



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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



Volume XLVIII

June 2018

Number 6

MUsings from W0MU

I am sitting at my desk on a rainy Memorial day reflecting on those that sacrificed their lives for our great country. My thoughts go out to our members who have lost a service member serving and protecting us. Thanks is hardly enough for your loss and sacrifices you and your family have made. Our new foal is doing great. She is growing like a weed and pestering her mom like all good foals do! Our new warehouse is nearly complete so I am hoping that when it is done I will be able to get back near a radio!

Elections of Officers and Directors

I was informed by K7DM, Elections Coordinator, The only nominations we received for open board positions were the incumbents. As there are no contested races there is no need for a formal election. Nominations closed on May 15th. Congratulations!

W0MU, President will serve until 2020
K8ZZ, Vice President will serve until 2020
W7OLY, Treasurer will serve until 2020

KA3QLF, Great Lakes Director will serve until 2021
W4SIG, South East Director will serve until 2021



Thank you for your continued service to MARAC!

Secretary Position- We did not receive a nomination for Secretary and we need someone to step up ASAP. If you care about the club and want the club to continue we must get more volunteers to assist in the running of the club. Without more volunteers the future of MARAC is very much in question. If you might be interested please contact WQ7A and discuss in detail the entirety of the position.

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Dayton Hamvention

Special thanks to W4SIG, KB0BA/N0XY1, N4CD, K1SO and KS4BO and others that stopped by the MARAC table. Six new members joined and two renewed their memberships!

Technologies-Help needed!

K8EMS is working on a new updated version of Logger. He was showing his progress at the Michigan Mini. If you are interested in helping out with the new program or have database skills please contact K8EMS, KD9ZP or myself.

National Convention

K8ZZ is reporting that 33 people, from 16 states are signed up for the 50th Annual Convention in Kansas City. Ed is asking that if you plan to attend to get your registrations in as soon as possible so that he can get a better feel on the turnout. You can find a link for the reservation on the MARAC home page.

County Hunter Databases

The online database is updated regularly, but may be a day or so behind, as the process of updating is done manually. We keep one copy that is the working copy and another copy which we call the live version. The live version is separate and must be updated for awards and address changes to be seen. Unfortunately, our server hosting company does not allow for any automation which would have allowed us to update hourly or some other schedule. The live version was created so when updates and award processing was in progress that the database would still be available. Sometimes updates could take a number of hours or longer there were issues in the processing.

County Hunting! Yes sometimes you have to actually hunt!

The days of 20 mobiles active every weekend are probably gone for another few years as we linger at the bottom of the solar cycle. There are plenty of counties to be worked but you are going to have to spin the big knob! Trust me it will move! POTA-WFF-Parks on the Air- There are at least two different organizations encouraging people to go out mobile or portable and active over 3000 parks in the USA. There is activity daily. If you are on Facebook they both have groups you can join and get up to the date information. They also have their own spotting systems that you might want to check out. Those activators are very happy to work you! FT8 is still going strong. 6M and 10M might have more sporadic E openings during the summer that you might want to watch for. There is also lots of activity on the other bands. Finally state QSO parties are another great way to fill in those needs. There are lots of counties to work every day, you just have to go find them! Happy hunting!

That is it for this month. If you have comments or concerns please shoot me an email or give me a call.

W0MU
Mike Fatchett
President

Dateline CW
Ed, KN4Y

Antisthenes never said the pursuit of County Hunting would be a simple adventure.

The month of June finishes out the first half dozen year and nine years ago June was a popular name unrelated facts are exciting although the month of June daylight hours of the year, a bonanza for mobile CW Not to forget June 21st is the beginning of summer and I slip my loafers off and rest my feet on the desk and lean



months of the for girls. Not all has the longest county hunters. fun mobile trips. back.

I am reminiscing about my four day mobile trip to Arkansas. It all started when my stepson Butch got an invitation from Holly, his great granddaughter, to attend her graduation from Ozark High School. He asked if I would finance the trip he would do all the driving and I could operate the radio giving out the counties we encountered. I checked the date and lo-n-behold it was the weekend of the Arkansas QSO party. I told him yes, but I would operate the radio the entire trip to and from Arkansas , and the Saturday following the graduation ceremonies and on the way back home, I would participate in the Arkansas QSO party. He was euphoric.

I entered our destination address into the navigation unit. We hit the road on Thursday and blindly follow the female voice giving route instructions. I ran the counties in Alabama and Mississippi until we stopped for the evening. The next day we hit the road again, I ran the counties along the interstate in Mississippi. When in Tennessee the number of trucks on the road seemed atypical. The spotted word had gotten out and I was logging 10-15 contacts in each county. Thursday afternoon we arrived in the town of Ozark located in Franklin County, Arkansas. I shut and took the antenna off the van. We visited with Holly checked into a motel. At 7:00pm we all went to the Arts building where scholarships were awarded to students.



the radio off and later we Performing the smartest

Friday, Holly's father took us for a scenic trip around the area, and I took some great pictures. Later Butch and I went back to the motel, took a nap and then got ready to go to the graduation ceremonies. I had brought two dress shirts, a tie and dress pants. I asked Joe what we should wear and he said to wear a clean tee shirt and blue jeans. Butch and I dressed accordingly and drove to Holly's house where I met Ron, AE5YN, a sidebander. We formed a caravan and drove to the Ozark high school. The location of

the commencement exercises is in the Hillbilly gym (I am not making this up). When the ceremony started the gym was filled to capacity, I estimated to be over 1000 bodies. The program listed 103 graduating seniors. You do the math.

I thought to myself, if a terrorist set off a bomb in the gym the entire Franklin County Redneck population would be destroyed. After a few hours it was over and we went to a local church to enjoy barbecue, take pictures and shoot the bull. Butch and I said our good-byes and we went back to the motel.

Saturday morning we got up early at 9:00am, loaded the van and went to breakfast at the truck stop. After breakfast it was time for the Arkansas QSO party to start and we hit the road. We went south through the mountains where on the mountain top I worked stations one after another, and at the bottom of the mountain I heard nothing. So it must be true, being high is better. I also think about the 10 counties I ran in Alabama, the six counties in Mississippi and the ten counties I ran in Arkansas to arrive in Ozark. I smile thinking how I enjoyed the beautiful mountain scenery when I hear Gator's 4X4 bark as he downshifts and slides to a stop at the recycled railroad tie. I slip on my loafers.

Gator stops and extracts the mail from the mailbox and enters the radio shack carrying the anticipated white cardboard container and some envelopes which he tosses on the desk. Gator opens the white cardboard container and hands me a super sized latte. I take a long slow sip as I remembered the creeks flowing down the mountains. Gator asks, "How was your trip to the land of the razorbacks?" I give Gator a quick summary punctuated by: "I operated in the Arkansas QSO party, please check my log." I hand Gator a memory stick.

Gator turns on the computer and brings up the Arkansas QSO party log: "Band conditions must have been okay. You made 377 QSOs and ran 12 counties but you did not work Norm, W3DYA," I look sad, "I listened many times on 40 meters but I never heard him calling CQ. I also ran out of Arkansas counties with two hours left in the QSO party so no awards for me but I enjoyed the chase." Gator stands up and removes two one dollar bills and a fiver attached to the ceiling fan blade with plastic clothespins. "Dude why do you have money clothes pinned to the ceiling fan blade? Was the trip too much for you?" I smile, "Never ask a question with a question but if you need to know I washed my blue jeans with the bills left in the pocket. I hung the bills on the fan blade to dry." Gator looks concerned, "Dude forget this happened, you could go to prison if the FBI found out you laundered money." I laugh, "Forgotten." As I sip my latte.

I point to the envelopes on the desk, "I bet those envelopes contain MRC's for the counties I ran in the Arkansas QSO party." We sip our lattes as I open the envelopes, "I

was correct Gator, both are for the Arkansas counties.” I set the envelopes back on the desk to be verified later. Gator is looking at the computer, “Dude I just found your log for the King of Spain CW contest. You either slept a lot or the band conditions were awful. You made 12 QSOs with Spanish amateur radio stations that is half of your last year’s total.” I smile, “Yes Gator I tuned across the band listening for hours, and once in awhile I would hear and work an EA station.

Gator picks up an envelope that had fallen on the floor, he opens the envelope, “Dude this is an invitation to attend and celebrate the 50th anniversary of that first County Hunter’s convention...” “Where?..” “Dude be quiet, let me finish. The convention is at the Holiday Inn Country Club Plaza in Kansas City, Missouri. Do you think you are going?” I finish my latte and toss the cup into the trash, “I would sure like to attend, it is 1000 miles from here, but look at the counties I can run. I will check with my Daughter and maybe get her husband to drive and we will have a joint vacation. I hate to change the subject but please check my CQ CW WPX contest log.”

Gator cell phone goes CO, CQ, CQ. “Dude I have to skedaddle out of here and get out to the back forty, it is reported some undocumented immigrants are camping out in the Southeast corner by Gator’s spring.” He is gone like a newly opened bottle of wine at the Holiday Inn Country Club Plaza county hunters convention hospitality room. I hear him yell, “Happy trails Clint of Cheyenne.” The printer starts and I get the printout, it is the list of mobiles heard during May on the CW county hunters call frequencies.

I read:AB7RW, AF5CC, K0FG, K0MAF, K2HVN, K2MF, K8MSQ, K8ZZ, KC3X, KC5P, KN4Y, NO5M, N1QY, N2OO, N4CD, N4UP, N6PDB, N7IV, N3JF, NF0N, W0IS, W3DYA, W4SIG, W7FEN, W8OP, WA4UNS, WB4KZW, and WJ8Y.

I mark the calendar with a large X on June 23 & 24 to remind me the ARRL Field Day is a coming. This is a popular annual on-the-air event throughout the United State and Canada. I will be participating with the local Sportsman’s Paradise Amateur Radio Club. Prior to this great operating even, there is the Kentucky QSO party with 120 counties up for grabs and the West Virginia QSO party with 55 counties up for grabs. There is also the ARRL June VHF contest, a chance to get grid squares and maybe a new county or two on six meters. There is also the All Asian DX CW contest, the Stew Perry Topband Challenge and a fun event with our future amateur radio operators, the ARRL Kids Day phone contest.

Nap time is delayed due to required yard clean up of tree debris caused by that blowhard subtropical storm Alberto.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Oct 3-6, 2018

Kansas City, MO.

Get your reservations in to attend the “50” Annual County Hunting Convention.

Early registration is suggested to give me a better idea of attendance.

As of this writing, we have 33 signed up from 16 different states. Make your reservation before August 1st in order to be eligible for the Early Bird drawing of a Yaesu FT-857D.

Visit marac.org and click on the link for the National Convention. From the registration page, you can register online (don't forget to mail in your check) or click where it says REGISTRATION FORM, print out the form and mail it in with your check to AB7NK. There's also a registration form attached to the newsletter.

See you all in Oct –

Ed, K8ZZ - Chairman

50th National Convention Registration

October 3 - 6, 2018 Holiday Inn Country Club Plaza, One East 45th St. Kansas City, MO. 64111

NAME: _____ CALL SIGN: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE/PROV: _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

Convention Registration Fee: Note: Includes badge & Non alcoholic beverages & snacks. \$40.00

(One Registration fee per family – 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)

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 = \$ _____

Thurs - October 4, 2018 - Pool Side KS City BBQ 6:00 PM # _____ x \$ 18.00 = \$ _____

Slow smoked pulled pork sandwich, baked bean, pickle, cole slaw, chocolate mousse, coffee/iced tea

Saturday - October 6, 2018 - Banquet 6:00 PM # _____ x \$ 35.00 = \$ _____

Dinner Menu:

Flamed grilled Eye of Ribeye Steak with Gourmet Mushrooms and Demi Glaze # _____

Pan Roasted Chicken with Mushroom Marsala Sauce # _____

Grilled Salmon with Lemon Butter Dill Sauce # _____

Entrees accompanied by fresh field green salad, baked potato, baby green beans and assorted rolls with butter. Choice of cheesecake or carrot cake and freshly brewed coffee, decaffeinated coffee and iced tea.

Gluten free meals available upon request. Must be listed on registration. # _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Mail your registration form and check payable to **MARAC** to:

Mary Vince - AB7NK
16128 S. Angus Cir
Cordes Lakes, AZ 86333

(Deadline for Early Registration Prize Drawing is August 1, 2018)

Door prizes, main prizes, announcements. Please bring a gift value approximately \$15.00 for the gift exchange.

Awards Committee

Pictures of the New Lightning Leo Awards:

During 2017, Paul Nelson, N7JPF who is the MARAC Director of the Pacific District proposed that a new award titled the “Lightning Leo Award” be created to recognize those individuals who plan, publicize, and host MARAC National Conventions. That proposal was determined to be appropriately designated as a special type of the existing Outstanding Service Award in the MARAC Award Rules and was approved by the Board of Directors. Later, the Board voted to award this specific award to both Barry and Patricia Mitchell who organized and hosted the 2017 MARAC National Convention in Colorado Springs, CO. Below is a picture of these awards which were delivered to Barry and Pat after they were displayed by Phil Yasson - AB7RW, Awards Secretary at the Michigan Mini convention in April, 2018.



Those who might be interested in organizing and hosting a future national convention should notify your respective District Director that you are interested.

Awards Issued:

The listing below from Phil, AB7RW covers new awards issued in the months of April and May, 2018:

Awards Issued:				Roadrunner Awards Issued:				
Call	Date	Award	Number	Call	Date	Last County Count:	Number	
AB4WL	5/11/2018	RAS Alabama	22	(None issued this period)				
K4YT	5/2/2018	Call Combo 1x3	23					
K2HVN	10/2/2017	RAS South Dakota	35					
K2HVN	4/25/2018	RAS Ohio	31					
KB0BA	2/28/2018	RAS Louisiana	27					
N0XYL	2/28/2018	RAS Louisiana	26					
WQ7A	5/1/2018	RAS Iowa	31					

MARAC Awards Committee



N5MLP – Ron Clift, Marac Awards Manager

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

Beginning Account Balances March 31, 2018 **\$24,152.63**

Income:

Money Market Interest	\$2.24	
Awards Secretary Income	\$0.00	
Misc. Income	\$0.00	
Membership Income	\$60.29	
Logger Distribution	<u>\$57.36</u>	
Total Income:		\$119.89

**Other Expenses:**

Awards Secretary Expenses	\$99.90	
Misc. Expenses (1)	\$134.51	
Office Expenses (Postage, Etc.)	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Total Expenses:		\$234.41

Net Income Less Expenses **(\$114.52)**

New Total Cash Balance ALL Accounts: **\$24,038.11**

Checking Account Balance		\$ 8,912.47
Money Market Account Balance		<u>\$15,125.64</u>
Total Cash All Accounts:		\$24,038.11

* Includes Transactions posted through 5/24/2018

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

Notes:

1. Reimburse W4SIG for Dayton expenses.

From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC Total Funds at the end of April should be discounted by **\$6,025.15**. This amount is a Deferred Liability of award fees pre-paid by members. After discounting, our true (spendable) Cash Assets are **\$18,012.96**.

Events

6/2 KY QP
6/16 WV QP
6/23 FIELD DAY

10/3/18 50TH NATIONAL



ONLY START DATE SHOWN

CLICK ON EVENT TO GO TO THAT WEB SITE

MI Mini





Photos Courtesy of Barbara Yasson

Dayton Hamfest Booth

By Kerry W4SIG

For the third straight year MARAC has hosted a booth at the Dayton Hamvention. This was the second year at the new Fairgrounds location and it is a definite improvement! As many have said, if it is just for the 100% improvement in food alone it is worth the move. (Wait til you try the huge grilled porkchop sandwich!!). They improved some things from the inaugural year at this location. For one, they poured crushed asphalt in the aisles of the flea market area so no one was walking in mud. Also, they made a great improvement in the huge tent areas. Supposedly by next year the tents will not be needed as a new building will be



constructed.

Activity for the MARAC booth was very steady. Besides myself, NF0N, KB0BA, N0XYL and others spent a lot of time in the booth answering questions about MARAC and county hunting and increasing awareness of our hobby. We met quite a few old time members and USACA holders from the 1980s and forward. Several folks renewed their membership and we were able to sign up brand new members. Many members stopped by and visited while resting in our booth for awhile.

I am sure I am missing some, but here is a list of some members that I remember seeing: K1VSJ, N4CD, KM4FO, K1SO, KS4BO, K0FG, KB3CRD, NA8W, N9IHZ, WA4UNS, W8OP, N1MN, NM1G, KD8DEU, KA9JAC, KB8YVY, W8KIW.

We look forward to next year's event and to continue spreading the word on county hunting!



MARAC Booth Materials

By Kerry W4SIG

Just a reminder, the materials that we have to showcase and advertise MARAC are available to any member to utilize in their local areas at hamfests or any other event that you think would be beneficial. Here is a list of what we have to offer in our "kit":

MARAC Banner

MARAC Tablecloth for standard 8' table

18'x30" USA County Wall Maps

MARAC Window decals

MARAC patches

MARAC pins

County Hunting informational sheets with overview of hobby and useful resources

MARAC Membership form

Sample MARAC plaques

Candy bin

Not included but highly recommended would be to bring an official CQ Magazine USACA Certificate. It sure catches the eye and gives a goal to shoot for.

Help us to spread the word and recruit new members and mobiles! Contact me if you would like the kit sent to you at any time for usage.

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

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

Awards Secretary: Phil Yasson, AB7RW, 13208 NE 5th Ave, Vancouver, WA 98685, 360-213-8297, pyasson@pacifier.com

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