



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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



Volume XLIX

February 2019

Number 2

Notes from the VP

Kraig KA2LHO

Now that we are through the craziness of the holidays, we hope that folks can get out, dodge the weather in various parts of the country and run some parks and counties (remember those parks are all in counties). I thought I would share a bit about how I log while mobile running counties or activating parks.



When I am running mobile, my non-ham wife drives so that I can operate the radio. A few months ago I began to do real-time logging with the N3JFP's Amateur Contact Log software while mobile. If you are a first time around person like me, this software will pull in the call and name, plus the home address, county, state and country of the contact. If it is a new county, state, country, or even prefix if it is new and will also flag if you have worked it but still need a confirmation. Works great at home too. It also does a very simple export to LOTW, eQSL and to ADIF format for import into Logger if you are using that to track awards.

For park activators, I have modified the layout to accommodate all necessary fields for KFF operations so no modifications to your ADIF file are necessary for submission.

I have a mobile operations lap desk that holds my Surface GO laptop as well as a magnet mount for my mic or and a magnet mount for my CW paddles. It is nice to have everything in one place. If anyone would like more details and/or photos about my mobile operations desk configuration, software and equipment feel free to email me. We are all in this together and sharing helps everyone!

IMPORTANT: Please check the MARAC website often for upcoming Board of Directors meetings, agendas in advance and unofficial minutes (pending Board approval at the following meeting) as soon as we can get them out. Our IT team has done a great job of keeping things running smoothly and getting this important information out to you.

Contents

Awards	7
Events	11
Hamcation Feb 8-10	4
Logger Mapping Features -	10
NOMINATIONS	5
Note From the Treasurer	4
Notes from the VP	1
Treasurer's Report (K0DEQ)	8
W4SIG Mobile Trip	9

Dateline CW
ED, KN4Y

Unbridled happiness is seeing your last county announced on the spot page.

I am reclining in the shack in my recliner with full blast knowing it will not be long until arrives. I push the radio ON switch and tune to twenty-meter frequency and it is quiet. I could at the calendar and notice Groundhog Day and I in the event as I do not have a groundhog on the disappears when I hear the bark of Gators 4X4 as to a stop at the recycled railroad tie.



the space heater going springtime Florida the county hunter's CW sure use a latte. I glance will again not participate property. My irritability he downshifts and slides

Gator slides out of the 4X4 cab carrying a white cardboard container, he slams the driver's door shut and stops at the mail box, grabs the mail and heads for the radio shack. I open the door, Gator comes in and tosses the mail on the desk, "Greetings Dude, I stopped and got some eclairs and lattes." Gator hands me a latte and an éclair, I bite and sip, called BS, and feel like a county hunter that notices the county line ahead is not in the middle of a lake.

Gator turns the computer on and stares at the screen and looks sad, "Dude did you know MARAC county hunter Mary, NV4Z, she a silent key. Did you work Mary?" I shake my head no, "I never worked Mary. I think she operated mainly sideband." We bow our heads as Gator recites The Shepherd's Psalm.

"Gator check out my North American QSO party, I had a ball on CW." Gator loads the logging program and laughs, "Dude I am proud of you. You worked six bands completing 226 QSO's and you worked 43 States." I give Gator a thumbs up as we sip our lattes and nibble the éclair (more BS).

Gator smiles, "Dude I read that the MARAC Michigan Mini is April 25-27th in Traverse City, Michigan. Do you plan on going?" I sip my latte, "Well Gator I had considered going but you will notice that date is when I will be mobile in the Florida QSO party, but if the date had been one week earlier, I would have gone and then run mobile in the Michigan QSO party on the way home. Maybe next year the Michigan Mini and QSO party are scheduled the same week." Gator is not paying attention., he knows that would be radio awesome.

“Dude I know you went to the Florida State senior bowling tournament in Spring Hill, Florida and you planned to operate mobile in the ARRL January VHF contest. Did you?” I point to a notebook lying on the table, “See that one entry, I called CW six hours on Saturday and 3 hours on Sunday and that was the only station I worked operating CW mobile during the ARRL VHF Contest. I was operating from the bowling alley parking lot located in Hernando County.” Gator giggles, “Maybe you should have used sideband, it is six meters you know. By the way how did you do bowling?”

” I wish you hadn’t asked. When I left here my sinus were barking and I did not feel at full strength. But I stopped at a drug store and after taking the various over the counter fast acting medicines I made it through the tournament.” Gator smiles, been there, done that, and he drops the subject.

Gator is looking at the computer, “Dude you usually work LZ Open and the Hungarian DX contest, I cannot find the logs.” I laugh, “Yes Gator I had hoped to work a few LZ and HAs, I listened for a while but never heard either contest.

I again change the subject, “Gator see what I did on CW for the Club’s Winter Field Day operation.” Gator’s cell phone activates, CQ, CQ, CQ and Gator answers. What a bummer Dude I must to get to the plant pronto it seems this cold weather froze the condenser water lines and they can’t start up. He is gone like a dollar bill at a dollar store. I hear him yell, “Remember you bowl Sunday.” 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 January.

I read: AG6V, AI5P, K0FG, K8XX, KC3X, KC7YE, KN4Y, N4CD, NF0N, W4SIG, W8OP and WB0PYF and WB4KZW.

February the year 2019 shortest month starts with the Vermont QSO party, the Minnesota QSO party, the over the boarder British Columbia QSO (VE7) party and the North American CW Sprint. Take a nap and later let the fingers relax to tackle the Dutch PACC contest, the CQC (Colorado) Winter QSO party and our future amateur radio operators in the ARRL School Club Roundup. Take another nap, make a pot of coffee and do the ARRL international CW DX contest where you can hear the difference between a 100 and KW exchange. Ending the month is the UBA (Belgian) CW DX contest and of course the South Carolina QSO party and the next day the North Carolina QSO party. Now for sure it is time for a nap.

Hamcation Feb 8-10

By Kerry W4SIG

MARAC is going to have a presence at the 2019 Hamcation in Orlando February 8-10! If you are planning on attending Hamcation this year, please take some time out to drop by the MARAC booth. Kraig, KA2LHO, will be manning the booth alongside the NPOTA booth. Drop by, sit a spell, tell some tall tales of your county hunting adventures!

Also, I am sure Kraig would appreciate a second hand at the booth when nature calls.

Let's all pitch in to inform new hams of the excitement, challenges, and rewards of county hunting and MARAC.



Note From the Treasurer

Bill, K0DEQ

The transition of the Treasurer's position from W7OLY to K0DEQ was completed for which I owe a BIG THANK YOU to Aubrey, W7OLY. He not only did a fine job as treasurer but also provided excellent assistance in getting me started.

Remember that dues can be paid via Pay Pal or by check mailed to my address. The details are on the MARAC website under the "Join/Renew" tab. PLEASE BE SURE TO PUT YOUR CALL ON YOUR CHECK OR IN THE NOTE SECTION IN PAY PAL. Since payments for LOGGER also come to the Treasurer, it is helpful if you include in the memo section of your check or in the notes in Pay Pal, in addition to your call, that this is payment for dues for ___ year(s), or that this payment is for LOGGER.

Soon after your dues payment is received, you will receive an acknowledgment email from the Secretary, K9MIX. Or, if you have ordered Logger then you will be contacted by K8EMS. If you do not receive a response within several days after the date when you believe I should have received your payment, please email me (billmorgan1@centurylink.net) to check on the matter.

I am away from home from time to time, which might cause a delay in the acknowledgment of your payment or deposit of your check. Your concerns or suggestions relating to the club's financial matters are welcome.



NOMINATIONS
For CW and SSB
County Hunter of the Year

Nominations are now open for the 2019 CW and SSB County Hunter of the Year Awards. Nominations must be received by your District Director no later than March 15th and should contain a brief list of reasons for the nomination. Your District Director will select one nominee (one for CW and one for SSB) from those received and forward that selection, with the reasons for the selection, to the Awards Manager no later than April 15th. Prior winners (per mode) for 2017 & 2018 are not eligible to receive this award until it has been 3 years since originally receiving it. Please read the requirements for County Hunter of the Year and support those members who work to make MARAC the vibrant organization that it is.

MARAC 2019 ELECTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nominations are currently open for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer (all 2 year terms ending 2021).

Nominations are also open for the following Director positions:

South Central (1 year term, expires 2020)

Great Lakes (2 year term, expires 2021)

North East and Pacific (3 year term, expires 2022).

Nominations must be received and affirmed by the nominee no later than March 10, 2019. All current MARAC members are eligible to run for office and encouraged to do so. For the District Director position, you must live within the District you are running for. To view the districts, visit the MARAC website, click on ABOUT, then DIRECTORS.

MARAC VOTING INFORMATION

If you are a NEW member or are REJOINING MARAC after a lapse in membership, you will NOT be eligible to submit nominations or vote in an election until the first day of the month following receipt of your dues and valid membership application by the Secretary of MARAC.

Those individuals who have maintained uninterrupted membership status are not restricted from nominating or voting in the upcoming election.

If you are unsure of your membership status, please visit the MARAC website, click on **COUNTY HUNTER DB** , enter your call in the **Call Lookup** to determine your MARAC Expiration Date.

**MARAC 1st & 2nd Quarter Award Voting
July 1 thru December 31, 2018**

Voting period – tentatively beginning Feb 10th. Please watch the website and forum for exact dates. Voting will be open for 15 days.

PLEASE NOTE: The first award voting will cover the **6 month period, July thru December 2018**. This time frame includes the 1st & 2nd Quarter periods. Please recall the dates included in the upcoming voting period when casting your vote. Voting will be done with Simply Voting. You will each receive an email with instructions and your voting key. The voting dates will be included in the email and posted on the MARAC web site and the forum.

A vote for your first choice is awarded 2 points and your 2nd choice is awarded 1 point. **Please do NOT vote for the same call for both choices.** You can however, leave any choice blank if you so wish.

You will be voting for:

CW Best Mobile
SSB Best Mobile
Best Team
CW Best NCS
SSB Best NCS

When voting for Best NCS, please take into consideration the fact that nets are no longer occupied by Net Controls for hours. You will be voting for individuals who assist the mobile by spotting, helping them with relays for the mobile and those trying to make contact with the mobile. For this award you will be voting for the individual who goes above and beyond to assist the mobile.

For the past several years there appears to have been a revolving door in the MARAC leadership. In order to get all positions back on track, we are all doing our best to get the voting back on track in an orderly fashion. Please bear with us!

If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please get in touch with me. I don't guarantee I'll have the answer but I'll find out so we both know.

Mary – AB7NK
MARAC Election Coordinator
ab7nk@arrl.net



Awards

Awards Committee

Quarterly Voting for Annual Awards:

Although I hoped to be able to resume quarterly voting on the annual awards in February, that will not be feasible due to unresolved questions about changes to some of the awards. More information will be forthcoming at a later date.

Awards Issued:

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

Awards Issued:				Roadrunner Awards Issued:			
Call	Date	Award	Number	Call	Date	Last County Count:	Number
WA9DLB	8/1/1997	Ran All State - MO	27	None issued this period			
N8OYY	7/18/1996	Ran All State - WV	25				
N0XYL	6/12/2018	Ran All State - ME	35				
N0XYL	6/13/2018	Ran All State - NH	37				
N0XYL	6/15/2018	Ran All State - VT	37				
N0XYL	7/24/2018	Ran All State - ND	30				
KB0BA	6/12/2018	Ran All State - ME	36				
KB0BA	6/13/2018	Ran All State - NH	38				
KB0BA	6/15/2018	Ran All State - VT	38				
KB0BA	12/29/2002	Ran All State - WV	26				

MARAC Awards Committee



N5MLP – Ron Clift, Marac Awards Manager

Treasurer's Report (K0DEQ)

Dec 20, 2019 to Jan 19, 2019

Beginning Account Balance		\$25,427.74
---------------------------	--	-------------

Income:

Savings Account Interest		
Awards Secretary Income		
Misc Income (1)		
Membership Income	\$229.41	
Logger Distribution Income		



Total Income	<u> </u>	\$229.41
--------------	-----------------------------	----------

Expenses:

Awards Secretary Expenses	\$ 16.00	
Misc. Expenses (2)	328.66	
Office Expenses (Postage, etc.)		

Total expenses	<u> </u>	\$344.66
----------------	-----------------------------	----------

Net Income Less Expenses		(\$115.25)
--------------------------	--	------------

Cash Balance		\$25312.49
--------------	--	------------

Checking Account Balance	\$ 8,954.61	
Savings Account Balance	16,357.88	
Total all accounts		\$25,312.49

The \$1500 Awards Secretary funds are not included in the above balance.

Notes (2) Misc expenses consisted of \$47,19 reimbursement to KM6QF for sunshine mailings, \$15.76 reimbursement to N1API for shipping costs and \$265.71 for annual fee to UberConference.

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 \$19,245.34

W4SIG Mobile Trip through Mississippi

By Kerry, W4SIG

This month I completed a challenging, yet successful, mobile trip through lots of Mississippi. It's been years since I've read a mobile trip report so thought I would create one for this RoadRunner issue. Overall it was 27 hours of operating over two days, 56 counties run, 378 spots, and over 2,000 contacts on 5 bands.

The trip was delayed one day due to an unfortunate technical difficulty. Nothing like a pre-dawn flat tire in freezing temperatures to get your plan off schedule. The next morning started early with some nice activity and strong signals on 80 meters. As everyone knows, conditions aren't the greatest and they seemed to change on all bands in a moment's notice, even in the middle of a signal report. At times there was S9 noise which made it difficult to pull some signals out. Thanks to those who hung in there with me and apologies to those I couldn't pull out of the mud. Other times noise was minimal and signals were strong with an abundance on contacts, especially on 40 and 30 meters. Fortunately, in the South the counties are relatively small, so you can often almost run out of a county before everyone has been worked on all the bands. Cell coverage with Sprint was very good on most of the trip allowing me to do self-spotting on most bands. Thanks to those that spotted for me when I was unable. My gratitude also goes out to those who worked me on 80m throughout the day. I was able to get several contacts on that band in every county run. On the other end of the spectrum, 17m was only occasionally successful, but it was good to get some folks on that band as well. 20M even opened up at the appropriate times so that some of our European friends could snag some counties they needed. Some other items that stood out to me was the tremendous signal that W9DC continually has and the increasing presence of N5MLP, KM9X, K7SEN, and KB0BA on CW! Great to hear y'all on the key!

To those discouraged by the bad band conditions, hang in there. We can fight through it as best we can until they improve. Thanks everyone for riding along. Hopefully there will be another similar trip somewhere in a couple of months.

73!



Logger Mapping Features - Did you Know....?

By Kerry W4SIG

Most long-time Logger users are familiar with this feature of the club-provided county logging program, but for those who are not, here is a rundown. Did you know that you can look at state county maps showing what counties you still need for any particular MARAC award? It's easy, fun, and very informative for mobiles who might want to help you with your county hunting needs.

From the Main Menu of Loggger select "MAP". Then select a state. You are provided with the state's county map and an alphabetical listing of its counties. Click on a particular county and its location is indicated. That way you quickly know where a running mobile is located.

Also, if you select "Display Contacts", then select a county, it will show a list of contacts you have made for various awards for that county.

In addition, here's one that I use often. Select "Books", then click on an award listed. The result will show, with a red dot, every county that you still need to finish that award. For example, select "20 Meters", or "USA-CW". You might be surprised how close you are to finishing up a state for a particular award. When I am down to just a few for an award that are in the vicinity of a running mobile I sometimes take a cell phone photo of my "red dot needs" map and text it to the mobile. That's a much more efficient way of letting a mobile know that they are close to ones you need "just in case" they have time to hit them for you!

Play with this neat feature of Logger and see what it can do for you!



Events

2/2 VT QP
2/2 10-10 SSB
2/2 MN QP
2/3 NA SPRINT CW
2/9 CQ WW RTTY
2/11 CQC WINTER QP
2/16 ARRL DX CW CONTEST
2/23 SC QP
2/23 NA RTTY QP
2/24 NC QP
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 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, 419-421-1533, 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:

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

Historian: Gary Beam, K4EXT, 195 Nanny Goat Hill Rd, Elizabethton, TN 37643, ch2@k4ext.com

Newsletter Editor: Dave Hyatt, KU4YM, 159 Schooner Bend Ave, Summerville, SC 29486, 843-442-8666, dhyatt@homesc.com

Sunshine Coordinator: Pat Reiner, KM6QF, 16931 Aldon Rd, Encino, CA, 91436, 213-999-0100, lovedoxies@aol.com

Webmaster: Donald Flynn, K3IMC, 241 Baywood Cir, LaGrange, GA 30240, 706-302-0725, k3imc@bellsouth.net

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

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

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, 517 Luco Rd, Fond du Lac, WI 54935, 920-539-0994, kd9zp@att.net