



# THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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## Comments from the Vice President...

Kraig Pritts KA2LHO

**H**appy New Year to all! As we move into 2019 (need to get used to writing that instead of 2018!) there are a few changes that the Board is working on.

First, a subgroup of the Board has been working on an Control of the Year awards. At the convention in October, shared that the Awards Committee had recommended eliminated.



Award to replace the Net the Awards Chairperson that those NC awards be

Based upon feedback from the members present at the Convention, and others, members of the Board are working on awards to replace those awards that are proposed for elimination. More details to come as things progress in that area.

As those who have renewed their MARAC membership recently have noticed, we have made it easier to use PayPal to send your renewals. By creating a link, we have saved a step or two in the process for you. Your comments of appreciation have been heard. Thanks to our IT team for assisting in that process. Along those same lines, there have been questions and requests to use PayPal to submit payments for Awards as well. Members of the Board, in collaboration with the IT team, are working on that process and believe things may be “ready for Prime Time” relatively soon. When the process has been setup, tested and found to be a viable payment system for Awards, we will advise via the website and this publication. This should reduce or eliminate the need to keep funds on account to avoid the delays in processing awards since the payment process is immediate. We will keep you advised.

### Contents

Awards	7
Comments from the Vice President...	1
Events	8
From Our Prez	5
Treasurer's Report (K0DEQ)	6

Our Election Coordinator is back!! AB7NK stepped forward at the Convention to serve in this important role but had to step down for health reasons. Things have improved, and she is back with us and eager to get the process up and running. Watch for more info from Mary on the various election processes. Here is hoping that you all have a safe, blessed and joyful 2019 while giving out and chasing lots of counties throughout the United States.

Dateline CW

Ed, KN4Y

Philosophical argument, county hunters do not hunt counties, they know where they are.

The cold weather is not the best conditions for a senior county hunter who thinks sweating while running counties is the sign of seniorhood. But I sit here in the radio shack wondering why 2019 was so anxious to get here, I decide to enter the contacts into Logger that I made while going to the Florida Senior Games in Clearwater, Florida. I turn on the computer and I hear Gator down shift his 4x4 as he slides to a stop at the recycled railroad tie. Gator slides down out of the cab and walks to the radio shack but first stops and picks up the snail mail. Gator enters the radio shack carrying the mail and a white cardboard box, “Happy New Year Dude, ready for another year of QSO parties, contests and county hunting?” Gator tosses the mail on the desk.



I shake my head in agreement, “Happy New Year Gator you are just in time to log my trip to the Florida State Senior Games.” Gator opens the white cardboard container and hands me a latte and sits at the computer. I sip my latte as Gator does the computer thing. Gator turns around, “By the way Dude how did you do at the Florida Senior Games?” I smile, “Not as good as I had hoped. There were eight bowlers in my age group and I won a Bronze Medal. I had hoped for Gold.” Gator laugh, “That is what happens when one has competition.” We both laugh as we sip our lattes. I break the silence, “Gator check out my CQ DX Contest.”

Gator is mousing around, “Dude how did you stay awake so long. You made 254 QSO’s. 62 Zones and 147 Countries and you made contacts on all bands except ten meters. I am impressed.” Gator glances down, stoops over and picks up a piece of paper off the floor, “Dude this is your receipt for the room at the MARAC convention,” He looks at the receipt and starts laughing, he shows me the receipt, “Look Dude they charge a State Tax, a City Tax, a Kansas City Development Fee and a Kansas City Development Fee Tax. At least they did not charge for running Missouri counties.” We both laugh hilariously.

“Gator, check out my ARRL ten meter log, you will be surprised.” Gator loads the Writelog logging program, “Awesome Dude, you made 201 QSO’s, worked 33 States, 3 Canada Provinces and 3 DX stations.” I smile. “Sure beats the zero QSO,s I worked in the 10:10 International Sprint and Spring CW QSO party both also on ten meters. Gator nods his head. I motion Gator, “By the way check to see if I worked a new county on ten meters.” “Yes Dude, you worked 3 new counties on ten meters, I thought you would have worked more.” I smile, “I have worked ten meters for years and work many of the same

stations every year or new stations in a county I had previously worked. We sip our lattes and listen to the silence on the county hunters net.

I set my latte on the table. “Gator, I just remembered I ran the Croatian CW contest, see how many QSO’s I made.” Gator opens the log file and starts laughing “Dude you only made 14 QSO,s, how can you forget such a miserable score?” I laugh, “I remember now, I worked only the Croatian stations and unlike last year I did not hear many 9A stations. But someone was working them judging by the large serial numbers I heard, and no I did not send in my log, I was too embarrassed. Gator giggles as we sip our lattes. “Before I forget check my RAEM International CW HF contest.” Gator brings up the log, “Dude what the heck is RAEM? Russian for ream?” I have a good giggle, “This is a HF contest in memory of Ernst Krenkel a famous Russian polar investigator, how did I do.?” Gator is looking at the summary sheet, ”Well Dude you made 23 QSO’s and the score calculation is too complicated.” Gator finishes his latte.

“Dude, you old devil, you never told me if you met any sweet elderly romantic senior dames at the MARAC convention?” I laugh, ”Every time I try to tell you ...”

Gator’s cell phone activates, CQ, CQ, CQ and Gator answers. He yells “What?” He looks at me, “I have to get to distillation unit two, a steam line just blew and took out the controller on top of the unit.” He is gone like a glass of wine in a MARAC hospitality room. I hear him yell, “Rest in peace Penny, Laverne, Marshall.” I hear the printer stop and I grab the printout listing the mobile county hunters that checked onto the county hunter’s CW call frequencies last year during the month of December

I read: K0MAF, KA2LHO, KB0BA, KC3X, KE0TT, KN4Y, N9JF, W0GXQ, W6OUL and WB4KZW.

Here comes 2019 the New Year and starting the first month with the ARRL Kids Day operating sideband, these are our future county hunters. There are several CW contests, see the ARRL contest corral for details. The first QSO party of the year is the North American CW QSO party, get on a team. There is also the ARRL VHF contest, the LZ Open CW contest and the Hungarian DX contest which I do in memory of my grandmother who came from Hungary many years ago. You like low band activity do the CQ 160-meter CW contest.

Rounding out the month is Winter Field Day a fun take off of the ARRL Field Day event. I will be operating the CW station for local radio club K4WAK. Give us a call. I have a thought, how many county hunters operating CW mobiles were spotted during each month in 2018? It is too cold outside so I will inside and make a list: January 18, February 10, March 18, April 15, May 16, June 28, July 20, August 24, September 22,

**From Our Prez**

**T**he past year was busy with lots of travel and hosting the Michigan Mini and the National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. Hope all enjoyed your Holidays. I want to again thank all the folks that volunteered there time to help me with the past National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri and the Michigan Mini. I also want to thank the Board and other volunteers who are working hard to keep the Club running.

I spent 3 weeks of the Holidays on Long Island, New York. Took a few trips into the city which was a lot of fun. The city was very festive with some beautiful lighting and fine dining. The Rockets show was outstanding. Yes, I know, in all those counties and NO radio – that was by design. I just wanted a retirement vacation without efforts of posting a trip, falling asleep with CW ringing in my head, the cleaning up the daily logs in the motel every night etc.. I plan on coming back to run all the parks on the Island in the summer. I also have a radio trip planned to Florida in February and a trip to southern Texas in March. Then the Michigan Mini radio trip in April.

Ed Eklin K8ZZ

## Treasurer's Report (K0DEQ)

Nov 20 to Dec 19, 2018

Beginning Account Balance	\$26,357.88
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## Income:

Savings Account Interest

Awards Secretary Income

Misc Income (1)

Membership Income

\$314.42

Logger Distribution Income

43.09

Total Income

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 \$35 7.51


## Expenses:

Awards Secretary Expenses

\$ 466.08

Misc. Expenses (2)

812.32

Office Expenses (Postage, etc.)

9.25

Total expenses

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 \$1287.65

Net Income Less Expenses	(\$930.14)
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Cash Balance	\$25,427.74
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Checking Account Balance	\$ 9,069.86
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Savings Account Balance	16,357.88
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Total all accounts	\$25,427.74
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The \$1500 Awards Secretary funds are not included in the above balance.

Notes (2) Misc expenses consisted of \$600 seed money for MI Mini, \$28.06 to W4SIG as reimbursement for shipping costs and \$184.26 to W7OLY as reimbursement for shipping costs.

Office expenses consisted of cost of checks for new bank account.

From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC cash balance shown above should be discounted by \$6067.15, which is the amount of award fees pre-paid by members. After subtracting this amount, the true (spendable) Cash Balance is \$19,359.99

## Awards

# Awards Committee

## Info from the Awards Secretary (AB7RW):

The Awards Software Program is in the process of being rewritten by K3IMC. One of the planned capabilities is to automatically post notice of the awards issued to the forum page. If you see some unusual posts appear on the forum page, it is probably just K3IMC testing the new program. When the program is ready for beta testing, Don Flynn will be looking for a few volunteers to join in to locate any faults if any exist.

Don hopes to make this rewrite an automatic program. In other words, your application will traverse the system without me having to check and verify all of your data as required in the current process. Your award application created within the online awards application function will be presented for review and all I will do is click on accept or delete. If the information needs additional information, I will call you on the phone. Entering new callsigns will also be an easy task. If the call is not in the database, it will transfer me to another part of the program where I will obtain the information from QRZ, fill in the blanks on the form, click OK, and the data will be posted to the database.

Don and I are having a barrel of fun getting the program to operate within his specs. Completion of this new program will be something for all of us to look forward to.

## Quarterly Voting for Annual Awards:

I hope to be able to resume quarterly voting on the annual awards in February, 2019. More information will be published in the February newsletter.

## Awards Issued:

The listing below from Phil, AB7RW covers new awards issued since the previous awards list was published in the November newsletter:

Awards Issued:				Roadrunner Awards Issued:			
Call	Date	Award	Number	Call	Date	Last County Count:	Number
K7SEN	10/30/2018	WAC* - 3rd Time	257	N8OYY	5/6/2018	175	146
KC6AWX	5/6/2018	Ran All State - CA 2nd Time	28				
N8OYY	3/4/2002	Native American Counties	59				
N8OYY	10/25/2018	U.S. Presidents	57				
N8OYY	6/4/2012	Gemini (Jack Scroggins)	177				

\*WAC = Worked All USA Counties

## MARC Awards Committee



N5MLP - Ron Clift, Marac Awards Manager

**Events**

- 1/5        ARRL KIDS DAY
- 1/5        ARRL RTTY ROUNDUP
- 1/12       NA CW QP
- 1/19       NA SSB QP
- 1/26       WINTER FIELD DAY
- 4/25       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)**

**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 25<sup>th</sup>!**

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**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

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**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

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**Appointees**

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

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**Election Coordinator:** Mary Vince, AB7NK, 16128 S Angus Cr, Cordes Lakes, AZ 86333, 928-775-2158, ab7nk@arrl.net

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