using code. What is my total?” Gator looks at the screen, “You made 250 CW QSOs using five bands and worked 155 DXCC countries, is that good?” I smile, “It is for me and my score is added to the super contester’s scores in the Florida Contest Group.” I notice my cat Tiger the Fat is also smiling; he was there but slept through most of the activity. Gator is not paying attention; he swings around in the chair.

“Dude I meant to ask you how the club did in the Winter Field Day, I knew you were going to operate the CW station.” I look sad, “Well Gator that was my plan, but I got infected by that flu virus going around and I missed the event. Sneezing, coughing, fever

and CW is not a good mix. Doug told me they made 134 phone and 97 digital contacts. The CW operation was missed.” I hand Gator a memory stick, “Gator check out my North and South Carolina QSO party results.

Gator’s cell phone goes CQ, CQ, CQ. “Sorry Dude, bad news, I got to get to back the back forty; the watchman found several deer carcasses.” He is gone like a signal report exchange on the CW county hunters net. I hear him yell: “Rest in peace brother Billy Graham.” Another kamikaze possum achieved his destiny. I try to remember where I put the shovel. The printer stops. I get the printout and it is a list of the mobile county hunters heard during February on the CW call frequencies.

I read: AB4WL, K0FG, K0PFV, K2HVN, K4YT, KA2LHO, KN4Y, N4CD, N4UP, N9JF, NF0N, W4SIG, W8OP, WA4UNS, WB0PYF, WD4OIN, WE7G, and WJ8Y.

This month of March Madness there are five State QSO parties having 288 counties and 64 parishes for the county hunter to log many new counties. There is the Oklahoma QSO party (77 counties), the Idaho QSO party (44 counties), the Wisconsin QSO party (72 counties), the Louisiana QSO party (64 Parishes) and the Virginia QSO party with 95 counties and 38 Independent cities, which MARAC members convert to counties. If your enjoyment is CW contesting you can operate in the UBA Spring CW contest, The South America 10-meter contest (this could be interesting on a dead band), the Russian DX contest, the FOC QSO party, the UK/EI DX CW contest and the Stew Perry contest just to name a few. There is an activity for hands, mouths and computers. Nap time.

Conventions

2018 Michigan Mini

April 26, 27, & 28th

Traverse City, Mi

visit marac.org and click on corresponding link for more details and to register.

50th National Convention

October 3 - 6, 2018

The Holiday Inn Country Club Plaza

One East 45th St. Kansas City, MO. 64111 816-753-7400

Book your room online at:

http://ichotelsgroup.com/redirect?path=rates&brandCode=HI&GPC=MAR&hotelCode=MKC OE&_PMID=99801505

or call the hotel directly and use code **MAR**

Rooms are \$119.00 per night (1 king or 2 queen beds) plus tax.

Hotel parking garage size restriction (6.0 x 7.0 x 12.0 ft)

Oversized parking for larger vehicles and antenna's.

There will be NO organized tours. The hotel is centrally located with FREE shuttle service 7am-11pm within 3 mile radius. (more info to follow)

Forums will include, CW, SSB, KFF, & (FT8 working on.) Special Forum consisting of **50 yrs worth of County Hunting memorabilia**, articles, past convention pictures & more.

Pool side BBQ on Thurs evening (inclement wx indoors). Annual banquet Sat. evening followed by award presentation and drawing for prizes.

Please bring a gift (approx \$15.00) for gift exchange.

More details to follow soon on the MARAC website.

See you in October!

Ed - K8ZZ Chairman

General Election

Nominations are now open for the following MARAC officers and district directors until May 15, 2018.

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Great Lakes Director
Southeast Director

Any current member of MARAC is eligible to run for office and you may nominate yourself or any other eligible member. If you nominate another person, you must get the consent of that person prior to submitting the nomination.

For the district director positions, you must live within the district to nominate someone. Voting will occur from June 1, 2018 to June 15, 2018.

Please send your nomination to k7dm@centurylink.net not later than May 15, 2018.

Awards

Awards Committee

Nominations for County Hunter of the Year Start in April

Each year in the spring it is time to nominate the county hunters you feel are deserving consideration as:

- County Hunter of the Year – SSB, or
- County Hunter of the Year – CW

During the nomination period in 2018, you should reflect back on those individuals who were most active during calendar year 2017 while also exhibiting the characteristics which satisfy some of the suggested types of operation or service mentioned in the award rules for these awards. More details for the nomination process will be published in the April issue of the RoadRunner and nominations will be open from April 1st through May 15th. District Directors will review the nominations pertaining to members located in their respective district and will select one person for SSB and one person for CW to be forwarded to the Awards Committee. Up to three candidates for each of the two awards will be chosen to appear on a ballot during the month of July.

Note: the Board of Directors is considering possible changes to eligibility requirements for these awards and any such changes should be finalized prior to the start of nominations. I will update this information in the next newsletter if changes are approved.

Updated Award Rules Document

An updated Award Rules document will be posted to the MARAC website under the “Awards” tab and then “Award Rules” subordinate tab. All of the self-credit (optional) changes have been included as well as other changes which were approved by the Board of Directors.

Awards Issued:

The listing below from Phil, AB7RW covers several months since the new Awards Secretary started processing awards. We will try to publish monthly lists of the new awards going forward.

Awards Issued:				Roadrunner Awards Issued:			
Call	Date	Award	Number	Call	Date	Last County Count:	Number
N0XYL	11/7/2017	Bingo II	101	N4UP	11/1/2017	100	255
K8ZZ	10/21/2017	Bingo II	102	NU0Q	1/7/2018	100	256
WA4UNS	11/26/2017	USA-CA 5th Time	117	W4SIG	1/10/2018	525	36
WA4UNS	12/29/2017	Master Gold	69	AB7NK	12/3/2017	750	21
K7REL	12/14/2017	Bingo V	7	N0KV	8/14/2017	925	13
W0GXQ	11/6/2017	USA-CA 7th Time - All CW	1	K2HVN	12/30/2017	925	14
W0GXQ	11/6/2017	USA-CA 7th Time	27	N8KIE	10/3/2017	1,200	6
W9DC	1/9/2018	USA-CA 4th Time	170				
N5PR	10/5/2017	Five Star Award	78				

MARAC Awards Committee



N5MLP – Ron Clift, Marac Awards Manager

Possible Kalawao County Hawaii Activation

By Kerry W4SIG

Amy and I will be celebrating our wedding anniversary in Hawaii between March 9-16. And what a better way to celebrate than to put out some counties!! Well, that's to be debated (hi!). My plan is to activate Honolulu between March 9-11 and Maui between March 12-15. If I can do a great sales job I might be able to go over to Kalawao on either the 13th or 14th and activate it. I should have 10-80 meters available and will try them all on both CW and SSB. Taking a Buddipole and a wire antenna so will take a bit to tune between bands. Am good for 3 stars, 2 Bingos, Masters Gold, Masters Platinum, and Mobile Diamond. Will communicate via the county hunter forum as I know more details on activations. Also, I hope to be able to spot myself, but ya never know. If you hear me, please make sure I am spotted and please help with relays if possible. It is a long way away and condx aren't the best. Good luck and 73!

Kerry W4SIG



MARAC Booth at Dayton

By Kerry W4SIG

For the third year now, the MARAC Board has decided to host a booth at the Dayton Hamvention in May! Registration has been sent in. We hope to provide great information on County Hunting and MARAC, recruit new members and mobiles to our ranks, and offer a meeting point for all our fellow "chasers" during the Hamvention. Make a point to visit, hang out, or invite others to check out our booth. More details to follow when our booth location has been assigned.

**Treasurer's Report (W7OLY)
January 2018***

Beginning Account Balances January 16, 2018 **\$24,883.64**

Income:

Money Market Interest	\$0.00	
Awards Secretary Income	\$0.00	
Misc. Income	\$0.00	
Membership Income	\$543.41	
Logger Distribution	<u>\$25.00</u>	
Total Income:		\$568.41

Other Expenses:

Awards Secretary Expenses	\$444.36	
Misc. Expenses (1)	\$600.00	
Office Expenses (Postage, Etc.)	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Total Expenses:		\$1044.36

Net Income Less Expenses **(\$475.95)**

New Total Cash Balance ALL Accounts: **\$24,407.69**

Checking Account Balance		\$ 9,285.01
Money Market Account Balance		<u>\$15,122.68</u>
Total Cash All Accounts:		\$24,407.69

* Includes Transactions posted through 2/9/2018

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

Notes:

(1) 2018 Michigan Mini seed money to K8ZZ



From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC Total Funds at the end of August should be discounted by **\$6,274.65**. This amount is a Deferred Liability of award fees pre-paid by members. After discounting, our true (spendable) Cash Assets are **\$17,768.04**.

Events

3/3 ARRL SSB DX
3/10 OK QP
3/10 ID QP
3/11 NA RTTY SPRINT
3/11 WI QP
3/17 LA QP
3/17 VA QP
3/19 RUN4BACON
3/24 CQ WPX SSB
10/3/18 50TH NATIONAL
4/26/18 MI MINI

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)

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

President: Mike Fatchett, W0MU, PO Box 3500, Parker, CO 80134, 303-548-7222, w0mu@w0mu.com

Vice-President: Ed Eklin, K8ZZ, 1426 SW Summit Woods Dr Apt 3, Topeka, KS 66615, 231-649-4747, ed.eklin@gmail.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: Scott Petty, KA3QLF, 2063 N Turnpike Rd, Dalton, PA 18414, 570-687-6173, ka3qlf@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: Randy Hatt, AA8R, PO Box 427, Grant MI 49327, 517-812-9468, aa8r@aol.com

Appointees

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