



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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DOWN TO THE WIRE! “50” NATIONAL CONVENTION -

We are down to the final month before many of us will be heading towards the “50” Annual County Hunting Convention held in Kansas City, MO. With your help, we can still reach our goal of 100 attendees. If you haven’t registered yet, please do so A.S.A.P.

Make sure your reservation payment is mailed to AB7NK prior to Saturday, September 15th.

Online and mailed reservations will be accepted until October 1st. If you do NOT hear back from AB7NK within 5 days of mailing your reservation, send her an email and don’t forget to bring your reservation payments with you to the convention and give them to Mary. The registration form is attached to this newsletter.

See you next month -
Ed, K8ZZ - Chairman

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Dateline CW

Ed, KN4Y

CW County Hunting like virtue has its degrees.

Time is power and here cometh the month of September, after Labor Day, is when the young future radio amateur operators and for a select few future CW county hunters, if not already, start back to school. Mobile county hunters must remember that school buses operate on the back roads, where many rare counties are located. This is the month to make preparations to attend and help celebrate the MARAC 50th convention of county hunters at Kansas City, Missouri, the week of October 3-6. This month we celebrate Grandparents Day a way of life for many county hunters. I lean back, dose off when I am startled awake by the barking sound of Gators 4x4 as he downshifts and slides to a stop at the recycled railroad tie.

Gator gets out of his truck carrying a white cardboard container; he stops at the mailbox and grabs the mail before entering the radio shack. "Greetings Dude, you got a book in the mail and lots of junk mail." Gator hands me the mail and his illegal Redneck pearl handled switch blade possum skinning knife. I open the cardboard box, take out two supersized lattes, hand one to Gator and take a sip from mine. I enjoy luxury sipping for a minute and then using Gators knife to clean cut open the envelopes, "Gator, look at this plaque, it is a sight to behold." I hand the switch blade knife back to Gator. "Thanks Dude, why and from whom did you get the plaque?" I hold the plaque close to the light and read the inscription. "Gator this is for first place Rover single operator CW in the Georgia QSO Party." Gator laughs, "That is a masterpiece but Dude where are you going to mount the plaque?" I am not listening as I remove a certificate from the largest envelope, "Look here Gator; this certificate is for first place operating from Florida in the Nebraska QSO Party. Gator before I forget, check out my Islands on the Air contest log." Gator starts the computer. We sip our lattes.

Gator laughs, "Dude you made 53 QSO's, in the IOTA contest why did you even bother?" I take another sip my latte and shake my head, "Yes, I asked myself the same question, but the band conditions were not favorable is always a good reason." Gator interrupts, "Dude I see this log where you operated mobile in Pasco County Florida, I bet that was the weekend I drove by and all was dark." I take another sip of my latte, "Yes Gator I meant to tell you about that. I bowled in the Suncoast Senior Bowling Tournament at Spring Hill lanes. After bowling six games I felt like I still had enough energy in this old body to operate mobile a few hours in the North America CW QSO party. I got to the motel, mounted the antenna and started running and making contacts when I suddenly

pooped out, I logged until the last line of the notebook page, shut down, went into the motel and took a nap.” Gator laughs, “Yes I see you made 28 QSO’s and worked 17 States, better than nothing, I guess.” Gator is looking at the computer screen.

“Dude I read that county hunter Mary, NV4Z, is a silent key, did you work her on CW?” “No Gator, she was a great sideband county hunter but I did meet Mary several times at the 3M in Murfreesboro.” “Dude I hate to interrupt but I also read that Don, W4SDW, a member of the Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society is also a silent key, did you know him?” I am saddened by this news, “Yes Gator, Don and I go back to the 1980’s. We worked many field days and contests together. Gator shakes his head, “Dude I also read that county hunter Jim, W0FF, is also a silent key, did you know him? “Gator enough sad news, yes Gator I worked Jim mobile back in 1997 and 1998 as we headed to the 3M in Murfreesboro.” We bow our heads as Gator recites The Shepherd’s Psalm.

I wipe the tears from my eyes, “Gator, check out my Maryland-DC QSO party log.” Gator mouses around, “Well Dude you made a grand total of 7 QSO’s and worked 7 counties, give me a good excuse for this magnificent effort.” I giggle as I sip my latte, “Well Gator, the reason is simple. Maryland QSO party is sideband orientated and also there was the WAE CW Contest in progress at the same time.” Gator laughs, “I guess this is a plausible excuse which I will assume is the reason for no Russian District Award Contest contacts nor the Keyman’s Club of Japan contest.” I laugh, “You got that right Gator, and I made contacts in both contests last year but never heard one Russian or Japan station this year.”

“Dude I just tried to send in your Maryland-DC QSO party ADI file to the LOTW and got the message, No current call sign certificate for this call sign, what’s up?” I shrug my shoulders, “I have been sending ADI files for years and suddenly I could send no more. I applied for a new certificate but that was a month ago, I wonder how long the process takes.”

Gator starts laughing, “Dude I hate to change the subject but I am determined to finish telling you the Perks of being over 80 years young. Listen up:
Things you buy now won’t wear out,
You eat supper at 5:00pm.
You can live without sex but not your glasses.

Suddenly Gator’s cell phone goes CQ, CQ, CQ, Gator answers, “Darn Dude will finish the list next visit now I have to get to the plant, like pronto, several solar panels exploded.” He is out the door and spinning tires, I hear him yell: “Hallelujah, football season is here.” I hear the printer stop and I grab the printout, which is a list of the mobile

county hunters that checked onto the county hunter's CW call frequencies during the month of August.

I read: AB7RW, AF5CC, AI5P, K0DEQ, K0FG, K0RU, K3IMC, K8ZZ, KA2LHO, KA3QLF, KC3X, N0AC, N1QY, N4CD, N4UP, N5PHT, N9JF, NF0N, NU0Q, W7FEN, WA3QNT, and WB0PYF.

September will make the State QSO party junkies and CW county hunters scream with delight thinking about the 665 counties up for grabs. The Colorado QSO party with 64 counties, the Alabama QSO party with 67 counties, (KN4Y will operate mobile in East Alabama), the Tennessee QSO party with 95 counties, the Iowa QSO party with 99 counties, the New Jersey QSO party with 21 counties, the New Hampshire QSO party with 10 counties, the Washington QSO party (Salmon Run) with 39 counties, the Maine QSO party with 16 counties and a grand finish with the Texas QSO party with 254 counties.

Not a QSO party fan (really?) join in the CW fun with the CWop OPEN, or the ARRL September VHF contest and perhaps work some new counties on six meters, and for the sideband operator check out the Ohio and Wisconsin State Parks on the Air. Darn I forgot to tell Gator that Norn, W3DYA, will operate mobile in the Texas QSO party, right now it is time for a nap and then start packing my bags. Show Me State here I come.



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 # _____ or smoked chicken breast # _____, 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 the Early Registration Prize Drawing has PASSED!)

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

Trip
to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Phil, AB7RW

The purpose of our trip was to attend the International YLRL Convention that was held at the Sheridan Hotel in downtown OKC on August 2-4, 2018. This was their 78th anniversary. AC7UH, Barbara just happens to be their Vice President. Their 75th anniversary was held in Vancouver, Washington. Barbara and I and a committee of YLRL members made the preparations necessary to make that convention a success.

I thought it would be a good idea to travel through Oregon into California and then go east to OKC. The plan was to spend the first night in McKinleyville, CA then cross Trinity County on CA299. As we approached McKinleyville, we saw the flashing signs that said route 299 was closed at Whiskeyville. This meant that we would not be able to cross Trinity county and go into Redding. So we checked our Atlas and saw route 34 further south that crosses Trinity and away we went. While we were motoring through the Redwood trees, it became apparent that we could not hear anyone and probably no one could hear us. Further along the road, we started to make some contacts. Then we ran out of road. Apparently they are going to straighten out some of the ESS curves. The roadway had been removed leaving the travel lane very dusty. Eventually we made it across Trinity and onward to Sparks, Nevada.

Smoke was visible all the way into Texas. The mountains were barely visible through the smoke. They looked ghostly. We did some sightseeing and visited a few museums along the route.

I found Oklahoma City to be a neat clean place. I walked many miles checking it all out. I walked all over Bricktown. During the day time, I only saw a few people, but when we went in the evening, it was packed with people. Bands were playing their music and we were never out of earshot from one band to the next. Bricktown has the Riverwalk and water taxis to enhance getting around the area to see the sights. The food in this area was terrific.

During our visit, we went to the Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum. This is the Federal building that was blown up on April 19, 1995. The museum touches one's heart as you look at the pictures that were taken during the rescue operations. To get to the museum, we entered the underground tunnel through an entry way located in the basement of the hotel. There were about 35 of us who walked all the way through the underground tunnel. It was quite an experience. Each time you turned a corner, the walls were painted a different color. The walls also had really nice murals. Everyone carried a

bottle of water to keep us hydrated in the 104 degree temperatures. In Vancouver, when the temperature gets up to 70-75, it is hot. One of the things I noticed was that in AZ, NM, TX and OK they have hot and warm water coming out of the spigots, At home we have hot and cold water.

Altogether we traveled over 4820 miles and put 103 counties on the air. Utah netted the most contacts per county. Sanpete had the highest number of Q's.

If I did not make a contact with you, my apologies. As we traveled through mountainous areas, when I was on the west side of the mountain, the signals disappeared. When we moved on the north or south side, they reappeared. The biggest problem is when everyone sends a callsign together. Take four operators sending a call at the same time and I have an S4 noise from the power lines, guess what I hear? What I do is listen to the mobile, if he is far from my station, I wait until everyone has made their contact, then I put my call on the air and most often will make a contact. I do not keep sending my call every time I hear QRZ because I know that I will not be heard. And if you are a low power station, it is best to wait and be the only one sending. You have to be heard through the noise of the car and the terrain where the mobile is. One other item to point out is if the mobile can hear one letter, say "Z". The mobile sends Z Z? if you have a Z in your callsign, you should respond and you will be in the log much quicker.

As a footnote upon the completion of my trip, N5MLP/Ron had 126 counties in the logger program under "CW". Good for Ron.

National Tours

2018 National Convention Activities

Contact Rev Kate at 231-459-5010 for more information

Thursday - Oct. 4th.

"The Art of Lunch in Kansas City".

Meet in the Lobby at 10:45 a.m. and take shuttle to Webster House. Cost \$15 - 20 for luncheon main selections.

A MOST UNIQUE KANSAS CITY DINING AND SHOPPING DESTINATION

Located inside a restored 19th century Romanesque style school that is next door to the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. Webster House offers guests a distinctive shopping experience and truly remarkable dining.

Friday - Oct 5th.

"Buried Treasure - A Day on the Town".

Meet in the Lobby at 10:45 a.m. and take shuttle to Union Station City Park. We will take a tour of Arabia Steamboat Museum and Coffee KC Style inside Union Station afterwards. Cost: \$14.50 or Seniors \$13.50 Groups of 25+ \$12.50

A historic KC Attraction. When the mighty Steamboat Arabia sank near Kansas City on September 5, 1856, she carried 200 tons of mystery cargo. Lost for 132 years, its recovery in 1988 was like finding the King Tut's Tomb of the Missouri River. Remarkably preserved clothes, tools, guns, dish ware and more. The discovery was truly a modern day treasure hunting story at its best. Nearby, the Arabia Steamboat Museum displays paraphernalia salvaged from a ship that sunk in the Missouri River in the mid 19th century. Broad paths for strolling and biking trace the shoreline in Berkley Riverfront Park.

Saturday - Oct 6th.

"Let's Go Kansas City Green".

Meet in Lobby at 9:15 a.m. & take shuttle to City Market. Bring your cash and shopping bags for a morning of culinary delight! A true farmers market Mid West Style. We'll catch Brunch right there following our time at the Market.

CITY MARKET - Busy River Market centers on City Market, dating to 1857, where casual global eateries, gourmet grocery stores and indie boutiques surround pavilions hosting a weekend farmers' market.

Since its inception in 1857, the City Market has been one of the largest and most enduring public farmers' markets in the Midwest, linking growers and small businesses to the Kansas City community.

VP NEWS
Kraig, KA2LHO

Happy Fall!!

Although only being in Florida for two years, I still find it hard to tell the difference between seasons-except hurricane season!

This month I want to mention a useful tool for those running counties—MoSpot. After several attempts to get things into place, I finally sat down with some tutorials and people smarter than me and put together a basic web-based app to help me self-spot when on the road. The W6RK site is a great tool for us and I watch it regularly. Trying to use my “not small sized” fingers on my phone to enter the info was getting frustrating.

After a lot of work, help from others, testing and input from County Hunters out on the road MoSpot was in place. It is a basic web-based applet personalized for each user to spot from any phone, tablet, computer or whatever that has a browser and internet access.

For more details you can take a look at the User Guide at this URL:

<http://www.qsl.net/ka2lho/Spot/Guide.htm>

If you will be running counties on the way to the Convention in Kansas City and don't yet have MoSpot to use, just email me (kraig@kdpritts.com) and include your call sign. I will put together a file set for you and sent you the link as soon as I can.

At the National Convention I will be doing a MoSpot forum and answering questions about the applet. I hope some of the current users will be able to share their usage of the applet. Feel free to ask questions as you see me around the convention as well since it is always on my phone so quick demos are easy.

For the Park Activators in the group, there is also the sister applet called PARKSpot for all KFF program parks. Each fileset provides easy access to both applets.
See you in KC!!!



Treasurer's Report (W7OLY)
July 2018*

Beginning Account Balance August 15, 2018 **\$24,862.80**

Income:

Money Market Interest	\$1.24	
Awards Secretary Income	\$0.00	
Misc. Income	\$0.00	
Membership Income	\$39.41	
Logger Distribution	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Total Income:		\$40.65

Other Expenses:

Awards Secretary Expenses	\$412.41	
Misc. Expenses	\$0.00	
Office Expenses (Postage, Etc.)	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Total Expenses:		\$412.41

Net Income Less Expenses **(\$371.76)**

New Total Cash Balance ALL Accounts: **\$24,491.04**

Checking Account Balance	\$ 9,361.59
Money Market Account Balance	<u>\$15,129.45</u>
Total Cash All Accounts:	\$24,491.04

* Includes Transactions posted through 7/16/2018

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

Notes:

From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC Total Funds at the end of April should be discounted by **\$6,067.15**. This amount is a Deferred Liability of award fees pre-paid by members. After discounting, our true (spendable) Cash Assets are **\$18,423.89**.



Events

9/1	CO QP
9/1	AL QP
9/2	TN QP
9/8	OH POTA QP
9/9	NA CW SPRINT
9/10	4 STATES QP
9/15	IA QP
9/15	WI POTA QP
9/15	NJ QP
9/15	NH QP
9/16	NA RTTY SPRINT
9/22	ME QP
9/29	CQ WW RTTY DX
10/3/18	50 TH NATIONAL

ONLY START DATE SHOWN

CLICK ON EVENT TO GO TO THAT WEB SITE



NIAPI Luncheon Guest



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
495 Pine Ridge Rd
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

“A Road Runner Is A Very Fast Bird”

Monthly Deadline for Articles is the 25th!

Board of Directors

President: Ed Eklin, K8ZZ, 1426 SW Summit Woods Dr Apt 3, Topeka, KS 66615, 231-649-4747, ed.eklin@gmail.com

Vice-President: Kraig Pritts, KA2LHO, 6637 NE 5th Lane, Ocala, FL 34470, 315-877-4822, kraig@kdpritts.com

Secretary: Dennis Mason, N6PDB, 495 Pine Ridge Rd, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, 831-818-7407, dennis@d-mason.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 dennis@d-mason.net

Treasurer: Aubrey Mansfield, W7OLY, 7717 Forest Park Dr, Olympia, WA 98502, 703-286-9987, w7oly@comcast.net

Great Lakes Director: vacant

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: vacant

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

Custodian, Club Call, K9DCJ: Joyce Boothe, WB9NUL, 21175 FM2556, Santa Rosa, TX 78593, 956-202-3373, joycenul@aol.com

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