



THE COUNTY LINE **ROADRUNNER**

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VP Notes...

We are into the Holiday Rush!!!

First and foremost, Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays in whatever manner you choose to celebrate this season.

Your Board of Directors has been wonderful to work with and each has an assigned area as a Point of Contact for various appointed positions so that people in those positions always have a member of the Board to contact with questions related to their role.

I wanted to give a shout out to the newly formed IT team on MARAC. They quietly do the nuts and bolts behind the scenes to create easy web-based access to the data that we need to keep the organization moving along. Instead of Board members accessing the website, the IT team handles our requests quickly and efficiently. We were quickly able to return to emailing Road Runner and uphold our promises in this area. We cannot say enough for the support of our IT team. NF0N serves as the Board Point of Contact for the IT team.

A few other notes of importance. First and VERY IMPORTANT. We are looking for an Election Coordinator ASAP. We need to get someone in place in order to return to quarterly award voting as requested by the membership. If you are willing to help in this area, please contact NA8W, the Board Point of Contact for this appointed position, for questions and information.

We are restructuring some officer roles such as Secretary. The responsibilities of that position are currently being shared between the Secretary and me. As K9MIX gets comfortable in the role additional, but not all Secretary responsibilities will transition over to him. Some roles will remain with the Vice President position in order to unburden the Secretary with some of the things that had been placed on that position AND to give some responsibilities to the Vice President.

Contents

Dateline CW	3
Events	12
Homage to Ed, KN4Y	7
Treasurer's Report (W7OLY)	11
Unofficial DRAFT	10
VP Notes...	1

Along that line of thought, we are caught up with sending out past expiration notices and will soon be sending out those expiring in January. If you hear of someone who did not get a notice, it would mean that we do not have an email address in the database for them. Have them contact K9MIX or me and we can address that situation. The response to these emails has been very positive.

While we have accepted PayPal for renewals for a while, the IT Team streamlined that process a bit for the members and we have received compliments from that change.

We are now posting Agendas as far in advance of an upcoming Board meeting as we can. Additionally, we will be posting official Board approved minutes, so they are available to all for research as needed by the membership. Another step in our continued efforts to expand transparency.
Thank you all for being a part of MARAC and helping us grow and move forward.



Dateline CW

Ed, KN4Y

Another county hunting many year is history, many miles, many gallons of fuel, many contacts, many dits and dahs, many motels, many quick meals, many cups of coffee, many traffic jams, many stop lights, a few motel pens, a great convention and many 339 signal reports. Hear you during the New Year? Many say yes!

I am accumulating the tree debris downed by the winds of Hurricane Michael and burning the results of my back breaking labor hoping to reduce the weight inspired by a great Thanksgiving. I think fattened county hunters also excising I decided to take a break from outdoor Christmas lights. I cannot of time writes and moves on. I finish into the shack and turn on the HF time around; I hear the barking exhaust of Gator's 4X4 as he downshifts and slides to a stop at the recycled railroad tie.



Gator dismounts from the cab carrying the worldwide known white cardboard container. He stops at the mail box grabs the mail and enters the radio shack. "Greeting Dude ready for the colder weather?" Gator places the mail on the desk, He opens the white cardboard box and hands me a latte, I grasp it carefully, give thanks, and sip the nectar of the Gods. We sit and sip hoping a mobile county hunter would check in.

Gator points to a cardboard box setting on an old hand me down wicker chair, "Dude what is in that cardboard box that is on the purple wicker chair?" I have a good belly laugh, "Gator Halloween night I was bored so I decided to go out and trick or treat the senior centers.. "The senior centers?" "Please do not interrupt, that box contains the items I received." Gator is laughing as he goes to the box, "Let see what you got. Two boxes of adult diapers, one pair suspenders, two bottles of Geritol multivitamins, a bottle of eye glass cleaner, package of hearing aid batteries, bottle of hand sanitizer, package of eye glass wipes, spray can of outback pain relief, bottle of Lubriderm, and a bottle of MiralAX laxative." Gator wipes the tears from his eyes, "Dude you got to get a life, really where did you get this stuff?" I am laughing so hard I wet my pants.

"Gator, I hate to change the subject, but see what I did in the ARRL Sweepstakes CW contest." Gator shakes his head and turns on the computer. We sit and sip as the computer screen lights up. Gator is looking at the computer screen, "Dude, did you know Mike, KD8DD, Paul, W0AIH, Grady, AK4N, and Bob, AA9GZ all are a silent key. I shake my

head yes, “Yes, Gator I worked Mike many times back in 1993 up to 2003, at that time his call was WU3H. I also worked Paul a few times but not Grady or Bob. We bow our heads as Gator recites The Shepherd’s Psalm.

“Dude, I see on the calendar you worked the 10:10 International Sprint and the international CW QSO party. I do not see the logs.” “Gator ten meters was a letdown, I called many hours in both events and never, I mean never, got a response from any station, not even from local 10:10 members. This is the first time operating in these two contests I was completely skunked.” Gator is laughing hilariously. “I wondered what that smell was.” I pretend to look mean, “Gator please confirm my ARRL Sweepstakes CW contest log!”

Gator sips his latte as he views the computer screen, “Dude, you worked 190 QSO’s, but you did not work five States, so no sweep. I guess 80 meters was open. You worked ten new counties.” “That is great Gator, most of the bands were great, I even tried ten meters but still zilch. I screwed up a few serial numbers, but go ahead and send in the log.” I sip my latte.

“Dude, I just found your log where you worked the OK/OM DX CW Contest sponsored by the Czech Radio Club. You logged 31 QSO’s not as good as last year.” “Yes Gator, I got signed up for a bowling tournament for Saturday morning and I only operated a short time on 20 meters before I had to leave. I was able to get on later for some 40 meter action. I enjoy this contest.” Gator picks up a piece paper that a gust of hot air blew to the floor.

“Dude what is this receipt from that CB radio repair shop? I laugh, “Gator you remember I was complaining that my CW signal would stop transmitting during my mobile run using the ICOM 706 MKIIG? I had to hold and jiggle the RCA plug. I went to the mower repair place to get a bottle of chain saw oil and I noticed the CB shop, I went in and found out they are familiar with the ICOM radio. To make a long story shorter I took the IC 706 to the shop. Two broken solder joints were found probably due to the vibration when driving on the bumpy back roads running counties. The technician repaired the solder joints and I can again send an uninterrupted CW signal.” Gator is not paying attention.

“Dude, do MARAC still present a Net Gestapo award?” I have to laugh, “Gator that award is called Net Control of the Year and yes the award is given although with the spotting system it has probably run its course. I remember during the eighties and nineties when Ed, WA6VJP, would run the CW net every day. He was blind and kept track of mobiles using Braille pads. He kept individual needs and would give a One Ringer to a

station when a mobile was going to be running the person's last county. That is how I got my last county. He passed away and since then a net control on CW is now and then." "I remember you telling me about Ed what does a Net Manager do now?" I sip my latte, "Well MARAC does not have a CW net, what we have are call frequencies on various bands, this is a starting point for a mobile. Back in the old days it was basically twenty meters and the location of the mobile would be announced by the Net Control. Now this is not done on a regular basis as the location is posted on the Spotting system and anyone interested can check the county location. With the current band conditions a fixed station relay to the mobile can be helpful. In this case a Net Control can help if both stations are heard. This is time consuming to just sit and wait until a mobile shows and with several different frequencies it is a hit and miss unless a rule is passed that all mobiles must check in using the same frequency, and then can move to other frequencies."

"Well Dude, I see the problem, scheduling a person to be on duty at set times is not practical. Does Sideband have a net control? I sip my latte, "I am not familiar with the Sideband net and cannot comment. Yes, an actual Net Manager would need to be assigned a time slot and this is probably not practical. I think a full time Net Manager operating CW is not realistic. I think it is more of a net helper by whomever is on frequency." Gator sips his latte, "I take it from your comments that a full time CW Net Manager does not exist and the Net Manager award can be eliminated for this Mode." I smile, "Yes Gator, you are correct, perhaps we need a spot spotter's award." We have a good laugh as we sip our lattes.

Gator I almost forgot, check out my LZ DX Contest log." Gator brings up the log, "Dude you usually work only LZ stations. I notice other DX stations listed. Why the difference?" I laugh, "Well Gator I usually only work LZ stations but I did not hear as many LZ stations as I have in the past so I worked other DX stations to stay awake, sort of like a wakeup call." We have a good laugh as we finish our lattes. "Dude you did work 24 LZ districts, I will send in your log." Gator brings up the contest log program. "Dude I tried three times but your log is not accepted." I shrug my shoulders, "Forget it Gator, I did not have enough score to be competitive." Gator shuts the program down. "Dude you never did tell me what after hour hanky panky you did at the MARAC convention." I laugh, "Okay I will tell you about this elderly..."

Gator's cell phone activates, CQ, CQ, CQ and Gator answers. "What a bummer Dude, I have to get to the plant pronto it seems a caravan is stopped at the front gate." He is gone like a tree in the California hills. I hear him yell, "Rest in peace Roy Clark." 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 November.

I read: AI5P, AJ5ZX, K7INA, KA2LHO, KB0BA, KB6UF, KC5QCB, N0XUL, N4CD, N9JF, W7FEN. W8TZA, WB0PYF, WB4KZW and WD4OIN.

Sad to report this is the last month of the year and another month of no QSO parties but do not despair there is the ARRL CW 160 meter contest and the ARRL 10 meter contest. Be aware ten meters has been napping a lot and let's hope all this activity will awaken the twenty-eight MHz giant.

Suppose you are lazy like me and you are looking for a quickie CW contest. Try the two hour event on Sunday called the Great Colorado Snowshoe Run I have worn snowshoes and run I did not do, but give the contest a try. For a longer quickie try the Croatian CW contest. Work the county hunters of the future and operate in the ARRL Rookie CW Roundup. Maybe you are a 160 meter band operator and need counties, then do the Stew Perry CW Topband Challenge. Perhaps you enjoy transmitting CW across our Northern border then plan to operate in the RAC Winter Contest. Enjoy the Christmas Season and the coming New Year. Damn it is cold, nap time.

Before Gator left he got out his illegal Ivory handle redneck switch blade knife so sharp it will cut fog, and with utmost precision sliced the seal on the box he had brought in and had set the box on the desk. I forgot about the box but I noticed it out of the corner of my eye as I moved to the Norm recliner. I grabbed the box took out the plaque that was inside. I looked at the inscription and my eyes watered up and I had to find the box of tissues to dry my eyes. It was an Outstanding Service Award from the Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club. It read: The MARAC Board and memberships thank you for the many years you have written very enjoyable stories in the Roadrunner.

THANK YOU and MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

A dime has 118 ridges around the edge

Homage to Ed, KN4Y

Ed, KN4Y has been submitting his Dateline CW articles to the MARAC RoadRunner for everyone's enjoyment, for a very long time. The articles have generally started with a little county hunting wisdom; and here are some of my favorites:

CW county hunting is an art, and the greatest of the arts.

No person ever became a CW county hunter all at once.

He became a CW county hunter and a mobile operator, which is an enviable thing.

There is nothing which has yet be contrived by man by which so much happiness is produced as a good CW run on a county line.

I am in the habit of running counties from time to time, and if I sometimes make a mistake, at least, I ran a county.

I look upon every day to be lost, in which I have not worked a county hunter on CW.

CW is a psychical storm, agitating to fathomless depths the mystery of past silent keys. Or we might say that it is a prodigious incantation.

Nothing is so exhilarating as to be shot at and missed or to run a rare county line on CW in a thunder storm.

You should never wear your best trousers when you go out county hunting.

That indescribable expression peculiar to mobile county hunters doing CW at 70 MPH.

The sublimest song to be heard on radio is CW from a county hunter on a

rare county line.

Eat no onions nor garlic, if you are to run a sweet county line.

*The history of radio is radio itself;
The history of CW county hunting, the individual.*

To many people county hunting must seem like an attempt to tattoo soap bubbles.

There are two sorts of CW affection, the love of working counties, and the love of running counties mobile.

Perhaps there is no happiness in life so perfect as the CW mobile county hunter.

It is impossible to believe the emotional and spiritual intensity and pure, classic signals that can be produced by a mobile CW county hunter running a county line.

He was so generally civil, that nobody knew he also operated CW.

A CW county hunter makes no errors. The errors are Volitional and are the portals to running a new county.

County hunter's logic – When running a county line in Florida DO NOT roll down the windows.

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

Error of sideband may be tolerated where CW is left free to combat it.

Happy it is for amateurs that a higher power has laid on a few the curse of being a CW county hunter.

Labor to keep alive in your fist that spark of celestial fire – CW

A county hunter is truly wise who gains wisdom from a MARAC convention.

On behalf of all county hunters . . . Thanks Ed! You have certainly done your part in making it an enjoyable trip. W0GXQ

*MARAC 50th Anniversary and National Convention
Kansas City, MO
October 5th, 2018*

Unofficial DRAFT
Minutes from MARAC Board Meeting Nov 12, 2018
Pending approval by Board of Directors

Submitted by Kerry Long, W4SIG

1. Meeting was called to order via teleconference by K8ZZ at 0100z. Quorum was established with the following members present: K8ZZ, KA2LHO, KC6QCB, NA8W, N1API, W4SIG, N7JPF, and NF0N.
 - 1a. Motion to appoint W4SIG as temporary clerk was moved by N1API with a 2nd by KA2LHO. All voted aye except for W4SIG who abstained.
2. KA2LHO asked for any agenda changes or modifications. There were none.
3. Motion to approve minutes from BOD meeting 10/6/18 was made by NF0N. 2nd by N1API. *One correction was made: K8ZZ received the "Lightning Leo Award", not the Outstanding Service Award.*
4. Motion to accept resignation of W7OLY as Treasurer and affirm K0DEQ as replacement was made by W4SIG, 2nd by KC5QCB. All voted aye.
5. Motion to accept the resignation of AB7NK as Election Coordinator made reluctantly by NA8W, 2nd by KA2LHO. All voted aye.
6. Motion to appoint K9MIX as new MARAC Secretary made by KC5QCB, 2nd by N7JPF. All voted aye.
7. A. IT Group update presented by NF0N. Progress being made. Website frequently and timely updated. Several Logger problems have been fixed and we seem to have a stable version available now.
 - B. Discussion on award funds on account for Silent Keys and former members. N7JPF reports that AB7RW is working on detailed list. Attempts will be made to return funds to these families.
8. Motion to approve Outstanding Service Awards for W7OLY and N6PDB made by NF0N, 2nd by N1API. NF0N addressed a member question on how long a BOD member had to serve to receive such an award. The point was made that a long-standing precedent has been made to grant this award regardless of time served. All voted aye.
9. Motion to approve \$600 in advance funds to K8ZZ for Michigan Mini made by NA8W, 2nd by W4SIG. All voted aye. K8ZZ requested funds be sent to W8TVT directly.
10. Motion to adjourn the BOD Meeting made by KA2LHO, 2nd by N1API. All voted aye. Meeting adjourned about 0116z.

Open Discussion with membership: K0DEQ stated that W7OLY was closing out his treasurer account and transferring funds to K0DEQ's new treasurer account. K8ZZ confirmed that the seed funds for the Michigan Mini approved during the meeting could wait until that transition was completed by the Treasurer. NF0N stated that PayPal is now set up for membership payments and is being widely used. N5MLP stated that in addition to awards funds that belong to Silent Keys should membership funds that belong to Silent Keys also be considered for return. KA2LHO stated that he would investigate that aspect. KA2LHO stated that database needs to be updated to indicate SKs before we can look at an accurate list of who is owed membership fees in this regard and requested that N5MLP provide KA2LHO with the list he stated he had experienced with the Simply Voting system. Open Discussion closed approximately at 0126z.

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

Beginning Account Balance October 16, 2018 **\$22,894.64**

Income:

Money Market Interest	\$1.80	
Awards Secretary Income	\$0.00	
Misc. Income (1)	\$2,958.77	
Membership Income	\$483.55	
Logger Distribution	<u>\$19.12</u>	
Total Income:		\$3,463.24

Other Expenses:

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

Total Expenses: \$0.00

Net Income Less Expenses **\$3,463.24**

New Total Cash Balance ALL Accounts: **\$26,357.88**

Checking Account Balance (2)		\$ 26,357.88
Money Market Account Balance		<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Cash All Accounts:		\$26,357.88



* Includes Transactions posted through 11/19/2018

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

Notes: 1. Misc. Income is the total of return of awards account overpayment (\$340.54) plus refund from 2018 National Convention (\$2,618.23)

2. Money Market balance transferred to checking account. Checking account balance (\$26,357.88) transferred to new Treasurer's MARAC bank account.

From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC Total Funds at the end of September should be discounted by **\$6,073.15**. This amount is a Deferred Liability of award fees pre-paid by members. After discounting, our true (spendable) Cash Assets are **\$20,284.73**.

Events

12/8 ARRL 10-METER
12/10 4 STATES SPRINT
12/16 ARRL ROOKIE CW
12/25 CHRISTMAS (NO LINK)
1/1/2019 STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT

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)

Great Lakes District - Robert Woody - N8KIE

North Central District - Tony Mazzocco -WA9DLB

North East District - Chuck Secrest - NM1G

Pacific District - Robert Hallock - K7TM

South Central District - Bob Voss - N4CD

South East District - Jack Jacobs - WD4OIN

The County Line Roadrunner
MARAC Secretary
441 Lazy Branch Rd
Wausau, WI 54401-3818

“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: Brent Schaefer, K9MIX, 441 Lazy Branch Rd, Wausau, WI 54401, 715-571-5498, k9mix@charter.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 k9mix@charter.net

Treasurer: Bill Morgan, K0DEQ, 12012 County Road 3000, Rolla, MO 65401, 573-465-5405, billmorgan1@centurylink.net

Great Lakes Director: Darl Deeds, NA8W, 8753 Township Rd 48, Findlay, OH 45840, 419-963-2442, na8w@arrl.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: Janet Camron, KC5QCB, 7641 Gladiola, San Angelo, TX 76901, 325-812-3234, kc5qcb@suddenlink.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: 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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Custodian, Club Call, K9DCJ: Joyce Boothe, WB9NUL, 21175 FM2556, Santa Rosa, TX 78593, 956-202-3373, joycenul@aol.com

Election Coordinator: Vacant

MARAC General Counsel: Bill Morgan, K0DEQ, 12012 County Rd 3000, Rolla, MO 65401, 573-465-5405, k0deq@arrl.net

Computer Data Manager: Gene A Olig Sr, KD9ZP, W 4325 4th St Rd, Fond du Lac, WI 54937, 920-923-0130, kd9zp@att.net